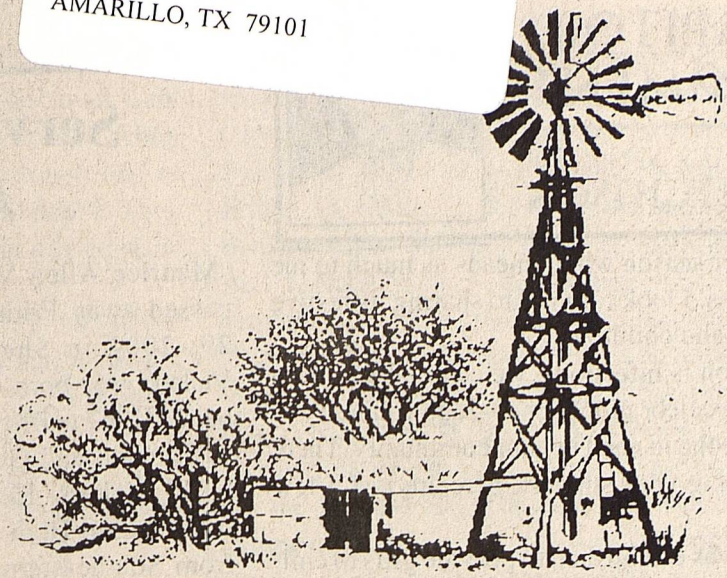


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Cowboy Country News

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

Volume XI, Issue 13, December 8, 2004



Criminal cases in County, District Court

In November District Court sessions, Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the state, four criminal cases were heard.

Luz Manuel Garcia was found guilty by jury trial of delivery of marijuana, more than 50 pounds, less than 2,000 pounds. A ten year prison sentence was suspended and probated ten years. He must pay \$328 court costs and \$25 time payment fee. A \$10,000 fine was probated, he will serve 320 hours community service and pay \$50 supervision fee while under supervision. His attorney was Luis Singleterry, and Antonio de la Cruz, Llano Estacado Drug Task Force was investigating officer.

Eliseo Perez Jr. pled guilty assault against public servant. A ten year prison sentence was suspended and probated ten years. He will serve 160 hours community service, complete the batterers prevention pro-

gram, remain in jail up to 180 days or until space is available in a substance abuse punishment facility for no more than one year or less than 90 days. Warren New was his appointed attorney.

Linda Marie Mendoza pled guilty to abandoning or endangering a child. A two year state jail sentence was suspended and probated five years. She must pay \$303 court costs, \$300 attorney fees and \$25 time payment fee. Three other causes for the same offense were adjudicated. She will serve 200 hours community service, complete the managed care inpatient treatment program and attend weekly AA meetings. Paul Mansur was her attorney.

Carlos Tovar Martinez pled guilty to tampering with a government record of a resident alien. He must pay \$213 court costs and was sentenced to two

Turn to Pg. 2
'Court'

EQIP meeting slated here



Donald Gibbons, NRCS District Conservationist from Brownfield, leads a producer discussion on priority practices at last year's Program Development Group meeting prior to the EQIP sign-up.

All Yoakum County agricultural producers are invited to an important meeting on the morning of Tuesday, December 14, 2004.

The topic will be establishing cost-share practices, setting priorities and cost-share rates and percentages for the 2005 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

This open meeting, called the Program Develop Group meeting (PDG), will begin at 8:00 a.m. (7:30 am. coffee/donuts) at the Plains Community Center Building at 1006 Avenue G in Plains.

Producers are encouraged to voice their ideas and concerns as to what EQIP cost-share practices they feel are needed in Yoakum County for the 2005 program year. Producer ideas

are also needed as to the priority rankings and other criteria for funding eligible and accepted 2005 conservation practices.

Following this open meeting, a meeting of the Local Work Group (LWG) will be held at 10:00 a.m.

This group consists of the Yoakum SWCD, the FSA County Committee and County Executive Director, Yoakum County Commissioners Court, Yoakum County Texas Cooperative Agent, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Biologist and the District Conservationist(s) and/or other Zone Level personnel from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The LWG is charged with assembling the ideas and con-

cerns garnered from the PGD meeting. With NRCS Standards and Specifications as a guideline, the LWG will work to compile a list of the official conservation practices, priority rankings and cost-share rates and percentages to be implemented during the 2005 EQIP program.

If you are interested in agricultural and how it applies to conservation cost-share practices in the 2005 EQIP program, we hope to see you on the morning of December 14, 2004.

All programs of the USDA/NRCS are administered without regard to race, creed, color, religion, national origin or gender.

If you have questions, please contact the NRCS office in Plains at 806-456-3703 ext. 3.

'Tis The Season.....

This issue of CCN marks our first observance of the coming Holiday Season, and we think this photo is a great way to start. An obviously delighted little blonde on Santa's lap, a somewhat younger little brunette beauty who is entranced with Santa's whiskers. The scene took place in the community building last week when Santa caught a ride into town on the local firetruck. The PHS Cowboy Band played Christmas music for the annual tree and court house lighting event, and then the kids brought canned goods for the Christmas Assistance Program, which allowed them a photo with Santa.

More Photos Inside



Farmers Insurance Group Honors Volunteers

The Yoakum County Connection has received a \$500 grant from the Farmers Insurance Group for use with the Connection's Summer Youth Program. The Farmers grant program was designed to honor a specific volunteer by providing financial assistance to a non-profit organization supported by the volunteer. Dean Richardson a Farmers Insurance Agent nominated Linda Powell and her work with the Summer Youth Art Program for one of the grants.

The Youth Program is a county wide effort to promote arts and crafts. The program has been held annually since 1997. Approximately twenty learning workshops are provided. This year total class attendance was 700. Mrs. Janie Ramos is the director.

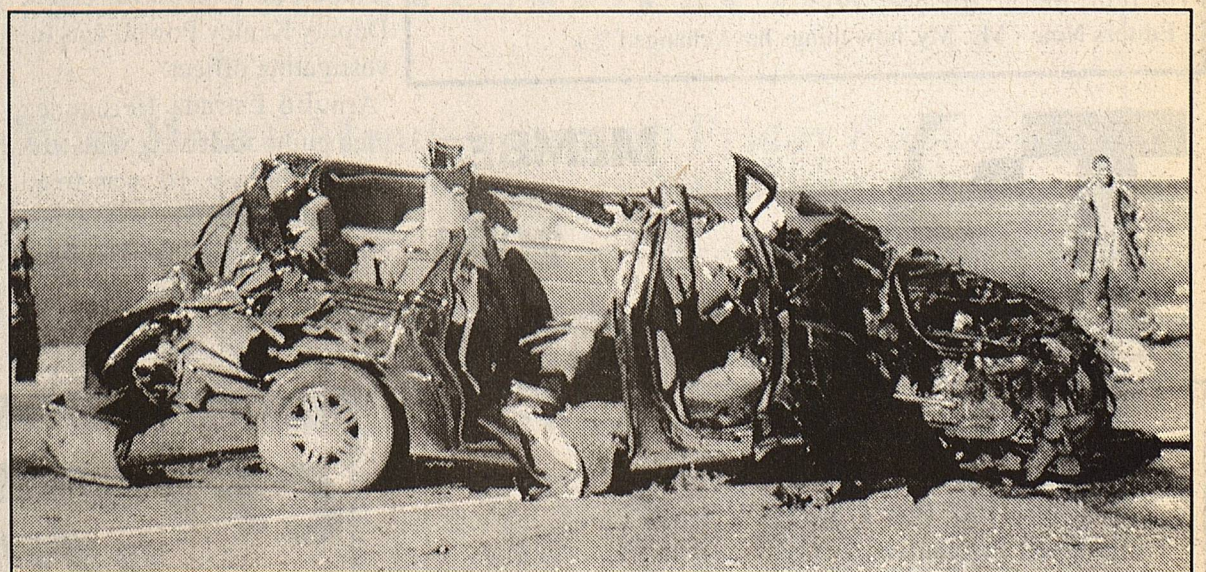
The clock is ticking.... have you ordered your brick, or bricks, to honor a loved one - a friend - a family - a club - a team - an event - a special date - a birthday - your self? A couple's trip to Lubbock for a movie and dinner costs about what a \$50 commemorative costs - and the brick will be remembered MUCH LONGER !

Voters OK Tax Rollback Election

While voter turnout numbers certainly set no local records.

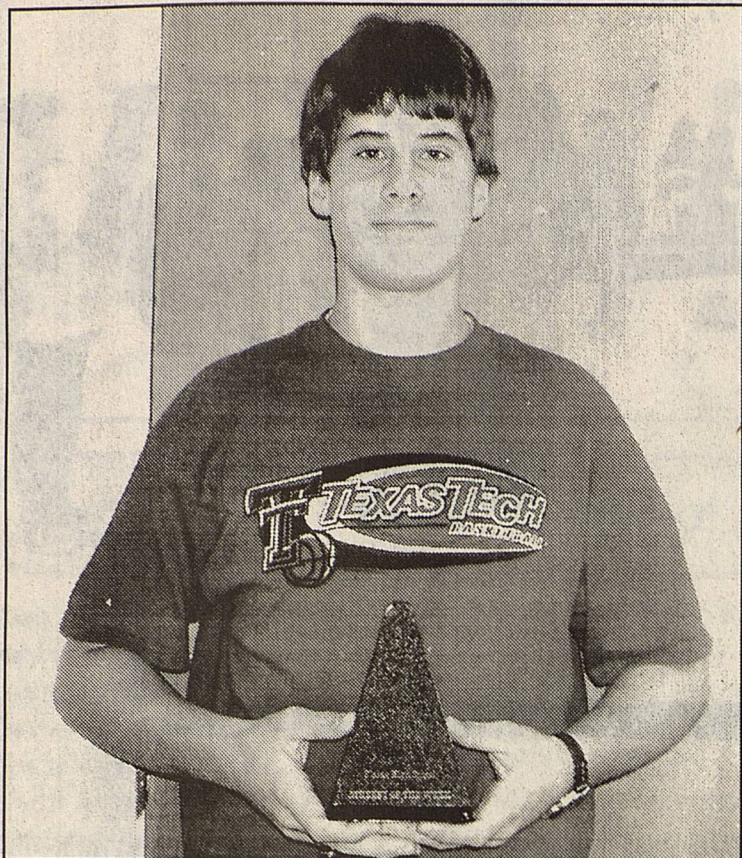
While voter turnout numbers certainly set no local records, tax payers overwhelmingly approved the tax rollback decision recently made by the Plains Independent School District Board of Trustees.

In December 2 voting here, almost 76 percent of the 190 votes cast approved the rollback, making the effective tax rate \$1.50 per \$100 valuation. In effect this allows the district to keep almost 60 percent of funds which would have fallen victim to the notorious Robin Hood plan of "sharing the wealth." The vote count was 153 votes for, 37 against the rollback.



This was all the remains of a Chevrolet van belonging to the Denver City School District after being struck by an oil field truck at the intersection of FM 213 and FM 1780 in eastern Yoakum County last Friday morning. The horrendous crash resulted in the death of three Denver City elementary school teachers: Veronica Flores, 29, Marina Natividad 37, both of Denver City, and Rosie Garza, who lived in Hobbs, NM. They were enroute to Lubbock for a school workshop. The three highly thought of teachers were declared dead at the scene of the wreck. The driver of the truck, Guadalupe Medina of Post, failed to stop at a posted stop sign, and the truck struck the van broadsided.

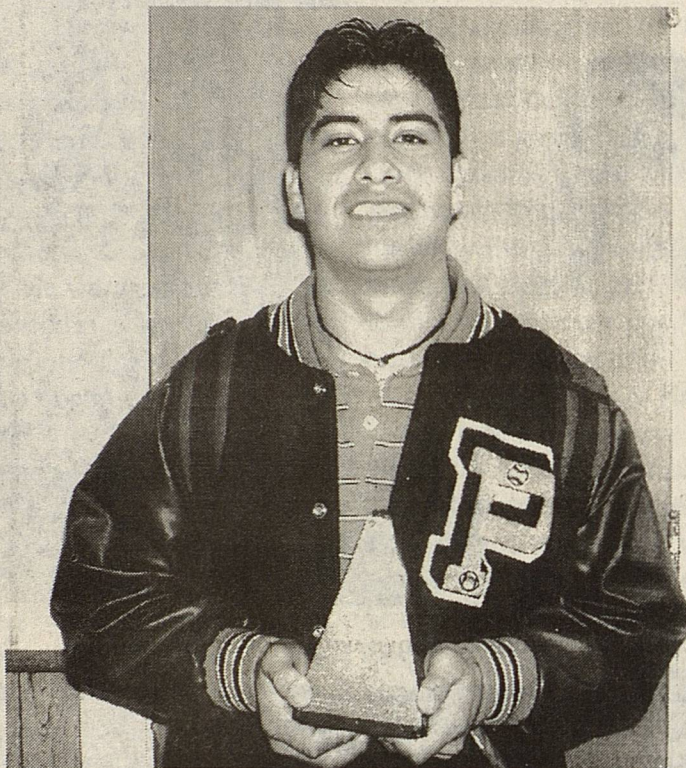
Student's of the Week



November 29th Student of the Week is Adam McCravey, a junior and the son of Greg and Shari McCravey.

Adam was nominated by Mr. Friesen, who said, "Adam McCravey is not satisfied with the same old routine. He makes

life interesting for people around him with his off the cuff impersonations and jokes but refuses to perform them when asked. He completes his own work his own way, tries hard in the classroom and has excellent morals. He is a leader at school and at church."



December 6th Student of the Week is Ramiro Martinez, a junior and the son of Francisco and Guadalupe Martinez.

Ramiro was nominated by Mr. Caffey, who said, "A good student stays on task, and has the self-discipline to do the work, even if they do not feel like work-

ing. Although they may have questions about the subject matter, they do not question the value or purpose for spending time on the subject matter. In general, a good student reflects a positive attitude, and strong work ethic. These attributes define this week Student of the Week."

Plains ISD Sports Recap

7th & 8th Lady Wranglers:

Sundown Tourney- The 7th girls won their opener over Lubbock Christian, 47-2. Sydney Caffey had 18 points, Abby Hernandez 12, Courtni Asebedo 11. They lost a tough one to Sundown, 28-23. Caffey scored 12 points, Courtni had 9. They also lost a squeaker to Anton, 19-17. Sydney again topped scoring with 10, Natalie Butler had 4, Courtni 3.

In action against Sundown next, they fell 23-18. Abby Hernandez, J. Quintana, Caffey and Butler each had 4 points, Courtni 2. They also were dropped by Seagraves, 52-20. Sydney had 14 points, Courtni 3, Natalie 2, Abby 1.

The 8th girls lost to Seagraves 42-35. Briana Conway led with 15 points, Reyna Gallegos had 12, Mari Ruiz and Kimber Williams 3, Yesenia Loya 2.

8th Wranglers.

The 8th boys downed Anton 26-11. Scoring were: Chris Gonzales-10, AJ Martinez-6, Chris Addison-4, Zach Ramon-4, and Derek Garza-2. The Wranglers also beat Sundown 26-20. Scoring were: Chris Addison-9, Chris Gonzales-6, AJ Martinez-4, Skylar Sainz-2, Zach Ramon-2, Dylan Hunter-2 and Holden Welch-1. They squeaked by Seagraves 25-23. Chris Gonzales topped scoring with 10, followed by--Chris Addison-5, Zach Ramon-5, AJ Martinez-3, and Skylar Sainz-2. In the Sundown Tournament they were beaten by Crosbyton 28-25. Scoring leaders were: Chris Gonzales-11, Chris Addison-7, Zach Ramon-3, Derek Garza-2, and AJ Martinez-2. They fell to Sundown 22-15, with scorers: Chris Gonzales-10, Zach Ramon-3, and Dylan Hunter-2.

On Monday, November 22 the Plains Cowgirls beat the Lubbock Warriors 77-38. "Overall, I was extremely proud of our defensive play and rebounding," Eddleman said. "I felt like the girls did a great job executing our defensive game plan and we were able to create a lot of turnovers and get some easy fast break opportunities." The team was lead by Desiraye Broom, Regina Morales, Whittany Caffey, and Joani Bell. Desiraye had 17 points, 21 rebounds, 7 assists, and 5 steals. Regina had 16 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, and 3 steals. Whittany had 13 points, 14 rebounds 2 assists, and 3 steals. Joani had 14 points, 7 rebounds, 2 assists, and 3 steals. In addition, Meghan Garcia, Jamie Covarrubias, and Lauren Davis did a great job on defense and shooting the ball. Meghan had 10 points, 1 assists, and 4 steals. Jamie had 6 points, 2 rebounds, and 1 assist. Lauren had 3 points, 5 rebounds, and 1 steal. The Plains Cowgirls will be playing in the Denver City Tournament this weekend, December 2-4.

On Tuesday, November 30, the Plains Cowgirls traveled to Tahoka and lost to a very tough team 47-27. Coach Eddleman reported that the Cowgirls were trailing 14-13 at halftime, but were not able to match the Lady Bulldog's intensity the second half. "I felt like we played Tahoka really well the first half, but we got a little tired during the second half and committed too many turnovers," Eddleman said. "Overall, I was proud of the team's effort and I feel that we are improv-

ing each game." Desiraye Broom had 11 points, Whittany Caffey 10, Joani Bell 3, Regina Morales 2, and Meghan Garcia 2. This past weekend the Cowgirls competed in the Denver City Tournament. On Thursday, December 2, the Cowgirls lost to Denver City 50-45. Whittany Caffey had 21 points, Desiraye Broom 10, Joani Bell 10, Jamie Covarrubias 3, and Meghan Garcia 1. On Friday, December 3, the Cowgirls beat Kermit 38-25. Desiraye Broom had 14 points, Lauren Davis 9, Meghan Garcia 6, Joani Bell 4, Katie Winn 3 and Whittany Caffey 2. On Saturday, December 4, the Cowgirls won the consolation game 49-48 over El Paso Bel Air and improved their overall season record to 3-4. Whittany Caffey had 22 points, Desiraye Broom 13, Meghan Garcia 6, Regina Morales 4, Joani Bell 2, and Lauren Davis 2. "I was extremely proud of the team this weekend, especially during the El Paso Bel Air game when we were able to keep our composure late in the ball game," Eddleman said. "I think the team is continuing to make progress on defense, offense, and we are starting to shoot better from the field and free-throw line." The Cowgirls will be playing in the Plains Basketball Tournament this weekend, December 9-11.

JV Cowboys:

The young Coboyos played aggressive defense to beat Hale Center, 51-46. Leading the scoring were Scott Addison 14, Landon Craft 12, BJ Lester 9, Zach Ramos 8, Casson Curtis 7, Elias Carrillo 2. They next dropped the Lubbock Warriors 68-33. Lando led the scoring with 24, Blake Parrish 10, Scott Addison and Zach Ramos 9, David Alldredge 7, BJ Lester 6, Casson Curtis 3.

They had a slow second half and dropped a close one to Tahoka, 37-34. Craft managed 12 points, Lester and Addison 7 each, Parrish 6, Todd Williams 2. In the D.C. Tournament, Plains pounded Ozona 48-24. Addison and Craft shared scoring honors with 16 each. Casson had 6, Vasquez, Williams, Ramos, Elias Carrillo and Parrish 2 each. They next lost a close one to Littlefield, 36-32, managing only 6 of 14 free throws. Craft has 14 points, Addison 12, Williams, Casson and Parrish 2 each, Zach 1. In the final tourney game the Cowboys made a great effort but were dropped by Midland Christian 65-54. Curtis poured in 24 points, Craft 15, Addison 10, Carrillo 4, BJ and Zach 2 each, J.L. Vasquez 1.

PHS Cowboys Summary: on November 30, the Cowboys fell to Tahoka 79-36. Scoring were: Evan Cain-7, Daniel Parker-7, Blake O'Quinn-4, Cory Flores-4, Tyler Caffey-3, Breck Hamm-3, John Wagnon-3, Kerry Sisson-2, Brandon Hise-2, and Payton Bean-1. They next were beaten by Denver City in their tournament 27-63. Scoring were: Blake O'Quinn-8, Payton Bean-5, Tyler Caffey-3, Cody Flores-3, John Wagnon-3, Evan Cain-2, Kerry Sisson-2, and Brandon Hise-1. Next in the Denver City Tournament the Cowboys were downed by Monahans 40-55. Scoring were: Tyler Caffey-10, Evan Cain-7, Blake O'Quinn-5, Kerry Sisson-5, Able Ramos-5, Cody Flores-4, Payton Bean-2, and Brandon Hise-2. Next in the tournament the Cowboys were beaten by Seagraves 46-63. Scoring were: Brandon Hise-14, Cody Flores-11, Tyler Caffey-8, Blake O'Quinn-5, Able Ramos-4, and Evan Cain-2.

* Christmas Assistance Program *

Applications for the 2004 Christmas Assistance Program are now available in the County Judge office in the courthouse. The deadline for returning applications is Monday, December 13

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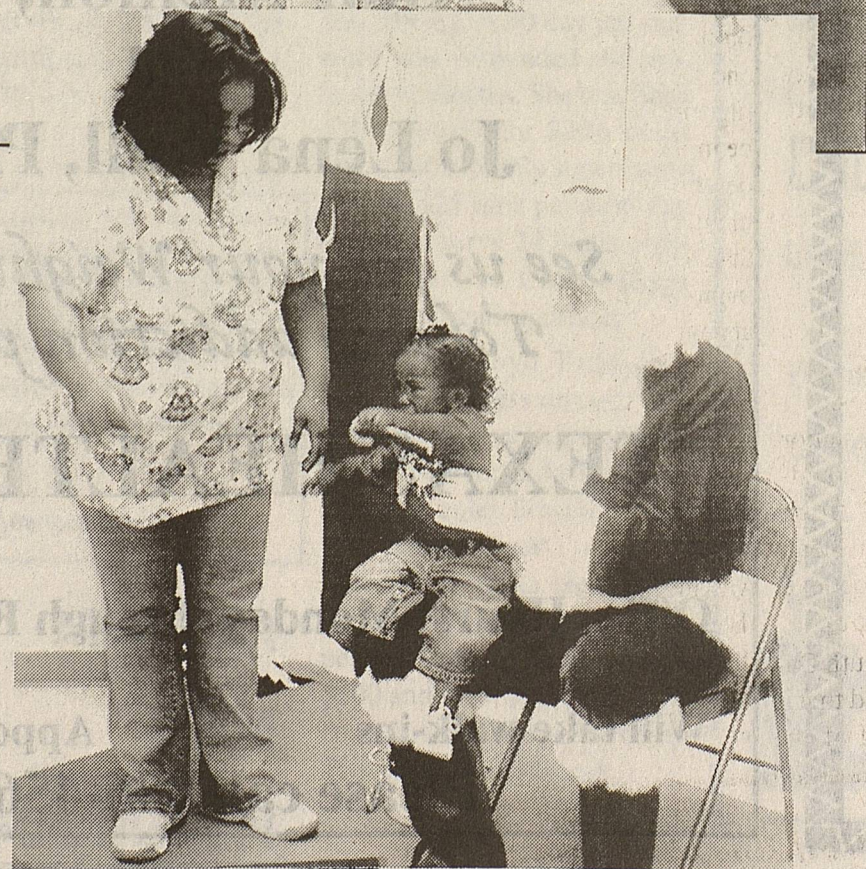
Office 456-3521 Home 456-6325
Mobile 456-7517

A Night With Santa



National Honor Society Christmas Home Tour

The PHS National Honor Society (NHS) will host a Christmas Home Tour 6 to 7:30 PM Monday, December 20. The homes on the tour are James and Kathy Haynes, 905 4th, Blake and Amber McWhirter, 1209 5th, Ace and Dana Hamm, 1409 2nd, and Vaughn and Carloyn Culwell, 1002 1st. All proceeds will benefit the NHS scholarship fund. Adbace tickets for the tour are available at the high school or Yoakum County Library, or purchased at the door for \$5. Additional information is available from Cindy Davis, 456-7498.



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Senior Citizens Corner

Once again we approach the anniversary (the 101st) of the world changing victory of the Wright Brothers which marked the genesis of man's victory over space. Each of us is familiar with this historical event and Wilbur and Orville are names we've known since childhood. There were, however, two other ordinary people who became famous through their contribution to this new frontier. The names Charles Lindburg (who made the first successful solo Atlantic flight) and Amelia Earhart (the tall, young lady who attempted a 'round the world' flight but was lost somewhere over the ocean).

There was another early aviator to whom history has not been kind but who made an equally important contribution to our victory over this new frontier. His name was Wylie Post. He was born and spent his childhood in central Texas. He lost an eye in an oilfield accident when was a young man and wore an eyepatch the rest of his life. He spent some time in prison because of an attempted robbery. Through all of this time, he dreamed of flying. Eventually, he became the owner of a single engine airplane he named Winnie-Mae which he (along with a navigator) flew around the globe in a record breaking time of eight days. This occurred in 1931. Two year later he shaved twenty-one hours off his own record and flew it solo this time.

During those dark days of the great depression, the nation found a hero in this aviator who fearlessly flew at higher altitudes to prove that there were winds in this stratospheric atmosphere that would propel aircraft forward at a greater speed. He is also the man who designed the prototypes for future astronaut space suits as he invented a suit in which he could fly longer in the higher altitudes where there is less oxygen.

Most of us have read, at least once, of this Wylie Post who met his death in 1935 at Baro, Alaska, in the fatal crash of his ill-designed float plane. His passenger was his friend, the much beloved, American humorist, Will Rogers. And so today, we remember and salute this maverick aviator, Wylie Post, who was a genuine American hero who not only dared to dream, but to prove to all of us, that high altitude flight is indeed our final frontier!

This week we have remembered Nancy Chamberlain each time we walked past the beautiful flower arrangement from her homegoing service which the family so willingly shared with us. There was

also a memorial contribution, from Ray and Opal Roberts, made to the Center in memory of Nancy, and Genevieve Gordy made a donation in memory of Ann Green's sister. This is something every family may want to consider, giving your friends and family the opportunity to make a contribution to the Senior Center in lieu of flowers. This gift would be tax deductible and very much appreciated.

Joann Gumbar, from Hobbs, was a dinner guest of Becky Cryer one day this week. Emile Smith, a beautiful Tech student who is a great-granddaughter of Jean Sparkes, joined us for lunch one day and Paul Sweitzer was accompanied by a young man named Gary Chapman who was his grandson-in-law. The Steeles were joined by their daughter, Cindy Smith, and granddaughter, Nikki Rowan, for lunch one day. Welcome to each of these folks.

A special thanks goes to Harley Evans who so efficiently keeps our 'Memorial' board on a current status. Two hundred-forty-four names are listed there of those who were once a part of our Senior Center family and are now deceased. Each of them made a special contribution in their own time and will be remembered by all of us.

Congratulations to the world's best Kitchen Staff! This group came away with a 100% rating as a result of an inspection from the Health Department last week! Not only is our food known to be the top of all the senior centers in our SPAG area but the continued enjoyment and camaraderie among the staff is contagious and we all come away from this bright spot in our day with the realization of how very fortunate we Denver City seniors are.

We are glad to hear reports that Moray Clark came through her surgery successfully in Lubbock. We wish for her a speedy recovery. She is sorely missed around the Senior Center. Gladys Thomson has also been absent this week while visiting a son-in-law who had the misfortune to suffer a bad fall and is hospitalized in Lubbock.

There were fifteen hopeful Bingo players who gathered in the rec room on our chilly Tuesday afternoon to see who would be the lucky winners of Bingo coupons (three of which entitle the holder to a free lunch). There were several winners as we played many versions of the game. Our thanks to Frank Guerrero for being our caller this week. The men's domino

Newsom - Shanklin Exchange Vows



Jessica Nichole Newsom and Christopher Lane Shanklin were united in marriage on November 13, 2004 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Lubbock. Reverends Paul Cunningham and Dan Birchfield officiated.

Nichole is the daughter of Neal and Janice Newsom of Plains. Grandmothers are Irma Canada of Baird and LaVerne Newsom of Plains. Chris is the son of Steve and Melinda Shanklin of Lubbock.

The bride will graduate from Texas Tech University in December with a degree in Food and Nutrition. The groom will graduate from the Texas Tech School of Medicine in May.

Following a honeymoon to Belize, the couple will reside in Lubbock.

room also appeared to be filled to capacity on Tuesday afternoon with fellows happy to be in out of the cold weather as they enjoyed fellowship and friendly competition.

We call your attention to a new schedule we are setting up for Bingo and our '42' tournaments. We have been staggering these two competition times on Tuesday afternoons. Now we are making a trial change of schedule as follows: Each Tuesday afternoon will be the '42' tournament time while each Thursday after lunch will be our Bingo competition. This change will not appear on your December Menu/Activity calendar as they are already printed out, but there will be signs around the dining room reminding you of this new schedule, so come prepared on Tuesday and on Thursday to participate in these games.

Did you hear about this senior who, when asked by a grandson what his favorite 'rock group' was, scratched his head and answered, "Well, I believe my favorite rock group is Mount Rushmore in South Dakota." Someone has said that it seems that the first half of our

lives insists that we develop a growth that will enable us to do what we need to do in our world, learn, work, establish a household, be a good citizen; but somewhere along in the second half a different voice begins to speak inside us, "Do what you are doing." Wylie is it that we keep looking back, looking ahead, looking in the mirror, at success, at failure, wanting to be everywhere all of the time? Surely 'old age' is the age where one can move into the pure happiness of being a nothing, a quiet center, silence, and freedom from the clamoring 'me' who feels the need to be in the center of things." The person who made that statement is probably much wiser than I, but my philosophy remains: "While the above theory appears to be sound, living up to that advice is difficult after a full life, so my personal theory is to just keep on keeping on as long as we can.

Thought for today: As our senses dim; seeing, hearing, walking, touching, tasting all of these finally appear to us as the miracles they have always been.

Identity Theft-Who Are You?

Lewisville, Texas, school teacher Tina Bode's ex-boyfriend cost her more than \$25,000. The unemployed man used Bode's social security number to open four credit cards in her name, then maxed out each card. Bode was left with mountains of debt and phone calls from collection agencies.

"While I was at work, he was out applying for credit cards in my name," said Bode. "He would fill out all my information, then put his name under additional cards so he had his own card, but was not responsible for the debt."

There's nothing unusual about her experience. In 2003, Bode's was one of more than 20,600 identity thefts reported in Texas, according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). Texas ranked second to California in the number of identity thefts in the United States in 2003.

There are several ways to steal someone's identity: stolen wallets and purses, personal information taken from homes, stolen mail, and phone and internet-based scams. The most common method is 'dumpster diving,' said Rod Griffin, manager of public affairs for Experian credit agency.

"Criminals are looking for an easy way to make a living through bank statements and credit card statements," he said. The FTC reports that barely half of all identity theft victims know how their personal information was stolen.

The first thing a victim should do is contact law enforcement and file a police report. Many banks and credit card companies require these reports to expedite clearing up incorrect credit reports. Only 31% of identity theft victims filed a police report in 2003, according to the FTC.

Next, Griffin recommends victims contact one of three credit card agencies, Equifax (1-800-525-6285), Experian (1-888-397-3742) or TransUnion (1-800-680-7289) to automatically set up a fraud alert on their accounts and to obtain a copy of their credit reports.

A fraud alert, which lasts for 90 days, greatly diminishes access to credit and eliminates any access to instant credit, which is offered by many cell phone dealers, Griffin said.

"The key is identifying the per-

son at the point of application in order to stop fraud," Griffin said.

Stealing someone's identity is a state and federal crime punishable by fines and jail time, but enforcing these laws is difficult and the number of cases continues to rise, Chavez said. "It's difficult to track down who the thief is," she said. "The name of the game is prevention. You can reduce the chance that you can be a victim by taking some very simple precautions."

Chavez encourages consumers to pick up new checks at the bank instead of having them mailed. They also recommend carrying only credit cards and identification cards that are going to be used on a daily basis. Consumers should also never provide personal information to unsolicited phone calls and e-mails, Chavez said.

"I received an e-mail from Wells Fargo that said third parties were trying to get access to my accounts and that they had frozen them and needed all of my information to change the account," he said.

Estes responded to the e-mail, giving out his security numbers, passwords and routing numbers.

"Then about 30 minutes later I thought, 'Why would my bank need my routing numbers?'" Estes said.

He immediately called the bank and was able to close his accounts before any damage could be done.

While Estes spent a few weeks clearing up his accounts, Bode has spent nearly two years cleaning up her credit. Since the fraudulent accounts were open and delinquent for months before Bode found out, credit companies are more reluctant to write the money off as a loss, Griffin said.

The Senate Committee on Criminal Justice is conducting an interim study of identity theft and its impact, and will make recommendations to the 2005 Legislature.

In addition, the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature, an advocacy group for senior citizens, made identity theft its top priority. The group will also make recommendations to the 2005 Legislature.

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From The Hack

Spent a bit of time reading Cal Thomas' column in the December 4 issue of the Lubbock AJ. In truth, I did not know for sure whether to laugh hysterically or sob and moan in despair as he described some of the features contained in the \$388 billion spending bill passed by the "lame duck" Congress.

The golden egg bill evidently contains more pork than Jimmy Dean's sausage empire in its heydays. Thomas quoted an Arizona Congressman comparing the legislative session to the movie 'Groundhog Day', as the bill contains "\$100,000 for the Punxsutawney Weather Museum in Pennsylvania".

A few more items and projects included in the porker bill included \$350,000 for the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and only \$250,000 for the Country Music Hall of Fame, which I find rather nauseous. How about the \$1.5 million for retiring Congressman Richard Gephardt's archives in Missouri?

I wish I had known about this spending budget being worked on. I would have immediately contacted our Representative Neugebauer and lobbied him to include a few items for CCN (and ME, of course), like a couple new computers incapable of spelling mistakes and other typos, a new printer which produces non-smudgy prints. I would also include on my list something that would allow me to perform better at the key-

board, improve my public disposition, and up my standing in the community - about 40 grand for new golf clubs and lessons. I'm confident this last request would also tremendously improve my language, an item my preacher agrees is a worthwhile goal.

Hey, don't sneer at my request. It's every bit as reasonable as all those \$600 toilet seats for the Pentagon a few years back.

A frightening thought - Christmas is only 16 days from the date of this edition. Let's see now, what all have I overlooked making my extensive list of "I ABSOLUTELY MUST do all the following things before the final day"? Well, that list of what must be done is extensive. The list of what I have accomplished so far is non-existent. I was reminded in Sunday School of an upcoming class Christmas party, with one of the female planners declaring "Oh, won't it be fun to play that Chinese game, where we pass gifts to one another!"

I almost had a seizure. I also almost spewed up breakfast. I also started to flee from the class. You see, I DETEST that particular Chinese game. I also HATE it. When I was much younger, I was persuaded to take part in the Chinese pass around nonsense. I ended up carrying home a bottle of dog shampoo, even though I had cheated with real brilliance trying to slip it undetected to someone else. Another time, again conned into playing what this time was lovingly referred to as The TAI-WANESE Game, in deference to me, but with all too familiar results this time I was the lucky winner of a blue and chartreuse ceramic and obviously pregnant PIG!

No, no Chink games for me this Christmas. Just remember, the Chinese invented that water torture idea. But just in case I am somehow tricked into playing another session of the stupid game, I'm ready to deal a bit of retaliation to

any and all planners. I am going to bring MY GIFT to joyously pass around as a longed for present. A two foot tall John Kerry doll dressed in a Napoleon Bonaparte uniform, which, when would up salutes bravely, and simpers. "Reporting For Duty, mon miserables!" On further thought, that may not be too cool... there's bound to be at least one democrat there to cherish the thing forever.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals, addressed to the Commissioners Court of Yoakum County, Texas, for furnishing all necessary materials, machinery, equipment, superintendence and labor for Interior Coating of a 50,000 gallon Elevated Storage Tank in the City of Plains, Texas, will be received until December 17, 2004 at 4PM in the Yoakum County Judge's office, Plains, Texas at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids will be considered on Monday, December 20, 2004.

Bidders are expected to inspect the site of the work and to inform themselves regarding all local conditions and legislation concerning the wage and payment of prevailing wage. Plans, specifications, proposal and contract forms may be seen and examined at the office of WEST TEXAS CONSULTANTS, INC., 1720 W. Broadway, Andrews, Texas. Copies are available for a non-refundable fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) payable to WEST TEXAS CONSULTANTS, INC. Each bidder will be required to submit with his bid a certified check, cashiers check or bid bond in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total of the bid submitted, made payable to Yoakum County, Plains, Texas as a guarantee that bidder will enter into a contract and execute bonds and guaranty in the forms provided within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract. Bids without the required check to bid bond will not be considered. The OWNER reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive technicalities and to accept the proposal they deem to be in their best interests

YOAKUM COUNTY OWNER

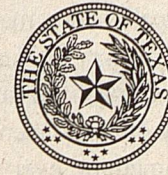
Please come to our Christmas Open House the week of December 13-17 9:00 am-4:30 pm DOOR PRIZES EACH DAY!

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Plains Dirt Gardeners will again sponsor OPERATION CHRISTMAS CARD. All the proceeds from this project go to the beautification of the local cemetery. Projects in the past include numerous plantings of plants, the building of the retaining wall at the south entrance, placing of the street signs in the cemetery, and placing markers on unmarked graves. The next project planned is to replace trees on the borders of the cemetery. To participate in this project and have your name listed in the Christmas Card. Please make your donation to any Garden Club member, or leave it at Richardson Insurance Agency. The Garden Club appreciates all of the donors who have contributed over the years to enhance our cemetery. Deadline for this year's Christmas Card is December 19th

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN A WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0010114001

APPLICATION. City of Plains, P.O. Box 550, Plains, Texas, 79355-0550, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew wastewater disposal Permit No. WQ0010114001 to authorize the disposal of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 160,000 gallons per day via surface irrigation of 77 acres. The domestic wastewater treatment facility and disposal site are located approximately one mile east of State Highway 214 and 1.5 miles north of U.S. Highway 380 in Yoakum County, Texas. This application was submitted to the TCEQ on September 27, 2004. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at Plains City Hall, 1015 F Avenue, Plains, Texas.

The TCEQ executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After completion of the technical review, the TCEQ will issue a Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. The TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

Written public comments or requests for public meeting must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. After technical review of the application is complete, the executive director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list or the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the final deadline for submitting public comments.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. The response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or who requested to be on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the executive director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

A contested case hearing will only be granted based on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the Commission will only grant a hearing on issues that were raised during the public comment period and not withdrawn. The TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.

MAILING LIST. In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. You may request to be added to: (1) the mailing list for this specific application; (2) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (3) the permanent mailing list for a specific county. Clearly specify which mailing list(s) to which you wish to be added and send your request to the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address above. Unless you otherwise specify, you will be included only on the mailing list for this specific application.

INFORMATION. If you need more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Office of Public Assistance, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040. General information about the TCEQ can be found at our web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Plains at the address stated above or by calling Mr. J. Chad Tompkins, West Texas Consultants, Inc. at (432) 523-2181.

Issued: November 18, 2004

Sales Professional

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