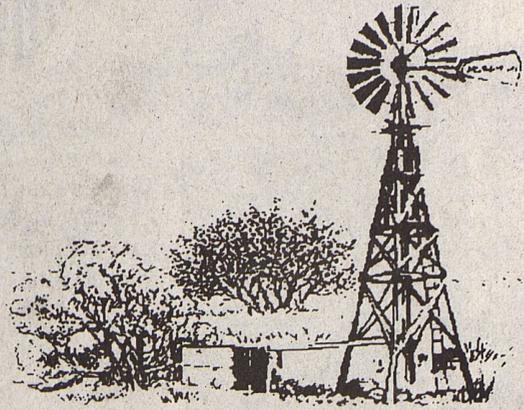


Cowboy Country News

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

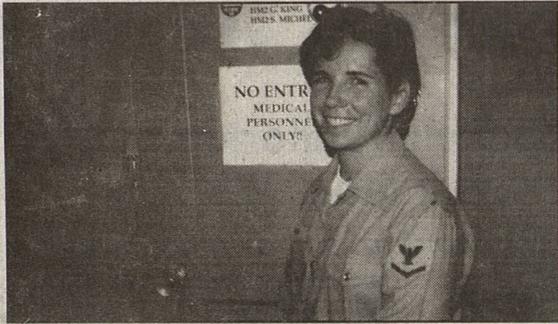
Volume IX, Issue 31, April 16, 2003



We salute our young people serving us




Sgt. Luke A. Smith, son of Debbie Smith, Plains, and Hershel Smith. Home base Ft. Campbell KY, currently deployed in South Korea




Petty Officer E-5 Tammy Lowrey, medical corpsman on board USS Teddy Roosevelt in Mediterranean, with F-18's flying combat missions over Iraq. Daughter of Jerry Lowrey




PO 3 Jeremy Morphis, on board USS Juneau, home base Sasebo, Japan. Recently returned from mission landing Marines and gear now being used in Iraq. Son of Jerry and Debbie Morphis




Seaman Sharla Vantine, recent graduate of US Navy Boot Camp, now stationed at Lackland AFB training to become Military Police Officer. Daughter of John and Lori Matus
More Photos Inside

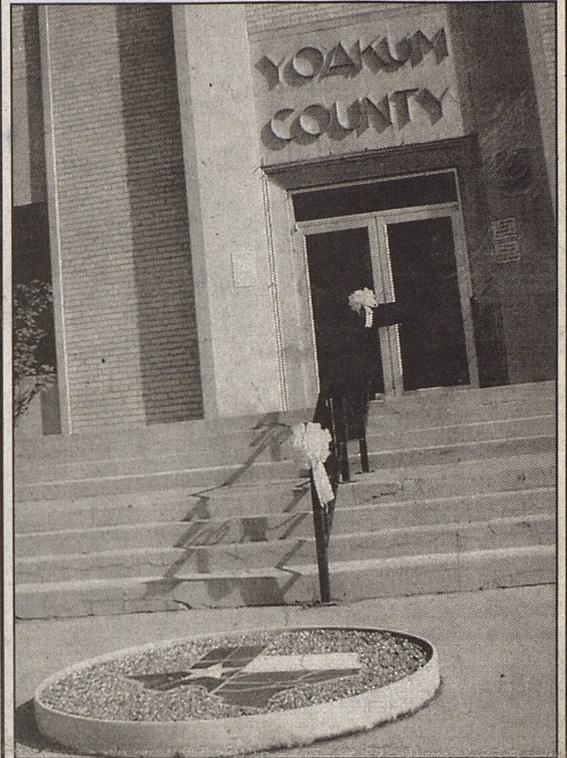
Early voting starts in three elections

Local voters interested in city, school and congressional governmental races will have a veritable horn of plenty of candidates to mull over and vote for. Early voting for Plains City Council, Plains ISD Board of Trustees and the crucial \$ 2.6 million dollar school finance bond, and the U.S. Congressman for the 19th District. The main election day is May 3, 2003. Early voting started Wednesday, April 16 and continues through April 29 in all three elections.

Eight names appear on the City Council ballot; challenging incumbent Christy Brink are C.W. 'Bud' Forbus, Steve Alldredge, Dave Wilkins, Shayne Griffiths, Michael Barrientes, Alfred Martinez and Dan Wall. Early voting takes place in City Hall. Three members of Plains ISD Board of Trustees will be elected. Incumbent Ramon Diaz is running unopposed in the election. Board member John Gray chose not to run for re-election. Running for his position are Alex Barrientes and Keith Earnest. Incumbent Brad Palmer will be challenged by Charles Diamond. Voters will also decide the issue

Turn to Page 6, 'Early Voting'

Tie A Yellow Ribbon.....



Courthouse personnel were busy last week placing yellow ribbons at the entrance to the building, and on many of the trees on the grounds. Along with the 120 US Flags placed on the square last week, there is little doubt of their concerns for our troops battling in Iraq, and their hopes for a speedy victory and return home of hundreds of thousands of GI men and women. It's a very patriotic scene. The ribbon material was purchased by County Clerk Debbie Rushing, and Lorraine Walker made most of the ribbon bows. More ribbons will soon be placed on trees.

American Legion supports our troops, President Bush

The letter reproduced here was written in Mid-March, just prior to the beginning of the land war in Iraq. The letter was written by Ronald F. Conley, National Commander of the American Legion, and was featured in the April issue of *THE LEGION TIMES*, official publication of the Legion, Department of Texas. We heartily concur with the author's sentiments.

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President;

The American Legion's nearly 3 million wartime veterans are citizens of this nation who have personal experience defying those who would destroy our country and other freedom-loving people of the world.

Sadly, some of our allies, some we have fought with side by side in previous wars against other dictators, have refused to see the threat Saddam Hussein's regime poses to the world with his arsenal of weapons of mass destruction. Even some of our own citizens have voiced greater willingness to appease, hope and live in fear than to fight in a cause that is right and just.

We know you are a man of peace. We know you have exhausted every means, short of war, to disarm Iraq. You have demonstrated patience and resolve. But on more than one occasion you have referred to the oath you took as President of the United States, with your hand on the Bible, to defend this country from all enemies foreign and domestic.

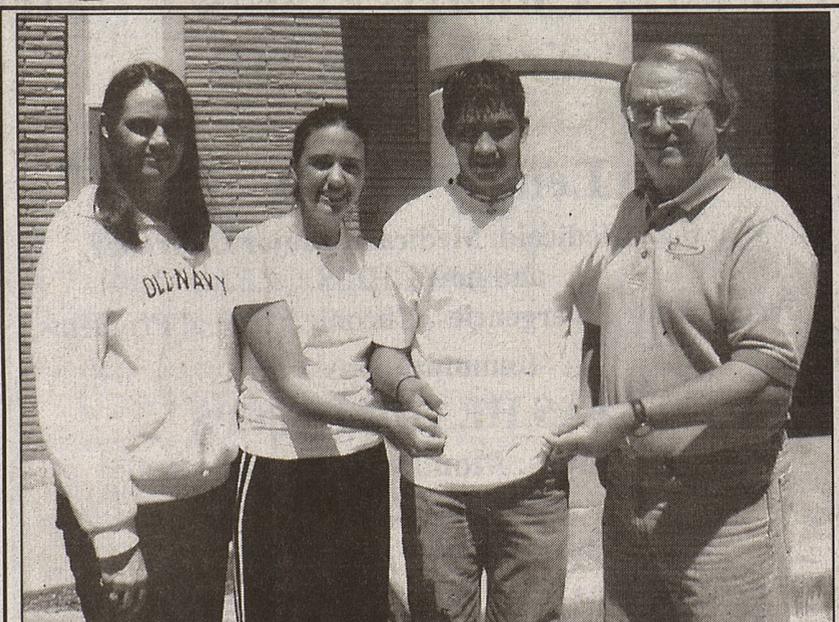
When serving our nation at war, we Legionnaires took a similar oath. The words were much the same, to defend our country from all enemies. It is the oath our troops are repeating today as they stand ready to defend democracy, justice and liberty.

We want you to know The American Legion stands with you.

When you hear voices of appeasement, remember the Bible teaches that "He shall direct our paths". We veterans know war is not always avoidable. Scripture teaches us, "To everything there is a time to every purpose under heaven...a time of war, and a time of peace...and God doeth it that men should fear before him."

We pray that our Lord will keep and guide you in all your deliberations. Regardless of your final decision, be it war or peace, be assured that The American Legion kneels with you in prayer and stands beside you, shoulder to shoulder, for God and Country.

Sincerely,
Ronald F. Conley



Showing community support for Plains High School are, left and right, Judy Sisson and Dennis Crutcher, with OXY Petroleum, as they present a \$500 check to PHS Student Body President and Vice President Jill Gray and Mario Bonilla.



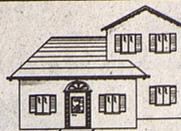
Master Sergeant Lee Lemley, U.S. Marine Corps. Home base Camp Pendleton, California, now deployed in Iraq. Parents Julia and Nelton Lemley.



Specialist Doug Rushing, U.S. Army, 1st Cav. Home base Fort Hood, Texas. Has been deployed to Kuwait twice, waiting on orders to deploy again. Son of Debbie (Spears) Rushing and Morris J. Rushing



Real Estate News For Consumers



SUPPORT THE AMERICAN DREAM: CELEBRATE NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING MONTH DURING APRIL

AUSTIN — A place to call home is a big part of the American dream, and fair-housing laws help make that dream come true.

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, the federal Fair Housing Act, prohibits housing discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, family status or disability.

The law covers most types of housing and prohibits:

- Refusing to rent or sell housing.
- Refusing to negotiate for housing.
- Making housing unavailable.
- Denying a dwelling.
- Setting different terms, conditions or privileges for sale or rental of a dwelling.

- Providing different housing services or facilities.
- Falsely denying that housing is available for inspection, sale or rental.
- Denying access to — or membership in — a facility or service (such as a multiple listing service) related to the sale or rental of housing.

It's also illegal for anyone to threaten, coerce, intimidate or interfere with anyone exercising a fair-housing right or assisting others who exercise that right.

April is national Fair Housing Month, and Texas Realtors are gearing up for it.

"The 60,000 members of the Texas

Association of Realtors and our partnering 91 local Realtor organizations encourage all Texans to join us in celebrating the diversity of our great state," said George Stephens, chairman, Texas Association of Realtors. "Together, we can embrace our differences and protect the American dream for everyone."

All real estate brokers and agents must follow the fair-housing law, which covers specific classes of people. Those who choose to be Realtors pledge to abide by a code of ethics, keeping issues of fairness to everyone at the forefront of their business.

Lea County Electric Cooperative

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE 54TH ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS Friday, April 25th at 7:30 p.m. (MDT)

at Pannell Auditorium Lovington, NM

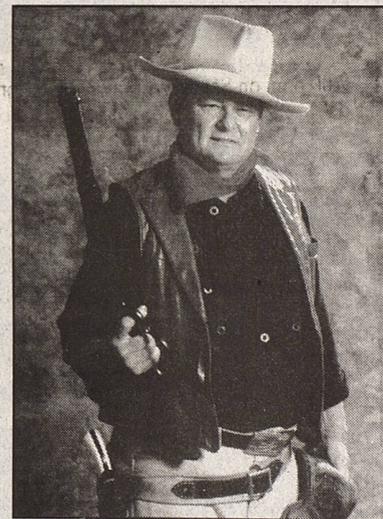
Over 40 Great Door Prizes to be given away.

Featured Entertainment

John Wayne

Impersonator Dr. Gene Howard*

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Pre-Program Entertainment provided by Bluegrass Band "Flatland"



*Neither Gene Howard nor his performances are in any way associated with the John Wayne Estate, John Wayne Family, or the John Wayne Foundation.

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We make HISTORY and HERSTORY every day...

Help us preserve yesterdays of Yoakum County

Yoakum County Historical Commission needs your old, or not so old, photos and stories to be included in the 2004 Historical Calendar and Centennial Drama for 2007, to be written by Connie Webb.

Please date, identify as to place, person (s) and event photos (copies preferred). We will not be responsible for lost or damaged photos, but will handle them with utmost care and return to donor. Insertion is not guaranteed, but effort will be made for inclusion. DEADLINE is JUNE 6, 2003. Mail info to PO Box 605 Plains, TX 79355 or deliver to any historical commission member.

Mattie Field, Johnnie Fitzgerald, Euple Taylor, Brenda Canada, Laverne Newsom, Crip Henard, Janelle Bratley, Latrell McDonnell, Vera Bennett, Wilma Powell, Ed Gayle, Liz Chandler or Dallas Brewer.

For more ideas contact Mary Jo St. Romain at 456-8855 or Grace New at 592-3076 or Linda Powell at 456-3171

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Texas 4-H Grows From Rural Roots To Urban Classrooms

When 4-H Clubs first started in Jack County, Texas in 1908, they taught children about agriculture and nutrition. That bucolic, primarily rural picture has changed dramatically.

The modern 4-H organization has diversified its membership, moved to the state's cities and expanded its programs to include biotechnology and skateboarding.

Barbara Brown is one example of the organization's transformation. This 17 year old 4-H member from Victoria, Texas devised a program for recycling car oil and developed a Web Site, "Don't be Crude," <<http://www.tisd.net/~dbcuide/index.htm>>. Her efforts won her the Barron Prize for Young Heroes in 2002 and a trip to New York to appear on television's Oxygen Network.

Brown's project typifies the kind of practical education based on university research that 4-H has been passing on to young people for nearly a century. The organization relies heavily the staff of Texas Cooperative Extension, which operates as the outreach arm of the Texas A&M University System and is charged with taking the university's research into the community.

The statewide 4-H organization also extended its educational mission beyond 4-H Clubs to the state's after school programs and classrooms. In 2002, the organization reached about 830,000 children in Texas, according to 4-H.

The clubs had more than 64,200 children as members, and representatives and volunteers taught more than 444,000 children through special interest programs, day camps and overnight camping trips. In addition, nearly 322,000 youngsters participated in 4-H activities in Texas schools. Some children participated in more than one program.

With the help of county extension representatives, 4-H operates in all of Texas' 254 counties, and the majority, nearly half a million kids, are in cities with more than 50,000 people. Urban Harris County has more 4-H participants than any other Texas county, with nearly 334,000 children in 2002.

Teaching agricultural literacy is still a priority for 4-H. Now, however, the organization's curriculum also offers lessons in technology.

In El Paso, 4-H is using 25

donated laptops to teach computer skills to children and adults in a low income neighborhood, says, Jimmy Rodgers, the El Paso extension representative in charge of 4-H.

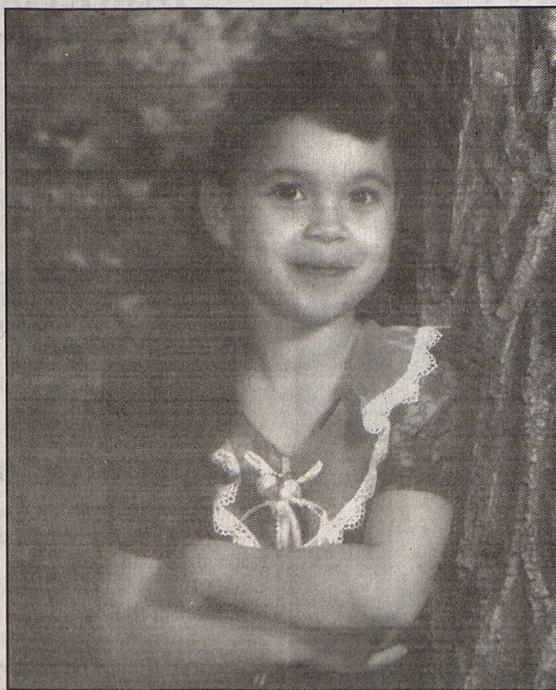
"We've gone from teaching canning and corn growing to teaching computer literacy," Rodgers says. "We have 4-H Club members in Carrizo Springs to teaching seniors how to use the Internet to gain information."

Volunteers also play an essential role in 4-H. More than 38,700 adults and nearly 7,800 teens offered their time and service in 2002, according to Gayle Hall, an associate professor and an extension 4-H and youth development specialist at Texas A&M.

For example, 4-H has a popular program through a partnership with NASA to teach children about aerospace and related careers, says Hall, who says hands on, experiential training helps develop leadership, self confidence and character in children.

"No matter what the subject matter is, we still try to teach young people to learn to set and achieve goals," Hall says.

Locals Granddaughter "TV Star"



A knack for math and a love of cooking have helped put Ashlee Torres on TV. Ashlee is the granddaughter of DQ Manager Rosie Gallardo.

Ashlee's hometown newspaper in Garden City, Kansas recently featured an article about the 11 year old's skill and enjoyment of cooking. The sixth grader auditioned for a PBS cooking segment. Her ability to calculate and

cook won her the part "Wee had to measure stuff to make sure I could measure", she said.

She demonstrated her skill by making eggs in a basket and homemade tortillas. She helps her mother Rosanne in the kitchen, and fixes after school snacks for her sisters, Bryanna, 5, and Ariel, 9. "I've been cooking a long time, ever since I was 9 or 10," Ashlee reported.

Annual Watermelon Round Up T-Shirt Contest Announced

The Denver City Art Association is now accepting entries for the Yoakum County Watermelon Round Up T-shirt contest, with the deadline for entries at 4:30 p.m. May 2nd.

Design must be an original design no larger than 8 1/2" x 11" and must have "Yoakum County Watermelon Round Up" on it.

Yoakum County Connection is awarding \$100 cash for the top design selected by the judges. For more information call Sue Holder at (806) 592-2960, after 5:00 p.m.

Mail unfolded entries to Denver City Art Association at Box 854, Denver City, Texas 79323, or hand deliver to Bayer Lumber in Plains or the Chamber of Commerce in Denver City.

Notice of Regular Election (Aviso de Eleccion Regular)

To the Registered Voters of Plains, Texas:
(A los votantes registrados del Plains, Texas)

Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 3, 2003 for voting in a school election to elect three trustees. (Notifiquese, por las presente, que las casillas electorales sitados abajo se abiraran desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 7:00 p.m. el 3 de Mayo de 2003 para votar en la Eleccion para elegir tres consiados.)

Location of Polling Places - Foyer of Plains ISD Auditorium at 1000 Tenth Street, Plains, Texas
(Direccion(es) de las Casillas Electorales - En el vestibulo dela sala de especta cu los en la escuela de Plains, 1000 calle 10, Plains, Tejas)

Early Voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at Plains ISD Administration Offices at 1000 Tenth Street, Plains, Texas between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. beginning on April 16th and ending on April 29th. (La votacion en adelantada en persona se llevara a cabo de Lunes a Viernes en entre las 8:00 de la manana las 4:30 de la tarde empezando el 16 de Abril y terminando el 29 de Abril.)

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:
(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran en ausencia por correo deberan enviarse a:)

Gail Holley
Plains ISD
P.O. Box 479
Plains, Texas 79355

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on April 25, 2003.
(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran en ausencia por correo deberan recibirse para el fin de las horas de negocio el.)

The location of the public meeting on April 24th at 8:00 p.m. concerning the school bond election has been changed from the Resource Center to the Auditorium.

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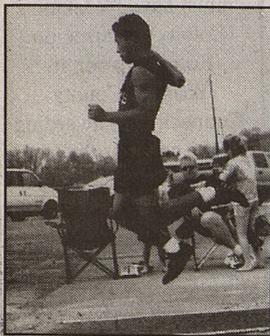
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Jr. High District Track & Field shots



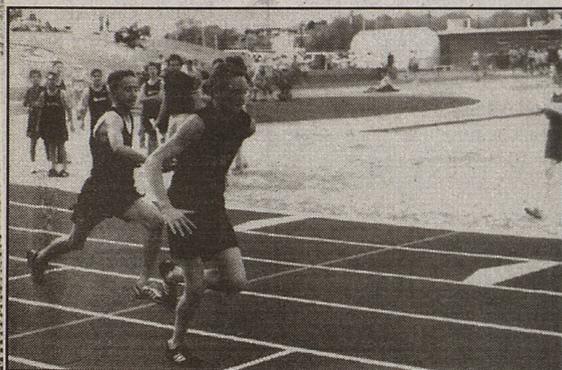
Katie Winn passes baton to Joanie Bell in 400 Relay



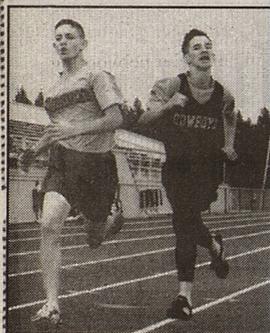
Jose Villegas soars in triple jump



Desiraye Broome won long jump



Johan Cueto makes good handoff to Chris Loya



Chris Addison, Rt., nipped at wire in 800 run



Nicole Culwell heaves shot



Cody Mayes with good jump



Angelica Mendoza won shot put

Cowboys tied for lead in District baseball race

The Cowboys came from behind last Friday in an exciting game to down Whiteface 9-7. Early on they trailed the Antelopes 4-0, but in the bottom of the third they narrowed the gap to 5-3. In the 5th inning they scored four runs to go ahead 7-5, but the Lopes tied the game 7-7 in the sixth. The Cowboys would score two more runs, and a great play by Miguel Coronado, stopping a line drive and stepping on the bag to catch an untagged runner, gave them the 9-7 win. Kevin Bartley and Coronado both had doubles, and Richard Diaz was the winning pitcher with six strikeouts and only six hits. Coach Bartley expressed his thanks to the community for the large turnout at the game, and urges support for the remaining second half of district play. The Cowboys are tied for the district lead with Morton. They meet Smyer there on April 18.

Junior High Track Teams impressive in District Meet

At the District Track Meet here last Thursday, the Wranglers and Lady Wranglers both produced impressive results. The 7th grade girls, with a small team, finished fourth with 25 points. Lauren Hise was entered in four events, and had her personal best record in 100M Dash, 5th, 16.87, 400 Dash, 4th, High Jump 2nd, 4', Long Jump 3rd, 11'7".

8th girls- 400 Relay- 1st Katie Winn, Joanie Bell, Meghan Garcia, Desiraye Broome, 55.35. 800 Relay- 1st, Lauren Davis, Meghan Garcia, Yesica Calderon, Joani Bell, 2:02.21. 1600 Relay- 2nd, Caitlin Carter, Lauren Davis, Meghan Garcia, Katie Winn, 4:43.94. 100 Dash- Desiraye Broome 1st, 13.55, Joanie Bell 3rd, 14.51. 200 Dash- Katie Winn 2nd, 28.28, Yesica Calderon 6th, 30.50. 400 Dash- Desiraye Broome 2nd, 1:04.65. 800 Run- 4th, Lauren Davis, 2:49.82. 1600 Run- Nancy Lozano 5th, 6:51. 100 Hurdles- 1st Caitlin Carter, 19:56, 3rd Nicole Culwell, 20.79. 300 Hurdles- 1st Caitlin Carter, 56:91. High Jump- 1st Desiraye Broome, 4'2". Long Jump- 1st Desiraye Broome, 13'3.5", 3rd Joanie Bell, 12'11.75". Triple Jump- 1st Katie Winn, 28'7.75". Shot Put- 1st Angelica Mendoza, 32'6", 5th Adriana Ponce 25'4.5", 6th Nicole Culwell, 25'3.5". Discus- 1st Lisa Neufeld 74'10", 2nd M'Leah Mckinzie, 69'8", 4th Angelica Mendoza, 63'9".

7th Wranglers- 400 Relay- 1st, 54.14, Zach Ramos, Juan Lora, Mario Sigala, Cody Mayes. 800 Relay- 1st, 1:55.6, Mario Sigala, Juan Lora, Kurt Alldredge, Cady Mayes. 2400 Run- 2nd Zach Ramos, 9:29.16, 4th Ryan Crump, 10:52. 1110 Hurdles- 1st Sergio Olivas, 20.8. 800 Run- 1st John Tyson, 2:32.35. 100 Dash- 6th Kurt Alldredge 15.5. 400 Dash- 1st John Tyson 64.48. 300 Hurdles- 1st Sergio Olivas 49.24, 2nd Cody Mayes 49.53. 200 Dash- 2nd Juan Lora 27.37. 1600 Run- 2nd Zach Ramos 6:10.12, 6th Ryan Crump 6:47.08. Shot Put- 4th Curtis Arteaga 27'5", 6th Elias Carrillo 26'9". Discus- 4th Sergio Olivas 77'9". Pole Vault- 2nd John Tyson 6'6", 3rd Cody Mayes 6'. Triple Jump- 1st Mario Sigala 31.3.5", 5th Juan Lora 27'2.5". Long Jump- 3rd Cody Mayes 14'1.75", 3rd Zach Ramos 13'3.5".

8th Wranglers- 400 relay- 1st, 49.31, Johan Cueto, Chris Loya, Landon Craft, Mario Ruvalcava. 800 relay- 2nd, 1:49.5, Antonio Martinez, Scott Addison, Landon Craft, Jose Villegas. 1600 Relay- 1st, 3:54.4, Chris Loya, Johan Cueto, Scott Addison, Mario Ruvalcava. 2400 Run- 1st, 8:13.9, Jose Villegas. 800 Run- 2nd, 2:17.35 Scott Addison. 100 Dash- 1st Johan Cueto 12.48, 3rd Antonio Martinez, 13.64, 6th Landon Craft 13.75. 400 Dash- 2nd Chris Loya 60.0 200 Dash- 1st, Mario Ruvalcaba, 25.39, 4th Antonio Martinez, 28.13. 1600 Run- 1st, Jose Villegas, 5:13.6 Shot- 2nd, Antonio Martinez, 36'6". Discus- 4th, Antonio Martinez, 101'2", 6th Chris Loya, 93'8". Triple Jump- 1st, Mario Ruvalcaba 35'9.5", 5th Johan Cueto 32'4.5". Long Jump- 1st Mario Ruvalcaba 16'6.5", 6th Scott Addison 13'10".

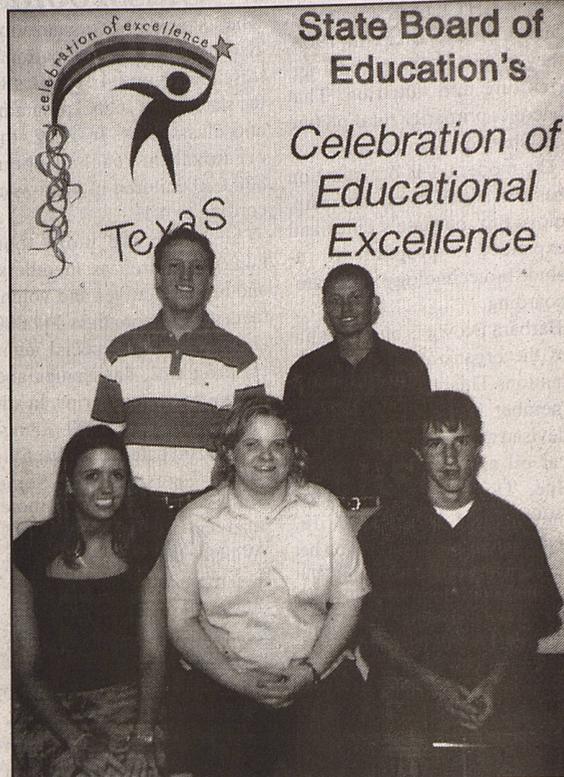
Cowgirls 1st in District Golf, Cowboys 5th

At the district tournament at Meadow Brook in Lubbock, The Cowgirls won the title and will advance to the regional meet in Levelland April 21 and 22. Scores included Liz Wilmeth and Jill Gray, 109, Mandi Rogers 118, Marlie Diaz 121. The Cowboy A team were 5th in the meet, with Isaac Ramon shooting 82, Evan Cain 92, Cody Flores 101, Brandon Hise 102, Payton Bean 110. B team scores included Brant Huerta 112, Angel Ruiz 127, Kerry Sisson 133, Zach Broome 161. Isaac Ramon qualified to play in the boys regional tournament at Sundown April 21 and 22.

Student Greenhouse Project

WHAT: Bedding plants & vegetables
WHERE: Plains School Greenhouse
WHEN: Monday & Tuesday morning 8:30-11:30 am., Thursday & Friday 1 - 3:30 pm.
 Please tell all your friends, family, & neighbors to come to the School Greenhouse for their flowers & vegetables.

Plains High School Students Honored



Five students at Plains High School were among 300 area students and 14,000 students statewide honored during the recent Celebrations of Educational Excellence. South Plains College hosted the local celebration April 2, partnering with the Texas Education Agency, State Board of Educa-

State Board of Education's Celebration of Educational Excellence

tion and 23 other colleges and universities to recognize outstanding academic by many of the state's high school students. From left on the front row are Jill Gray, Liz Wilmeth and Brandon Hise, and from left on the top row are Jordan Bean and Nolan Newsom,



John Tyson won 7th 800 run



Meghan Garcia shows good form

Student of the Week

PHS student of the week is Nick Hays a senior and the son of Glenn Hays & Amy Teaffe. Nick was nominated by Coach McMinn, who said, "Nick has finally reached his potential as an athlete. He has persevered and improved over the last four years. In the district meet he participated in the 400 relay, 800 relay and the 110 high hurdles. In the 110 high preliminaries, he ran his best time of 14.9. This would place him



second best time for all classifications in the area."

4-H Judging Contest

Ten Yoakum County 4-H'ers participated in the District 2 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Lubbock on April 11th, according to County Extension Agent, Arlan Gentry. In the Junior 1 Division the team of Matthew Merritt, Forrest Boothe and Hunter Welch placed 4th in sheep judging. Hunter placed 5th in individual sheep judging and Matthew tied for 4th in sheep judging and

placed 24th in swine judging. Competing in the Junior 2 Division were Elias Carrillo, Sara Horn, Megan Lewis, Skye Sellers and Cody Mayes. Elias placed 20th overall and 22nd in sheep judging. Sara tied for 1st in swine judging and placed 23rd in sheep judging. Jennifer Lewis and Marty Roberts competed in the Senior Division.

Plains ISD will have a school holiday on Friday, April 18th, and Monday, April 21st. The school business office will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. on both the 18th and the 21st for those residents who may wish to early vote by personal appearance in the school board and bond election.

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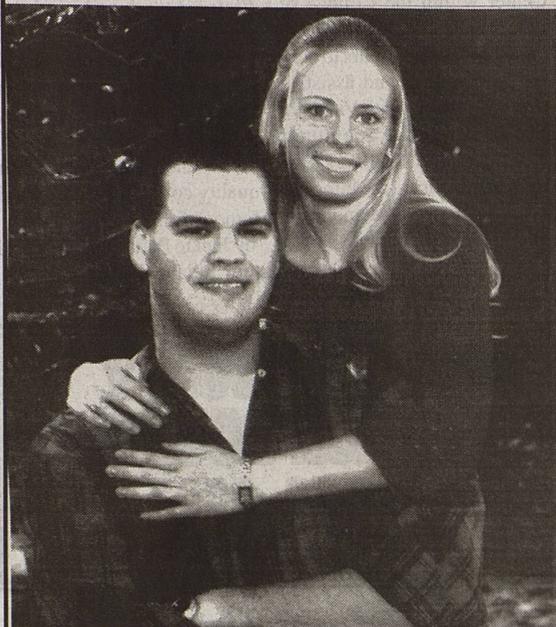
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Dearing-Erickson Engagement



Melvin and Dawn Dearing of Plains are pleased to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Cassandra Dawn Dearing to Chad Robert Erickson, son of Jane Erickson of Katy, Texas. The bride elect is the granddaughter of Mrs. Velma Dearing of Tokio, Texas and Jim and Bonnie Swinney of Lubbock, Texas. The bride elect, a 1999 graduate of Plains High School and a student at Texas

A&M University and will graduate in December 2003 with a B.S. in Biomedical Science. The future bride groom, a graduate of Katy High School, Katy, Texas, will receive an Associates Degree in Business from Houston Community College in December 2003. A June 21, 2003 wedding is planned at Christ the King Cathedral in Lubbock, Texas. A reception to follow at Health Point, 4004 82nd Street, Lubbock, Texas.

Senior Citizens Corner

Tomorrow is Palm Sunday. In Christianity this is the first day of Holy Week and the Sunday before Easter. It commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem when his followers waved palm branches. It was celebrated in Jerusalem as early as the fourth century and in the western world by the eighth century.

For the next few weeks we will be sharing an interesting and informative paragraph with you each week, the title of which is "Smiles From The Bible." The information is presented as a riddle and you can check your answer the following week. We hope you will have all answers correct! The question this week is: "Which Bible character had no parents?"

Bill and Eunice Groves have returned from a trip to Shreveport, Louisiana, to visit relatives.

Frankie Farr was a luncheon guest of Zelma Boone this week. Other guests were Margaret McPherson, Shirley Mosser, Gene and Pat Benningfield, and Judy Lemley. Welcome to each one. Monday was the monthly Birthday/Anniversary celebration. Ten people stood to have their photo made to remember the occasion. Congratulations

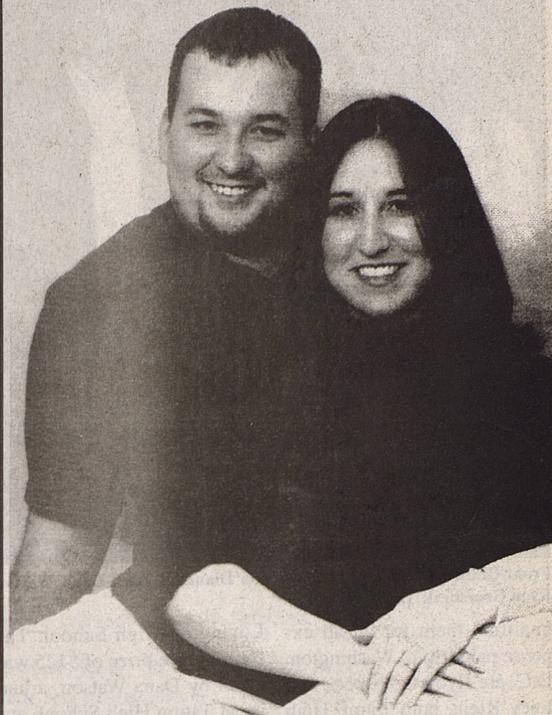
to all. The dining room was filled with those who came to help celebrate and to enjoy the good lunch.

Duncan Ashmore is spending a few days in the local hospital. Hurry back, Duncan. We miss you.

Anna Taylor brought her usual interesting and informative program for us this month. She was accompanied by Joyce Wright, who is her assistant. We were saddened by the personal health announcement Anna shared with us, but I want to take space here to applaud her for her acceptance and her wonderful attitude in dealing with this new development in her life. Anna, you are an inspiration to all of us! The Site Council has designated Wednesday, April 16, as Hat Day. Everyone come wearing a hat of some kind. Use your imagination. Prizes will be given. This is also the monthly Pool Tournament Day, so come early to make sure of a seat in the dining room.

Don't forget that April 17 is the day you marked your calendar for the Mammography testing, ladies. That date needs to be circled a second time so you will remember the Potluck Supper at 6:30 that evening. Come with an appetite and expect to enjoy some good music by Bo Boggs group of musicians.

Engagement Announced



John and Gina Pike are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Lindsay Anne Pike of Rule to Skyler Zane Johnson, son of Zane and Timmie Johnson of Rising Star, formerly of Plains.

The bride elect is a graduate of Rule High School and is currently pursuing a psychology degree at Abilene Christian University.

The prospective bridegroom is a graduate of Plains High School and is pursuing a degree in computer networking. A May 24, 2003 wedding is planned at the First Baptist Church in Rule, Texas at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. A reception will immediately follow downstairs in the First Baptist Church banquet room.

City Council Early Voting

Early voting by personal appearance for the May, 3 2003 City of Plains General Election will be conducted at Plains City Hall located at 1015 Avenue F, Plains, Texas. Early voting will be held each weekday during regular business hours from 8:00 to 5:00 p.m. Beginning on Wednesday, April 16, 2002 and ending Tuesday, April 29, 2003.

The purpose of the General Election is to elect three (3) Council members.

Las Noticias Liberan

Votar temprano por la apariencia personal la eleccion general se conducira en municipalidad de Plains localizado en 1015 Avda. F, el Plains, Tejas. Votar Temprano se tendra cada dia laborable duante horas regulares de negocio de 8:00 de la mañana. A 5:00 dela tarde comenzar el miercoles, el 16 de Abril de 2003, y martes que finaliza, el 29 de Abril de 2003. El proposito de eleccion general debera elegir a tres (3) miembros del concilio.

Health-care Consortium Partners With SPC Job Training Grant From TWC

The South Plains workforce area will benefit from a \$36,730 job training grant from the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) Skills Development Fund.

FirstCare Call Center has partnered with South Plains College (SPC) to provide training. Workers will fill 24 new jobs, such as customer service representatives, supervisor, secretary, network administrator and more. They will receive an average hourly wage of \$17.77 upon completion of training.

"Skills Development Fund grants are a win-win situation for both employers and workers," said state Sen. Robert Duncan. "Employers get cus-

tomized training for their workforce, and workers get the skills they need to keep pace in today's changing workplace. It is particularly noteworthy that this grant will create 24 new jobs with an average hourly wage of \$17.77. Congratulations to South Plains College and FirstCare Call Center for bringing this grant to our area." "The Skills Development Fund is one of the best programs in the state to provide employers with the skilled workforce they need," said TWC Chair Diane Rath. "This grant also will directly benefit the workers who receive training, giving them the skills they need to remain competitive in the workplace."

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Schedule of Holy Week Services
Maundy Thursday - Apr. 17th
Holy Communion - 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday - Apr. 20th
Sunrise Service - 7:00 AM
(on Basketball Court - Church Park)
Sunday School - 9:45 AM
Children's Easter Egg Hunt
Morning Worship - 10:45 AM



VOTE in the MAY 3 Election

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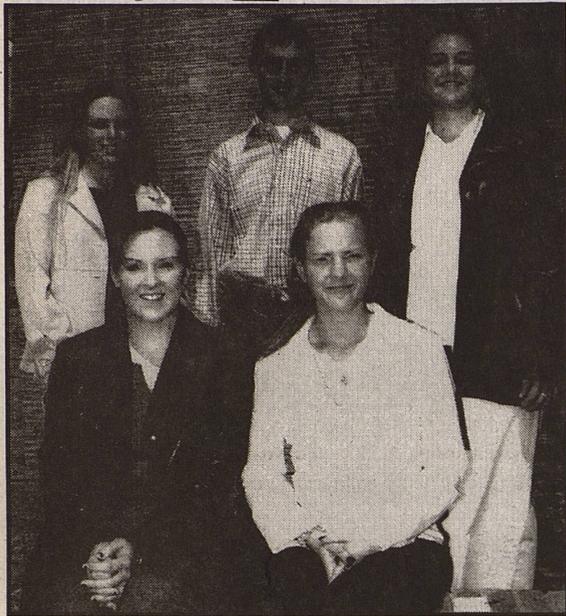
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Plains, Texas

Sunday School
9:30 am.
Morning Worship
10:45 am.
Evening Program
6:00 pm.

Winners Named In Lea County Electric Youth Tour Contest

Winners of the 2003 Government-in-Action Youth Tour Contest sponsored by Lea County Electric Cooperative have been announced by Allan Brown, Manager of Marketing and Member Services. The high school students whose essays and subsequent interviews

qualified them for an all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. are Ryon Groesbeck and Lacy Klein, both Tatum High School juniors. Ryon, 17, is the son of Gayla Bess of Tatum, and is a member of the National Honor Society, Crossroads 4-H Club, and Tatum High School FFA. Lacey, also 17, is the daughter of Joel and Cindy Klein of Tatum, and is a mem-



Front-Ciara Cunningham, Lashonda Diamond Back-Dana Watson, Ryon Groesbeck, Lacey Klein

ber of the National Honor Society, volleyball and basketball teams, and is active in FFA. The Youth Tour winners were chosen after a round of interviews by a three judge independent panel. The third place prize of \$200 was awarded to Ciara Cunningham, a junior at

Lovington High School. The fourth place prize of \$125 was taken by Dana Watson, a junior at Tatum High School, and Lashonda Diamond, a junior at Plains High School finished fifth, receiving \$75.

The Youth Tour winners were chosen after a round of interviews by a three judge independent panel. Ryon and Lacey will join approximately 115

bers of the National Honor Society students from New Mexico and Texas who have been selected as representatives of rural electric cooperatives through contests similar to the one sponsored by Lea County Electric. During the 13 day trip to the nation's capital (June 12th-24th) the winners will visit with their congressmen and senators, and tour sites of historical significance including the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress and the Supreme Court. Around 1,400 students from rural electric cooperatives in thirty-eight states will meet in Washington for the 39th National Rural Electric Youth Tour as guests of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

From Page 1, 'Early Voting'

of the district selling \$2.6 million bonds for maintenance and operations, necessitated by continued local school tax funds going to the state under the notorious Robin Hood finance plan.

Early voting will take place in the school business office

Seventeen, count them, hopeful candidates are on the ballot for U.S. Congressman for the 19th District. They claim allegiance to the Democrat, Republican, Green, Constitutional, Libertarian parties, with one independent for good measure. Early voting for the congressional race will take place at the front of the County Clerk's office in the courthouse.

All three elections are important to both city and county residents, and we urge you to exercise your right - vote your convictions! And the easiest way is to vote early!

Emerging Market For Texas Cotton Growers-Vietnam Textiles

In an exciting move to open new international markets for the Texas Cotton industry, the Texas Department of Agriculture recently hosted eight representatives of Vietnam's textile and garment industry. The visit was part of the representatives' trip to Texas Tech University's U.S. Cotton Fiber Properties and Export School for a week of educational sessions about Texas cotton.

Vietnam had recently announced plans to invest \$783 million in its garment and textile production industry and had agreed to open its market to industrial and agricultural goods from the U.S. Cotton Fiber Properties and Export School, which could soon benefit West Texas cotton growers as well as the U.S. textile and garment industry.

Funded by a \$100,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Emerging Markets Program, this was a unique collaboration between TDA and three Texas Tech colleges, Human Sciences, Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, and Arts and Sciences.

The College of Human Sciences worked with TDA to produce the successful grant proposal, while The Vietnam Center within the College of Arts and Sciences used its expertise in foreign affairs to contact participants and assist in communications with Vietnam. The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources conducted the informational sessions and demonstrations involving cotton research, electronic marketing and ex-

port School occurred in Vietnam in March. Nishi Whiteley, director for international Marketing with TDA, and Dr. Dean Etheridge of Texas Tech represented the United States cotton industry in this groundbreaking event. Whiteley and Etheridge met with the businesses that attended the Texas cotton school and hosted two informational workshops in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi for select Vietnamese textile industry professionals.

"This truly represents a terrific, cutting edge opportunity for the Texas cotton industry," Whiteley said. "Vietnam is a niche market in need of the quality cotton product Texas is famous for."

by Jackie Potts, Texas Agriculture Today



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ORDER OF SPECIAL ELECTION

An election is hereby ordered to be held on Saturday, May 3, 2003 for the purpose of:

(date)

To fill the vacancy in the office of U.S. Representative, District 19.

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at: The County Clerk's Office, in the Courthouse at Plains, Avenue G and Cowboy Way and Denver City Branch Tax Office, 122 West 4th Street, Denver City, Texas

(location)

Note: If county clerk is not the early voting clerk, the information in the block is required.

between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. beginning on Wednesday, April 16, 2003

(date)

and ending on Tuesday, April 29, 2003

(date)

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:

Deborah L. Rushing, Yoakum County Clerk
(Name of Early Voting Clerk)

P.O. Box 309
(Address)

Plains, Texas 79355
(City) (Zip Code)

Applications for ballot by mail must be received no later than the close of business on

Friday, April 25, 2003
(date)

ORDEN DE ELECCION ESPECIAL

Por la presente se ordena que se llevará a cabo una elección el 3 de mayo de 2003 con el propósito

(fecha)

de: Representante de los Estados Unidos Distrito Num, 19, Duracion Restante del Cargo
La votación adelantada en persona se llevará a cabo de lunes a viernes en: The County Clerk's Office, in the Courthouse at Plains, Avenue G and Cowboy Way and Denver City Branch Tax Office, 122 West 4th Street, Denver City, Texas

(sitio)

entre las 8:00 de la mañana y las 5:00 de la tarde empezando el Wednesday, April 16, 2003

(fecha)

y terminando el Tuesday, April 29, 2003

(fecha)

Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán en ausencia por correo deberán enviarse a:

Deborah L. Rushing, Yoakum County Clerk
(Nombre del Secretario(a) de Votación Adelantada)

P.O. Box 309
(Dirección)

Plains, Texas 79355
(Ciudad) (Zona Postal)

Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán en ausencia por correo deberán recibirse para el fin de las horas

de las horas de negocio el Friday, April 25, 2003
(fecha)



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★ FARMERS FOR ★ Neugebauer

Dear Friend,

As the attacks on the Farm Bill grow, the significance of losing a trusted friend and effective leader in the United States Congress cannot be overstated. It is imperative that we pick an effective leader to succeed Larry Combest.

Since Larry announced his resignation, we have been evaluating each of his potential successors' credentials, and specifically their i) commitment to agriculture; ii) ability to quickly gain influence in Washington; iii) electability; and iv) stances on the other key issues impacting our region and country.

So after careful consideration, we strongly believe Randy Neugebauer is the candidate that will best serve our region in the U.S. Congress. We ask each of you to thoughtfully consider his substantial qualifications.

Randy and his family have an extensive history of commitment to agriculture, and will continue to work vigorously to ensure Ag's long-term health. Randy and his wife Dana's families have been farming in this region for close to a century. Dana was raised on a cotton farm near Ropesville in Hockley County and Randy's mother owns a cotton farm in Crosby County.

Randy developed the work ethic that has allowed him to be a successful small businessman while working for his grandfather on his cattle ranch in Cochran County. Furthermore, Randy spent each summer in high school for DeKalb as a field worker.

Randy's family will continue to be active and work in the agriculture business for the next century. His two grandsons, Nathan and Noah, will continue his family's agriculture heritage by participating in their mother's family cattle business in Shackelford County and farming the Red River bottoms of Texarkana.

Randy understands that every West Texan's job depends on agriculture. To keep our region's economy strong, Randy will fight to keep the Farm Bill intact and to implement a national energy policy. The Farm Bill enables our farmers to plan for the future and an energy policy can stabilize fuel prices and lower the rising cost of fertilizer.

Due to his family's significant ongoing investment in agriculture, we know we will have an ally serving our industry in Washington.

Randy has the best track record of getting things done in Washington. Working with Larry Combest, Randy serves as the Chairman of Ports-to-Plains Coalition. Through Randy's leadership, West Texas is moving to the forefront of trade and transportation – critical issues for our most precious commodities. In fact, Randy fought for and recently won President George W. Bush's approval of the 26% increase in financial support for this project, making it one of only two highway projects to receive a funding increase.

Randy is the only candidate to have had the President enact three major pieces of legislation. Both he and Larry Combest fought the Clinton – Gore Administration by supporting our national defense during the base closure process and he has successfully fought against burdensome governmental regulations that have made housing less affordable.

Randy has earned the respect and endorsement of more than 14 Mayors and a growing number of community leaders across District 19 and throughout the state, a testament to his ability to get things done in Washington.

Randy has the relationships with key leaders in the House and Senate that will allow him to "hit the ground running" working on our behalf. This is critical with the loss of Congressman Combest's 20 years of seniority. With the Republicans in control, we must elect the candidate that is welcomed with open arms not treated with skepticism by the Republican leadership.

Randy is the proven leader and the only candidate who has successfully worked at the Federal level to get three pieces of legislation signed into law by the President. He's worked with President Bush, Senators Hutchison and Cornyn and was tapped by Larry Combest to lead critical District programs. He's known and respected as a "doer" by our Republican leaders in Washington and Austin. His integrity and proven ability allow him to have an immediate impact on our issues.

Leaders are lining up with Randy. It is imperative that our community supports a candidate that is dedicated to our interests, who can also win the election and get results. Randy has a broad base of support across the district. If our community will unite and support him, we can ensure we elect a Congressman that will be a true champion of our causes. If we fail to do so, we will dilute our strength and the importance of our issues.

Randy is Right on the Other Issues.

- Randy will be a strong supporter of the President's efforts to strengthen our military
- Randy will honor our commitment to our seniors by protecting social security and improving Medicare, while aiding the President's prescription drug plan
- Randy is committed to expanding our region's leadership in higher education, energy and medicine
- Randy will fight to limit the role of government and have key local decisions made by those who are impacted most
- Randy will protect our property rights and rights under the second amendment

This election is critical. With a large number of candidates, if we do not turn out and vote for the best candidate we might not be satisfied with the ultimate outcome and our industry will suffer. Please join us in electing a servant of West Texas Randy Neugebauer.

Sincerely,

Rickey Bearden

Ron Craft

Ronnie Holt

Mark Williams

Paid for by the Neugebauer Congressional Committee.

For more information please call (806) 687-5086, e-mail john@neugebauerforcongress.com or log on to www.randyforcongress.com.

From The Hack

Once again they come under enemy fire, and the wounded soldier on the stretcher picks up the rifle he still holds on his chest, rises and starts firing again.

After all the scenes I have witnessed of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the first Gulf War, I cannot recall a more vivid picture of an American fighting man so determined not to ever give up. That's why we are and will win this war, detractors be damned.

By the way, our troops fought their way out of the trap, and reported killing almost 200 of the bad guys, with very few casualties among our good guys.

I've seen weird golf happenings, none perhaps more bizarre than the Masters last weekend. Maggert inches out of the lead, playing a par 3 hole, in a bunker, hits himself in the chest with the ball. Two stroke penalty. He blasts out of the trap, not too successfully, (like I normally do, if I get out at all) then commits the cardinal sin - he three puts to put an eight on his score card for a par 3. The TV camera followed him trudging to the next hole, bitter as acid in Sacramental Wine. He played a few more holes superbly, then triple bogeyed another hole. It's rumored he attempted suicide in the locker room, was rescued by his fellow pros. Been there!

While not an overly passionate fan of CNN, it has been the source of most of my viewing of the continuing war to wipe away Saddam and his regime. Last week, I caught just a brief segment of footage I thought absolutely remarkable. I didn't get in at the start of this segment, but either an Army or Marine deployment of troops were ambushed by Iraqi's in Baghdad, either Republican Guards or the Fedayhen guerrilla forces.

The commentator said our G.I.s were encircled by the bad guys, and were taking casualties. The video camera focused on one American trooper, wounded in the calf of one leg, his britches soaked with blood. His comrades were helping him towards stretcher bearers, right in the middle of a fierce firefight. You could actually see enemy rounds hitting the ground around the troops, and then, the wounded guy lifts up his rifle while hobbling along with help and gets off a burst or two at the bad guys.

The the camera shifts to a scene in which he is now on a stretcher, borne by four men, and they are trying to hustle him out of Harm's Way.

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Facts you need to know about the PISD Bond Election

PROBLEM:

According to the Texas Education Agency, which is the regulatory body for school districts in Texas, Plains Independent School District is considered a "property wealthy" district. Under the state's current funding program, this means that Plains ISD must give the state a percentage projected at 42.5% for 2003-2004 of their Maintenance and Operations ("M&O") tax collections, which is then redistributed to "property poor" districts. This equalization of all Texas School Districts is known as "Robin Hood" and the payment to the state is known as "recapture". As the taxable value of the District increases, the percentage of local M&O tax revenue paid as "recapture" increases.

SOLUTION:

In 1997, the State Legislature passed a bill that allows property-wealthy districts to lessen the payment of recapture to the state by issuing bonds. Plains ISD can avoid the payment of recapture for taxes that are levied to pay off voted debt. This means that **ALL LOCAL TAX DOLLARS RAISED FOR THE REPAYMENT OF THIS BOND ISSUE WILL BE KEPT LOCALLY IN OUR DISTRICT.** In other words, by issuing bonds, citizens are assured that more of their tax dollars will stay in the District to enhance and improve the education of their students rather than flowing out of Plains ISD in the form of recapture.

BENEFITS OF RECAPTURE SAVINGS

By paying for \$2.1 million capital expenditures from proceeds of the bond issue, Plains ISD will save funds that would otherwise have to be paid to the State or other districts.

Projects to be Completed with Bond Funds

- ◆ Facility/Equipment Upgrades (normal upgrading of facilities and replacement of equipment during the next three years, including roof repairs)
- ◆ Capital Expenditures/Equipment and Vehicles (includes buses and items with a useful life of more than one year)

BOND ISSUE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q-I thought bond issues were for building projects.**
A-Normally they are, however, Plains ISD is not planning on any building projects.
- Q-What are the factors that determine Robin Hood payments?**
A-The number of students in the district and the local property tax valuation. Robin Hood payments increase when student enrollment declines or local property tax values increase.
- Q-Are Robin Hood payments part of the school district budget?**
A-Yes. In 2002-2003 Robin Hood payments are \$2.7 million. It is projected that the Robin Hood amount for 2003-2004 will be between \$2.5 and \$2.8 million. Robin Hood payments are the second highest budget item after salaries.
- Q-How will the bond issue affect the school district budget?**
A-Plains ISD will be able to use bond proceeds to pay for normal capital expenditures, thus lowering the amount of revenue needed to fund the remaining Maintenance and Operating budget items. This savings would be used to decrease the amount of money that must be taken from the District's fund balance (savings account).
- Q-What will be the savings for Plains ISD as result of the bond issue?**
A-Over the next three years Plains ISD will save some of the money used for Robin Hood payments based on local property values and student enrollment.
- Q-How will the bond issue affect my taxes?**
A-The goal of Plains ISD is to set a total tax rate no higher than \$1.50 which is the current tax rate. This amount cannot be guaranteed because of the changes that sometimes occur with student enrollment and property values.
- Q-What other school districts have used bond issues to reduce Robin Hood payments?**
A-Loop ISD, Amarillo Highland Park ISD, Denver City ISD, Lefors ISD, Jayton-Girard ISD, Plemmons-Stinnett-Phillips CISD, and Trent ISD are among other "property wealthy" districts that have had bond issues in the past few years and each bond election passed with substantial voter approval.
- Q-Is Plains ISD short of money?**
A-Yes. Because of a large drop in student population, Plains ISD has had to spend money out of our fund balance this year to maintain our programs as they currently exist. We cannot continue to do this. This bond issue is just one of several strategies we are using to help solve our budget problems. You will still see money spent for the items listed above under "Projects to be completed with bond funds." Other strategies will include personnel cuts and cuts in spending on every program area of the district budget.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Even if the District has to raise its tax rate, the values of residential homesteads for persons 65 and over are frozen—Taxes paid by persons 65 and over WILL NOT INCREASE.

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On the issues . . .

Income Taxes:

David Langston agrees with President Reagan who said in May 1983, "Our federal tax system is, in short, utterly impossible, utterly unjust and completely counterproductive . . . [it] reeks with injustice and is fundamentally un-American . . . it has earned a rebellion and it's time we rebelled." Langston strongly advocates for a fairer and simpler system. Langston received widespread praise for his strong public stance against unnecessary taxes with his advocacy as Lubbock Mayor when he led successful efforts to repeal an unnecessary city sales tax increase.

Education:

David Langston has long been an advocate for our West Texas educational interests. With his children enrolled in local public schools, Langston understands the needs of our teachers, administrators, students and their parents. He supports policies that promote good public schools so that every child will have the chance to succeed. He chairs the Success By 6 initiative that promotes early childhood development programs that use the knowledge gained over the last several decades that prove that the most formative years of a person's life are between zero and three years of age. First Lady Laura Bush has indicated that this would be one of the highest priorities of her time in the White House. Langston also supports training programs that will allow people to have the skills necessary for the jobs of the Information Age.

Agricultural:

David Langston was born and raised in West Texas and worked hands-on in his family's farming operations. He fought for farming interests while serving as a top administrative aide in Washington, D.C. to long-term West Texas Congressman George Mahon. For the past 20 years, Langston has continued to fight to protect West Texas rural development and farming. No other candidate has his experience and understanding of farm and rural issues.

Oil, gas and energy:

David Langston has experience and a thorough understanding of West Texas vital interests in all phases of the energy industry and is pledged to protecting those interests during the continuing world-wide energy crisis. In his private law practice, Langston has represented individual oil and gas operators and producers. Langston has pledged to pursue a National Energy Policy that will provide incentives for domestic production and reduce our national dependence on foreign oil.

Homeland Security:

David Langston worked closely for long-term West Texas Congressman George Mahon (Who served as the Chairman of the Defense Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee), and daily received hands-on experience, training and knowledge about our national defense. Later, Governor Bush appointed him to the Defense Economic Adjustment Council where he worked with other Texas leaders in adjusting the Texas economy to several military base closures. As counsel to the Lubbock Reese Redevelopment Authority he has met regularly with Air Force officials about issues affecting the former pilot training base. No other candidate has so much experience in working directly on defense-related issues.

Trade:

David Langston opposes trade policies that encourage the exportation of American technology and know-how to foreign countries and then allow these same countries to use cheap labor in unsafe and unwholesome work environments to grow or manufacture products that compete in our domestic markets and take American jobs.



Paid for by the David Langston for Congress Committee, Greg Taylor, Treasurer, P.O. Box 16549, Lubbock, Texas 79490

Langston keeps tax pledge . . . repeals sales tax



Langston is a man of his word

"Lubbock Mayor David Langston deserves a political pat on the back for his proactive approach . . . to repeal the city's recently adopted half-cent sales tax. In an age of widespread public skepticism and increasing voter distrust, Mr. Langston has distanced himself from stereotypical self-serving, double-speaking politicians by demonstrating that he is a man of his word.

. . . This demonstration of good faith is essential in helping establish a framework of public confidence and trust in local elected officials, whose word is their bond with the taxpaying public."

--Editorial, Lubbock *Avalanche-Journal*, 3-18-93

Langston sticks to plan for tax repeal"

--Lubbock *Avalanche-Journal*, 3-10-93

Mayor Langston holds true to promise on tax repeal"

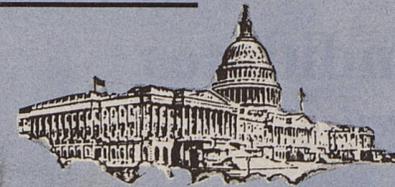
--University Daily, 4-2-93

David Langston doesn't just make empty political promises on the campaign trail. His word is his bond.

While serving as Lubbock Mayor, Langston publicly promised the city's taxpayers that he would spearhead a drive to repeal a half-cent city sales tax if it was not needed for a special project. When the project did not work out, Langston immediately kept his word to taxpayers by aggressively seeking repeal of the tax, and thus successfully saving taxpayers thousands of dollars.

One of the individuals who unsuccessfully opposed Langston's repeal of the tax was then councilman Randy Neugebauer. Neugebauer, who also is a candidate in this congressional election, led a small coalition to keep the tax for use on new city governmental spending.

West Texas



Election Report

News of the Special Election for U.S. Congress

Spring 2003

Texas' 19th Congressional District

Former Mayor of Lubbock

David Langston leads race on issue-oriented pledge

Listening to the concerns of the people and then voting issue-by-issue are the most important qualities for the next Congressman, according to Republican candidate for Congress, David Langston.

"I pledge to listen to what the people of the area are saying, and then be strong enough to go to Washington and vote issue-by-issue and not strictly along party lines," says Langston. "We don't need someone to be a rubber stamp."

The sprawling 19th Congressional District stretches from the rich agricultural, dairy and cattle-feeding region in the Panhandle, through the bustling educational and medical center of Lubbock, and then south to the Permian Basin, home of Midland, Odessa and Big Spring, where oil and gas reign supreme. Some see the diverse interests of the region as pitting Lubbock against Midland/Odessa — but not Langston.

"This race must not become a north versus south contest," said Langston. "When George Mahon held the 19th District post through 1984, it included both

Lubbock and Midland/Odessa and there was never any problem with him doing an excellent job representing both areas. When you are elected Congressman, you must aggressively represent all of your constituents' interests. That is simply part of the job," said Langston

Langston is native West Texan

David Langston is a West Texas native who grew up working on his family's cotton farm. After graduating from high school in Lubbock, he attended the School of Government and Public Administration at the American University in Washington, D.C. He received valuable experience in government while working for seven years on Capitol Hill as one of the top aides to Congressman Mahon, where he focused primarily on agricultural issues. While Langston was working for Mahon in Washington, he obtained his law degree at Georgetown University and then returned to Lubbock in 1979.



DAVID LANGSTON
. . . leading candidate

Wide interests represented

Today, Langston is the managing partner of the law firm of Mullin Hoard & Brown, L.L.P. in Lubbock whose 15 attorneys represent a wide variety of clients including local and national banking interests, broadcasting corporations, and the Lubbock Reese Redevelopment Authority — a branch of state government charged with converting a closed Air Force training base to private use.

During the early 1990s, Langston represented oil and gas companies in the Permian Basin that suffered through the collapse of the domestic energy industry that brought down many independent producers and financial institutions in the region.

Active in family, community activities

Active in civic, family and religious activities, Langston understands the needs of West Texans. Langston served as Lubbock mayor from 1992 to 1996 and focused in regional economic development.

David and his wife, Rhonda, and their two sons, Evan and Will, are members of St. John's United Methodist Church in Lubbock. The family is active in the children's public school and the church, where David has served as a long-time Sunday School teacher.



Langston . . . former Mahon aide

David Langston served seven years as an aide to the legendary West Texas Congressman George Mahon. Langston gained invaluable experience on the Washington staff while Mahon served as chairman of the powerful Appropriations Committee.

Meet the Republican candidates

In the May 3, 2003 Special Election



David Langston

David Langston, 50, is a native of Lubbock and West Texas and grew up in the 19th Congressional District. He was chosen by the powerful and legendary West Texas Congressman George Mahon to serve on his Washington, D.C. Congressional staff where Langston learned under Mahon for seven years. Mahon entrusted Langston as campaign chairman of Mahon's last congressional campaign. When Mahon subsequently retired, Langston returned to Lubbock and has been in private law practice, representing vital private businesses from major individual oil and gas clients in the Permian Basin, to family farms across the state. Langston was elected to three terms as Mayor of Lubbock where he focused on economic development for the entire West Texas region, including the South Plains and the Permian Basin. He was widely recognized and applauded as a "man of his word" for his successful efforts to repeal city sales tax increase. One editorial stated: "In an age of . . . voter distrust, Langston has distanced himself from stereotypical self-serving, double-speaking politicians by demonstrating that he is a man of his word."



Carl Isett

Carl Isett, 46, is a native of El Paso and presently is self employed as an accountant. He has served as a state representative the past few years where he steadfastly refused to join other West Texas Republican legislators in endorsing popular West Texas House Speaker Pete Laney. Isett has consistently opposed increased funding for the Texas Excellence Fund — a special legislative creation initially sponsored by Senator John Montford to provide equal funding to the non-land grant universities, including Texas Tech. In a recent independent study of the tobacco industry's influence over Texas legislators, Isett was recognized as one of the most "pro tobacco" Texas state legislators and whose campaigns have been finally supported by pro-tobacco interests.



Randy Neugebauer

Randy Neugebauer, 53, is expected to be the biggest campaign spender, with large contributions from his personal funds. He earned his wealth in real estate development primarily in Lubbock. He served for a while on the Lubbock City Council under the term of Mayor David Langston. Neugebauer led a small coalition that unsuccessfully opposed Mayor Langston's push to repeal a sales tax increase. Neugebauer personally favored and publicly argued for retaining the tax and its revenues for other governmental spending purposes. Neugebauer's primary focus in recent years has been on a proposed regional highway planned from Mexico to Denver which would be an integral part of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to open the border to broader commerce with Mexico.

Other candidates:

Mike Conaway, 54 of Midland, is a certified public accountant

Stace Williams, 36, is a Lubbock plaintiff trial attorney focusing primarily on personal injury, accidents and medical malpractice cases.

John Bell, 50, is an oil field supervisor from Kermit.

Vicki Sutton, 43, is a law professor and environmental expert who previously worked in Washington, D.C. During the administration of the senior President Bush, she worked on EPA-type environmental issues.

Richard Bartlett, 38, is a Midland doctor.

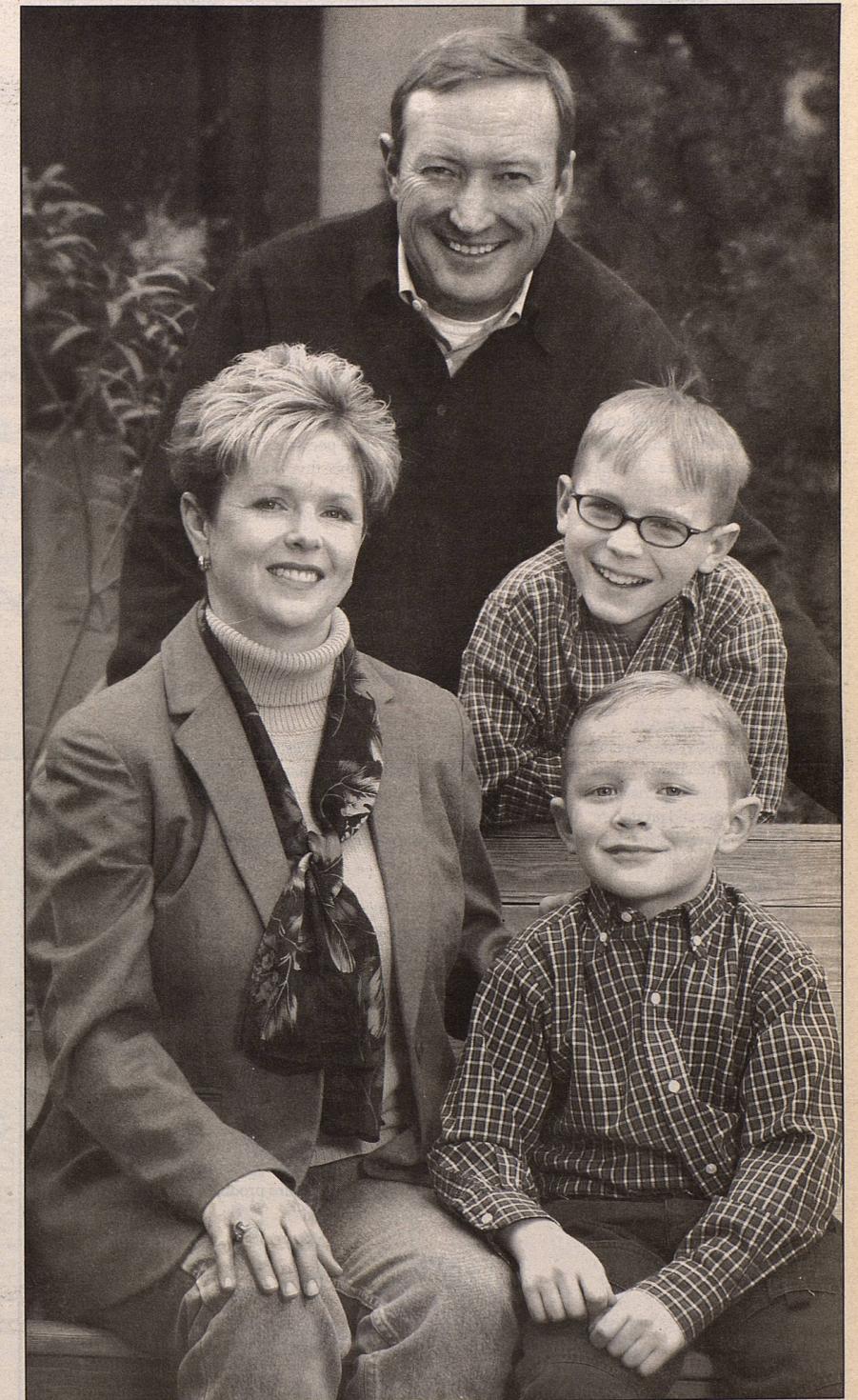
Jamie Berryhill, 50, is a public servant from Odessa.

Bill Christian, 40, is a public servant from Midland.

Donald May, 57, is a doctor and former medical professor in Lubbock.

The Langston Record . . .

- Mayor, City of Lubbock, 1992-96
- Headliner Award, Women in Communications, 1993
- Best Political Leader, Readers' A-J Choice Award, 1995
- Best Business Leader, Readers' A-J Choice Award, 1996
- Government Business Advocate of the Year Award, Lubbock Hispanic Chamber 1996
- Humanitarian Award, Lubbock Human Relations Comm. 1997
- Chairman, Committee of Churches 1989-92
- President, Broadway Festivals 1991-2001
- Chairman, Lubbock Culture and Arts Comm. 1997-present
- Chairman, Lubbock Success By 6, 2000-present
- Chairman, American Museum of Agriculture, 2001-present
- Chairman, Youth Corps, 2001-present
- Washington aide for seven years to West Texas legendary Congressman George Mahon
- Managing partner, Lubbock law firm of Mullin, Hoard & Brown, L.L.P.
- West Texas native; worked teenage years on family cotton farms
- Married to the former Ronda Craig of Roosevelt, Texas; father of four children: John David, 25, Mary Kathryn 23, Evan Craig 11 and William Lee 5



The Langston Family

The Langston Family is strong in traditional family values. Active in their church and community, David and Ronda are strong supporters of the local school system where their sons, Evan and William, attend.