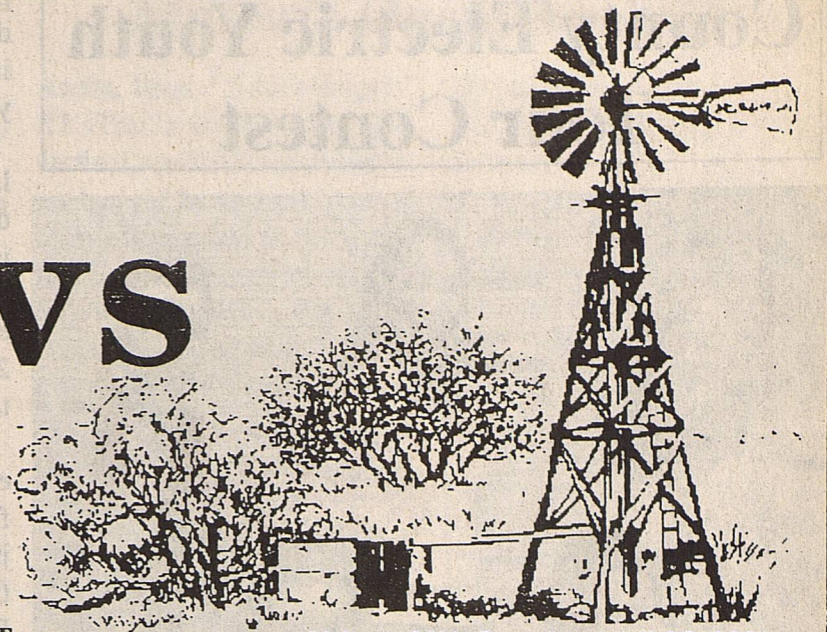


# Cowboy Country News

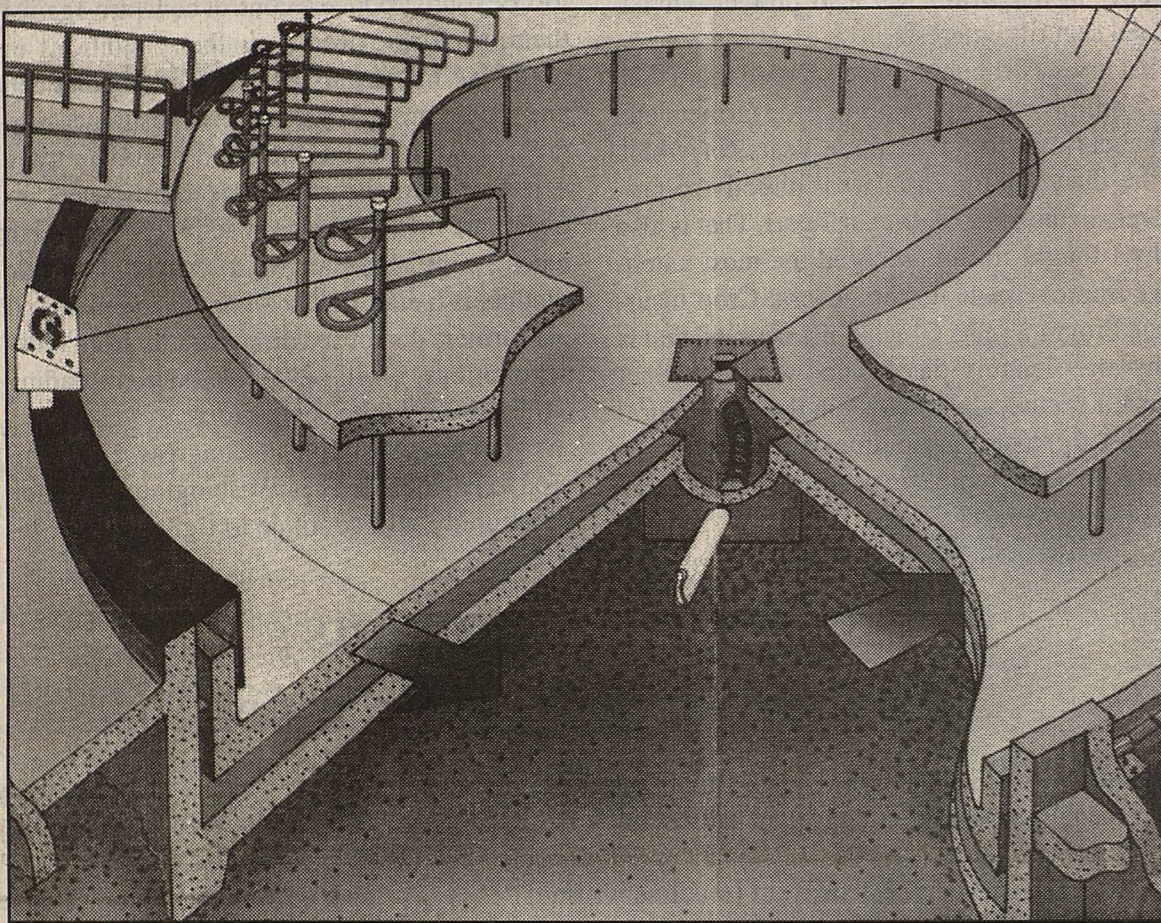
Published each Wednesday in the county seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas

Volume V11, Issue 31, April 25, 2001



## How Now Brown Cow

Lea County Dairy Installs Carousel Milking



By W. H. Graham,  
Lovington Leader

Sebastian Faria is about to give his cows a whirl. A carousel milking system is being installed at Faria Dairy a mile east of Lovington on Gum Road.

The Rotaflo Dairy System will be a first for Lea County and one of the first to be installed in the U.S. It is manufactured in New Zealand and shipped all over the world.

Components for the carousel arrived in Lovington about two weeks ago - a week late since the five-man construction crew had arrived a week earlier.

They are making up for lost time as they prepare to build the

carousel on the south side of the existing milking barn which serves Faria's 1700 cow milking herd. The carousel will allow him to add another 700 cows.

The Rotaflo system is unique (and patented) in that the circular platform on which the cows rotate while being milked floats on water.

Just as an iron ship floats on the sea, the concrete structure floats on a reservoir of water underneath. It's only about 8 inches deep, but will hold up the weight of the cows and the platform itself.

Use of the water principle eliminates rollers and bearings and reduces friction to its low-

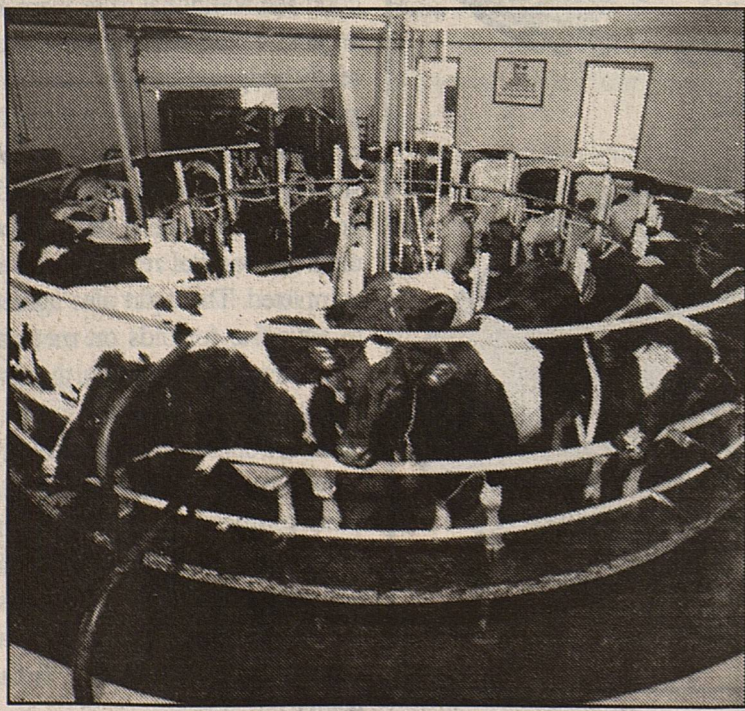
est possible point. A 1/2 HP electric motor drives rubber tired wheels which rotate against the outside of the platform, turning it at a speed of about one revolution every eight minutes.

Cows step on one at a time from a ramp. Workers attach milking cups, and when they complete their 360 degree trip, they are milked and ready to step off, making room for the next cow in line. The process is continuous.

Trevor Barfoote, from Northern New Zealand, is the construction foreman and is well traveled, having supervised Rotaflo installations in Chile, Spain, Uruguay, Germany and France.

It's the first trip to America for his workers, a hardy and colorful bunch who seem to be enjoying their U.S. assignment. They are staying at the Lovington Inn for the six to eight weeks construction period.

They are picking up on American cultural practices. They learned, for example, it is common to tip waitresses at restaurants in the U.S., but the practice is unknown in New Zealand. After ignoring their server in a Lovington Restaurant, they got the message.



## Commissioners Court OK's funds for hospital

In the April 23 session of Commissioners Court, a \$38,812 bid from Hester's McGlaun on furniture for the new four Doctor's clinic under construction in Denver City was approved. Yoakum County Hospital Ed Rodgers told the court the bid "is some 30 percent less than the Hospital Board had anticipated, because of the discount we received through our relationship with the Covenant system."

Rodgers also sought approval for an additional

\$96,732 for renovation of the Out Patient waiting room in the hospital. He said the Hospital Board felt the renovation would allow the new clinic Doctors' to utilize the hospital lab department. "If clinic patients have to go to another source for x-rays, or other lab work, it causes our revenues to suffer considerably." The remodeling work would provide easy access for clinic patients to visit the lab department in the hospital. **Please turn to Page 2, "COURT"**

## Grand Jury indicts eight

Yoakum County Grand Jury returned true bills of indictment on eight defendants April 17. All bonds for felony indictments are set by District Judge Kelly G. Moore, and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state in all cases.

Aida Dominguez Perez was indicted for theft of a firearm, a state jail felony. Bond was \$3,500.

Aurelio Robert Sanchez was indicted for burglary of a building, a state jail felony, and bond was set at \$5000.

Lenual H. Elmore Jr. was indicted for DWI, third or more, a third degree felony. Bond was \$2500.

James Penner, aka Jake Penner, was indicted for burglary of a

Turn to page 2,  
"Grand Jury"

In last week's issue of CCN we featured an article on early voting for the May 5 City of Plains General Election of council members. The name of Arlon Alexander was omitted from the list of incumbent council members seeking re-election. Alexander joins other incumbent members Owen Schneider and Rick Ramos seeking a return to the council, along with new candidate Christy Brink, in the at-large election. Early voting is now under way in the election, and will continue until Tuesday, May 1 at City Hall. We apologize for the error.

## Plains Lion Club continues to grow



At a breakfast director's meeting last Thursday of the Plains Lions Club, Secretary/Treasurer Harry Richards revealed a new membership roster listing 50 names, the largest membership in the club's history. A little over one year ago, 18 members belonged to the club. Most of the dramatic spurt in growth is attributed to yeoman recruiting work performed by Lion First Vice-President Butch Mack

At the follow-up Noon meeting of the club, 26 Lions were present, including first time attendees Marjie Diaz, Lisa Sosa, Gary Broome and Christy Brink.

At the meeting, the following officers and directors were nominated, then elected by acclamation, to take office in July; President- Butch Mac

First Vice-President- Jim

Haynes. Second Vice-President- Eric Banfield.

Sectry/Treas- Harry Richardson

One Year Directors- Gary Dyer and Johnnie Fitzgerald.

Two Year Directors- Cathy Jones and Vaughn Culwell.

A special evening meeting will be held May 3 in Stanford Park. The club will provide and cook hamburgers and hotdogs, and their spouses are to bring a side dish or homemade ice cream.

All members are invited and urged to bring their families to the evening program and meal.

Mike Dreyspring, General Manager of Lea County Electric, was guest speaker at last week's noon meeting. He detailed recent action taken by the New Mexico State Legislature

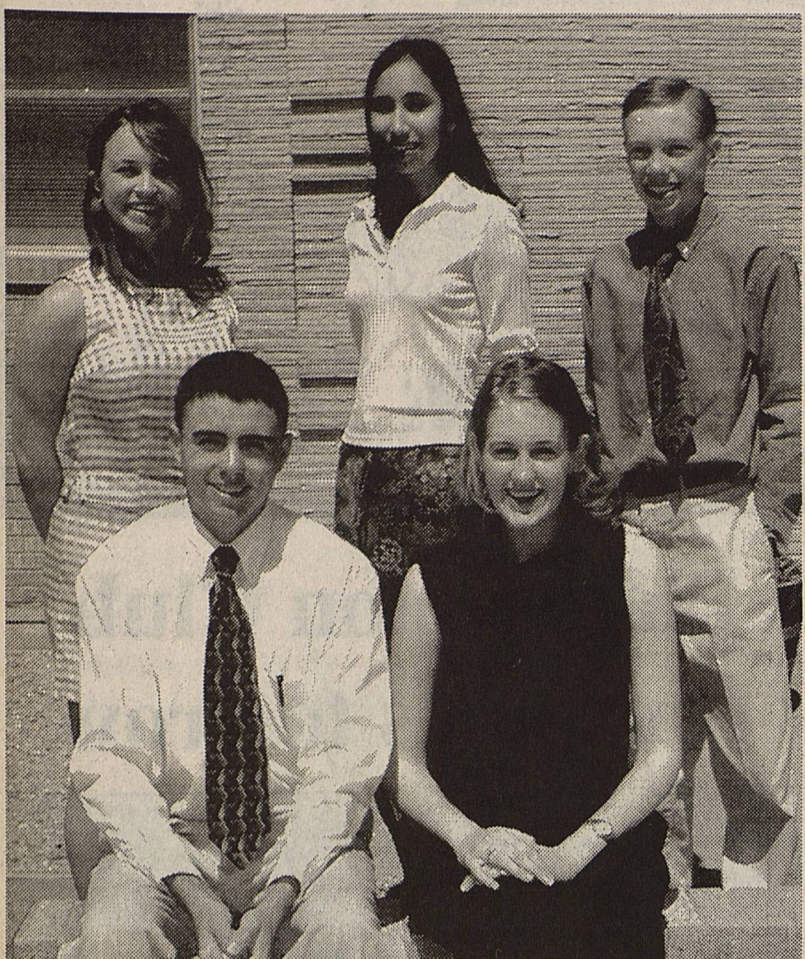
Turn to Page 2,  
"LIONS"

## SPC honors Plains High scholastic achievers



Students from Plains High School were honored for their scholastic achievements during the recent annual Celebration of Educational Excellence luncheon hosted by South Plains College. The statewide celebrations, sponsored by the Texas Education Agency and State Board of Education, honored more than 13,000 high school and junior high students for their academic distinctions in math, science, social studies or English language arts. Plains representatives are (front row, from left) Amanda Garcia, Emily Blair, Nicole Haynes and Lisa San Filippo, (second row, from left) Annaliesa O'Quinn, Skyler Johnson, Lesli Rowe and Chris McGinty. Not pictured is Aaron Cain.

## Winners named in Lea County Electric Youth Tour Contest



Seated, Kristopher Terry, Tatum, Annaliesa O'Quinn, Plains. Back, Allison Butler, Plains, Ashley Cruz, Wade Parks, Tatum.

Winners of the 2001 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., June 14 -26, are Annaliesa O'Quinn and Kristopher Terry. Annaliesa, 17, is the daughter of Steve and Renette O'Quinn of Plains, and is a junior at Plains High. She enjoys volleyball, basketball and all sports. Annaliesa has also been selected by State Representative Gary Walker to attend the Texas Aerospace Scholars camp at NASA in Houston this summer.

Kristopher, 16, is the son of Johnny and Nancy Colwell of Tatum, New Mexico, and is a sophomore in high school, where he is active in basketball and FFA. In addition to working on a ranch when not in school, Kristopher enjoys listening to music and spending time with his friends.

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 Ashley Cruz, a sophomore at Tatum High School. The fourth place prize of \$125 was taken by Allison Butler, a junior at Plains High and the daughter of Bill and Daina Butler, and Wade Parks, a freshman at Tatum High finished fifth, receiving \$75.

Annaliesa and Kristopher will join approximately 100 other 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 stay in the capitol, the winners will visit with their congressmen and senators, and tour sites of historical significance including the Smithsonian, Library of Congress and the Supreme Court. Around 1,400 students from rural electric cooperatives in 38 states will meet in Washington for the 37th National Rural Electric Youth Tour as guests of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

### From Page 1, "LIONS"

putting a hold on efforts to deregulate the electric power industry in that state for five years.

He reported the Texas Legislature is still wrestling with the deregulation problem here. He is hopeful HB 1692 will emerge in its final form with teeth enough to give Texas until 2007 to actually go into electric deregulation.

Dreyspring said the electric energy crisis in California is far from "over or fixed. The cars just keep piling up in this huge train wreck, and Lea County Electric does not want the same wreck in New Mexico or Texas." He also cited the cooperation and assistance shown the Cooperative by State Representative Gary Walker. "I consider what Walker has done in Austin to show support for this area and the electric cooperative's to be a great example of what a good politician should be, truly concerned about the interests of his constituents."

### From Page 1, "Grand Jury"

Ernie James Hildebrand was indicted for burglary of a habitation, second degree felony.

Andres Adrain Alarcon was indicted for burglary of a habitation, a second degree felony. Bond was set at \$5000.

Thomas Drought Jr. was indicted for DWI, third or more, third degree felony. Bond was \$5000.

Frederick S. Wright Jr. was indicted for third or more DWI, third degree felony, and bond was \$2500.

State jail felony calls for confinement in a state jail for no more than two years, or less than 180 days, and optional fine up to \$10,000.

Third degree felony calls for confinement in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Institutional Division, for not more than ten years or less than two years, and optional fine up to \$10,000.

Second degree felony calls for confinement in TDCJ for not more than 20 years, or less than two years, and optional fine up to \$10,000.

## Larry Combest comments

Congress has recessed for the Easter Holiday and it has given me the opportunity to come home and share with you what we have been working on in agriculture.

I live agriculture everyday, and I believe we have not only a duty, but an obligation to ensure a positive economic environment where producers can expect an honest return for their work. Farming is unlike any other business, where producers have no control over the markets or the weather that determine their price, production and ultimately, their income.

When I was chosen to lead the House Agriculture Committee in 1999, I pledged the committee would be a close friend to American farmers and ranchers, and Congress would see producers through difficult times by providing short-term relief until permanent improvements to the farmsafety net can be made. It is important to keep in mind, rural America keeps this country on a firm foundation of faith and values. By preserving the fact our country has the safest, most abundant and affordable food supply in the world, we also protect our national security interests.

That is why I fought for and secured more than \$25 billion in economic relief for farmers and ranchers over the past three years, of which more than \$450 million went directly to producers in the 19th District of Texas. That is also why I fought for and secured the most extensive improvements to the Federal Crop Insurance Program in its 64 year history. And that is why after lengthy discussions with President Bush, I secured an increase in the agricultural budget to ensure agriculture, along with national defense, will have access to the ten year \$514 billion reserve fund.

I am also working to make permanent improve-

ments to the farm safety net. However, with that opportunity comes challenges. Creating a farm program benefitting all agricultural areas can be tricky. I represent one of the most productive agriculture areas in the country, and when I am working to craft farm policy, I always keep West Texas farmers' interests in mind. However, as Chairman, I also have the duty to ensure that producers across the country, in every region, benefit from a federal farm program. For instance, there is a great deal of disagreement on the exact definition of a "family farm". Some would argue a family farm is determined by the number of acres being farmed; others would base it on arbitrary gross income limits. Either of these definitions could pose a great danger to our local producers.

Many farms in our region would be ineligible for program benefits if the family farm is defined as one with fewer than 1,000 acres.

I believe government does have a role in agriculture, but should not be an authoritative figure. The government should step in when factors beyond producers control conspire against them, such as extreme weather conditions or excessive market losses. The government can and should provide a strong crop insurance program, a strong safety net, and negotiate trade agreements to ensure American producers interests are met. I have been actively engaged in recent trade negotiations to ensure domestic producers benefit from all new agreements. If our farmers do not see direct results from these negotiations, I will personally support ending our participation in such efforts.

As your representative in Congress, I am honored to be your voice in Washington. You can be assured I will continue to fight for your interests.

## Eight PHS students qualify for UIL state meet

Eight Plains High students won medals at the Region 1-AA UIL Academic meet at Abilene Christian University, and earned the right to compete at the UIL State Meet at the University of Texas in Austin May 4-5.

The Journalism team won the overall journalism competition with the help of senior Nicole Haynes, who placed first in Newswriting and Feature Writing, in addition to taking third in Headline Writing. This qualified her to compete in Austin in all three events. Senior Lesli Rowe won the regional Headwriting contest, and jun-

ior Chris Hansen placed second in Editorial writing. Junior Annaliesa O'Quinn placed fifth in Headline writing.

In other events, Emily Blair will make her second consecutive trip to the state meet after placing second in Poetry Interpretation. The Calculator Applications team of Jill Gray, Annaliesa O'Quinn and Amanda Garcia were involved in a three-way tie for first place with teams from Quanah and Van Horn. All three schools will advance to the state level. Jill Gray tied for second individually. In Number Sense, Annaliesa O'Quinn placed

fourth, which qualifies her as the alternate to state. Senior Eric Nixon took the runner-up spot in Science and will also advance to state.

Others who competed at the Regional meet were; Elizabeth Clanahan, Lexi Warren, Ragan McGinty, Nolan Newsom, Grady McNabb, Jordan Bean, Mandi Rogers, Allison Butler, Liz Wilmeth, Sandra Gallegos, Wendy Fierro, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Taylor Gray, Aaron Cain, Dawn Garland and Lisa San Fillippo. Sponsors and coaches for the students were Renetta O'Quinn, Melisa Dorsett, Gary Davis, Michele McCravey, Brenda Canada, Brad Friesen, Richie Cullins and Edwin Brink.

### From Page 1, "COURT"

Auditor Hazel Lowret advised the court the additional improvement request would exceed funds currently budgeted for permanent improvements and repairs. After considerable discussion, the commissioners agreed some of their budgeted projects could be delayed until the hospital renovation was completed. The court also agreed to advertise for bids on medical equipment and furniture for the new clinic.

Debra Pollard, Yoakum County Extension Agent-FCS, presented CEU certificates from the Extension Service for continuing education classes the Judge, Commissioners, County Clerk and Treasurer recently attended at Texas A&M.

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MEMBER 2001

**TPA** Cowboy Country News

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## Obituary

Rene' G. Thompson, 64, of Denver City died Tuesday, April 17 in the Lakeside Convalescent Hospital in Lubbock. Funeral services were held Friday, April 20th at 2:00 pm. in the Denver City Church of Christ with Skip Rodgers officiating. Burial followed in the Plains Cemetery, under the direction of Ratliff Funeral Home. Mrs. Thompson was born July 7, 1936 in Seagraves. She married Leon Thompson June 9, 1955 in Plains. He died May 15, 1994. She was a member of the Ladies Home Demonstration Club of Yoakum County, a member of the Plains Church of Christ and a homemaker.

Survivors include: 1 son: Terry Thompson of Yantis, TX; 2 daughters: LaGaytha Fitzgerald of Ransom Canyon & LaFonda Tranthan of Anton. 1 brother: James Stewart of Lubbock; 3 sisters: Laura Fitzgerald of Wolfforth, Leta Georgiopoulos of Albany, NY & Jean Murray of Kerrville; 11 grandchildren & 2 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a great grandchild. Pallbearers were Colin Trantham, Anthony Trantham, Brandon Beadle, John Booe, Gordon Booe & Wayne Box. Honorary Pallbearer: Danny Crabtree.

### Legislation To Protect Environment, Royalty Owners' Rights Moves Through Legislature

A piece of legislation that will protect hundreds of thousands of royalty owners from possible damages by requiring operators and producers to provide more detailed information on check receipts has passed a house committee and is on its way to the floor of the House House Bill 981 by Representative Tracy King of Uvalde could be heard by lawmakers right after Easter break. An identical bill has been filed in the Senate.

HB 981 is one of a series of bills filed to clean up polluted lands and to protect the property rights of Texas land and royalty owners is making its way through the legislative process. Another crucial part of the package of legislation, SB 290 would keep venue for a lawsuit in the county where damage is allegedly done to land and royalty owners. That bill was heard on April 9th in the Senate Jurisprudence Committee.

Senator Ken Armbrister of Victoria is sponsoring the legislation in the Senate while Representative Tracy King of Uvalde is the House sponsor.

The package of legislation drafted, at the urging of the Texas Land & Mineral Owners Association (TLMA), will return fairness to the judicial and regulatory process to land owners and more than 1 million Texan royalty owners according to TLMA officials.

"The system currently favors the big oil companies and producers at the expense of land owners, royalty owners and the environment. Today, the average royalty owner is a widow over 65 years old and living on a fixed income, and no one is listening to her," said Doug Beveridge, Secretary of TLMA. Rancher Bob Hindes of Char-

lotte, Texas is typical of the membership of the TLMA. Rotting pipelines leaked salt water and oil onto his property. Old electric lines have killed his livestock. His pasture has been set on fire. Abandoned wells remain unplugged on his land and Hindes fears the leaking oil will contaminate his surface water and nearby creeks if the operators continue to ignore the problem.

"I have spent \$50,000 in lawyers fees to get the Oil Company's cooperation and protect my surface and water rights," says Hindes.

House Bill 2131 by Representative Tracy King will put more teeth into oil well cleanup by amending the Natural Resources Code to raise operator fees and strengthen well plugging regulations. It is estimated that over six more wells are illegally abandoned every day in Texas. This legislation will put more money in the Oilfield Cleanup Fund so Texans will not have to pay with their tax dollars.

Rep. King also filed HB 736, which would allow land and royalty owners the protection of the discovery rule to determine if they have been damaged before the current statute of limitations of four years begins to run.

"There are two issues at stake: Fairness and protecting the environment. Royalty owners, like any other group of Texans, deserve fair treatment by state government. Land owners leased their land for oil and gas exploration, that does not allow the land and especially the water to be destroyed," concluded Beveridge.

## Jr. High District Track Results

### 7th Boys:

Cade Arnett- 2nd, 800 run, 4th triple jump.  
Todd Williams- 2nd 110 hurdles, 6th high jump.  
Abel Ramos- 2nd 2400 run, 6th 1600 run.  
Michael Crump- 3rd 400 dash  
David Alldredge- 3rd pole vault.  
Ricardo Cueto- 6th 400 dash, 6th 100 dash  
Ramiro Martinez- 5th 400 dash  
Casson Curtis- 5th 300 hurdles.  
Ben Hayes- 6th 300 hurdles.  
400 Relay- 4th- Ben Hayes, Michael Crump, Todd Williams, Casson Curtis.  
1600 Relay- 4th- Ricardo Cueto, Ramiro Martinez, Todd Williams, Michael Crump.

### 8th Boys:

Patrick Cotton- 1st 800 run  
Evan Cain- 2nd pole vault, 4th 110 hurdles.  
Payton Bean- 2nd 2400 run, 4th 1600 run.  
Cody Flores- 2nd shot put, 6th discus.  
Brandon Hise- 3rd discus.  
Breck Hamm- 3rd pole vault.  
Kelby Johnson- 4th 400 dash  
Eddie Ortega- 4th 200 dash  
Isaac Ramon- 5th shot put.  
1600 Relay- 4th- Kelby Johnson, Patrick Cotton, Evan Cain, Eddie Ortega.  
400 Relay- 4th- Kelby Johnson, Eddie Ortega, Evan Cain, Patrick Cotton.

## New Texas State History Museum Opens April 21

Austin, Texas - "It Ain't Braggin' If It's True" is an exhibit with a distinctive Lone Star flavor and we're not braggin' by saying it's one of many exciting exhibits at the new Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in downtown Austin. The public opening on April 21 coincides with the 165th anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto, and the Grand Opening Celebration is April 28. More than 100 individuals and institutions provided more than 700 objects for display along with 17 separate media and interactive experiences that make for a fun learning experience. Come see artifacts uncovered by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) from LaSalle's

300 year old shipwreck. For more information, visit the museum web site at [www.thestoryoftexas.com](http://www.thestoryoftexas.com)

**CAUTION!** Numerous phone customers report receiving calls, identifying him or herself as an AT & T service rep conducting a test on phone lines. You are asked to touch 9, 0, #, then hang up. Telephone companies report by touching 9-0-#, you offer the caller full access to your phone line, enabling them to place long distance calls, billed to your phone number. Many of these calls come from jails or area prisons. Most major long distance providers have reported this scam. If you receive a long distance request for this service, report it immediately to your phone service provider.

# Lea County Electric Cooperative

## 52ND ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS Friday, April 27th ~ 7:30 pm

at

### Pannell Auditorium

#### Registration:

8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M., MDT

Friday, April 27th,

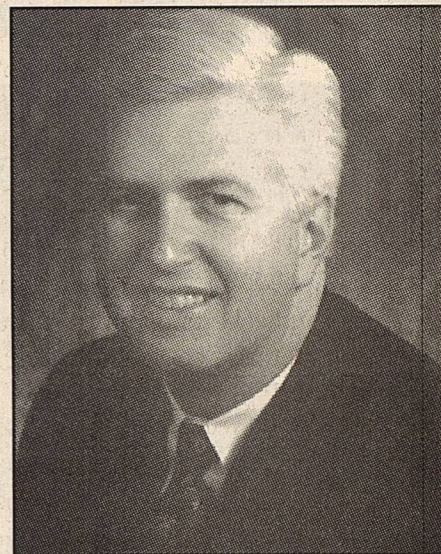
at Lea County Electric Co-op in Lovington

or

6:30 p.m. ~ 7:30 p.m. MDT

at

Lovington High School



Michael A. Dreyspring  
General Manager

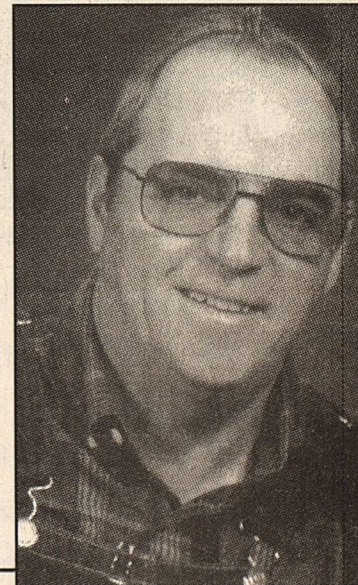
The business portion of the meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M.

Two Trustees will be elected; one from District 2 and one from District 5.

#### World's Worst Farmer to Speak

We are happy to have with us at this year's Annual Meeting of Members, **Lewis Baumgartner** - otherwise known as "The World's Worst Farmer"! Lewis hails from Ragweed Ranch in Cocklebur County, Missouri, where the agrarian lifestyle has provided him with plenty of time to develop and hone his unique brand of humor.

In addition to farming and speaking, Lewis writes a regular humor column for the *Missouri Ruralist* magazine.



Lewis Baumgartner

#### 2001 ANNUAL MEETING DOOR PRIZES

Computer (new Dell Dimension 700 mHz, 128 MB ram, 20 GB hard disk, Microsoft ME & Works)  
25" Magnavox Color TV  
\$50.00 (donated by SGS Witter)  
Skil 3/8" Drill  
Black & Decker Drill  
Skil Jigsaw  
Antique Replica Lamp  
100 ft. Extension Cord  
Homelite Electric Chain Saw  
Sunbeam Mixer  
Hamilton Beach Food Processor  
Rival Slicer  
Toaster Oven  
WestBend Electric Skillet  
Nesco Food Dehydrator  
Mr. Coffee Ice Tea Pot  
Krups Espresso Bravomaker  
Rival Ice Cream Maker  
Insect Killer  
Under Cabinet Can Opener with timer  
CD Boom Box

Dirt Devil Spot Scrubber  
Clock Radio  
Cool Touch Griddle  
Quick Vac Broom  
Cool Daddy Deep Fryer  
18 Quart Roaster  
George Foreman Indoor/outdoor grill  
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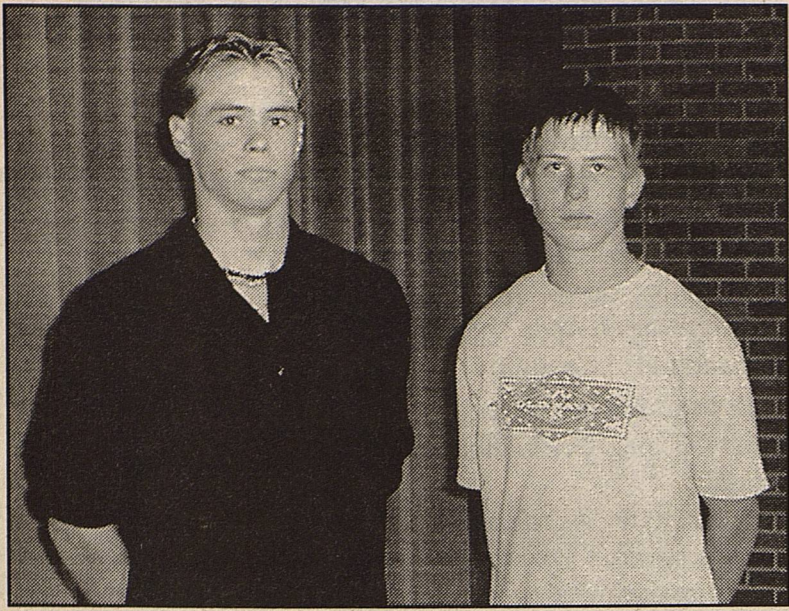
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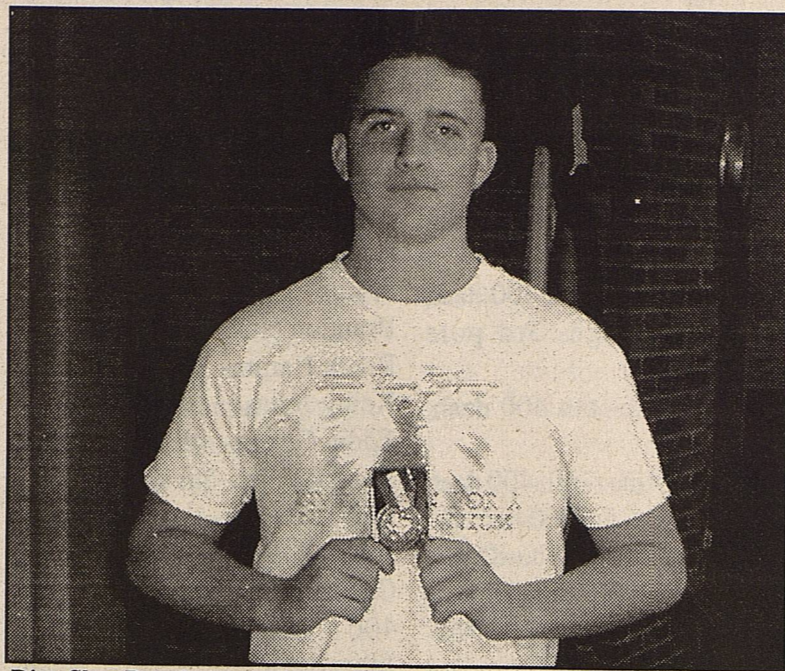
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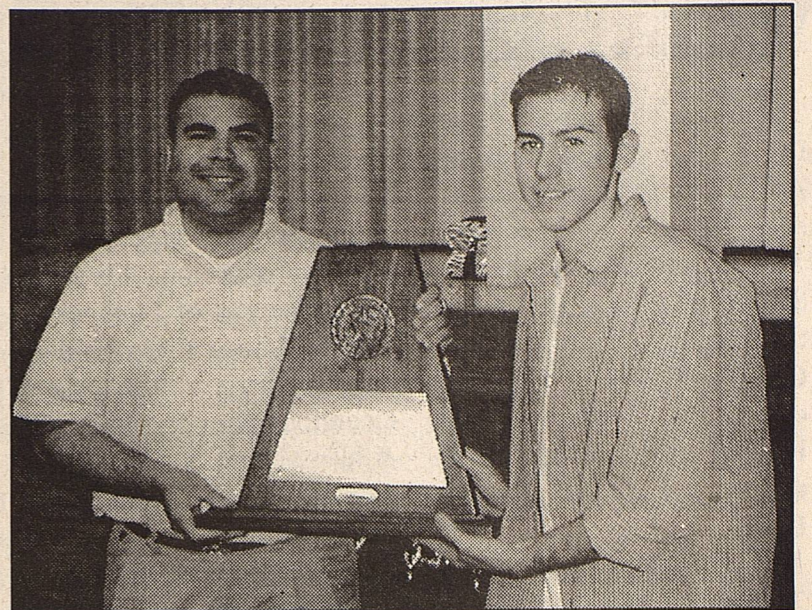
## Honors Time At PHS



Tennis Regional qualifiers Tanner Hamm & Sterling Justus



Dist. Shot Put champ and regional qualifier Chris McGinty



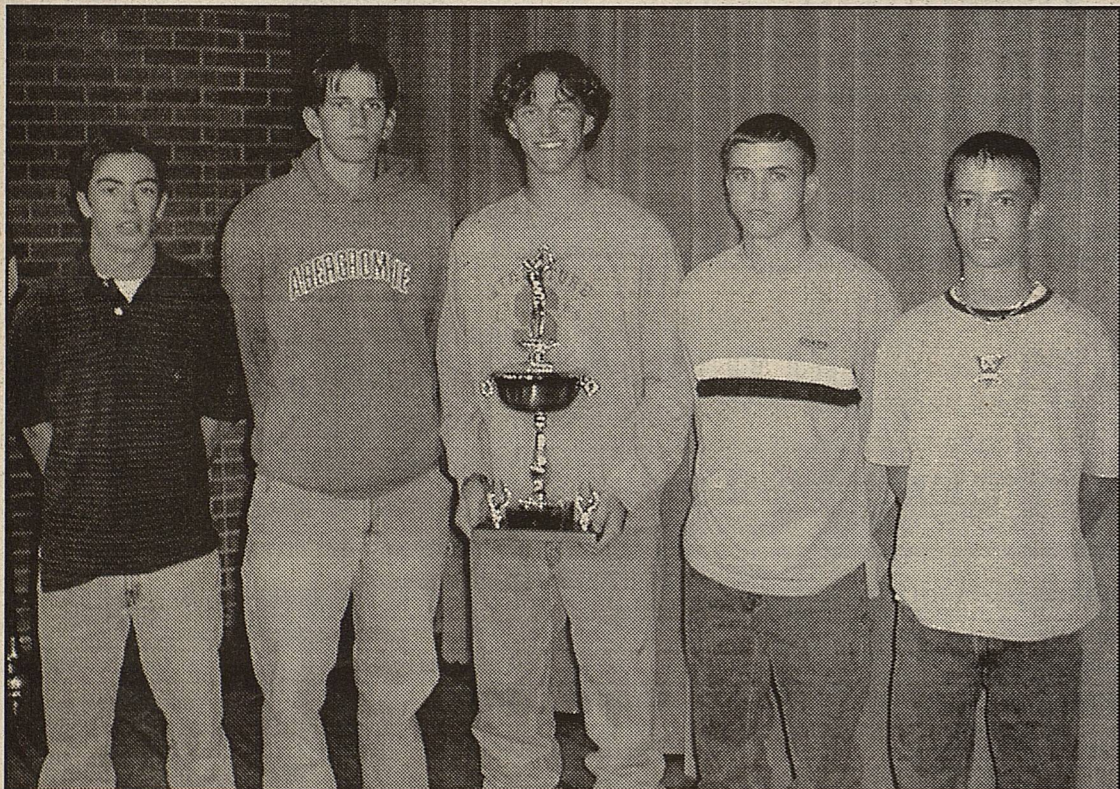
Band Director Ray Portillo, Ross Rogers and Sweepstakes plaque



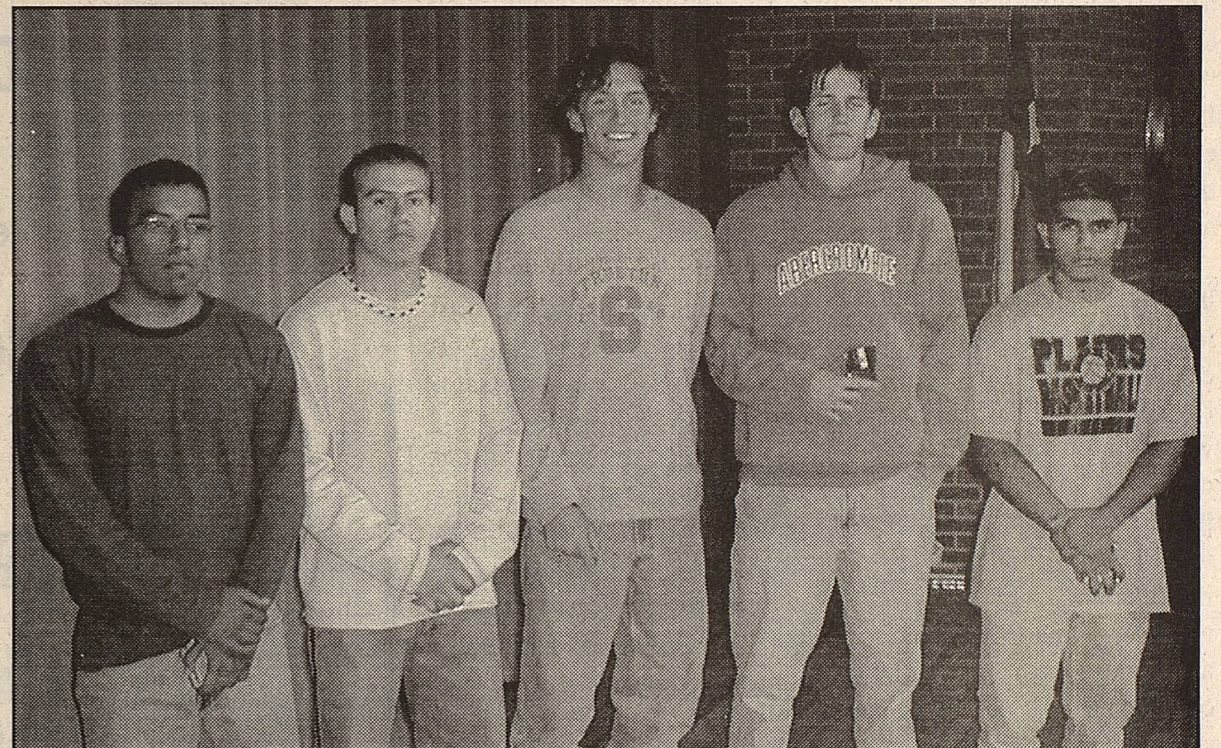
District Golf champs & Regional qualifier Cowgirls Mandi Rogers, Liz Wilmeth, Mackenzie Winn & Allison Butler



Regional qualifying Cowgirl tracksters Michaela Traweck, Jill Gray, Moriah Traweck, Kayla Willis, Jessica Rodriguez, Chelsea Blount



Dist. runners-up and regional qualifying Cowboy golfers Kelsey Blundell, Dustin Six, Jared Bell, Aaron Cain, Chase Howell.



Regional qualifying Cowboy tracksters Israel Moreno, Joseph Rodriguez, Jared Bell, Dustin Six, Moises Gonzales

### Students of the Week



First student of the week is Dawn Garland a senior and the daughter of Debbie Garland. She was nominated by Mrs. Rotunno, who said "Everyone encounters obstacles in life. The kind of person we become is often determined partially by how we deal with these stumbling blocks. Some choose to stop in their tracks, some struggle over obstacles. Then there are those rare individuals who use their stumbling blocks to build something valuable. This week's student of the

week is one of these. She has encountered more trials than most can even imagine. Many people have spent their time telling her all the things she will never be able to do. Despite this, she has never quit trying (and succeeding) in her efforts to build something out of her obstacles. She is bright, energetic, extremely dependable and conscientious. She provides encouragement and inspiration to many, myself included. As you observe this student remember to watch out; you are entering a construction zone.



Second student of the week is Albert Lopez a senior and the son of Sylvia Escobar. He was nominated by Mrs. Canada, who said "A good time for laughing is when you can," said Jessamyn West. Our student of the week enjoys laughing and cutting up with friends and even cutting up with his teachers. But he also has a zest for learning and doing his work. He does not hesitate to ask for help so that he might better understand what he is learning. I know this student will do well in life.

## Yoakum County Plains Clinic

Jo Lena Wall PA-C

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# Lifelines & Styles

## New Pastors At Assembly of God

First Assembly of God Church in Plains has new pastors, Cecil & Betty Van Hoose. They moved here from Kingsland, Texas. Cecil is an ordained minister with the General Council of the Assemblies of God. He was associate Pastor of First Assembly of God of Marble Falls before coming to Plains.

If you do not have a church, they extend to you an invitation to come and join with them in worship and fellowship. First Assembly of God is a

praying church and if you have a need and would like for them to pray with you about it, just call 806-456-8474. If you need a ride to church they will be happy to come pick you up. Service schedule is as follows: Sunday School begins at 9:45 am., Morning Worship 10:45 am., Evening Worship 6:00 pm. (Sundays), Wednesday Night Services 7:00 pm. The Church office is open Monday thru Friday 8 am - 12 pm, and the Pastor is on call all the time.

## Doug Rushing in Kuwait

On the Monday following Easter, Specialist Doug Rushing and some 1,200 of his fellow Army troopers boarded three 747 jets for a long flight to Kuwait, one of the detachments of U.S. military forces making up Operation Desert Spring.

The jets landed at Shannon Airfield in Ireland, and again in Sicily during the 27 hour flight.

Rushing is assigned to the Headquarters Platoon of the 7th Cavalry Division, home based at Fort Hood, Texas. The army troops are posted about nine miles from the Iraqi-Kuwait border for the four month tour of duty.

In a recent telephone call with his father, Morris J. Rushing, he said Iraq has some 20,000 troops around 16 miles from

the common border.

Doug is also the son of Debbie Rushing. Grandparents are Betty and Polly Rushing, John Holly, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Dyer, and his great-grandmother is Eunice Moore of Tyler, Texas,

## Storytime

On Wednesday, April 18, we had Storytime at the Yoakum County Library. We said the pledges to the United States and Texas flags, sang songs, read two books; 'You Are Much Too Small' and 'Silly Little Goose'; and watched the movie 'Dorothy and the Kite'. The children attending were: Amanda Dusek, Jentry Wall, Clayton Gass, Claire Carpenter, Madison Davis, and Bailey Winn.

## State Bound

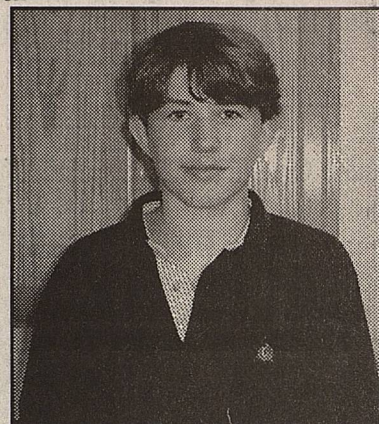
As a result of her performance in the Skills USA VICA District Competition in Amarillo, Julie Gonzales qualified for State VICA competition in Fort Worth on April 25-28. Julie chose to compete in nail design project where she placed first, and also participated in the VICA Quiz Bowl. Julie transferred to Brownfield High in order to take the Cosmetology course. She will complete the course in her junior and senior year, then will take the



Julie Gonzales, left, and her instructor. state board exam for her cosmetology license. Julie is the daughter of Cissy Gomez.

does, both mentally and physically. He is a superb role model for his peers, and a delight to have in class."

## Student of the Week



The third PHS student of the week is Kelly Bowers, a sophomore and son of Tim and Donna Bowers. He was nominated by Mrs. Lusk, who said, "Robert E. Lee once said, 'The education of a man is completed only when he dies. Kelly has a quest for knowledge. He tries to learn as much as he can each and every day. He puts 100% effort into all he

## District 4-H Judging contest

Eight Yoakum County 4-H'ers participated in the District 2 Livestock Judging Contest in Lubbock on April 21. Approximately 150 4-H members from the twenty county area participated in three age divisions.

Attending from Plains were Elias Carrillo, Sara Horn, Cody Mayes and Stetson Sellers. Denver City participants were Amy Clark, T.J. Kitchens, Landra and Logan Wood. Both teams were in the Junior 2 category. Eight classes of livestock were judged including both breeding and market classes of beef cattle, sheep and swine. Congratulations to these youths.

## Industrial Technology Regional Contest

The Plains High Industrial Technology Department attended the Regional contest in Odessa April 21. The following students qualified there for the state contest to be held in Waco May 3-5 at the Convention Center:

Jared Bell	Drafting Projects	1st & 3rd.
Allison Butler	Drafting Projects	1st & 2nd
Frances Cordova	Woodworking	2nd
Dustin Six	Drafting Projects	(2) 1st & 3rd
Taylor Gray	Drafting Projects	(2) 2nd & 3rd

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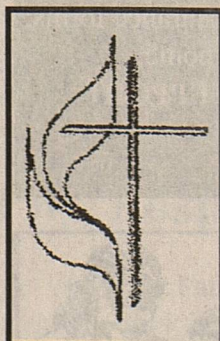
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## First United Methodist Church

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### Sunday Schedule

Sunday School - 9:45 am  
Morning Worship - 10:45 am  
Youth Fellowship - 5 - 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Connections  
Food & Fellowship-5:30-6:30 pm  
Eve. Bible Study - 6:30 - 8:00 pm

### Other Opportunities

Afternoon Bible Study - 5:15 pm Thursdays

GOD loves you and so do we!  
Come grow in CHRIST with us!

## Senior Citizens Corner

Did everyone have a good Easter? We certainly did and celebrated Layne's birthday also.

Last Thursday at the Center was a good one. We had our bake sale and also put on our Easter Bonnets and had a parade. Following is a list of folks that

participated: Florine Ashman; Sassy Red Hat, Tom Clevenger, John Wayne Hat; Mary Newman, Minnie Pearl Hat; Zelma Boone, Country Bonnett; Elaine Schneider, Country Bonnett; Reba McNabb, Red Bow; Layne Black, Easter Pastel Cap; Wanda Black, Green Blitz; Jean Sparks, Easter Sunday Blue & Roses Hat; Bob Thurston's; Mothers Hat; Maggie Powell, Blue Adorable; Anne Greer, Carmen Miranda,

Stella Montes, Sunday Go To Meeting Hat; Darlene Clevenger, Easter Fishing Hat; Mary Moya, Pink Poppie Hat; Pat Altman, Flappers Hat; Gloria Carrasco, Easter Bunnies & Egg Hat, 'Sparky' Sparks, Flower Blooming Hat; Ann Holland, Buggy Bonnett; our piano player, Claudia Sue Ferguson, Easter Tan & Brown Hat.

Yesterday was pool tournament, no one showed from Lovington. The winners were 8-ball: 1st Leo Daniels, 2nd Eileen Fillipp, 9-ball: 1st Eileen Fillipp, 2nd Inez Turner.

Tonight is our pot luck supper and band from Levelland, "The Harvesters".

Till Next Week,  
Wnada B.

## Scholastic Book Fair

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## THANK YOU !!

Dear Plains Friends,  
Thank you! seems to be so inadequate to express our feelings to all of you. Your visits, calls and the food you brought meant so very much to us.  
God bless you and our love to all of you.  
Betty and Polly Rushing

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Morning Worship 10:45 am.  
Evening Program 6:00 pm.  
Wednesday  
5:15 - 6:30 pm. Supper  
6:00 pm. Zombies  
7:00 pm. - RA's, GA's, Mission Friends,  
Generation X, Sanctuary Choir Practice

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Secretaries Day-April 25  
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# From The Hack

My pastor performed one of his greatest moments during the special Easter Sunday evening performance of FBC's "The Redeemer." He kept his mouth shut throughout the entire, very moving program.

I very sincerely enjoyed the individual and choir's performance of the stirring music, for it was superb. Music truly moves me, and I admit I had occasion to wipe me eyes and nose during the show numerous times, which I afterwards told the Bride was attributed to allergies.

I admire the work the director and choir did in preparation of this Easter presentation. I commend the preacher for his follow up remarks, his prayer, the Lord's Supper honor.

What I didn't enjoy was me and Brother Bill being paired up across the aisle, forced to hold hands to end the services during Amazing Grace. His hand was a bit sweaty, kinda gritty, I thought, as I very Christian like tried to think of very Christian like thoughts as we grasped paws. When the last note sounded, he slucked my hand like a boiling egg and grunted, "Oh, my Lord, I had no idea I was holding THIS hand!"

That's OK, though, for the Easter spirit was still in me when I bid him adieu, saying, "You've done well here, Brother Bill. I hope you make Sergeant in the Salvation Army when you decide to leave here, and I'm sure you will, in a few or eleven years."

I'm one up on him now, but I dread hearing his come back.

### PUZZLERS:

I'm told wind itself produces no sound - what we hear is the blowing past, over, through objects on the earth's surface. If so, do solar winds thousands of miles in space create sound in a void, and if so, who hears them?

Also, if the Lord God possessed such infinite wisdom, why did he create Rutabagas? Was it for a special, flawed type of human?

It puzzles me mightily how tiny, microscopic organisms can exist and live long periods in both Polar Icecaps. Really

makes you wonder about the ice cubes you place in drinks, doesn't it? Unless, of course they are of the harsh spirit variety.

I continue to be perplexed by the question, where does the white go when two feet of snow melts? Yes, I know, you artist types will reply, white is not a color. It's pretty contrasting to black, to me - that's too simple an answer for self.

I toss and turn at night wondering why golf ball manufacturers tout certain of their products as having more SPIN. All instructional golf articles I've ever read tell me SPIN produces hooks and slices of the ball, the most frequently cursed words in golf. Why add to the cursing?

I hope I am able to fitfully sleep tonight worried about these enigmas.

I cannot tell a lie. Well, maybe not always, but not this time. The following bit is stolen from Stephn Henry and the *Levelland News-Press*;

Living on earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun.

Birthdays are good for you; The more you have, the longer you live.

How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.

Ever notice the people who are late are often so much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?

If ignorance is bliss, why aren't more people happy?

Most of us go to our grave with our music still inside us.

You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

Some mistakes are too much fun to make just once.

We can learn a lot from crayons; some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors.... but they all have to learn to live in the same box.

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.

Had an interesting morning in church Sunday past. Brother Bill greeted Bride and I going in with his usual wit and charm; "If I go to Abilene ( it amazes me, but it's true - a Baptist Church there is actually trying to lure him into their hire ), there are two people from Plains I will not miss!", then guffawed.

## Jury Selection List For The 121st District Court On May 1, 2001 at 9:00 A.M.

A jury selection will be held for the 121st District Court on May 1, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. in the Courtroom of the Yoakum County Courthouse in Plains, Texas. The following citizens are asked to appear:

**Plains & Tokio Residents:** Willie Jones, Irma Gonzales Wilhelm, Ernestine L. Dominguez, Cull William Forbus, Lisa Lynn Parrish, Isais Campa Sigala, Maria Victoria Delgado, Connie M. Chavez, Albert Lopez, Renee Kay Garcia, Rosario Medina, Amy Lee Garza, Vennum Fitzgerald, Andrea Nicole Haynes, Sam W. Burk, Etta C. Ward, Stephenia C. Allsup, Christopher Dale Winn, Glenda M. Hobbs, Lynda Kay Cowart, Rachel Lira, Jaime Orona, Elizabeth Casillas, Kyley Jo Bearden, Jerry Lynn Parrish, Joshua Aldan Bell, Dominga G. Spencer, Ramon Zuniga, Jeannette Head, Maria Rodriguez, Sterling Reeves Lovelace.

**Denver City Residents:** Delfino Rodriguez, David Yanez Barrientos, Rosa R. Larrea, Maggie Corbin Powell, Sue Hardegree Webber, Sarah Deleon, Sandra Mitchell, Peggy Joyce Alred, Paula Flippin, Lora Ralston Pinkston, Dennis Ray Snead, Don Fredrick O'Keefe, Jeanette J. Chambliss, Estella Flores Salas, Pauletta Moore Cobb, Alfredo R. Medrano, Louise M. Swanson, Jerry Ed Mansur, Jolene Welch, Sharon Scott, Norma Dorethy, Jesus Gutierrez Padilla, Manuel Soto, Stephanie Suzanne Prather, Louis Espinoza, Billy Lark Qualls, George Matthew Williams, Dolan Harold Dean, Debra Gordy Stevens, Jesus Manuel Rivera, Shirley Jean Woods, Rachael Flores Tenorio, Gegorio Phillip Flores, Bobby Gerald Gatewood, Gerardo Javier Figueroa, Craig D. Stephens, Justin Mark Mobley, Laura Perez, Sue Long, Rodney F. Green, Pamela Collett Proctor, Anita Kibbe Damron, Abraham Aguinaga Villegas, Jose Valdez, Ruth Lowrey Pippin, Sylvia Morales, Hortencia Delafuente Reynosa, Robert Silvas Gonzales, Jacob Arnold Vogt, Juana Ortega Yanez, Michelle Tramell Benson, Fernando Lozano, Ruth M. Garcia, Charlene Villarreal, Veronica Limon Esquivel, Ross Hilburn, Kerrie Lund Graham, Sharon K. Taylor, Dennis C. Fausey, Fernando Hernandez Montes, Esmeralda Sabastiana Villegas, Harold Eugene Ferguson, Pedro Esquivel, Thomas E. Mabrey, Don Gilbert Jones, Mary Helen Mensch, Russell Don MsKinney, Santos Ortega, Jerry Wayne Rolston, Irineo Olivas Salazar, Iris McLlroy, Bobby Trent, Mary Rose Kirkland, Melissa Ann Smiley, Ignacio Perez, Rendell Mark Rainey, Gregory D. Black, Sherry Bailey, John Ray Black, Mike Allen Royce, Kimberly Harrel, Arturo Lopez Aguilar, Steve Franco, Sharon Isreal McAdams, Guillermo Wiebe Friessen, Soledad Olivas Rascon, Sara Narried, Aurora Sanchez, Jesus Manuel Corral, Mary F. Seymour, Amy Reyna, Karen Green Cummings, Sarrell David Bethany, Lorri Locklin Minter, Otillo Villegas Martinez, Andrea Chavira, Rogelio Salazar, Rebecca Marion Morey, Linda Wood Moore, Philip Garza Barrientes, Jonathan Mark Mills, Maria Ona Hernandez, Timmy J. Williams, Phillip Mathew Martin, Victor Molina Castruita, George Henry Reinert, Angela Villa Zubiate.

I ignored his pleasantry, but did tell him I appreciated his card wishing me a happy birthday last week, even if it did contain a very snide message. He beamed, and added pleasantly, "It's amazing to me you have survived as long as you have." I suppose the cleansing experience was not in me, for I answered, "It amazes me I'm eleven years older than you and you're in such poor shape." The next test was Bible Study, though I still consider it Sunday School, from practices eons ago.

Our renowned biblical scholar Eddie Earnest barely had us seated when he wrote a number of sins on a chalk board - best I remember, the list contained Lying, Boasting, Flattery, Gossiping, Cursing, Coarse Stories, maybe a few more I CERTAINLY was unfamiliar with. Then, he just

point blank asked the question, "How many of us are guilty of any or all of these transgressions?" There was dead silence in the room, and everyone seemed to be engrossed in their Bible. I suppose I was gazing out in space, deep in thought, when he pointedly asked, "Gary, have you ever committed any of these sins?"

I thought at first it was pretty early in the morn for Eddie to be picking on me, but calmly replied, "I am deep in serious study, trying to remember any of them I have fallen prey to." That seemed to satisfy no one, and thankfully, three hours later it seemed, we went into the REAL services.

In his welcoming remarks, Brother Bill related a story of a little child asking him in the hallway, "Have you been in the Church since before Jesus?"



# Walker, Texas Rep

By State Representative Gary Walker, Dist. 80

Last week, the pace of session picked up dramatically. Prior to the Easter holiday, the legislature would meet to discuss bills Mondays through Thursdays, and then we would have Fridays to catch up on paperwork or have meetings with our staff. Last week was the first time we heard bills on a Friday, and the activity won't slow down until session adjourns May 28.

Thursday, April 20, we debated the legislation providing for the continuation of the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission for the next 12 years. This is referred to as a "Sunset" bill, because it is the result of the Sunset Advisory Commission performing a review of the operations, performance and goals of the agency and making recommendations as to how it should function in the future. In its review of TNRCC, the commission found the traditional regulatory approach focuses on outputs and does not adequately support innovation or provide incentives to reward performance. I was fortunate to work with Chairman Fred Boss (D-Houston) on the floor debate over this vital piece of legislation.

Last week Senate Bill 2 was

debated and passed by the Senate. As you are probably aware, this legislation is the follow up to the major water planning bill passed in 1999. That bill provided for the creation of 16 water planning regions around the state. As proposed, SB 2 addresses the implementation and financing of the water strategies and recommendations identified in the last four years by the state's 16 regional water planning groups.

Besides these major issues, I have continued to work on my individual legislative package. I have two bills addressing water issues that were heard on the floor last Friday. I was pleased they were approved and sent to the Senate. Additionally, I have several bills that should be considered in the coming weeks. One deals with the administration of weather modification programs, and another important one deals with exemptions water districts can grant for permitting of water wells.

Of course, if any of you are in Austin between now and the end of May, I would encourage you to stop by the Capitol. I'm on the floor most of the time now, but I am always glad to see friendly faces from home.

## Keeping an Eye on Texas

### Teein' Off Texas Style

Texas is home to more than 800 golf courses and more than 70 of the top Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) players. Texas golf courses host six of the PGA Tour and the Ladies Professional Golfers Association (LPGA) Tour tournaments.

#### 2001 Tour Schedule:

PGA - Shell Houston Open  
Tournament Players Course (TPC) at The Woodlands  
The Woodlands, April 16-22

LPGA - Phillips Invitational Honoring Harvey Penick  
Onion Creek Country Club  
Austin, April 26-29

PGA - Verizon Byron Nelson Classic  
The TPC Four Seasons - Las Colinas & Cottonwood Valley Country Club  
Irving, May 7-13



PGA - MasterCard Colonial  
Colonial Country Club  
Fort Worth, May 14-20

PGA - Texas Open at LaCantera  
LaCantera Golf Club  
San Antonio, Sept. 24 - 30

PGA - The Tour Championship  
Champions Golf Club  
Houston, Oct. 29 - Nov. 4

Sources: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller ([www.window.state.tx.us](http://www.window.state.tx.us)), TravelTex.com, the LPGA Tour and the PGA Tour.

He replied, over the PA system turned up real loud, "No, but Gary Dyer has."

I got the pay back before he even read this lead column!

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## Field Scout

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