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# Cowboy Country News



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

Volume V11, Issue 29, April 4, 2001

## Plains claims 5th consecutive UIL one-act play district title

*Blood Wedding* advances to area competition

Students from Plains High School won the UIL district one-act play contest for the fifth year in a row on March 24.

Plains production of *Blood Wedding*, by Federico Garcia Lorca, will advance to the area contest in Post on Saturday, April 7, along with Forsan High School's production of *Tevya and His Daughters*.

The area contest in Post will begin at 11 a.m., and Plains will be the first school to perform. The schedule includes:

Plains	Blood Wedding
Anson	Taming of the Shrew
Sundown	The Rude Mechanics
Forsan	Tevya and His Daughters
Stamford	You Can't Take it with You
Post	Scenes & Revelations

Taylor Gray and Lensey Cullins were named best actor and best actress at the district contest. In addition, Annaliesa O'Quinn and Lisa San

Filippo were named to the all-star cast while Emily Blair and Tanner Hamm were selected to the honorable mention cast.

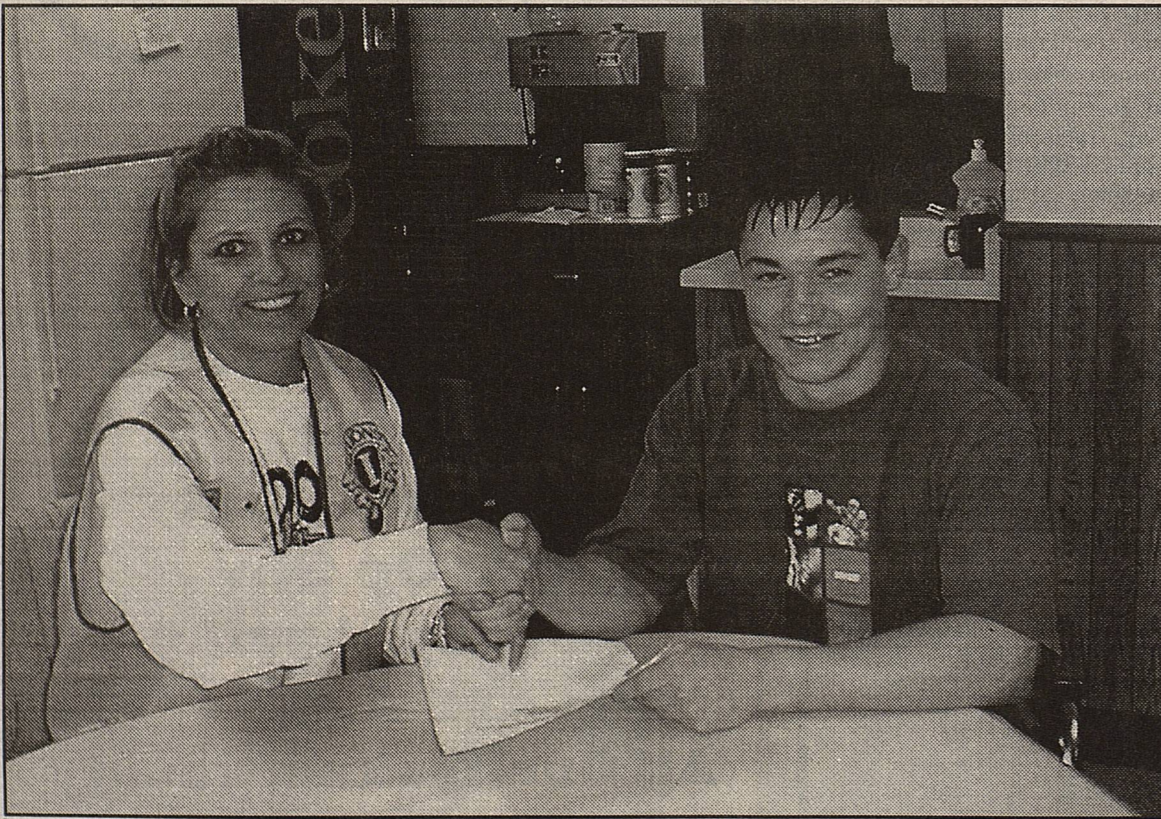
The judge for the cast was Dr. Marion Castleberry from Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee.

Over the past five years, Plains students have won 60 individual acting awards in addition to winning the five district titles.

This year's company includes Lisa San Filippo, Tanner Hamm, Lesli Rowe, Annaliesa O'Quinn, Taylor Gray, Elizabeth Clanahan, Ashley Rodriguez, Mandi Rogers, Colt Richardson, Lensey Cullins, Chris Gscheidle, Chris McGinty, Jared Bell, Jarod Newland, Emily Blair, Allison Butler, Jill Gray, Jordan Bean, Donita Richardson, Ryan Swann, Austin Keese and Joseph Martinez.

The play is directed by Mr. Gary Davis, who is assisted by Mr. Ray Portillo.

## Lions pick Chris Hansen for Boys State Candidate



Plains Lions Club President Debbie Rushing is shown congratulating PHS Junior Chris Hansen for being chosen as the 2001 candidate to the American Legion's annual Boys State Convention to be held in Austin this June. Chris, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hansen, told Lion Boss Rushing he was excited about being chosen for the honor, and greatly appreciated the Lions sponsorship. Chris and other South Plains Boys State candidates will ride a chartered bus from Lubbock to the week long convention. The local Lions Club continued the tradition of sponsoring a high school Junior boy to the convention following disbandment of the Plains American Legion Post two years ago. They will pay the registration fee, transportation expense, and furnish the candidate a small amount of spending money for the event.

## Plains High demolishes field in District UIL Academic Meet

The big, two afternoon District 3-AA UIL Academic meet here last Thursday and Friday turned into a rout for the Cowboy and Cowgirl Scholars. They amassed a total of 630 points, easily outperforming the other five members of the district.

Forsan High was a distant runner-up with 256 points, Coahoma was second with 185, Stanton 113, Colorado City 93,

while Seagraves managed 49 points.

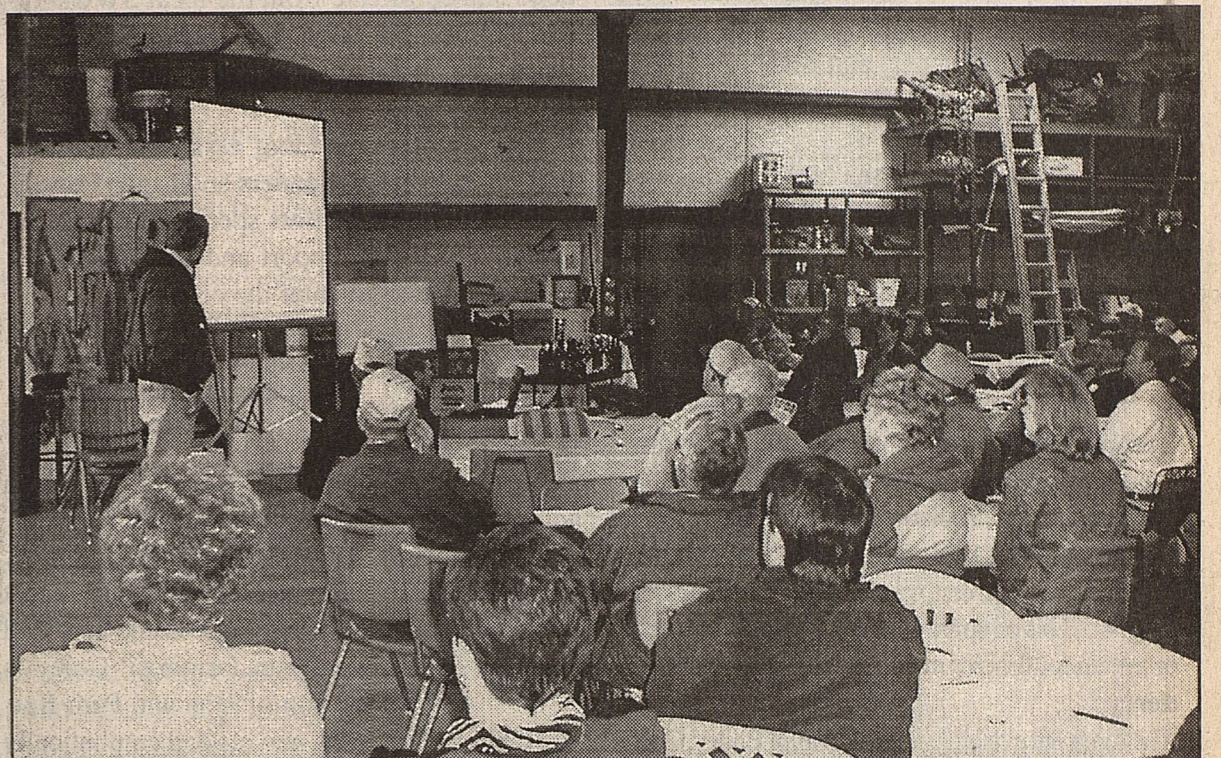
There are 24 categories of academics in the long, tough competition, and Plains High students earned points in 23 events.

PHS team scores in the categories were;

Spelling/vocabulary-24. Science-37. Number sense-37. Mathematics-37. Literary criticism-10. Current issues/events- 37. Computer

science- 37. Computer applications-20. Accounting-35. One-act play-48. Journalism team- 10. News writing- 30. Headline writing- 37. Feature writing- 31. Editorial writing-37. Speech team-10. Prose interpretation- 25. Poetry interpretation- 27. Persuasive speaking 30. Informative speaking- 12. Lincoln-Douglas debate- 12. Cross examination debate- 10. **STUDENT SCORES INSIDE**

## Grape enthusiasts gather for annual Newsom Vineyard Day



Almost six dozen wine-grape enthusiasts attended the annual Newsom's Viticulture Workshop last Friday. The noon meal was courtesy of Lubbock's Cap\*Rock Winery.

Six vineyard experts led discussions of many aspects of the growing wine grape industry in the state and particularly the South Plains.

Dr. Terry Wheeler discussed a

common insect problem in the sandy soils of the area, nematodes, and their effects on grape plants and their control.

Dr. Reddy spoke on the importance of plant petiole and soil analysis, and fertilizers beneficial to growing quality grapes.

Dr. Ed Helman described efficient irrigation systems and grower practices, with emphasis on water management for

the South Plains soils and climate.

Producer Bobby Cox described possibly one of the most crucial steps in a successful vineyard, correct site selection, describing the need for good drainage, and advantages of vineyards located to absorb warm sunshine from the east

Turn to Page 2, 'Grapes'

## La Nina's choke hold on weather broken?

In March of 2000, CCN featured a front page article on the effects of the La Nina phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean. At the time, all of Texas and much of the nation was gripped in a prolonged drought, which was proving disastrous for area ranchers and farmers.

Throughout that spring, Plains Volunteer Firefighters answered calls to battle grass fires around the county. Conditions were no better, and possibly worse across the stateline in neighboring Lea County, New Mexico. The immediate area around Lovington was particu-

larly hard hit; On a day featuring 50 to 60 mile per hour winds, three separate and very large fires threatened the town itself, and before containment, burned thousands of acres around Lovington and Tatum.

One year later, most ag producers would be smiling about the current weather and moisture, were they not grimacing about continuing very low commodity prices.

Since January 1, 2001, National Weather Services gauges at City Hall here have recorded 4.37 inches of precipitation, compared to a scant 1.68 inches

during the same period last year.

Even more encouraging for producers, late fall and winter rains in 2000 provided 'seed moisture' for this years crop and range production. During October, November and December of 2000, 5.77 inches of rain were recorded at City Hall.

Even more fortunately, recent rains this year have fallen during cold, foggy, drizzly or cloudy periods, resulting in very little evaporation loss of the moisture - it has remained in the ground, where it's needed.

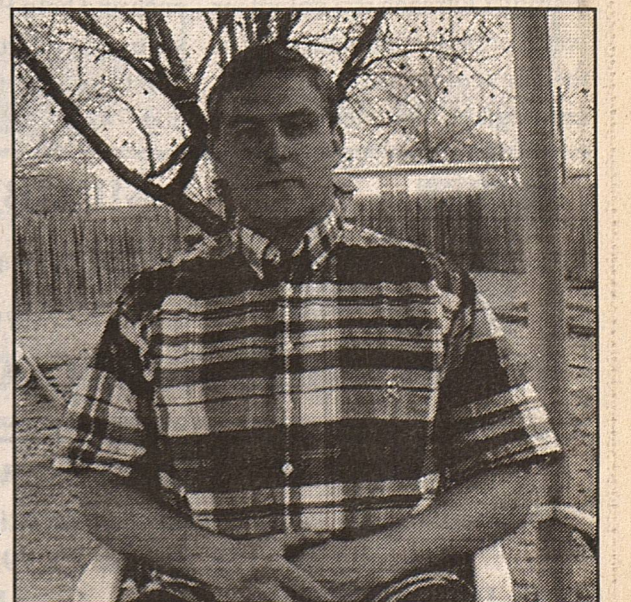
## Former PHS grad hits job offer jackpot

Coley Burgess, a 1997 PHS graduate and currently a sophomore at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, had a great deal of success at a recent Career Fair sponsored by the University.

At the Fair, he entered a brief resume of his education experience, including his current 3.72 GPA score. He was contacted by Raytheon Corporation, NASA and the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in the State of Washington.

Coley is pursuing a Major in mathematics and a double Minor in computer engineering and electrical engineering. In an interview last Friday, he told CCN, "During the interviews, I became very interested in the Naval Shipyard proposal. They offered me an internship to work there during the summer months, and told me I would probably be working on the U.S. Navy's nuclear subs based there."

The internship would be for a minimum 16 weeks, but Coley said because of extra courses he must take prior to graduation, he could be in the program during three summer sessions.



He said as an intern he would be paid by the hour, and the rate would increase as his number of college credit hours increased. "One of their Reps told me if I maintained my grades, and performed well during my internship, I could realistically expect a permanent job offer at a

Turn To Page Two, 'JOB OFFER'

## YCSWCD Essay Contest Winners



Annaliesa O'Quinn, Jr., Kimberlee Jones, Sr., and Elizabeth Clanahan, Jr.

Yoakum County Soil and Water Conservation District has announced the winners of their annual Conservation Contest Essay Contest. The essay contest was open to boys and girls 18 years of age and under, and does not jeopardize the Texas Interscholastic League eligibility for any contestant.

The top three entries in the 2001 contest were Annaliesa O'Quinn, a PHS Junior and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steven O'Quinn, Kimberlee Jones, a Senior and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Jones, and Elizabeth Clanahan, a Junior

and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N.C. Clanahan.

Each young lady will receive a \$50 savings bond and certificate from the local SWCD office. The essays have been forwarded to the State SWCD Board office in Temple for further judging.

Thirty eight outstanding essay entries were judged here by L.J. Sanders and Linda Powell. The SWCD Board offers special thanks to the teachers for their support and encouragement to their students to enter the contest.

## Scholarship Funds Available

The Texas Workforce Center of Levelland, a division of South Plains Community Action Association, Inc., would like to announce there are limited funds still available for scholarships to high school seniors who wish to attend an approved college or an approved vocational school. The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 provides the funding for this program. This program is targeted at assisting individuals to obtain and/or retrain for employment that helps the individual to meet self sufficiency.

The funds are available for residents of Bailey, Cochran, Hockley, Lamb, Terry and Yoakum counties of Texas. Individuals in Hockley, Cochran, Terry and Yoakum counties interested in being considered as potential participants should call the Texas Workforce Center at (806) 894-5005 or 1-800-419-9675, or come by 410 Houston in Levelland. Those residing in Bailey and Lamb Counties should call the Texas Workforce Center of Littlefield at (806)-385-9119, or stop by 315 Phelps in Littlefield.

All applicants must meet federal, state, and local eligibility and suitability requirements before being considered as a potential participant. The Texas Workforce Center is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aides are available upon request.

## Blue Ribbon Rally To Benefit Family Outreach

The third annual Blue Ribbon Rally, benefiting Family Outreach of Lubbock, will be Friday, April 27 at The Library located in the Depot District.

Each \$30 ticket purchased admits one to the Rally party, which includes free fajitas courtesy of Santa Fe Restaurant, and featuring the Klifnotes Band. All ticket purchasers will be eligible to win one of two great prizes. The grand prize will be a Harley Davidson Sportster, and the runner up winner receives two tickets on Southwest Airlines for anywhere Southwest flies.

Family Outreach is a volunteer based organization dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Volunteers go into

homes and help families deal with the struggles of day-to-day living, in hopes stress will be focused on positive change, rather than negative effects on children. Family Outreach also provides parenting classes for families.

Another program sponsored by Family Outreach is the Shaken Baby Program. Through education and public presentations Family Outreach explains the often fatal results of shaking a baby.

Last year, over 150 Texas children died from child abuse or neglect. You can make a difference and help Family Outreach save other children.

For tickets or information, call 806-747-5577.

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## Criminal cases in County Court

In County Court March 28, Judge Dallas Brewer presiding, Bulmaro Ortiz Vaquera pled guilty to driving while license was suspended. He must pay a \$250 fine and \$210 court costs, and serve 72 hours in jail with credit for 22 hours served. Arresting officer was Joe Ramos, D.C. Police Department.

Goidia Lamar Porter pled guilty, adjudication of guilt deferred, to possession of marijuana, two ounces or less. He must serve six months community service, and pay \$210 court costs. He must also complete the drug offenders education program. A special condition is denial of issuance or suspension of driver's license for one year. Joe Ramos was arresting officer.

David Ray Carter Jr. pled guilty to resisting arrest. He was sentenced to 20 days in jail, with credit for 19 days served. Arresting Officer was Ray Holguin.

Ashley M. Hunnicut pled true to the order to proceed with adjudication of guilt to 7 days in jail, with credit for 4 days served, on a criminal mischief charge, more than \$500 but less than \$1500. Defendant must pay \$120 delinquent supervision fees.

Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state in all cases.

### Lubbock Youth Symphony

**To Hold Auditions**  
 The LYSO Program, a project of the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra, is excited to announce the auditions for the fourteenth season. Audition times and dates are as follows: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 11-13, 2001, Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, Application deadline: Friday, April 27, 2001. Thursday-Saturday, May 17-May 20, 2001, Violin, Viola, Cello, Brass, Harp, Application deadline: Friday, April 27, 2001.

Audition applications and information can be obtained by calling LYSO Program office at 762-0460. Students should call as soon as possible to receive an application or to discuss audition conflicts.

### From Page 1, 'Job Offer'

starting salary of about \$106,000 per year." The young man added with a grin, I think that's better than I could expect if I came back home here and went into farming." Coley is the son of Don and Pam Burgess, and his dad emphatically agreed.

### From Page One 'Grapes'

during winter months. Former resident and partner in a vineyard operation in the county, conducted a slide presentation showing cost figures in establishing and maintaining a productive vineyard. He says the initial cost of putting in a new vineyard could easily range from 6 to 7 thousand dollars per acre.

The workshop ended with a plant pruning demonstration by veteran vineyard expert Dr. George Ray McEachern.

Some things are worse than your computer crashing...but not many.



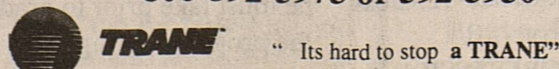
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## Texas Senate Approves Proposed Budget

AUSTIN - Lieutenant Governor Bill Ratliff announced the Texas Senate has approved a budget for the 2001-2003 biennium that will meet the needs of Texans, and address the state's top priorities without a tax increase.

"I praise the leadership of Chairman Rodney Ellis and dedicated work of the Senate Finance Committee on SB 1," Ratliff said. "This budget is tighter than the last, but we succeeded in covering our most pressing needs and priorities without raising taxes."

Ratliff said the Senate's \$111.7 billion budget proposal includes \$24.8 billion in funding for Texas education for 3.9 million Texas students, \$200 million in start-up funds for the first teacher health education program, and additional funding to cover all existing school district debt.

\$30 million has been pegged to fund President Bush and Governor Rick Perry's reading and math initiatives. The Senate also approved \$380 million in new financial aid for state college-bound students through the TEXAS Grant Program.

Substantial amounts have been set aside for health and human services, hard hit by growing caseloads and escalating health

care costs, and a state employee pay raise to curb the impact of high turn over rates the State Auditor has estimated costs the state more than \$250 million a year.

"Rising medical costs are driving the state's budget," Ratliff said. "The increasing cost of health care has hit many areas of state government including the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Child Protective Services, Teacher Retirement System, Employee Retirement System, and Medicaid, and magnified the pressing need for a statewide teacher health plan." He added that another important initiative in the Senate's proposal would raise \$961 million in new federal funds for road construction and improvements to help alleviate congestion and many other traffic problems over the state.

The Senate's budget proposal is \$4.1 billion more in General Revenue spending than the current budget for 2000-2001, a 3.6 percent increase each year for the next biennium. Education remains the targets area of state spending, though health and human services will experience the largest amount of growth in the next biennium due to rising health care costs.

## Brownfield Farmers



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# Track & Field Action At Sundown



Jessica Rodriguez passes baton to Moriah Traweek



Aresley Luna runs grueling 3200 M



Ryan Martinez launches discus



Jared Bell wins prelim 400 Meter



Jonathan De La Rosa in 3200 M



Kim Martinez tosses discus

## PISD Track Summary

Jr. High Boys- Sundown Meet  
 7th Grade: Michael Crump 1st, 400 M dash  
 Todd Williams- 4th 110 hurdles, 4th high jump, 6th long jump  
 Casson Curtis- 3rd 300 hurdles, tie 5th pole vault  
 Ben Hayes- tie, 5th pole vault  
 Abel Ramos- 4th 2400 M run  
 8th Grade;  
 Payton Bean- 1st 2400 M run  
 Cody Flores- 4th shot put, 6th discus  
 400 Relay Team 5th- Kelby Johnson, Eddie Ortega, Evan Cain, Partrek Cotton  
 Jr. High Girls stats UNAVAILABLE  
 High School- Sundown Meet  
 Cowgirls:  
 Michaela Traweek- 2nd, 200 M Dash, 27.59  
 Moriah Traweek- 4th, 100 M Dash, 13.54  
 800 Realy Team- 6th, 1:55.30- Jessica Rodriguez, Moriah Traweek, Kayla Willis, Michaela Traweek.  
 Cowboys:  
 Jared Bell only Cowboy to score points. 400 M Relay Team did not run.  
 Bell- 100 M dash, 6th. 400 M dash 4th. Also made finals in 200 M dash

## PISD Tennis

Brownfield Tourney:  
 Jessica Knight won 6-1, 6-2 first round. lost second  
 Elva Ruiz, Tanya Vasquez lost first match. In consolation, won 3 matches before losing in semi-finals  
 Greg Gonzales won first round 6-4, 6-2, in second won 6-3, 6-2. Lost in semi-finals 7-6, 6-2, and lost for 3rd 6-4, 7-6.  
 Jeremy Diamond won first round 7-6, 6-2, but lost second round.  
 Kelsey Blundell-Dustin Six 6-2 first round, 6-0 second, 6-1, 6-1 third, then won semi finals 6-1, 6-4  
 Sterling Justus-Tanner Hamm won won all three of their round to get to semi finals, which they won 6-1, 6-4.  
 The two Cowboy teams met in the finals. Hamm/Justus won the first set, but Blundell/Six came back strong to win the next two sets and championship honors, with Justus/Hamm in second place.

## PHS Golf

Plains Cowboys and Cowgirls participated in the Coahoma Invitational Golf Tournament held March 28th in Big Spring. The Cowgirls placed 3rd and the Cowboys placed 6th. Team members scores were as follows:

Cowboys	Cowgirls
Kelsey Blundell-77	Liz Wilmeth-100
Jared Bell-83	Mackenzie Winn-105
Dustin Six-89	Allison Butler-123
Chase Howell-95	Mandi Rogers-134

The Cowboys and Cowgirls will begin their first round of district play Wednesday, April 4th at Yoakum County Golf Club. The second round of play will be April 11th at Comanche Trail Golf Club in Big Spring.



Kayla Willis whirls into discus throw



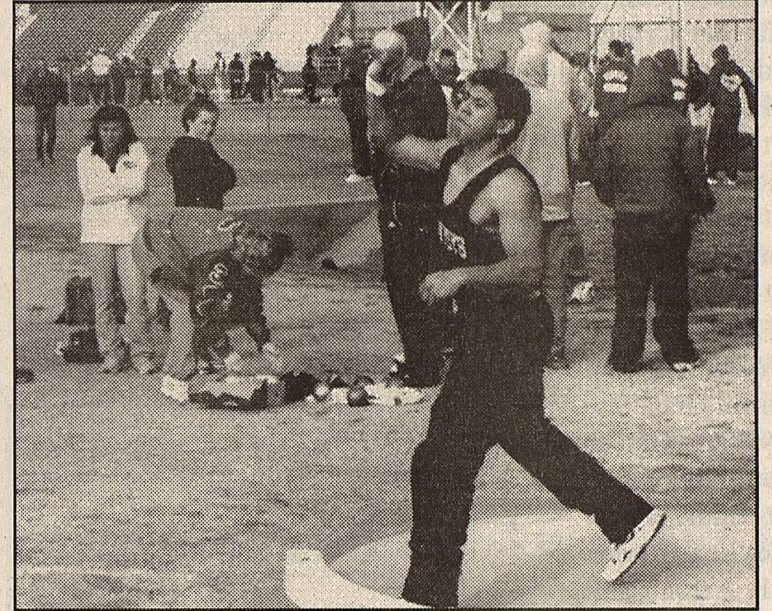
Chris McGinty fires shot



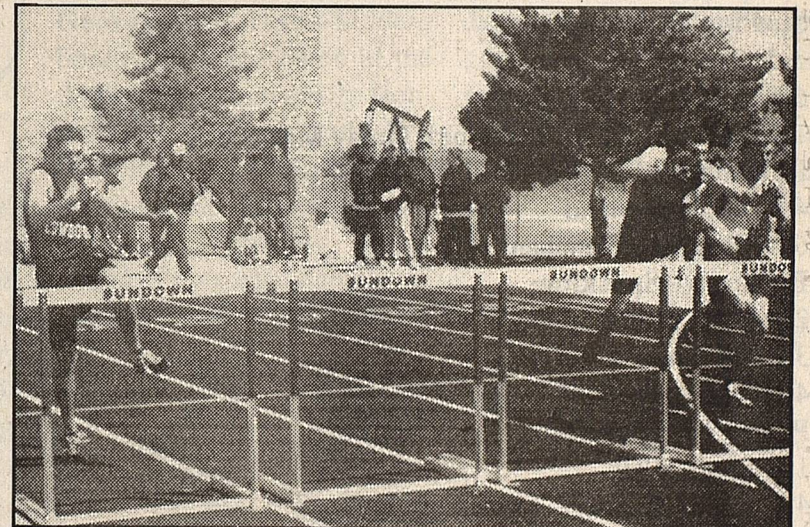
Jared Bell wins prelim 100 heat



Cody McDonnell starts 400 Meter



Joseph Rodriguez tosses shot



In back, Arnold Cordova and Nathan Hays clear 1st hurdle



Kenia Molina glad to hear starter say 'last lap'



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## Scholarships Available!



The Texas Workforce Center has limited funds available to assist youth to provide specialized assistance in job search or attend approved colleges, vocational schools or short-term training programs. Call or stop by today to see if you qualify. The Texas Workforce Center of Levelland serves Hockley, Terry, Yoakum and Cochran counties

Texas Workforce Center of Levelland  
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SPCAA is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aides are available upon request.

\* Federal eligibility and suitability requirements must be met.

Cowboy & Cowgirl Relays  
 Saturday, April 7  
 8:00-8:30 am.  
 Scratch Meeting  
 9:00 am.  
 All field events  
 JVB, VG, VB  
 9:30 am.  
 3200 M run  
 VG, JVB, VB  
 11:30 am.  
 Running Prelims  
 VG, JVB, VB  
 1:15 pm. Lunch for coaches & workers  
 2:45 pm. Running Finals JVB, VB, VG

## PHS individual results in District UIL Meet

### Lincoln Douglas Debate:

2nd - Lexi Warren

### Science:

1st- Eric Nixon

4th- Aaron Cain

5th- Nolan Newsom

1st Team- Nixon, Cain, Nwsom

### Accounting:

1st- Becky Wilmeth

3rd- Wendy Fierro

1st Team- Wilmeth, Fierro, Butler

### Calculator Applications:

1st - Jill Gray

2nd- Amanda Garcia

3rd- Annaliesia O'Quinn

4th- Liz Wilmeth

1st Team- Gray, Garcia, O'Quinn

### Computer Applications:

2nd- Nolan Newsom

4th- Skyler Johnson

### Current Issues and Events:

1st- Aaron Cain

2nd- Ragan McGinty

4th- Elizabeth Clanahan

5th- Becky Wilmet

1st Team- Cain, McGinty, Clanahan

### Literary Criticism:

3rd- Dawn Garland

### Mathematics:

1st- Eric Nixon

2nd- Jill Gray

1st Team- Nixon, Gray, O'Quinn

### Number Sense:

1st- Amanda Garcia

2d Annaliesia O'Quinn

5th- Eric Nixon

6th Jill Gray

1st Team- Garcia, O'Quinn, Nixon

### Computer Science:

1st- Emily Blair

2nd- Lexi Warren

3rd- Aaron Cain

1st Team- Blair, Warren, Cain

### Spelling & Vocabulary:

3rd- Sandra Gallegos

6th- Elizabeth Rodriguez

1st Team- Gallegos, Rodriguez, Grady McNabb

### Informative Speaking:

4th- Jarod Newland

6th- Elizabeth Clanahan

### Persuasive Speaking:

2nd- Lisa San Fillippo

3rd- Jordan Bean

4th- Gerry Rivas

### Poetry Interpretation:

1st- Emily Blair

4th- Jordan Bean

6th- Mandi Rogers

### Prose Interpretation:

1st- Lisa San Fillippo

3rd- Taylor Gray

### News Writing:

2nd- Nicole Haynes

3rd- Liz Wilmeth

4th- Mandi Rogers

### Feature Writing:

1st- Nicole Haynes

2nd- Lesli Rowe

3rd- Annalies O'Quinn

### Editorial Writing:

1st- Liz Wilmeth

2nd- Lesli Rowe

3rd- Chris Hansen

## Hard work required to bring food to our tables



This scene shows some 120 workers hand planting white and yellow onions on a 60 acre plot northwest of town last week. The back breaking work took about three and a half days to finish. The inset photo shows how closely the seedling plants must be spaced. Workers use their index finger to make the hole for the plant, insert it and move to the next spot. They must work hard and fast - their daily wages are based on the number of feet they properly plant. This sixty acre plot required 2,200 bags of plants, with about 2,160 individual plants, or approximately 4,750,000 plants.

## Blackboards Behind Bars

Prison inmates who get an education are less likely to find themselves back in Prison

A prison education in Texas is a tall order - nearly 90,000 of the state's most serious offenders do not have a high school diploma. A third can't read at 6th grade level. About half the inmates in Texas' State Jails, where low level property offenders are kept for two years or less, have no high school diploma.

The Windham School District, created by the Legislature in 1969, operates the state's prison education system, primarily with funds from the Texas Education Agency, not the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ).

Marlie Haynes, Windham's director of instruction, says district staff taught nearly 80,000 inmates - more than half the prison population in the 1999-2000 school year. Nearly 61,000 were in TDCJ's institutional division, more than 18,000 were in State Jails.

When inmates enter prison, TDCJ staff assess their education needs. They are eligible for three hours of academic study each day if they have no high school diploma or GED.

The average student receives about one grade level of instruction during incarceration. They are usually not eligible for instruction until they are within two to five years of release.

On any given day, about 20,000 student inmates attend a variety of programs, from basic reading to high school level classes. Another 15,000 inmates are pursuing college degrees through separate programs. English as a second language and life skills are also taught, and another 5,000 are enrolled in vocational career and technology programs.

TDCJ has space for some 25,000 students. Windham instructors operate on double shifts, so inmates are enrolled using a priority program.

Students who read below sixth grade level and within two years of release are enrolled first, and those with five years left on their sentences are enrolled last.

While prison officials say they would prefer to give all inmates the benefit of an education, they face barriers other than the district's limited resources.

Many students lack the capacity to obtain a GED, says Haynes. She says many have memory loss from head injuries, and others' mental capacity has been diminished by substance abuse. "If a GED were a requirement for release, these inmates would never leave prison," she said.

In 2000, Texas Criminal Jus-

tice Policy Council (TCJPC) research showed the district's programs served 38 percent of the prison population, down from 46 percent in 1991, the reduction due largely to skyrocketing prison populations. TCJPC notes the district has some options for helping released inmates stay out of prison. Education resources could be increased so inmates spend more time in class. If those resources are unavailable, they recommend targeting resources to young offenders, particularly if they are illiterate.

"Higher risk young offenders are more likely to return to prison than older inmates. Those with the greatest education deficit tend to be older inmates, less likely to return to prison. Recidivism is impacted the most when teaching young offenders to read, the study shows.

Haynes says a new priority system will be in place by the end of the 2001 school year, including an inmate's age as a factor when who is enrolled in classes first, with an emphasis on teaching those under the age of 35.

\*\*Material for this article courtesy FISCAI NOTES, a publication of the Texas Comptroller Office.

## Saturday Night Special On Tap This Weekend

A blend of music by Bob Wills, Glen Campbell, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Kathy Mattea and other country legends will highlight the weekly Branson style musical variety show, Saturday Night Special (April 7) at South Plains College.

The show starts at 7:30 pm. in the Tom T. Hall Performance Center in SPC's Creative Arts Building on the Levelland campus. Admission is \$5.00 for senior citizens and \$6.00 general admission. Proceeds go for scholarships.

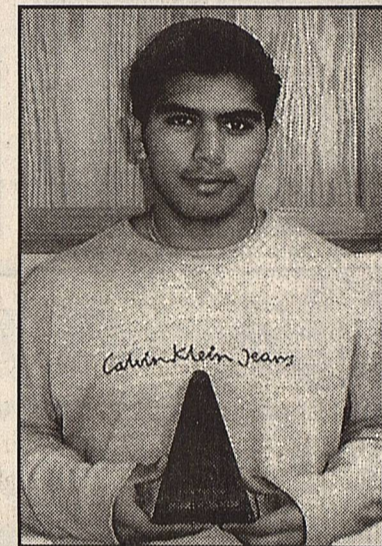
Guest band will be the South Plains Playboys, a student ensemble that performs the classic western swing of Bob Wills and other artists. The group is directed by Joe Carr, associate professor of music.

The Saturday Night Special ensemble will perform such classics as Glenn Campbell's "Wichita Line-man," Bob Wills' "San Antonio Rose," "Long Hard Road," by the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, and "Evening" by Kathy Mattea.

The show is directed by Rusty Hudelson, associate professor of music.

For more information, contact the SPC Creative Arts Department at 894-9611, ext. 2281.

## Student of the Week



PHS Student of the Week is Joseph Rodriguez, a junior and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Rodriguez. Joseph was nominated by Mr. Portillo, who said, "A person of 'character' is trustworthy, treats all people with respect, acts responsibly, is fair and just, is caring, and is a good citizen. People of good character remember to let no thought enter their mind that is not positive, helpful, supportive, loving, kind, generous, or beautiful. Joseph is a person of great character. He follows a great example set by his parents. He is a team player and is involved in everything he can possibly do. This includes football, band, basketball, track, and baseball. It is a great pleasure to have him as a student at Plains High School."

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# Lifelines & Styles

## Engagement Announced



Dr. and Mrs. Randy Sheets of Altus, Oklahoma, announce the engagement of their daughter Jennifer to Yancey House, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne House of Plains. The wedding will take place at 2 PM, June 2, 2001, at the Quartz Mountain Resort in Lone Wolf, Oklahoma.

## Women's Retreat

Midwest Texas Area Aglow invites all women of the area, from San Angelo to Lubbock, to attend the annual retreat, "Come to The Quite," at Butman Methodist Camp and Retreat Center near Merkel on April 20-22 (Friday night through Sunday noon).

Ruth Hallowell of Fort Worth will be the main speaker, who in her gentle manner will lead those attending into the "quite place," away from all the hustle and bustle and demands of life. Being around her is like drawing from a deep well, and women will come away refreshed and able to better cope with the problems of everyday.

Two workshops will be led by Cindy Fort of Fort Worth. The Saturday morning workshop will focus on worshipful dance,

"Setting the Body Free to Soar in the Spirit," and in the afternoon focus will be "Building Relationships".

Alecia Russell and Christi Gossett will lead praise and worship.

The registration fee is \$60.00 and may be mailed to Midwest Texas Area Aglow, c/o Connie Lozano, 7510 Falcon Lane, San Angelo, 76901. Food and lodging for two nights and six meals will be \$72.00, and may be paid upon arrival at the Butman Camp, or the entire amount may be mailed to the above address. Linen packs will be available for \$5.00, or each person may bring her own.

For more information, call Betty Martinez at 915-944-4920.

## Senior Citizens Corner

How do you all like this wet weather we have been having? It sure beats the sand and dust we have had for the past several years, to my way of thinking.

Billie McDonnell and Faye Black were the '42' winners last Wednesday. Billie O'Neal and Inez Turner came in second.

We had defensive driving class Monday and Thursday. It was taught by a couple from Andrews. They were really good and brought several things to my attention that were different from the last one I had taken.

Chris Humphrey is in the Veterans Hospital in Albuquerque. Shirley Mosser is in UMC in Lubbock and so is Martha Webb. We will be glad to have them all back home. Our prayers are with each of you. You are greatly missed.

The girls that are in the Line Dancing said they would appreciate someone helping them to

learn some new dances. They have the music, so if anyone out there can help them it would be greatly appreciated. Line Dancing is open to all that want to come and is at 10:00 to 11:00 am. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

We are trying to get some crafts going in the craft room. Everyone please lets use all the activities available to us.

The domino playing goes on everyday until lunch and as soon as lunch is over they go right back to playing. The pool room is also used nearly everyday.

Our garage sale is going good. We also have greeting cards of all kinds including Easter. Come on in and buy your cards, they are .50 each.

The Harvesters will be here the 19th for our pot luck supper. They play Christian music, so come and join us at 6:00 pm.

Until Next Week,  
Wanda B.

## O'Brien-McElroy Wedding Announced



Ed O'Brien and Rena McElroy will wed May 26, 2001 at the Country Home Bed and Breakfast in Canyon, Texas.

Rena is the daughter of Max and Adell McElroy of Brownfield, Texas. Rena is employed with Corporate Systems as a Database Administrator. She is a graduate of Texas Tech University with a degree in Management Information Systems.

Ed is the son of Ed and Judy O'Brien of Kansas and the grandson of Fred and Jewel Brown. He is employed with Corporate Systems as a Network Administrator. Ed is a graduate of Amarillo College with a degree in Computer Information Systems. Bridal Registries: Target, Dillard's and J C Penny.

## Student Honors Awarded At Southwestern University

Georgetown, Texas-Student departments, scholarship programs and academic and honor societies.

Honors were presented at the Southwestern University Honors Convocation, Saturday, February 24, 2001, held in Lois Perkins Chapel during Family Weekend. Honors were awarded by various academic

Clint Burrus, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Burrus, received an Art Department Merit Award in the Honors Convocation.

## Happy 80th Birthday Jerry Perez

From: Jeanette, Jarome, Mike & Girls

## Library Storytime

We had a fun time at Storytime, on Wednesday, March 28th, at the Yoakum County Library. We said the pledges to the United States and Texas flags, sang songs, read two books; Growing Like Me and Hullabaloo ABC; and

watched two movies; Elmer's Candid Camera and What Makes Daffy Duck?. The children attending Storytime were: Clayton Gass, Claire Carpenter, Amanda Dusek, Micah St. Romain, Anthony Torres, Angel Torres and Jentry Wall.

**Order Your Band Calenders Now.  
Deadline is April 30th.  
Contact Band Members or  
the Library**

Denver City Art Association is coordinating the annual Yoakum County Watermelon Round Up T-Shirt Contest. It is open to all ages, in and out of school. Designs must be an original design no larger than 8 1/2 x 11" in size and must have "Yoakum County Watermelon Round Up" on it. Watermelon Willie is optional on this year's shirt. Yoakum County Connection is awarding \$100 cash for the top design picked by the judges. Entries will be accepted beginning March 23, 2001, with the deadline on April 20, 2001. 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 office in Denver City.

*The First United Methodist Church Choir presents*

*Praise the Risen Lord*

an Easter Musical



on  
Palm Sunday - April 8th  
at 10:45 a.m.

*Come worship God and our Lord Jesus Christ with us through music!*

**First United Methodist Church  
1202 Avenue G - Plains, Tx.**

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*Bridal Shower: honoring*

*Miss Ginny McEntire*

*Bride Elect of: Brad McMinn*

*Sunday, April 8, 2001: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.*

*in the home of: Mrs. Connie McWhirter-1104 4th St.*

*Selections-Lubbock: Target, Dillard's, Linen 'n Things Brownfield:  
Nelson's Plains: Local Merchants*

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Plains, Texas

Presents

**Redeemer**

*An Easter Musical*

Created by Claire Cloninger & Dave Williamson  
Directed by Patrick Hamilton

Easter night, April 15th-6:00 pm.

Everyone is invited

# From The Hack

I love birds. I suppose I am a bird watcher, but I don't carry binoculars and sneak up on them wearing a tweed jacket and ridiculous looking cloth hat like they do back east.

I do not, however like Grackles. You know, the medium large black birds which only moved to the South Plains area some ten or twelve years ago, if memory serves me.

Grackles are neurotic and depraved, of that I am positive. The males, those larger beasts with the long, broad tales, are sex fiends. All they do the day long is prance about, their heads stretched up in the air, screeching what I am sure could be interpreted if I spoke Grackle, "Here I am in all my glorious splendor, just waiting for you lovelies to come jump my bones." To date, I have yet to see one of the smaller, petite and less noisy females whisper seductively, "OK, big boy, let's boogie."

They gather on AM's here in huge groups on utility lines everywhere, especially in front of our school. They have permanently destroyed a great deal of the planted flora there with their droppings, and have caused dedicated, mild mannered teachers and administrators to scream oaths at the black demons from Hell when their droppings are discovered on parked Tahoes, Tauruses and Saturns everyday.

They are not so well observed

in the city during the day, probably in the country trying to ruin some farmers crop, or drop unwanted droppings on his home on their foraging flights. It is late in the evening, a bit before dusk, when they return to town with a vengeance, to really go on an orgy of lust and vocal dis-harmony.

It is then I see more large gatherings of the filthy minded males, clustered in trees, spread across vacant lots, and I swear a dozen Mocking birds could not come up with half the weird notes and whistles these guys perform. I suspect, in their Grackle tongue, they are wildly bragging about their hanky-panky successes of the day. I listened to a big wad of them in the lot across the street one evening, and I swear they sounded like a bunch of drunken Marines returning from a pay day shore leave in Tijuana.

Environment and nature be damned..... shoot to kill!

At age 4, success is not wetting your pants.

At age 16, success is having a driver's license.

At age 12, success is having friends.

At age 20, success is having sex.

At age 35 success is having money.

At age 50, success is having money.

At age 60, success is having sex.

At age 70, success is having a driver's license.

At age 75, success is having friends.

At age 80, success is not wetting your pants.

I watched with great interest last week an announcement on

Lubbock TV there would be a regional qualifying try-out there for a participant spot on SURVIVAL III, you know, the forever long episode where males and females are stashed away in some God forbidden locale, and expected to live without food, shelter, fire, water, or co-habitation among the male and female contestants. The eventual winner walks off with zillions of bucks.

I Mused, "I think I will go to the tryouts. After all, I am a very likely good candidate."

I made my list of accomplishments; A sailor stationed in Corpus Christi in 1952, I survived the war on Leopard Street, an epic battle fought between drunken sailors on liberty and drunken local civvy locals about the same age. Actually, I didn't participate in the carnage - I cowered in an alley, watching beer bottles fly by, a number of brutal battles going on, while I remained ever vigilant for the sound of Cop and Shore Patrol sirens arriving - when I heard them, I hauled it back to base. Is not that survival?

I recall an episodes even further back in my life. In Junior High, I fell desperately in love with girls named Tommie Lou, Dana Kay, Amy Sue, and God forgive me, Bertha Belcha Bach. They all spurned me, and again, thank God for Bertha Belcha Bach. Once again I proved my survival instincts. Even earlier, but not much, I thought it would be hilarious to either (a) give my grandmother's cat an enema, or (b) insert a small explosive charge in granddad's cigarette, or (c) let the air out of the town constable's auto one evening. Never one to make a quick decision, I tried all three with great results, but somehow, I survived.

The only thing I am truly worried about the Lubbock try-outs is my age. I feel sure the judges will be prejudiced and send me packing.

I listened to an amusing tale on the G. Gordon Liddy radio show recently. I can hear gasps of anguish now from our Liberal Demo readers, "He listens to THAT!?"

He was talking about men's hairpieces, or wigs. He knew a high-powered, very successful businessman who purchased a state-of-the-art hairpiece for almost \$2,500 bucks.

The guy was flying to a small town which had no Jet-port to serve incoming passengers. When it was the exec's time to board, he plodded up the stairs to the plane, when a huge gust of wind sailed his wig off behind his head.

Immediately he heard feminine screaming and cursing behind, looked around, and a well dressed blonde lady was flinging the hairpiece on the ground, screaming hysterically, "This beast attacked me, but don't worry, I'm going to stomp the sucker to death before it gets to the rest of you." She actually stomped the wig to death - Sans blood.

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## Walker, Texas Rep

By State Representative Gary Walker, Dist. 80

Hello again! I have had a really good week, and I have gotten a lot accomplished in the last few days. The rain never seems to stop here, and I hope that some of it finds its way to West Texas.

This week I had two bills up in the House Land and Resource Management Committee. HB 2538 deals with inspection of quarries to determine whether the operators are properly reclaiming the land. The other bill, HB 3127, would allow commissioners courts to regulate the location and use of buildings, other structures, and land for business or industrial purposes. I really believe that both bills would benefit Texas. Both bills were left pending in the committee and will be voted on at a later date. Four of my bills were passed on the House floor this week. They are half way through the legislative process, and are now waiting to be heard by the Senate.

The Ag and Livestock Committee hearing was very interesting this week. The meeting began with a discussion about bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), commonly known as "mad cow disease," and Hoof and Mouth Disease. As you know, BSE and Hoof and Mouth have ravaged the UK's livestock industry. The goal of this discussion was to

focus on preventative measures that could block the spread of Hoof and Mouth into the U.S. and Texas. Testimony was heard from representatives of the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab and the Texas Animal Health Commission. Chairman David Swinford (R-Dumas) is working with other legislators and organizations in order to prevent the spread of this disease into the U.S. In addition to this, I presented my weather modification bill, HB 3230. This bill would move control of the weather modification program from the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission to the Texas Department of Agriculture, due to the direct correlation of weather modification and the impact it has on the agriculture industry.

Please stop and visit us at the Capitol if you are in town. I am always pretty busy, but it would be wonderful to see anyone from my home area! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office at 512-463-0678.

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**Yoakum County Annual Livestock Association meeting will be held at 7:00 pm., April 10th at the Denver City High School Cafeteria (Premium Checks will be awarded)**

## Private Applicator Training

Date: Tuesday, April 17, 2001

Place: Party House (Terry County Park)

Fee: \$10.00

Registration: 8:30-9:00 am.

9:00-12:00 Using Pesticides Class...

Mendy Shugart

12:00-1:00 Lunch Break

1:30-3:00 Test

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## Law Enforcement Position

Schleicher County Sheriff David Doran is accepting applications for a Deputy Sheriff position. Applicants must be TCLEOSE certified. Applications can be picked up at the Schleicher County Sheriff's Department, at 4 S. Divide St., Eldorado, Texas 76936 or by calling 915-853-2737. Deadline for applications is April 30, 2001. Schleicher County is an Equal Opportunity employer.

### \* Position Available \*

The Denver City Chamber of Commerce is now accepting applications for the position of Executive Vice President. Qualification requirements are: high school education, college degree preferred but not necessary; managerial, motivational and organization skills; communication and computer skills with excellent command of the English language; accurate financial and record-keeping abilities; energetic, enthusiastic, with pleasing personality and attitude. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Send resumes to: Search Committee, Denver City Chamber of Commerce, 120 N. Main St., Denver City, TX 79323. Deadlines for receiving applications is April 15, 2001.

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