

Cowboy Country

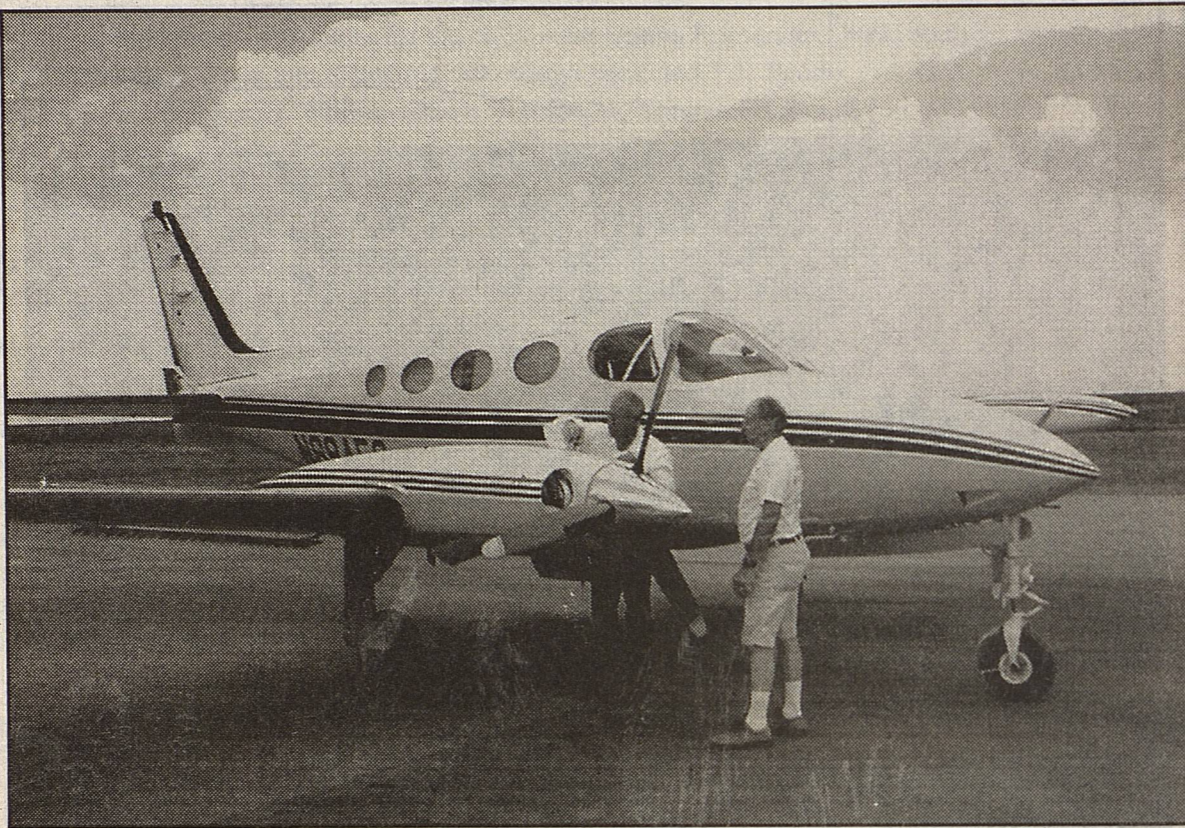
God Bless America! News



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

Volume V111, Issue 40, June 26, 2002

Prepping second plane for SOAR



Gary Walker and Bob Reece perform a pre-flight visual inspection of a Cessna 340 prior to a familiarization flight here last Friday. The aircraft is the second 340 to be used in SOAR, the precipitation enhancement program conducted by Sandy Land Underground Water District.

Texas' Historic Water Woes They're still with us today

In *Lone Star*, the epic history of Texas and Texans, author T.R. Fehrenbach wrote of the extensive migration of farm families from East and South Texas to harsh West Texas, and the Great Plains area of the state during the 1870's and 80's. "Water was and still remains in the West the last unconquered frontier."

The statement was true when he penned it, and certainly true today. In Yoakum County, our agricultural producers have been blessed with underground water from the huge Ogallala aquifer for irrigating their crops, and watering livestock, and providing potable water for our towns and cities. In all probability, none of these producers remain unaware of the dropping level of the Aquifer. If by chance anyone is in the dark about the water problems we, and the rest of the state face, they should run, not walk to the Library and read the current issue of *Texas Parks and Wildlife* periodical, a special issue addressing water problems and views of what Texas faces in coming years.

Efforts to provide the needs of a fast growing populace in the state have already been massive. The damming of river and stream water in Texas has resulted in more square miles of inland water than any state except Minnesota - and if planned reservoirs are built, we will pass that state in the next 20 years.

In SB 1, the state water plan, the

state's population is expected to double by 2050, and unless new sources for water are developed and strong conservation programs are in place, unmet water needs are expected to triple to some 7.5 million acre feet.

The Parks and Wildlife special has an extensive section on our Ogallala aquifer, written by Elmer Kelton, a Texan well acquainted with our state water problems.

Kelton reports the Ogallala produces three-fifths of the ground water used in the state, and Texas uses more ground water than any state except California. Water specialists think as much as half of the aquifer's water has already been pumped. Kelton also describes T. Boone Pickens, a utility company's and others efforts to sell and move ground water from the northern aquifer to thirsty urban areas. The issue is currently tied up in the courts. Local concerns have been expressed about the sale of this groundwater, but Gary Walker, Independent Contractor with Sandy Land Underground Water District here says these fears are groundless.

"Pickens' purchase of water rights are in Roberts County. While ground water there is certainly part of the Ogallala, pumping water there will have absolutely no effect on our area ground water. The water table in Roberts County slopes to the southeast, not due south, where it could affect our water lev-

els."

Another section in the special issue of *Texas Parks and Wildlife* magazine details the plight of the once mighty Rio Grande River to our south, now reduced to just a trickle in spots, completely dry in others, and sapped so harshly along its 1254 mile length, it does not even reach the Gulf of Mexico south of Brownsville.

On a more local level, our towns, cities, our agricultural economy desperately needs help from mother nature. We continue to be gripped by drought. Continuing our visit with Gary Walker, he related his predictions about our immediate area ground water supply. "Several years back I prepared an assessment for our Board of the Ogallala Aquifer's life span in our immediate area, and I stand by my estimate. I feel we have an adequate supply to last 20 to 25 years." He quickly added his estimate could be dramatically lengthened if new technology could be developed to extend the life of irrigation wells. "Our water situation is certainly an important issue, and that's why I am convinced the precipitation enhancement program we and other area water districts are engaged in are of such tremendous importance for all of us. We have proven we are capable of making rain fall from the skies. We just need some clouds, lots of clouds, to work with."

Criminal cases in District and County Court

In 121st District Court June 14, Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding, Larry Doyle James pled guilty to the manufacture or delivery of methamphetamine, 400 grams or more. He received a 20 year sentence in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (Institutional Division), with credit for 263 days jail time served. He must pay \$288 court costs and \$10,000 fine. A cause of possession of a controlled substance was adjudicated. He forfeited 555.78 grams of methamphetamine. His attorney was Mark Snodgrass, and investigating officers were Rick Dickson and Lisa Switzer Llano Estacado Drug Task Force.

Shane Ray Bradley pled guilty to delivery of a controlled substance, less than one gram cocaine. A two year prison sentence was suspended and probated five years. He was fined \$1000, must pay \$292 court costs and \$25 time fee, plus \$140 restitution and \$250 court appointed attorney fees. He must complete the drug offender program, complete the TAIP program, surrender his license 180 days, and serve 120 hours community service. Warren New was his attorney, and Llano Estacado Drug Task Force was arresting agency.

In a June 19 session of District Court, Shasta Flores, a/k/a Shasta Tennile Sipes, pled nolo contendere (no contest) to a charge of injury to a child.

Turn to page 2
COURT CASES

13 Indicted By Grand Jury Here

In the June 10 session, the Yoakum County Grand Jury returned true bills of indictment on thirteen defendants. District Judge Kelly G. Moore set all felony bonds, and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state.

Grady Wilson Hart was indicted on a state jail felony charge of delivery of Marijuana. Bond was set at \$2,500.

Nicolas Dean Jeffrey was indicted on a state jail felony of delivery of Marijuana. Bond was set at \$2,500.

Jarrold Dane Merideth was indicted on a state jail felony charge, delivery of Marijuana. Bond was set at \$2,500. He was also indicted for engaging in organized criminal activity, a third degree felony, and bond was \$2,500. He was also indicted for delivery of a controlled substance, Cocaine, also a state jail felony, and bond was \$2,500.

Matthew Ryan Hanneman was indicted for delivery of controlled substance, Methamphetamine, a state jail felony. Bond was set at \$5,000.

Ellis Morales, Jr. was indicted for delivery of controlled substance, Methamphetamine, a state jail felony. Bond was set at \$2,500. He was also indicted for delivery of controlled substance, Cocaine, a state jail felony. Bond was set at \$2,500. He was also indicted for delivery of controlled substance, Methamphetamine, drug free zone, third degree felony. Bond was set at \$3,000.

Paul Morales was indicted for

4 counts of delivery of controlled substance, Cocaine, 3 counts state jail felony, 1 count, second degree felony Bonds totaling \$12,500.

Vicente John Torres was indicted on 2 counts of delivery of controlled substance, Cocaine. Bonds were set at \$2,000. He was also charged with engage in organized criminal activity, third degree felony. Bond was set at \$1,000.

Antonio Roberto Enriquez was indicted for possession of controlled substance, Cocaine, a third degree felony. Bond was set at \$2,500.

Michael Paul Arriaga was indicted for delivery of controlled substance, Cocaine, first degree felony. Bond was set at \$25,000.

Paul David Calhoun was indicted for DWI 3rd or more, third degree felony. Bond was set at \$750.

Francisco Perez, Jr. was indicted for evading arrest/detention with vehicle, state jail felony. Bond was set at \$5,000.

David Ray Carter, II was indicted for burglary of a building, state jail felony. Bond was set at \$1,500. He was also charged with evading arrest/detention with vehicle, state jail felony. Bond was set at \$1,500.

Josefina Jordan Carrillo was indicted for possession of controlled substance, Cocaine, third degree felony. Bond was set at \$10,000.

Lewis Henry Nelson was indicted for DWI 3rd or more, third degree felony. Bond was set at \$2,500.



City employee Alex Bariantes, in backhoe, and summer student employee Ryan Martinez were busy last week preparing to lay a new water line in the alley between 3rd and 4th streets. The old two inch line will be replaced with a four inch line, providing residents with more water volume and pressure.

Watermelon Round Up Poetry

Contest Winners Announced

By Elizabeth Chandler

Yoakum County Wordsmiths and Yoakum County Connection are proud to announce the winners of this year's Watermelon Round Up Poetry Contest. The first place winners will receive a fifty dollar savings bond. First place winners and honorable mention poems will be published in the Watermelon Round Up Tabloid, due out the first of August, and will be read at the Round Up.

Connie Webb and Christy Brink directed the contest with the help of Linda Powell and Elizabeth Chandler. Over one hundred poems were submitted for judging. Teachers Renetta O'Quinn, Plains High School,

and Tammie Rogers, Denver City Intermediate School, had their classes participate in the contest. All the poems showed lots of thought and hard work.

Yoakum County Wordsmiths and Yoakum County Connection appreciate everyone's participation, and look forward to next year's contest.

Poems and authors included:
 Adult rhymed-
 1st place- June Hanneman
 Hon. Mention- Amber McWhirter, Tammy Kidd
 Adult unrhymed-
 1st Place-Danielle Swisher
 High school, rhymed-
 1st - Grady McNabb
 Hon. Mention- Evan Cain, Marlie Diaz

High School unrhymed-
 1st- Moriah Traweek
 Hon. Mention- Brandon Davis, Micaela Villegas
 Intermediate rhymed-
 1st- Gladys Ruiz
 Hon. Mention- Zandra Riller, Lisa Gibson
 Intermediate unrhymed-
 1st- Cynthis Baraibar
 Hon. Mention- Ashley Hency, Casey Williams
 Junior High rhymed-
 1st- Yesenia Ortega
 Junior High unrhymed-
 1st- Yesenia Ortega

From Page 1, COURT CASES

In County Court June 19, Judge Dallas Brewer presiding, Sandra Renee Elms pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision from a prior DWI cause. She will serve 60 days in jail with credit for 19 days served, pay a delinquent fine of \$152, delinquent community supervision fees of \$80 and \$31 delinquent restitution by June 21.

In a June 19 session of District Court, Shasta Flores, a/k/a Shasta Tennile Sipes, pled nolo contendere (no contest) to a charge of injury to a child. Judge Moore sentenced her to 25 years in prison, and ordered her to pay \$492 court costs. Her attorney was Jack Stoffregen. The defendant is the wife of Jimmy Flores, both of Denver City. Jimmy Flores had been found guilty of the same injury to a child charge in a March 2002 jury trial. He later fled to Mexico prior to his sentencing court appearance scheduled for April 11. He was arrested while trying to cross the border into Ojinaga, Mexico, and returned to jail here. On May 3, Judge Moore sentenced Flores to 50 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Institutional Division.

State unemployment rate at highest level since 1994

Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May was 6.2 percent, the same as the April rate, which was revised from 6.1 percent, according to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

"At 6.2 percent, the unemployment rate is the highest we've seen in almost eight years," said TWC Chair Diane Rath. "One positive note is, nonagricultural employment grew in May for the fifth consecutive month, with a gain of 800 jobs."

"Employment in transportation, communications, public utilities grew for the second month in a row with 900 new jobs in May," said Commissioner for Labor T.P. O'Mahoney. "However, manufacturing continued to show more job losses with a 2,900 job decline during the month, part of 60,300 jobs lost in that industry over the year."

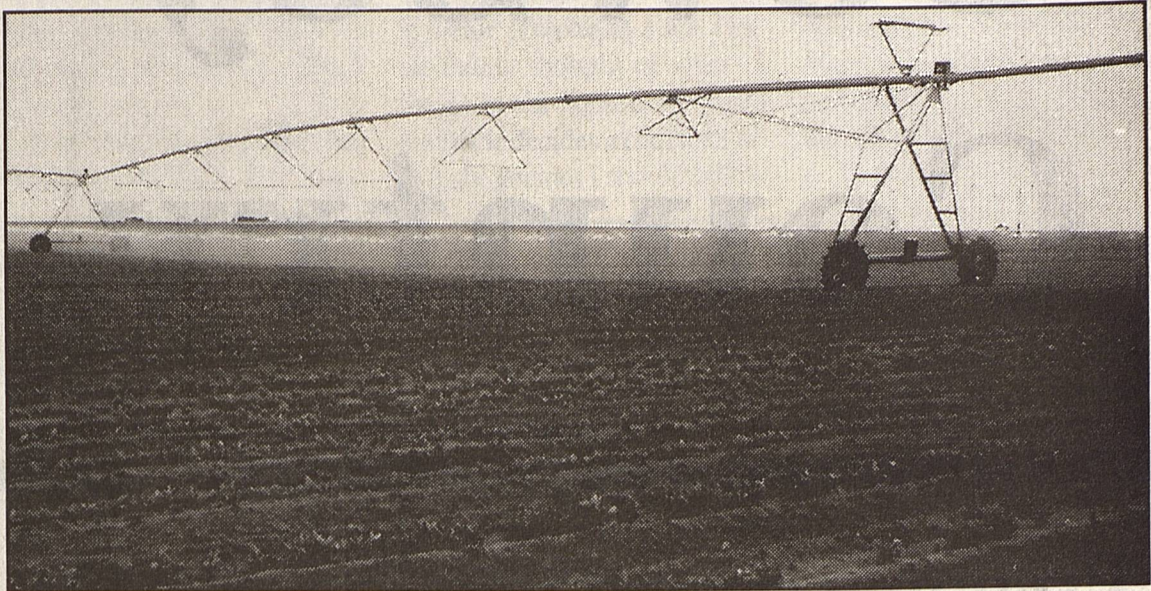
"Services, the largest major industry in Texas, led all industries in employment growth for the second straight month, adding 1,800 jobs," said Commissioner for Employers Ron Lehman. "Still, the construction industry's loss of 2,700 jobs in May indicates the economy is still lagging behind the robust economy of recent years."

The lowest unemployment rate among the Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in May was 1.8% in Bryan-College Station. Lubbock was next at 2.6%, followed by Amarillo and San Angelo at 3.3%. Abilene was fifth at 3.9%.

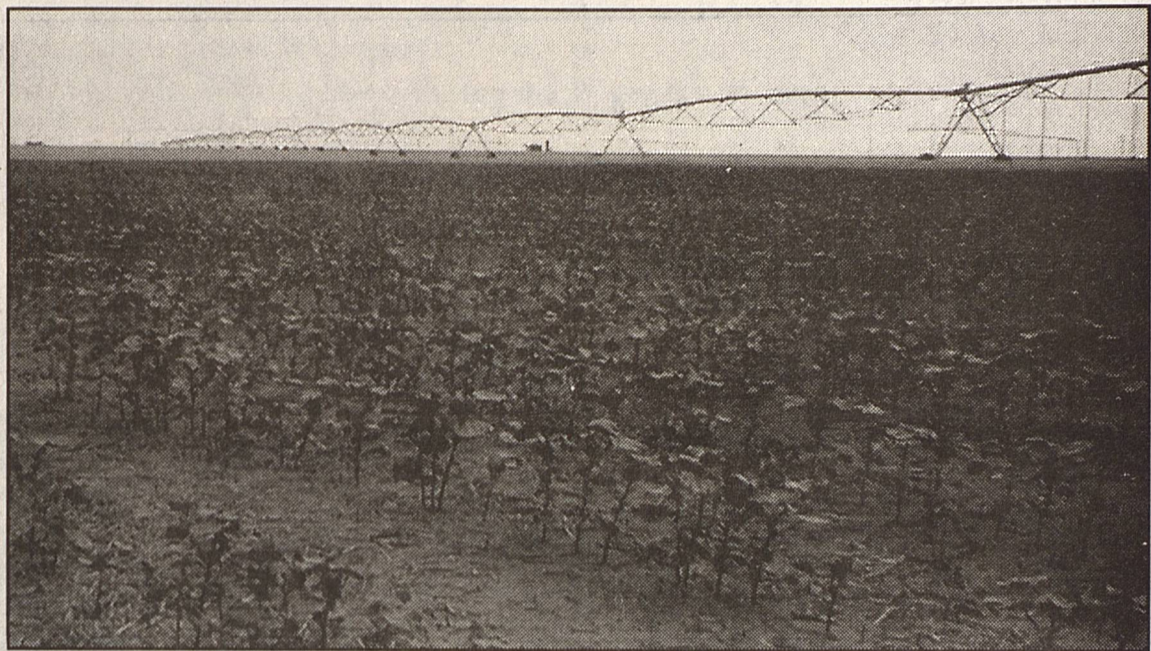
The highest unemployment rate was 10.8% in the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission MSA, followed by Brownsville-Harlingen, San Benito and Beaumont-Port Arthur at 8.2%. El Paso was next at 8%, followed by Laredo at 7%.

An informal county crop tour

A casual drive around the county's agricultural production areas indicates some good news and bad news. Many producers have established good stands of predominant crops, including irrigated cotton, peanuts, watermelons and onions. All producers, however, are aware the current drought conditions, accompanied by high daytime temperatures and daily strong winds, are not helping their cause. Irrigated fields are difficult to keep sufficiently damp to prompt growth. These photos were taken in areas west of Plains.



A pivot irrigation system gives field of peanuts a drink of water.



Cotton doing well in a drip irrigated field near the Stateline



Irrigated watermelons rapidly spreading from vine to vine.

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October 1, 1907

Galveston is now protected by a seawall made of blocks of granite. The wall is six miles in length, seventeen feet high, and sixteen feet thick at the base.

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Cookie Capers & Bread Friends



Future Four-Star bakery chefs were busy last week, learning the fine art of turning out great cookies and bread, one type with the exotic name "Turtle Bread". The young kitchen artists were enjoying one of the summer art and entertainment sessions sponsored by the Yoakum County Connection. Instructors for the class were Donna Friesen and Janie Ramos, assisted by Allison Friesen. Youngsters beating the dough included P.J. Pando, Adora Ramos, Marina Corrales, Brittney Roper, Whitney Davis, Tori Reyes, Autumn Friesen, Adriana Corrales, Denise Tarango, Haley Welch, Troy Aldredge, Madison Davis, Jonathan Davis, Amber Friesen and Cody Friesen.

EQIP reauthorized in new farm bill

With passage of the 2002 Farm Bill, farmers and ranchers now have an opportunity to install needed conservation practices on their property with assistance from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

EQIP was reauthorized when President George W. Bush signed the bill into law on May 13, 2002. EQIP is part of the Conservation Provisions section within the new legislation. Although reauthorized, EQIP has undergone a facelift to simplify the administrative concurrence process and improve delivery of the program.

Producers who request EQIP assistance will be able to use program funds in the first year of the conservation contract. Further the program increases total payment amounts to \$450,000 per individual for the life of the new Farm Bill. Changes also include elimination of both the Geographic Priority Areas (GPA's) and "bidding down" process for cost share assistance. The revised program empha-

sizes conservation practices relative to livestock production and eliminates animal unit caps on large confined livestock operations.

Of benefit to many producers is the cost share incentive for defined limited resource or beginning farmers and ranchers. Qualified producers may be eligible for up to 90 percent cost share for needed conservation practices. Final rules for qualified producers are pending.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has administrative and technical responsibility for EQIP. According to Thomas Dominguez, Acting State Conservationist for NRCS in Texas, "EQIP is a voluntary USDA conservation program for farmers and ranchers to treat soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on eligible land. Passage of the new Farm Bill represents not only an agency commitment to conservation, but an opportunity for landowners across Texas to install needed conservation on their lands."

Interested landowners should contact their local representative for NRCS located in their county USDA Service Center. Applications for the 2002 funding period are being accepted through June 28, 2002. Additional information is available on the USDA Web Site at <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill>.

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Weather Forecast From Duncan Axisa, Meteorologist, SOAR Program

DATE	WEATHER	TEMP (°F)	WIND	RAIN (inches)
Today	Partly cloudy; few TS (pm)	98/68	E 10-20 mph	< 0.2
Thursday	Partly cloudy; few TS (pm)	93/68	E 10-20 mph	< 0.2
Friday	Partly cloudy; chance of few TS	93/68	E 10-20 mph	< 0.01

Texas at a Glance

At Your Convenience

Everything's bigger in Texas and apparently more convenient. According to the National Association of Convenience Stores, in 2001 Texas had more than 12,300 convenience stores, the most of any state in the U.S. and almost 3,000 more than the No. 2 state, California, which had 9,482.

And what did customers buy most often in 2001? The biggest seller was fuel—gasoline and coffee—but customers also were thirsty for bottled water, milk and cold medicine.

State	Number of stores	Billions of gas sold annually	Cups of coffee sold per day
Texas	12,331	12,974	1,145,348
California	9,482	11,970	890,723
Florida	7,376	7,597	685,110
North Carolina	4,892	5,250	454,357
New York	4,752	3,208	447,353
Georgia	4,677	5,248	437,417
Ohio	4,565	4,328	424,014
Michigan	3,952	3,415	367,076
Pennsylvania	3,866	3,416	359,086
Illinois	3,848	3,669	357,416

Justice of Peace Court Summary

The following is a summary of cases filed and fines and bonds set by Judge Melba Crutcher, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1.

Cases filed:

- 47 traffic cases
- 1 - class B misdemeanor
- 1 - failure to identify-class C
- 2 - public intoxication
- 8 - felony cases filed
- 1 - issuance of bad check filed

Bonds set:

- possession of controlled substance - \$5000.00
- assault causing bodily injury to a family member-\$1,500
- failure to identify-\$200
- false report to a peace officer-\$500
- aggravated perjury-\$5,000
- forgery-\$5,000
- 2 - driving while intoxicated-1st-\$1,000
- 2 - fugitive from justice-\$5,000
- cash bond
- violate promise to appear-\$250
- bench warrant/burglary of habitation-\$1,500
- 3 - fugitive from justice-Alabama-bond denied
- hinder apprehension/prosecution-\$2,000
- fugitive from justice-\$25,000
- 4 - motion to revoke probation/DWI-held until hearing
- driving while intoxicated-2nd-\$1,500
- bond plus interlock device ordered
- possess/transport Anhydrous Ammonia in unapproved container-\$6,000
- bond forfeiture/driving while license suspended-\$500
- cash bond
- bail jumping/failure to appear-\$1,000
- bond forfeiture/possession of controlled substance-\$3,000
- engaging in organized criminal activity-\$1,000
- manufacture/deliver controlled substance-\$1,000
- burglary of a building-\$1,500
- assault causing bodily injury-\$1,000

On The ROAD Again

Texas boasts almost 79,300 miles of state maintained highways, more than any other state. But after decades of increasing population, border trade, tourism and urban sprawl, the state's road networks are aging and overextended, and maintenance costs are rising.

In November 2001, Texas voters approved a proposal, Proposition 15, that amended the state constitution and created a new way to finance the construction of state highways, public toll roads and other public transportation projects. It's called the Texas Mobility Fund (TMF).

For decades, Texas built its state roads on a "pay-as-you-go" basis. The state constitution prohibited borrowing money to build roads, though the state could fund most other major state capital projects, such as prison and state office building construction and the purchase of mainframe computers by issuing bonds and short term notes. Furthermore, cities and counties are allowed to finance local street and road projects with bonds and often do so.

Texas law dedicates a major portion of motor fuels taxes to State Highway Fund 0006 (Fund 6) for building roads. Money in Fund 6 may be appropriated only for specific highway related purposes, though, including operations of the Department of Public Safety. Sources of income for the fund are motor vehicle registration fees, sales tax on lubricants, title fees and federal reimbursements from various sources.

"Pay-as-you-go" worked well for many years, when a larger percentage of the state's budget was spent on transportation projects. According to the Keep Texas Moving Campaign, a group that supports new funding sources for Texas roadway construction and maintenance, in the 1960s, a third of state expenditures was spent on roads. In the 2002-03 biennium, the funds available for highway construction amount to 5.2 percent of the total state budget.

The Texas Department of Trans-

portation (TxDOT) spent more than \$3 billion on highway design, research and construction, and more than \$1 billion on highway maintenance in fiscal 2001.

Nevertheless, under current highway construction funding provisions, the Texas Department of Transportation can take only about 36 percent of needed highway construction projects each year. A 2001 report by The Perryman Group contends that this building backlog contributes to pollution and congestion in metropolitan areas and threatens the economic viability of many rural areas.

Keep Texas Moving expects a 45 to 50 percent increase in congestion over the next 15 to 20 years to increase pollution.

"Traffic congestion is a huge factor in air pollution," says Elizabeth Christian, a spokesperson for Keep Texas Moving. "An automobile moving down the highway is an efficient machine; a vehicle sitting in traffic contributes heavily to particulate air pollution."

The Texas Mobility Fund and the ability to borrow money will work together to supplement federal and state highway revenue. When the state wants to fund a transportation project, the Texas Transportation Commission will approve a bond for that purpose, and the state will pay back the loan using money in the Texas Mobility Fund.

Proponents say the fund not only will provide new resources to build better roads at a much faster pace, but it will provide a way to better manage the funds it already has.

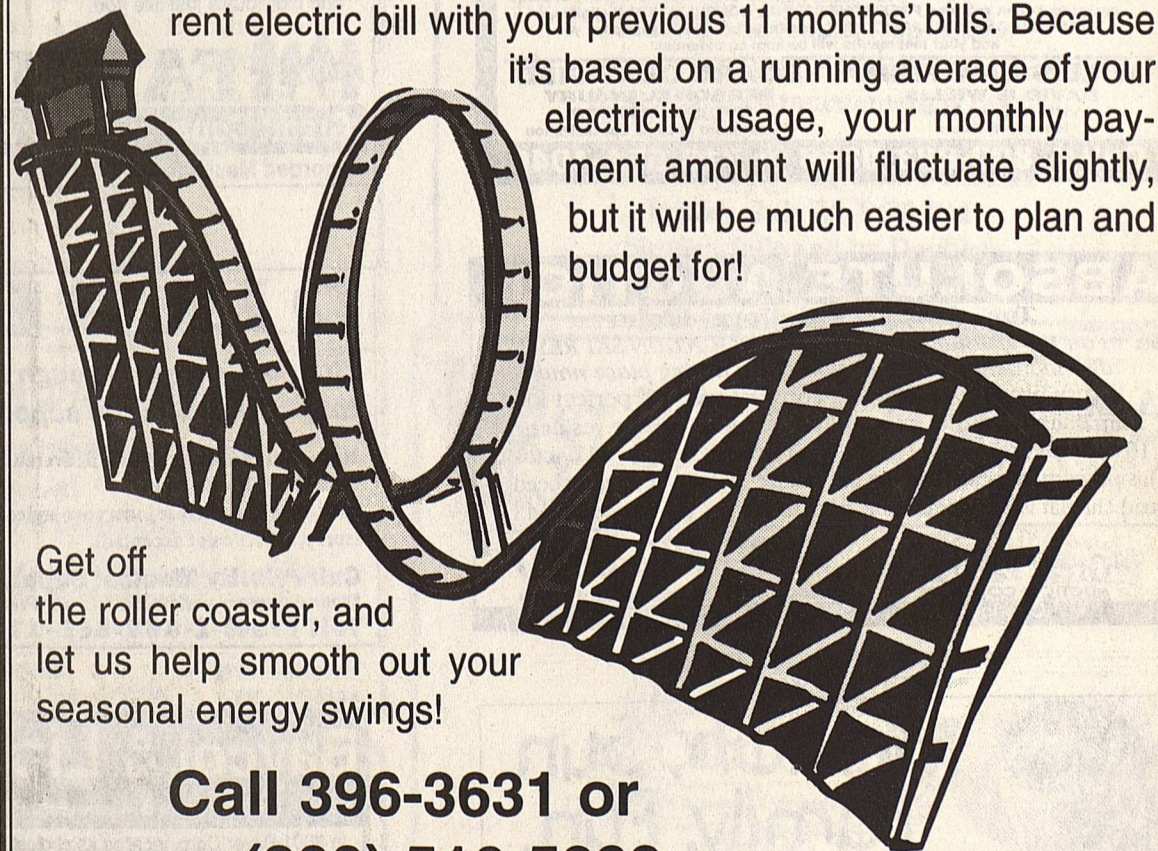
Opponents say paying the debt service, the principal and interest that a borrower must pay on a loan and other costs associated with borrowing money and issuing bonds would make highways more expensive in the long run and amounts to little more than just reallocating current funds.

Before a bond can be issued, the TMF must contain 110 percent of the money necessary to pay debt service on the loan.

Levelized Budget Payment Plan Offers Smoother Ride!

Sure, a roller coaster is fun to ride — But it's no way to manage your energy bill!

The Levelized Budget Payment Plan can help take the bumps out of your month-to-month energy costs by averaging your current electric bill with your previous 11 months' bills. Because it's based on a running average of your electricity usage, your monthly payment amount will fluctuate slightly, but it will be much easier to plan and budget for!

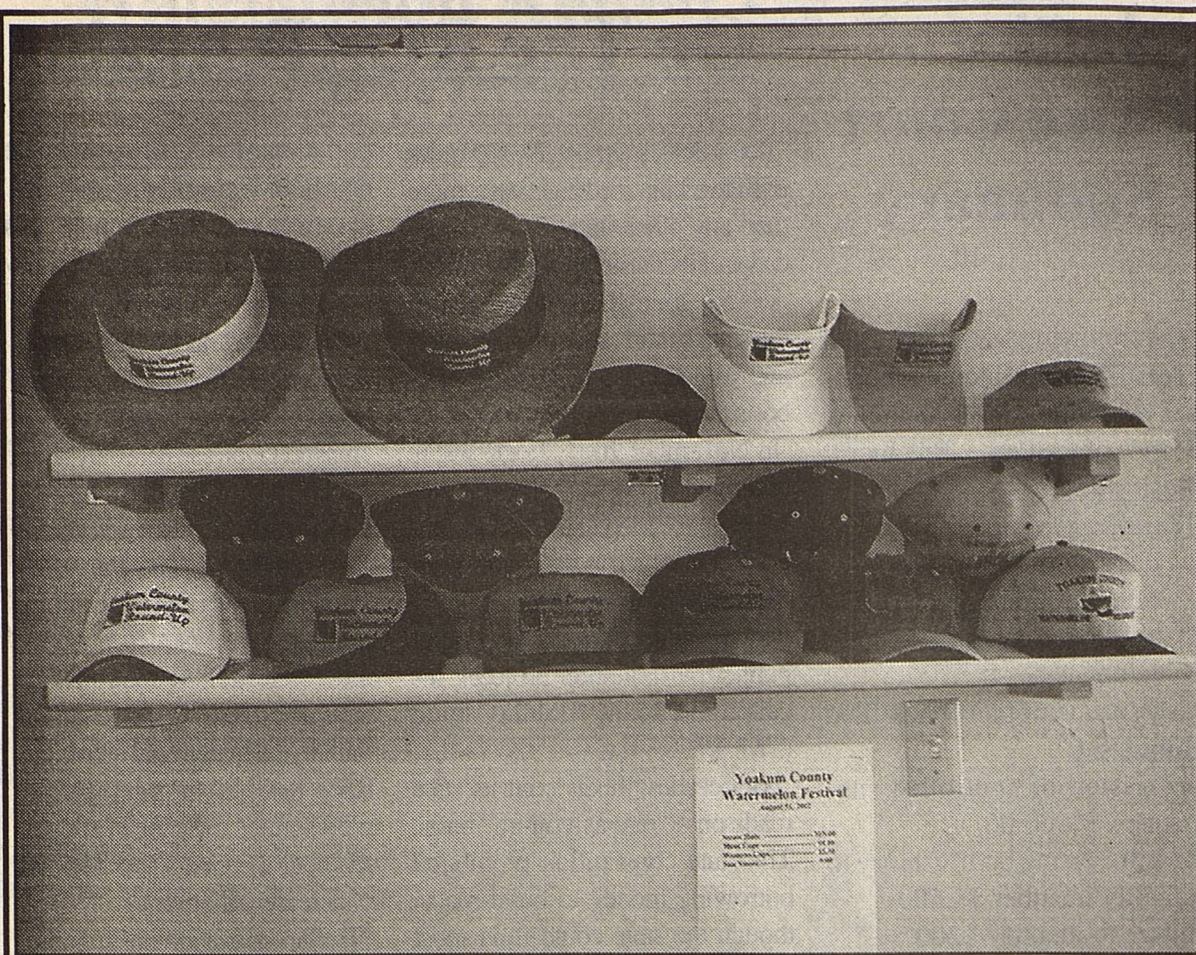


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for more information.

Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc.



This display of the 2002 Watermelon Round Up merchandise, including straw hats, golf caps and sun visors is on display at Agro Distribution. More merchandise may be found at the County Clerk Office, the local library and the Denver City Library. Hats are \$15, caps \$10, women's caps \$12.50, sun visors \$9. Tee-shirts available later

Students From Y.C. Make Honor Roll

Ten Yoakum County students were listed on the spring honor rolls at Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

The President's List is for students who earned a 4.0 grade point average while enrolled in 12 or more qualifying semester hours, while the Dean's List contained those with a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.9.

Making the President's List from Plains was Krystle LaShaye Blundell, a sophomore in Communications Studies.

Denver Citians on the President's List were Dustin Eudene Cummings, a freshman in Petroleum Engineering; James David Kelly, a senior in Psychology, and Kellie Lynn Kelly, a junior in Early Childhood.

The Dean's List included Sommer Rhea Johnson, a se-

nior in Exercise & Sports Sciences, and Anne Charie Palmer, a sophomore in COBA, both from Plains.

Students from Denver City on the Dean's List included Jerrod Ellis Eiman, a senior in Management Info Systems; Michelle Denise Williams, a sophomore in COBA; Amy Kristin Risley, a senior in General Business, and Jeremy Randal Gooch, a junior in Restaurant, Hotel, Inst. Management.

The Teaching Airplane

Boeing has unveiled an airplane full of high-tech gadgetry aimed at enhancing the safety of commercial air travel. But it won't be landing at the local airport and unloading passengers any time soon. Instead, it is destined for a career as a teaching and demonstration platform.

Dubbed the Technology Demonstrator airplane, the Boeing 737-900 is loaded with new technologies for enhancing the safety and efficiency of

Boeing's fleet of planes. One of the new systems is aimed at reducing noise over residential communities as airplanes take off. The Quiet Climb System automatically adjusts engine thrust to reduce noise over sensitive areas.

The Technology Demonstrator also carries the Enhanced Vision System, which enables pilots to see obstacles in their flight path at night or during inclement weather when visibility is reduced. Another safety enhancing feature onboard the Demonstrator is the Vertical Situation Display, which can help pilots see the terrain in a vertical profile and also enables them to see exactly what corrections are necessary to avoid it.

The Technology Demonstrator was unveiled in March 2002 and will be used to demonstrate the value of the technologies to government agencies, the airline industry and the media. The Technology Demonstrator model is a 737, but according to Boeing the company is committed to providing these technologies across its entire line of commercial aircraft.

THC offers educational summer vacations

If fighting crowds at the local theme park isn't your idea of a dream vacation, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) offers an alternative idea.

Before you take your summer vacation, call the THC for free travelguides to heritage and cultural destinations around Texas that inspire and educate.

"These driving trails guide visitors through such places as the Texas Forts Trail Region where travelers experience first hand the flavor of the western frontier, or Los Caminos del Rio, which has Spanish Colonial villages, unique architecture and natural beauty," said Janie Headrick, director of the THC's heritage tourism program.

The THC works to protect, preserve and promote historic and cultural resources across the state by offering free travel guides that highlight Texas' rich heritage. These brochures show case one of a kind festivals, historic sites, shopping and Texas cuisine. They give families and individuals a valuable opportunity to see up close what makes the state special. The THC offers six themed

travel guides - *Texas Forts trail Region, Texas Independence*

Trail Region, Texas Forest

Trail Region, African Americans in Texas, Texas in The

Civil War, and Los Caminos del

Rio-Legacies of the Border-

lands. To request a free copy of any of the brochures, visit www.thc.state.tx.us, call 512-463-6255, or email thc@thc.state.tx.us.

The Texas Historical Commission is the state agency for historical preservation. The agency administers a variety of programs to preserve the archeological, historical and cultural resources of Texas.

The Texas Baby Boomers

By now, it's a familiar metaphor; like a tidal wave, the Baby Boomers are rolling through each stage of life and changing the social and economic aspects of life at that stage. The first currents of that great wave will soon begin changing how we grow old in Texas. More than 5.6 million "

Baby Boom Texans" (born between 1946-1964) will reach age 60 beginning in 2006.

Average Age: 44	
Female 47%	Male 53%
Race	
Anglo	69%
Hispanic	19%
Black	10%
Other	2%
Family	
Married	67%
Divorced-Separated	22%
Never married	8%
Widowed	3%
Average number of children:	2.65
Education	
College or beyond	41%
Some college	31%
High school	22%
Less than high school	6%
Employment	
Employed full time	73%
Employed part time	8%
Disabled	4%
Not in the workforce	19%
Home ownership	78%

Boomer attitudes toward retirement and old age:

79% were not frightened of growing old

61% indicated not having enough money during retirement was a primary concern

41% were concerned they would outlive their retirement savings

40% worried they would not be able to afford to retire

94% expressed confidence in their ability to adequately prepare for retirement

3% anticipated relying on their families during their retirement

45% will rely on Social Security for retirement income

26% stated they would retire from their current jobs and work full time in other employment

New surface for swift PISD athletes



Precinct 4 employee Junior Rivas mans a front end loader scraping up old asphalt on the Plains ISD running track. After 20 years of excellent service, the old track deteriorated to the point it had to be replaced. Contractors are scheduled to start laying the new surface within a few days.

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Asian Cosmetic Surgery Breaks From Caucasian Mold

Until recently, Asian-Americans considering plastic surgery encountered a one size fits all world, dominated by surgeons who catered primarily to Caucasians.

"Twenty years ago if an Asian woman went to a plastic surgeon or an ear, nose and throat specialist for a nose job, she would probably end up having a Caucasian nose," said Dr. Tue Anh Dinh, an assistant professor of surgery in the division of plastic surgery at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

That's beginning to change as the United States' Asian population continues to grow and Asians like Charlie's Angles' Lucy Liu set new standards for female beauty.

"Now patients want to look better and younger, but still look Asian," he said.

Dinh, a Vietnamese American, is specially trained to perform cosmetic surgery on ethnic groups including Asians, Hispanics and African Americans. While the basic procedures are the same across groups, each ethnicity requires a specialized approach.

Asian skin is more sensitive to scarring than Caucasian skin, and surgery often leaves behind a raised, red welt. To prevent permanent scarring, Dinh treats the site of the scar two to three weeks after surgery with lasers. On laser decreases blood flowing to the scar, another resur-

faces the area of the scar-smoothing it out. If the skin still shows signs of scarring, Dinh will inject the area with steroids.

Common procedures like nose and eye jobs, and even breast augmentation, require a special touch when performed on Asian patients. Creating a more refined eyelid, with an eyelid crease, is a common procedure. Most Caucasian eyes have eyelids with double or triple creases in the eyelid, while many Asians have only one faint crease, or no crease at all.

"The challenge is to create a crease and still achieve a look that's Asian," Dinh said. "To do that you have to make the crease close to the margin of the eyelid, a technique I learned in training."

Breast augmentation follows closely in popularity. Since Asian women are smaller, they require smaller breast implants to look proportional. In his initial consultation with patients, Dinh carefully discusses the look the patient hopes to achieve so that the result is as natural as possible.

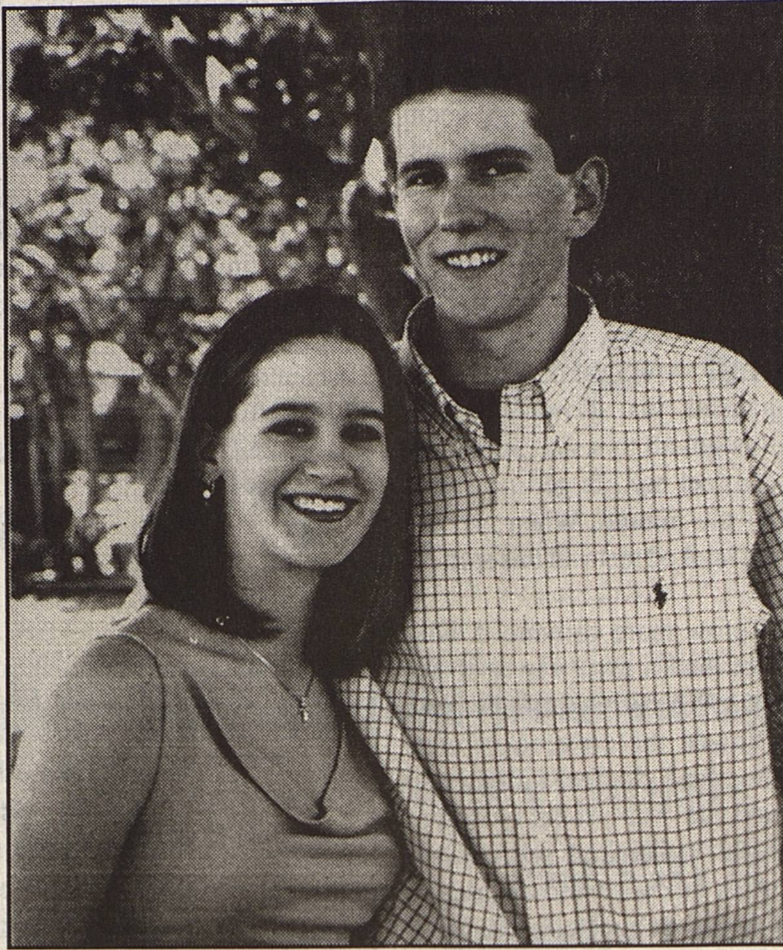
"My philosophy is to make my patients look younger and better, but I certainly don't want them to look completely different," Dinh said. "I encourage my patients to stay close to their ethnic roots when making aesthetic changes."

Good Nutrition Boosts Energy Level

Adopting proper eating habits is the best way to recharge your battery. "The problem is usually poor nutrition," said Dr. Ken Goodrick, an associate professor of family and community medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. "Not eating enough, eating too much fat or not drinking enough water can cause a person to feel fatigued," Goodrick said. "Caffeine abuse may also cause tiredness."

Goodrick recommends following a well balanced diet that provides no more than 30 percent of total calories from fat. A healthy eating plan also includes five or more servings of fruits and vegetables and at least eight glasses of water per day.

Wedding Plans Announced



Chris and Becky Winn wish to announce the marriage of their daughter, Mackenzie Nicole Winn, to Dustin Ty Six, son of Gary and Kathy Six, on July 20, 2002.

"Click It or Ticket" Results Exceed Goal in Key Markets

Texans seem to be getting the "Click It or Ticket" message. For the first time since Texas' safety belt law went on the books in 1985, seat belt use in the state's urban areas has topped 85 percent, the Texas Department of Transportation announced.

The traffic survey results showing that more Texans are buckling up came less than a month after TxDOT, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration launched the state's largest ever public education campaign and seat belt enforcement crackdown.

For a two week period, from May 20 to June 2, an unprecedented barrage of TV and radio commercials, billboards and movie theater slides warned Texans to buckle up or face hefty fines. Thousands of extra law enforcement officers patrolled Texas streets and highways to locate and ticket seat belt violators.

"Our efforts paid off, and we're delighted that so many more Texans got the message to buckle up," said Sue Bryant, TxDOT traffic safety director. "In cities with heavy 'Click It or Ticket' advertising and stepped up law enforcement, we saw significant increases in the number of drivers and passengers using their safety belts."

In 10 Texas cities, observational studies conducted by the Texas Transportation Institute indicated a safety belt compliance rate of more than 86 percent, up from 80 percent before the campaign was launched. The compliance rate among drivers was 87 percent, and passengers buckled up at a rate of 83 percent.

"If we can maintain at least an 85 percent safety belt use rate statewide throughout the year, we save an additional 241 lives and prevent thousands of injuries every year in Texas," Bryant said.

Not all motorists heeded the 'Click It or Ticket' message. State troopers, police officers and sheriff's deputies issued more than 61,000 citations for seat belt violations during the special enforcement period. Officers also recovered 45 stolen vehicles, arrested 988 drunk drivers and apprehended 1,110 fugitives.

The Texas Longhorn Steer

The Texas steer is armed with horns at one end and hooves at the other, and when he swings in a circle, horns and hooves, hooves and horns are evenly distributed. When on a rampage he asks no favors, and grants none. Small boys and patriarchs stand an even show, if they stand at all in his presence. He can keep seven young boys and one washerwoman, with all her equipments, flying in the air at one time, then find time to look for other game. His resources, like his leaping, are boundless.

"Let us steer clear of the Texas steer

When he is inclined to run, unless we are balls out of a gun, and he is far in the rear."

The Texas News, December, 1878

State Launches "Runaway and Homeless Youth Awareness Week"

On June 10, the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (PRS) launched a statewide media campaign with the Texas Runaway Hotline to reach as many runaways, troubled youth and families as possible, according to Hotline Director, Jay Smith. The Hotline's toll free telephone number is 1-888-580-HELP (4357).

In order to raise public awareness about the problem, Governor Rick Perry has proclaimed the week of June 10-16 "Runaway and Homeless Youth Awareness Week" in Texas.

"Our campaign begins this week and continues throughout the summer months when most youths are out of school," state Smith. The hotline's campaign includes more than 150,000 pieces of prevention materials,

billboards, bus placards, and new public service announcements for television and radio entitled "World Turning", which are directed toward troubled youth and families who may be in need of hotline services.

"In Texas, as estimated 100,000 children ages 7 to 17 run away annually," Smith said. "Whether they are in large cities or small towns, runaway youths are vulnerable to a wide variety of crimes including assault and sexual exploitation." Hotline staff and volunteers provide callers with crisis intervention, telephone counseling and information and referral services.

For additional information about the Texas Runaway Hotline, call the hotline's toll free telephone number or visit www.texasrunaway.org.

Climbing Timber

The "Piney Woods" of East Texas did not get its name by accident. Timber and logging related industry have long been drivers of the region's economy. According to many industry analysts, however, the national timber market is, like many others in the U.S. going through a down cycle. Edward H. Barron, associate director of Forest Resource Development with the Texas Forest Service says that is true, but adds it's poised to rebound.

"Timber prices are down," Barron says. "Our industry has gone through some painful adjustments, and we have seen some local economies hurt by mill closings, but changes were inevitable."

He adds that Texas enjoys a large and quickly expanding market for paper and solid wood products, and has the modern infrastructure to support it.

"Today, most of the old, inefficient mills are gone. The capacity is more in balance with demand, and our mills now are typically world-class operations," says Barron. "Our timber base is the most productive in any time in recent history. We fully expect our industry to come out of the current recession well equipped to take advantage of strong markets in Texas."

There is room for expansion. According to Barron, Texas produces only about 25 percent of the lumber consumed in the state and about the same percentage of other paper and wood products.

2002 Youth Center Events

Join Us For The Fun!

Outdoor Pool Party

Friday, June 28, grades 7 thru 12
8 PM - 11 PM

Outdoor Pool Party

Friday, July 19, grades 7 thru 12
8 PM - 11 PM

Pool Tournament, grades 7 thru 12,
Friday, July 26

Students and Adult, trophies for
1st, 2nd, 3rd place
8:30 PM until tournament is over

Pool Tournament, grades 7 thru 12
Friday, July 26, 8:30 PM
Singles, followed by Doubles
1st, 2nd, 3rd place trophies

Bridal Shower

honoring

Miss Mackenzie Winn

Bride Elect of

Dustin Six

Sunday, June 30, 2002

2:00 - 3:30 PM in the home of

Mrs Bonnie Earnest

1102 4th, Plains, Texas

Selections:

Lubbock - Target, Dillard's

Brownfield - Nelson's

Plains - Bayer's

First United Methodist Church

1202 Avenue G - Plains, Tx.
456-3727



Sunday Schedule

Sunday School - 9:45 am
Morning Worship - 10:45 am
Evening Worship - 6:00 pm

Wednesday Connection
Food, Fellowship & Study
5:30-7:30 pm

Other Opportunities

Fitness/Exercise Class - 5:30-6:30 pm
Tuesdays & Thursdays

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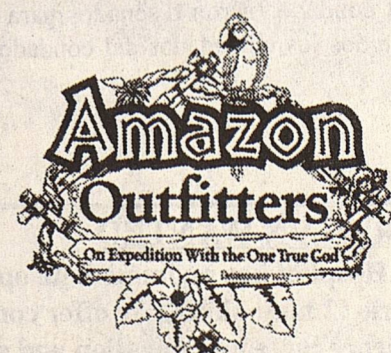
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Children's Vacation Bible
School July 7 - 11!

From The Hack

Apology time - in this column last week I referred to a very, very large farmer in the Tokio area who had a daughter graduating LAST year. Apologies here - not because of the LARGE farmer, but the fact his daughter doesn't graduate until 2003!

When last week we wrote the article about our disaster relief volunteers, still frantically feeding food to the increasing number of fire fighters and people forced from their homes, I received a phone call from a lady who mumbled something I didn't quite catch, than she said, "Do you know you have some of your Baptist and other Plains people in Colorado helping feed thousands of people?"

I answered, "Yes, mam, I do, in fact, we just finished mailing our edition with a feature story about our people in Colorado."

There was a moments silence, and she finally gasped, "you mean you have the story before the Baptist General Convention of Texas, here in San Antonio?" Man, I played it COOL! "Sure I do. We have dozens of Plains people up there, and we're in touch with them everyday."

Another long pause, and she quietly said, "Your folks are a long way in front of mine. Would you please send me a copy of the paper you wrote this in?"

Made me feel good. Should make all our people, now rotating shifts up there regularly, feel good too. Lots of good people are watching you.

Listening to a recent Jane Prince Jones radio talk show on KFYO recently (Yes, I know, I should find something better to do with my time), I heard a call-in health specialist report one of the major causes of impotency in males is - gasp! - consumption of too much PEANUT BUTTER!

Yes, too much Skippy, Jiff or Peter Pan is causing serious problems for untold numbers of males. The stuff contains far too much hydrogenated fat, and causes, well, you know what he meant.

I was immediately and severely shaken at this news. You see, I have been a peanut butter glutton since I was in kindergarten. I still like to sneak into the kitchen when I waken around 2 - 3 AM and smear about a quarter inch of the stuff on bread and wash it down with cold milk.

I rushed home with the horrifying news and reported same to the Bride. "Do you know what this means," I shouted, "It means I've got to give up Peter Pan!"

"Why?" she queried. "At your age, it doesn't make any difference if you eat five pounds of the stuff everyday. It's not going to make a tiny bit of difference in our lives."

I confess, I felt immense relief, but a tinge of remorse, too. I knew she was stating the truth.

I recently read a fascinating short item about how high-tech is (or will) be making everyday life much easier for us. With voice-control and voice-recognition software, people can command many appliances to do their things. Like commanding the toaster to make your bread light or dark brown, turn on the TV, brew coffee, record on a VCR, etc.

When I reported all this electronic wizardry to the Bride, she shouted, "Oh, GOOODDDYY! I want one of the gizmos installed on the

commode, and while you're still standing there, tell you "Be sure you flush me, and lower my lid!" She added, "I would also like one of them hooked to all the cabinet doors, ordering you to close them, and of course, we need them installed outside the house at all the entry doors, and I'd like for them to shout, 'WIPE YOUR FEET, MUSH HEAD!'. She paused, just glowing as she thought all this, and added, "I can feel my life getting easier by the minute. When can we get hooked up to all this stuff.?"

I grow more convinced daily God had a great sense of humor. Why else would he have allowed the creation of warthogs and giraffes? I might also add, he was probably downright hysterical with mirth when he conceived the idea of Sunday School classes, especially if his original idea was a blue-print for the one Bride and I attend Sunday AMs.

Take an average 15-20 males and females of ages ranging from their forties to - well, considerably more than forty, add weekly lesson publications, a dedicated teacher who as a sideline raises pumpkins, throw in Biblical stories of demented sinners and persecuted saints, add the complex, often bizarre opinions of those fellow classmates, and what do you have? Biblical chaos, and in all probability, a chuckling God looking down from above.

Our instructor, bless his heart, often makes the mistake of asking the class, "What's your opinion about this?", and at the same moment realizes his mistake - the classroom erupts with at least eleven loud opinions, none of which could possibly be proven.

Lest you think I am poking fun at the class, students or teacher, let me assure you, I thoroughly enjoy the sessions. Some well meaning classmate will offer up a tidbit of Biblical wisdom, and I find my self furiously thumbing through the Good Book, trying to find the Book of Amos, knowing it has to be somewhere between Genesis and Luke. A discussion once took place about whether, when the Bible mentions drinking wine, does it really mean, you know, drinking WINE, or was it actually just grape juice? A few of the more conservative ladies suggested it just had to

be unfermented grape juice.... immediately the more liberal students chorused, "Then why is the Book full of stuff about people getting drunk when they drank wine?" Those are lively discussions, intellectual sessions, inspiring moments, and I am getting much swifter in my efforts to locate the Book of Amos.

Last Sunday's lesson theme was, PERSEVERANCE. There was

lively discussion about what the word means; some said bull-headedness, others, patience in the face of adversity, and one desperate male, obviously without a clue, answered, "keep arguing even when you know you're wrong!" Being the mild mannered, easy to please personality I am, I immediately thought of what it means in our household - when the Bride decides a course of action she decides I should follow,

for whatever worthwhile purpose in her opinion, regardless of mine, I guarantee you, she is PERSEVERING!

One of the more mild mannered in the class offered, an example of perseverance in his household is when the wife and all the kids demanded to be taken to Six Flags, knowing he can't afford it. "Naturally we go, but I see we stay in Motel 6. That's perseverance."



COWGIRL SPORTS CAMP



When: July 22 - 25

Time: 9:00 - 12:00 Volleyball

12:00 - 1:00 *Lunch

1:00 - 4:00 Basketball

* Bring your sack lunch and eat with us! Also, feel free to come eat with your athlete and/or pick them up for lunch.

For Who: Girls entering the 3rd grade - 8th grade
Cost: \$10

(Please make checks payable to Plains I.S.D.)

Where: Plains High School Gym

Questions: Please contact Coach Lusk at 456 - 2118

If you have not pre-registered, you can register on July 22nd from 8:30 - 9:00.

REGISTRATION FORM:

Name: _____

Age: _____

Grade (Fall 2002): _____

T-shirt Size: _____

(Please indicate with "Y" for Youth and "A" for Adult)

In case of an emergency, please notify:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Waiver of Claims:

I give my child, _____, permission to attend Plains Cowgirl Sports Camp. I will not hold the camp director, camp staff, or the school district at the campsite responsible for any accidents, injuries, or lost items.

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____

Date: _____

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGES IN ELECTION PRECINCTS

Pursuant to # 42.035, Texas Election Code, The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County, Texas, herein provides notice of changes in County political boundaries as adopted by the Commissioners Court, and as precleared by the United States Department of Justice on the 24th day of April 2002.

Interested individuals may review the adopted changes in the office of the County Clerk during regular business hours. The changes in county voting precincts were necessitated by redistricting of County Court precincts in compliance with the United States Constitution and 42 U.S.C #1973, also known as the Voting Rights Act, following the release of 2000 Census data. Changes in county election precincts were designed to achieve numerical balance between the four commissioner court precincts, and to insure the voting rights of all citizens of Yoakum County, Texas

Deborah L. Rushing,
County Clerk

AVISO PUBLICO DE CAMBIOS EN ELECCION RECINTOS

Conforme a #52.035, Tejas Eleccion Codigo, la Corte de Comisario, Condado Yoakum, Texas aviso cambios en las fronteras politicas de condados segun se adopto por la corte de comisario y aprobado (precleared) por Estado Unidos Ministerio Justicia el 24th de Abril, 2002. Los individuos interesados pueden reparar los cambios adoptados en la oficina del oficial Condado (County Clerk) durante horas de oficina regulares. Los cambios en recintos de la voting del condado fueron hechos necesario por cambios de los recintos de comisiones del condado en conformidad con la constitucion de Estados Unidos y 42 U.S.C/ #1973, tambien sabido como Derechos Al Voto, despues del desblquear do los datos 2000 de censo. Cambios en eleccion recintos del condado fueron disenados para alcanzar los derechos al voto de todos los ciudadanos del condado Yoakum de Tejas.

Deborah L. Rushing
Oficial de Condado
(County Clerk)

RN/LVN WANTED

Yoakum County Hospital has an immediate opening for a RN/LVN to work 12 hour shifts. We offer competitive wages with experience increases, vacation and sick leave, free health insurance, and a retirement plan. Interested individuals should contact Nancy Chamberlain or Joyce Tedford, Yoakum County Hospital, 412 Mustang Avenue, Denver City, Texas 79323, 806-592-2121. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

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