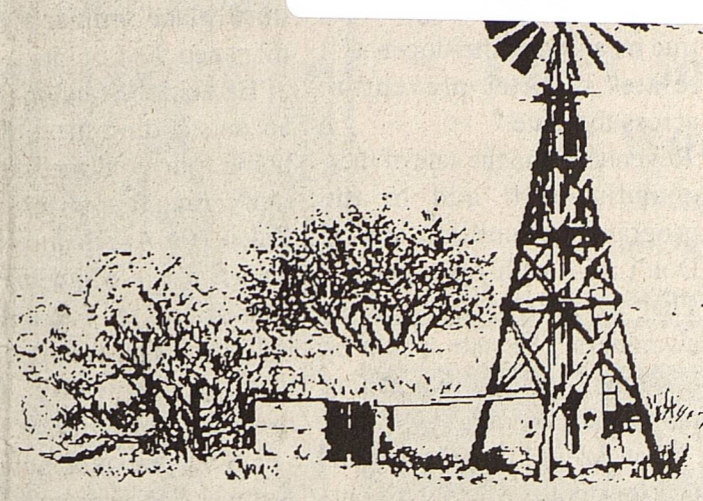


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Cowboy Country News

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

Volume XI, Issue 33, April 27, 2005



Court Settles Routine Business Matters

In the April 25 session of Commissioners Court, a number of routine issues were approved. County Clerk Debbie Spears requested approval for labor repairs to her computer hard drive. The \$337.50 bill was approved for payment.

Pct. 1 Justice of Peace Melba Crutcher requested approval of the purchase of four computers, two for her office and two for the Pct 2 office in Denver City. It was recently learned the old, personal style computers in the two offices are not compatible with hardware now required by the state for law enforcement offices. Judge Crutcher had earlier requested and received a \$6000 state grant for the purchase of hard drive equipment mandated by the state.

Yoakum County Hospital Administrator Clay Taylor sought approval of a contract with the G.E. and Siemens corporations covering maintenance on the hospital and West Texas Medical Center ultra-sound systems. The G.E. contract was for \$617 per month, Siemens a \$5,819 annual payment.

Taylor also reported the hospital board had begun a recruiting search for a recruitment search to replace Jo Lena Wall in the Plains Clinic. Her resignation will be effective in May. Taylor said the board had been negotiating with a young man currently living in Gaines County who is seeking help in pursuing a PA license in Midland. Taylor proposed the court agree to allowing the hospital to commit to paying some \$29,000 annually for the three year training, and the student would agree to performing one years PA duties in Yoakum County for a minimum of three years following his medical education.

Lions impressed with scenes and theme of "Shattered Dreams" program

The Lions knew the color photo projections on the screen were staged by PHS students, volunteer emergency workers, law enforcement officers, all taking part in the two day production of "Shattered Dreams", dramatizing the dangers - and horrors - of teenage drinking and driving.

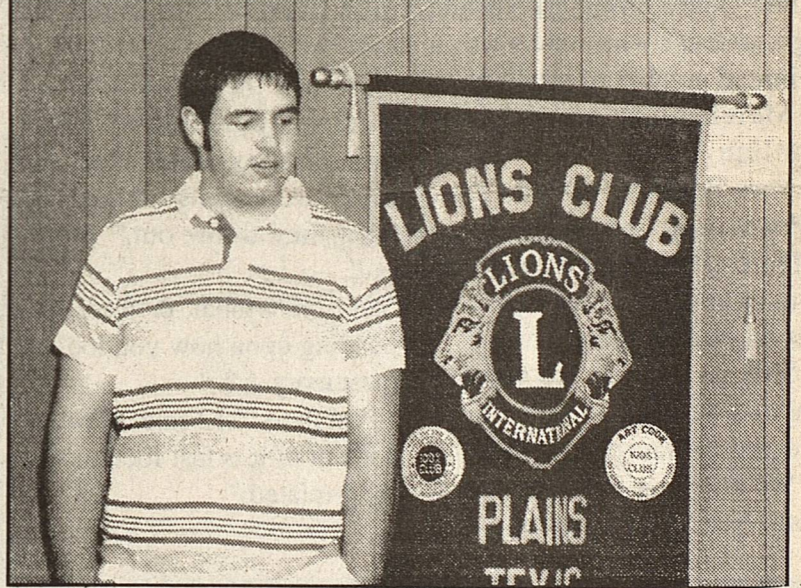
Yet when the meeting room lights were dimmed, and dozens and dozens of photo images appeared on the screen depicting two mangled vehicles, and a number of mangled and bloody teen drivers and their passengers, and then a young girl's body being placed in a rubber bag for a trip to the morgue, it became reality-check time for most of the entranced Lions - many of them sudden victims of watery eyes and running noses.

Watching the highlights of Shattered Dreams, the very realistic and traumatic production staged by the PHS student Council and co-sponsors Treon Ortega and Melisa Dorsett, was obviously not an easy experience for many of the Lions. Ms. Ortega briefly spoke following viewing the photos, and told the Lions it was emotionally draining for many of the student actors, and equally so for many of their parents, required also to participate in the plot. PHS Senior Brant Huerta attended the club meeting with Ms. Dorsett, and following showing of the screened photos Brant described his experiences as a passenger in the "death car". He would be seriously injured in the staged wreck, and would later 'die' from his injuries.

Brant described a number of humorous events involving student 'victims' at the scene of the wreck, and later as injured passengers taken to Yoakum County Hospital, with most of the mirth created by the hospital emergency room staff, unaware of the injuries non-realities. Huerta said he happened to be lying on an examining table, his leg propped at an unusual angle, and one of the ER nurses looked at him and called out, "Looks like this guy has a dislocated or broken hip, handle him real careful!" The senior student said the second day of the program included a memorial service in the school auditorium, with dead students caskets being brought inside by Mark A. Jones Funeral Directors. "It was a real weird, eerie sensation looking at the casket I was supposed to be in. That service



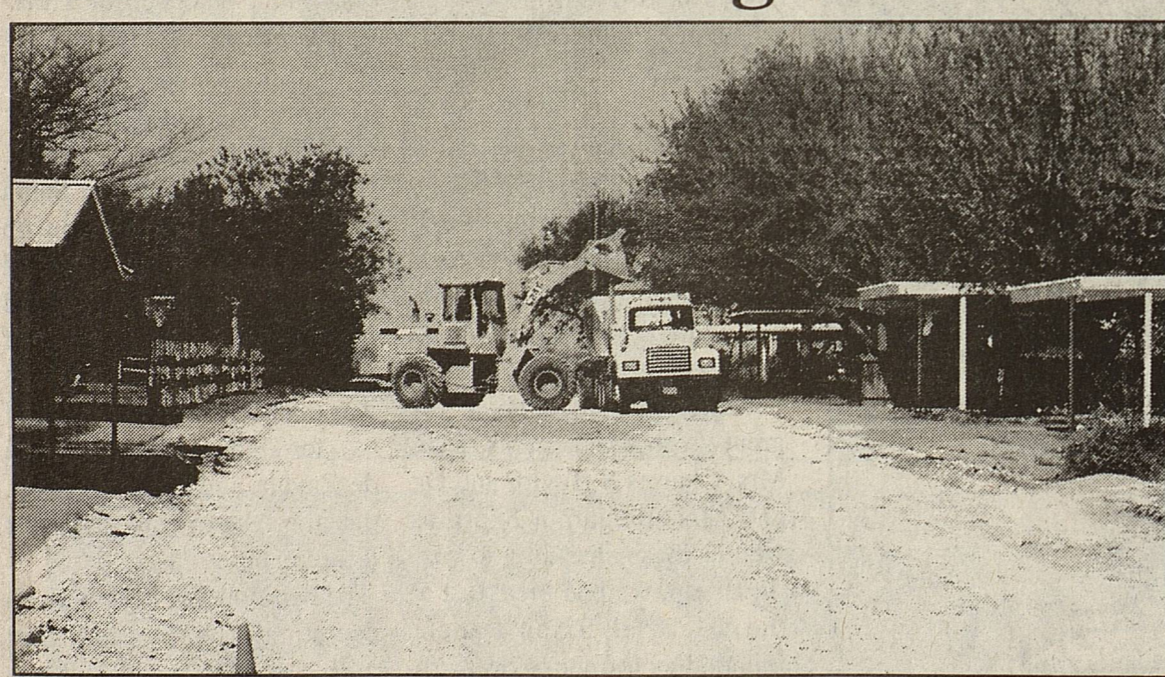
Treon Ortega described efforts of student actors, and volunteer Law Enforcement, EMS, Fire Department, Hospital personnel, and students parents in producing the two day program



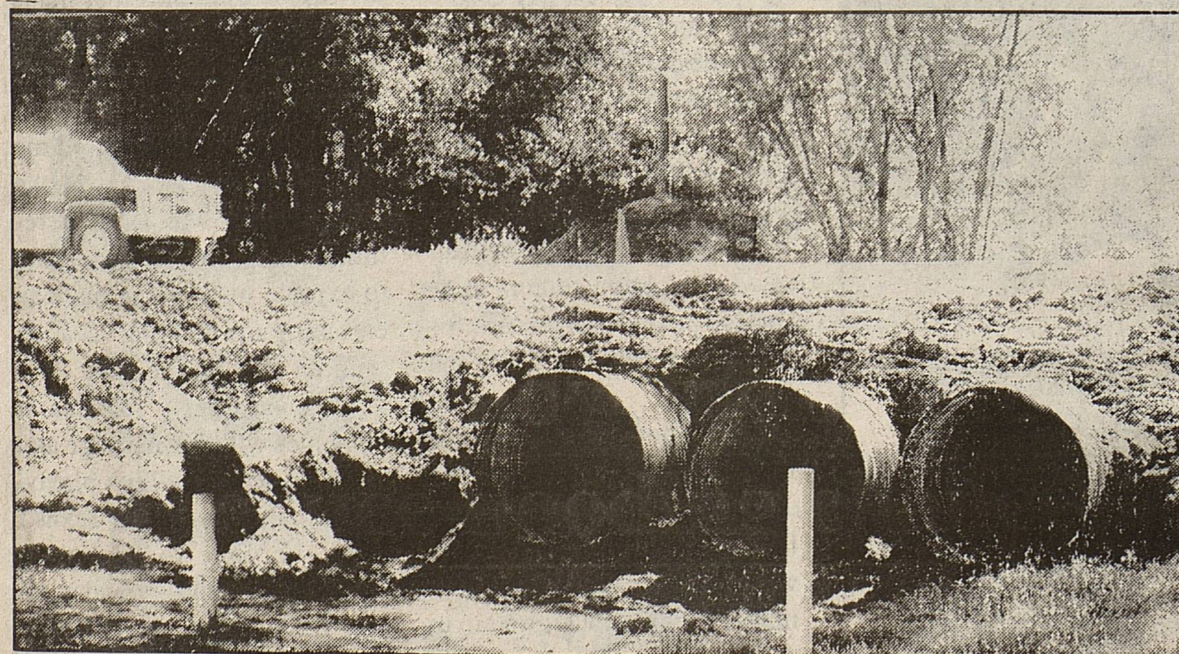
Brant Huerta eloquently described emotions experienced by the students, and their parents, in the very graphic production

was very near to reality for some of us. I now realize." He described how very difficult it had been for his required letter to his father, who was also required to write a final letter to Brant. The young man told the Lions he knew now how deeply the two day performance had touched many of the students, many of them not involved in the actual production - "It really did bring many of us closer, more aware of lives around us." Following the meeting, one of the Lions remarked, dabbing eyes with a kleenex, "I just can't remember an allergy attack this bad!" Ms. Ortega told the club the school plans to restage Shattered Dreams three years from now. "It will give us a completely new group of students to work with and present the message to."

Major roadwork project to reduce flooding chances

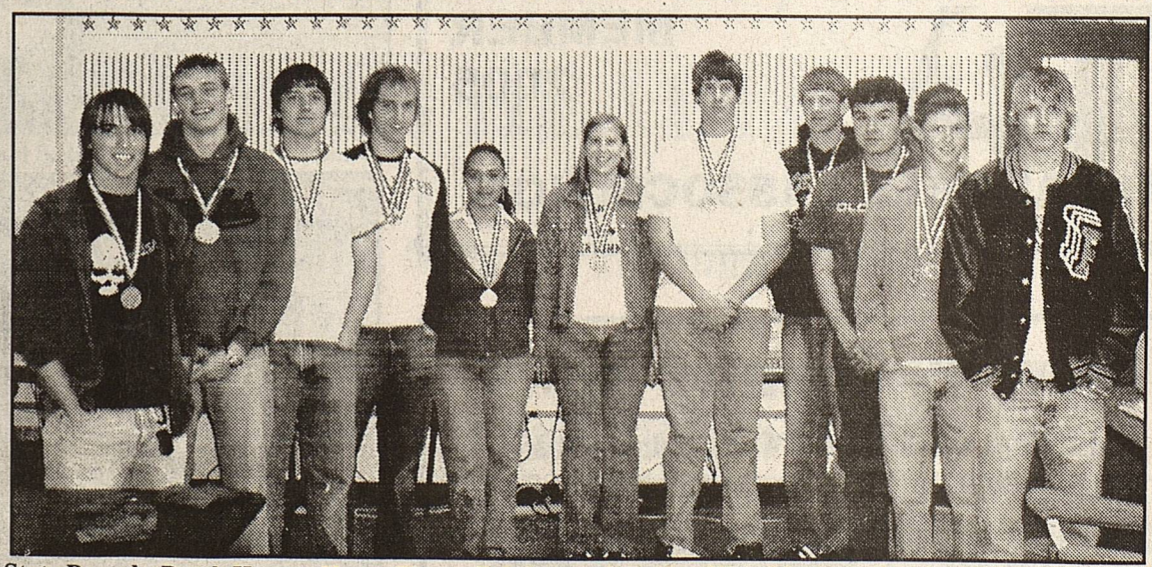


Pct. 3 crews have been busy with road projects in the northwest corner of the town, designed to reduce the risk of flooding experienced in last October's heavy rains. "Borrow ditches" along portions of Airport Road and the north side of First Street have been widened and slanted to better funnel runoff water into Avenue B. A portion of the street is also being lowered to better drain water into the west side of Stanford Park. Crews also lowered the crown, or center section of a portion of 3rd Street, also prone to flooding with heavy rains. On the east side of the park, old 30 inch culverts under Avenue E have been replaced with 48 inch culverts. This should eliminate water backing up in the park and into homes on the north side. Commissioner Powell said when dirt work and the culvert project is finished all roads will be re-sealed and covered with asphalt, probably around April 28



48 inch culverts on east side of Stanford Park

"Five Out Of Seven Wins... That Ain't Bad !!"



State Bound - Breck Hamm, Kerry Sisson, B.J. Lester, Brandon Hise, Maria Andazola, Allison Friensen, Adam McCravey, Blake O'Quinn, Cody Flores, David Alldredge, Evan Cain.

The above headline is not an expression in poor English - it denoted the pride of PHS Principal Steven O'Quinn when he reviewed for CCN the Plains UIL Academic Team's performance in last week's Regional meet at South Plains College, Levelland. In the principal's office are five impressive trophies won by PHS students five times in the last seven years of competition, a couple of times versus much larger 2-A school teams. The Cowboy-Cowgirl academic team was the meet overall winners, scoring 166 points, a very impressive performance.

TURN TO PAGE 2, UIL MEET

"Don't Mess With Texas"

Don't mess with Texas. The four-word, trademark slogan of the state's litter prevention program often doubles as a Lone Star statement of pride.

But the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) hopes Texans and anyone else, for that matter, will make that statement even more loud and clear with an item from the new line of merchandise bearing the Don't mess with Texas logo. "Don't mess with Texas" was stamped onto caps, t-shirts and coffee mugs that went on sale in December 2004. Those were the only three items available in January, and while logo-minded enthusiasts might envision coolers, koozies, umbrellas and countless other future trinkets bearing the brand, the

trying to take advantage of the true meaning of the slogan as it relates to litter prevention across the state."

Revenues from the sale of merchandise will add to the program's \$2 million annual Don't mess with Texas budget. That \$2 million is spent on awareness. The state spends an additional \$35 million picking up litter each year. "That (\$2 million) goes to educate the public, whether it's outdoor ads, television or radio," she said.

Additionally, television stations have granted more than \$120 million in free public service airtime to Don't mess with Texas since 1986, according to Flores-Dollar. All related television public service announce-

FROM PAGE 1,
UIL MEET

considering second place Clarendon had 94 points, and third place winner Channing managed 90.5 points.

PHS senior Brandon Hise had an outstanding meet, bringing home four gold medals for his individual first place wins in Calculator Applications, Computer Science, Mathematics and Number sense. The only other individual student winning gold was senior Cody Flores, medaling in Feature Writing.

PHS team results included; Number Sense- First- Brandon Hise, Kerry Sisson, David Alldredge, Blake O'Quinn. Calculator Applications- First- Brandon Hise, Evan Cain, B.J. Lester, Allison Friesen. Computer Science- First- Brandon Hise, Adam McCravey, Allison Friesen, Kerry Sisson.

Mathematics- First- Brandon Hise, Allison Friesen, David Alldredge, Breck Hamm.

Other individual results included;

Number Sense- David Alldredge 6th, alternate.

Calculator applications- Evan Cain and B.J. Lester, tied 5th, alternates

Computer Science- Adam McCravey 2nd.

Mathematics- Allison Friesen 6th, alternate

Spelling and Vocabulary- Maria Andazola 4th, alternate.

Plains High competed in the 1-A meet with some 80 school districts from a huge area stretching from the northern panhandle to the Mexican border at Presidio and Terlingua .

The top three winners in each category will advance to the big state meet in Austin May 5 - 7.

JP Court Summary

A summary of cases filed and bonds set in Justice Of Peace Court Pct. 1. Judge Melba Crutcher presiding.

Cases filed:
69 Traffic cases
1 Possession drug paraphernalia

1 open container alcohol in vehicle

Bonds Set:

Theft by check, Gaines County- \$1500

DWI- \$1000

Public intoxication- \$500

2- Forgery, financial instrument- Gaines County- \$10,000

Motion to revoke probation- bond denied

Motion of surety- \$2500

Theft of services, over \$20, under \$500- \$500

Hinder apprehension- \$5000

Resisting arrest- \$3500

Bond forfeiture- \$5000 cash bond.

Interfere w/police service animal/injury- \$5000

Assault on public servant- \$6500

Injury to child or elderly- Tom Green Co.- \$15,000

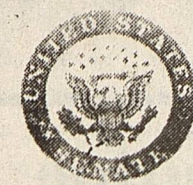
Forgery of government instrument- \$5000

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CAPITOL COMMENT

SENATOR

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON



No matter how often I visit Texas historical sites, I am struck by the fact that I never fail to come away with a new piece of information or insight. We have such a rich past that there is always something else to learn. This was reaffirmed when I recently traveled the length of El Camino Real to celebrate its designation as a National Historic Trail from Milam to Eagle Pass.

El Camino Real de Los Tejas was the 'royal road' established by Spain on the paths established by native Americans centuries earlier. The trail runs over 1,600 miles, from the Louisiana border through Nacogdoches, San Augustine, the Caddo Mounds, Crockett, Madison, Bryan, Caldwell, Lee County, Bastrop, San Marcos, New Braunfels, San Antonio, the San Jose Mission, Atascosa, Pearsall, Carrizo Springs, Eagle Pass, and, finally, to Mexico. 550 miles of the trail run through Texas. Because so much of our history took place on this trail and I did not want this heritage to be lost, I worked long and hard to secure its National Historic Trail designation.

When I returned to the trail to celebrate its historic designation, I learned again that every visit to one of these historic sites yields something new. In Nacogdoches and San Augustine where I have often visited, I learned new facts about my great-great-grandparents Mr. & Mrs. Charles S. Taylor and Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin Sharp as well as those charming towns.

In Bryan, we had breakfast at the Lucky B Bison Ranch, founded by former Texas Agriculture Commissioner Reagan Brown. By raising Bison and Bison hybrids, called 'beefalo,' the ranch keeps alive an animal which has been an integral part of America's history.

At San Marcos' Aquarena Springs, I learned new details of this beautiful location. These springs, which have provided fresh water for weary travelers from the dawn of history, lie on an intersection of not one, but two famous trails-El Camino Real and the Chisholm Trail on which cowboys drove herds of Texas longhorn north to Kansas. Information centers at the springs provided a lot of information on Texas wildlife and vegetation.

New Braunfels is on the trail. I was always aware of the town's German heritage. It was founded on March 21, 1845, when Nicolaus Zink led a German immigrant wagon train up the Guadalupe River to the ford of the San Antonio-

Nacogdoches road, as that part of El Camino Real was called at the time. What I did not know was that, with over 5,000 German immigrants, New Braunfels was Texas' fourth-largest town in 1850.

New Braunfels' 127-year-old Gruene historic district has played a role in preserving Texas' distinctive music. The Gruene Music Hall holds the distinction of being the oldest continually operating dance hall in Texas. This 6,000-square-foot structure and its high pitched tin roof was revitalized in the mid 1970s and has attracted musical acts including George Strait, Garth Brooks, Willie Nelson, Bo Diddley and Lyle Lovett.

Returning to the Alamo was like visiting an old friend. Almost 290 years ago, the victory of Mexico authorized construction of a mission on El Camino Real. The structure was designed to be both a spiritual and physical refuge in the wilderness north of the Rio Grande and, over time, its strong walls took on the character of a fort.

On February 23, 1836, Col. William B. Travis entered the Alamo with a force that later totaled approximately 187 men. Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna brought 5,000 men up against the old mission and laid siege. Their heroic last stand has fired the imaginations of men and women ever since. It was thanks to the dedication of two far-sighted women, Adina de Zavala and Clara Driscoll, that the Alamo was saved for future generations.

The Mission San Jose with its operating water-powered grist mill is another wonderful historic place; it has been there since the 1700s.

Eagle Pass, where El Camino Real crosses into Mexico, we had an opportunity to meet with Mexican officials and celebrate Texas and Mexico's shared heritage. This crossing of the Rio Grande took its name from the flights of eagles that made their aeries in the ancient pecan trees along the Escondido Creek.

The three-day trip allowed me to meet old friends and make new ones. It was a vivid reminder that Texans who want to explore history can have an enriching and relaxing vacation without leaving the state. It is very rewarding to reacquire ourselves with our heritage and the historic sites which played a role in the creation of Texas I urge everyone to take your families on Texas' royal road and rediscover our colorful past.

Roadside rubbish

More than 1 billion pieces of trash, or 21,000 tons of litter, end up on Texas highways each year.

Road type	Litter items per month, per mile
Interstate highways	2,500
State highways	1,900
US highways	1,000
Farm-to-Market roads	900
Total	6,300

SOURCE: Texas Department of Transportation



agency is taking a cautious approach to sales, said Brenda Flores-Dollar, an information specialist with TxDOT's Travel Division.

"We're taking baby steps right now," She said. "We really didn't know how (sales) would go, so that's why there's only a limited number of products."

Merchandise is available online at <www.dontmesswithtexas.org>. Prices range from \$8 to \$16. Flores-Dollar said the logo has transcended its original purpose, discouraging litter.

"It's so popular for vendors across the state as just a slogan regarding state pride," she said. "We're trying to get the word out about the official logo, and

ments are created by and star Texans.

Tuerff-Davis conducts a second study, Litter Attitudes and Behaviors, via telephone with more than 1,200 Texas residents. It helps determine the most common litter items, she said.

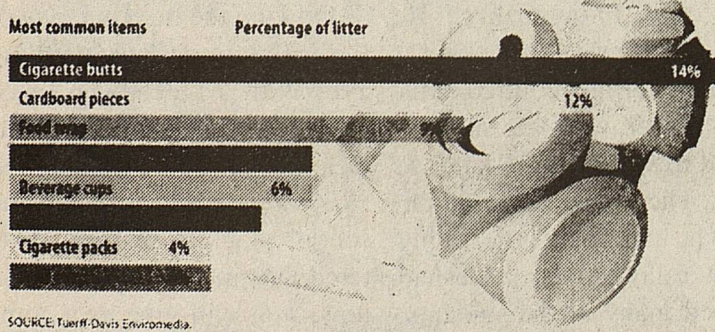
"We ask them questions regarding awareness of Don't mess with Texas, as well as who admits to throwing out litter and what they throw out," Burpo said.

And the winner, or loser, depending upon how you look at the survey, is?

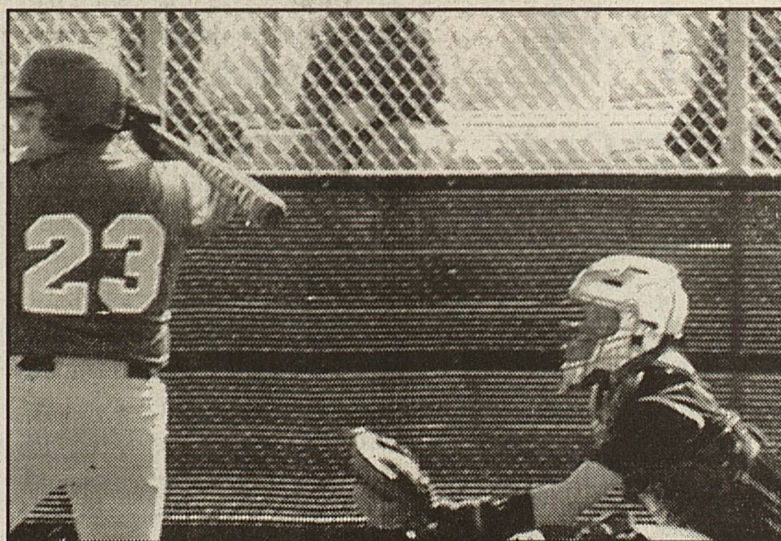
"Fast food," she said. "Twenty percent of it is fast food or fast food-related."

Butts about it

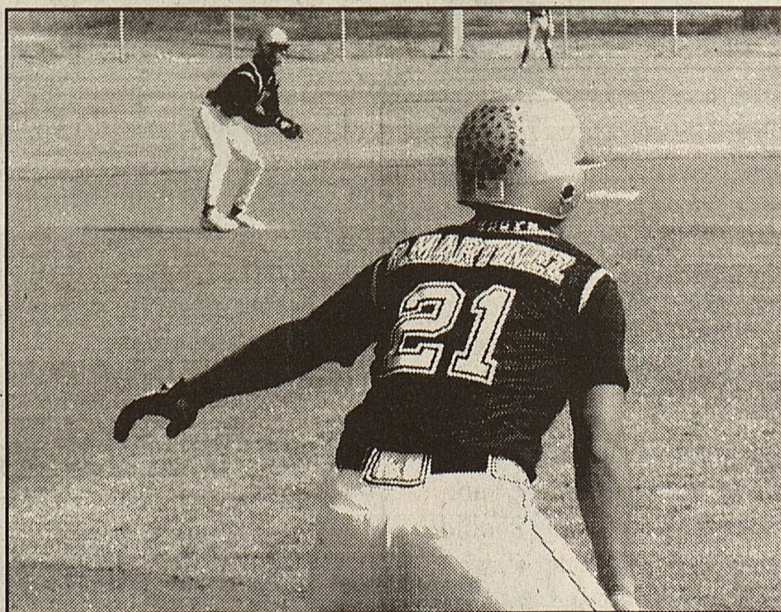
Cigarette butts were the most common single litter item in Tuerff-Davis' 2001 litter study. The butts made up about 14 percent of all the trash in the study. Forty percent of the items were categorized as "other."



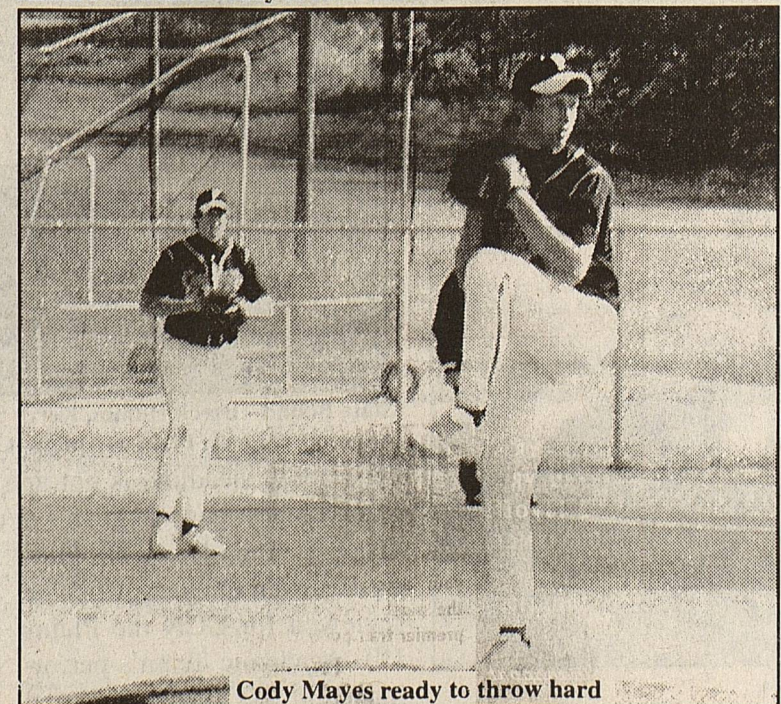
SOURCE: Tuerff-Davis Environmental



Landon Craft ready to take pitch



Ramiro Martinez ready to steal home



Cody Mayes ready to throw hard

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Islam America's New Challenge

** The following article was written by W.H. Graham, writer emeritus for the Lovington Leader, and offers a view of an issue which is sure to continue challenging our nation.

For Americans who have let international events of the past few years set them to wondering about America's role in world affairs, there's no better source for answers than the words of Dinesh D'Souza, and Indian immigrant.

This remarkable naturalized American, who cuts through the maze of mediaspeak with razorsharp clarity, defines our national purpose with an arsenal of succinct observations. For a policy wonk, his direct manner is a breath of fresh air. And he does it all without notes.

D'Souza, who was a White House domestic policy analyst during the Reagan administration, is now a fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University.

Speaking at the College of the Southwest annual Free Enterprise Dinner at the Event Center in Hobbs last week, D'Souza commanded the rapt attention of 180 guests as he analyzed the state of national affairs today.

Islamic radicalism has risen to replace Soviet communism as America's greatest external threat. The hate this element of the Muslim world has against America is explained by Islamic leaders who see only the faults of the U.S., and see them in a re-



ligious context. These crimes include crime, licentiousness, promiscuity, drug addiction, homosexuality, materialism and the destruction of family life.

Islamic apologists say their system may breed poverty, but it is superior to America's "decadent" society because it is based on virtue.

"Virtue," D'Souza says Islamic intellectuals claim, "is a higher principal than liberty."

But D'Souza rejects this argument as a false premise, because followers of Islam are denied any choice. "A coerced virtue is no virtue at all," he says, adding, "Freedom is a prerequisite to virtue."

America champions the idea of the 'self-directed life', says D'Souza, pointing to his own experiences in choosing to come to America from India. "In America, I am the architect of my own destiny."

He said America's struggle in Iraq is a "grand experiment" to see if the seed of freedom can

take root where it never has before.

Turning to America's unilateral actions in forcing out Saddam Hussein, D'Souza says dethroning the Mideast dictator was justified, even if no weapons of mass destruction were found. The United Nations would never have done this, noting that more than half the U.N. membership is made up of totalitarian nations.

D'Souza defends America's efforts in foreign affairs, even though sometimes it requires alliances with bad guys to get the really bad guys."

"I think America's foreign policy in the past thirty years has made the world a lot better place."

Texans ready, says Houston

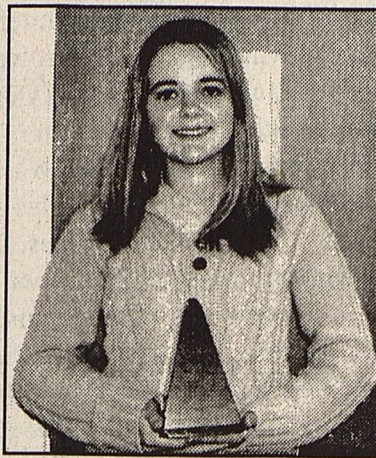
Harrisburg - From the army camp here, General Sam Houston today sent the following message to Col. Raguet at Nacogdoches:

This morning we are in preparation to meet Santa Anna. It is the only chance of saving Texas - we go to conquer. It is wisdom growing out of necessity to meet and fight the enemy now. No previous occasion would justify it - the troops are in fine spirits and now is the time for action.

We shall use our best efforts to fight the enemy, though the odds are greatly against us. I leave the result in the hands of a wise God and rely on his providence.

Houston.
The Texas News
April, 1836

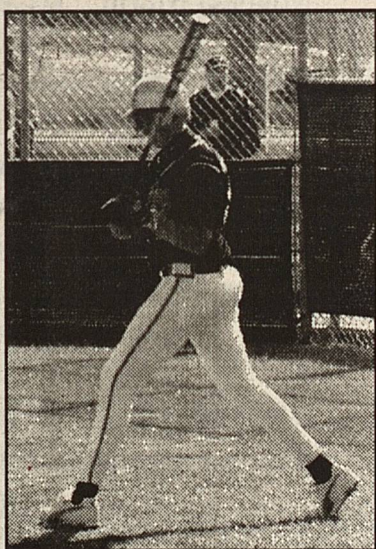
PHS Student of the Week



PHS Student of the Week is Erika Loewen a sophomore and the daughter of John and Mary Loewen. Erika was nominated by Mrs. O'Quinn, who said, "This week's student of the week is intelligent, efficient, and dependable. She is a help to her peers, explaining and helping them with material they might not understand. I have enjoyed working with Erika in UIL events."



Todd Williams, top, hustles into second. Adam McCravey loosens up for batters box.



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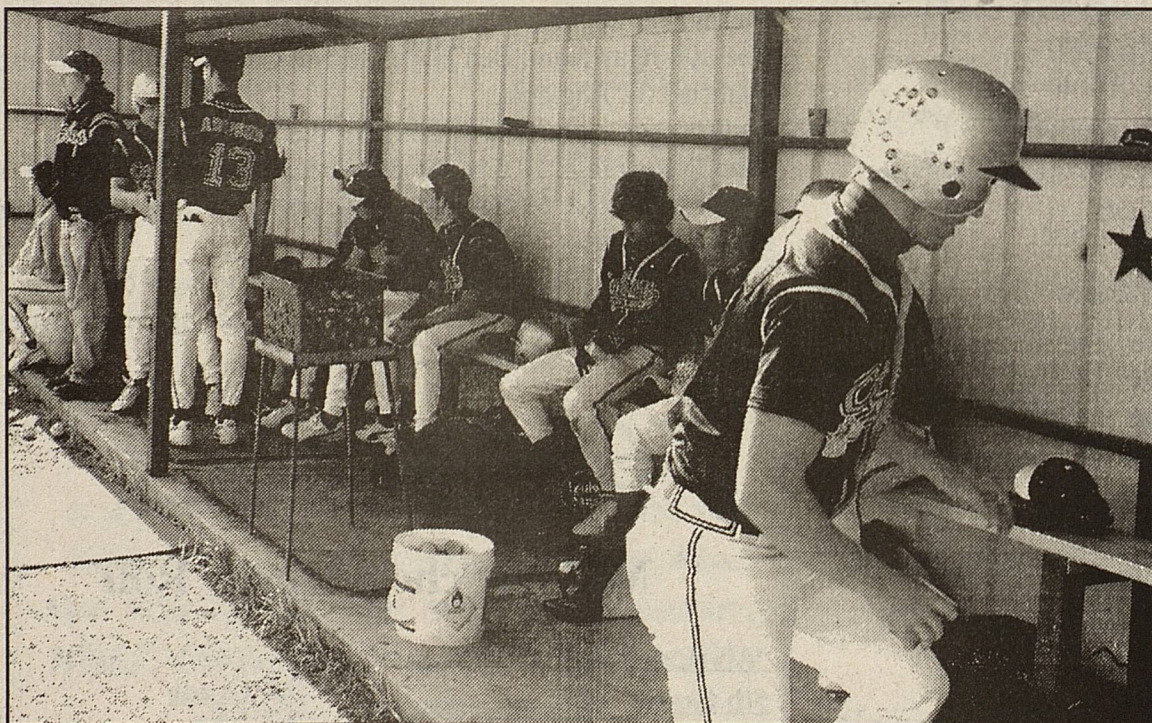
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Property Tax Division
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Austin, TX 78711-3528

or call: 1-800-252-9121

or on the Web at:
www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/proptax.html

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Jo Lena Wall, PA - C

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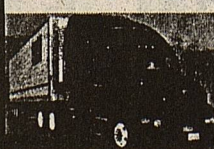


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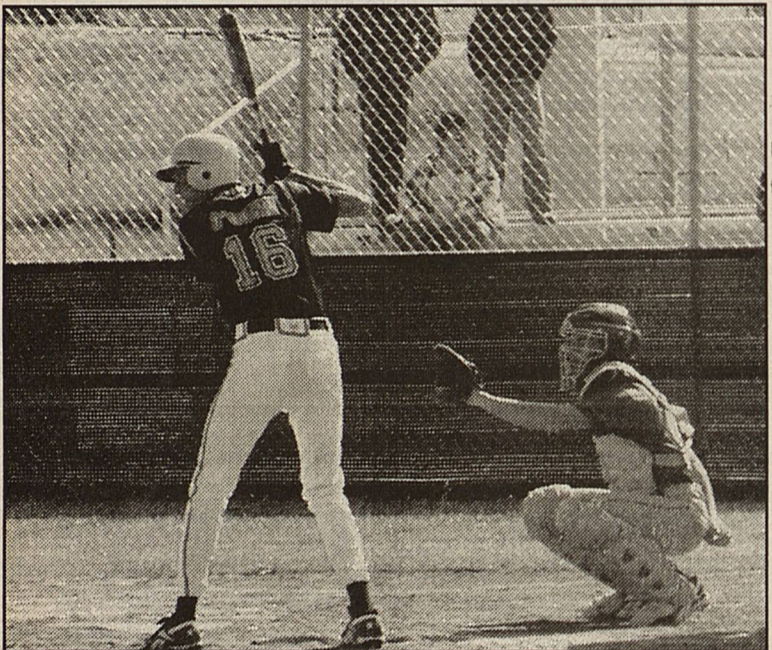
Baseball scenes vs Whiteface



Meeting of minds - Cody Mayes, Coach Bartley, Landon Craft make plans



Abel Ramos ready to smash one



Blake O'Quinn hit a double with this swing



T.J. Cordova next batter

PISD Sports & Activities

Cowboy Baseball

The Cowboys thrashed Whiteface 22-3 April 23. Cody Mayes was the winning pitcher, throwing four innings, giving up 3 hits and striking out 9 batters. Tyler Caffey relieved in the fifth inning, striking out three batters and walking one. The Cowboy bats were hot and oriduced 16 hits, ten which were doubles. Blake O'Quinn 4 for 5 with 3 doubles and two RBI's. Landon Craft was 1 and 1, and walked 4 times. Tyler Caffey had a double and 3 walks. Ramiro had three hits with a double and two stolen bases. Peter Neufeld has a double and two stolen bases, Abel Ramos had a double, walk and was hit twice by the pitcher. Scott Addison had two RBI's. Coach Bartley said, "We've been hitting the ball hard and hope to continue. We are 12 and 4 for the season, 7 and 2 in district play, and we still have a chance to finish second in the district."

Cowboy Band Excels

On Thursday, April 14, 2005 the Cowboy Band participated at the Region 16 South Zone UIL Concert & Sight-reading Contest in Sundown. The band performed extremely well and received Superior ratings from all 6 judges. Judges critique sheets were very complimentary with comments including: "Band you read very well. This is not an easy sight-reading piece and you made it sound musical. This group is very musical it's nice to hear music not just notes and rhythms!" Band director Georgann Weisgerber said, "I'm extremely proud of this group of students. They work very hard to achieve their best and continue to excel because of their dedication and pride. Cowboy Band members, thank you for all your hard work! It's a pleasure to be teaching in a great community with such awesome kids!" The band's 1st division ratings have earned them a trip to the UIL State Wind Ensemble Contest on Saturday, May 7 at the University of Texas in Austin. CONGRATS to the band and Best of Luck at STATE!!!

The PHS One Act Play will have a pancake supper and present their final performance of *Bury The Dead* Monday, May 2, 6 to 7 PM in the school cafeteria. Donations for the supper will be taken at the door. The play will begin at 7:30 PM. Industrial Technology Meet Results:

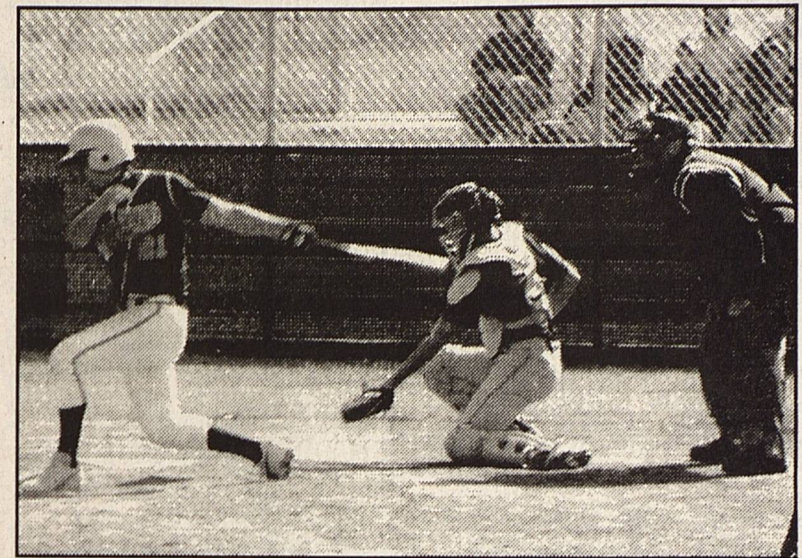
The Industrial Technology Department competed in Regional Contest April 23, with students carrying 30 projects. Results included:

Student	Project	Place
B.J. Lester	Table	3 rd
David Alldredge	Stereo Cabinet	1 st
Michael Marin	Coffee Table	1 st
	Dining Table	1 st
Claudia Reyna	Picture Frames	1 st
	CD Cabinet	1 st
	TV Stand	1 st
Breck Hamm	Sword	1 st
	Queen Bed	1 st
Payton Bean	Safety Poster	3 rd
	Checker Board	2 nd
	Cutting Boards	1 st
Brant Huerta	Pens	1 st
	Entry Table	2 nd
	Small Table	1 st
	Antler Pen	2 nd
	Mirror	2 nd
	Clock	2 nd
	Necklace	1 st
	Team Project	1 st
Reagan Haynes	Take-down Bow	1 st
	China Cabinet	1 st
	Coasters	1 st
	Necklace	1 st
	Team Project	1 st
	Antler Pen	1 st

These students will compete in the State contest in Waco May 5-7, and Instructor Robert Canon wishes them good luck!



Blake O'Quinn coasts into third



Peter Neudorf makes mighty swing.

Regional Track Qualifiers

The Cowboys had a great Regional qualifying meet at Tech last week, determining who will advance to the Regional meet at SPC this weekend.

Patrick Cotton set a new school record in the 800 meter run with a time of 1:54.9, one of the best times in the state. The old record was set in 1994 by Michael Sainz.

Payton Bean placed 4th in the 3200 run, and was 6th in the 1600 meters.

The 1600 meter relay team posted their best time of the year, 3:28.15 to take third. Team qualifiers are Joseph Loya, Tyler Caffey, Patrick Cotton and Payton Bean.

The 800 relay team, Ben Hayes, Loya, Caffey and Cotton also qualified for Regional.

Individual Cowboys qualifying for the big meet include; John Tyson ran 2:10.5 in the 800, and a personal best 54.8 400. Joseph Loya had 51 flat in the 400, his best effort. Ben Hayes ran the 110 meter hurdles in 15.63.

Daniel Parker placed 4th in the discus with a throw of 137'10". The big Regional meet starts Friday with running preliminaries at 3 PM. Finals will be at 1:30 Saturday.

Go Cowboys!

Middle School Honor Roll

"A" Honor Roll

5th Grade

Mayra Cueto
Dakota Earnest
Denise Tarango

6th Grade

Forrest Booth
Hannah Crump
Dylan DeBusk
Cody Friensen

7th Grade

Brandon Craft
Nathan McCravey

Troy Parrish

8th Grade

Chris Addison

"A" - 1B Honor Roll

5th Grade

Adrianna Corrales

6th Grade

Kelbi Bartley

Kevin Gass

Hunter Welch

7th Grade

Natalie Haynes

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Lifelines & Styles

TSA MO GA Meets

President Debbie Spears presented a program to TSA MI GA members April 11 on 'Child Reach is Global' as the club's international affairs focus, while Connie McWhirter gave highlights of her trip to Sri Lanka in January.

Mrs. Spears used information from 'planusa.com' to give an overview of the organization which is 'child-centered.' Plan's five key program areas include growing up healthy, learning, habitat, livelihood and building relationships.

"The ultimate objective of our work is to make lasting improvements in the lives of the neediest children," according to

information from the website. Mrs. McWhirter, who was part of the group from the First Baptist Church who traveled to Sri Lanka after the devastation from the tsunami in December, shared pictures and talked of her work with the children, allowing them to express their 'hurts' through drawing and artwork.

Club member Toni Jones also gave information she learned from a recent ladies retreat about children who can be sponsored for as little as \$25 a year.

Hostesses for the meeting were Mary Jo and Elouise St. Romain.

In 2004, Women's Protective Services Of Lubbock, Inc...

- * Provided crisis intervention and supportive Services to 3,710 women and children
- * Provided 3,312 women and children with emergency transportation, emergency shelter, food, clothing, medical assistance and supportive services
- * Provided 1,560 women and children with non-residential services including counseling, legal advocacy and social services referral
- * Provided 209,451 referrals for local social services
- * Provided 3,207 hours of individual counseling
- * Provided 4,117 adult support groups
- * Provided 4,208 children's support groups
- * Assisted 98 women gain employment through our on-site Welfare-to-Work Program, Job Assistance for Moms "JAM"
- * Answered 4,099 crisis calls on the agency's 24 hour, toll free hotline
- * Provided crisis intervention and supportive services to 9 men who were victims of domestic violence
- * Assisted 1,119 women with legal advocacy and protective order applications
- * Served 377 men in the agency's Battering Intervention/Prevention Program in Lubbock, Hockley and Terry Counties

A baby is a gift of Love, a precious blessing from above. Baby Walker is almost due and we know Devon will be wearing blue. Dare & Donetta can hardly wait, so join with us to celebrate.
Sunday, May 1, 2005, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. in the home of Mrs. Martha Palmer, 601 E. Second Street, Plains, TX
Selections at Target, Wal-Mart, and Toys R Us

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Farewell From The Culwell's



Inez, Vaughn, Carolyn, Julie

"Thanks" is such a little word, but there's a world of meaning and appreciation in it. To all our wonderful friends of Plains and Yoakum County, thank you for making a page in our memory book at our "Farewell Reception." The words each of you had to say-the poem written by Amber McWhirter-Debbie Spears reading from the book of Ecclesiastes-the prayer by Brother Bill-everything was overwhelming. The many cards, the gifts and phone calls from friends will not soon be forgotten.

We have been extremely blessed by the people of this community for the 50 plus years we have lived here. This may be 'Farewell', but it isn't 'goodbye.' Wherever the road takes us we will always call Plains home and in our hearts we will always be COWBOYS and COWGIRLS.

We Love You,
 Vaughn & Carolyn Culwell

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
 Plains, Texas

Sunday School
 9:30 A.M.

Morning Worship
 10:45 A.M.

Evening Program
 6:00 P.M.

BEXTRA VIOXX INJURIES

Heart Attacks, CHF Strokes & Sudden Cardiac Deaths

On April 8, 2005, Pfizer announced the withdrawal of BEXTRA, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory pain reliever. BEXTRA, like VIOXX has been withdrawn due to increased risks of heart attacks, strokes and sudden death in its users. BEXTRA has also been linked to a rare, life-threatening skin disorder called Stevens Johnson Syndrome. Numerous lawsuits have been filed in Texas and throughout the United States against Merck and Pfizer.

If you or a loved one have taken BEXTRA or VIOXX and have suffered a heart attack, stroke, congestive heart failure or a sudden cardiac death, then call us for a Free Case Evaluation. All cases handled on a contingency fee contract. No Attorneys Fees or Court Costs charged unless we recover for you. Client is still responsible for their own medical expenses or bills that they have incurred.

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Seniors Corner

Having lived so many years, we are sometimes expected to have the answers to things that, if the truth be known, we haven't a single clue. So today I've decided to share with you some important truths that I find it amazing we've lived so long without knowing. (1) A dime has 118 ridges around the edge. (2) A cat has 32 muscles in each ear. (3) A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue. (4) A dragonfly has a lifespan of 24 hours. (5) A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds. (6) A 'jiffy' is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second, so we need to be careful of using that term. I can't think of a single thing I can do in a 'jiffy' anymore, can you? Then you probably cannot survive another week without knowing that. (7) A snail can sleep for three years. (8) Almonds are a member of the peach family. (9) An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain, and that (10) butterflies taste with their feet! And now that you can go forth into the world armed with this important knowledge, let's move on to other things.

Mary Lou, our assistant cook, and Rosa Lopez, our site director, abandoned us this week to attend a cooking school. I understand they learned many interesting and important things. We are glad to have them home again.

A special note of thanks to Layne Black for accepting the responsibility of manning the reception desk each morning and seeing that the lunch money is properly counted. We all appreciate his dependability in this area.

Everyone was glad to see Moray Clark feeling well enough to be back with us for lunch one day this week after along absence and it was good to have Georgia Hubbard and Jay Noble walk in on Monday this week. Georgia reports that she is slowly improving after a long bout of illness.

Kenny Smith and Lorene Randolph continue to be on the sick list this week. Kenny spent some time in the local hospital while Lorene remains critically ill at Lubbock.

Mike Fears presented the opportunity of a possible grant for local housing to our office personnel who, in turn, explained the program to the entire senior group at lunchtime. Seniors and handicapped people were the targets for this grant, so everyone who could qualify was encouraged to get in touch with Mike immediately. Mike feels that Denver City has a good chance of qualifying for the grant.

A special thanks to Claudia Sue Ferguson for agreeing to do the announcements for us several times in the last few weeks. Everyone agrees that she is easy to understand and is very knowledgeable about the different items that need to be presented each day.

An article came across my desk this week that I feel is worthy of sharing (in part). As I often look at my hands and cringe at the ravages of time, I can readily understand what the author is saying. It is entitled 'Grandpa's Hands.' While visiting with a grandson, the old man asked, "Have you ever really looked at your hands?" After getting the young man's attention, he continued, "Stop and think about the hands you have. These hands of mine, though wrinkled, caught my fall as a toddler when I crashed to the floor. As a child, I learned to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes, put food in my mouth and clothes on my back. Decorated with uneasy and clumsy when they held my newborn son. They dries the tears of my children. They trembled when I buried my parents and spouse and when I walked my daughter down the aisle. They have been sticky, bent, wet, dried, and broken. These days when nothing else works very well anymore, these hands hold me up, lay me down, and continue to fold in prayer. There are the hands that God will hold when He leads me home and with these hands I will reach out and touch the face of Christ."

Thought for Today: Work like you don't need the money, love as though you've never been hurt, dance as though no one is watching, sing as though no one can hear.

*** Revival Meeting ***
Plains Assembly of God
 Sunday, 6 PM - Monday, 7 PM
 Tuesday, 7 PM, May 1,2,3
SPEAKER WILL BE
DANNY WILLIAMS,
 Minister, Snyder Assembly of God
Please Join Us !

From The Hack

Received this press release last week from Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander's office - you know, the 'one mad grandma'. Seems the Comp received a \$5 bill from an anonymous donor, along with a handwritten note, "Strayhorn for Governor!". The release stated Strayhorn commented, "While flattered by the support, it's against the law for me to accept campaign contributions during the legislative sessions, so I put the money in the vault and raised the revenue estimate five dollars." She reported she was unable to return the \$5 to the donor, for it came anonymously from Houston. She will now have to raise the total revenue available for her certification to the legislature to \$130,500,000.005. I'll wager she would like to have it in her campaign coffers when she announces against Gov. Rick Perry ... and maybe present Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison.

The following, believe it or not, came from a granddaughter. It has been heavily censored, naturally, from its original state when I pulled it from e-mail files. What do attorneys use for birth control?

Their personalities. What's the difference between a girlfriend and a wife? About 45 pounds. What is the fastest way to a man's heart? Through his chest with a sharp scalpel. Why is it so hard for women to find men who are sensitive, caring and good looking? Because those men already have boyfriends. Why do men chase women they have no intention of marrying? The same urge that makes dogs chase cars they have no intention of driving. What did the blonde say when she learned she was pregnant? "Are you sure it's mine?" What do you call it when an Italian has one arm shorter than the other? A speech impediment. I wish I had heard the following joke before my two recent cataract removal ordeals - the staff would have loved it! A man goes to the eye Doctor. The receptionist asks hm what he is there for. "I keep seeing spots in front of my eyes," he replies. The receptionist asks, "Have you ever seen a Doctor?" And the guy replies, "No, just spots." Only you more "seasoned" readers will appreciate the following, 'cause you younger ones won't have a clue who Earl Long is... or more correctly, was. He was a famous - make that infamous - governor of Louisiana, who got the most out of religion in his political career. When making a speech in a

Louisiana town where half the voters were Catholic and half were Baptists, Earl was fond of telling an audience, "The most pleasant times of my youth were Sunday mornings when I would hitchup the wagon to a pair of horses and drive my grandmother and grandfather to the Catholic Church. When services were over, I would drive them home, hook up a fresh team of horses and drive my other grandparents to the First Baptist Church." Once after such a speech, his campaign manager said, "Earl, I didn't realize you had Baptist and Catholic grandparents." The governor scoffed and chuckled, "Hell, we didn't even have a wagon or horses!" My thanks to The Levelland News-Press' head Guru Stephen Henry. What do you do when your originality well dries up, and you are seriously in need of space filling stuff? You STEAL IT, of course. Thank you, Stephen! A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother name?" A child immediately said "Mary." Teacher then asked what Jesus' fathers name was. A boy quickly said "Verge." The teacher "Where did you get that?" He responded, "You know, they're always talking about Verge n' Mary." A little boy left church, got in the back seat, and started sobbing. His dad asked him three times what was wrong, and he finally sobbed, "The preacher said he wanted all of us to be brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys!"

"The Living Soil"

Soil, Water Stewardship Week April 25-May 2

While most of us seldom come in daily contact with soil, we all depend on it for our daily survival, according to organizers of the 2005 Soil and Water Stewardship Week observance April 25 to May 2. "In generation after generation, it's important to bring attention to the central theme - the living soil sustains all life on earth," said Don Burgess, Chairman of the Yoakum Soil and Water Conservation District. "Without soil, nothing lives. Our conservation district works to protect healthy soils that support a healthy environment, and healthy environments support healthy life," he added. Modern farmers and ranchers who practice soil conservation are doing their part to keep the living soil alive. Lessons from

the past, such as the catastrophic "Dust Bowl" of the 1930's, have shown what happens when the topsoil is not protected from wind and water erosion. Today, private land managers employ a host of conservation practices, such as minimum tillage, to protect the topsoil that feeds the nation. Soil health becomes more important when you learn millions of beneficial organisms are going through their daily routine of eating, breathing, living and dying in the soil. One cup of fertile soil may contain as many bacteria as there are people on Earth. In one acre - an area about the size of a football field - there may be a ton or more microscopic bacteria. That's equal to the weight of two full grown cows.

We eat the food, drink the water, breathe the air, and enjoy the views, but only a few of us walk the fields and forests regularly, and understand what those lands need from us in order to sustain the living soil. The local district, however, suggests three things each of us can do in our own backyards to be better stewards of our soil resources:

- 1 - Protect the soil from wind or water erosion by keeping healthy plants growing on the surface.
- 2 - Restore and maintain organic matter in the soil with grass clippings or tree leaves - compost.
- 3 - Protect soil life by using the least amounts and least toxic materials to control pest problems.

"A Partner In Conservation Since 1935"

Conservation Milestones

- September 19, 1933** - Soil Erosion Service is created as temporary agency in the Department of the Interior to demonstrate practical conservation methods to farmers.
- March 11, 1934** - A fierce windstorm from the Great Plains swept fine soil particles across areas as far away as Washington D.C. Congress decides action must be taken immediately.
- April 27, 1935** - The Soil Conservation Service is established in the Department of Agriculture to help landowners carry out soil conservation practices.
- February 27, 1937** - President Franklin D. Roosevelt urges governors to enact conservation district law that will allow landowners to organize conservation districts.
- December 22, 1944** - Flood Control Act of 1944 authorizes 11 flood prevention projects and the Emergency Watershed Protection Program to help protect lives and property following natural disasters.
- July 25, 1946** - National Association of Conservation Districts founded in Chicago, Illinois by district officials from 17 states.
- August 1954** - The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act is enacted to help communities protect, improve, and develop watersheds.
- July 2, 1957** - Arizona forms its first American Indian conservation district: Parker Valley Soil Conservation District.
- September 27, 1962** - The Resource Conservation and Development Program is created to advance community development and environmental protection in multi-county areas.
- September 1966** - SCS provides soil surveys and interpretations to assist states and other private agencies in community and resource planning.
- February 7, 1967** - National Association of State Conservation Agencies officially organized.
- November 18, 1977** - Congress passes the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act to conserve, protect, and enhance the nation's natural resources for future uses.
- June 22, 1982** - Washington, D.C. establishes first urban conservation district: District of Columbia Conservation District.
- December 23, 1985** - The 1985 Farm Bill requires landowners to carry out their conservation plans to receive USDA conservation program benefits.
- April 1996** - The 1996 Farm Bill creates programs to enhance wildlife, improve wetlands, and address specific resource concerns on farms.
- 2002** - The Grassland Reserve Program is authorized to offer protection, restoration, and enhancement of grasslands to private landowners.
- 2002** - The Conservation Security Program is created to reward farmers for practicing excellent conservation on their lands.

Yoakum County Hospital's planned first Monday of the month Diabetes Class has been canceled until further notice.

Nice office desk for sale; 2 drawer 29"x 65" with 3 drawer 25" x 48" return. Can be seen at Yoakum County Abstract Company. \$195 or best offer

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Think Texas Agriculture Commissioner SUSAN COMBS

What's the word on whole grains? It's a term tossed around by nutritionists and others looking to pump more nutrients into their diet, but for many consumers the concept can be confusing. Basically, whole grains contain all the essential parts and naturally occurring nutrients of the entire grain seed, according to the Whole Grains Council. Common whole grains include whole wheat, brown rice, whole oats, bulgur, millet and quinoa. Many of these items are available in bulk bins or in the rice or cereal aisles of the grocery store. In a sea of processed foods - from breads and cookies to pizza crust and pastas - how do you spot the items made from whole grains? The trick is to read the label. Look for the word "whole" at the top of the ingredients list. For example, the first ingredient in whole wheat bread will be whole wheat flour - not wheat flour. Look for cereals with whole oats or other whole grains for breakfast. Many whole grain versions of your favorite processed foods are available, from pancake mixes to couscous to tortillas. Just check the label. The nutritional advantage of whole grain products is that they are low in fat and cholesterol and packed with fiber, which is great for weight control because it keeps you fuller longer. Diets rich in whole grain foods may help reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes and certain cancers. The next time you're in the grocery store, read food labels carefully and go for products that contain primarily whole grains for a boost in nutrition and taste.



YCH Foundation Golf Tournament

DATE: April 28 2005, Thursday
TIME: 10:00 a.m. Shotgun Start
ENTRY FEE: \$50.00 - Individual, Team - \$200.00 includes golf cart and lunch
FORMAT: Four Person Scramble
ENTRY DEADLINE: April 21, 2005

Sponsored by South Plains Physicians Associates, Yoakum County Home Health, and Arapaho Healthcare Resources. Hole In One contest sponsored by Garner's Yamaha, Hobbs, NM

LOCATION: Yoakum County Golf Course (806-592-2947) 5 miles north of Denver City on Hwy 214. From Lubbock at Wellman, take FM 213 west to course.

Questions?: Call Clay Taylor 806-592-2121

All Proceeds will go to YCH Foundation

(Cut on line and return only this bottom portion)

Entry fee must accompany this form to insure team placement.

Make checks payable to:
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