

Cowboy Country

News

God Bless America!



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

Volume V111, Issue 17 January 2, 2002

Commissioner Court Hears Lengthy Year End Agenda

The last meeting of Commissioners Court in 2001 was a lengthy one Monday, December 31.

Bids were received from West Texas Gas and Eddins-Walcher for unleaded gas and diesel fuel for all county departments in 2002. Eddins-Walcher's low bid for transport and bob-tail truck loads of both fuels was accepted. Regular unleaded will initially be priced at 68.53 cents per gallon, premium unleaded at 76.78 cents, and diesel at 67.30 cents. West Texas Gas will supply the three fuels purchased with Gas Cards.

Wilson Motors of Snyder submitted the low bid for a 2002 pickup, a F-150 at a cost of \$15,320 for Precinct 3. The court approved the sale of the precinct's 1993 pickup to Jerry Brian of Hobbs for \$3650.

Mustang Country of Denver City submitted the low bid for a 2002 pickup for Precinct 4, \$21,371 cash. The precinct will sell two older pickups after the first of the year.

Rick Dickson, Llano Estacado Drug Task Force, reported a grant request to the state would soon be submitted for operation of the task force in 2002. The task force is funded by state money, and proportionate funds from Yoakum County, Terry County and the Brownfield Police Department. The grant request will seek \$252,420 from the state, and Yoakum County's share of financing the task force will be \$54,740. The court approved the grant request.

The salary and employment of Judi Addison as third deputy in the County Clerk office was approved, effective January 1. Salary and employment of Sherry Pipes as third deputy in the Auditors office January 2 was also approved.

The court approved the appointment and or reappointment of Johnnie Fitzgerald as the County's Director for the Appraisal District Board of Directors.

A bid was accepted from Neel and Associates of Waco for a Chevrolet one ton complete brush/grass fire vehicle for the Plains Volunteer Fire Department. Bid price for the unit was \$45,479.

Bids were accepted for road materials for all four county precincts and parks. Koch Materials of Lubbock was low bidder for asphalt, Seminole Sales & Leasing will provide cold mix, Kerr Construction, Lubbock was low bidder for hot mix, and R.E. James Gravel Co., Slaton, will provide the gravel.

Edith Kidd of Denver City will replace Ron Hatfield on the Yoakum County Hospital Board of Directors.

A lease agreement between the county and Mr. and Mrs. Teddy Roy Bowman was approved. The county will pay taxes on eight lots just north of the Pct. 4 barn to be used for storage of road materials. The Bowmans will also receive \$250 annual lease payments

To All Our Readers

We apologize for the brevity of last and this week's issue of CCN. First, the Holidays set in, with the normal lack of news material. Next, we had serious medical problems with Holly. We are not at all clear about our publishing schedule over the next few weeks because of pending surgical procedures for her. We know you will understand if our schedule has to be interrupted. We both sincerely appreciate the many expressions of concern and love you have shown her. To clear up the situation and answer questions we have already been asked, I have written a short summary about the events leading up to her pending surgery on this issue's last page.

Please bear with us - we will get back to schedule as soon as possible. Thank each of you.
Gary

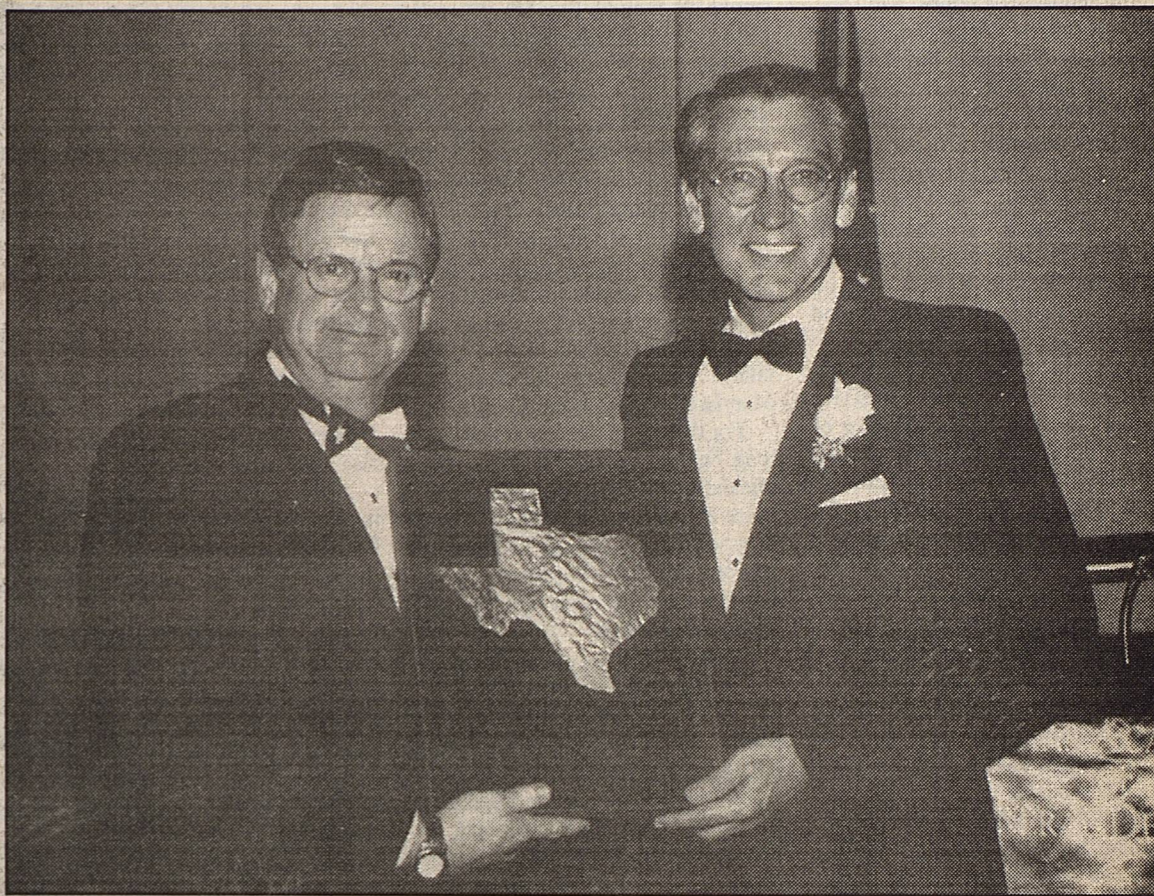
JP Court Summary

The following is a two week summary of cases filed and fines and bonds set in Justice of Peace Court, Pct. 1, with Judge Melba Crutcher presiding.

52 traffic cases
3 minors in possession of alcohol
One public intoxication
One DUI of alcohol by minor.
One possession of drug paraphernalia
22 civil cases
Bonds set at jail;
2 criminal mischief, over \$1500, under \$20,000 - \$5000 Bond.

Burglary of building- \$5000
TURN TO PAGE 3,
"JP COURT"

Plans finalized for Chamber Banquet



Dr. Earnie Anderson, right, receives award at recent Texas Academy of General Dentistry Gala in San Antonio

The annual Plains Chamber of Commerce banquet will be held Thursday, January 17 at 7 PM in the school cafeteria.

Tickets for the banquet are now available at City Hall for \$7 per person, and will cost \$7.50 at the door. The banquet is being catered by Danny's Hens & Fins of Lubbock.

The Chamber will in the next few day mail letters to county business firms and individual supporters seeking donations of door prizes for the evening. Dr. Ernie Anderson, a 1963 graduate of Plains High School now living and practicing Dentistry in Houston will be this year's guest speaker. His mother, Alma Bean,

built and operated Alma's Restaurant here many years. It is now Johnnie's Restaurant.

Ernie's wife Karen, and possibly some of his children, Kristin Anderson Hill, Melanie Anderson Jackson and Ryan Anderson, and his mother Alma will be on hand for the banquet.

Dr. Anderson forwarded CCN an impressive resume of his background, professional accomplishments, and community services. His contributions to dentistry include being a member of the American Dental Academy, Academy of Restorative Dentistry, Academy of Operative Dentistry,

Academy of Cosmetic dentistry, member of the Texas Dental Academy and recipient of their Cooley Clinic Award. Dean's Teaching Excellence Award, University of Texas Houston Health Science Center, Dental Branch, and Master Practitioner Award UT Dental Branch Alumni Association.

He is a Ruling Elder in Grace Presbyterian Church, participated in the Texas Medical Center Pastoring Program, and has served as a volunteer providing dental care to youths and missions here and abroad.

The Chamber urges you to support this annual program - call and bring a friend!

Weather modification grants awarded to ten groups around state

Austin - Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs announced recently 10 groups, including water districts, have received matching grants from TDA to conduct weather modification or precipitation enhancement grants over almost one-third of the state, covering 51 million acres from the High Plains to the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Precipitation enhancement, also known as cloudseeding, stimulates clouds to generate more rainfall than normally produced. Rainfall is maximized from clouds through introduction of seeding agents, such as silver iodide. The 77th Legislature moved the grant portion of the modification program from the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission to TDA on September 1. The program's permitting and licensing section was also moved from TNRCC to the Department of Licensing and regulation.

"Precipitation enhancement is an integral part of the state's long-term water management plan," Combs said. "Many districts involved in precip enhancement have seen positive results. The Colorado River Municipal Water District in Big Spring has compared seeded years with unseeded years from 1971 to 1990 and found rainfall totals 2.5 to 4 inches above normal during seeded years. During this same time, cotton yields were 64 percent above normal during seed years.

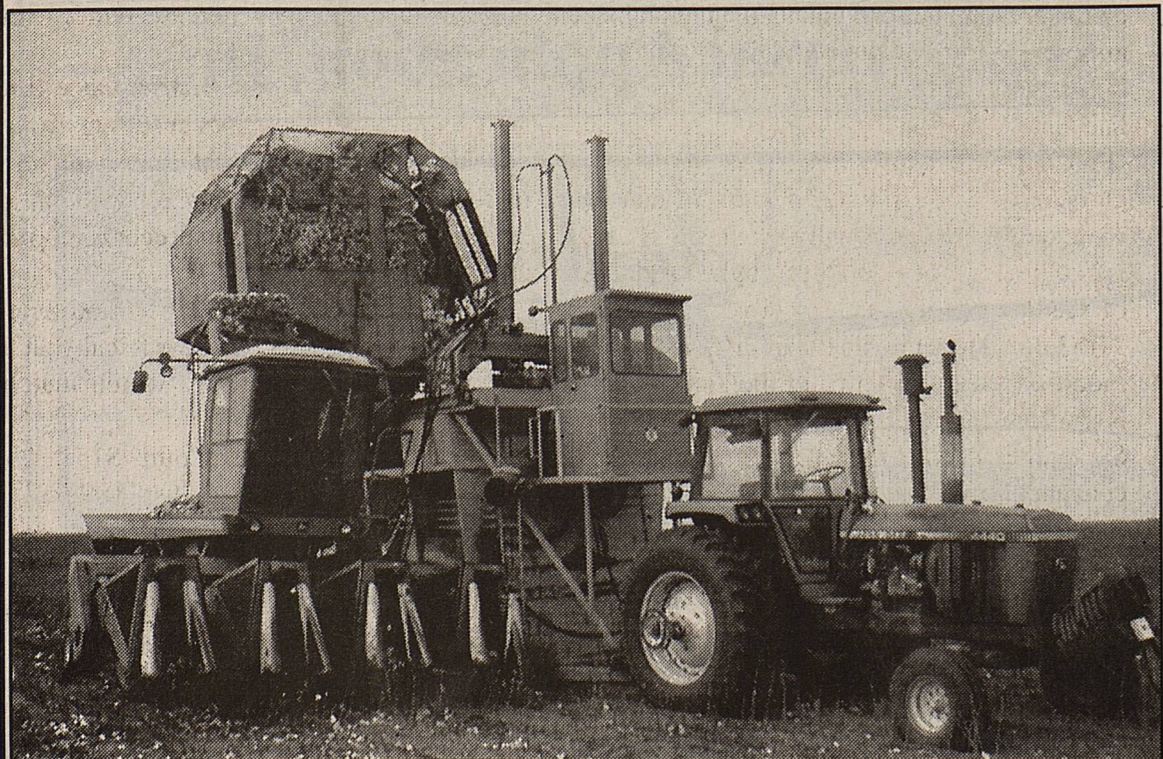
"In addition to higher crop yields, precipitation enhancement can improve grazing conditions for livestock, reduce irrigation costs and improve water quality," Combs added. "The practice also helps to increase rainfall runoff into reservoirs and aquifers."

The High Plains Water District has estimated that increased crop yields resulting from one inch of extra rain at the right time on major crops in the area could have a market value of about \$81 million with a regional economic impact of about \$284 million.

TDA has awarded 10 weather modification grants totaling \$1,933,197 for fiscal year 2002 to the following programs, which match the grants dollar for dollar:

Val Verde Commissioner Court- \$151,504
Colorado River Municipal Dist- \$89,658
Edwards Aquifer, Hondo- \$254,874
Evergreen Water Conservation- \$154,523
High Plains Underground District- \$240,000
Irion County Water District- \$224,936
North Plains District, Dumas- \$186,700
Panhandle District, White Deer- \$183,412
West Central Council Govts, Abilene- \$222,159
Wintergarden Groundwater Dist., \$225,431
Sandy Land Underground Water District here participates in the precipitation enhancement program with the High Plains District.

Not a fun way to celebrate New Year's Eve



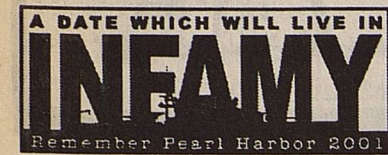
While many folks on the afternoon of December 31 were watching sports or getting ready for New Year's Eve celebrations that evening, some had to work. This scene shows a 484 stripper dumping into a cotton module builder, trying to end the 2001 harvest before bad weather hit again - the attempt failed, for Tuesday morning the area was covered with several inches of snow.

A DAY TO REMEMBER

50,000 visit Texas town to mark 60th anniversary of Pearl Harbor attack

By MIKE COX
Texas Press Association

FREDERICKSBURG — When Helen McDonald read the young girl's letter, she realized all the work by so many people that had gone into planning the 60th anniversary observance of Pearl Harbor had paid off—the present and the past had connected.



"Dear National Museum of Pacific War," the three-page letter began. "I am a thirteen year old girl who visited your museum on December 8th."

The teenager, touring the museum on the weekend of her birthday, collected signatures from Pearl Harbor survivors. But she got more than that out of the experience.

"A very nice old man was telling us about the artifacts," she wrote. "He was all by himself and better than the computer...it made me cry. His eyes just lit up the way a child does on Christmas morning because my friend and I paid attention to him."

An estimated 50,000 people crowded this Central Texas town of 8,000 for the only mainland commemoration of the anniversary of the Japanese attack that marked America's entrance into World War II, said McDonald, the museum's assistant director. Ten thousand of them listened to a brief talk by former President George H.W. Bush during the noon hour on Dec. 7.

But only 330 of those visitors, 94 of them from Texas, had been in Hawaii that morning six decades ago that changed the world.

One of them was Earl Selover, now 85, of Chesapeake, Va. Ranking radioman on the U.S.S. Maryland, he had left the battleship on Friday and was not due back on board until Monday. A married sailor, he got to go home on weekends. He and his wife lived a couple of blocks from

Waikiki Beach.

"Our neighbors woke us up," Selover recalled over breakfast at a Fredericksburg motel 60 years to the day after Dec. 7, 1941. "One of them said, 'The Japs are bombing Pearl Harbor. Turn on your radio.'"

Having a radio on wasn't really necessary. Selover could hear the screaming engines of the Japanese Zeros and the explosions of the bombs and torpedoes being dropped on the American Pacific fleet.

Selover said goodbye to his wife and headed for his ship.

"When I got to the fleet landing, I found an officer's boat with an ensign driving," he recalled. "I told him I needed to get to the Maryland."

A half mile away, Selover could see smoke all over the line, which is what Navy personnel called battleship row.

"I saw a hull upside down," he said. "I thought, 'My God, they've sunk the Maryland.' But then the smoke parted and I could see the Maryland. It was the Oklahoma that had overturned. She had come in after I left on Friday."

Because of oil burning on the water, he could not immediately get to the Maryland so he told the ensign at the helm to make for the California.

"From the California I went to Ford Island and walked to where the Maryland was moored," he said.

For the rest of the day and all night long, Selover worked the radio, receiving and transmitting messages both by voice and Morse code. Several of the messages he got and distributed to the appropriate officers were bogus reports broadcast by Japanese operatives on the islands, he said.

"The following morning, I stepped out of flag radio onto the bridge," he said. "I had a good view of the whole harbor. The California was smoking furiously. The Ogallala was capsized...I turned to look at the Oklahoma. There were men all over her hull, cutting open places to rescue men trapped inside."

"I saw a boat patrolling the water looking for bodies," he continued. "As I watched a sailor reached down to pull



The 23,000-square-foot George Bush Gallery of the National Museum of the Pacific War includes more than 700 objects. The museum is in Fredericksburg.

one out of the water, but the burned skin came off and the body floated down into the harbor."

Just then the bandmaster on the stern of the Maryland played "Call to Colors."

As sailors gathered for the raising of the flag, Selover turned to look at the West Virginia, which had been torpedoed and sunk, and then at the wreckage of the Arizona.

"After the last note of 'Attention to Colors,' Selover continued, "the band struck up 'Anchors Aweigh.' It was the most amazing thing...the music carried over the water and men on all the ships started cheering. I wish I was an artist and could paint that picture as I saw it that morning."

The devastating attack claimed 2,335 American servicemen and 68 civilians. Five battleships were sunk and eight damaged. Eleven other ships also were badly damaged.

Selover was one of 2.2 million military men and women under Fredericksburg native Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz' command during World War II.

Before his death in 1966, Nimitz knew work was under way to develop a museum in his family's old hotel in Fredericksburg. First called the Nimitz Memorial Naval Museum, it opened on what would have been the admiral's 82nd birthday, Feb. 24, 1967. The state took it over in 1981.

Now operating as the National Museum of the Pacific War, the museum covers seven acres. Its latest addition, an outdoor exhibit of war artifacts in a realistic setting called Pacific

Combat Zone, opened Dec. 7

Fewer than 9,000 Pearl Harbor survivors are still living, Selover said. The last issue of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association's quarterly magazine listed 137 survivor deaths.

Of those who attended the Fredericksburg ceremonies, 90 shared their wartime stories for posterity on audio or videotapes made by volunteers trained in doing oral history interviews.

"Since 1988, the museum has collected about a thousand oral histories," McDonald said. "We probably have the second largest collection dealing with the war in the Pacific, behind the University of North Texas."

She said volunteers would transcribe the tapes, which will be made available to anyone with an interest in the war, from historians to family members and descendants of the participants.

Another Pearl Harbor survivor who came to Fredericksburg was 80-year-old Jim Stargill of Hobbs, N.M.

Like Selover, Stargill was asleep when the attack began.

"The first thing I knew a fellow was grabbing my shoulder and saying, 'Wake up, the Japs are bombing the hell out of us,'" Stargill recalled. "I thought that was a terrible thing to do to a fellow in the morning. Then I saw him grab his helmet and gas mask and I knew it was for real."

A sailor on the U.S.S. Dale, a destroyer, Stargill ran to his battle station.

"The first thing I saw was a torpedo bomber going by," he said. "He was so close, if I had had a monkey wrench I could have hit him with it."

The Dale made it through the attack unscathed, as it did through the entire war.

Stargill was in on the beginning of

the Pacific war and present at the ending.

"I was in Tokyo Bay on the U.S.S. Larson, another destroyer, when the treaty was signed on the U.S.S. Missouri," he said.

The school girl who wrote McDonald said some of the Pearl Harbor survivors she talked with

seemed to feel badly that they had survived while so many of their comrades died.

"They didn't think they were heroes but they are," she wrote. "Not just heroes, they are story tellers, sweet men, caring and kind men...They saved us...They never complained, they just did what they were told."



Photo courtesy of the Admiral Nimitz National Museum of the Pacific War, Fredericksburg, TX. The USS Cassin and USS Downs were mangled in the attack.

Rural Utility Funds Available

Lubbock-Bryan Daniel, State Director, Texas USDA Rural Development announced today that federal funds are available for USDA's Rural Utilities Service Water and Waste loan program. The effort is part of USDA's national program to help provide rural areas with safe, dependable water and modern sewage systems.

"One of the goals of USDA Rural Development is to provide water and wastewater treatment programs that target public health benefits and provide economic opportunities to America's rural communities. USDA's water and wastewater loan program helps rural communities keep pace with the needs of their rising populations," said Daniel. "With lower populations

and tax bases than urban areas, rural residents can utilize our programs to help provide essential public services that will enhance the quality of life for all rural residents."

USDA's water and wastewater program is designed to bring fresh, clean drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound sewage facilities to rural America's 53 million residents. Loans and grants are available to rural communities of fewer than 10,000 residents. Public bodies, corporations operated on a nonprofit basis, and Indian tribes, that are unable to obtain credit from other sources at reasonable rates and terms, are eligible for assistance.

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and
Jo Lena Wall, PA - C
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SPC takes aim at Marksmanship Class

South Plains College in Levelland is taking aim this spring at two evening competitive firearms courses specializing in rifle proficiency.

SPC's spring registration is January 9.

The courses are offered through SPC's law enforcement program and will provide a collegiate counterpart for students who want to develop and improve their skills in the highly competitive, growing sport of rifle marksmanship.

Instructor will be Rick Monger, 4-H rifle coach and member of the Texas State Rifle Development Team. He is certified in rifle, pistol, shotgun and home firearms safety and is a National Rifle Association training counselor.

Basic Firearms (CJLE1211) will meet 6-7:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and Advanced Firearms (CJLE 2237) will meet 6-6:50 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in SPC's law Enforcement Petroleum Technology Building.

The courses are open to students who have marksmanship skills similar to those developed in 4-H. The courses require special approval from the course instructor. Students will need to furnish their own rifles and specialized equipment.

"We start with safety, and we end with safety," said Monger. "Our ultimate goal for those students who have aspirations of international and or Olympic competition is to help them get to level," he added.

The basic rifle course introduces students to competitive 3-point rifle shooting (standing, kneeling and prone) and the intermediate course exposes students to competition is to help them get to that level," he explained.

"Shooting sports develop the entire individual," said Monger. "They develop concentration and physical and mental discipline. People can participate in this sport for a lifetime."

For more information, contact Monger at 229-8871.

New Law Allows Buying Car Insurance By The Mile

Austin-With the arrival of the new year on January 1, 2002, Texas gets a new state law that encourages insurance companies to let car owners buy miles of insurance as needed. It's called "cents per mile choice" and advocates say it could finally put Texas on the road to making compulsory insurance work.

Insuring all cars was made compulsory two decades ago, despite opposition from auto insurance companies. Now the companies are saying that the law has failed because the proportion of uninsured cars may be even higher than it was twenty years ago, about one in five cars on the road is without insurance.

But the reason compulsory insurance does not work, according to proponents of "cents per mile choice," is that car owners can only buy insurance at annual rates. Such rates, they contend, make the insurance like a tax on owning a car, instead of a cost driving it, which is the activity that produces accidents. This fixed cost may be resented, they say, but drivers in most areas are able have their own car and keep it legally insured.

In low income zip codes, however, studies show that paying for insurance as a cost of ownership forces drivers to share insured cars. Although sharing cuts individual driving, it causes annual mileage for cars to increase. Increased mileage sets off a spiral of increased cost to companies, raised rates, and fewer insured cars. Instead of forcing drivers to share cars, mile rates let them save on in-

surance the way they save on gasoline by driving fewer miles.

"We thank the legislature and governor for this opportunity to put forward an alternative way to buy car insurance that is essential to making compulsory insurance work," said Deborah Bell, president of Texas National Organization for Women (NOW), which lobbied hard to get the new Texas law enacted. Bell said insurance companies owe it to the driving public to explain why they often charge from 50% to 150% more in low income zip codes. "No wonder compulsory insurance is not working," she said.

Patrick Butler, Director of NOW's Insurance Project, says having a choice between annual and mile rates won't change the way the car is profiled by car and driver type, and by residence zip code. "The owner of a car is offered the choice between continuing to pay at an annual rate and buying miles as needed only after the company sets the annual rate and mile rate for the car's profile group," Butler explained. "For example, a buyer might be choosing between \$500 per year and 5 cents per mile."

Because the new law lets insurance companies restrict the choice of mile rates to selected customers, Bell is urging Texans to demand that their companies make this choice available to all of their policy holders.

"We need the mile rate alternative to fixed annual rates that force millions of cars to go uninsured, Bell said.

From Page One, "JP Court Cases"

bond
Burglary of building - \$5000 bond
Two second DWI's, \$1500 bond, interlock ordered.
Bond forfeiture/DWI, \$2500 bond.
Theft by check, under \$500-\$500 bond.
Unlawful consumption of alcohol by minor (2)- \$500 bond.
Four charges- engaged in orga-

nized criminal activity- \$7500 bond.
Four charges DWI, first offense- \$1000 bond.
Bond forfeiture, burglary of building, \$10,000 cash bond.
Bail jumping, failure to appear- \$5000 bond.
3 charges, burglary of vehicle- \$5000 bond
4 charges, burglary of building- \$5000 bond.

Texas Department of Health Warns Of Dangers Of Carbon Monoxide In Winter

As Texans try to keep warm indoors, they may risk carbon monoxide poisoning, often without realizing the dangers, warn officials at the Texas Department of Health (TDH).

Invisible, odorless and tasteless, carbon monoxide (CO) is a highly poisonous gas produced by burning fuel such as gasoline, natural gas, kerosene, charcoal or wood. Inside a home, CO can come from a gas fueled furnace, water heater, clothes dryer, space heater, range or kerosene heater, fireplace or wood stove. At low concentrations, CO causes fatigue in healthy people and chest pain for those with heart disease. At higher concentrations, CO causes impaired vision and coordination, headaches, dizziness, confusion, nausea and death.

Without good ventilation during use of fuel burning appliances, carbon monoxide levels rise and, when breathed in, replace oxygen in the bloodstream. The more CO in the air and the longer a person is exposed, the greater the risk of illness or death.

"With any combustion source, there is a risk," said Kay Soper, TDH indoor air quality specialist.

Dangerous CO problems arise when home appliances are poorly maintained or used in-

correctly. Non vents gas and kerosene appliances are have the greatest potential to produce dangerous levels of CO in the home, according to Soper.

In addition to these, smoldering or poorly vented fireplaces, slow burning fuels such as charcoal and vehicle exhausts also are potentially hazardous. New homes, or newly remodeled homes, have higher risks for carbon monoxide hazard because often they are sealed tighter than older homes.

TDH offers these precautions to help prevent CO poisoning: *Be sure all appliances are installed and used according to the manufacturer's instructions. *Have the heating system inspected annually. *Have ventilation systems, including chimneys, flues and vents, checked every year. *Don't burn charcoal inside a house, garage, vehicle, or tent, not even in a fireplace. *Don't use an un-vented gas or kerosene heater in enclosed spaces, especially sleeping areas. *Never leave an automobile running in a closed garage or in a garage attached to the house even with the garage door open. *Don't leave the rear window or tailgate of a vehicle open while driving. Carbon monoxide from the exhaust can be pulled inside the car, van or camper.

2 charges criminal mischief, over \$1500, under \$20,000-\$5000 bond.
Theft by check, under \$500.
DWI, third or more- \$20,000 bond, interlock ordered
Bail jumping, failure to appear on felony- \$25,000 bond.
Two charges delivery of controlled substance, \$5000 bond.
Tamper or fabricate physical evidence- \$5000 bond
Failure to maintain financial responsibility \$500 bond
4 charges public intoxication, \$500 bond. 2 charges possession of marijuana, \$1000 bond
Motion to revoke probation, \$2000 bond
Conspiring to commit manufacturing or delivery of controlled substance, \$2500 bond.

Delivery of controlled substance, \$5000 bond
Motion of surety/criminal mischief, \$500 bond
Motion of surety/possession of marijuana, \$500 bond
Motion of surety/ assault, \$2000 bond.
Criminal trespass in habitation, \$2500 bond.
Hinder secured creditor, \$500 bond
Issuance bad check, \$700 bond
Possession marijuana, \$500 bond
Unauthorized use of vehicle, \$5000 bond.
DWI, second- \$2500, interlock device.
Two charges assault, bodily injury to family member, \$1500 bond.

Senior Citizens Corner

Well, this is another Christmas come and gone. There are really lots of pretty places in town. We were not able to do our decorations this year. I couldn't get out there in that little store room and I wouldn't ask Layne. The Center was really decorated nice. It was not too much, just beautiful.

We had our pot luck supper last week on the 20th. We had 49 people to register. Both bands

were there so we had Christmas Carols, other Christian and country and western music.

Our prayers, love and condolences go to Mary New on the death of her son in Seminole.

Sarah Nerriad is in the hospital in Lubbock.

Hope I haven't left anything out that I am supposed to put in.

Til next time around,
Wanda B.

Attention Little Dribbler Parents:

An organizational/Business meeting will be held on Saturday, January 12th, 2:00 p.m., in the Junior High gym. Topics of discussion will be *changes in National rules and regulations, *voting on and implementing by laws, *coaches, *electing new officers, *entry fees. If you are interested in coaching a team this year, let me know IN WRITING as soon as possible. Please, make any suggestions for by-laws as soon as possible.

Thanks,
Karen Williams

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Plains, Texas

Sunday School 9:30 am.
Morning Worship 10:45 am.
Evening Program 6:00 pm.
Wednesday
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Supper
6:00 pm. Zombies
7:00 pm. - RA's, GA's, Mission Friends,
Sanctuary Choir Practice

WEDDING SHOWER
for Travis & Stephenia Bennett
at the home of Karen Bearden
January 13, 2002
2:30 - 3:30 PM
Selections at Nelson's, Dillards, Target
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Sunday Schedule
Sunday School - 9:45 am
Morning Worship - 10:45 am

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

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

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"It's hard to stop a TRANE!"

From The Hack

ABOUT THE BRIDE.....

Have you ever experienced absolute, horrifying panic? I'm now sure I hadn't until last Friday, about 7:30 AM. I was in the bathroom, fooling with one of my prescription drugs, when the Bride came in, said "My stomach is cramping, and when it does, I get real dizzy... you stay with me until this passes." Not 15 seconds later, she put her hands around my waist, which I mistakenly thought was a loving gesture, and then she groaned loudly, and out of the corner of my eye I saw her body falling backwards, mercifully missing the lavatory sink, and she hit the floor, horrifyingly hard, her head and bottom both making severe sounds on impact.

I was stunned for a moment, and my heart almost stopped. I knelt over her, and was almost petrified when I saw her eyes rolled up high and to the right, absolutely frozen in place, and I instantly had two thoughts; "She's dead... or she's had a stroke." When I knelt and held her face and head, I could feel her heart beat and see she was breathing. I truly thought at the moment I was going to experience heart failure, and all I could do was rub her face, until, after what seemed like two hours, but was really just maybe a minute or so, her eyes moved properly, and Holly came around enough to weakly ask,

"Why am I on the floor?" I could hardly talk, and I was shaking so much I was shaking her face, but I managed to blurt, "You passed out, I'm going to call EMS." She then asked again, "Why am I on the floor?" I tried to tell her, but she kept repeating the question, why am I on the floor? I was shaking much more than she, hardly able to talk, and now I know I was near complete shock.

I told her I had to call EMS for an ambulance to the hospital. She was weak, dizzy, but still stubborn as Hell, and said, "No, no, I'm OK, don't call." At that point, very ironically, one of her brothers called. I cursed a bit and ran to the phone, and Hilburn asked, "Gary, how's my sis?" I said something to the effect not very well, she was passed out on the floor, and I had called for an ambulance. Very prudently, he said, "Oh my God, goodbye" and hung up.

I turned to go back to the bathroom, and almost fainted again when I saw Holly crawling down the hall to our bedroom! She insisted going to the bed, which I helped her on, praying EMS would arrive three minutes ago.

When they did pull up, mercifully not sounding their siren, Marc Traweck, Linda Wright and Alfred Loya hustled inside, apologizing for being a bit tardy, mistakenly thinking the 911 operator had directed them to a "flipped auto on Copeland Avenue."

By now, upon Marc's questioning, I could almost intelligently talk and answer his questions, despite pretty violent body tremors. These three volunteers very calm, but very swiftly, had Holly on their carrying board, her body immobilized in case of unknown

injuries, loaded her in the ambulance, and speeding off to Yoakum County Hospital in Denver City.

I hope no DPS Troopers will read further, for we made the trip at slightly under the Concorde's air speed, the rate of which did nothing for calming my already very hyper nerves.

The hospital ER staff was ready for us, and truthfully, I could not imagine more swift, efficient and professional attention. If I had only a minor complaint, they had failed to furnish one of those giant Swiss St. Bernard dogs with a cask of strong spirits on its neck to greet me - I was truly ready for such a mercy bringing animal.

Dr. Cotton was our attending Physician. Who says Doc's have to be arrogant, non-talkative, almost God like in their demeanor? He's not - I feel we owe him much more than money for his concern and attention to Holly. The entire nursing staff which looked after her amazed me. They were so attentive to her at one time I thought she must have something scandalous on them! We are so very appreciative and touched with their considerate care. No hospital is fun - our stay was as enjoyable as possible.

She was X-rayed, run through the CAT scan, and blood samples were taken. The scan and X-rays found no serious damage from the fall, but the blood samples told Dr. Cotton she was way, way low on blood, and highly anemic. He ordered two units of blood, and told us she had to have a "Scope" job done on her insides to determine where all the lost blood was coming from. He told us he suspected a bleeding ulcer.

Doc Cotton made a call to a Doctor Ruiz in Hobbs, a spe-

cialist in the scope procedure, and my medical knowledge is so wanting I have no idea how he is professionally called, other than Doctor. This guy, believe it or not, agreed to come to the hospital the next morning, Saturday morning. Who ever heard of Doctors getting out of a warm bed on Saturday morning to drive 40 miles to look inside some ladies insides? I swear he had the most terrific bedside manner I have ever witnessed - he was brisk, cheerful, smiling, willing to talk and precisely explain what he was going to do and why.

Before he left Holly's room, he said, "OK, darling, I gotta go get ready for you, but before I do, you gotta give me a BIG HUG!", which he received.

The procedure only took some fifty minutes, and I was surprised when I saw Dr. Cotton coming from the operating room, and I had a bad sinking spell when I looked at his face and eyes. It was not a bleeding ulcer. Her stomach was in great shape, but Dr. Ruiz had found and photographed (in living color, I might add!) a mass in her colon he strongly suspected to be cancerous, an opinion Dr. Cotton agreed with. A biopsy sample was taken of the mass, and by time you read this we should know exactly the type of cancer we're facing.

Both Doctors told us they were optimistic and hopeful the cancer had been found early enough to be removed surgically, possibly even with lapiascopic (SP?) procedure. We are waiting to learn when, and by whom the surgery will be performed.

A word more about the two Doctors who looked after Holly. Before Dr. Ruiz left for Hobbs, he came by, explained fully what he'd done, and about to walk out, grinned and said,

"but before I gotta go you gotta give me another big hug and kiss!"

Doctor Cotton ordered another blood sample drawn Sunday morning, and when it indicated she was no longer seeping blood, came by and told us he was going to write her release orders, and then, he spent well over thirty minutes just visiting with us, going over everything, just talking one on one. I can guarantee you, not all Medics are known for that habit.

At the moment, she feels great, and we are waiting for all the surgery details to be worked out. Thanks for your concerns.

The bid for 2002 Super Bowl viewers will be hot and heavy this year... especially at half-time of the Super Orgy. According to a recent article by David Bauder, Associated Press TV Writer, this year's Super Bowl, televised by Fox, will feature between-halves entertainment by the Rock Band, U2. Knowing that, I already know what I will do at half-time, regardless of the score... rather than watch another rock group, I might switch to Martha Stewart making homemade goose-liver, but this Super Bowl I won't have to - I will switch to NBC, featuring their "Fear Factor" extravaganza, exactly at the Bowl Halftime.

This epic reportedly will concentrate on Playboy and other center-fold models, undergoing excruciating horrors, featuring creepy, crawling critters slithering over their, well... uhh... rather exposed flesh.

I can hear it now; When the half-time show comes up, the Bride will shriek, "I desperately need you to run to the store and get a can of Frankincense and bottle of Myrrh for our salad, and don't hurry back," anything to get me away from the TV.

The more I think about this opposite attraction for half-time viewers, it really makes a bit of sense, especially to male viewers. If NBC can lure them away from the game for some 20, 30 minutes, they can tell their adverting clients they are

reaching 79.3 % more male viewers than the Super Bowl advertisers, a huge plus, for the male viewers are the sole purchasers of testosterone enhancers like Viagra, owned by Pfizer and most probably one of NBC's chief clients for the special girly Fear Factor epic. Anyway - I normally watch the Super Epic until half-time, where I usually doze off, until offered more food or drink. Not this year.

If I can hurry back from the store with the Frankincense and Myrrh in time, there is a distinct possibility I may try to sneak over to NBC, just to study the creepy, crawly things, of course.

Children's definitions of marriage:

"Marriage is when you get to keep your girl and don't have to give her back to her parents." Eric, age 6.

"When somebody's been dating for a while, the boy might propose to the girl. He says to her, 'I'll take you for a whole life, or at least until we have kids and get divorced, but you got to do one thing for me.' Then she says yes, but she's wondering what the ting is and whether it's naughty or not. She can't wait to find out!" Anita, age 9.

"You flip a nickel, and heads means you stay with him and tails means you try the next one." Kelly, age 9.

"My mother says to look for a man who is kind. So that's what I'll do. I'll find someone who's kinda tall and kinda handsome." Carolyn, age 8

"Eighty-Four. Because at that age you don't have to work anymore and you can spend all your time loving each other in your bedroom." Joan, age 8.

"Once I'm done with kindergarten I'm gonna find me a wife." Bert, age 5.

"You should ask the people who read Cosmopolitan." Kirsten, age 10.

"it's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them." Anita, age 9.

"It gives me a headache to think about that stuff. I'm just a kid. I don't need that kind of trouble." Will, age 7.

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AVISO

Aviso esta dado que La Escuela de Plains tiene intencion de destruir documentos de wstudiantes que reciben servicio de Educacion Especial. Documentos que deben ser destruidos son para personas que reciben educacion especial, incluyendo servicios de terapia de lenguaje hasta el ano escolar 1993-1994. Los unicos documentos que van estar destruidos son los que estan localizados en Plains ISD, 806/456-7498, Box 479, Plains TX 79355. Padres/guardian legal o estudiantes adultos con incapacidades fisica/mentales pueden pedir copias de sus documentos en la escuela.

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