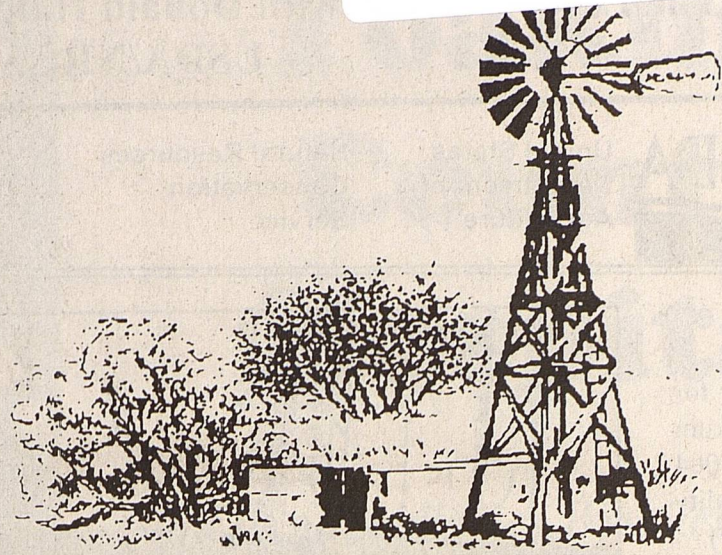


Cowboy Country News

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

Volume X, Issue 19, January 21, 2004



School Board Recognition Month

Governor Rick Perry has proclaimed January as School Board Recognition Month, and Plains Independent School District is joining other districts across the state to gratefully acknowledge its local school board for the commitment to our community and school.

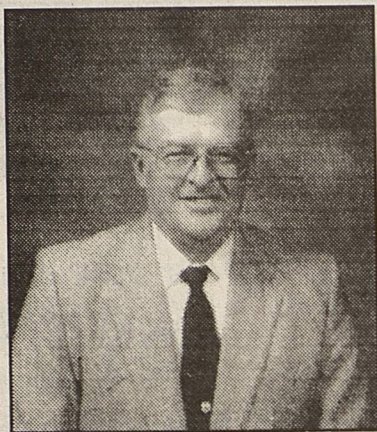
"Texans benefit everyday from the dedicated energies and countless hours devoted by a group of more than 7,000 men and women across the state. These public servants are elected to serve by local citizens and receive no compensation for their tireless efforts. The men and women are the local school board members of Texas, said Plains ISD Superintendent James Haynes.

"These people unselfishly contribute their time and talents toward the advancement of public education, Haynes said. "They represent a continuing commitment to local citizen control and decision making in education. Even though we are making a special effort in January to show appreciation to our school board members, we recognize their contributions reflect a year-round commitment on their part."

"We proudly salute these education advocates as they provide leadership for student achievement, academic programs, district funding, and school facilities. Their services ensures decisions about local public schools are made by those most familiar with the needs of the community's children and families," said Haynes.

"These individuals deserve recognition and thanks for their dedication to the continuing success of our students and schools," he stated.

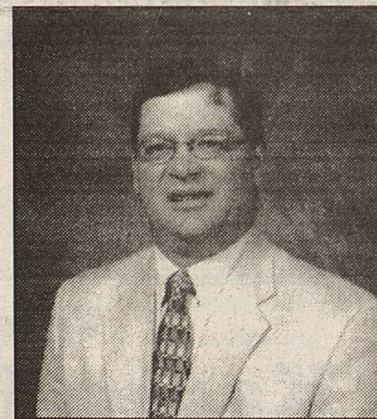
The men and women serving Plains ISD are: Wayne Sisson, board president, 8 years experience; Randy Tuggle, board vice-president, 9 years experience; Keith Earnest, board secretary, 1 year experience; Brad Palmer, member, 10 years experience; Anna Gonzalez, member, 4 years experience; Danny Bell, member, 11 years experience, and Dwayne Canada, member, 11 years experience.



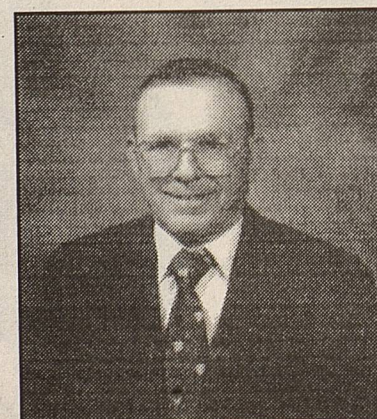
Tuggle



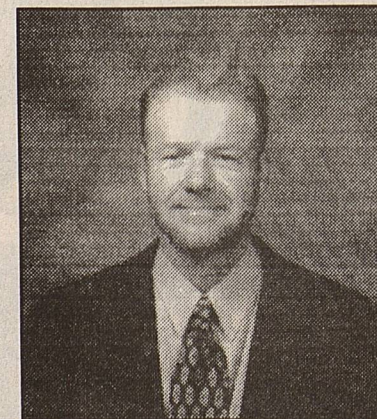
Earnest



Bell



Canada



Palmer



Sisson



Gonzalez

Ballot places set for March Primary

Hor races predicted for Sheriff, Commissioner, Tax Assesor jobs

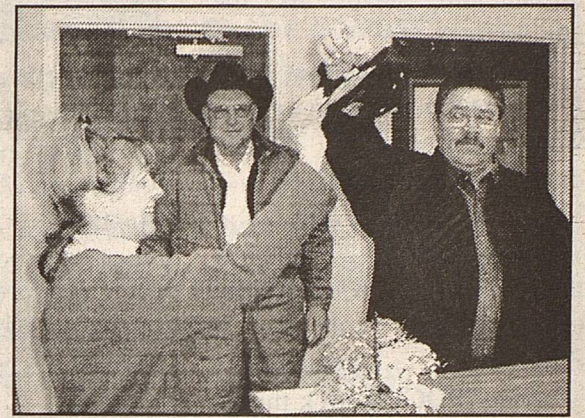
At 8 AM last Friday, County Clerk Debbie Rushing conducted a drawing of numbered golf balls from a cap to determine places on the Democrat and Republican ballots for the upcoming March Primary elections. Ironically, the two democrat candidates for the precinct 3 Commissioner spot, and two republican candidates for the Tax Assesor/Collector position present for the drawing failed to pick the golf ball with the coveted Number 1. Here is how the March ballots for county positions will be printed:

Democrat:

Sheriff - Rick Dickson
Commissioner, Pct. 3:
Rex Swann
Evaristo 'Cody' Flores
Ty Earl Powell
Commissioner, Pct. 1
No Democrat candidate
Tax Assesor/Collector
No Democrat candidate
Democrat County Chair-



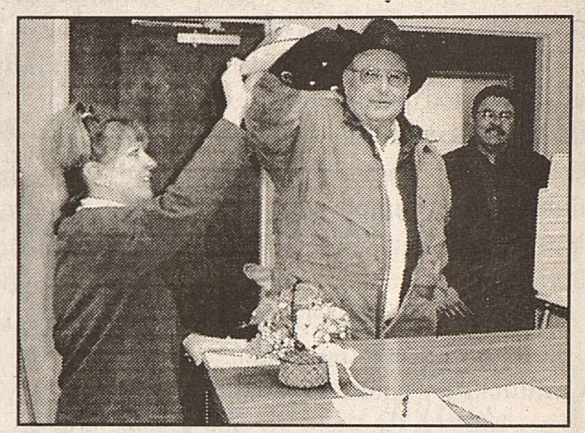
Karen Bearden



Cody Flores



Jan Parrish



Ty Earl Powell

Billy Ray Moore
Republican:
Sheriff - Don Corzine
Commissioner, Pct 3-
Tim Willis

Commissioner, Pct. 1 -
Woody Lindsey
Tax Assesor/Collector -
Elfida Lazos Winkler
Jan K. Parrish

Karen Bearden
Republican County Chair -
Styeve Slentz
The Primary Election is scheduled for March 9, 2004.

Criminal cases in County Court

In the January 14 session of County Court, Judge Dallas Brewer presiding, six cases were heard, with Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the state.

Roy Alton McGee Jr. pled true to aggregated theft by check. He was sentenced to 180 days in jail with credit for 67 days served. His attorney was Joe Nagy, for Bill Helwig.

Alejandro Ortega Ornelas pled guilty to marijuana possession, less than two ounces. A 60 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. He must pay a \$250 fine, \$211 court costs, \$200 court appointed attorney fees, and \$25 time payment fee.

His driver license will be suspended 180 days, he will serve 24 hours community service and complete the drug offender program. Warren New was his attorney, and Deputy David Bryant was investigating officer.

Joseph Lee Tenorio pled guilty to possession of more than one driver license. He will serve 17 days in jail with credit for 35 days served. He must pay \$210 court costs, and was under hold by Hill County.

Jose Andres Rodriguez pled guilty to driving while license suspended. He was fined \$200 and must pay \$211 court costs. Chris Malloy, DPS, was investigating.

Turn to Pg. 3,
"County Court"

Area ag conferences offering CEU credits

The Texas Cooperative Extension has organized a number of regional agricultural conferences slated for January and February. By attending the conferences, producers not only earn continuing education credits (CEU's) for private, non-commercial and commercial applicator licenses, but may also update their crop production, marketing and management skills.

Producers are required to re-

new their private applicators license every five years by obtaining at least 15 CEU's including two in Law and Regulations and two in Integrated Pest Management (IMP). Licenses expire the last day of February and the expiration date is listed on your license.

Remaining Conferences and contact information includes:
January 27 - Llano Estacado

Cotton Conference, Muleshoe Coliseum, 8:30 AM, 5 CEU's, Bailey County Extension Office, 806-272-4574

January 28 - Caprock Cotton Conference, Plains Baptist Assembly, Floydada, 8 AM, at least 3 CEU's, Floyd office 806-983-4912. Crosby Office 806-675-2347

For more information or questions regarding licenses, contact Arlan Gentry, Yoakum County CEA, 806-456-2263

A pretty sight that didn't last long... But sure beat another sand storm



This snowy scene was shot last Saturday morning at Stanford Park. The day was too warm to allow much accumulation, but accompanied by earlier rain showers it did manage to provide from four tenths to an inch to one report of an inch of very badly needed precip.

On The Level with Donald Haley
USDA/NRCS

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Tuesday, January 27, 2004.....

That's an important day for producers here in Yoakum County interested in the 2004 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

It's important to note that things have 'changed' in the delivery of the EQIP program.

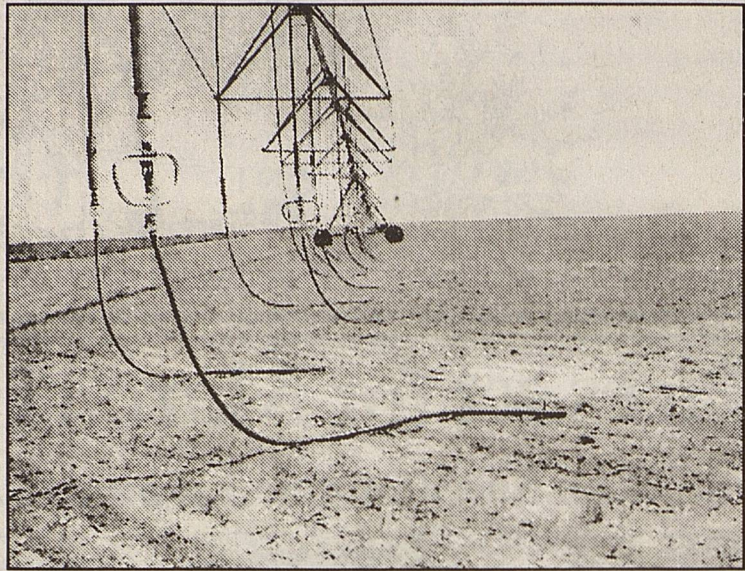
Beginning last year, the responsibility for the program was distributed from a bureaucratic level to the county level.

The thinking was that local folks knew better than anyone what conservation needed doing and how best to do it.

So...at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 27, 2004 at the Plains Community Center, there will be a Program Development Meeting (PDG) to kick things off for the 2004 EQIP program.

This is an open meeting to all interested parties to voice their concerns as to the conservation practices they think are important to Yoakum County under EQIP 2004.

Following this meeting, at 10:00 a.m. at the Plains Community Center, there will



be a meeting of the Local Work Group (LWG).

This group is chaired by the Yoakum SWCD Board of Directors.

Other members will be the FSA County Committee, the FSA County Executive Director, the County Extension Agent, the Commissioners Court, a representative of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and NRCS personnel.

The LWG is charged with taking the concerns of the PDG and developing the list of cost-shared practices, cost-share rates and associated funding to be offered to the producers of Yoakum County

for EQIP 2004.

In 2003, some of the approved cost-shared practices in Yoakum County were brush control (shinnery), sprinkler conversion (LEPA, MESA, LPIC), pasture planting (converting cropland to grass), replacing old and inefficient irrigation pipeline, livestock watering facility and fencing.

As you can see, this will be an important meeting for Yoakum County as far as the administering of the 2004 EQIP program.

Hope to see you on the morning of January 27th.

Capitol Comment

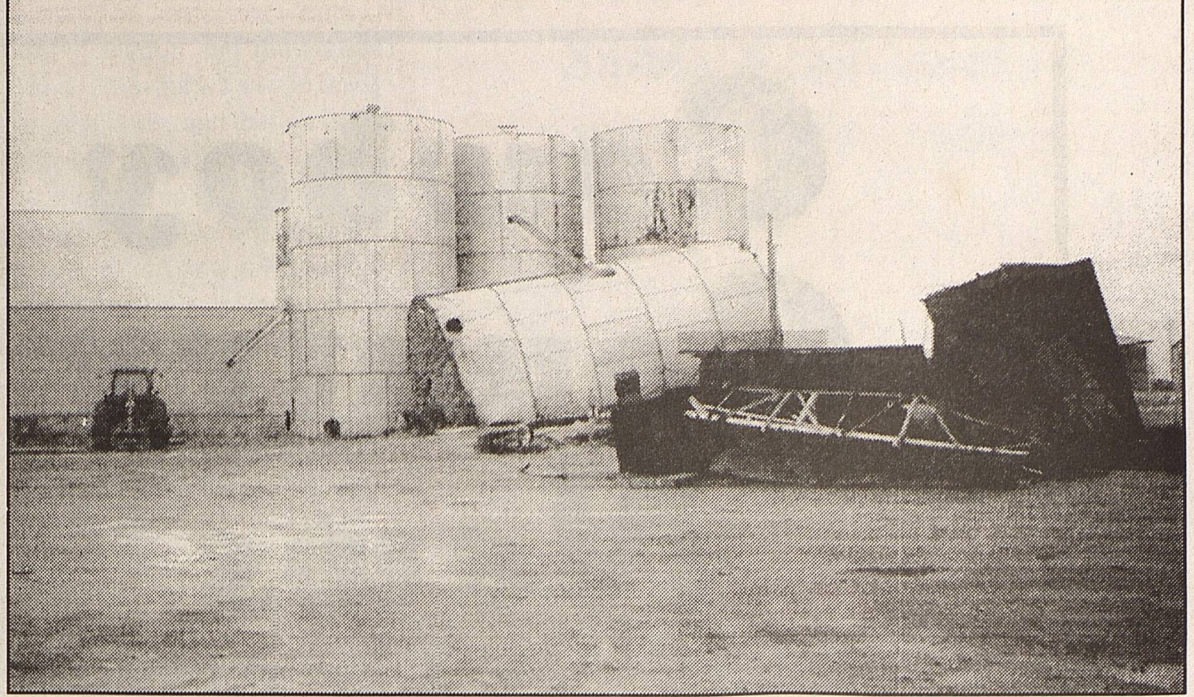
BY U.S. Senator
Kay Bailey Hutchison

Texans Talk Education

Mother Goose tales, Big Chief writing tablets, Aesop's Fables, Dick and Jane books.... these classic schoolhouse mementos instantly conjure up images of childhoods long since past. For many of us, our first step toward success in life was through the doors of a public school where these classic tools helped us learn the three 'R's' - reading, writing and 'rithmetic.

In 1980, the Department of Education was formed with the directive to "ensure all have equal access to education and promote excellence in our nation's schools." In my annual survey I posed the following question about the state of our nation's education system: "In January 2002 the president signed into law historic education reform, the 'No Child Left Behind' act. The legislation encourages innovation, teaches students based on what works and makes schools accountable for achievement. As we implement the reforms, it is important to ensure they continue to enhance our system of public education and meet the needs of our nation's children. In your opinion, what should we be doing to improve our public schools?"

That question provoked strong opinions, as Texans far and



The old grain storage facility owned by ag producer Macky McWhirter is being partially razed. When the tanks are removed, a new, shaded watermelon and produce loading dock will be constructed. The facility has been used by Anderson Produce for a number of years.

Élfida Lazos Winkler ★★

for **Tax Assessor-Collector**



(Pol. adv. paid for by Élfida Lazos Winkler, 309 N. Washington, Denver City, Texas 79323)

"Your vote & influence are greatly appreciated."

*Make experience count! ★
Tome en cuenta la experiencia!*

para Asesor-Colector de Impuestos
"Pido y agradezco su voto e influencia."

wide are clearly concerned with the education of their children. When it comes to student testing, 63% of you felt we needed an increase, with the remainder thinking we needed a decrease. Equal numbers of you felt while we should pay teachers more, we should also require teacher testing in their field. And I received hearty support for the need to add creativity in curriculum, and teaching methods, as well as for the idea of giving performance bonuses to teachers and schools.

Below is a small sampling of the feedback I received on this important issue:

- * Increase student and parent accountability. Harvey, Houston.
- * Offer vouchers for children in schools that don't perform. Delaney, Georgetown
- * More instructional teaching and less classroom worksheets. John Allen
- * There is a big difference between testing and teaching. Better pay encourages better teachers and more men to enter and stay in the profession. Nancy, San Antonio.
- * Get the unions out of the classroom. Ray, Spring.
- * Many students are uninspired by their teachers and their ability to properly instruct. Larry, Azle.
- * Encourage smaller class sizes, especially in primary grades. Mary, Brownsville.

* Creativity is so important to the development of our children. Kerry, Boerne.
* Give each teacher more flexibility in the classroom. Each student is an individual and requires different ways of teaching. Most teachers should be more creative. Testing should be done but it is not the most important thing. A great

teacher once told me the most important thing you can give any child is a love of learning. Vicky, Fredericksburg.
In December, the Department of Education announced 26 Texas schools had been designated as "Blue Ribbon Award" honorees. We'll continue to work until all our schools are blue ribbon schools.

Elect

Jan Parrish
for **Tax Assessor-Collector**



Prepared To Work For You **Vote March 9**
Republican Primary

Political Ad Paid For By Jan Parrish, Plains, Texas

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TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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Republican Candidate
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PLAINS JH
BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
JAN. 22 & 24

THURSDAY JAN. 22

GIRLS GYM

4:00 WELLMAN 'B' VS MORTON 7TH
5:00 WELLMAN 'A' VS MORTON 8TH
6:00 PLAINS 7TH VS WHITEFACE 7TH
7:00 PLAINS 8TH VS WHITEFACE 8TH

BOYS GYM

4:00 WELLMAN 'B' VS MORTON 7TH
5:00 WELLMAN 'A' VS MORTON 8TH
6:00 PLAINS 7TH VS WHITEFACE 7TH
7:00 PLAINS 8TH VS WHITEFACE 8TH

SATURDAY JAN. 24

BOYS GYM

9:00 W'FACE 7TH VS MORTON 7TH
10:00 PLAINS 7TH VS WELLMAN 'B'
11:00 W'FACE 8TH VS MORTON 8TH
12:00 PLAINS 8TH VS WELLMAN 'A'
1:00 WELLMAN 'B' VS W'FACE 7TH
2:00 PLAINS 7TH VS MORTON 7TH
3:00 WELLMAN 'A' VS W'FACE 8TH
4:00 PLAINS 8TH VS MORTON 8TH

GIRLS GYM

9:00 W'FACE 7TH VS MORTON 7TH
10:00 PLAINS 7TH VS WELLMAN 'B'
11:00 W'FACE 8TH VS MORTON 8TH
12:00 PLAINS 8TH VS WELLMAN 'A'
1:00 WELLMAN 'B' VS W'FACE 7TH
2:00 PLAINS 7TH VS MORTON 7TH
3:00 WELLMAN 'A' VS W'FACE 8TH
4:00 PLAINS 8TH VS MORTON 8TH

Texas Tech football sets 23 NCAA records

After setting 24 NCAA records in 2002, the 2003 Texas Tech Red Raider football team dominated the NCAA record books again with 23 new marks, including the establishment of standards in total offense, passing and punt returns.

Two of the most significant records were set by the Red Raider receiving corps. The NCAA has records for "Two players, same team, 1,000 yards each" and "Four players, same team, 60 receptions each." Tech surpassed both categories and became the first team in NCAA history to boast three players (Carlos Francis, Wes Welker and Nehemiah Glover) with 1,000 yard receiving seasons and five players (Welker, Mickey Peters, Taurean Henderson, Glover and Francis) with 70 or more receptions.

Texas Tech set nine total offense records, including eight individually by B.J. Symons. Among his marks were most total offense yards in a season (5,976) and most games gaining 400 or more total offense yards (11). The Red Raiders, one of only two programs in the country to average 500 or more yards total offense per game, won the NCAA total offense this season with 582.8 yards per game.

In addition to his total offense records, Symons tied two records and set four others, in-

cluding single season passing yards. He broke Ty Detmers 13 year old record with 5,833 yards this season and also set the NCAA record for most consecutive games gaining 200 or more passing yards (13). The Raiders won its second consecutive NCAA passing title under head coach Mike Leach. He set the record for most passing yards gained, 6,179.

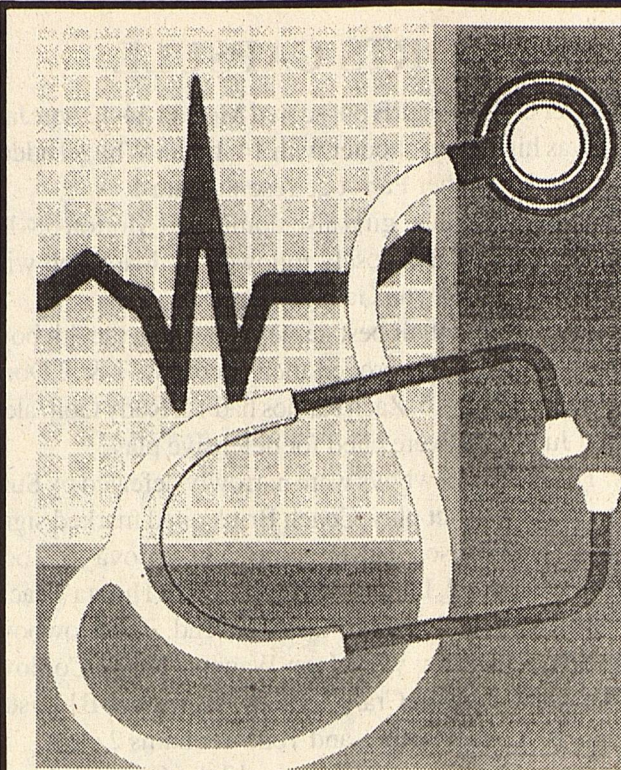
Welker also continued his ascent up the NCAA punt return charts. He set the career punt return yardage record with 1,761 over the last four seasons and establishing a new mark in most career punt returns for touchdowns, eight. He finished his career with 152 punt returns, narrowly missing the 153 record set in the early eighties.

As a team, Tech set three first down records, including most first downs in a game, 45 against Iowa State, most first downs per game in a season, 32.2, and most passing first downs per game in a season, 23.5.

Gifted /Talented Screening

Plains Independent School district offers many programs to meet the needs of its students. One such program is the Gifted and Talented Program.

The program is looking for students who are capable of high performance. Such students may have above aver-



Yoakum County Hospital

and its subsidiaries, West Texas Medical Center, Yoakum County Home Health, and the Plains Family Clinic

The Yoakum County Board of Directors salute each and every staff member of these invaluable health care providers. You have had another year of providing professional and compassionate health care service to the county communities and surrounding area. Our present health care facilities could not provide this excellent service without your hard work and dedication.

Yoakum County Hospital continues to grow. In addition to our four Family Practitioners, and three Physician Assistants, the hospital now utilizes the professional expertise of these specialists;
Odis Avant, MD - Urology * MD's Wilkins, Weathers, Zias - Cardiology Associates * Brent Paulger, MD - Dermatology * Francis Ruiz, MD - Gastroenterology * Charles Jackson, MD - Podiatry * Brian Gordon, MD - General Surgery * David Kurtz, MD - General Surgery * James Morton, MD - Emergency Room Physician.

We salute each and all who have played a role in our growth and success

YCH Board Of Directors

Jack Cobb, J.R. Slentz, Dennis Harrison, Neal Newsom, Stanley Ashburn, Edith Kidd

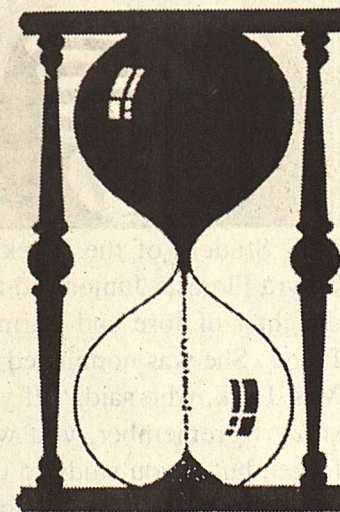
Advertisement paid for by YCH Board of Directors

age potential in such areas as creative and productive thinking.

The be served by this program, a student must first be nominated, and then screened. All Kindergarten students are screened with parent permission. A student in grades 1 through 12 may be nominated by parents, teachers, friends, or himself. If you want to nominate a student for Gifted and Talented Services, please see Mrs. Howell or Mrs. Blair for a nomination form. Return these as soon as possible and no later than February 3. Testing for some grades will begin in January. Placement for those qualifying will be made by March 1, 2004. Questions about the Gifted and Talented Program should be directed to Mrs. Cynthia Blair, program coordinator, the elementary school, 456-7438.

From Pg. 1 'County Court'

tigating officer. Luis Armando Hernandez pled guilty to DWI, b.t. .091/.083, open container. A 120 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 11 months. He was fined \$500, must pay \$226 court costs. \$200 court appointed attorney fees, and \$25 time payment fee. He will spend six days in jail with credit for one served, must pay \$ 50 monthly supervision fees, serve 24 hours community service, complete the first offender DWI course, and surrender his license 90 days. Mario Esmerado Villegas pled guilty to first DWI, open container. He will serve 90 days in jail with credit for 103 days, pay \$226 court costs, and will be held for the U.S. Border Patrol.



**It's Time For Us To
Thank A Very Large Group
Of Truly Great Folks !
Without your dedication, hard
work, and extreme generosity
the recent and first YCH
Foundation Denim & Diamonds**

Gala could not have been the great hit it was!!

**Our sincerest appreciation to;
The Gala Committee, for months of hard
work, which produced such fantastic results**

**

**The business firms and organizations for their
outstanding contributions and generosity**

**

**The many individuals for their generous giving,
of both funds and great gifts for the auctions**

**The
YCH Foundation**

The BEST
Just got **BETTER**
CFI announces industry leading pay increase!

Company Drivers earn
up to 45¢ per mile

Company Teams earn
up to 53¢ per mile

Owner Operators earn
up to 98¢ per mile

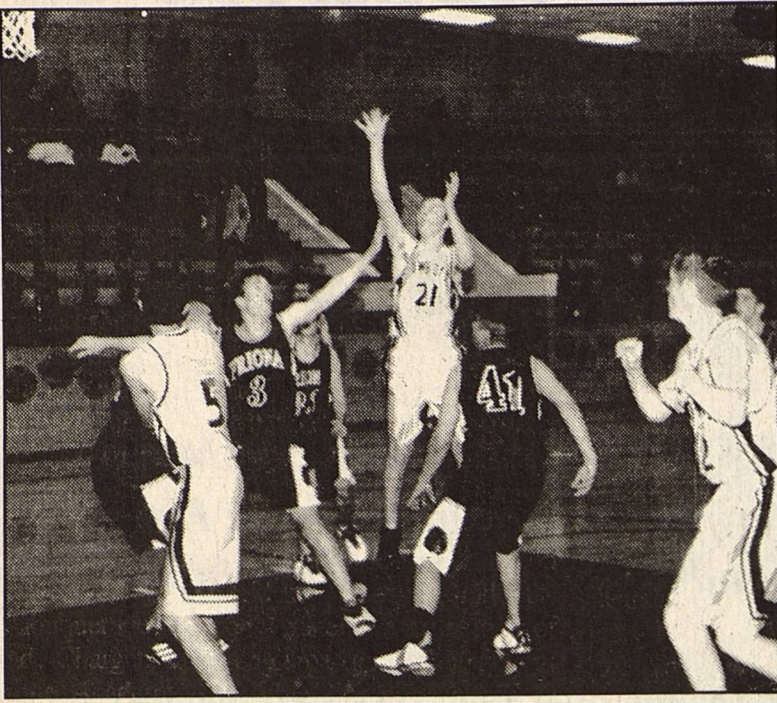
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Cowboy Action Scenes



PISD SPORTS CAPSULE

7th Lady Wranglers: The 7th girls out scored Morton 24-12 here Jan. 12. Mari Ruiz was high point shooter with 14, Lydia Whitzel added 4, Briana Conway 3, Heather Parrot 2, Yesenia Lara 1.
 8th Lady Wranglers: The older girls also dominated Morton 38-15. Lauren Davis had 16n points, closely followed by Joani Bell with 14. Katie Winn scored 5. Reyna Gallegos had 3.
 8th Wranglers: In possibly their best game of the year, the 8th boys downed Morton 42-26 and improved their record to 7 & 2. Dody Mayes topped scoring with 15, Zach Ramos had 12, Rudy Gonzales, John Tyson and Juan Lara were cited for defensive play.
 JV Cowboys: The young Cowboys were narrowly defeated by Sundown 38-36 to open deistrict play. Coach Brink cited marked signs of improvement. Scott Adison had 15 points, TJ Cordova 12, Todd Williams 4, Blake Parrish 2, Landon Craft and Brant Huerta 1 each. In the JV Tournament at Sundown last weekend, The Cowboys blasted Anton 55-15. Scoring were Jaon Wagnon 12, TJ Cordova 11, Scott Addison 10, Landon Craft 7, Brant Huerta and BJ Lester 4, David Alldredge 3, Abel Ramos and Todd Williams 2 each.
 Varsity Cowgirls: In District action January 13 the Cowgirls found Sundown's press too much to handle and fell 79-27. Managing to score were Desiraye Broome 12, Meghan Garcia 7, Regina Morales 3, Micaela Villegas and Sandra Gandara 2 each, and Daniela Lazos 1. They played much better against Anton January 16 but were edged 62-55. Micaela Villegas and Regina Morales shared scoring honors with 17 each, Desiraye Broome 11, Jesenia Suarez 8, Meghan Garcia 1.
 Varsity Cowboys: The Cowboys opened district action with a 49-46 win over Sundown, despite under par shooting. Zach Broome topped scoring with 19, Evan Cain 12, Richard Diaz 7, Brandon Hise 6, Mody Flores 3, Kerry Sisson 2. They next traveled to Anton and fell 64-45 and evened their record at 1 and 1. Richard had 16 points, Zach 9, Evan 8, Payton Bean 5, Brandon 3, Kerry and Blake 2 each.

PHS Honor Roll 3rd Six Weeks

'A' Honor Roll

9th Grade

Landon Craft
 Jose Luis Gallegos
 Erika Loewen
 Angelica Mendoza
 Araceli Mendoza
 Adriana Ponce
 Colby Wilmeth

10th Grade

Michael Crump
 Allison Friesen
 B.J. Lester

Ramiro Martinez

Blake O'Quinn

Abel Ramos

11th Grade

Evan Cain

Patrick Cotton

Breck Hamm

Brandon Hise

Brant Huerta

Daniela Lazos

Kerry Sisson

12th Grade

Stacie Alldredge

Mike Lopez

Grady McNabb

Helena Neufeld

Nolan Newsom

Moriah Traweek

Manuela Villegas

April Wilmeth

'A-B Honor Roll

9th Grade

Nicole Culwell

10th Grade

Skylar Keesece

Adam McCravey

Blake Parrish

11th Grade

Payton Bean

Daniel Estrada

Cody Flores

Mayra Flores

Kristian Morales

Prisma Ortiz

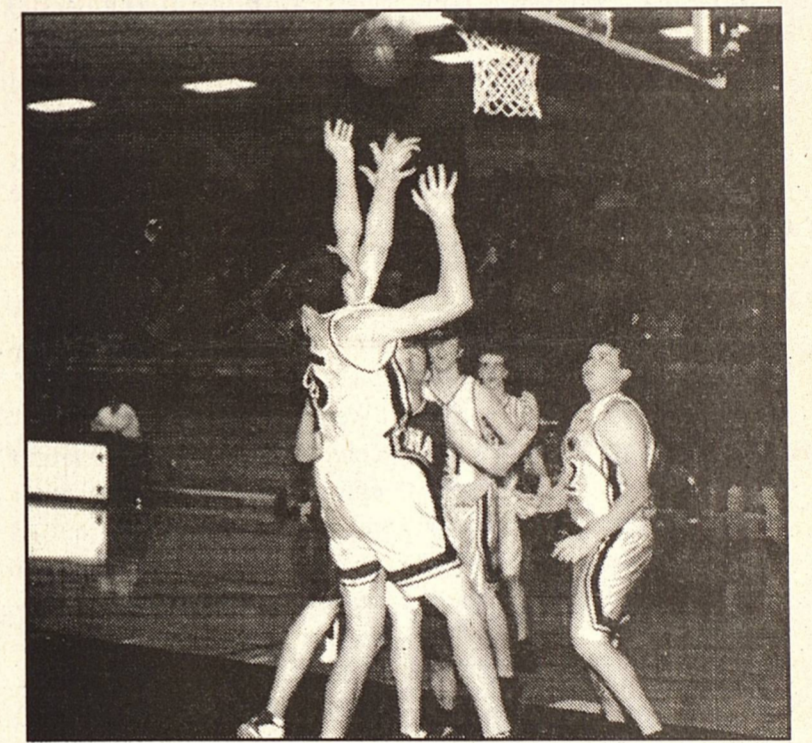
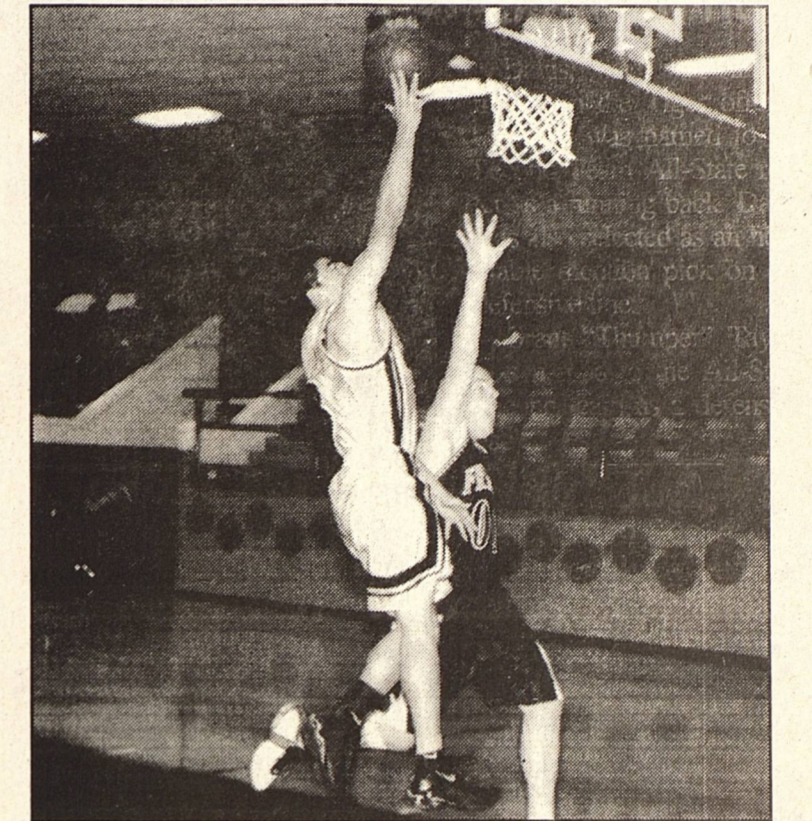
12th Grade

Cendy Lopez

Student of the Week



PHS Student of the Week is Mayra Flores, a Junior and the daughter of Jose and Carmen Flores. She was nominated by Mrs. Lusk, who said, "If you study to remember, you will forget, but if you study to understand you will remember. Mayra takes this quote to heart. She studies to understand daily. Thus, her confidence in math is also growing. She is a delight to have in class"



Go! Go!

Yoakum County Plains Clinic

Amir Memon, MD

and

Jo Lena Wall, PA - C

See us for your Weight-Loss and Tobacco addiction problems

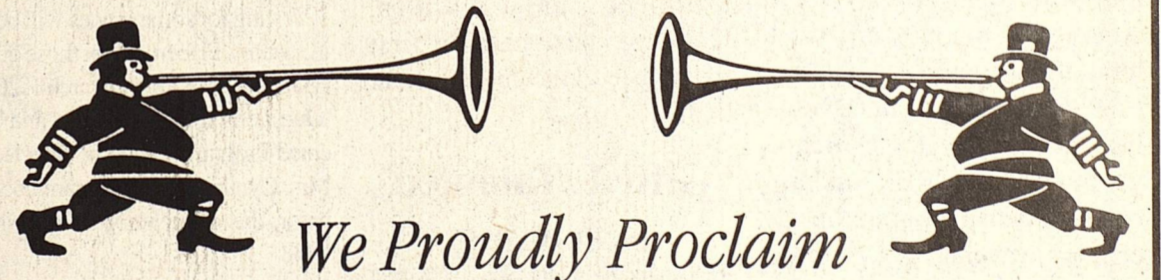
TEXAS HEALTH STEPS

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8 am.-5pm.

Will take walk-ins

Appointments preferred

Please call 806-456-6365



Our great and sincere appreciation to the members of the YCH Foundation Board and the Denim & Diamonds Committee for your tireless efforts which made the Gala night such a tremendous success. Edith Kidd, Dale Carter, Jim Barron, Joe Kay, Wilma Powell, Clay Taylor, and the Denim & Diamonds Committee, We Salute You!

The Yoakum County Hospital Board
 Jack Cobb, J.R. Slentz, Dennis Harrison,
 Neal Newsom, Stanley Ashburn, Edith Kidd

Lifelines & Styles



On December 20, 2003, Texas Tech University is proud to announce Krystle LaShaye Blundell received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Corporate Communication Studies, a minor in Business Management achieving Cum Laude honors. Krystle plans to extend her studies attending Texas Tech's Education Graduate program. She is the daughter of Chris and Vicki Blundell.

Senior Citizens Corner

This column begins with an apology to Walter Gayle (and Walther Holland, whose name I inadvertently used last week.) We continue to extend our sympathy to Walter Gayle, whose daughter, Linda Eikenhorst, died on New Year's Day.

We also want to express our sympathy to the family of Faye Bruton. Sam and Faye were active members of the Center for many years. Their many thoughtful contributions and concerns will be sorely missed in our Center and the community.

Several of our people attended the monthly pool tournament at Lovington, NM, this week and brought home some wins. Meal tickets are always a welcome prize after sinking that last ball.

We are told: "Do not ride in automobiles; they cause 20% of all fatal accidents. Do not stay home; 17% of all accidents occur in the home. Do not walk on the street or sidewalk; 14% of all pedestrians. Do not travel by air, rail, or water; 1% of all accidents happen on these. However, only .001% of all deaths reported occur in worship services. Hence, the safest place for you to be is in church."

Word was received this week that Darlene Clevenger has suffered another stroke and is now in a nursing home in Childress,

Texas. If you would like to remember Tom and Darlene with a card or letter, the address is 300 Madison Ave, Apt. 409, Childress, Tx 79201. They would like to hear from their friends.

Rene Carrasco, the son of our Director, Gloria Carrasco, is very ill in a Lubbock hospital at the time of this writing. Let's all remember this young man in our prayers. A hospital is the last place a twelve year old boy wants to be.

Ann Holland is back in the office after spending a long time with Walter in a Lubbock hospital. We hear Walt is back to the coffee shop, and it is certainly good to have Ann on tap to fill in for Gloria this week while she takes her turn attending an ill loved one.

Three of the Senior Companion ladies met for lunch and their monthly meeting on Tuesday. We appreciate these ladies and all of the good they do in our community.

Monday night's pool and game time was well attended this week. There was activity in all corners of the pool room and everyone appeared to be enjoying a fun filled evening. If you enjoy shooting pool, playing dominoes, or just visiting while enjoying coffee and snacks, come on down at 6:30 pm. next Monday.

Connection Annual Meeting

Yoakum County Connection met January 15 for their annual meeting in Denver City at the Connection Building. Plains High School Ensemble under the direction of Georgeanne Weisgerber and Michelle Steward performed for the group. Head Band Director Weisgerber commended the students and pointed out their honors to the group assembled. After an opening prayer by Ed Hansen, Chair LeAnn Romines presided over the meeting and showed a large card assembled by the Denver City Elementary Students with poster size pages and signatures thanking the Connection for their help with the Harms Marionettes programs last October. Jeannette Head gave a Watermelon Round-Up report and L. J. Sanders gave the financial wrap-up for 2003. Lisa Brown and Linda Powell helped with the generous door prize give away. A suggestion to have student representatives on the board was initiated by Elsa Moya and discussed by the group. New directors elected include Anna Gonzales, Esme Salas, Gary Davis, Ruth Gooch, Lisa Sosa, with returning directors Ed Hansen and Linda Harris. Barbara Wright served refreshments on a table decorated with a donated centerpiece by Lanelle's Flower Shop. Wilma Powell helped with registration of guests.

Door Prize Donors For Yoakum County Connection 2004 Annual Meeting

Yoakum County Connection - 3 caps, apron, hat
 Wilma Powell - Ceramic Platter
 Image 'n That - Ditty Bag, Namecard Holder, Manicure Set, Pen Holder
 Ty Earl Powell - Placemats
 TSA MO GA - Jigsaw Puzzle
 Lowe's Pay & Save - Two \$20 Certificates
 Yoakum County Art Association - Green Plant
 Lanelle's - Fresh Flower Centerpiece
 Mary Jo St. Romain - two Historical Calendars
 Johnnies Restaurant - Two Meals
 Sandy Land Water District - Rain Gauges, Water Nozzles
 Yoakum County Federal Credit Union - Two \$25 Cash Awards
 Lalitos Restaurant - Two Fajita Burritos and Drinks
 Vennum Fitzgerald - Massage
 Liz Chandler - Digital Alarm Calendar
 Plains Dairy Queen - Two Crispy Chicken Salads, Two Hungerbuster Combos
 Lea County Electric - Standing Fan, Surround Heater, Worklight
 Uncle's - Case of Oil
 Plains State Bank - \$25 Cash
 Tangles - Redden Vinyl Glam
 Pat Walkers - Two Candles
 DC Chamber of Commerce - Travel Mug & Portfolio
 Sundown State Bank - \$50 Savings Bond
 The Grand Entry - \$10 Gift Certificate
 Designing Women - Spa Trio Set
 Tangerine Tree House - Willow Tree Figurine
 Higginbotham Barlett - Screw Driver Set With Holder
 Ace Hardware - Mini Food Choppers, 2 Fruit Juicers
 Ray's Auto Parts - Screwdriver Set
 D. C. Motor Parts - Tool Box
 Just Silver Tea Room - \$20 Gift Certificate
 Kathy's General Store - Mug & Hot Chocolate Mixes

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 10:45 A.M.
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 6:00 P.M.

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Tsa Mo Ga Meets



Pictured are L-Suzy Powell, R-Wilma Powell

The TSA MO GA Study Club met on January 12 for our first meeting of 2004. Club members enjoyed sandwiches and black-eyed pea (for good luck in the new year) Cowboy Cavier, Cookies and cake. Hostesses for the evening were Connie McWhirter and Bonnie Earnest. Our program was on arts & crafts & featured local artists & crafters. Our first artist of the evening was Suzy Powell. Suzy has had her flag watercolor paintings displayed at Barnes & Noble book store in Lubbock & has been featured in several watercolor painting magazines. She currently has her snow people art displayed at Barnes & Noble. Suzy shared with us the history of watercolor painting & demonstrated a painting technique called 'pouring'. She also shared with us her many

sketch books which she said were essential to developing and exploring the artists' skills. Some people even have their sketch books published.

Our next artist was Wilma Powell. She shared with us photographs of her needlepoint angel ornament which she made for Governor and Mrs. Rick Perry's Christmas tree at the Governors Mansion in Austin. The Governor and Mrs. Perry asked each county in the state of Texas to make a needlecraft angel to go on the tree in the Governors Mansion. Wilma made a very detailed needlepoint angel ornament and submitted it on behalf of Yoakum County. She also attended the Texas Needlepoint artists Christmas Tea at the Governors' Mansion. The club ended the meeting by repeating together the 'club collect'.

Wedding Shower

honoring

Angela Jones, Bride elect of
 Mark Barefield

Sunday, January 25, 2004, 2:00 - 3:30 pm.
 in the home of

Mrs. Kim Willis, 1.9 miles south on 214
 selections: Lubbock, Target, Dillard's
 Brownfield: Nelson's, Plains: Image 'n That,
 Bayer Lumber

Slow Down Or Change Lanes For Stopped Emergency Vehicles

SB 193 requires drivers near- vice and fire vehicles. A violation is punishable by a maximum fine of \$200. If the violation results in property damage, the maximum fine increases to \$500. If the violation results in bodily injury, the offense is enhanced to a Class B misdemeanor.

The new law was passed in the last regular session of the Texas Legislature and went into effect Sept 1, 2003.

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From The Hack

As noted in the front page article of this issue, January is School Board Recognition Month in Texas, so..... WHY NOT SAY ' THANKS' TO OUR BOARD MEMBERS.

Being an effective school board member is no easy task, particularly in today's climate of change and challenge. School board members need to be knowledgeable about many complex educational and social issues and carry out initiatives and directives from our state and federal governments. To face these demands of governing our public schools, they give countless hours of personal time.

Through dedicated, responsive endeavors, school board members serve the public interest in public education and serve the needs of our kids. They ensure decisions about public schools are made as close to the needs of our communities as possible. Their public service is an excellent example for young and old alike of the tradition of volunteerism that is a hallmark of American society.

This January, local communities are invited to honor the

contributions and dedication of their local school board members - those locally elected citizens who make decisions that affect, influence and direct the education of our youth.

Our school board is one of 1,042 such boards across the state. These boards enable us to have local control of the public schools, meaning decisions on school programming are made by local, elected representatives who understand the community's unique problems, values, culture and circumstances.

With the advice and counsel of the educational professionals they hire, our school board has an effect on virtually every aspect of our schools. It's a huge responsibility, one which should not be taken lightly. Too often we neglect to recognize the dedication and hard work of these men and women who serve as advocates of our school. The staff and students of our district are asking all local citizens to take a moment to tell a school board member, " thanks for caring about our kids."

Not all decisions reached by school boards are popular with the entire community. In many cases these decisions are mandated by a governmental policy. It is sound advice, before you criticize a board decision too fiercely, to try the shoes on of those board members... you may find they don't always fit perfectly.

The following is an honest, cross-my-heart-hope-to die reporting of a news broadcast I heard on Lubbocks KFYO radio station. Last Tuesday, January 13, I was returning from Lovington after having last week's CCN expertly printed. I use the term expertly rather loosely. If they were REALLY experts they would be so kind as to correct all my typos before sending the thing through the press. Nevertheless, at 2 PM, the news broadcast came on with this bizarre story;

" It was announced today a female customer of a restaurant in Baltimore, Maryland was enjoying sipping on a service of Clam Chouder, when she chewed down upon a substance which definitely didn't have the texture of a true clam. She spat the morsel on her spoon, and upon close examination discovered she had been fruitlessly chewing upon a rolled condom, which refused to become smaller as she dutifully chewed away.

The news item did not fully describe the lady's reaction, which could have included a fainting spell resulting in EMS people on the scene, the miraculous, almost as fast appearance of the always ready to sue California Lawyer representing Michael Jackson, the lover of Teddy Bears and other childish things, prepared to sue the seafood joint for a million clams. Instead, the condom distressed lady, when brought back to consciousness, was reported to have screamed, " I have loved clam chowder all my life, but NO MORE! I may give up sex, too!" I've been trying to remember to check the market price for Trojan on the Dow. Oh well, I still love seafood.

Thumbing through the Lubbock A-J last Sunday I paused when I saw photos of a pair of lovely young ladies. Yes, I still pause when I see lovely young ladies. There is absolutely nothing wrong with pausing. Especially when that's all you're capable of. Even the pause is not as lengthy as it used to be. Anyway, the photos detailed the article about bridal gowns. The first paragraph read, "This is the best season we have seen in several seasons," says Millie Martini Bratten. " There's a

sophistication and innovation similar to what we saw in ready to wear lines,, and that's a fairly recent thing. It didn't used to be that way in bridal fashion." Beg Pardon? Do women really talk that way, or was Millie sipping Martinis? The lady I spent almost 40 years with would have looked at a dress, felt the thing, held it up to her body before a mirror, and emphatically said,(A) Nope, not me, (B) Too large, (C) Too small, (D) Too expensive, or (E) Yep, just right, I'll take it, we're out of here.

Sandy Land annual water essay contest

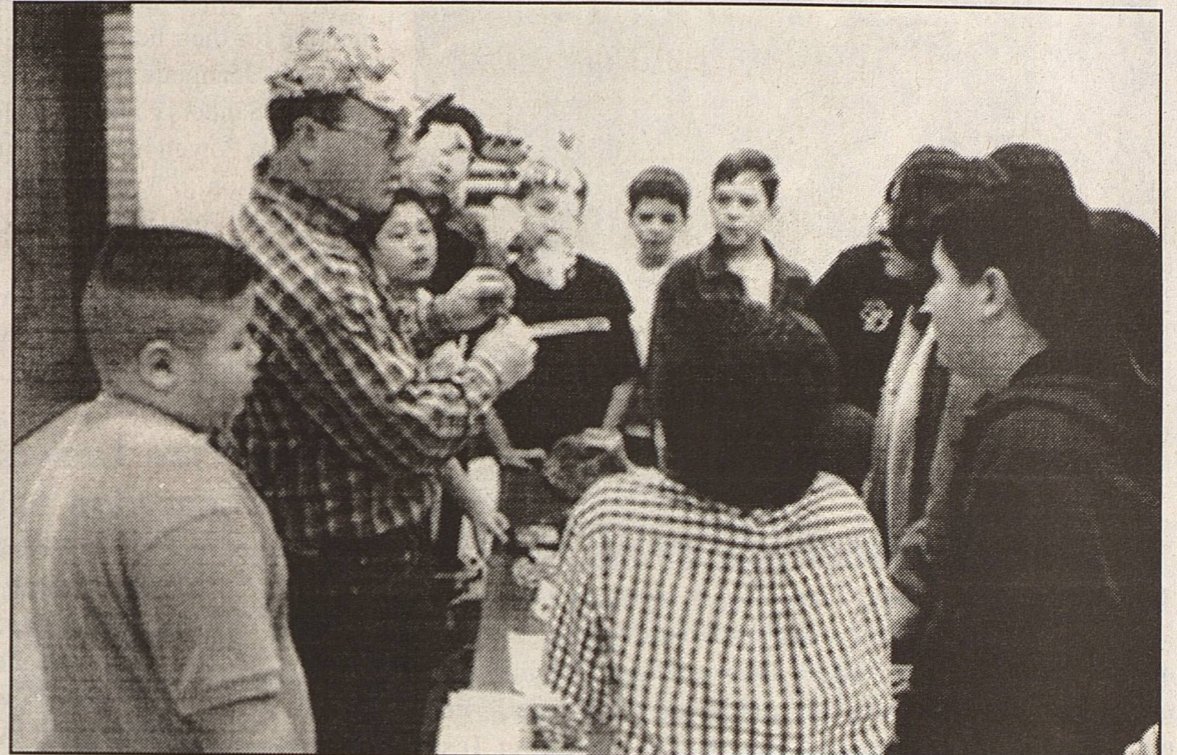
The Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District is again sponsoring an essay writing contest for senior students at Plains and Denver City High Schools. All senior students are eligible to enter the essay contest. The contest winner from each school will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for 1st place and a \$500 scholarship for 2nd place to the college(s) of their choice. (A minimum of ten (10) essays must be submitted before a second place scholarship is awarded.)

The topic of the essay should relate to an evaluation of the water situation in our area at the present time and

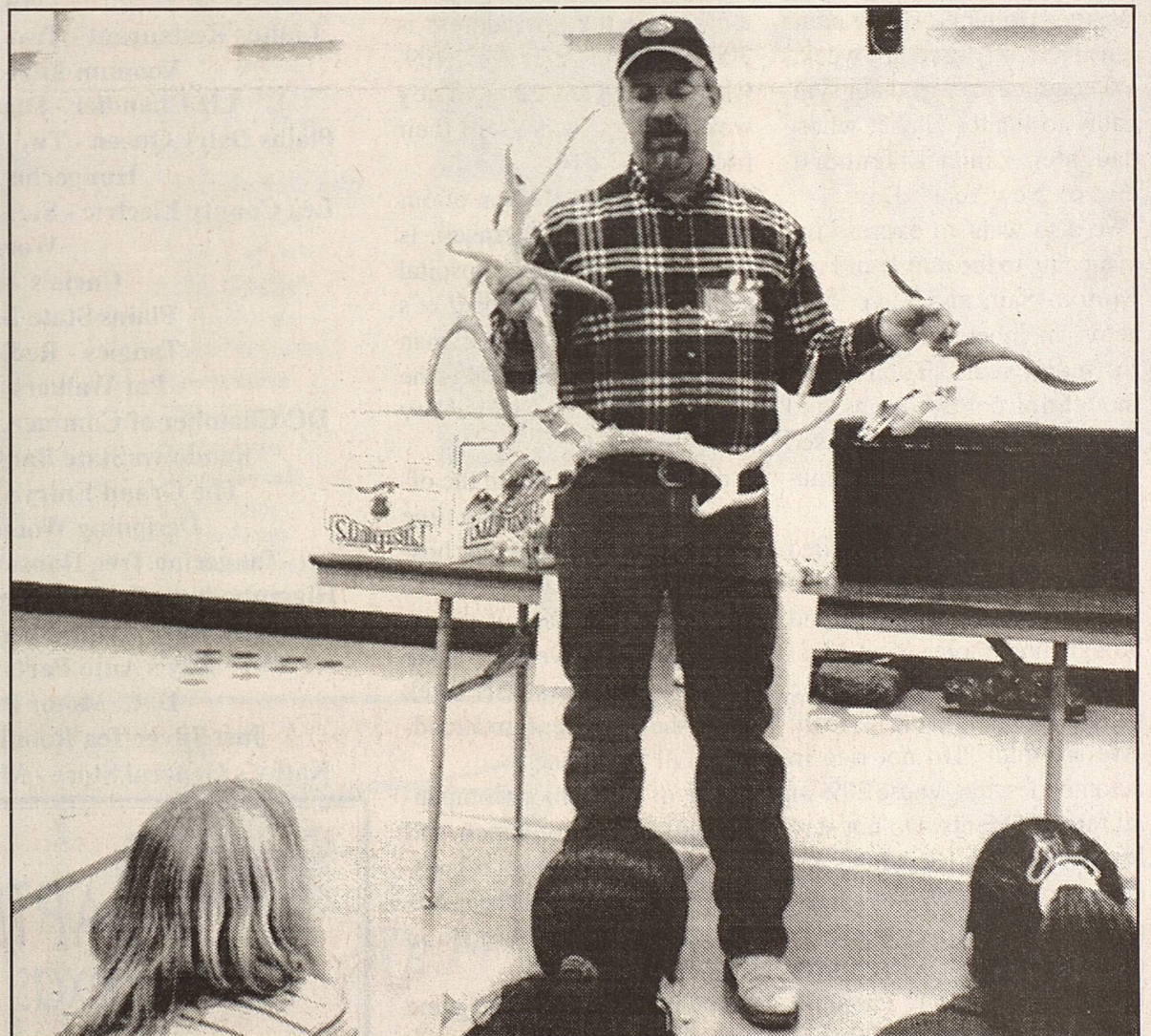
contain proposals for future conservation of that water. The criteria for the contest is: 1. The essay should be a minimum of 1000 words. 2. The essay should be typed and double spaced with footnotes or endnotes. 3. References must accompany paper in the form of a bibliography page. 4. The essay should have a cover sheet containing: students name, essay title, local high school, and date. 5. The essays are due no later than March 24, 2004.

For further information, please contact the district office at 806/456-2155.

YCSWCD Conservation Jamboree



Brad Crump, Director for the Yoakum Soil and Water Conservation District, shows 5th graders a stalk of Yoakum County cotton at the Conservation Jamboree held January 13 in Denver City. Brad led one nine 'Learning Stations' in which students were taught about peanuts, soils, erosion, animals, computers, insects, wildlife and water conservation. Brad's 'Learning Station' was titled 'How Cotton Grows'. 150 students from Plains and Denver City attended the annual Conservation Jamboree sponsored by the Yoakum Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.



Philip Carter, Rangeland Management Specialist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, demonstrates the difference in 'antlers' and 'horns' at the annual Conservation Jamboree. Philip's 'Learning Station' was called 'Skulls & Skins'.



Cindra Box of the Sandy Land Underground Water District presented a 'Learning Station' on Water Conservation at the Conservation Jamboree.

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