

Cowboy Country News

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

Volume V11, Issue 18, January 17, 2001



No Big Surprise - 2000 Ag Products Values down almost 17% from previous year

At the end of each year, County Ag Extension Agents are required to compile a report on their county's agricultural estimated valuations, submitted to the Texas A&M Extension Service. Arlan Gentry, Yoakum County Ag Agent, with assistance from the USDA Farm Services Agency here, furnished CCN with ag production estimated value data included in the chart shown here.

Gentry said, "We always stress the figures are estimates; Often when we are gathering this data, many producers will not have harvested, or ginned all their cotton. Beef cattle figures are difficult to accurately report, as there are no sale barn facilities in the county where we can obtain data. The number of watermelon brokers and shippers in the county make it hard to report accurate production and price information."

The year 2000 was a difficult experience for virtually all producers in the area. Weather definitely severely affected virtually all crops, irrigation water ran short in many wells, fuel, electricity, equipment and fertilizer prices all rose, and dismal commodity prices across the entire market board made ag production net profits a rarity.

Source for data: Yoakum County Ag Extension Service, Yoakum County Farm Service Agency.

Commodity	Estimated 1999	Estimated 2000
Rye	\$ 5,562,000	0
Wheat	1,341,000	305,000
Hay	474,000	144,000
Sorghum	1,837,000	33,000
Cotton	39,998,000	17,615,000
Cottonseed	8,421,000	4,324,000
Peanuts	3,160,000	15,430,000
Sunflowers	675,000	58,000
Vegetables	900,000	0
Watermelon	3,499,000	11,340,000
Grapes	37,000	71,000
Other Crops	1,363,000	619,000
Beef cattle	1,213,000	1,250,000
Goats	5,000	6,000
Hogs	30,000	35,000
Hunting	5,000	5,000
Subtotal	68,520,000	51,235,000
Govt. Payment (CRP)	4,859,000	2,536,000
Other Govt. Pmts.	10,782,000	16,500,000
Total w/govt	\$ 84,161,000	\$ 70,271,000

Lea County Electric challenges SPS' transition plan in N.M. and T.X. Proposed plan of great importance to Plains and Yoakum County customers

Lovington, NM - Vowing to protect the economic interests of its members from potential increases in wholesale power costs, the Board of Lea County Electric Cooperative has challenged the transition plan of Southwestern Public Service, a wholly owned subsidiary of Excel Energy of Minneapolis, Minnesota. The plan - presently being considered before the New Mexico Public Regulations Commission (NMPRC) and the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) - would allow SPS to sell the bulk of its generation assets to independent operators. The transition plan is the blueprint for how SPS would enter into a deregulated marketplace in both states.

SPS merged with Public Service Company of Colorado to form New Century Energy (NCE) in 1997. This latest move to sell off generation assets is part of an overall business plan of Excel Energy, which first came to light in the stipulation entered into with PUCT which, in turn, gave its approval to the merger between NCE and Northern States Power in Minneapolis, MN. The new company formed from the merger between NCE and Northern States Power - Excel Energy - would reap the windfall profits of the sale, estimated to be between \$500 million and \$1 billion.

By SPS' own accounting, the sale could result in increases in retail electric rates from 15% to 18%, though many believe the increases will be much greater. According to Michael Dreysspring, General Manager of Lea County Electric, "We have a long term contract with SPS to provide our wholesale power needs through 2015. While the terms of the contract state that it cannot be transferred to another party, it seems SPS intends to disregard that provision of our agreement, forcing us to purchase power from whatever entity buys their generation facilities."

Dreysspring believes SPS could minimize or eliminate this negative impact on the Cooperative by exercising a "buy-back" provision contained in a stipulation agreement with the PUCT that secured approval of the merger between NCE and Northern States Power. "The buy-back provision allows SPS to purchase power from generators sold to a third party; it was included in the stipulation agreement to ensure the wholesale rate we originally agreed to would be the same whether SPS owned the generators or they sold them to another party. By ignoring this provision, SPS can attract much higher prices for its generation assets because potential buyers will be able to charge higher, California-like market prices

Turn to Page 3,
'County Court'

Turn to Page 2, "Lea County Electric Challenge"

Estimated \$5.1 Billion In New Money For State Budget Texas Comptroller warns of slowing economy

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander recently released her biennial estimate, giving lawmakers and Gov. Rick Perry \$5.1 billion more for the 2002-03 budget cycle. "There will be money to pay our bills, but the economic furnace is cooling," Rylander said. "As a momma and a grandmomma, I know our Texas family must budget like any other family - spend wisely, invest wisely, and save for a rainy day." The revenue estimate was released in conjunction with the Comptroller's Texas Economic Update. "Texas' economy is healthy, although it is slowing," the Comptroller said. "I am pleased to report our economy will continue to outpace the national economy by more than half a percentage point each year over the next three years."

Comptroller Rylander's biennial revenue estimate includes:

* \$106.8 billion in earnings from all sources in the 2002-03 biennium

* \$60.8 billion in funds available for general purpose spending, which includes \$2.9 billion

in cash on hand at the end of fiscal year 2001. * \$48.5 billion collected from other sources, including federal funds.

The Comptroller said the revenue estimate would add \$802 million to the state's "Rainy Day Fund" (officially the Economic Stabilization Fund) over the next three years. Lawmakers created the fund more than a decade ago to help offset fiscal instability.

"I am please the Rainy Day Fund has more than doubled since I took office," Comptroller Rylander said. "By November 2003, the fund will exceed \$1 billion. Putting money into the fund will help Texas regain its AAA bond rating."

In the Texas Economic Update, the Comptroller forecasts Texas' real gross state product, the most complete measure of the state's economic activity, will rise 4.3 percent in 2001 and an average of 4.2 percent each year in the 2002-03 biennium. Personal income is expected to rise 6.6 percent in 2001 and an average of 6.4 percent each year in the 2002-03 biennium.

School Board Recognition Month

By James Haynes

January is School Board Recognition Month and I wanted to take a moment to thank the Plains ISD Board of Trustees for the things they do to make and keep Plains ISD an excellent school district.

Too often we forget about the personal sacrifices school board members routinely make.

Too often we forget about the important role school board members play in assuring local control over our public schools, control that is in the hands of people we know...people who are our neighbors.

Too often we are quick to criticize school board members without really knowing all the details that went into any given decision.

Too often the efforts of school board members go unrecognized and unrewarded.

The school board works closely with parents, education professionals, and other community members to create the educational vision we want for our students.

The school board is accountable to the public. It is responsible for assuring the public that the money allocated to the public schools is providing a good return on the investment. Thus, the board oversees regular assessment of the district's students, staff, and programs. The school board is also a strong advocate for public schools and is responsible for communicating the needs of the school district to the public and the public's expectations to the district.

I am extremely pleased with the job that the school board members from Plains ISD are doing to help our school provide an excellent education for our children. Please join with me and make a special effort to tell each board member that his hard work has been noticed and is truly appreciated.

DWI cases plentiful in County Court

Seven DWI cases were heard in County Court January 10, with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding. Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state.

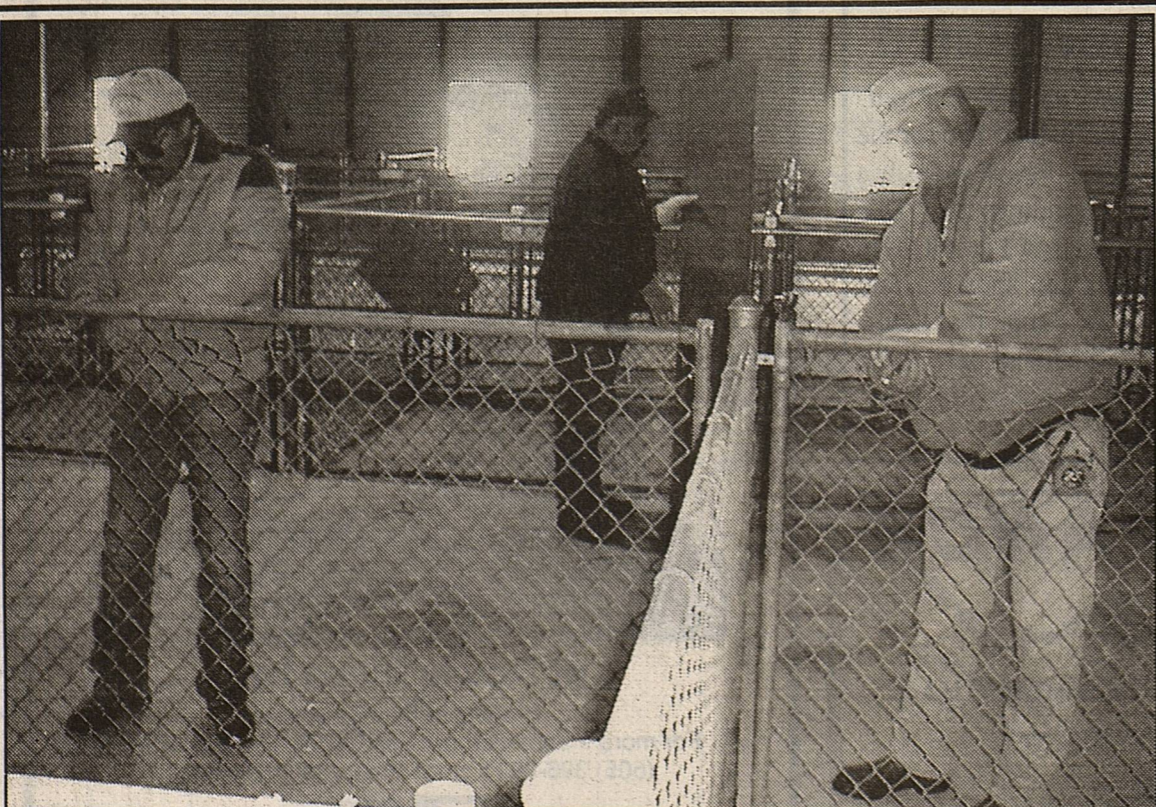
Robert Dale Romero pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision resulting from a first DWI, breath test refused/open container. He was sentenced to 90 days in jail, with credit for 57 days served. His attorney was Ricardo Alvarado.

Marcos Herrera Hernandez pled guilty to DWI, breath test .107 & .101. Investigating officer was DPS Trooper Brad Taylor. He received a 90 day jail sentence, suspended and probated 12 months. He will make time payments on \$225 court costs and a \$500 fine, and must make restitution to DPS

in the amount of \$246. He will spend 72 hours in jail with credit for 23 hours served, must attend weekly AA meetings, complete the DWI first offenders program, serve 24 hours community service, and complete the batterer's treatment program.

Sergio Arzola Martinez pled guilty to DWI, breath test refused/open container. He will pay \$225 court costs and \$500 fine with time payments, spend 6 days in jail with credit for two days served, attend weekly AA meetings, complete the first offenders DWI program, and serve 24 hours community service. Brad Taylor was the investigating officer.

Gregory Jose Flores pled guilty to DWI, breath test re-



County Precinct 3 employees Cody Flores, Sam Dominguez and Hershel Smith were busy last week getting the Yoakum County Livestock Association show barns in shape for the upcoming 49th annual Junior Livestock Show which kicks off January 25.

Obituaries

Services Held For Julie Henry

Julie Elizabeth Henry, 35, died Thursday, January 11, in Denver City.

Funeral services were held Saturday, January 13, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. in the First Baptist Church of Plains with the Reverend Bill Wright officiating. Burial was in the Plains Cemetery under the direction of Ratliff Funeral Home.

Julie was born on September 8, 1965 in Dallas. She married Jim Henry on August 16, 1984 in Louisiana. She was employed by the Denver City Independent School District as a custodian. She was a member of the First Baptist Church

where she participated in the Disaster Relief Team & Kitchen Crew and she taught Mission Friends.

Survivors include her husband; Jim; one daughter; Jessica Henry, and one son; Justen Henry, both of Plains; parents; Jimmy R. and Alice Robertson of Plains; 3 brothers; Danny Daniels of Red Oak, Jimmy Robertson of Seagraves and Jason Robertson of Plains; 1 sister; Sarah McDowell of Houston.

Pallbearers were Danny Bell, Tim Addison, Brad Crump, Trey Davis, Jim Haynes and Don Parrish.

Honorary pallbearers were Robert Canon, Marvin Dearing, Brad Friesen, John Harris, David Lollar, Shane McKinzie, Robert Morgan and Ron Craft.

Local Students Graduate From LCU

Vernon Hise and Eddie Carter of Plains were two of 106 graduates who participated in commencement exercises for Lubbock Christian University on December 9, 2000.

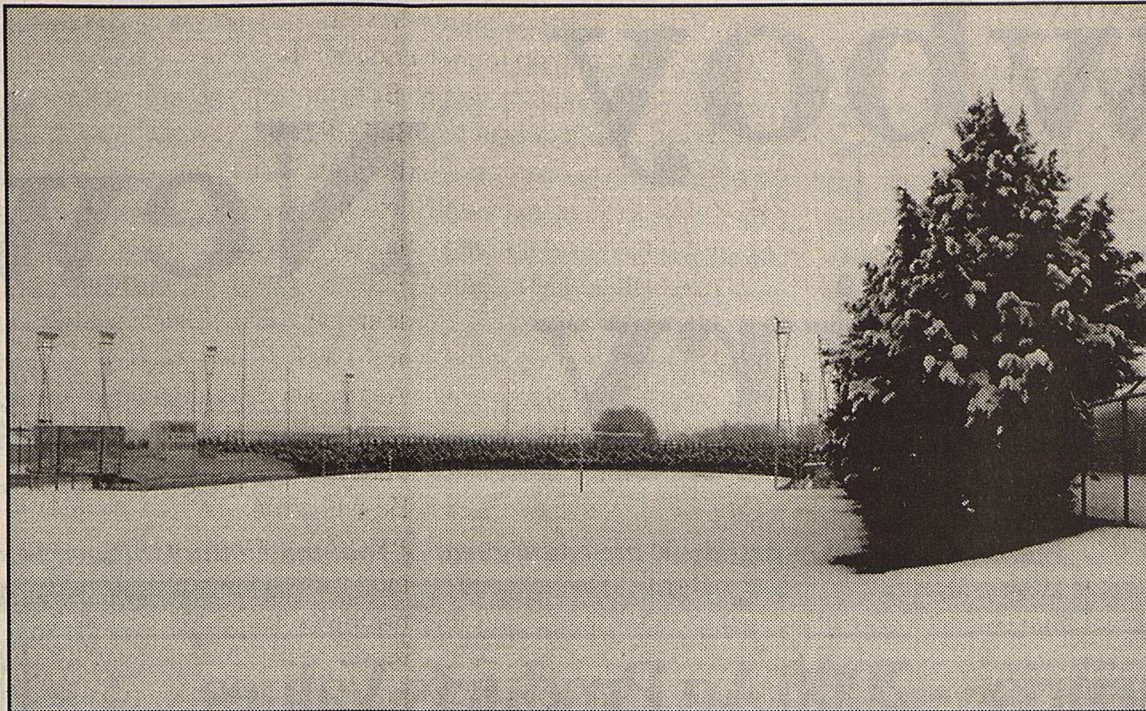
Hise and Carter both graduated with a Master's in Educational Administration. Hise is the son of Bobby and Jennan Hise, and Carter is the son of Edmund and Royce Carter.

Lubbock Christian University is a liberal arts institution of higher learning dedicated to

providing a quality education in a Christian environment. LCU was among only six Texas schools to be named in the John Templeton Foundation Honor Roll of Character Building Universities. LCU offers 37 bachelor's degree programs and four master's degrees with an average enrollment of 1600 students.

Hise is the Principal of Plains Elementary, and Carter is Principal of Plains Middle School.

Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wisconsin?



No, just another snowy shot of Cowboy Field here after last Wednesday's snow, the fifth this current Fall and Winter

Card of Thanks

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the kindness of our Plains friends and neighbors during the recent passing of our mother and grandmother, Dean Walker. Your thoughtfulness and prayers were truly a blessing and have reminded us that good friends can help make even the darkest day a little brighter. Thank you for your kind words of encouragement.

In HIS Love,
Gary & Frankie Walker,
Dare, Donetta & Maretta Walker, Donnie & Lorri Cunningham and sons

Walker At Work In 77th Session

Austin-State Representative Gary L. Walker (R-Plains) began his fourth term in the Texas House of Representatives during the swearing in ceremony that took place at high noon in Austin.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to continue representing the interests of the citizens of District 80 at the Legislature. I'm proud to serve and humbled by the task at hand," Walker said.

Under the Texas Constitution, the Legislature meets in regular session every odd numbered year for 140 days. Representative Walker said that during the next five months, the Legislature will conduct the business of the state, such as passing a debt free state budget, improving public education, and encouraging economic development for rural areas. Representative Walker notes that, "This

session is unique, because it is a redistricting year. I want to help make sure that rural Texans, and West Texas in particular, continue to be well represented in Austin."

The next big day for representatives will be when committee assignments are announced. Representative Walker currently serves as Chairman of the House Land and Resource Management committee as well as holding a seat on Natural Resources. In the meantime, Walker is getting used to being back in Austin. "We have a lot of work to do, but I'm certainly looking forward to it," Walker went on to say that he makes an effort to keep the best interests in legislative issues to call the Capitol Office at 512-463-0678. "That's what we're here for, to be your voice at the State Capitol building."

marijuana-\$1,000 bond. Issuance of bad check-\$300 bond. Consumption of alcohol by a minor - enhanced-\$500 bond.

From Page One, "Lea County Electric Challenge"

for the wholesale energy. Due to the limitations on transmission and generation facilities in eastern New Mexico, our members become a captive market for whomever buys the SPS plants. As a result, our members will likely be forced to pay significantly higher prices for energy - energy produced from generators which they have already partially paid for as part of the current SPS wholesale rate structure," said Dreyspring.

"We understand the complexities of purchasing wholesale power, and recognize the dangers of moving too quickly into a deregulated environment. Take a good look at the disaster that's unfolding in California, and you've got a good picture of what eastern New Mexico and the Texas Panhandle could look like if SPS is successful in getting its transition plan approved," said board president Billy Royce Medlin.

According to Dreyspring, the impact of SPS's transition plan could likely affect their own retail prices as well. "After divesting themselves of their generation assets, they would simply buy power from those to whom they sold their generators. Their own retail customers could be hit hard by increases in energy prices."

The Cooperative believes that a remedy for its members exists in the restructuring legislation in New Mexico and Texas. "Lawmakers in both states inserted language in the legislation that said in effect, nothing in the law would affect the contracts of wholesale power customers. SPS had the option to comply with this through the buy-back provision in their stipulation agreement with the PUCT. We simply want the commissions of New Mexico and Texas to require that SPS to comply with the intent of the deregulation legislation that has been passed in both states," said Dreyspring.

The Cooperative is also intervening in an SPS filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in which SPS is seeking to amend its wholesale agreements with Lea County Electric, Roosevelt County Electric Cooperative and Farmers Electric Cooperative in eastern New Mexico. Recognizing the potential negative impact on the Cooperative's members, the New Mexico Attorney General's office has also indicated their intent to intervene in this proceeding.

"The Board and management of LCEC are committed to placing our members' economic interests as the top priority - our first obligation is to our members. We'll continue to fight for an equitable resolution before the NMPRC and all other appropriate forums; we simply aren't willing to have our members subjected to the same kind of wild market fluctuations as are occurring in California," Dreyspring concluded.

JP Court

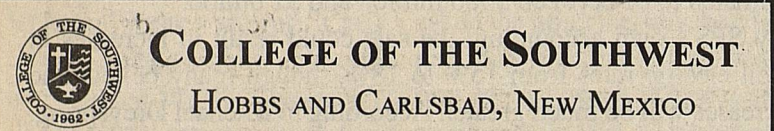
January 12, 2001-In Justice of the Peace Court Precinct 1, with Judge Melba Crutcher presiding there were 86 traffic cases, 1 felony, 3 small claims suits, 3 minors in possession of alcohol, and 1 possession of drug paraphenalia.

Bonds set: 2 cases-Motion to revoke probation-held until hearing. Assault causing bodily injury to a family member-\$1,500 bond. Criminal trespass in a habitation-\$1,500 bond. Public intoxication-\$500 bond. 4 cases-Driving while intoxicated-\$1,000 bond. Fugitive from justice-held until transported. 4 cases-Assault causing

bodily injury-\$1,000 bond. Driving while intoxicated-3rd or more-\$2,500 bond + interlock device ordered. Revocation community service/aggravated assault-\$10,000 bond. Child support-\$700 cash bond. Theft by check-0/\$20-U/\$500-\$500 bond. 2 cases-Possession of marijuana-\$500 bond. 2 cases-Possession of drug paraphenaila-\$500 bond. Bail jumping and failure to appear-\$100,000 bond. Speeding-Lubbock County-\$300 bond. Revocation of probation-Hockley County-\$10,000 bond. Driving while license suspended-\$500 bond. Bond forfeiture/aggravated sexual assault on child-\$10,000 bond. Possession of

Early Golf Tourney Slated

Golfing fanatics will have an opportunity to start their tournament trail early this year. Wiley Osborne, Golf Pro for the Yoakum County Golf Club, reported the club will sponsor a One-Man Scramble format tournament on January 20. "This is one of those weather permitting schedulings. I doubt there will be much interest if it's 20 degrees and snowing that Saturday," Osborne said. Tee off time is 11 a.m. that Saturday. Entry fee for the one day affair is \$25, and part of the proceeds will go to the club's annual scholarship fund, awarded to county high school students.



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MEMBER 2000
Cowboy Country
News
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Cowboy Country News

Published weekly each Wednesday at 1205 Copeland Ave., PO Box 179, Plains, TX 79355

Holly Dyer, Publisher Gary Dyer, Editor
Subscription price in Zip Code 793 \$15 annually
Other Zip Codes \$18 annually. Periodical postage rate paid at Plains, Tx. POSTMASTER; Send address changes to Cowboy Country News, Box 179, Plains, Tx. 79355

E-Mail us at ccn@hiplains.net

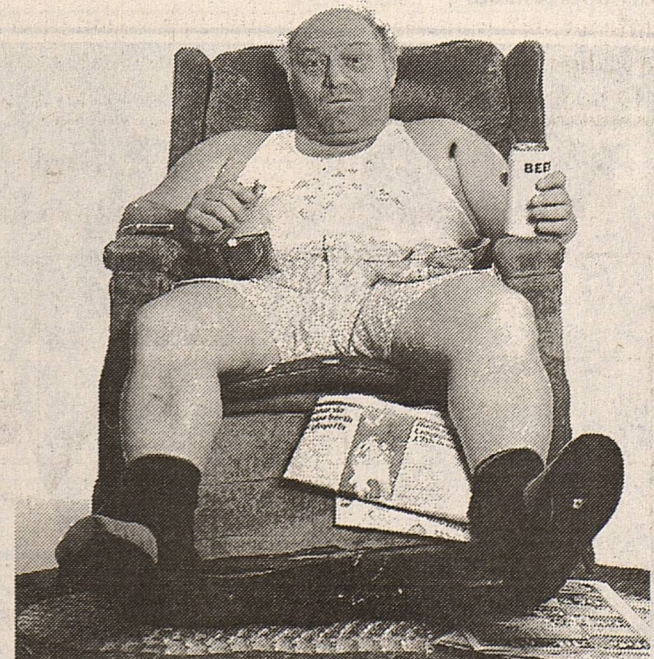
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Plains High Basketball Shots



Chelsea Blount in for layup shot



Eddy Gallegos in fierce battle for ball against Seagraves



Jessica Rodriguez tries to get past Lady Eagle



Annaliesa O'Quinn, # 25, blocks, Lexi Warren shoots

GAME SUMMARIES

7th Girls - Stanton game unavailable

8th Girls- Despite having two starters missing, and being out of school for two weeks, the 8th Lady Wranglers played Stanton tough, but were downed 31-15. Sandra Gandara managed 8 points, Mayra Flores, Jamie Covarrubias, Lela Coronado had two points each, Daniela Lazos 1.

7th Boys- The younger Wranglers soundly defeated district rival Stanton, 39-20. T.J. Cordova was top scorer with 9 points, Casson Curtis had 8, Michael Therwanger and Todd Williams 6 each, Abel Ramos 4, David Allredge, Blake O'Quinn and Cade Arnett 2 each.

8th Boys- The 8th Wranglers avenged an earlier loss to Stanton by winning their second match 22-17. Evan Cain and Cody Flores each had 7 points, Payton Bean, Brandon Hise and Brant Huerta 2 each. The boys now stand 4 - 1 in district action.

JV Cowgirls- The younger Cowgirls found Stanton too tough and fell 51-12. Coach Lusk said they played hard and looked good on defense, but could not get their offense going. Jill Gray had 4 points, Keri Hansen 3, Mandi Rogers and Sarah Martinez 2 each, Jessica Knight 1.

Against Coahoma, the girls played better, but went down 42-36. Arasley Luna led scoring with 13 points, Keri had 10, Mabdi 6, Moriah Traweek 3, Jill and Jessica 2 each.

The Cowgirls lost a heartbreaker to Seagraves, 20-19. Arasley led the scoring with 10 points, Moriah had 6, Jill 2, Keri 1. Coach said the difference in the game was poor free throw shooting.

JV Cowboys- (Only report available) The young Cowboys had a great effort against Seagraves and came out on top 51-49. Zach Broome had the hot hand and managed 25 points, David Garza had 11, Chase Howell and Sterling Justus 5 each, Jonathan Peppin and Kelly Bowers 2 each, Angel Ruiz 1.

Varsity Cowgirls- The Cowgirls had a dismal night against Coahoma, going scoreless in two quarters, and falling 59-22. Annaliesa led the scoring and rebounding with 9 of each, Chelsi Wagnon managed 4 points, Chelsea Blount 3, Jessica Rodriguez, Kayla Willis and Kim Willis 2 each.

They were next defeated by Stanton 73-30. Annaliesa scored 9 points again, Chelsea had 8, Mackenzie Winn 5, Chelsi Wagnon and Kim Willis 4 each, and Kim grabbed 6 rebounds.

The Cowgirls were downed by Seagraves 66-37. Lexi scored 13 points, Annaliesa had 11, Chelsi Wagnon 6, Chelsea Blount 3, Mackenzie and Kayla 2 each. Annaliesa grabbed 11 rebounds, and Chelsea and Lexi each had 4 steals.

Varsity Cowboys- The Cowboys struggled, but came back to down Idalou 49-43. Jarod Newland hit four 3 pointers in the final period, Eddy Gallego had 13 points, and Jared Bell had 10.

The Cowboys next downed Seagraves 63-35. Adam Garcia topped scoring with 16 points, Dustin Six had 13, Jared Bell 10, Moises Gonzales 7, Brett Squyres and Eddy Gallegos 6 each, Jarod Newland 3, Tanner Hamm 2.

Students of the Week

1st student of the week is Sandra Luna a sophomore and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fernando Luna. Sandra was nominated by Mrs. Canada who said, "Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day," once said by Sally Koch. "Our student of the week is willing to help others in small ways each day. Not only does she come to class ready to learn and to work, but is a pleasure to teach and have in the classroom."

Photo unavailable at press time.

2nd student of the week is Helen Neufeld a freshman and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Johan Neufeld. Helen was nominated by Mrs. Canada and



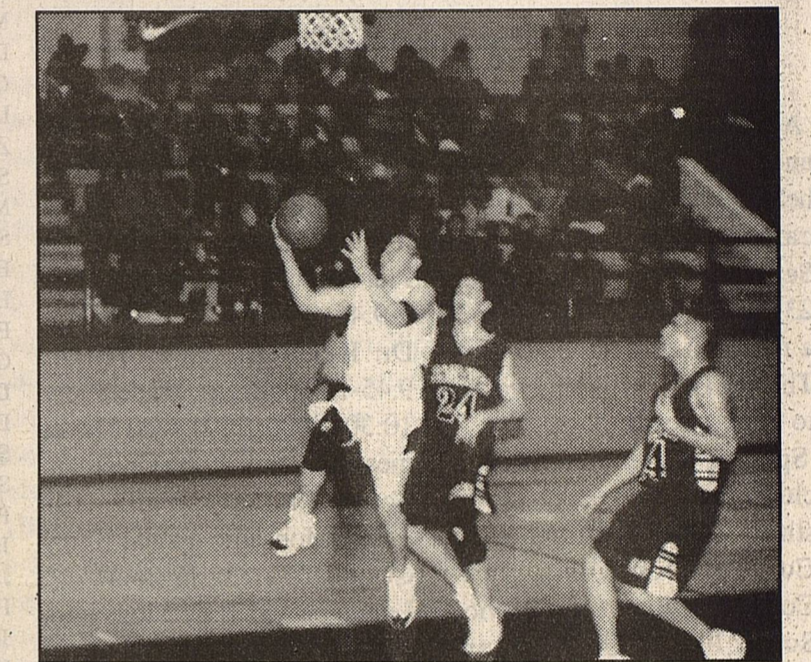
Mr. Alexander. Mrs. Canada said, "Plato once said, 'Knowledge is the food of the soul.'" "Helen has a thrust for knowledge. Her smile and quiet manner are a joy to have in the classroom." Mr. Alexander said, "Isn't it nice to have a roll model who is always positive toward her fellow students and teachers...and turns all assignments in on time."



Brett Squyres made this two pointer



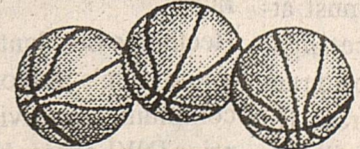
Chelsi Wagnon in for throw



Moises Gonzales goes all the way for layup shot



Jarod Newland with left hander two points



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TSA MO GA Presents "Operation Smile" Program

Tsa Mo Ga began the 21st Millennium club year January 8, 2001 at the Plains Library, with an International Affairs Special Project, Outreach for Children "Operation Smile". Dolores Davis, program coordinator, stated the General Federation of Women's Clubs/Operation Smile, Partners in Service was founded in 1982. Operation Smile has provided reconstructive surgery to tens of thousands of children born with cleft lip or palate deformities, tumors, orthopedic problems and burn scar contractures in developing countries. Operation Smile sends medical/education mission teams to the Philippines, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Ecuador, Honduras, Romania, Kenya, Venezuela, Columbia and Russia, surgically helping over 5,000 children each year. Operation Smile provides training and education for health care professionals in the mission countries, and also help hundreds of American children in need of reconstructive surgery and dental work. Betty Rushing gave ideas for

Operation Smile supplies that clubs could furnish, as well as monetary gifts. Three Operation Smile videos were shown: Voices of Hope, A Face In The Crowd, Everybody Needs To Smile, and the 1998 GFWC mission to the Philippines. GFWC International President Maxine Scarbro and club member volunteers participated in this mission. Tsa Mo Ga Club will share this wonderful video with other organizations, if they will contact Dolores Davis.

Hostesses, Wilma Powell and Mary Jo St. Romain served club members "Count Your Blessings" cake and punch. Members celebrated their own blessings and to provide a smile for someone else less fortunate, offered their donations, and lit a candle for their many blessings.

The January 22nd Education program, "Epsilon Sigma Omicron", A Special project promoting Commitment to life long learning and self improvement, will be held in the home of Carolyn Culwell, with Martha Palmer as co-hostess.

"Connection"

The January 18th Yoakum County Connection annual meeting is open to the public. Election of directors and door prizes are on the list of activities. Helwig Law Firm of Denver City has donated a one hundred dollar door prize, and other county businesses and individuals have made gift donations. This meeting will be held in the Connection Building in Denver City at 6:30 p.m. and Plains First Baptist Church Youth Choir will be the entertainment for the meeting. Denver City High School teacher Lee Ann Romines will have an art display of her work. Dues paying members are urged to participate in this January event. Any concerns or suggestions for improvement of Connection activities will be discussed. Currently the Spring young leaders Retreat is being planned with the help of Yoakum County Extension agent Debbie Pollard. CPA Lesa Wood of Denver City is the Chair of this activity, and a February leadership orientation session will be open to the public.

Yoakum County Commission-

ers Court recently approved a matching grant to the Connection so our county has strong, viable leadership in the future. County Organizations and churches will receive information in the next few weeks as to how they can nominate potential young leaders for attendance and training at the Retreat. Author Max DePree suggests asking selected attendees "What are you going to bring in terms of competence, contributions, and commitment to this project?" He says leaders must know the difference between sight and vision. With sight we see things as they are and with vision we see things the way they can be.

DePree suggests competence in relationships is the most important trait of leaders. He said participants need road maps or clear directions for the organizations or churches they serve, but they also need treasure maps to allow creativity. Leadership is an art and it is hoped as a result of this workshop effort, we can paint a beautiful picture in Yoakum County!

by Linda Powell

Senior Citizens Corner

I have always heard 3rd time is charms, so hear goes, see if I can finally write this article.

We had a house full Monday. The best since the holidays. It was birthday lunch and we had birthday people and their family members.

It is good to have Troy Rickman back at the Center. He had his grandson Chad Jones and Brandi as his guests. Chad and Brandi are newly weds.

The line dancers, domino players and pool players are still going strong.

Next Wednesday the 17th is pool tournament here.

Next Thursday the 18th is our pot luck supper and Western band.

We saw in the press tonight about a friend and member of the Senior Citizens in 1999, Mildred Harvey had passed away.

Remember we are open Monday thru Friday every week (except Holidays). If we don't open so many days each year we loose the money on the days that are not legal Holidays.

Thats all till next week.

Wanda B.

Annual County And District Clerks' Seminar Held

College Station-Debbie Rushing, Yoakum County Clerk, joined 400 County Clerks, District Clerks and Combination Clerks for the 29th Annual County and District Clerks' Continuing Education Seminar at the College Station Hilton Conference Center on January 8-11, 2001.

The annual continuing education seminar at College Station is sponsored by the Institute of County Government at Texas A & M, which is part of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, The Texas A & M University System.

The theme of this year's seminar was: "The Future Is What We Make It!" Included were

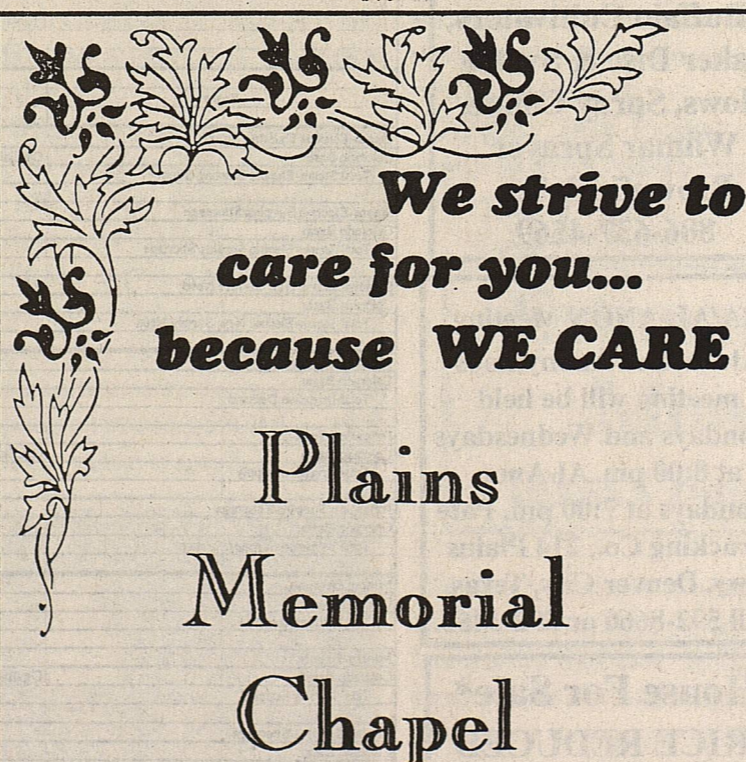
workshops on using the Internet and other future technology, customer service, parental notification regulations, records management, conflict resolution, routes to new jury systems, preview of the 77th Texas Regular Legislative Session and child support resolution.

"Texas is one of a small number of states that requires all elected county officials to earn continuing education credits," explained John Gilmartin, Extension Coordinator of the Institute. "We provide that service to County Commissioners, Judges, Treasurers, Tax Assessor-Collectors and County and District Clerks here at College Station and across the State."

New Books At The Library

Fiction: *Will you still love me tomorrow?*. Ed Gorman, *Code to zero*. Ken Follett, *Deck the halls*. Mary & Carol Higgins Clark, *To cut a long story short*. Jeffrey Archer, *Sarah's child*. Linda Howard, *Never leave me*. Harold Robbins, *Combat*. Stephen Coote, *Candyland/a novel in two parts*. Ed Bain & Evan Hunter, *From the corner of his eyes*. Dean Koontz, *The redemption of Althalus*. David Eddings, *Shadow of the Hegemon*. Orson Card.

Non-Fiction: *Ronald Reagan: his life in pictures*. James Spada, *An hour before daylight*. Jimmy Carter, *Bud, sweat & tees: a walk on the wild side of the PGA Tour*. Alan Shipnuck, *Your life in your hands*. Jane Plant



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Library Storytime

In spite of the bad weather we had a wonderful time at the Yoakum County Library Storytime on January 10th. We watched two movies, Band Concert and Best Birthday Party Ever. We also read two books, What Am I? and Meow Monday. We celebrated the

birthdays of Claire Carpenter, 5 years old, and Jentry Wall, 1 year old, with a party of cookies and punch supplied by their mothers. The children attending were; Micah St. Romain, Clayton Gass, Claire Carpenter, and Jentry Wall.

Gifted and 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 average potential in such areas as creative and productive thinking.

To be served by this program, a student must first be nominated, then screened. All Kin-

ergarten students are screened with parent permission. A student in grades 1 through 12 may be nominated by parents, teachers, friends, or himself. Nomination forms are available in each principal's office and must be turned in no later than February 2, 2001.

Questions about the Gifted and Talented Program should be directed to Mrs. Cynthia Blair, program coordinator, at the elementary school, 456-7438.



Thousands Still Missing Last Year's Refund Check

Washington- Tens of thousands of taxpayers still haven't received tax refund checks from last year worth millions of dollars. The IRS wants to get these refund checks back to where they belong.

An annual review by the IRS last fall showed more than 90,000 taxpayers had not received tax refund checks worth \$67.4 million. The average pre-check amount was \$734.

If you think the IRS may still have your refund check, call the toll free assistance line at 1-800-829-1040.

There are many reasons why refund checks might not reach taxpayers. Most frequently, people move and the tax refunds come back to the IRS. For example, college students might file a return while at school and move before the refund arrives.

Other undelivered refunds can occur because taxpayers provide an incorrect address when they mail their return. Taxpayers should take extra care when providing a return address. Often, numbers are transposed or information is incomplete.

A death or marriage may also result in a returned check. Estate executors should explore

whether a refund check might be involved. Newly married taxpayers are urged to notify the IRS promptly if there is a change of name or address.

What if you don't realize you have a refund? The IRS will keep the information on file and forwarded automatically the next time a tax return is filed. There is no statute of limitations for claiming these refunds.

There is an easy way to ensure your refund won't be lost. Choosing to have a tax refund deposited directly to a bank account is the best way to guard against loss or theft. Nearly 30 million taxpayers elected to use the direct deposit option during 2000 filing season, up from 23.5 million the year before.

Filing a change of address card with the post office is not enough to guarantee delivery of a refund check. Taxpayers who have moved since filing their last tax return are urged to file a Form 8822. "Change of Address," with the IRS. The form can be obtained by calling 1-800-829-3676 or by downloading it from the IRS Web Site at www.irs.gov.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Plains, Texas

Sunday School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45
Evening Program 6:00 pm.
Wednesday
5:15 - 6:30 pm. Supper
6:00 pm. Zombies
7:00 pm. - RA's, GA's, Mission Friends,
Generation X, Sanctuary Choir Practice



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Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 6:15 pm
Wednesday Evening Study 6:30 pm
Tuesday Afternoon Study 5:15 pm

