

Cowboy Country News



God Bless America!



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

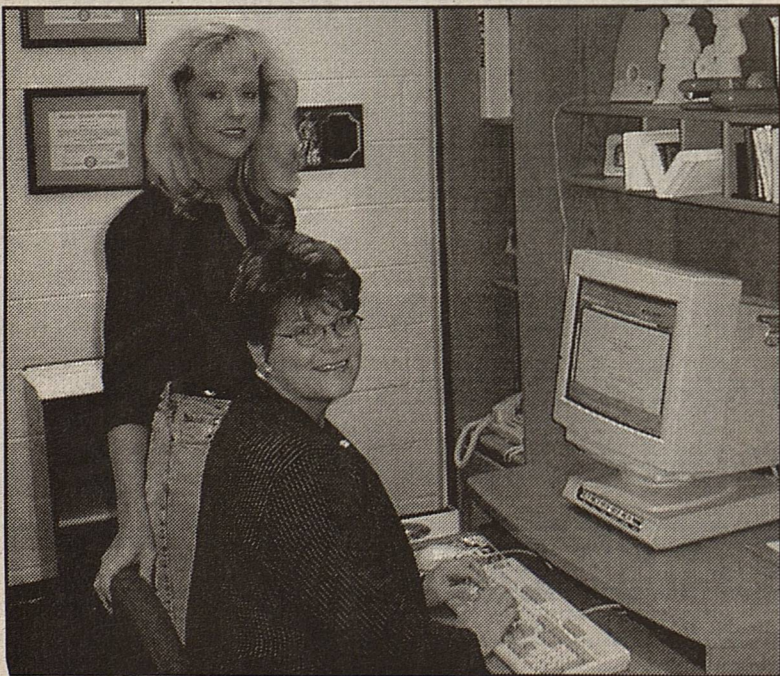
Volume V111, Issue 8 October 24, 2001

Baptists on a mission of service



These members of First Baptist Church gathered early last Thursday for a trip to Lubbock, where they would board a plane for New York City. They are members of the disaster relief unit here who will assist in preparing meals to feed the rescue workers working in the World Trade Center area. Their cooking unit will be located at Floyd Bennet Airfield, and they will be housed at the Brooklyn Naval Yard. They anticipate preparing some 4,000 meals on each of their twelve hour shifts. Shown here, left to right, are Marguerite Adams, Linda Harris, Colby Bearden, Neal Bearden, Helen Beal, Bill & Linda Wright, Kyle Bearden, Roger & Diane Bennett, Karen Bearden and Royce Blair.

New administrative face at Sandy Land Water District



Kathy Jones, standing, explains computer program to Cindra Box

Cindra Box was named the new Administrative Assistant at Sandy Land Underground Water District effective October 12. She replaces Kathy Jones, who has held the position since February 18, 1990, just shortly after the water district went into operation. Ms. Box, the wife of local ag producer Tommy Guy Box, has been a Yoakum County resident 25 years. The couple have two daughters; Shawna, 22, is a Senior at Abilene Christian University majoring in accounting, and Maranda, 21, also a Senior there majoring in Psychology. Ms. Box employment background includes banking, areas, and at Texas Instruments. She attended college at South Plains and LCU. Ms. Jones last day on the job at Sandy Land will be October 29. She will move to Austin where she will work for the law

firm of Lloyd, Gosselink, Blevins, Rochele, Baldwin and Townsend, P.C. She will hold a legal support position, assisting in lobby related and legal matters. She starts on the job there November 1. She too has two daughters; Tandi, 21, is a Junior at Texas A&M majoring in Agricultural Economics, and Kimbe, 18, a Freshman at South Plains who plans on a Nursing Major. Gary Walker, Independent Contractor for the district, told CCN, "The Board and I hate to lose Kathy. She has been a hard and bright worker, a true asset to the Water District. We do feel very fortunate, however, in having Cindra join our staff. She is knowledgeable in the use and conservation of agricultural water, has computer skills and meets the public well."

Court OK's purchase of new vehicle

In the October 22 session of Commissioners Court, bids were announced for the purchase of a new SUV vehicle for use by Llano Estacado Drug Task Force. The winning and low bid from Wilson Motors of Snyder for a 2002 Ford Explorer was a net price for the vehicle of \$26,982. The court also approved re-advertising for the purchase of two new "Police Package" cars for the Yoakum County Sheriff Department, with trade-in of a 1998 Ford Crown Victoria, and a 1999 Ford Crown Victoria. The court also considered a resolution authorizing Commissioners Court to dispose of property listed in the name of Yoakum County Trust. All taxing entities in Denver City approved the proposal, allowing disposal of the properties for home site. The proposal did not pass in Plains, when Plains ISD did not agree to give up local property tax revenues. Judge Kelly G. Moore, J.Q. Warnick and Jane Piercy requested the court to approve adding Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to the list of organizations to whom county jurors may donate their county pay. The court approved the request. The court approved a request from Alltel Communications to lay, construct, operate and maintain communication lines under certain county roads. The court voted to not act on an offer by the Denver City School District to sell the Denver City Intermediate school building to the county.

Vacation Time!
The next issue of CCN will be November 7. Deadline for that issue will be noon Friday, November 2

Amendment Election Requirements

Early voting by mail limited to eligible voters; 65 or older, or disabled or confined in nursing home or hospital, or expected to be absent from county on November 6 voting day, and then ballot must be mailed to out of county address. Deadline for requesting mail in ballots is October 30. Early voting runs through November 2. Voting site in Plains is County Clerk's office in courthouse. Early voting in Denver City; Tuesday, October 23, Senior Citizens Center, 10 am-3 pm; Thursday, October 25, Thriftway, 10 am-3 pm. Tuesday, October 30, Senior Citizens Center, hours as above; Thursday, November 1, Thriftway, hours as above. Election day, November 6; In Denver City, voting precincts 101 and 406 will vote at Precinct One building, 139 E. Broadway. Voting precincts 202 and 305 will vote at the Community building, West 15th Street. In Plains, Precinct 303 voting at Library, 404 at Youth Center.

Former PHS Grad Makes Lasting Mark On Many Lives

CCN recently received a letter and two Newspaper clippings extolling the life and football career of Don Todd, a PHS graduate in the class of 1960. A research trip to the library, and a phone call to a fellow classmate and still close friend, along with the letter to the editor make an interesting story. The letter writer, 87 year old Don Chapman said, "I became not only a good friend, but intrigued at the effect this man (Todd) had on so many people's lives. I can tell you he is a great credit to your community, school, and evidently his growing up in Plains was good for him." Mr. Chapman described Todd's athletic prowess as a Plains Cowboy, including being the recipient of the first PHS 'Fighting Heart' award. Mr. Chapman's letter continued, "After graduating in 1960, his football skills were discovered by the legendary Sammy Baugh, then Head Football Coach at Hardin Simmons." We learned Baugh offered Todd a full scholarship, and Todd told the coach, "I'll come play for you, but only if you can arrange scholarships for my brothers also." Baugh thought it was a bargain, and agreed to the multi-scholarships. Todd

would be a two-way starter for the HSU Cowboys for four years. Mr. Chapman continued, "After graduating from HSU, his coaching career would include being named Defensive Coach of the University of Houston Cougars, under Head Coach Bill Yeoman. He would hold that job 16 seasons. I can tell you he was a great coach, and the finest recruiter ever at UH. Not only did he recruit and coach many fine players, he was a living example of the kind of men they should be. Many of them became All Americans, All Southwest Conference and NFL players, along with 12 young men who are currently in the ministry." One of the newspaper clippings written by David Barron of the Houston Chronicle said, "Todd has faced difficult times in recent years. He suffered a stroke in the 1985 Cotton Bowl, suffered two more strokes and has undergone 25 medical procedures. He spent 13 months in rehab to regain some mobility after his most recent stroke." Mr. Chapman continued, "I can tell you Don has the fondest memories of growing up in Plains, and still tries to keep up

Turn to Page 2, 'Don Todd'

Bulldogs Nip Cowboys 21-7



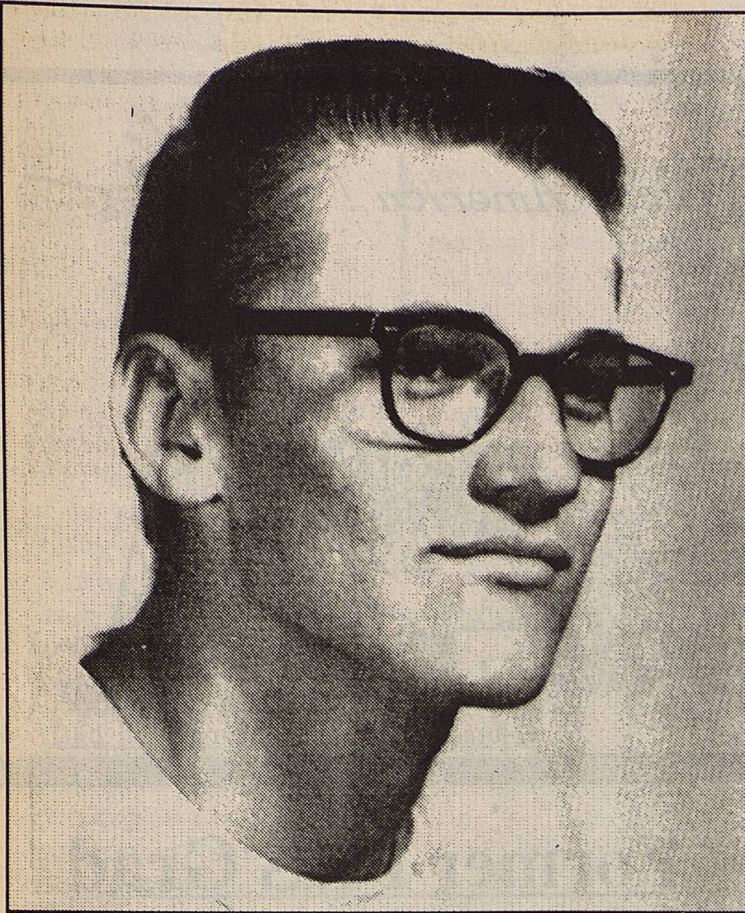
Cowboy 'D' tries to penetrate Bulldogs very big line. Their tackle shown here was listed at 295 but appeared larger.

Coahoma brought a bus load of Burly Bulldogs to Cowboy Stadium last Friday, and their bite proved as bad as their bark. The Cowboys again played very tough, but were outmanned in the trenches by the big Bulldog line. The Cowboys took the opening kickoff and managed a first down on Joseph Rodriguez' run,

but were forced to punt. Coahoma moved the ball from their 26 yardline to the Cowboys 10 in seven rushing plays before the drive was halted, and a Bulldog field goal attempt failed. From their 20, the Cowboy linemen provided blocking for Moises Gonzales and Jared Bell to move on the ground to

the 45 yardline, where a one yard fourth down attempt failed to end the first quarter. With five minutes left in the second period, A ground and aerial attack by the Bulldogs steadily moved the ball from their 33 yardline to the 4, where their running back Hill went

Turn to Page 3, 'Cowboys'



Don Todd, PHS Class of 1960

with things there. It must be a great place to produce people like him. He probably wouldn't approve of me writing all this, but he'll just have to put up with an old man who thinks he's tops. Folks there would probably remember him as "Scrapiron", the nickname given him by his high school coach Rip Sewell, a name that has followed him till now. Anyway, I rambled enough - whatever you folks do out

Start 'Healthy Lung' month with flu shot

AUSTIN- October may bring a welcome relief to summer's high temperatures, but it may also bring unwanted flu bug. With the start of flu season, the American Lung Association has designated October as "Healthy Lung Month," and is encouraging Texans to get their flu shots.

Influenza is a potentially life threatening disease.. Influenza and pneumonia, which is the most common complication of influenza, are the fourth leading cause of death among American women, and the fifth leading cause of death among all Americans over age 65.

"Everyone, particularly those with respiratory problems, should have a standing appointment with their doctor each year to get vaccinated," said Robin Anderson, RN, director of Medical Affairs of the American Lung Association of Texas. "And getting the flu shot during 'Healthy Lung Month' in October is an excellent way to celebrate and maintain good lung health."

The American Lung Association of Texas encourages everyone to get vaccinated between October 1 and December 31. For more information, contact the American Lung Association of Texas at 1-800-LUNG-USA or visit www.texaslung.org.

TDH Maintains System Readiness For Any Bioterrorist Act

Chemicals or microorganisms turned into weapons at the hands of terrorists is a picture many people have not had or did not want to imagine until recently. Following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, this scenario has many people asking: "Who or what is going to protect me and my family?"

State Epidemiologist Dennis Perrotta at the Texas Department of Health (TDH) says many answers lie in a strong and flexible public health system at local, state and national levels.

"Knowing about and responding to a virus or a bacterial agent that is affecting people is the nature of public health," Perrotta said. "Whether the infection is naturally occurring or the result of a terrorist act, TDH and other public health agencies are trained to react quickly. That's what public health professionals do every day." The key is rapid detection of unusual occurrences, he said. "The sooner we identify any disease outbreak, the quicker we can bring together local, state and federal resources and the more lives we will save. We stay in touch with doctors and other health care providers, monitoring their reports and investigating unusual occurrences," Perrotta said. "We make sure that prevention and control measures are in place."

Teams at TDH have been working on bioterrorism response for several years, according to Perrotta. "We coordinate with federal agencies and help develop response plans with local communities across the state. Preparedness and coordination are crucial." Perrotta draws a distinction between chemical and biological attacks. "Chemical attacks cause injuries almost immediately and will elicit an immediate emergency response," he said. "But bioterrorism is more complex because it can be done without much, if any, notice. The first clues to a biological agent release may be sick people who seek medical care days or weeks later, perhaps in different cities. "In response to bioterrorism, as with any other epidemic, public health plays a critical role," he added.

After the events of Sept. 11, TDH issued an alert to doctors, hospitals and other health care professionals around the state, reminding them to be especially watchful for suspicious systems

and infections and to immediately report these to the local or state health department, 24 hours a day.

For more information contact Dennis Perrotta, State Epidemiologist, at 512-458-7268; or Emily Palmer, TDH Assistant Public Information Officer, at 512-458-7400.

Oil production plan is dropped

Nacogdoches- Lynis Barrett today announced John Carl, noted Pennsylvania oil operator, has withdrawn his support from proposed oil operations in the area. The announcement comes as a bitter disappointment to many who had hoped Barrett's discovery of oil here last September would bring great wealth to this section. The Pennsylvania firm decided the low price of oil and unsettled conditions of reconstruction made oil operations inadvisable now. Drilling on an oil spring in this area, Barrett last September brought in what is believed to be the first oil well in Texas. He immediately took samples to Carl in Pennsylvania, who contracted for development of the field

The Texas News, August, 1867

Yoakum County Outlaw Team



The Yoakum County Outlaw Basketball team, composed of girls from Plains and Denver City participated in an A.A.U. Fall League in Lubbock. They played six games and ended with five wins and one loss record. Coach Jim Quintanilla had good things to say about the team who placed second in League play.

Picture: 1st row L-R Assistant coach, Soli Quintanilla, Meghan Garcia, Katie Winn, Shoni Fugua, Reina Morales. 2nd row L-R Coach Jim Quintanilla, Joani Bell, Natalie Franco, Desiraye Broome, Lauren Davis. Back row Assistant coach Wayne Davis.

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Texas Senate Bill No. 582: Business and Commerce Code Chap. 27
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County Pct. 4 employees were busy last week preparing to resurface the street at the northeast corner of the courthouse. A ruptured water main had to be replaced, leading to the resurfacing.

Hundreds of Texas 5th and 6th Graders Rally Against Drugs in Austin

Air Force Band, Miss Texas Teen and Student Speakers Stir Crowd

Austin, TX - Busloads of 5th and 6th graders from across Texas today convened at the state capitol building to rally against drugs. Nearly 1,000 students from the Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth, San Antonio and Austin areas, clad in a special "Red Ribbon" T-shirts, waved American flags and carried an anti-drug banner as they marched from Congress Avenue toward the south steps of capitol.

"Today is the day we honor kids who don't normally make headlines because they're staying out of trouble," said Dr. Dave Wanser, executive director of the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. "Our surveys tell us that fewer kids are using alcohol and drugs in Texas. Red Ribbon Week allows us to celebrate that good news and lay the foundation for a year of events to help keep our kids strong and drug-free."

Beneath an enormous American flag, draped above the entrance to the capitol, students listened to stirring speeches and performances by entertainers, fellow students and

drug prevention leaders. Former Miss Texas Teen USA Nicole O'Brien encouraged students to live life fully, study hard, and enjoy sports and extracurricular activities but to stay away from drugs.

Many students were visibly moved as a member of the United States Air Force Band of the West sang the national anthem in honor of the victims of the recent attacks against America.

Hundreds of students stood and applauded after their peers from the Straightway Drug Prevention Program from Hungerford, Texas performed three songs from their newly released CD entitled "Make It Right."

Following the rally on the capitol steps, students divided into two groups representing the Texas House and Senate. They then moved on to the floors of each house chamber and conducted a mock legislative session, where they drafted, debated and passed anti-drug legislation.

Red Ribbon Week, started to honor the memory of Drug

Enforcement Administration agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who was kidnapped, tortured and murdered by drug dealers in Mexico in 1985, has since evolved into a broad national anti-drug awareness week involving thousands of schools, law enforcement, and non-profit organizations.

The rally was sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse; the Partnership for a Drug-Free Texas; the United States Customs Service; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the United States Marshals Service; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; the Southwestern Bell Pioneers; San Antonio Fighting Back; Drug-Free Business Houston; Houston Crackdown, Office of the Mayor; Drug Test, Inc.; U.S. Attorney, Southern District of Texas; the Texas National Guard; the Internal Revenue Service; the Texas Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Dallas; and Veteran Affairs Police.

Miss Brownfield Pageant on tap

The Miss Brownfield Scholarship Organization will be sponsoring the Miss Brownfield Pageant Saturday, December 1 at 7 p.m. in the Brownfield Middle School auditorium. The winner will advance to the Miss Texas Pageant in Fort Worth the first week of July, 2002. Miss Texas is part of the Miss America Organization, and the largest scholarship pageant in the nation for women.

Miss Brownfield 2001 is Amy Tidwell, a sophomore at Texas Tech. She placed 15th at Miss Texas. Miss Brownfield con-

testants must be at least 17 and a senior in high school, but can be no older than 24. Contestants do not have to be from Brownfield to enter. Competition includes physical fitness in swimsuit, interview, talent and evening gown. There is no entry fee for the competition. Several scholarships are awarded at this preliminary and also at the Miss Texas competition. More information is available from Yvette Harris, 806-637-8130.

Miss Teen Brownfield is for young ladies 13-17. This com-

petition will also be held December 1, following the Miss Brownfield format. Miss Teen Brownfield will advance to the Miss Teen Texas pageant in Fort Worth and scholarships will be presented to the winner. Miss Teen Brownfield 2001 is Stephanie Austin.

The Little Miss Brownfield pageant will be held the same day. Divisions include three age groups of babies, and girls 2 to 13 years old. For information on the Teen or Youth pageants, contact Paula Parker, 806-784-0029



The Cowboy Marching Band offered an excellent performance during halftime of the Coahoma game. The next day, however, in Regional competition at Plainview, the band failed to advance in their quest for a return to state competition in Austin. CCN salutes the Directors, and each youngster for many, many hours of hard work and practice.

Coffee & chocolate for Texas?

A diverse group of coffee roasters, importers, foreign growers, and Texas port officials are watching Proposition 3 on the November 6th ballot with anticipation. Passage of the measure will open Texas to greatly expanded supplies and trading of both coffee and chocolate according to James Edmonds, Chairman of the Port of Houston Authority.

"Coffee beans are the second most traded commodity in the world," said Edmonds. "Texas, unfortunately, has not been able to capture more than 6 percent of all coffee imports to the U.S. because of constitutionally mandated ad valorem taxes that are levied on stored green coffee beans. Passage of Prop 3 will change that," he said.

Edmonds said that local taxing authorities "are willing to forego the small amount of taxes currently collected on coffee because they see the potential for growth and even greater revenues with the growth of coffee and cocoa industries in the state." He said passage would, "open the Texas door to millions of bags of high quality coffee beans and raw cocoa," which would, "lay the foundation for new jobs and new business creation."

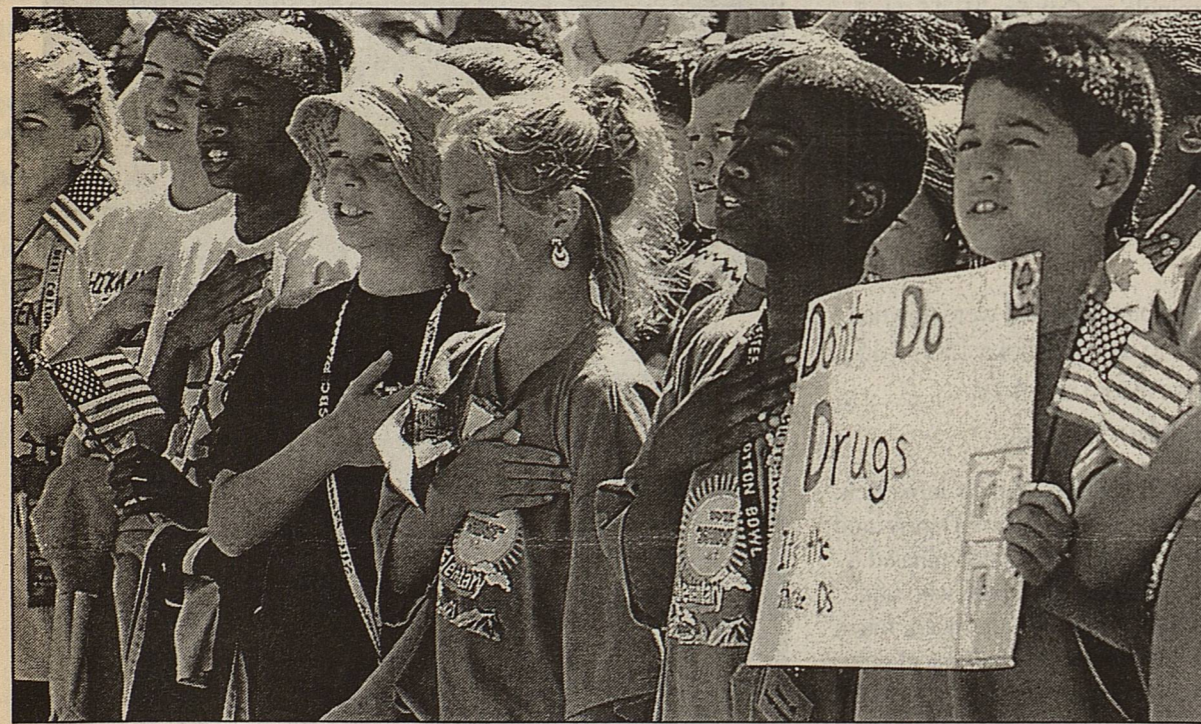
Edmonds said that when the Port of Miami was first designated a "Coffee Exchange Port" in 1997, "they stored less than 300,000 bags of green coffee beans a year. By last year, they were storing 1.2 million bags a year. We believe we will see even greater growth in Texas because of our excellent transportation links and proximity to the central United States markets."

Alastair McNab, Executive Director of the Greater Houston Coffee Association sees a different kind of benefit. "What we are looking at is a lot more of the exotic types of gourmet coffee coming into Texas," said McNab. "Texas consumers want an expanded selection," McNab said, "and my recent conversations with growers in Mexico, South America and Africa reveal a great interest in export to Texas."

State Senator Mario Gallegos and State Representative Joe E.

Moreno introduced and won passage of the legislation to place the measure on the November ballot. "It's pretty simple," said Gallegos, "if we remove the ad valorem taxes, we can create a lot of new jobs and new wealth. That's good for Texas." Moreno added, "The New York Board of Trade has designated three Green Coffee Exchange Ports—all east of the Mississippi—where coffee futures can be delivered to fulfill contracts traded on the Board of Trade. Passage of this measure will enable Texas to have a coffee exchange port that will make us a worldwide player in this important commodity."

Edmonds said that New York, Miami and New Orleans are the only three coffee exchange ports in the country. "Winning this designation will benefit every port in Texas because coffee will enter through those ports



Students take the pledge of allegiance at the Oct. 17 Red Ribbon Rally at the Texas State Capitol in Austin. Nearly 1,000 5th and 6th graders from across the state convened at the capitol for an anti-

drug rally sponsored by the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse in cooperation with other state anti-drug agencies and organizations.

Photo by Deborah Cannon

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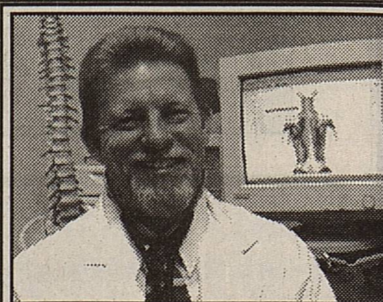
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Unfortunately the "procrastinator" waits until an episode of back pain becomes a crisis before doing anything about it. Resulting in expensive surgical procedures which only work partially and temporarily.

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Bayer Pharmaceuticals withdrew Baycol, used to control cholesterol, because of adverse reactions and 31 deaths related to use of the drug. In rare cases muscle injury is so severe that patients have developed kidney failure and liver failure. If you or someone you know has experienced muscle pain, weakness, tenderness, fever, nausea, vomiting, or organ failure after using Baycol, you may be entitled to compensation for problems incurred as a result of taking Baycol.

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The City of Plains is offering for sale by sealed bid: 1993 Chevy Cheyenne 3/4 ton pickup. 75,600 miles, AM-FM Radio, Air Conditioning. Bids should be placed in a sealed envelope and the bid should be clearly marked on the OUTSIDE of the envelope. Bids must be submitted before 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 8, 2001 to the Plains City Hall. The bids will be opened and publicly read at that time and date. The City may hold the bids for a period not to exceed 30 days to determine whether to accept or reject any or all bids. The pickup will be sold "AS-IS" with no warranty. The City of Plains reserves the right to reject any/all bids and waive any informality that will benefit the City.

For additional information contact Ed Hansen at 806-456-2288.

Lifelines & Styles

Mathews-Rushing Vows Exchanged



Emilie R. Mathews and Terry Douglas Rushing were married October 5, 2001, at Historic South Overton in Lubbock. The bride is the daughter of Don and Tammi Denton of Lubbock, and David Mathews of Sherman. Emilie is a Sophomore at Texas Tech, and plans to major in Business.

The groom is the son of Debbie and Travis Spears, and Morris and Donna Rushing, all of Plains. His grandparents are Betty and the late Polly Rushing, John Holly, and Gary and Holly Dyer, all of Plains. Doug is a Specialist in the U.S. Army stationed at Fort Hood.

CSW To Offer Course On Retirement & Finances

College of the Southwest's Center for Business Leadership (CBL) will be offering a two hour course on "Financing Your Retirement" on Tuesday, November 13 in CSW's Scharborough Memorial Library on the Hobbs campus from 6:00 - 8:00 pm.

According to the presenter, John E. Funk, CPA, topics to be discussed include the basics of personal finance, investment planning and selection, savings plans, credit card debt, stocks and the stock market, timing, and setting effective long term goals.

Registration is \$25 per person or \$35 per couple. The deadline is November 9, and interested persons are asked to make reservations immediately, as seating is limited.

For more information, please contact Linda Chapman by calling 392-6561, ext. 1069, or by emailing Lchapman@csw.edu.

Former PHS Grads Honored By Dentistry Academy



Dr. Miller and Dr. Anderson

Two Plains High School graduates were honored by the Texas Academy of General Dentistry on Saturday, October 6, 2001. The banquet was held at the Westin LaCantera in San Antonio.

Dr. Ernie F. Anderson, a 1963 PHS graduate, and Dr. Donna G. Miller, a 1976 PHS graduate were recognized as nominees for the Texas Dentist of the Year award.

Dr. Anderson, son of Mrs. Alma Bean of Lubbock and the late Mr. Anderson of Plains, was nominated as Dentist of the Year by the Houston Academy of General Dentistry. He and his wife Karen are active at the Grace Presbyterian Church in Houston, where he is a ruling elder. He is also active in Rotary and has volunteered with numerous youth related activities. He graduated from the University of Texas Dental Branch in Houston in 1971.

Dr. Miller, daughter of T.J. & Lois Miller, was named Dentist of the Year by the Central Texas Dental Society. She and her husband K. Paul Holt are active at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Waco, where she currently serves on the Vestry, the finance committee and evangelism committee. She has been active in the Junior League of Waco for several years, directing the establishment of an endowment fund in 1999.

She has also served as President of the Dental Society and currently is on the Board of Directors of the Texas Dental Association Political Action Committee. She graduated from Baylor University in 1980 and from Baylor College of Dentistry in 1985.

The photo shows Drs. Anderson and Miller at the Awards Gala in San Antonio.

New Books At The Library

FICTION: *Death In Paradise*. Robert B. Parker, *The Archer's Tale*. Bernard Cornwell, *Isle Of Dogs*. Patricia Cornwell, *Coldheart Canyon*. Clive Barker, *Swell Foop*. Piers Anthony, *Funeral In Blue*. Anne Perry, *Hide & Seek*. Cathrine Palmer, *The Golden Angel*. Gilbert Morris, *Jerusalem's Heart*. Bodie Thoene, *Hometown Legend*. Jerry B. Jenkins, *Unshaken*. Francine Rivers, *A Touch Of Betrayal*. Catherine Palmer, *Tidings Of Comfort & Joy*. T. Davis Bunn, *When Tomorrow Comes*. Janette Oke, *When Joy Came To Stay*. Karen Kingsbury, *Unspoken*. Francine Rivers.

NON-FICTION: *The Life You've Always Wanted*. John Ortberg, *Footprints Of A Pilgrim*. Ruth Bell Graham, *Family Circle Best Ever Cakes & Cookies*. Family Circle, *John Wayne: There Rode A Legend*. Jane Pattie, *The Christmas Box Miracle*. Richard Paul Evans, *The Best Of Martha Stewart Living*, *Halloween Delicious Tricks and Wicked Treats For Your Scariest Halloween Ever*.

Civic Center Site of Harvest Home Show

The Harvest Home Show will be held at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center on October 27 & 28, 2001. Saturday hours are from 10-6 and Sunday from noon-5.

The Harvest Home Show features exhibitors from Lubbock and surrounding areas with products and services for home owners.

Live cooking demonstrations will be conducted hourly in the Kitchencraft exhibit. The Lubbock Arboretum will alternate with the South Plains Plant Society in presenting interactive demonstrations regarding pruning safety and tips, planting spring bulbs, holiday wreath making, along with decorating and planting antique crocks.

Vendors include everything from satellite systems, custom doors, artwork, roofing, floor care and kitchen cabinets, interior decorating to heating and air conditioning, security, ladders, lawn service, window coverings, furniture care, fencing and vacuums.

The show is co-sponsored by The Big 96KLLL, Mix 100 and Classic Rock 101 Radio of Lubbock.

The South Plains Food Bank will be selling cookbooks to raise money for their holiday food drive. The admission fee of \$3.00 is waived for anyone bringing a packaged or canned food contribution for the food bank.

The Grand Prize is a \$3000 set of stainless steel cookware sponsored by Saladmaster. Register at the Show.

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 Food, Fellowship & Bible Study
 5:30 - 7:30 pm
Other Opportunities
 Fitness/exercise Class - 5:30 - 6:30 pm
 Tuesdays & Thursdays

From The Hack

On the publishing date of this issue, it has been 45 days since the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers, The Pentagon, and the crash of the jet liner in Pennsylvania. Rescue workers are still removing mangled bodies from the ruins in New York City, and most surely will continue to do so for weeks to come. We are unleashing a steady, damaging attack on Afghanistan wherever we think the terroristic Taliban leaders may be hiding, and on their military assets across that nation.

The general public's response to that horrific September 11 day has been astounding - money, gifts, remembrance gifts have poured into New York. School kids have assembled in patriotic support, churches of all faiths have gathered in special prayers services. Just nights ago, a huge gala of music, stage and screen stars paid tribute to New York City's finest, the fire fighters and police whose ranks have been so decimated, but who continue to labor in clean-up efforts.

While this is very gratifying, very stirring, why do I seem to be developing a dismal feeling when I turn the tube on and watch and hear media reps wool the Afghan situation around? I get the distinct feeling when I watch a press conference coming from the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Sec. of De-

fense, some of these reporters are already developing that old Vietnam attitude.... "Are you sure you know what you're doing? Are the end results justifying the risk and the expense? Aren't you afraid we will kill far too many innocent men women and children with our bombs and rockets? Aren't we likely to alienate all the millions and millions of Muslims around the world? Aren't we liable to appear to the world a terrible, powerful bully nation, picking on a poor, lightly populated backward nation?"

I sometimes want to scream at the tube, "Hey, you talking head idiots, how poor is your memory that you can forget and maybe even forgive these fanatical, blood thirsty fiends who killed over 6,000 of your fellow countrymen in less than an hours time, and have vowed, sworn death to all of us, in Allah's name, no matter how long it takes."

I am also a bit over gorged with the attitude some of the nation's reporters display at news briefings covering military events happening in Afghanistan. Many of the news hounds seem to be almost sulking with frustration, enraged because the General or Admiral in charge detailing some military operation won't reveal *everything* about the operation, never mind it being a highly classified, clandestine effort. I want to shriek at the idiot reporters, "Hey, genius, when did we ever have a war and openly tell everything to everyone about military operations?" Some simpleton is always whimpering, "The public has the right to know!" No, the public does NOT have this right if it could be used to hamper a military operation and put the lives of our servicemen and women in harm's way.

I hope the current will and determination of the American people, and most of our leaders, will continue, and Heavenly Father Forbid, not degenerate into the mindless mess which split our nation in the Vietnam debacle.

We are now fighting an enemy unlike any we have ever faced before - many nations whose governments are not all our foes, but majorities of their people who are. One issue is paramount - our Congress must remain united, focused on possibly the most important matter they have faced since December 7, 1941. We are at WAR, and our citizens, and especially our politicians had better help us wage this war, and not return to the partisan back biting and stabbing we endured the last eight years.



On The Level

with Donald Haley
USDA/NRCS



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Hard work doesn't scare Laverne Newsom. Never has.

And when she and her late husband Doyle (Hoss) Newsom decided to try their hand at growing grapes, they loaded up the work wagon and didn't look back.

Hoss is gone now, but as Laverne and I look out over the manicured rows of their vineyard, what he worked and lived and stood for is all around.

When Laverne talks of her life and times with Hoss, there is a sadness there that reflects her loss and the loss to all that knew and respected and loved him as well.

But, too, there is well-deserved pride in the perfectly straight rows of freshly picked vines, the fields of blooming cotton, it too awaiting its' harvest, and all the blood, sweat and tears it has taken over the years to make it so.

Pulling back the dark green foliage across the limb of a grapevine or "cordon" as it's called, Laverne says the harvest was a good one this year.

The nineteen acre vineyard just north of Plains produced 108 tons of grapes, which figures a little over eleven thousand pounds per acre!

As you might guess from everything Laverne does, she



works to produce quality above quantity.

She explained that the "cordons" could have as many as 20 "shoots" (grape cluster points).

By pruning back to 10-12 shoots per cordon, the sweetness of the grapes is enhanced, since the plant is able to more concentrate its' sugary efforts.

Thus, less grapes are produced.

But... those that come off the vine in late August and destined for the Reserve Program (only the very best grapes) at Caprock Winery are nothing less than "magnifico"!

In fact, 80 percent of the grapes from Newsom Vineyards end up in the Reserve Program, to be made into Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot red wines.

You would have to understand the wine industry better than I do, but experts

say this is an accomplishment not achieved by all who try.

And speaking of accomplishments, Hoss and Laverne had a good year in 1997.

Newsom Vineyards was recognized as that year's Outstanding Wine Growers and Texas' Best in Wine Grapes (Ft. Worth Star Telegram), Outstanding Contribution to the Wine Industry (T.V. Munson Award) and winner of the World Wide Wine Championships (Fredericksburg Winery).

And there were a lot more plaques and certificates and trophies and stuff on the wall, but my pen got tired and ran out of ink!

Most recently, in 2000, Hoss and Laverne were awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Texas Wine and Grape Association.

Whew, I'm winded just typing it.

But even more, "Wow!" for doing it!

Just think of the time and knowledge and study and failure and triumph and good ole' fashion sweat and hard work it took for those good things to happen.

But then, this is Hoss and Laverne Newsom we're talkin' about.

"It takes a lot of hard work," says Laverne, stooping to fit a loose emitter back on an irrigation line.

Somehow, I don't think she would have it any other way...

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