

# COWBOY COUNTRY NEWS



Volume 1, Issue 43, Thursday, June 15, 1995

## FINAL RITES FOR CLYDE TROUT

Funeral services for Reginald Clyde Trout, 76, of Tokio, Texas were conducted at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 14, 1995 in the Brownfield Church of Christ with Bob Reynolds and John McCoy officiating. Interment followed in the Terry County Memorial Cemetery. Mr. Trout passed away Sunday, June 11, 1995 at his residence. He was born December 28, 1918 in Burkburnett, TX.

He was moved by covered wagon to Gladiola, New Mexico, by his parents, Joseph Reginald and Nona Magnolia Trout, then to Plains in the fall of 1923. He rode horseback four miles to the Tokio school. After finishing school at Tokio, he went another year to Brownfield High School. Staying in Brownfield with the B.L. Thompson family.

His best friend was D.A. Thompson who was later the best man at Mr. Trout's wedding when he married Ila Lorraine Wesley on December 1, 1949 in Burkett, Texas.

Clyde and Ila lived their first year together in Brownfield, then returned to Tokio in September of 1944, settling on their farm one-half mile north of Highway 380. Clyde farmed there his entire life, and managed Trout Farm Supply for 19 years. Clyde was also County Commissioner for Precinct 4 in Yoakum County from 1955 until 1960.

While a Commissioner, Mr. Trout played a role in several important community and county projects. He was a member of a local delegation traveling to Austin in 1956 which



Clyde Trout with award he and Mrs. Trout received from County Soil-Water Conservation Dist. last November

secured the original charter for Plains State Bank. During his term of office, The County Hospital in Denver City was built, as well as the two County Libraries in Plains and Denver City. Mr. Trout was instrumental in securing approval to pave the state road from Tokio to Sundown-Whiteface. The County Livestock Association show barns were also constructed while he was Commissioner of Precinct 4.

He is survived by his wife, Ila Trout of Tokio; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Rodney Clyde Trout of Dallas, Reginald Cote Trout and Barbara Trout of Memphis, TN; three brothers, Lowell Trout of Bonham, Charles Trout of Big Lake, and Royce Trout of Hobbs, New Mexico; and several nieces and nephews.

Nephews serving as Pallbearers were; Wesley Neal Nicholson, Claudie Addison, Bobby Springer, Reg Trout, Lyndal Trout, Lowell Trout, Ricky Tanner, Roland Trout and Rodney Hooker.

Honorary Pallbearers were Amoco workers at the Tokio Prentiss Plant.

## PLAINS ISD ACHIEVES SUCCESS IN LEGISLATIVE EFFORT

After disappointing results in the last two legislative sessions, Plains ISD finally received some positive response and some good news in the recently passed omnibus education bill, Senate Bill One. Chapter 41 of SB 1 allows for three very important improvements over previous "Robin Hood" bills. Schools with high tax values such as Plains were allowed two more years of phase in time or "hold harmless". This means that wealthy schools would have two more years to reduce their taxable value to maximum allowed of \$280,000 per student. Also, changes were written to allow these schools to take advantage of other methods in the formulas to be able to keep other dollars that had been flowing out of the district. In Plains situation, the greatest victory came in a simple sentence which was inserted in the 1600 page bill which allowed for "current year" values to be used in calculating the amount of money to be recaptured by the state. With 93% of Plains ISD values in minerals, recent declines of over 20% per year in mineral values has forced Plains ISD to give up far more money than either the Robin Hood bills or the courts required. By moving to current year values in the formula process, Plains ISD will be able to keep the maximum wealth per student which was intended in the law. Using the formulas required in previous law, Plains ISD was forced to send out over \$500,000 more than the intent of previously passed laws due to this glitch in the funding formulas which penalized schools with rapidly declining tax values. With predictions of another 20% or more of declining value in this tax year, Plains would have been devastated had the district lost more money to recapture.

The Supreme Court decision known as "Robin Hood" allowed wealthy districts to keep a maximum of \$280,000 per student in taxable wealth. If districts were willing to tax themselves at \$1.50 per \$100 of value, they would be able to keep the same amount of dollars per student as they were spending in 1992-93. This would amount to a maximum of \$4,200 per student. In 1992-93, Plains ISD was not even spending at this maximum level. Plains expenditure per pupil in 92-93 was only \$4,083 per

pupil. The effect of the old law not only required large amounts of money to leave the Plains district, the district was not even allowed to keep the amount guaranteed to wealthy districts.

Plains ISD chose to join the Small Rural Schools Finance Coalition. This coalition of 16 mineral-wealthy West Texas schools then hired consultants in Austin to help in the fight for fairness in the funding formulas. The group was chaired by Pete Simmons, superintendent of Plains schools. Simmons spent many hours in Austin and in the district working with the consultants and legislative leaders to convince them of the needed changes. Simmons commented, "It has been a tremendous battle for over three years to convince legislative and Texas Education Agency officials that we were being desperately hurt by the funding formulas due to our loss in value. Having millions of dollars leave the district in the form of recapture or "Robin Hood" was bad enough without it being compounded by formulas which increased the loss of dollars beyond what even the law and the courts allowed. \$500,000 dollars is a tremendous amount of money to a district whose budget is just over \$4,000,000. Being able to keep this money in the district will enable us to continue our fine programs. If we had not achieved this legislative victory, we would have faced drastic cuts in our programs and staffing. I would like to thank Gary Walker for his help in this effort. Having a "home town representative" was invaluable in our efforts to affect the legislative process. Gary did a tremendous job in keeping us informed and in contact with the leaders at key times in the legislative process."

The idea of recapture or taking away of our tax dollars is still repulsive. There is some consolation in the fact that Plains ISD will now be able to at least keep the amount of money intended by the legislature and the courts. This is a small victory in a huge war; but it is a victory that will allow Plains ISD to go forward. Letters have come from many districts and school boards showing appreciation for the leadership and hard work by superintendent Simmons in this battle.

## CURRENT COTTON CROP A 'GOOD NEWS - BAD NEWS' TALE

Three weeks ago we featured an article on the difficulties area cotton producers were facing under drought and high wind conditions. Shortly after that issue, most of the area received enough rain to plant the always chancy dry land crop. Unfortunately, little or no additional moisture has fallen to help the struggling plants.

Marc Traweck, Manager of Tokio Co-Op Gin, reports almost three inches of rain fell at the gin site in May, but the bulk of his normal trade area is abnormally dry. "I'm afraid if we don't get good, general rains within 7 to 10 days, we'll have to write the dry land crop off," he said. He noted some of his customers had planted on the scant moisture, and the seed had only sprouted, but didn't come up. "Now the farmers are afraid to plant milo or other alternative crops in the dry fields. They won't make it either, unless we get rain, and soon."

Gayle Craft at New-Tex Gin on the state line reported virtually the same dry land conditions in his area. "By and large the irrigated crops are in decent shape, although I don't think they are as far along at this time as last years. We've just had too many cold, cloudy, windy and dry days," he said. He echoed Traweck's predictions about the 7 to 10 day time limit for rain to ensure a dry land crop.

Gary Six, Acting Director

## Sign Fund Grows, Needs Little Boost!

Contributions the the Chamber of Commerce "Welcome To Plains" sign continue to come in, but a final 'boost' is needed to put the project over the top.

The following is a list of contributors to the sign campaign; All-Tel Corp; Ist Christian Church; Shofner & Sons Ostrich Ranch; United Video Cablevision; Vaughn & Carolyn Culwell; Walker Sims Oil Co; Sally Shoemaker; Pierre & Mary Jo St Romain; Plains State Bank; Lea Co. Electric Co-Op; Yoakum County Co-Op Gin; Plains Automotive & Tire; Yoakum County Roping Club; Alma Lynn Mc Ginty;

Turn to page 5,  
"Sign Fund"

## CFSA GUIDELINES FOR COTTON PRODUCERS IN WEEVIL ERADICATION ZONES

The local Consolidated Farm Services Administration announces the following guidelines for cotton planted in the Boll Weevil Eradication Program;

When the producer certifies the cotton acreage the fee can be paid. If the producer chooses to pay later, they must understand that a late payment fine may be assessed if payment is not received by final certification date (July 15).

The producer needs to be informed of the following: \*If the producer pays the fee and the acreage fails prior to the final certification date and the acreage is mechanically destroyed by the final re-

porting date, then the Foundation will keep the assessment fee and may apply, upon request, toward the fee the following year.

\*If the producer does not pay the fee earlier than the final reporting date, the acreage fails prior to the final certification date and the acreage is mechanically destroyed by the final reporting date, then the Foundation will only assess the fee to the acreage standing as cotton as of the final reporting date. If the acreage is not mechanically destroyed by the final reporting date, the fee is charged against the total acreage not destroyed.

## COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT

Christopher Antonio Seeders, 18, charged with criminal conspiracy to commit deadly conduct, appeared before County Judge Dallas Brewer on June 6. Criminal Dist. Attorney Richard Clark represented the state, Warren New represented the defendant.

He was found guilty and sentenced to a probated 2 years jail term and fined \$1,000. He will serve 60 days in the County Jail.

The charge originated when Seeders agreed to drive a vehicle carrying Ernest George Strickland by the Denver City residence of Ismael Herrera for the purpose of a 'drive by shooting'.

## PISD FACILITIES BEING UPDATED AND IMPROVED

The hallways and classrooms at the PISD three schools are empty of students and faculty, strangely quiet, yet life goes on at the complex.

Maintenance personnel, some administrators and their staff will work throughout the summer months, getting the large facility ready when school resumes in late August. A number of approved and budgeted projects are underway.

The wooden seats in the boys High School Gym are being completely refurbished, a 'sorely' needed improvement. All of the student lockers in both the Middle School and High School will be replaced with new metal lockers finished in the school colors.

The Middle School Tennis court will be refurbished, the cracked and deteriorating concrete playing surfaces to be replaced, and the courts will be screened like the High School courts. New, thicker padding will be installed in the Elementary Activity room to reduce chance injuries to the students.

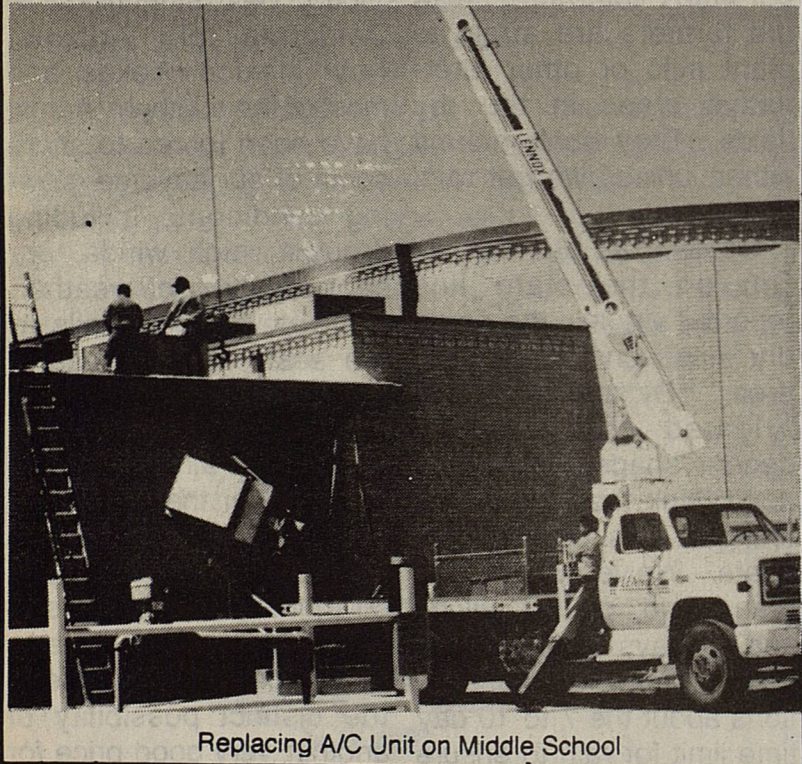
A four year program replacing all student desks in the three schools will be complete when the current desks in Junior and Senior High are replaced.

A three year program has started which will eventually replace all of the 25 year old cooling units

throughout the school. To better utilize the units, and conserve energy and utility dollars, the district recently installed a state of the art computerized Energy Management System. The system automatically monitors every room in the entire school complex, and according to Maintenance Chief Don Hinkle, "will repay its initial \$54,000 cost in utility savings in three years." When a particular heating-cooling unit malfunctions in some way, an alarm sounds, and technicians can quickly check the unit out. The early warning of trouble has already saved a large amount of money in compressor replacements which were avoided by routine maintenance when the need occurred.

The sound system in both the cafeteria and auditorium will be greatly improved with the addition of new, improved speakers. New fabric on the fence enclosing Cowboy stadium has been installed, safer breaker boxes have replaced the old fuse type boxes, and the entire facility will receive carpet shampoos, floor polishing, a thorough disinfecting, and the gym floors will be refurbished.

When the first student walks thru the doors at the start of school, the physical plant will be ready for them.



Replacing A/C Unit on Middle School

## LIONS MEETING SCHEDULED

The Plains Lions Club will meet Thursday, June 15, at noon in the Scout-Lion building. Pierre St. Romain, program chairman, announced Dr. Larry Boyd of Family Med Center, Denver City, will be

the featured speaker.

Members are urged to attend and hear Dr. Boyd. The Doctor extends a special invitation to the wives of all members to attend this special meeting.

The local club will have a special meeting of all Board of Directors members at 7 AM the same Thursday morning at Johnnie's Restaurant.

## PISD TRUSTEES MEETING

The Plains Independent School District Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, June 12, 1995 at 7:30 p.m. in the board room of the administration building. Members present included Tim Addison, Stanley Ashburn, Dwayne Canada, Anna M. Gonzales, Brad Palmer, Danny Bell, and Randy Tuggle. Pete Simmons, Superintendent and Eric Banfield, Business Manager were also present.

The meeting was called to order by board president, Mr. Brad Palmer.

Danny Bell moved, Tim Addison seconded that the minutes of the regular meeting of May 16, 1995, and the called meeting of June 1, 1995, be approved as amended. Motion carried.

Danny Bell moved, Stanley Ashburn seconded that the monthly bill be paid as presented. Motion carried.

Dwayne Canada moved, Stanley Ashburn seconded that the depository bid for school funds be accepted from Plains State Bank. Motion carried.

Danny Bell moved, Stanley Ashburn seconded that the proposed storage building project be tabled. Motion carried.

Stanley Ashburn moved, Randy Tuggle seconded that resolutions honoring the band and the industrial technology team for winning first in their respective state competitions be passed and become part of the permanent school record. Motion carried.

Stanley Ashburn moved, Randy Tuggle seconded that the sound systems in the auditorium and the school cafeteria be upgraded. Motion carried.

Stanley Ashburn moved, Tim Addison seconded that the report on TAAS scores be accepted and that a resolution of appreciation to the administrators, staff, and students for a job well done be adopted. Motion carried.

A financial report was given by Eric Banfield, and an administrative report was given by Pete Simmons.

Dwayne Canada moved, Anna Gonzalez seconded that there be no board meeting in July. Motion carried.

It was decided by consensus that a budget workshop be held at 5:00 p.m. on August 14th prior to the regular board meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by board president, Mr. Brad Palmer.

## COUNTY COURT MEETS

Yoakum County Commissioners Court met in regular session Monday, June 12, Judge Dallas Brewer presiding. Commissioners Thurston, McWhirter, Avara and Barron were present. Also attending were Hazel Lowrey, Auditor, Julia Lemley, County Clerks office, and Toni Jones, Treasurer.

Among the business items discussed and acted on were approval of minutes of the previous months meetings. The court accepted the only bid on N24.77 ac of Sec. 113, Blk D, JHG Survey, a parcel of land unofficially known as the 'Cherokee Strip'. The bid, submitted by Clois M. Crawford, Lubbock, was in the amount of \$5,000, to be paid to the County in water at the rate of 11 cents per 42 gal. barrel until the bid price is settled. The Court accepted a report from Tax Assessor-Collector Wanda Smith, showing tax receipts in May of \$16,935. Line item transfers from the General Fund to various departments totaling \$4,981 were approved. Monthly bills and part time employee salaries were approved for payment.

The meeting adjourned at 10:21 AM.

A little courtesy goes a long way. Good thing, cause it's always in short supply.

## EARLINESS MANAGEMENT CRITICAL FOR '95 COTTON CROP

With little rainfall to bolster dry land cotton crop conditions, county producers have turned their attention to nurturing what cotton they have. Although late planted cotton is not the ideal, it is the hand that many have been dealt in 1995.

For many cotton producers, the emphasis has shifted from bumper crop yields to maximizing production with what conditions and fruiting period we have to work with. Under normal conditions in Yoakum County, we have a three to four week fruiting period to "build a crop" with. However, due to the delayed planting date throughout the county, the '95 fruiting period has been compressed to a two week time frame and maybe a little longer if we are lucky enough to have ideal conditions. Adverse weather and insects could further reduce the fruiting period; therefore, it is essential that we "set" as many early squares as possible as it has been estimated that 95% of this year's crop will be made from first position squares.

In general, lower seeding rates for late planted cotton should help, but dense stands will delay

maturity under irrigated conditions, and limit yields under dry land conditions. Dense stands will mature earlier in dry land situations, but usually yield is further limited.

Other factors that will be important for earliness management include avoiding excessive nitrogen fertilization, which could lead to a problem if the fall is excessively wet, due to excessive nitrate levels in the soil. Plant monitoring and insect scouting are probably the best methods of determining if a field has a problem with square set and if anything can be done to correct it. With a low yield potential, getting into a spray war with insects could be extremely costly. *Tadd Knight, Extension Agent-Ag*

## SPRING GRADUATION AT TECH

(Lubbock)--More than 1,828 students at Texas Tech University received degrees during 1995 spring commencement exercises on May 13.

Texas Tech, the largest comprehensive university in the western two-thirds of Texas, has an enrollment of 24,000.

Among the graduates was John Eric Banfield of Plains, who received his Master of Business Administration degree. He is the Business Manager of the Plains Independent School District.

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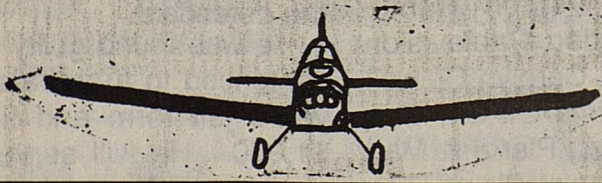
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## PLAINS ISD TEST SCORES OUTSTANDING

Plains students scored exceptionally well on the recently administered Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) examinations. This exam, which is required to be administered in every school in Texas, is the primary measurement in the state's accountability system for public schools.

Plains students' scores improved from last year's scores in every subject area at every grade level. Some grade levels showed improvement by as much as 42% in the number of students meeting the minimum mastery levels. Third graders led the way with a perfect 100% of the students meeting the minimum master levels in both math and reading. Students in grades 308 and grade 10 were administered exams in reading and math. Students in grades four, eight, and ten were administered exams in reading. In addition, students in grade eight were tested in science and social studies. Of the 17 testing areas, Plains students scored a perfect 100% mastery in four areas, 90% or better in nine areas, and 80% or better in the other four

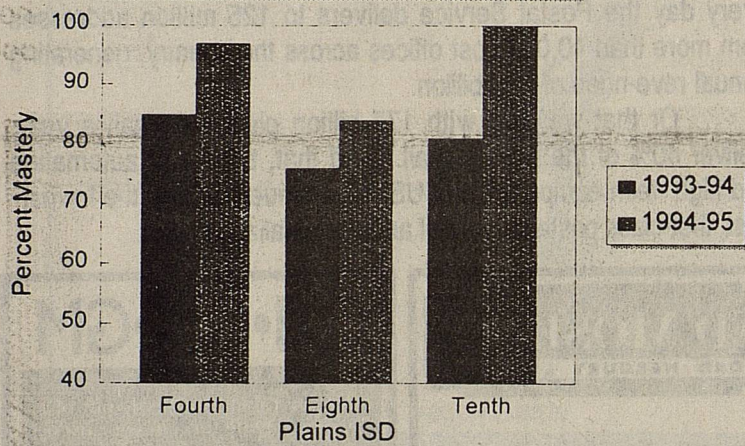
areas. The lowest mastery percentage was a relatively high 81%.

Superintendent Pete Simmons in releasing the scores commented: "These are some of the most outstanding scores of any school in Texas. Plains patrons can be extremely proud of our school's accomplishment. It shows a dedicated and successful team effort on the part of students, teachers and administrators. These excellent scores indicate that our school is doing an outstanding job in the education of our young people. I applaud this effort on the part of all who are responsible and congratulate them on a job well done. Many schools struggle just to achieve a 70% mastery level in a particular area of the test. For our students to have such outstanding scores is truly remarkable."

Board members were briefed on the scores at Monday's meeting and responded by enthusiastically passing a resolution commending the students, teachers, and administrators for their work and accomplishment in attaining these outstanding scores.

### TAAS Scores - Writing

By Grade 4th, 8th, & 10th

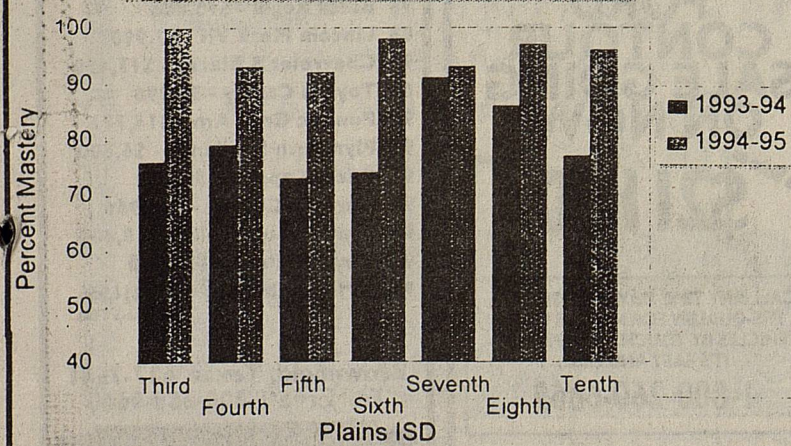


Writing	Fourth	Eighth	Tenth
1993-94	85	76	81
1994-95	97	84	100

10th Graders moved up a big 19%

### TAAS Scores - Reading

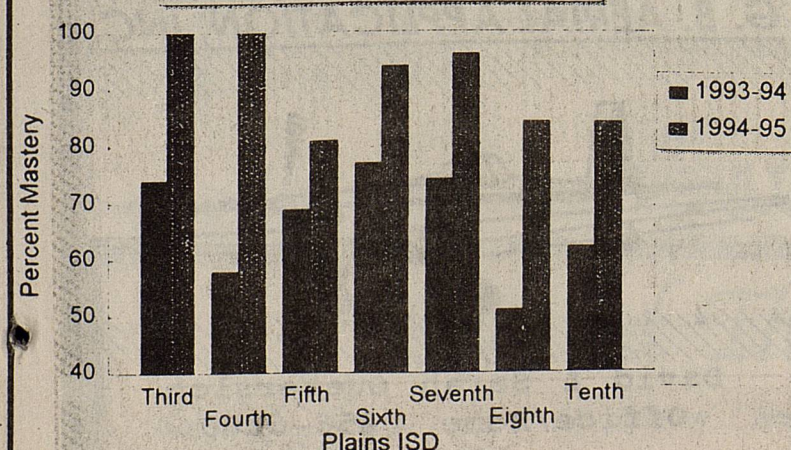
By Grade 3rd-8th, 10th



Most improved percentages were made by 3rd, 6th, 5th & 10th graders.

### TAAS Scores - Math

By Grade 3rd-8th, 10th



Most improved percentages were made 4th, 8th & 3rd graders.

## PLAINS LITTLE LEAGUE UPDATE

Little League baseball got underway May 8 for the Major League Teams. Following are team results to date:

### MAJORS

May 8 Pay-N-Save Yankees downed the Farm Bureau Rangers 12-6.  
 May 11 Stateline Insurance Cowboys beat Farm Bureau Rangers 26-7 (Adam Garcia got the seasons first homer in this game.)  
 May 12 Cowboys whip Yankees 17-1  
 May 16 Cowboys defeat Yankees 25-5  
 May 18 Yankees whip Rangers 17-10 (Brett Squyres homers)  
 May 22 Cowboys beat Yankees 13-4 (Chris McGinty homers)  
 May 23 Cowboys defeat Rangers 12-7  
 May 27 Rangers get first win over Yankees 22-6.  
 May 30 Cowboys win good game over Yankees 9-8 (Adam Garcia pitched entire game, strikes out 14, Eddie Gallegos also goes distance for Yankees)

June 1 Cowboys defeat Rangers 14-6 (Squyres gets 2nd homer)  
 June 3 Yankees down Rangers 10-5 (Gerry Rivas faces 25 batters, strikes out 15)  
 June 5 Cowboys ease past Rangers 13-12 (Squyres pitches game, strikes out 12)  
 June 6 Rangers whip Yankees 13-11 (Kelsey Blundell strikes out 17, walks only 3)

MINOR League started May 16 (Note: the minors use a pitching machine)  
 West Texas Gas White Sox beat the Plains State Bank 7-6

May 22 White Sox down Texas Equipment Braves 10-1.

May 23 The Sharks down Braves 9-4.

June 2 Marlins whip

Braves 13-6, Sharks squeeze by White Sox 2-1  
 June 3 White Sox defeat Marlins 14-4  
 June 5 Marlins whip Sharks 11-4  
 June 6 White Sox beat Braves 12-4

In T-Ball action, no scores are kept. The main emphasis is in teaching the youngsters the game fundamentals. T-Ball teams include the New-Tex Gin Bad News Bears, Sellers Ag Rockies, and Yoakum County Co-Op Rangers. Regular play will end the week of June 12, and Major League All-Stars made up of 11 and 12 year olds will be announced June 15.

Information about an All-Star District tournament will be announced later. If you want to watch a FUN sporting event, try to catch one of the remaining games. ....

## YOUNG GYMNAST AIMS FOR NATIONAL BERTH

On May 27, Kelly Bowers, competing for the Southwest Tumbling and Trampoline Association Regional Championship in Hobbs, N.M., won 4th place Honors in Tumbling. He was instructed by Tonia Newsom. He captured First Place Regional Championship in the Trampoline competition, and was coached by Kitha Tankersley. He will compete in the National Invitational Final events in Denver, Colorado June 29 and 30. Good Luck, Kelly!

Wondering what happened to Billy Joe Toliver, the ex-Tech and NFL Quarterback? He's now playing that spot for the Shreveport Pirates, a minor league pro team.

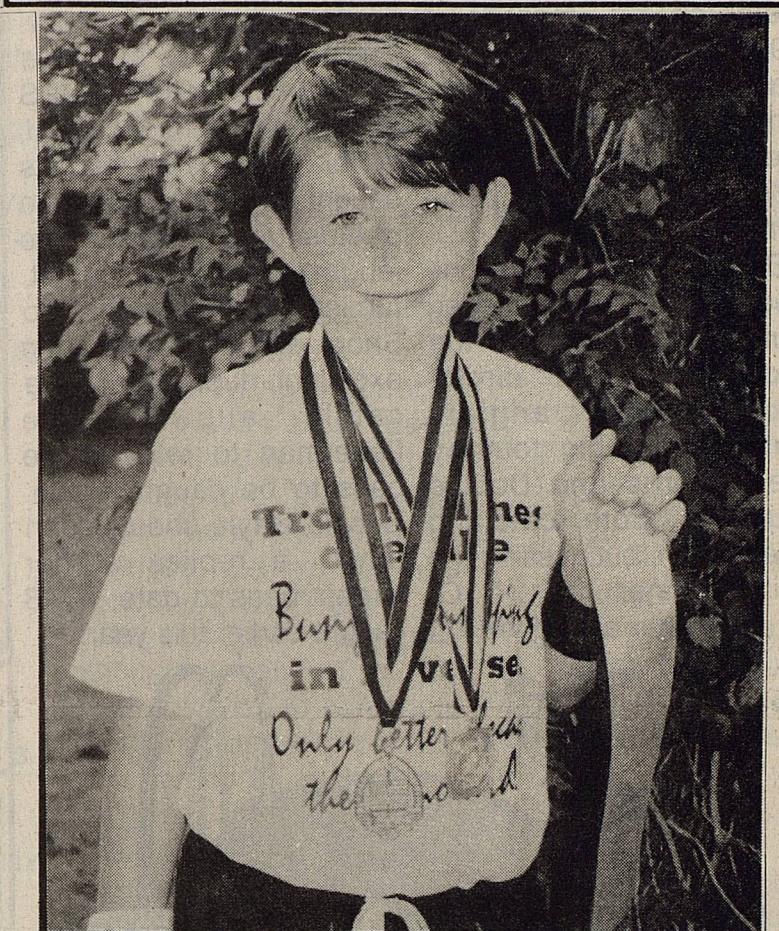


## FCA MEETING

The FCA held their 3rd get-together last Thursday night. The group played football, and since Coach Osborn was unable to attend, Jerry Parrish led the meeting. He was the main speaker and told the group that "There is Hope, don't give up, be encouraging, and give only positive criticism. We had two newcomers, so keep coming

and bringing friends. Be sure to meet us tonight in the park at 7:00 p.m. for some volleyball. Bring your favorite verse for the T-shirt contest and \$10. Also, since June 18th is Father's Day, we will go to the Methodist Church morning services, we will try for next month.

By Kassie Lowe, Sec/Reporter



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## LOCAL SCORES BIG IN BASS TOURNAMENT

Locals Butch and Bobbie Gayle entered a large bass tournament on Lake O.H. Ivie last weekend, and Butch walked away with the Championship trophy, and a handy \$1800 cash prize.

The event, sponsored by the Coleman Chamber of Commerce, drew a field of 359 anglers who fished the one day tournament on Saturday. Bass anglers from as far away as Houston competed on the popular lake near Ballinger and San Angelo.

The Gayles concentrated their efforts in the Elm Creek area of the lake, and caught the bulk of their keeper fish on Berkley Power worms, drifting them on 'Carolina' rigs.

The lake has a three fish, 18 inch minimum length limit, and Butch weighed in the maximum three weighing an impressive 19.42 pounds. His largest bass weighed 7.68 pounds. The second place angler weighed in some 17 pounds, and the third place winner had 14 pounds.

Bobbie Gayle had one keeper fish, a 6.5 pounder, but failed to get into the money winners circle. Other local anglers entering the big tourney were Morris and Debbie Rushing, both catching keeper fish, but missing the prize winner list. N. C. Clanahan and young



daughter Elizabeth were also contestants, as was former resident Steve Warren, son of Jim and Lela Warren.

The lake Ivie bass record is currently 10.13 pounds, a record which has changed four times this year, twice in one day during another tournament.

Butch is pictured here with a replica of his largest bass to date, a 9.10 pounder. The replicas are available from BASS PRO SHOPS in Springfield, Missouri. When a trophy fish is caught, the angler can take photos of it, measure its length, girth, and weight, furnish this data to the Pro Shop, and they create an excellent duplicate of the catch, allowing the fisherman to release the bass to be caught again.

Bobbie Gayle should soon have a replica of her largest bass to date, a 9.8 caught earlier this year.



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## CONSERVATION FARMER OF THE YEAR

Mr. Dan Wall has been selected by the Yoakum Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors as the Conservation "Farmer of the Year". He has lived in Yoakum County for 17 years. Dan and his wife, Linda have two sons, Chad and Ronny. Ronny and his wife, Jaly, reside in Seminole, Texas.

Dan operates and manages 3,600 acres of crop land. Of these, there are 1,600 acres dry land, 800 acres irrigated and 1,200 acres in CRP.

The crop land is both dry land and irrigated, but mostly dry land. The main crops raised on Dan's farms are cotton, grain sorghum, and small grains (wheat and rye).

Dan's main vegetable conservation practices are the use of crop rotation,

planting of cover crops, and crop residue management. He has also used a system on "minimum till" of cotton planted into milo stalks. He manages the residues of his crops to protect the soil against wind and water erosion.

Other soil erosion control and soil moisture conserving practices he employs are the use of various emergency tillage methods. To enhance fertility, improve infiltration, and reduce erosion, Dan uses deep breaking and chiseling annually.

Dan is also very concerned with water conservation. His center pivots are all equipped with low pressure nozzle packages. Soil moisture is monitored closely and only enough water is applied to fill the soil profile without runoff.

## COUNTRYWIDE STEER TAG-IN & VALIDATION TO BE HELD

The Yoakum County 4-H and FFA show steer tag-in will be held on June 19 and 20, according to county steer validation committee chairman Greg Keesee. All steers which will be shown at the Yoakum County Junior Livestock Show and any subsequent major livestock show (i.e. Ft. Worth, San Antonio, Houston, etc.) must be validated by the county steer validation committee no later than

June 30, 1995. The validation process includes placing a state certified tag in the ear, taking a photograph, as well as a legible nose print of each steer. Each exhibitor and validation committee member must then sign the validation form. If you have a steer or steers which need to be validated, you should contact one of the following no later than June 16th: County Extension Agent Tadd Knight at (806) 456-2263 or Joe Pierce, Plains Agricultural Science Teacher at 456-7445, or Geoff Cooper, Denver City Agricultural Science Teacher at 592-8070.

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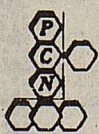
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## SHANNON WARD TO LEAVE FOR AUSTRALIA

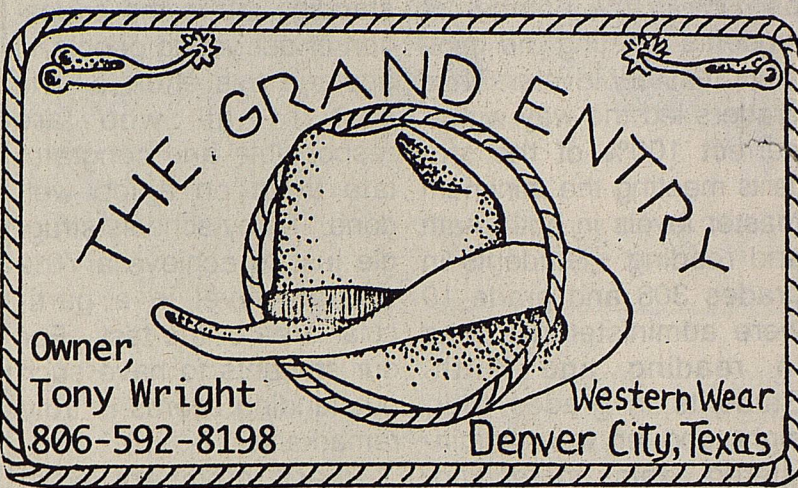
"I will be leaving for Australia on June 28th and would like to thank all those who made it possible for me to go on this trip.

"I am grateful that a small community such as ours is so supportive of its athletes and students. The reason Plains has been so successful is because of the support, encouragement, and help the people of this community give to the kids. And my trip to Australia is an example of this, because if it hadn't been for all the donations I

received, this trip would not be possible.

"I truly appreciate all you have done, and will do my best to represent my state, friends, family, school, and most important, the community in the most suitable and respectable manner possible. I only wish you could all be there supporting me, but you will be in my heart and I will remember you made it possible for me to go on a once of a lifetime trip."

Thank You,  
Shannon Ward



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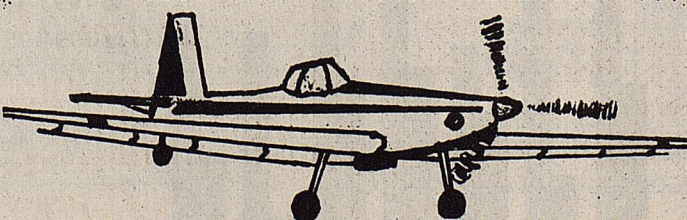
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# FOR OUR FEMME FRIENDS

## Schulenberg - Engle ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED



Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Fletcher of Denver City are happy to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Kristy D'Ann Schulenberg to Mr. Garrick Nathaniel Engle, son of Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Engle of Plains. The future bride is a 1992 graduate of Plains High School and is pursuing a career in the Medical field. The future groom is also a 1992 graduate of Plains High School, and is continuing his education in nursing. The couple will be married on August 11, 1995 in the First United Methodist Church in Denver City. The bride-to-be is the grand daughter of Barbara Brown of Plains.

## YOAKUM COUNTY ART ASSOCIATION MEETING

The County Art Association met June 6 in the Club Room, with 15 members present. Mickie Lovorn, niece of Linda Powell, was a guest at the meeting.

Member Jimmie Bayer reported she currently people taking art lessons, both adults and students. Association members are reminded to pay their dues, and submit their sketches for the new yearbook cover.

Members installed as Association officers include Inetta Teaff, President; Helen Hunter, Vice-Pres.; Jimmie Bayer, Treasurer; Betty Estep, Sec/Reporter; Ann Hartman, Program Chairperson, Mary Dale Forbus, Membership; Welma McDonnell, Hostess Comm. Chairperson; Wadonna Davis, Photographer/Scrapbook; Eileen Phillips and Sheila Stephens, Telephone Committee; Jimmie Bayer and Helen Hunter, Education; Marguerite Barron, Susie Powell, and Terrie Isaacs, Juried Show Committee.

Inetta Teaff received a beautiful crystal vase in appreciation for her role as Association President. Hostesses Wilma Powell and Susie Powell served sandwiches, chips, fruit, dips, and chess pie. Linda Powell furnished a lovely center piece from Renaissance for the event.

## PHS EXES ON DEANS LIST AT SOUTH PLAINS

Jay Rushing and Brian Wilson, 1994 graduates of PHS, achieved the Deans List of Academic Honors at South Plains College during the recent Spring semester. Both will be sophomores this Fall.

Jay is a Mathematics Major, while Brian is majoring in Law Enforcement.

Brian is the son of JB and Dianne Wilson of Pearsall, and Jay is the son of Morris and Debbie Rushing of Plains.

## RAYNEE DAVIS HONORED WITH BRIDAL SHOWER

A bridal shower honoring Miss Raynee Davis of Portland, bride elect of Kyle Andrews of Corpus Christi, was given on Saturday, May 20 in the home of Mrs. Vaughn Culwell.

Hostesses for the event were; Martha Palmer, JoAnn Barron, Connie McWhirter, Yvette Ramos, Frankie Walker, Sandra Stephens, Judy Fitzgerald, Linda Harris, Sheila Stephens, Barbara Brown, Margie Diaz, Ann McGinty, Sue Alexander, Linda Wall, Jean Craft, Paula McMinn, Hazel Lowrey, Sandra Ellison, and Carolyn Culwell. Their gift to the future bride was a Kitchen Aid Mixer.

Fresh rose corsages were presented to the honoree, her mother, Mrs. Dolores Davis and Mrs. Lorelei Andrews, mother of the future groom.

A vase of fresh purple roses (given in memory of her father, the late Wayne Lee Davis) was used on



the registry table. White lace over purple cloth, a multi-colored silk flower arrangement in a crystal bowl, crystal & silver, and purple napkins completed the table decoration along with a picture of the couple. JoAnn Barron and Judy Fitzgerald served refreshments of cake, mints, nuts, fresh green and purple grapes, fresh strawberries, fruit dip and punch.

## WAR BRINGS CHANGE IN MANY CUSTOMS

San Antonio: The war is blamed for everything, including the fact that respectable women now use rouge and lipstick in considerable quantities. The practice has become so common that conservative newspapers now carry rouge advertisements, and less conservative journals occasionally shower the public with advertisements of lipstick.

Divorce, much more common now than in the past, no longer carries the social stigma it once carried. Certainly no modern woman could join in the lament of a 1913 divorcee who complained, "I am still a comparatively young woman, thirty-eight years of age, and yet, for all that life holds for me, I might as well be an old woman of eighty, on the threshold of life's uncheery night." The Texas News August 15, 1919

## From Cowboy Country Kitchen



## Earthquake Cake

- 1 1/2 c. chopped pecans
  - 1 1/2 c. flake coconut
  - 1 boxed German Chocolate cake mix
  - 1 stick Oleo
  - 8 oz. cream cheese
  - 1 box powdered sugar
- In well greased 9x13 in. pan, sprinkle pecans and coconut. Make cake mix as directed on box, pour over pecan and coconut mixture. Beat cream cheese and oleo (after it has been softened). Add powdered sugar and drizzle over raw cake dough. Bake at 325° for 40-45 minutes.

## Prayer For The Week

O Lord God, help me to be more tolerant of other people's weaknesses. Help me be slow to anger. And when I am angry, help me not to pass my anger on to others. Amen.

**"Come On, You Bum, Hit One To Me!"**

This little Miss Minor Leaguer is all concentration in a recent Little League Game

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# FROM THE HACK



It's a long, hard ten plus hour drive to the brides kinfolk reunion site in East Texas, almost on the bank of the Sabine River, separating God's country from Louisiana. The food spread at the annual fling made the trip almost worthwhile, and I have to admit, she does descend from a pretty good bunch of folks, even if they do talk kinda funny.

Prior to the official reunion on Saturday, we slipped off to Shreveport, guided by her sister Eva and husband Zig, to check-out the three big riverboats operating there. If any ministers are reading this, I would like to say I wasn't aware the boats offered casino gambling, but since I wouldn't be believed, I won't. They do, in a big way. Each of them can accommodate from 1600 to 2000 people, and it appeared that many were on hand, a big number of Texans present.

The bride and her kissing kin spent their time pulling the handles on nickel slot machines, with very few positive effects, while I helped prop up a number of dice tables by leaning on them some seven hours. I did not cause the Horseshoe owner Jack Binion any loss of sleep worrying about my big winnings, needless to say.

The Horseshoe does offer a sumptuous buffet for a paltry \$6.95. If you can't pile your plate enough, or make enough trips to the serving line to offset that price, you're just not trying. A few of the

items I spotted included Louisiana boiled crawfish and shrimp, beans and dirty rice, fried and baked Cajun catfish, Boudoin sausage, roast beef, baked ham, roast turkey, stuffed fried jalapenos, clam chowder, a dozen or so vegetable selections, salads of every description, and 17 (I counted them) dessert selections. We all waddled when we rose from the table.

At the main event reunion the next day, heard an interesting and true story. The bride has a nephew down there in the deep pines, and he and his two sons cut and haul timber to the pulp or wood mills in the area. Seems one of the boys had just bought a brand new Chevy pickup, and drove it out to the woods for the days work. They had a monster pine tree to fell, and before cranking up the chain saws, the boy parked the truck a "safe distance away", all three agreed. I don't know if they actually yell 'TIMBER' or not, but I do know the tree crashed down on the pickup, right in the middle, doing very little damage to the tree, but completely totaling the new truck.

One of the bride's nephews approached me, and in that East Texas drawl, said "You know, we built that house about seven miles out in the country, and I guess now we're gonna have to move"

I asked why, and straight faced he said. "Well, the wife and kids are scared now they read that news article about the majority of auto accidents happening within 20 miles of home. They think we'd be lots better off a few more miles further out". He was so straight faced I never did know if he was serious or not.

Waiting outside the Casino entrance for the kin, I started studying the entering and departing patrons. There's a world of difference. I saw the newcomers streaming in, beaming, laughing, joking amongst themselves, happy as full porklings in slop, hugging, kissing, full of optimism. Taking a break a few hours later, I saw some of these same people coming out. Different ball-game entirely

One foursome stormed out, the wife screaming, "If you'd just let me have that last fifty, I KNOW I'd a hit it!" Another bedraggled husband stumbled out, moaning, "The just ain't no way dice can go so cold".

I did get to meet one of our favorites, Aunt Dorothy, prior to the reunion. I was in a check out line in a grocery, when I heard this voice call, "Is that you, Gary? My very favorite author?" Sure enough, it was Dorothy. I asked why she should label me so outlandishly, she laughed, said, "Why, the very same reason you write the BS you do in your paper". Aunt Dorothy is a very truthful person. I missed eating lunch with her sister, Aunt lone, who sent me a message. She was sorry she couldn't be at the big event, missed seeing me, and hoped I would keep writing about my irregular brother in law.

Speaking of Old Squeeze Dollar, I'll have to say this in his favor, much as it pains me; He is nearing 76, is recovering from major surgery, hadn't swung a club in some three months, yet managed to induce me to a nine hole golf match, which he handily won. I am still trying to figure how he

cheated. I will have to testify I watched in astonishment as he parred five of the nine holes. With my money in his pocket, he said he'd never felt better in his life. I will have to congratulate him also for kicking the California habit of spooning down Millet for breakfast. He has now adapted the East Texas habit of downing copious amounts of Metamucial cut with orange juice. He says he likes it, and it's a 'moving experience'.

Enough about East Texas. Change of venue. Prior to Monday's Commissioner Court Macky McWhirter reported a harrowing flight on Southwest from Dallas to Lubbock Saturday, about time the big, bad, black cloud roared thru there and here. He said, it was the worst cloud he'd ever seen, and the roughest flight he'd ever experienced. "The pilot announced we couldn't land in Lubbock, and he would have to seek a safe harbor to wait out the storm. We flew over Snyder, Sanderson, Van Horn, Pecos, Guadalupe Peak, and out of fuel, made it back to Hobbs, New Mexico. Finally got into Lubbock about four hours late". Asked what flight number it was, He said, "Number? I don't know. Seems like they called it the "Wee Libation Flight" when we boarded in Dallas.

Speaking of tight fisteds ones, Gayle Craft, cotton ginning magnate and West Texas Financier, called the other day, and asked, "Dyer, I heard your subscription rates are going up next year. Any truth to this? I had to answer, "No, Gayle, and why should you worry if they did? You haven't paid the first years yet". For once, he was speechless... about four seconds. I'm sure he will figure a new way of cheating me on the golf links now.

One of the oldest Texas hotels still in use is the Keystone Hotel at Lampasas. Built in 1856, it has been slightly remodeled, but still keeps its atmosphere. The Texas News, 08/15/1919

## ARB TO HEAR PROTESTS STARTING JULY 5, 1995

Property owners in the protest are available at the appraisal district office. "A letter from the taxpayer is also acceptable," Stephens said, "as long as it identifies the property owner and the property protested and indicates dissatisfaction with some decision or action of the appraisal office."

After the ARB concludes its hearings and approves final property appraisals, local governments will use the appraisal to assess property taxes for 1995.

The ARB is a group of citizens who live in the appraisal district and who are appointed by the district's directors. Their responsibilities are outlined by the Texas Property Tax Code.

Property owners may protest to the ARB any of the following appraisal office actions:

- \* the appraisal or agricultural value of the property;
- \* unequal appraisal of the taxpayer's property compared to other property in the district;
- \* inclusion of the property on the appraisal records;
- \* denial of a partial exemption, such as a homestead exemption;
- \* determination that agricultural land has changed of use and is subject to roll back tax;
- \* identification of the taxing unit or units in which the property is located;
- \* determination that the taxpayer is the owner of the property;
- \* any other action of the appraisal office that adversely affects the property owner.

Sandra Stephens, chief appraiser for the district, outlined the steps a property owner must take to file a protest. First, the property owner must file a written notice of protest with the ARB. The taxpayer must file this notice by June 19, 1995. However, if the ARB sends a property owner a notice of any other kind of change in the appraisal records, or if the chief appraiser issues a notice for a property omitted in the prior year, the property owner has 30 days from the mailing date to file a protest.

Official forms for a notice of

Each protesting property owner may offer evidence or argument, either in person or by filing an affidavit with the ARB. Property owners should know that the ARB has no authority over the tax rates or spending and will not hear protest on those topics. The ARB will not hear protest on taxes.

The ARB will schedule hearings as property owners file protests and will inform them of the time, date and place of their individual hearings at least 15 days before the hearing date. The property owner will also receive a copy of the State Comptroller's pamphlet entitled Texas Property Taxes: Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies & Responsibilities and a copy of the ARB's procedures.

Stephens said that protest hearings will be held for three days and that the ARB expects to approve the final appraisal roll on July 7, 1995. State law requires the ARB to review and approve the appraisal records by July 20, or when not more than 5 percent of the total property value in the district remains under protest.

Property owners protesting their valuation should not attempt to contact ARB members outside the hearing, the chief appraiser stressed. Each ARB member must sign an affidavit stating that no such contact has occurred with a property owner or the appraisal staff before the scheduled hearing.

Texas Property Taxes: Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies & Responsibilities is available at the Yoakum County Appraisal District office. For a copy, contact the appraisal district staff at P. O. Box 748 (500 10th Street), Plains, Texas 79355 or 806-456-7101.

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