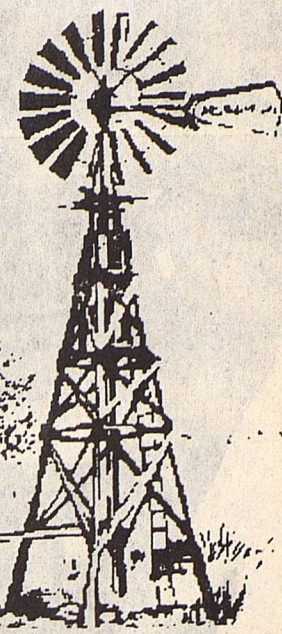


Cowboy Country News



God Bless America!



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

Volume V111, Issue 33, May 3, 2002

Stephen F. Austin Oak Planted Here



Luine Simpson discusses history of live oak sapling planted here last week

A bit of bona fide, and very old Texas history now has, hopefully, a permanent home here in Yoakum County. Mary C. Beard of Levelland, a second vice-president of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, presided over planting ceremonies last week of a live oak sapling, which is a descendent of a huge and ancient live oak tree in southeast Texas which Stephen F. Austin probably admired and walked under.

Ms. Beard introduced guest speaker Luine Simpson, also from Levelland, a direct descendent of Stephen Austin's sister Emily Austin Bryan. Ms. Simpson told court house employees and officials, history buffs, and the entire seventh grade Texas History class from Plains Middle School, Austin never married or served in an elected position. He is recognized, however, as the Father of Texas, for his tireless efforts establishing the first successful anglo colonies in what was at the time part of Mexico. Shortly after the battle of San Jacinto, Austin resided several months in the home of friend



7th grade students helped plant the Stephen F. Austin tree

Judge George McKinstry, near the present town of West Columbia. The live oak there was both large and old even before Austin's death.

Ms. Simpson related Houston Business man Bill F. Price purchased the McKinstry home and five acres of land. Acorns from the giant oak were gathered and propagated, and raised into saplings such as the one planted here. Price donates the young trees to Texas counties, and his goal is to see a "Stephen F. Austin" live oak in all 254 of the state's counties.

Others taking part in the cer-

emonies included State Representative Gary Walker, Pct. 4 Commissioner Jack Cobb, and Rev. Tom Carter, First United Methodist Church. Seventh graders Steven Dominguez and Caitlin Carter led pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags, and many of the students took turns filling soil around the tree. A special color guard of Cub Scouts, P.J. Pando, Hunter Welch, Jacob Brink and Holden Welch, assisted by scout leader Christie Brink, posted the national and state colors, for the ceremony.

Long awaited Farm Bill clears conference committee

Local ag producers not dancing in streets, but are no longer sobbing on the corner, either

The long, often bitter battle between the U.S. House and Senate over a new Farm Bill apparently ended last week, when Senators and Representatives approved a many time amended and modified bill which offers economic hope to ag producers across the land. The proposed bill must still be ratified by both the Senate and House, and then signed into law by the President.

Most area ag producers, particularly cotton growers, admit many provisions of the complete bill are unknown at this point, but are encouraged the Senate conferees raised the safety net cap from \$275,000 to \$360,000, even though the provision will not apply to this year's crop.

Arlan Gentry, Texas Cooperative Extension Service, told CCN, "When the Farm Bill clears the House and Senate, and is signed into law by the President, it will certainly be a positive move for our ag producers. Our agency does not yet have all the details and rules and regulations in the bill, but when we do, TCES will furnish this information to our county offices, and we will be holding regional and local meetings for our producers. We will explain the many provisions contained in the new bill, and help producers take advantage of financial assistance provided in the bill."

Board election draws large crowd to Lea County Electric Annual Meeting

An estimated 900 to 1,000 Lea County Electric Cooperative members and families jammed Lovington's Pannell Auditorium for the Cooperative's annual meeting April 26. A six candidate election for two spots on the LCEC Board probably drew the large turnout, aided by some good entertainment by the Knights of the West musical group from South Plains College, and of course, dozens of attractive door prizes.

Slick Duncan will return to his seat on the Board, gathering 268 votes. He will be joined by newcomer Will Palmer, who was second in votes counted with 224. A total of 922 votes were cast in the election.

Genral Manager Mike Dreysspring used a Power Point presentation for his annual report. Highlights of his report included plans for LCEC to spend some \$12 million in construction improvements in the next four years; The Cooperative has awarded 249 students with scholarships providing \$380,000 financial assistance since 1987. The collapse of the Enron empire has effectively stalled retail competition in the electric industry. Dreysspring also showed a graph depicting the price of natural gas last year, which spiked at the \$8 per mcf range and seriously impacted the Cooperative's financial results. Gas has since retreated to the \$3 - \$3.50 range, which is much closer to historic normals.



LCEC employees Rosa Deporto and Annette Neyman flank Stephanie Addison and La Shonda Diamond. Stephanie won 1st place and \$50 in the LCEC coloring contest, and La Shonda \$75 and 5th place in the Youth Tour Contest.

Comptroller Rylander to present High Plains economic outlook

Texas Comptroller Carole Keaton Rylander will reveal what lies ahead for the High Plains economy and the Texas economy during regional outlook seminars in Lubbock on Friday, May 3.

"I have asked my top economic analysts to examine the High Plains region to determine what factors are currently affecting the economy and what lies ahead - the region's strengths, the employment outlook and opportunities for economic growth,"

Rylander said.

The Texas economy is in a period of very slow growth, compounded by the economic blow of Septemebr 11. The slow economy has been felt to varying degrees throughout Texas.

"In this historic time for our nation, it is more important than ever we work to sustain our economy," Rylander said. "It is highly unlikely we will see a recession in Texas - slow-ing down and tough times - but nothing we weren't already aware of and nothing we can't

withstand."

Texas' economic diversity means the slowdown has had a different impact on the High Plains region than in other parts of Texas, and the recovery, when it comes, will also be affected by regional factors.

"This is where the good work of men and women in the High Plains come into play. Business owners and community leaders are helping Texas' economy out pace that of the U.S., even in this time of slow growth. Their work is an investment in our economy and in our future."

The meeting in Lubbock is scheduled at 10 AM Friday, May 3, in the International Cultural Center, 601 Indiana Avenue.

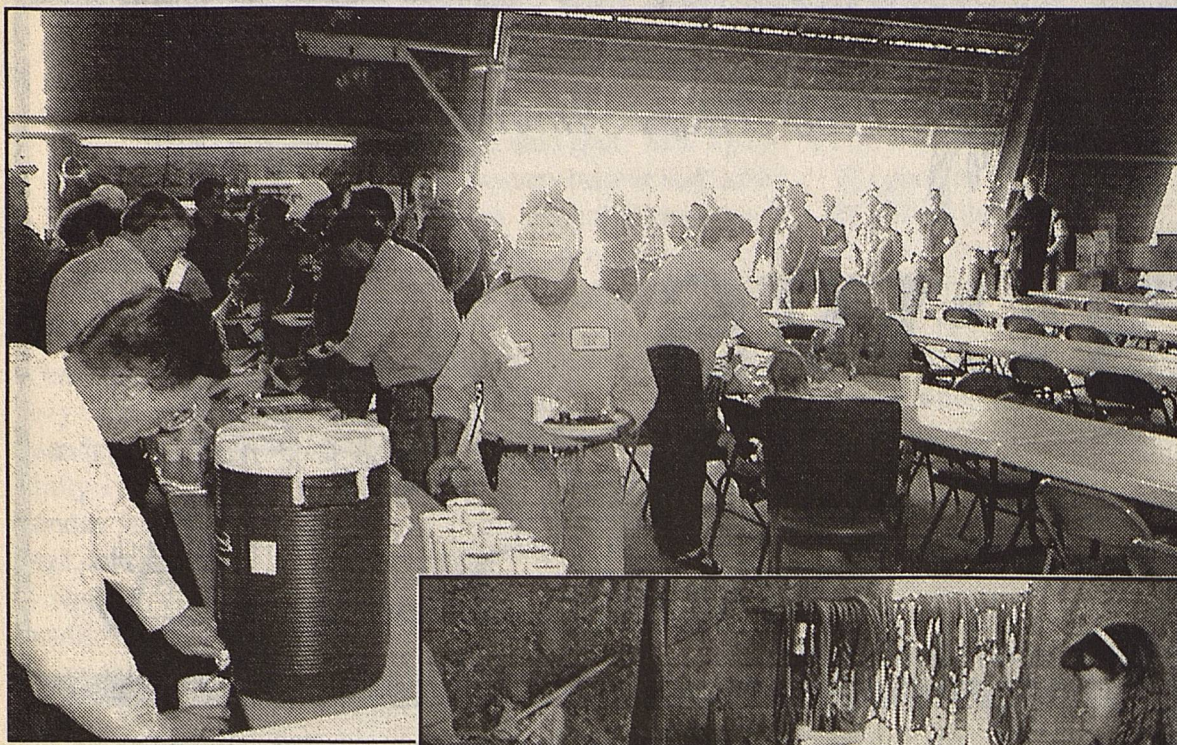
West Texas Agriplex hosts appreciation lunch



Some 120 customers and friends attended Agriplex's appreciation lunch last Saturday.

West Texas Agriplex officials last Saturday celebrated a little more than a month of being in business here with an all-you-can-eat barbecue lunch for local and area customers and officials. Company executive Robert Armstrong told CCN the barbecue lunch, catered by Lubbock's "Out Of Control" custom cookers, said the feed was a way of showing the company's appreciation for their successful start here in Plains. "We have been highly pleased and very gratified with the customer support we've received since our March opening. All our departments have been very busy. I hope we are having a positive impact on the local economy, and I think we are," Armstrong said. Agriplex sells both liquid and dry custom blended fertilizers, farm chemicals, and a wide variety of farm hardware and supplies, seed and garden chemicals.

Retirement feed honors Tom Willis



Some 70 friends, fellow county workers and family members attended a catered barbecue lunch for retiring Tom Willis. The shop foreman for Precinct Three, Willis, 62, said he is looking forward to some serious hunting and fishing, with a small amount of county work thrown in from time to time when needed. Most all of the four county precinct workers gathered to wish Willis well.



Desert Sky wind farm dedication

Texas Governor Rick Perry will speak at the Friday, May 3, dedication of the 160.5 megawatt (MW) Desert Sky Wind Farm, one of the world's largest wind power projects, located near Iraan in Pecos County, 45 miles east of Fort Stockton.

Constructed during the past year, the Desert Sky (formerly Clear Sky) Wind Farm is expected to provide enough clean, renewable electricity to power approximately 50,000 homes, according to the Ameri-

can Wind Energy Association (AWEA).

City Public Service (CPS) of San Antonio is receiving the output of the project and marketing the power as Windtricity to its more than a half million electric customers. American Electric Power (AEP) owns the wind farm, while Enron Wind developed, built and now operates Desert Sky. (General Electric is currently in the process of purchasing Enron Wind, and an early May transaction is anticipated).

Texas has become the second largest producer of wind generated electricity in the nation, and May 3 dedication will call attention to the growth of renewable energy in the Lone Star State.

Communities in the vicinity of the Desert Sky Wind Farm have been invited to attend the ceremonies, and Governor Perry also will help honor the winner of a wind power poster contest among Pecos County school students.

Desert Sky is the second larg-

est wind project in Texas and is larger than any single project in California, the leading producer of wind energy, according to AWEA.

The wind farm consists of 107 1.5 MW turbines, the largest currently manufactured in the United States, strategically placed throughout 15 square miles of wind swept mesa. Concrete foundations 11 feet wide, up to 24 feet deep and weighing 96 tons support the huge wind generators that are taller than the State Library.

Strong winds cause the three 115 foot long, propeller like turbine blades to rotate and produce 1.5 MW of electricity during peak conditions. The power flows into the state's interconnected system of transmission lines for delivery to customers. CPS, which began receiving wind generated electricity in January, is a state leader in highest percentage of wind energy used in meeting its

customer load, 4.15 percent.

AEP, a pioneer in wind power research, built the first wind farm in West Texas in 1994 near Fort Davis. The company also identified the site for the 74MW Southwest Mesa Wind Farm not far from Desert Sky and the 150 MW Trent Mesa Farm near Abilene.

Based in Columbus, Ohio, American Electric Power is a multinational energy company with a balanced portfolio of energy assets. AEP, the United State's largest electricity generator, owns and operates more than 42,000 MW of generating capacity in the U.S. and select international markets. AEP is also a leading wholesale energy marketer, ranking among North America's top providers of wholesale power and natural gas, with a growing wholesale presence in European markets.

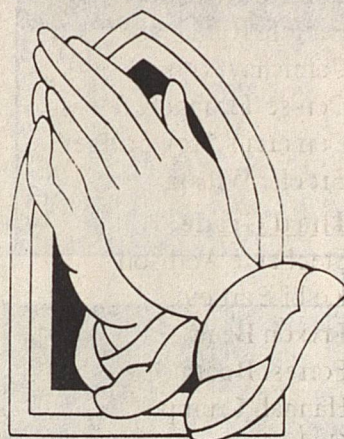
In addition to electricity generation, AEP owns and operates natural gas pipeline systems,

natural gas storage, coal mines and the fourth largest inland barge company in the U.S. AEP is also one of the largest electric utilities in the United States, with almost 5 million customers linked to AEP's

City Public Service of San Antonio is one of the nation's largest publicly owned energy systems, serving more than a half million electric customers and more than 3000,000 natural gas customers. Acquired by the City of San Antonio in 1942, CPS this year is observing its 60th anniversary of municipal ownership. Proceeds from CPS remain in San Antonio and account for more than one fourth of the City's operating budget for police and fire protection, street improvements, parks and other services.

Desert Sky is located approximately two miles from IH 10 on U.S. 190, between IH 10 and Iraan.

**National Day
Of Prayer
Thursday,
May 2,
12:30 - 1:00 p.m.
at the courthouse
flag pole**



Registration for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

If your child will be four years old on or before September 2, 2002 they may attend the Pre-Kindergarten program. Pre-registration will be the week of May 6-10. All parents and students that are eligible are invited to spend the morning at school! Thank you.

The staff of Plains Elementary School.

La matricula para kindergarten y Pre-kindergarten

Si su niño tendra cuatro años de edad en o antes del 1 de septiembre de 2002 ellos pueden asistir al programa de Pre-kindergarten. Si ellos tendran cinco años de edad en o antes del 1 de septiembre de 2002, ellos deben registrar para asistir a kindergarten. La matricula sera la semana de Mayo 6-10. Todos los padres y los estudiantes que son elegibles, son invitados a gastar la mañana en la escuela con nosotros el viernes, el 10 de mayo de 2002. Nosotros esperamos con ansia tener su estudiante en la escuela! Gracias, The Staff of Plains Elementary School.

I Want To Be Your Mayor, And I Have Plans For Progress For Plains !

I have served on the City Council 11 years, and I am aware of the many accomplishments our town has achieved. I want to help lead the way for even greater accomplishments. I pledge I will work hard, representing every citizen of our community.

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Shane McKinzie

Candidate for Mayor, City of Plains

Political Ad Paid For By Shane McKinzie

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Nation recognizes Soil & Water Stewardship Week April 28 - May 5

The Yoakum Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has announced they will join in the national observance of Soil and Water Stewardship Week to take place on April 28 through May 5, 2002, according to an announcement by Don Burgess, chairman of the district.

The theme of this year's observance is "The Gift of Trees". This focus is especially appropriate as our need for stewardship is vital if we are to maintain the productive capabilities of our basic natural resources. Together we must work for the good of all to utilize, conserve and properly manage those resources in our care. Participation in Soil and Water Stewardship Week activities offers an opportunity to reflect on the nation's renewable resource problems and consider actions to resolve them or reduce their impact.

The Yoakum SWCD was organized in 1953 for the purpose of offering farmers, ranchers, and the local community a voluntary conservation technical assistance program through which individuals could seek and request conservation assistance to meet the capabilities and needs of their land.

"Basically it is the district's responsibility to provide technical assistance when requested relative to proper soil use and treatment, erosion control practices, solve drainage problems

and assist farmers and ranchers with crop, range pastureland and wildlife management along with using trees and/or forest resources to assist in conservation," said Don Burgess.

Trees have long been an important conservation tool on farms and ranches. Trees and shrubs are planted as windbreaks and shelterbelts around farmsteads, livestock facilities and crop fields. Conservation districts are currently promoting the establishment of buffer strips along rivers and streams to improve water quality and wildlife habitat.

The National Association of Conservation Districts has sponsored Soil and Water Stewardship Week in the United States since 1955, in cooperation with the nation's nearly 3,000 soil and water conservation districts. Informative material on the Soil and Water Stewardship Week theme is distributed each year through local conservation districts to clergymen, lay leader, civic and educational organizations and to individuals interested in participating in the celebration.

Information and materials for the 2002 observance of Soil and Water Stewardship Week can be obtained in the area from Yoakum SWCD District Office, 1305 Cowboy Way, Plains, Texas.

5th 6 Weeks Honor Roll

Elementary 'A' Honor Roll

First Grade
Nicholas Alvarado
Marina Corrales
Salvador Corrales
Merrit Crump
Vanessa Cueto
Johnathan Davis
Whitney Davis
Katie Dearing
Andrew Lara
Stacy Loewen
Jacob Neufeld
Karla Powell
Matthew Ramos
Kailey Vasquez
Haley Welch

Second Grade
Tony Alldredge
Greg Andazola
Andrew Conway
Adriana Corrales
Shelby Covarrubias
Mayra Cueto
Christopher Davis
Dakota Earnest
Taylor Fitzgerald
Carolina Hernandez
Zachary Lamar
Maria Loewen
Erica Martinez
J.D. Martinez
Mariela Martinez
Samuel Melendez
Hunter Parrott
Cynthia Rodriguez
Fabiola Rubalcaba
Camishay Rubio
Denise Tarango
Demarcus Trowbridge
Brooke Wilson

Third Grade

Stephanie Addison
Kelbi Bartley
Jaxxon Bean
Forrest Booth
Hannah Crump
Cody Friesen
Kevin John Gass
Kristen Knight
Brittanie Lira
Guadalupe Lara

Sara Martens
Adam Nixon
Chase Ortega
Hunter Welch

Fourth Grade
Taylor Banfield
Jacob Brink
Natalie Butler
Brock Carter
Hannah Cotton
Brandon Craft
Emilia Gallegos
Brett Hawthorne
Natalie Haynes
Abigail Hernandez
Ignacion Lozano
Hector Luna
Nathan McCravey
Troy Parrish
Katelynn Young
Shyann Vantine

'A-B' Honor Roll

First Grade
P.J. Pando
Joseph Saiz

Second Grade
Miguel Carrillo
Adolfo Urias

Third Grade
Jason Durham
Miguel Lopez
Lauren Simmons

High School

'A' Honor Roll
9th Grade
Evan Cain
Breck Hamm
Brandon Hise

Kerry Sisson
Kayla Walker

10th Grade
Helena Neufeld
Nolan Newsom
Manuela Villegas

11th Grade
Jordan Bean
Chelsea Blount
Kelly Bowers
Sandra Gallegos
Krystal Gonzalez
Jill Gray
Ismari Guzman
Kim Martinez
Kayla Willis

12th Grade
Jared Bell
Allison Butler
Elizabeth Clanahan
Ashley Gonzales
Tanner Hamm
Chris Hansen
Servando Luna
Ragan McGinty
Jarod Newland

Annaliesa O'Quinn
Scott Tirrell
Becky Wilmeth

All 'A' 1B Honor Roll
9th Grade
Marlie Diaz

10th Grade
Maria Martinez
Grady McNabb
April Wilmeth

11th Grade
Kevin Bartley
Sissy Lauder milk
Liz Wilmeth

12th Grade
Louis Escobar
Wendy Fierro
Nancy Koncaba
Jeffrey Lollar
Arasely Luna
Alfonso Martinez
Carmen Mendoza
Joseph Rodriguez

Middle School Roll Next Week

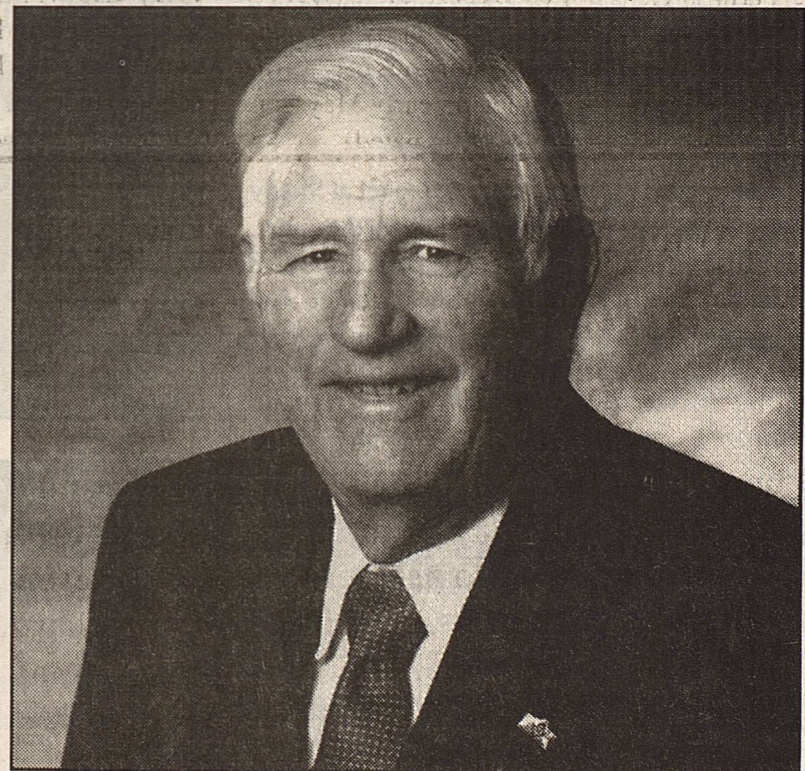
Less mess in Texas

Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) works with 320 communities statewide to help Texans improve their environment. KTB hosted more than 4,600 events in 2000-01.

Number of cleanup events	4,643
Number of volunteer hours	1.89 million
Miles of highway rights-of-way cleaned	123,748
Miles of streets cleaned	195,878
Miles of lakeshores, beaches cleaned	4,603
Acres of parks cleaned	1.62 million
Number of participants in Texas Recycles Day Nov. 15	176,332

SOURCE: Keep Texas Beautiful.

Re-elect T.J. Miller as Mayor of Plains May 4th, 2002



Commitment:

Continuously served as Mayor of Plains since 1980
Active member of Plains Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce
Some accomplishments of Plains during my leadership as Mayor:
Secured over \$1,500,000 in grant money for improvements to the City of Plains
Endeavored continuously to keep Plains clean and neat
Many new water and

waste water improvements

Goals for the City of Plains:

Additional water reserves for the City of Plains
Completion of the new City Hall
Develop 380/82 into four lane highway
Expand economic base of Plains
Work with the state to develop entry tourism station in Plains
Continue Representation on boards which directly influence policies affect-

ing the City of Plains

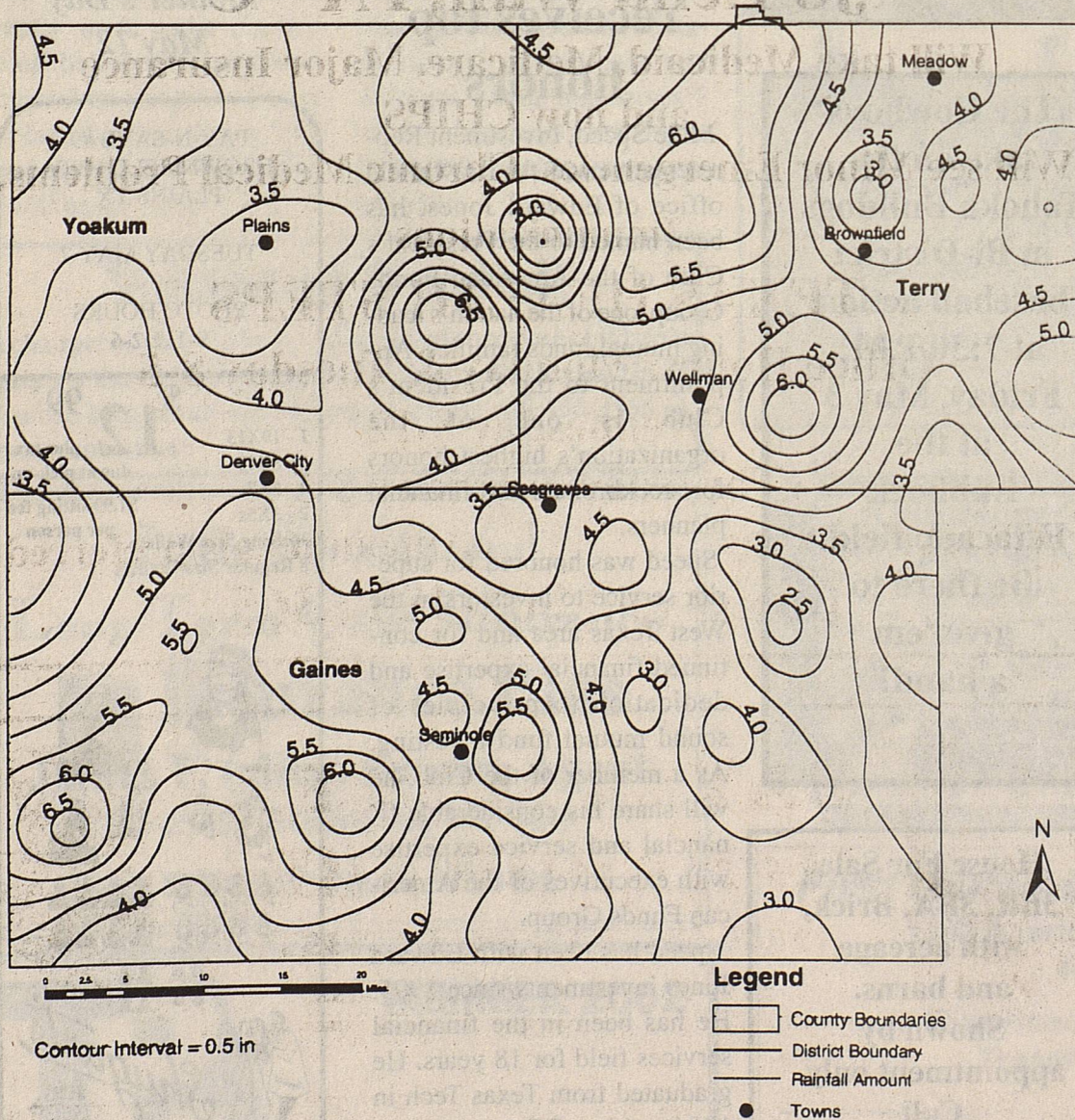
As Mayor of Plains I bring:

Years of accumulation of knowledge of Plains' gas and water systems
Years of accumulation of knowledge of municipal law
A calm and even voice presiding over city council meetings
Years of development of influence on area and state boards and committees
Available full time to serve Plains locally and in a wider sphere

Political advertisement paid for by T. J. Miller

Southern Ogallala Rainfall Enhancement Program

Rainfall Totals Jan. 1-March 31, 2002



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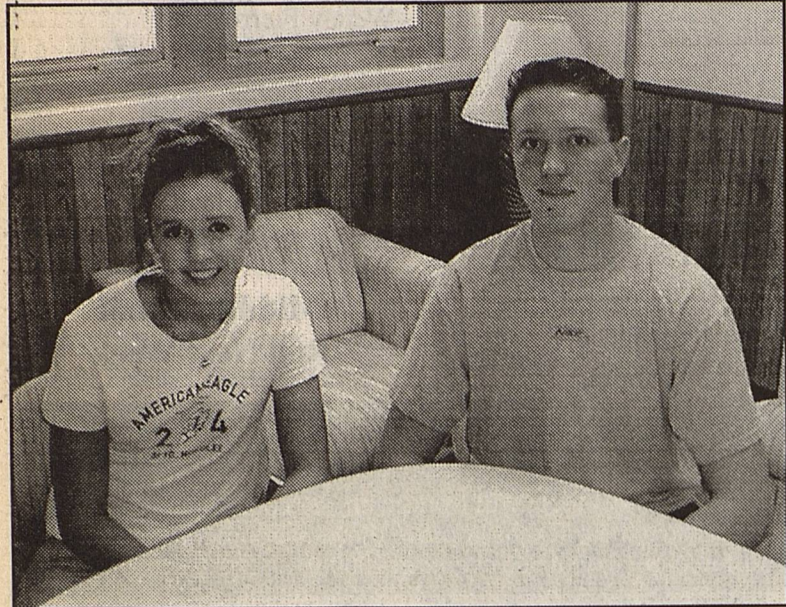
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By: The Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Girls and Boys State candidates

PHS Junior Jill Gray will represent the Tsa Mo Ga Study Club at the 2002 Bluebonnet Girls State Convention, held at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin June 11 through June 20. The convention is an annual program of the American Legion Women's Auxiliary. Jordan Bean is the delegate to attend the Boys State Convention held on the University of Texas campus in Austin, organized by the American Legion of Texas. The Plains Lions Club selected Jordan as their delgate, and the two service clubs will pay all expenses of the convention for the two Junior students. Both conventions are exercises designed to encourage good citizenship with delegates participating in a number of civic programs and events. Delegates are usually chosen for their academic records here, their participation in school activities and good citizenship in class.



Student Of The Week

Student of the week is Chelsea Blount, a junior and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Blount. She was nominated by Coach Newland, who said, "Chelsea is a very hard working person. I wish we had more students with her work ethic and attitude. She tries her best at all times, and keeps working until she accomplishes her goal."



UIL team to represent PHS at State Meet



Plains High School will be well represented at the upcoming UIL Academic State Meet in Austin by this talented and knowledgeable crew. Seated are Jill Gray, Junior, competing in Number Sense and Calculator. Annaliesa O'Quinn, Senior, Calculator, Number Sense and Feature Writing. Liz Wilmeth, Junior, News Writing. Brandon Hise, Freshman, Number Sense. Jordan Bean, Junior, Calculator

Cowgirl, Cowboy Regional Sports Update

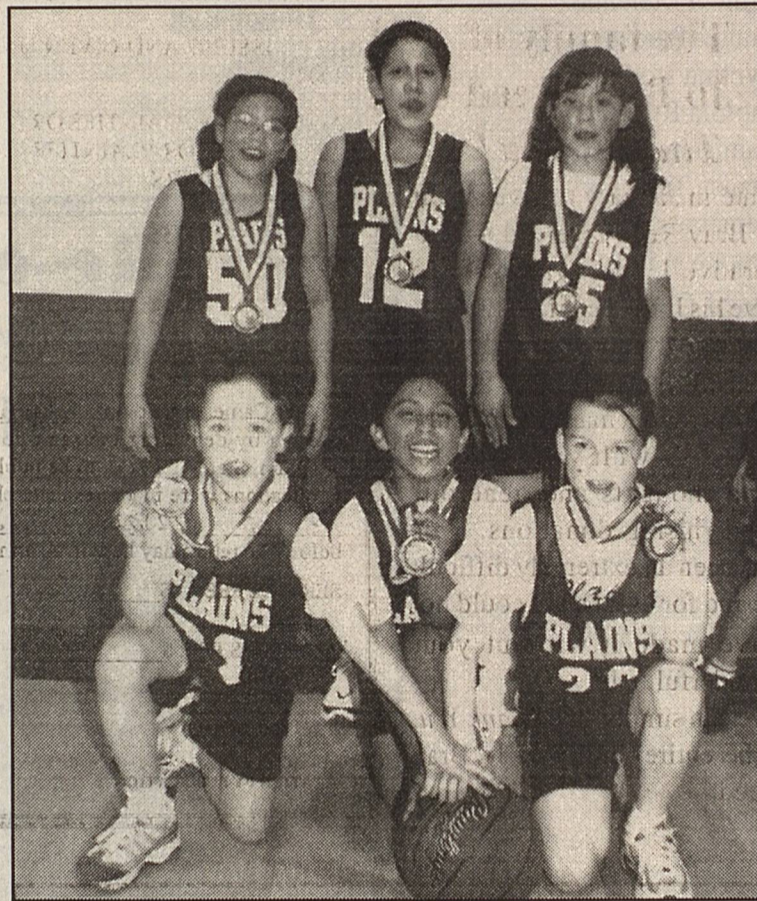
Track:
Two Cowgirls competed in the big regional meet at Abilene last weekend. Manuela Villegas, who broke the school record in the 800 meter run in the district meet here, failed to place in the meet, but broke her own record again with a good time of 2:38.13.

Moriah Traweek competed in the 100 Meter dash and 300 Meter hurdles. She failed to advance in the meet, but recorded excellent times, 13.64 in the 100, and 61.86 in the hurdles.

Chris McGinty, Moises Gonzales and Richard Diaz were Cowboys making it to the regional meet. Chris McGinty managed a 6th place medal by tossing the shot 47 feet. Moises Gonzales ran 23.02 in the 200 meter dash, and Richard Diaz registered a 2 minute, eleven seconds in the 800 run.

Golf:
The Cowgirls golf team qualified for the regional meet at Shady Oaks in Baird April 22 and 23, and placed 12th in the meet. Coach Foster reported the girls improved their team score by 18 points in the second round. Individual scores included Liz Wilmeth, 103-95, Mackenzie Winn, 103-97, Allison Butler, 104-111, Mandi Rogers 119-126, and Jill Gray, 119-111.

Little Dribblers Last Gasp



Jr. Girls Little Dribblers Team placed 1st and recieved the Gold Medal at the Dora, NM tournament. Bottom L-R, Hannah Crump, Victoria Valverde, Stephanie Addison. Standing L-R, Jasmine Mares, Abby Hernandez, Patty Avila. Coached by Steve Hernandez and Alma Mares.

Major Boys Little Dribblers participated at the Dora, NM tournament. Kneeling L-R, Kurt Alldredge, Jacob Garza, Zachary Ramos, Derek Garza. Standing L-R, Elias Carrillo, Jacob Rivera, Dylan Hunter, Chris Addison, Trent Hawthorne. Coach Joe Martinez.

Mike Speed receives top honors

Mike Speed, Investment Representative with the Brownfield office of Edward Jones, has been named to the President's Club of the American Funds Group, one of the nation's leading mutual funds families. Appointment to the President's Club is one of the organization's highest honors for stockbrokers and financial planners.

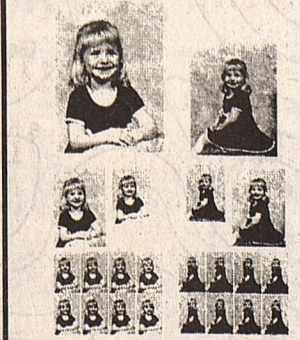
Speed was honored for superior service to investors in the West Texas area and for continued financial expertise and dedication to principles of sound mutual fund investing. As a member of the Club, he will share his considerable financial and service expertise with executives of the American Funds Group.

Speed has been with Edward Jones investments since 1995. He has been in the financial services field for 18 years. He graduated from Texas Tech in 1984, with a BBA degree in Finance.

Remember Mother's Day May 12

PAY-N-SAVE #9
BROWNFIELD HWY
PLAINS TX
TUESDAY MAY 7
PHOTO HOURS
9-1 & 2-6

\$12.99 plus tax
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\$1.99 sitting fee per person

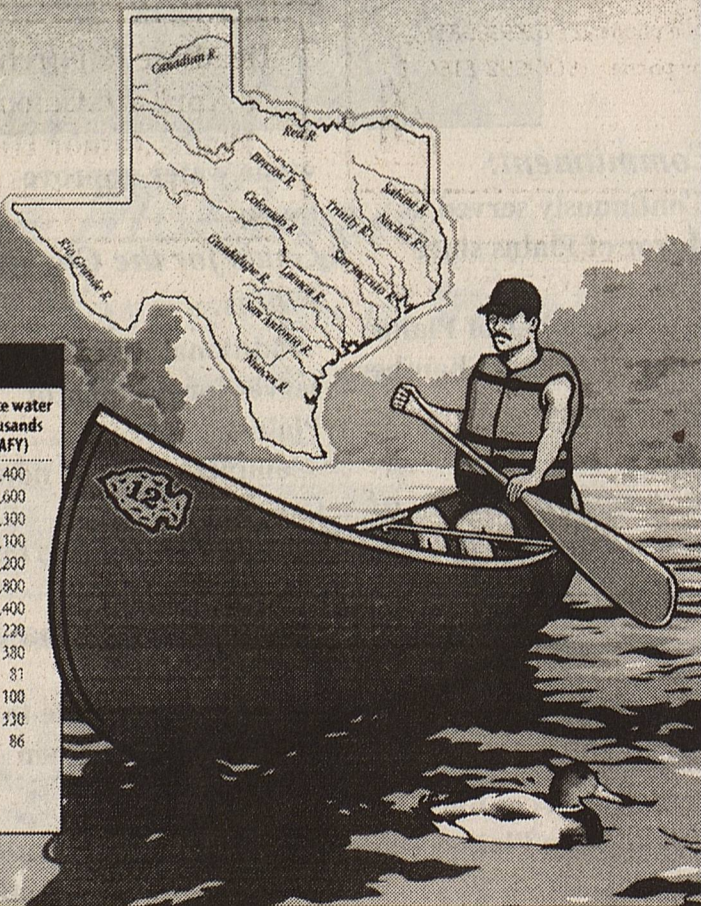


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Rollin' on the River

Texas has nearly 200,000 miles of surface water, including 11,247 named streams and 13 major rivers. Those streams and rivers carry millions of acre-feet of water to 211 major reservoirs and seven major estuaries—an arm of the sea that extends inland to meet the mouth of a river.

Of the state's total surface water, 14.9 million acre-feet per year (AFY) are available for recreational use, and 8.6 million AFY can be used for consumption. The amount of water available for consumption is limited by infrastructure capacity, water permits and contracts.



Major rivers of Texas

River	Length (in miles)	Surface water (thousands of AFY)
Rio Grande	1,248	1,400
Brazos	840	1,600
Red	640	1,300
Colorado	600	1,100
Sabine	555	2,200
Trinity	550	2,800
Neches	416	2,400
Nueces	315	220
Guadalupe	250	380
San Antonio	180	81
Canadian	190	100
San Jacinto	159	330
Lavaca	115	86

SOURCE: Texas Water Development Board
AFY = acre feet per year

Texas at a Glance

The Cowboys take on the Tahoka Bulldogs in Bi-District baseball action at 7:30 P.M. Friday, May 3 at the Lubbock Estacado field. Be there to give 'em a hand!

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Postal Service Transformation Plan Will Help Save the Mail

The United States Postal Service, faced with declining mail volume and a sluggish economy, held high level meetings with senior postal officials recently to discuss the proposed Transformation Plan. The plan would create a new business model for the Postal Service, preserve universal mail delivery and strengthen the mail system.

"I met with the Postmaster General prior to the announcement of the Transformation Plan," said Michael S. Flores, Postal Service District Manager for the Fort Worth District. "In the short term, it will give us the flexibility to keep costs down and to better serve our customers in the Fort Worth District. In the long term, we'll work under a new business model, which will secure mail delivery for our future."

The new model, called a Commercial Government Enterprise (CGE), would create a government owned entity, but one that enjoys some of the operational and financial flexibility found in the private sector. Under the CGE, the Postal Service would set rates more predictably, be able to retain earnings, work under private sector labor laws and, depending on future legislation, could even pay taxes or dividends to the government.

The CGE model would be a structural transformation requiring legislative acts of Congress. The proposed legislative changes would be the most extensive since the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, which enabled the Postal Service to function effectively until the end of the 20th Century.

"We deliver to more than 1.4 million addresses in this region and pump 402 million dollars into the local economy," said Flores. "But the legislation we currently work under doesn't give us the tools to survive in the current marketplace. Under this plan, that legislation will change and the Fort Worth District will be the better for it."

The plan also outlined short term, cost cutting measures. The Postal Service has already cut 30,000 jobs nationwide and \$2.5 billion in costs over the past two years. Nearly 184 jobs and \$14.4 million dollars were cut in the Fort Worth area. Over the next five years, costs will be cut by \$5 billion more nationwide through job attrition, outsourcing, plant consolidation, lifting the moratorium on post office closings and other measures. In addition, the Postal Service will focus on developing new "intelligent" mail products to attract new business and better serve existing customers.

"Mail volume is going down nationwide and in our region, while at the same time 1.7 million new addresses are added every year, costing us billions in lost revenue," said Flores. "We added 24,630 new addresses in the Fort Worth District last year alone. But the Postal Service will meet these challenges head on. Employees in the Fort Worth District will do all they can to implement the necessary changes and get the Postal Service back on sound financial footing."

Since 1775, the U.S. Postal Service has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. It is an independent federal agency that visits 138 million homes and businesses every day and is the only service provider to deliver to every address in the nation. The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. The U.S. Postal Service delivers more than 46 percent of the world's mail volume, some 207 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year, and serves 7 million customers each day at its 40,000 retail locations nationwide.

TSA MO GA celebrates Federation Month

Tsa Mo Ga club members celebrated Federation Month at the April 22 meeting, commemorating the creation of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in 1890. Sarah Jane Shelton discussed the powerful role the Federation has played with women's clubs volunteer efforts and initiatives. Shelton reported the GFWC motto, "Unity in diversity" was created by Ella Clymer, who said at the first GFWC conference, "We look for unity, but unity in diversity. We hope you will enrich us by your varied experiences." A highlight of the meeting featured members placing memorial type items in a special capsule, to be opened on the club's 75th birthday in 2010. Items going in the capsule included a copy of the first club yearbook, and a hand written 25 year history of the club penned by the late Sit Jones, many other club pins and meeting programs.

The family of Jo Bray Reed Thanks You!

Late in January this year, our Jo Bray Reed received an imperative kidney transplant to save his life - the gift of the kidney was from his father!

During the long wait for the operation, many of you supported us with your prayers, kind thoughts and generous fund raising donations. This has been an extremely difficult period for us, and we could not have made it without your wonderful help.

We can simply say, *Thank You*. The entire family of Jo Bray Reed

Members planning to attend the TFWC 105th state convention in Midland May 1 include Sarah Shelton, Wilma Powell, Mary Jo St. Romain, Zareta and Valeria Winn. The May 13 club meeting will feature installation of new officers.

T-Shirt Design Contest

The Denver City Art Association is accepting entries for the Yoakum County Watermelon Round Up T-Shirt Contest, with the deadline for entries on April 29th. Design must be an original design on larger than 8 1/2 " x 11" and must have Yoakum County Watermelon Round Up and the date of August 31, 2002 on it. Yoakum County Connection reserves the right to make changes to the winning design as it deems necessary. Yoakum County Connection is awarding \$100.00 cash for the top design selected by the judges. For more information call Sue Holder at 806-592-2960 after 5:00 p.m. Mail unfolded entries to Denver City Art Association at P.O. Box 854, Denver City, Texas 79323, or hand deliver to Bayer Lumber in Plains or the Chamber of Commerce in Denver City.

THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO. 7991

THE STATE OF TEXAS § IN THE 121ST DISTRICT COURT

vs. THREE-HUNDRED-SEVENTY-EIGHT DOLLARS § OF

(\$378.00) U.S. CURRENCY § YOAKUM COUNTY, TEXAS

TO: ANTONIO ROBERTO ENRIQUEZ, DEFENDANT - GREETING

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty (20) days after the date you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next after the expiration of forty-two (42) days after the date of issuance of this citation the same being Monday, June 10, 2002, before the Honorable 121st District Court of Yoakum County, at the Courthouse in said County in Plains, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said Court on March 21, 2002, in the above-entitled cause.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: Judgment Nisi as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of said Court at Plains, Texas on April 25th, 2002.

ADDRESS OF PLAINTIFF OR ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF
RICHARD CLARK
P.O. BOX 359
PLAINS, TX 79355
806-456-7480

VICKI BLUNDELL
District Clerk of Yoakum County, Texas
P.O. Box 899
Plains, TX 79355-0899

By: *Sandra Roblez*, Deputy
Sandra Roblez

SHERIFF'S RETURN

Came to hand on April 25, 2002 at 2:05 P M., and executed this citation by delivering the same to COWBOY COUNTRY NEWS a newspaper published in the County of Yoakum, State of Texas, to be published four (4) times, once in each week for four (4) consecutive weeks. Said publications were made respectively on the following dates: 5-10-2002; 5-17-2002; 5-15-2002; 5-22-2002 the first publication to begin at least twenty-eight (28) days before the return day hereof. A printed copy will be returned to the Clerk of this Court and attached hereto.

SERVICE FEE: \$ _____

PRINTER'S FEE: \$ _____

By: *Don Lorange*, Sheriff
Don Lorange
Yoakum County, Texas

Printed Name of Server: *Colin's Coffman*

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A heartfelt thank you to all of you who helped us in the loss of our mother, Wilma McDonnell. Your prayers, calls, cards and kind thoughts will be long remembered. Our special thanks to Brother Bill Wright for assisting in the services. Neda & Henry Whitman Deroy & Gerry Anderson

Deadline to purchase PISD Band Calenders is April 29. Calenders may be picked up at Plains Junior High office, or the Library. HURRY - help support our band!

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Volunteer Needed!

A chairperson is needed to organize and supervise children's games at the upcoming August 31 Watermelon Round Up. If you can help in the annual project, please call 456-3566 as soon as possible!

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SEE YOU THERE!

Come grow in Christ with us!

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Wednesday

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Supper

6:00 pm. Zombies

7:00 pm. - RA's, GA's, Mission Friends, Sanctuary Choir Practice

From The Hack

There was a very interesting, very humorous article in Sunday last's Lubbock AJ by Molly Ivins, featured in most Sunday issues on the editorial page. Since many of you refuse to read anything in the AJ but headlines, weddings and obits, let me tell you, Molly is a talented columnist working mainly with the Austin American-Statesman. The syndicated columnist is, almost admittedly, a flaming heart, ultra-ultra liberal Democrat supporter who firmly, eloquently feels all conservative, Republican minded folks are from the seventh rock from the sun.

Therefore, I was amazed when I read her column which contained not a bit of politics. Well, perhaps a small snip here and there that the casual reader would not notice.

She wrote about the almost demise of the three-time mayor of Lajitas, that former almost ghost town on the Rio Grande, now being transformed into the next California type Palm Springs, thanks to the millions being spent there by a guy with billions.

Back to the crime thing about the mayor. The entire Big Bend area (a HUGE area, with few folks, NOW) was reportedly enraged when the Mayor of Lajitas was brutally assaulted. The Mayor, a three-termer, is one Clay Henry. Clay Henry, bless his gonads, was a few months ago brutally castrated. YES. Emasculated!

The entire border, Big Bend area is in turmoil. Henry, undoubtedly the most popular of all Lajitas mayors, is, or was, a male, stud goat. Yes, a goat, whom many believe had turned into an alcoholic goat, for it loved and craved the free beer visting tourist poured down it's bleating goozle to get their photo taken with such a notable politician.

Ivins reported sources unknown tell her an exhausting investigation is underway to capture the perp, already charged with animal torture and possession of a deadly weapon.

Ivins wrote, the County and District Attorney in Presidio County tried to find a legal way to charge the guilty party with injury to a public official, but to date haven't been able to place a goat in that category. Strange to me, for even I can recall a number of cases involving true asses of the political gender.

By the way, reports Ivins, the Mayor has fully recovered, back to drinking heavily again, but is showing very little interest in passing female goats. I suppose he senses absolutely no political support there.

I felt sure Ivins would report prime suspects were of the Republican party, but she desisted. Excellent job, Molly.

May the liberals forgive you for failing to establish a true conservative bashing.

From the internet:

"It's good to be a woman!"

We got off the Titanic first.

We can scare male bosses with mysterious gynecological disorder excuses

We don't look like a frog in a blender when dancing.

We don't even have to pass gas to amuse ourselves.

If we forget to shave, no one has to know.

We can congratulate our teammate without ever touching her rear end.

We never have to reach down to make sure our privates are still there.

We have the full ability to dress ourselves.

We can talk to the opposite sex without having to picture them naked.

If we marry someone 20 years younger, we're aware we will look like an idiot.

We will never regret piercing our ears.

There are times when chocolate really can solve all our problems.

We can make comments about how silly men are in their presence because they aren't listening anyway.

.....

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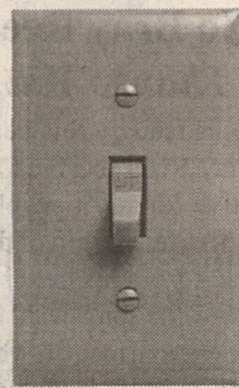
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Plains I.S.D. will accept proposals from venders for its Annual Contract for Teachers and Instructional Materials until 2:00 p.m., May 22, 2002 at the administration office. Proposals should be addressed to James Haynes, Superintendent, Plains I.S.D., 1000 10th Street, Box 479, Plains, Texas 79355. Specifications may be obtained by calling 806-456-7483.

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Yoakum County Hospital is accepting applications for the position of Emergency Room Admission clerk; hours will be on the evening shift. Applications should have high school diploma and needs computer experience, must have the ability to work well with the public. Yoakum County Hospital has excellent benefits. Application can be picked up at the Yoakum County Hospital Business Office, 412 Mustang Avenue. E.O.E.

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