

Cowboy Country News

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

Volume V11, Issue 44, July 18, 2001



48th Rodeo, Old Settlers Reunion Draws Near

Plans have been finalized for the annual Plains Rodeo and Old Settlers Reunion August 2nd through August 4th. The busy three days and nights include nightly rodeo performances starting at 8 p.m. One change in the event features a one night only cowboy dance with a live band on Saturday night only.

A street parade Saturday along Cowboy Way at 10:30 a.m. will precede the Old Settlers Reunion, which attracts many out of town and out of state visitors, and will again be held in Stanford Park at noon Saturday. Jered Sellers and crew will cook the barbecue for this years event in his huge, mobile pit capable of smoking more than 100 briskets at one time.

Rodeo Queen Candidates, who play a huge role in helping fund the event by selling ticket 'votes', are Jessica Rodriguez, Plains Chamber of Commerce, Chelsi Wagnon, Roping Club, and Kayla Willis, Lions Club.

The nightly rodeo, TCRA approved, is again produced by T-N-T Rodeo Company of Anson. Events include team roping, bareback, saddle bronc and bullriding, calf roping, steer wrestling, ladies breakaway roping and barrel race. The Roping Club members will compete in ribbon roping and team roping.

Local merchants and individuals will award special buckles to winners in all events.

Rodeo ticket prices are \$5 for adults, and \$3 for children 5 through eleven.

The Yoakum County Art Association will also hold its annual Art Show and Sale August 3rd and 4th. This year the art show activities will be held in the Plains ISD Resource Center.

Plains Lions will handle rodeo parking and man the concession stand. Roping Club members will work the rodeo, and the Plains Chamber will help with the parade and Reunion. The three organizations comprise the Plains Rodeo Association.

Don't forget.... each \$5 ticket you purchase from the three Rodeo Queen contestants will give you a chance to win a custom built western riding saddle.... and don't worry if you have no horse or riding skills - you can choose \$500 instead. Be generous when the young ladies ask for your donations!

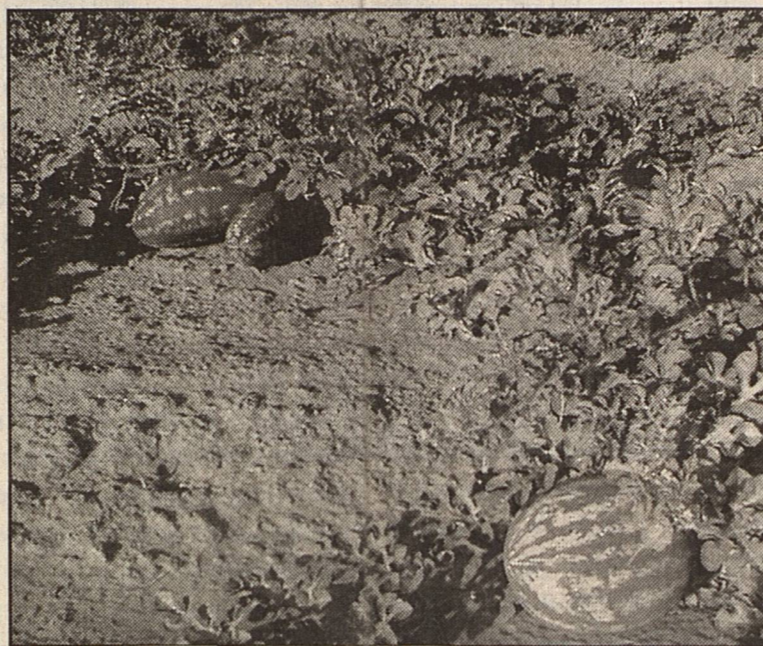
Lots of onion rings, onion soup in this field



This is a scene being repeated on a number of area farms - a tractor drawn unit pushes a conveyor belt which scoops up rows of hand filled bags of the produce - a man on the front grabs each 50 plus bag of onions, guides it on the belt. They are carried to a hopper like machine, where another man dumps the onions on a belt

leading to the accompanying bulk transport truck. When full, it will truck the crop to the sorting and grading Southwest Produce loading dock on the Stateline and Hobbs Highway. After the grading process, the onions will be sacked in commercial bags, and shipped around the country.

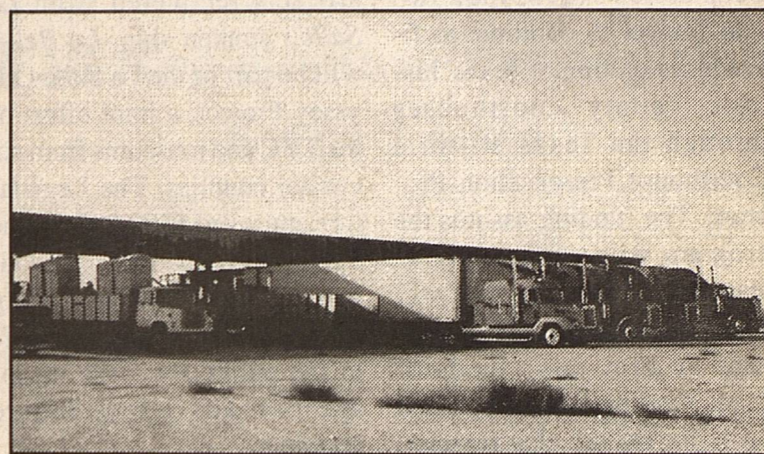
2001 Ag Crop Progresses... Do Profits?



Many fields of watermelons are in this stage, assuring producers of a big supply for the nation-wide market.

A tour of Yoakum County's agriculture production land can leave one puzzled. The photos shown here depict good fields of irrigated watermelons and peanuts, both commodities obviously doing well.

Unfortunately, the next stop juster to approve plowing it up. The fact that Yoakum County's economy is based primarily upon the petroleum industry, with agriculture the second place industry, and currently suffering from weather problems, and disastrously low market prices, have many area citizens worried, and rightly so. See accompanying article this page.



A number of truckloads of county melons have already been shipped from this dock on the stateline



An excellent field of irrigated peanuts

Proposed \$168 billion ag subsidy bill encourages some producers, raises questions from others

Recent articles in area newspapers and on the Internet concerning proposed drastic changes in the U.S. Farm Bill to the tune of some \$168 billion in price supports for farm commodities is being met with cheers from some producers, but questioned by others and ag business leaders.

U.S. Representatives Larry Combest, (R) Lubbock, Chair of the House Agricultural Committee, and Charles Stenholm, (D) Stamford, ranking democrat on the Ag Committee, are pushing hard to set their proposal in place, hoping it will bolster the current financial woes confronting the nation's farmers. Hearings will be held on the proposal over the next few weeks.

One provision in the proposed program is of particular interest to cotton producers of the Southern and High Plains areas, the largest cotton production area in the U.S. Language in the proposed bill covers target prices for cotton. Combest thinks it was a mistake to remove cotton target prices from the 1996 'Freedom To Farm Act'. The draft of the bill calls for a target price of 72.9 cents per pound for cotton. Cotton was recently selling in the area for 32 to 34 cents per pound. Combest said their proposal would kick in if future market prices brought less than the target price - the producer would be subsidised up to the target price.

Grain farmers across the nation would also see major subsidy provisions in the bill kick in if current depressed market prices continue over the next ten years.

Another proposal addressed in the bill calls for expanding the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), paying farmers to idle less productive land and environmentally sensitive land.

Combest and Stenholms' proposed bill also addresses issues such as bolstering the federal

food stamp program by \$1.2 billion, and increased funding for distributing food to food banks and soup kitchens by \$300 million.

A number of local ag producers, and ag related business representatives were asked to comment to CCN about the proposed ag relief bill. One producer, requesting to remain anonymous, said "I certainly think it's a step in the right direction. If it's a cure all to turn agricultural economics around remains to be seen. That 72.9 cent target price sounds good, but if fuel and other energy prices for irrigation remain sky high, along with the ever growing cost of new farm equipment and machinery, we could be in 'a Catch-22' situation - getting more for our work, but still struggling to break even."

Another spokesman for a firm providing agricultural lending to farmers and ranchers said, "Let's say the scenario goes like this; the producer gets a better price for his grain or cotton crop. He manages somehow to make a profit. What the bill doesn't address is, many of these producers were financed this year, but who had carry-over debt from prior years. If those lenders who are owed past monies see the producer with a profit, they are going to expect to be paid those past debts. The may be gaining a little ground, but he's certainly not home free and clear."

Another cotton producer said, "I think it's an effort worth trying, but I feel the proposal ignores an issue we now face and will probably continue to face in the future. Foreign cotton, produced with much cheaper labor and methods, will continue to make it difficult to sell our product here at home, and much harder to sell overseas. I question if this draft proposal

Criminal cases in County Court

Four cases were heard in County Court July 11, with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the State.

Jeremy Jason Gonzales pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision from a prior assault causing bodily injury charge. He was sentenced to jail for 90 days, with credit for 90 days served. Investigating officer was Chief Deputy Jerry Howard, Sheriff Department.

Arturo Luna, aka Arturo Garcia Luna, pled guilty to driving while license suspended. A 30 day jail sentence had been met with 47 days served. He must pay \$210 court costs, and was fined \$500.

Hermenegilda Verdugo had conditions of community supervision from a prior DWI cause modified to include 30 days in jail with credit for 61 days served; pay a delinquent \$263 fine and \$210 delinquent supervision fees, and serve an additional 50 hours community service. He also pled guilty to driving while license was suspended. He must pay \$255 court costs and \$100 restitution to the DPS. His attorney was Bill Helwig.



Obituary

Services Held For Victor Ivan Munoz

Funeral services were held for Victor Ivan Munoz, newborn, of Plains, Tuesday, July 10, 2001 at 11:00 am. at Templo Bautista Nuevo Vision, in Plains with Minister Jose Rodriguez officiating.

Interment followed in the Plains Cemetery under the direction of Head Family Funeral Home.

He died Sunday, July 8, 2001, in UMC in Lubbock. He was born July 8, 2001 in Lubbock. Survivors include his parents Victor and Norma Munoz of Plains, grandparents Vicente and Victoria Delgado of Plains and Fabian and Julieta Munoz of Delicias, Mexico.

Legislature Allots Funds For Historic Programs

AUSTIN, TEXAS - State lawmakers allocated \$50 million of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) new two year budget to continue to finance restoration of Texas' historic county courthouses through the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. The funding assures the program will continue for at least another two years and will follow a timeline similar to that used in previous rounds of grant funding with scheduled dates for master plan reviews, applications due and staff reviews.

The Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program provides matching grants of up to 85 percent of requested project costs in state dollars when matched by county funds totaling at least 15 percent. To date, 44 counties have been awarded

grants to restore their county courthouses.

Conserving and sharing the artifacts recovered from *La Belle's* sunken ship, *La Belle*, will be part of the La Salle Odyssey Project, a joint effort of the THC and museums from six coastal counties. The Legislature approved \$300,000 for the THC's participation in the Odyssey Project that will bring sunken treasures from the *Belle* to the public for close up inspection and interpretative learning.

For more information about the courthouses, contact the THC Architecture Division at 512-463-6094, or visit the THC web site at www.the.state.tx.us. For information about the La Salle Odyssey project call the THC Archeology Division at 512-463-6096

Letter To The Editor

Dear Cowboy Country News,

I work as an office manager for a cotton gin and also my husband farms cotton. I have enclosed some heart breaking information, on the cost of raw cotton in products (jeans, shirts, sheets). Cotton takes a lot of input (time & money). I can not imagine why the government would continue to hurt our economy by importing agriculture goods, fuel, energy, oil & numerous more. Why are we not bettering our industries and setting limits on the amount we import? Where will we be in twenty or thirty years when we solely depend on other countries? We had a small insight because of energy & fuel prices, what is next? These are questions I think we should all consider, since the government is NOT!

Sincerely,
Kai Hill

The monetary value of the cotton contained in each item if the price of raw cotton is:

Item	\$0.50/lb	\$0.60/lb	\$0.70/lb	\$0.80/lb
Men's Jeans	\$0.72	\$0.80	\$1.01	\$1.16
Women's Jeans	0.73	0.88	1.02	1.17
Men's Shirts	0.32	0.38	0.44	0.50
Women's Blouses	0.27	0.32	0.38	0.43
T-Shirts	0.20	0.23	0.27	0.31
Skirts	0.44	0.53	0.62	0.70
Bath Towels	0.31	0.37	0.43	0.49
Dresses	0.66	0.79	0.92	1.06
Diapers	0.08	0.10	0.11	0.13
Athletic Socks	0.07	0.08	0.10	0.11
Full Size Sheets	1.20	1.44	1.68	1.92
Pillow Cases	0.20	0.24	0.28	0.32

MEMBER 2001
Cowboy Country News
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Cowboy Country News
Published weekly each Wednesday at 1205 Copeland Ave., PO Box 179, Plains, TX 79355
Holly Dyer, Publisher Gary Dyer, Editor
Subscription price in Zip Code 793 \$15 annually
Other Zip Codes \$18 annually. Periodical postage rate paid at Plains, Tx. POSTMASTER; Send address changes to Cowboy Country News, Box 179, Plains, Tx. 79355
E-Mail us at ccn@hiplains.net
ID# 017574 806-456-8451 FAX 806-456-2010



CAPITOL COMMENT

U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON



Congress is debating the Patients' Bill of Rights, legislation to help patients get the kind of medical treatment they deserve without delay or legal hassling.

When we are dealing with the health care of most Americans, it is important to avoid unintended consequences, such as increasing the cost of quality medical care. We don't want to do anything to discourage employees from providing their employees with medical coverage. We need to make sure we are not creating more problems than we are solving with the bill.

Getting good medical care in our country has grown complicated. The vast majority of us like and trust our doctors. We don't want an insurance company telling our doctors what kind of care to give us. Parents should be able to take their children to the pediatrician without getting permission from their insurance company or their health maintenance organization (HO) first. People should be able to see a specialist when they need one, and get emergency treatment at the nearest emergency room without calling a health care gatekeeper first.

If an HO denies the treatment you need, you should have the right to an immediate, impartial appeal to a panel of doctors. If the panel rules in your favor, you should receive your treatment, period. If the HO ignores the findings, you should be able to go to court. Such a system should favor patients, first and foremost, with quick action to make sure they get the needed treatment in a timely manner.

We can't afford to turn over patient care decisions to an accountant and insurance companies and trial lawyers.

Texas has already taken the lead on patients rights, and is showing the rest of the country the way. In our state, if an HO denies coverage for a certain treatment, but the patient and doctor disagree with the decision, a patient can make an internal appeal within the HO first. If after the HO reviews the appeal again to a panel of outside experts not associated with the HO, and the outside panel has made a decision making the patients feel he or she has been denied care, the patient can sue the HO in court.

It works. Fewer than 20 lawsuits emerged from more than 300 appeals held under Texas' external review. At the same time, the system has proved to be fair. The conclusions of the appeals are virtually 50/50 in favor of both patients and the health plans. Federal laws would do well to follow Texas'

lead.

Texas law also gives employers protection from lawsuits involving health coverage. Employers are not required to provide health insurance to their employees. Small business often can barely afford to give their employees this benefit. Exposing them to lawsuits and millions of dollars in potential damages because they voluntarily provide medical insurance doesn't make sense.

Congress has to get this right. If health costs continue to climb, the results could be disastrous. Answering a series of nationwide polls, an overwhelming majority of employers stated unequivocally they would have to pass on any new health insurance cost to their employees, by either raising employees premiums or by eliminating coverage.

The best prescription for America's health provides more protection for patients, enhances the quality of care and promotes greater access and availability.

Austin - Electric lights will soon be installed in the Capitol. The 8 electrolights to be placed in the two legislative chambers will cost about \$1200, according to the comptroller. Light globes cost \$1 each, and solons are worried what will happen if they burn out or break. No store in Austin keeps in stock the type of globes used. The Texas News, December 1, 1891.

will have any effect at all on what I see as the main problem - over supply, and under demand"

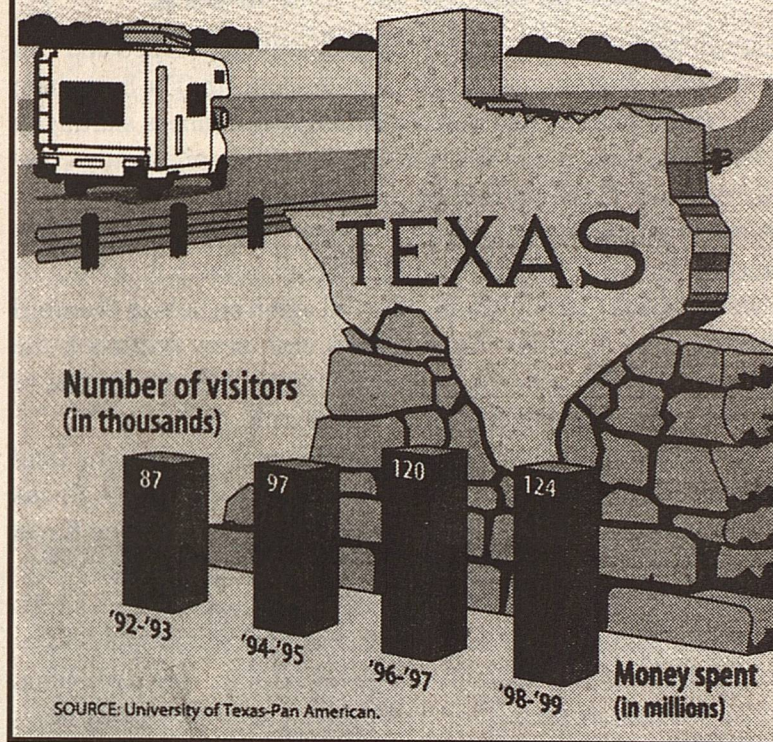
The Friday, July 13 Cotton Market Weekly report from PCCA seemed to add credence to the last statement; ' For 2001-02, USDA pegged U.S. cotton production at 19.2 million bales, a 400,00 increase from the previous report. Estimated yields were raised from 635 pounds per acre to 640 pounds. Analysts said USDA's production figure was in line with five year averages for yields and abandonment. Because West Texas continues to struggle with extreme heat and no rain, some market observers believe the U.S. crop could be anywhere from 18.8 to 19.5

million bales. "Most people are using abandonment of 18 to 25 % for Texas now, and that's the place to watch." World ending stocks for 2001-02 were raised to 39.96 million bales, from 38.36 million bales the previous month. Additionally, world production was lifted to 94.63 million bales, from 93.50 million bales, with consumption lower at 92.69 million from 92.80 million."

Many local and area producers have dubbed the now infamous 'Freedom To Farm Act of 1996', the "Freedom To Bankruptcy Act". The two Texas' congressmen's proposed bill will be closely monitored in coming weeks.

Flocking to Texas

About 124,000 Winter Texans visited the Rio Grande Valley during the winter of 1998-99, and spent \$329 million, according to a study by the University of Texas-Pan American Tourism Research Center.



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Pre-funeral Arrangements--Monuments--Cremation

14th Annual Texas Apple Festival July 28, 2001

Every year more and more Texans are thrilled at the discovery of Texas' newest agriculture bonanza, the Texas apple. Higher in sugar than any other apples grown in the United States. Texas apples are also the first to be harvested and also boast the longest season (from June to November). If you are tired of eating those things that look like apples but taste like cardboard, you need to try a fresh, crisp tree ripened Texas apple at the peak of the season! You can take them right off the tree, pressed into cider, frozen into ice cream, baked into pies, cooked into butter, jelled into jam or just about any other concoction you can dream up at the 14th annual Texas International Apple Festival in Medina, the Apple Capital of the Texas, on July 28.

Six stages of continuous music and entertainment, over 100 arts and craft booths, Best Apple, Best Apple Pie and Best Apple Anything Contests, Volleyball tournament, Quilt show, Antique Tractor Show and

much more await the apple lovers at this year's event. This festival is truly one of Texas' finest family events. Old fashioned fun with lots of toe tapping music and fun for young and old. Don't worry about the heat, The Texas International Apple Festival is held downtown Medina in an ancient pecan grove on the banks of the Medina River, mist tents, giant coolers, lots of shade, cool breezes and ice cold apple cider are all plentiful.

The Texas International Apple Festival got its name by inviting 20 foreign countries, and other states of the Union that grow apples, to bring their freshest apples to be judged against the Texas crops. Well...no one but Texas has fresh apples in June so the growers must compete against each other! Admission is \$5.00 per person, \$4.00 for Seniors and \$2.00 for children 4 to 12. Gates open at 9:00 am. and close at 5:30 pm. For more information call 830-589-7224 or e-mail us at mtcd@indian-creek.net.

Acrosprits Return From Nationals



The Plains Acrosprits Team returned from the National Championships in San Antonio, Tx., this past month feeling very good about their performances. Eight athletes that train in the Plains facility joined with fifty other Acrosprits from around Texas to compete with over 1800 athletes at this year's Championships. "It was the largest Nationals competition ever for USA Gymnastics. It was amazing to see that many athletes compete in ten days,"

said Kellie Earnest, Plains Director. The competition featured levels 5-Sr Elite in Double Mini, Tumbling, and new Olympic sport Trampoline. Landon Earnest, of Plains, as well as Taylor Miller were the first to compete at level 10. "We came in with the thought that Landon or Taylor could win all four events they competed in. To do this though they would have to beat each other. It just happened that Landon was a little more on than Taylor at this

competition," said Will Green, Acrosprits Trampoline Coach. Landon won two gold medals Double Mini and Trampoline, a silver in synchronized trampoline, and a bronze in tumbling. Taylor earned two silvers in synchronized trampoline, and trampoline, 4th in tumbling, and 6th in double mini. Dakota Earnest, Plains, a seven year old, competed against nine and ten year olds, and won 4th in trampoline, and she and partner Kelsie Porter earned the gold medal in Synchronized Trampoline. Dakota also won gold in double mini and a silver medal in tumbling.

David Norman, Jimmy Norman, Jana Nelson, Michelle Norman and Courtney Miller competed in the level 8 and 9 competition. David received a fifth in double mini competition and 13th in trampoline.

Jimmy placed 6th in double mini and 9th in tumbling. Jana Nelson won a national title in double mini and placed 17th in tumbling. Michelle Norman placed 10th in tumbling and 52nd in double mini as well. Courtney Miller placed 7th in tumbling, 5th in trampoline, and 18th in double mini. "They all did a wonderful job. For some this was their first National competition and they really did a wonderful job in training and then in dealing with the large crowds and the pressure when they competed," said Kellie Earnest. Five members of the Acrosprits Elite Team, including Landon and Taylor, will be leaving on the 26th day of July to go to the World Championships in Odense, Denmark. We wish them all the best of luck.

Fall Registration Preparation Steps Listed

Students planning to attend South Plains College this fall need to provide a completed application for admission and official high school or college transcripts from institutions previously attended.

There's no application fee. "We need their application for admission, so we can get the information into the system," said Andrea Rangel, dean of admissions. "If they have not applied prior to registration, it will take them that much longer to go through the registration process," she explained.

Fall registration is August 22 at SPC Levelland and August 23-24 at the Reese Center in Lubbock for classes offered at Reese and the Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center. Registration permits are re-

quired for registration between 8:30 am. and 4:00 pm. August 22 and 23.

Students should bring a pen, pencil, valid Texas driver's license, and tuition and fees, which are due at registration.

Fall class schedules list specific registration times on each campus and can be accessed on line at SPC's web site, www.southplainscollege.com or by contacting SPC.

Catalogs for 2001-2002 are now available.

After completing an application for admission, students can request a registration permit by contacting the campus they plan to attend, either SPC Levelland, 894-9611, ext 2375, at the Reese Center in Lubbock, 885-3048, ext. 2902.

Farm Price Barometer

May 2001

Commodity	Current Price	Parity Price	Percent of Parity
Crops			
Barley (bushel)	\$2.03	\$6.43	32
Corn (bushel)	1.78	6.58	27
Cotton, Upland (lb)	.431	1.67	26
Flaxseed (bushel)	3.84	11.30	34
Oats (bushel)	1.29	3.77	34
Peanuts (lb)	n/a	.678	n/a
Rice (cwt)	5.67	26.80	21
Sorghum Grain (cwt)	3.15	11.30	28
Soybeans (bushel)	4.33	14.30	30
Wheat (bushel)	2.98	9.64	31
Livestock			
Cattle (cwt)	72.70	158.00	46
Hogs (cwt)	51.40	103.00	50
Lambs (cwt)*	85.20	174.00	49
Dairy/Poultry			
Eggs, (dozen)	.553	1.55	38
Milk, All (cwt)	15.40	32.10	50
Milk, Mfg. (cwt)	13.90	29.21	47

* lamb prices are one month behind all other prices in this analysis

Note: Percent of parity represented by current market prices is shown under commodity titles. Parity is the price farmers would receive if farm prices had increased at the same rate as expenses, using 1910-14 as a base period. Statistics from USDA.

**Thunderbird Camp of Champions
Boys Basketball Camp For Grades 2 - 11
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New Mexico Junior College
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'Outlaws' Going To Colorado



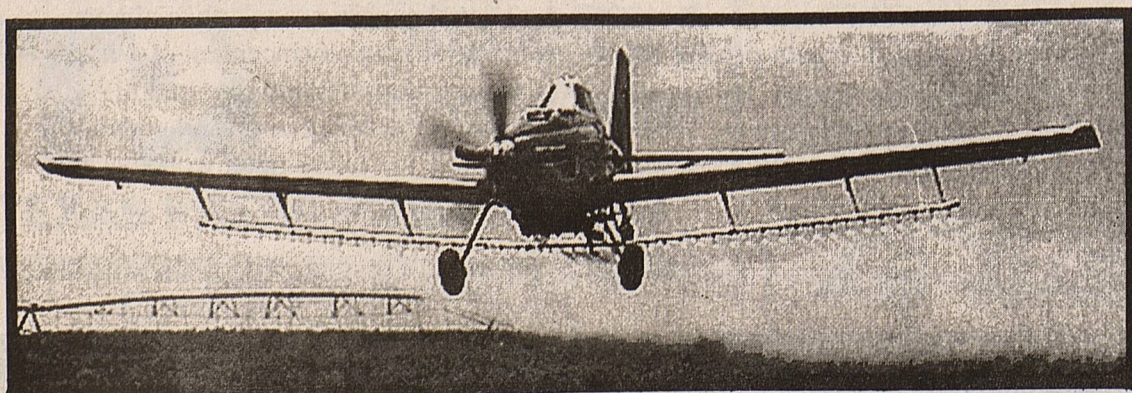
Justice of Peace Judge Melba Crutcher is shown drawing the winning ticket of a fund raising raffle ticket to send the pictured "Outlaws" basketball team to the big BCI Tournament in Colorado this summer. Winner of the drawing for a \$100 gift card was Deedee Lambert of Denver City. The Outlaws wish to thank everyone who helped make their trip possible.

2001 Cowboy Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Place	Time
Aug. 18	*Tahoka	there	TBA
Aug. 24	*Morton	here	TBA
Aug. 31	Open		
Sept. 7	Abernathy	here	8:00
Sept. 14	Sudan	there	8:00
Sept. 21	Sundown	there	8:00
Sept. 28	**Petersburg	here	8:00
Oct. 5	Wink	there	8:00
Oct. 12	Stanton	here	7:30
Oct. 19	Coahoma	here	7:30
Oct. 26	Seagraves	there	7:30
Nov. 2	Colorado City	here	7:30
Nov. 9	Forsan	there	7:30

*Scrimmages
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JP Court Summary

The following is a summary of cases heard and fines and bonds set in Justice of Peace Court, Precinct One, Judge Melba Crutcher presiding.

Cases filed: 108 traffic cases, 3 felonies, one civil suit, two public intoxication, three consumption of alcohol by minor, five possession of drug paraphenalia.

Bonds and Fines set:
7 cases DWI, first offense- \$1000 bond.
5 cases possession of drug paraphenalia, \$250 fines.
No Liability insurance- \$500 bond.
3 cases driving with expired license- \$500 bond.
Theft by check- \$500 bond.
DWI, 3rd- \$2500 bond, interlock device ordered.
Public intoxication- \$500 bond.
Theft, over \$500, under \$1500- \$1500 bond.
Assault causing bodily injury, 2, \$1000 bonds.
Possession of controlled substance- \$3500 bond.
Failure to maintain financial responsibility- \$500 bond.
Display expired license plates- \$200 bond.
Hinder apprehension or prosecution- \$1500 bond.
Possession of marijuana, 2 cases- \$1000 bond.
Unlawfully carrying weapon, two cases-\$1500 bond.
Assault causing bodily injury to family member, four cases-- \$1500 bonds.
Public intoxication, 2 cases- \$250 fines.
False report to police officer, 2 cases- \$2500 bond.
Cocaine possession- \$6500 bond.
Speeding, DPS warrant- \$300 bond.

Carrying prohibited weapon- \$2500 bond.
Possession of controlled substance- \$5000 bond.
Possession of cocaine-\$6000 bond.
Unlawfully carrying weapon- \$2500 bond.
Disorderly conduct- \$400 bond.
Motion of surety, terroristic threat- \$500 bond.
Failure to appear, Runnels County- \$500 bond.
Failure to identify fugitive from justice- \$500 bond.
Possession of marijuana- \$3000 bond.

July 15, 1932- Joseph Edwin Lockridge born in Waco. In 1967, he became the first African-American to represent Dalls County in the Texas House. He died in a plane crash May 3, 1968.

YOAKUM COUNTY ART ASSOCIATION 2001 SHOW & SALE

July 31 - August 4, 2001

Resource Center, Plains School

ENTRY DATE: Tues. July 31, 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

FEES: Per entry: \$3.00 - Members, \$5.00 non-members for both Fine Art and Crafts
15% Commission on all sales.

ELGIBILITY: Limited to those works not previously entered in YCAA competition. Crafts must be made by the person entering them.

JUDGE: Dale Hamlett, Portales NM

JUDGING: Thurs. Aug. 2, 10:00 a.m. This is restricted to appointed personnel.

CRITIQUE: Thurs. Aug. 2, 1:30 - 3:00

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Fri., Aug. 3, 12:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Sat., Aug. 4, 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

AWARDS: BEST IN SHOW - \$100.00
BEST IN PHOTOGRAPHY - \$50.00
BEST IN CRAFTS - \$50.00

PURCHASE AWARDS - Selected Wed., Aug. 1 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., by business and Private patrons. Only authorized members allowed at this time.

CASH AWARDS AND RIBBONS: In each category: 1st place - \$25.00, 2nd place - \$15.00, 3rd place - \$10.00

Cash awards will be given only in originals and Photography.

Ribbons awarded in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention Places in all categories.

No cash prizes will be awarded in divisions with less than 10 entries.

Ribbons and awards presented at 3:00 p.m. Sat., Aug. 4.

CATEGORIES: Originals, Photography, Copies, Graphics, Classwork Copies, Classwork Originals, and Students (no fee for students), Crafts: wood, fiber, others.

DIVISIONS: Landscape, Still Life, Portraits, Wildlife, and Miniatures. Miniatures can be no Larger than 5x7. Nothing larger than 30 x 40. Divisions will be established, Combined, or eliminated if need be.

ENTRY STANDARDS: All paintings must be securely wired and ready for hanging at time of Arrival. No sawtooth hangers and No wet paint. The association Reserves the right to reject any entry considered in poor taste. Each Entry must have a form on the back stating artist name, title of entry And a price. The long form should have each entry listed. Yoakum Co. Art Assoc. will not be responsible for any loss or damage. All Work submitted will signify an agreement by the artist to the above Stated conditions.

SALEROOM: Club members only and must have at least one entry in competition. Each entry Must have an entry form attached to each item, with a price, name and number, And also listed on the long entry form.

DOOR PRIZES: Drawn at 3:30 p.m. on Sat., Aug. 4. These will be paintings by club members Only, and cannot be sold before the drawing. \$75.00 will be paid to the artists Whose paintings are selected.

PICK-UP: Works may be picked up after 3:00 p.m. Sat., Aug. 4.

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Associate Degree Nursing Program Schedules Entrance Exam

South Plains College's associate degree nursing program on the Levelland campus has scheduled an entrance exam in August for admission to the spring class of 2002.

The pre-entrance exam is scheduled August 3, 11, and 17 in the Testing Center in the Student Services Building. Friday testing is 1-4 pm. and Saturday testing is 9 am - noon. Students need to preregister for the test. Fee is \$25.00.

Students completing the program will receive an associate of applied science degree and

be eligible to take the state board exam to become registered nurses.

In the program's 15 year history, graduates have maintained a 99.2 percent pass rate on the state board exam, according to Sue Ann Lopez, chairperson of the Nursing Department. They are employed in hospitals and medical facilities on the South Plains and major metropolitan areas throughout Texas.

To preregister for the exam, contact the SPC Testing Center at 806-894-9611, ext. 2367.

Senior Citizens Corner

Tuesday was '42' tournament. The winners were Ireta Davis and Mola Moorehead.

Next Wednesday the 18th is Denver City pool tournament from 9:00 till ?

Thursday 19th is pot luck with Bo Boggs and his band. Be sure to fix something to eat and bring it to the center by 6:30 pm.

All you citizens of Yoakum are more than welcome to come and join us every day. Where else can you get a good balanced meal for a \$2.00 suggested donation if you are 60 and over. If you are under 60

there is a \$4.00 charge.

Sylvia Lozano does a fantastic job as bus driver, get the groceries for the kitchen. She takes the people shopping, to the post office, bank and to pay their bills, also to Dr.'s offices.

Anna Taylor always has a good program every month.

Miracle Ear and Livingston are each here once a month. Gayle Ballou is here every other Thursday to help with any insurance problems.

Till next week,

Wanda B.

Martin/Palmer Engagement



Mr. and Mrs. William Martin, Ms. Amy Martin and Jack Colmenero of Corpus Christi are pleased to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Stephanie Dee Martin, to Karlton Brent Palmer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Palmer of Plains, Texas.

Stephanie and Brent will be married on August 11, 2001 at South Church of Christ in Corpus Christi, Texas.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Carroll High School and is employed by Peter Pan Day Care. The bridegroom is employed by Texas A&M Corpus Christi.

Students Encouraged To Apply On-Line For Financial Aid

Students still planning to apply for financial aid to attend South Plains College this fall are encouraged to apply over the Internet to speed the process, according to Jim Ann Batenhorst, director of financial aid at SPC.

June 10 was the priority financial aid deadline.

Students can apply on-line for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The application process covers federal aid and is also the starting point for work study and state grants.

The students' FAFSA application can also be filed electronically at Plains National Bank's Financial Student Loan Center at 50th and University or the Learn Educational Talent Search, 2161 50th St. in Lubbock. Students can get their aid

report back in a week by filing on-line.

If they have listed SPC among their college choices, SPC will automatically receive a copy of the report.

Depending on the extent of documentation and process time required, financial aid may or may not be ready for individual students by fall registration, Batenhorst noted.

Students then have the option to go to on contract, paying half their tuition and fees plus an installment fee at registration, with two other monthly installments due. Their financial aid is usually ready by the time one of the latter installments is due, Batenhorst noted. For more information, contact SPC's Financial Aid Office at 806-894-9611, ext. 2412 or 2413.

Nursing Home Crisis Continues

"Legislative Remedies Fall Short"

The nursing home crisis that threatens the quality of care for approximately 400,000 elderly Texans is not over, an alliance of care providers has warned.

Despite the legislative appropriation of \$175 million in general revenue for the next biennium, even under the most hopeful scenario, Texas nursing homes will continue to lose money every day for their Medicaid residents due to woefully inadequate reimbursement from the state, according to the Texas Alliance for Nursing Homes. It pointed to a number of closed or bankrupt facilities across the state as dramatic evidence of the critical problem.

"Folks who think this money has solved the crisis are sadly mistaken," said Mike Burns, alliance chairman. "This stopgap measure doesn't begin to address the problem."

Burris said the new monies could potentially raise the average rate per resident day in 2002 from \$83.50 to \$91, still leaving Medicaid reimbursement well below the acknowledged breakeven point and more than \$20 per resident day under the national average. In addition, 15 new bills passed by the 77th Legislature directly relating to nursing homes will impose an additional financial burden on care providers and the families of nursing home residents in Texas. Even before passage of these new laws, Texas nursing homes already were the most highly regulated in the nation.

Earlier this year a number of members of the alliance filed a lawsuit in federal court charging the state with not complying with a 1997 court approved settlement in which the Texas Department of Human Services agreed to provide adequate reimbursement of costs.

"The band aid approach that has been touted as a solution to these problems doesn't address the massive financial hemorrhaging of our care providers that endangers our elderly," said Bill Horabin, a nursing home operator and plaintiff in the lawsuit. "Nursing homes cannot financially survive along the same old path. That's why we turned to the court that has recognized the crisis before, and now, after insufficient action by the legislature, is the only remaining hope to prevent more closures and bankruptcies."

According to Burris, more than 60 percent of Texas nursing home care providers are under water financially, and that percentage is not likely to improve over the next biennium even with the appropriation of \$175 million in general revenue over two years. Those dollars will allow the state to draw down an additional \$1.50 in federal matching funds for each state dollar, yielding and approximate total of \$435 million for 2002-2003, he said. But there is no assurance that those dollars will be used to address the existing deficit because of "strings" the Legislature tied to the use of the \$435 million.

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Mr. Willis is likely to associate with other attorneys in the handling of this matter

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Sunday School - 9:45 am
Morning Worship - 10:45 am
Youth Fellowship & Study
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Choir Rehearsal - 6:45 pm Sundays

Wednesday Connections

Food & Fellowship - 5:30-6:30 pm

Bible Study - 6:30-7:30 pm

Other Opportunities

Fitness/Exercise Class - 5:30-6:30 pm

Tuesdays & Fridays

Afternoon Bible Study - 5:15 pm Thursdays

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ATTENTION LADIES!
Fruit cobblers are needed for the noon barbecue at the Old Settlers Reunion. You may pick up serving cups at the Dairy Queen, and the cobblers should be delivered to Stanford Park no later than 11 A.M. Saturday, Aug. 4.

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From The Hack

From the 'Net';
A bum asked a man on the street for \$5. "Will you buy booze?" the man asks, to which the bum replies "No."
"Will you gamble it away?" Again, the bum replies "No."
"Will you make bets at the golf course?" The bum replies, "No, I don't play golf."
Then the man asks, "Will you come home with me so my wife can see what happens to a man who doesn't drink, gamble or play golf?"
And...
A drunk enters a bar and orders a drink. The bartender serves it and asks if the drunk would like to try the dart game. Three bullseye and win a prize, only a buck for three darts.
The drunk agrees and throws a dart. Bullseye! He downs another drink, throws two more darts... three bullseyes! The barkeep is astounded. No one has ever won before. The drunk orders another drink, barely able to stand.
The bartender searches for a prize. In desperation, he grabs a live turtle from the bar aquarium and presents the drunk with his prize.
The drunk weaves out. Three weeks later, he stumbles back in orders a drink, and mumbles he wants to try the dart game again. To the amazement of customers and the bartender, he scores three bullseyes and asks for his prize.
The bartender, also a drinker, has a memory lapse, and asks the drunk, "What did you win last time?"
The drunk mumbles, "A roast beef sandwich on a real hard roll."

Man, I wish I had known about this earlier, I could probably have become rich and famous! I just read about the winning entry in the contest for the very worst possible beginning to an imaginary novel. The winning entry, from a female legal secretary contained this stirring lead paragraph;
"A small assortment of astonishingly loud brass instruments raced each other lustily to the respective ends of their distinct musical choices as the gates flew open to release a torrent of tawny fur comprised of yapping bullets that nipped at Desdemona's ankles, causing her to reflect once again (as blood filled her sneakers and she fought her way through the panicking crowd) that the annual Running of the Pomeranians in Lichtenstein was a stupid idea."
Drat and dadgum, I feel sure I could have won the thing, with some of my better efforts. I KNOW I could have bested the second place winner;
"The lone monarch butterfly flew flutteringly through the cemetery, dancing on and glancing against headstone after headstone before alighting on Willie Mitchell's already lowered casket, causing gasps of awe to fly from the gaped open mouths of five or six lingering mourners, until a big shovelful of dirt landed on it and it died." Fame and fortune missed again!

Cheerfully stolen from the *Levelland/Hockley County News-Press*:
Typos are embarrassing, especially those in newspaper headlines. The following gaffes were found in papers across the nation.
- Farmer Bill dies in house.
- Iraqi head seeks arms.
- Panda mating fails; Veterinarian takes over.
- Squad helps dog bite victim.

- Plane too close to ground, crash probe reveals.
- Miners refuse to work after death.
- Juvenile court to try shooting defendant
- Stolen painting found by tree
- Two Soviet ships collide, one dies
- Two sisters reunited after 18 years in checkout line
- Killer sentenced to die for second time in ten years
- Drunken drivers paid \$1000
- Couple slain; police suspect homicide
- Typhoon rips through cemetery killing hundreds
- Man struck by lightning faces battery charge
- New study of obesity looks for larger test group
- Astronaut takes blame for gas in space
- Kids make nutritious snacks
- Chef throws heart into helping feed needy
- British find dwarfs in short supply

.....
This true, cross my heart, etc. Saturday eve, parked at Uncle's Convenience Store, I saw a semi-truck rig with an open top trailer over filled with dead cows - all Holstein cows. Immediately on it's tail was a Domino's Pizza rig. My only thought was, "Please, Lord, don't tell me they serve burger pizzas!" I have witnesses!

.....
We're expecting Pecos buddies on the 25th & 26th July. We're not doing anything special for them, at their request. But I'll tell you one thing, I am sick of flipping and plumping mattresses, scrubbing base boards, shining the good silver (which needs it since it belonged to ancestors gone about two eons ago), spending money on exotic food and drink delights, double cleaning the potty, all of that. When they get here, Bride and Jo will depart to Lubbock, while her hubby Bill will probably fleece me on the golf course. It's ok - we go to their house next.

Governor Perry's veto was the right prescription for Texas doctors, patients



KEN HOAGLAND

In the closing hours of the 77th legislative session, a small group of Senators and Representatives hurriedly met to iron out differences in bills that attempted to insure timely payments to physicians from health insurers. Two different versions of the "prompt pay" bill were being considered but one had a "poison pill" provision that virtually guaranteed costly lawsuits.
Unfortunately, the bill with the "poison pill" made it out of the legislature to the Governor, and he rightfully vetoed it. But that's not the whole story. The tale of how a good piece of legislation was irreparably damaged by the narrow interests of the plaintiff lawyer's lobby is a modern civics lesson for all Texans. In this particular case, a majority of legislators from both the House and the Senate agreed that too many HMO's, insurance companies and physician-owned health underwriters had been intentionally slow in paying physicians for legitimate and undisputed health care claims.
But the House version of the legislation prohibited alternative dispute resolution, like arbitration and mediation, in contracts between insurers and physicians. Why did the House version contain this invitation for lawsuit abuse? Exhibit A: the bill's House sponsor was a plaintiff attorney who steadfastly refused to take out the offending provision, calling its removal "non-negotiable." Exhibit B: the politically powerful plaintiffs' attorney lobby strongly supports legislation across the country that restricts parties from solving their disputes out of court.

The lawyer's lobby tried to insert this injurious provision in scores of bills during this last legislative session. Their reasoning was simple: the more disputes that ended up as lawsuits, the more legal fees that would be paid, thereby producing more work for Texas trial lawyers. Eliminating arbitration means that disputes get a one-way ticket to the courthouse. While good for their membership, it's bad for healthcare and bad for consumers. More lawsuits mean more time in court, more money spent in conflict and more costs to businesses and consumers, including doctors and their patients.
In every bill, except this one, this reasoning was defeated before reaching the Governor's desk.
The offending issue to the trial lawyers is any form of alternative dispute resolution in which a neutral third party whom both parties agree upon hears both sides of the dispute and rules. In many such matters, if the plaintiff is not satisfied, the dispute can then go on to a formal lawsuit. It's a fair, impartial and relatively low-cost way to resolve disputes while saving on legal fees and court costs.
According to noted legal scholar Jeffery Sievers, "Traditionally the court system has been the venue to resolve disputes. However, today's court system has not been able to keep pace with the

need of its participants. The backlog in court dockets continues to increase with cases taking as much as four to five years to resolve in some jurisdictions. Delay brings continuing costs and diverts resources. Thus evolved the need for an alternative method of resolving disputes."
Fortunately, the Governor stood up to the lawsuit lobby and vetoed the bill. However, he also suggested a solution that eliminates an almost automatic trip to the courthouse to resolve disputes. Existing regulations at the Texas Insurance Commission allow the Commission to fine insurers \$1,000 per day for payments made past 45 days after they are due. The Governor's Office and Jose Montemayor, the Texas Insurance Commissioner, have pledged vigorous enforcement.
No one can dispute that physicians should be paid promptly for their work. But their frustration over this issue made them inattentive to the "poison pill" provision that would have worsened the civil justice environment for all Texans and driven up healthcare costs. It is obviously bad public policy to legislate away the right of two parties to voluntarily contract in advance to settle disputes outside the courthouse. The Governor was right to veto this legislation. Texans should never be forced to accept more lawsuits in order to get good law.

Ken Hoagland is Communication Director for Texans for Lawsuit Reform, the largest grassroots tort reform organization in Texas.

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