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Cowboy Country News

SINCE AUGUST 31ST, 1994

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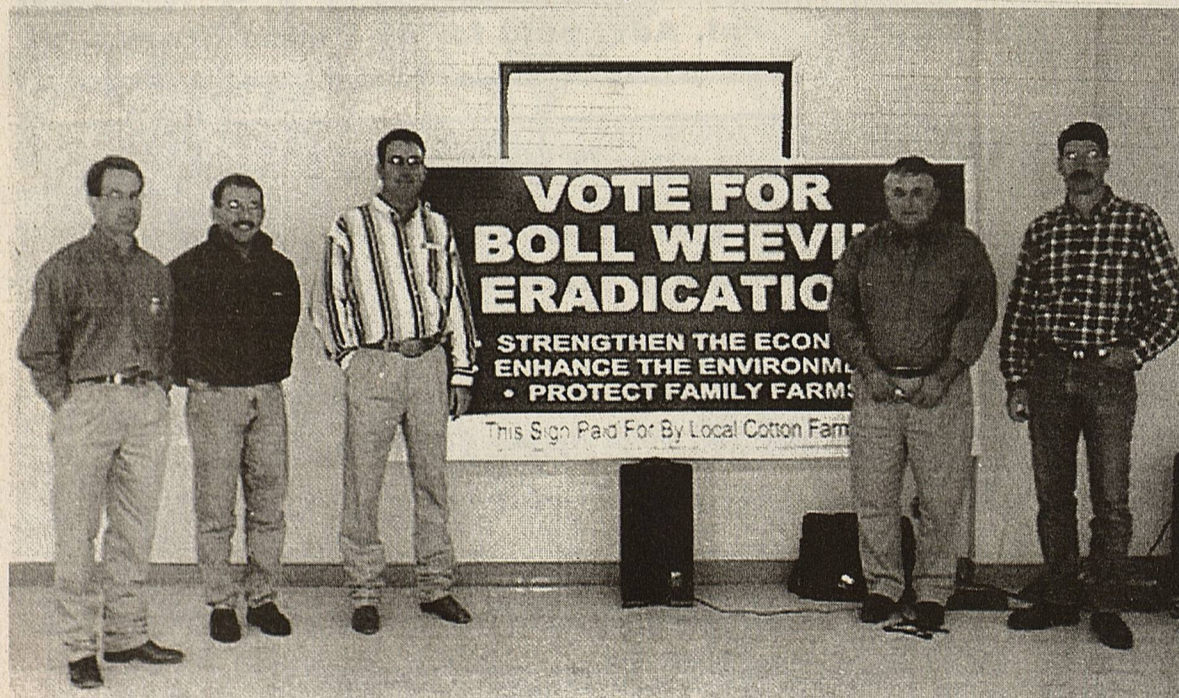


Cotton producers hear boll weevil update, plans for statewide eradication

Local cotton growers and landowners with cotton interests heard a report from experts representing the National Cotton Council (NCC), Terry and Yoakum County Extension Service, and Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, Inc. deliver a sobering message at a meeting here last Wednesday; The dreaded boll weevil is still alive, and doing very well. Phillip Kidd, Integrated Pest Management specialist with the Terry-Yoakum County Extension Service, told an audience at the Community building "Grid trap counts of bollweevils increased again this year, the third consecutive year. It appears the weevil count to date this year is up about 30 percent over the 1997 level, which is really alarming."

to establish a boll weevil eradication program in the five county Western High Plains Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, the first opportunity. Andrews, Gaines, Terry, Yoakum and parts of Lynn County growers have had to work together on a program designed to completely eliminate weevils from the region. Don Parrish, local cotton grower and a Board member of the Eradication Foundation, based in Abilene, told CCN ballots for a referendum on the eradication issue will be mailed to area producers and landowners on November 18. "They will be allowed to vote on three issues; establishing a boll weevil eradication in the Western High Plains Zone; electing a cotton grower to serve on the Texas

and steering committee chairman of the proposed five county eradication zone said "We are very encouraged the US Department of Agriculture has already appropriated \$16 million dollars for eradication efforts across the cotton belt, and \$6 million of that is earmarked for the State of Texas." Bearden said simple mathematics illustrate why the eradication program is necessary and cost effective. "If weevils destroy just one boll of cotton in every two feet of a row of irrigated cotton, the monetary loss will pay for the assessment. For dry land producers, the assessment would be met if weevils are prevented from destroying just one boll every four feet." Bearden said the potential weevil damage could be explained another way; The loss of just one



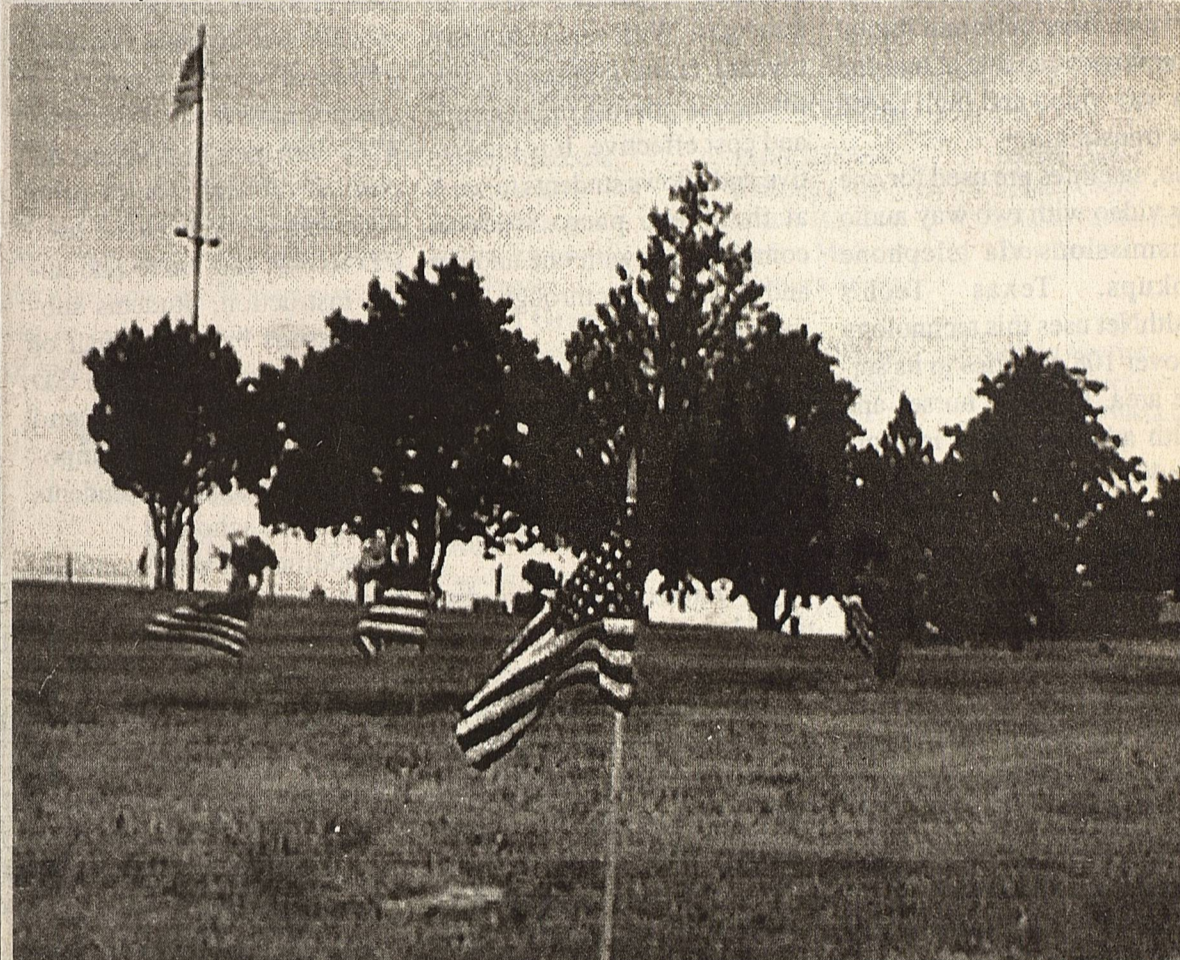
Speakers at the boll weevil meeting included, L-R, Lindy Patton, Executive Director, Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation (TBWEF), Osama El-Lissy, Program Director, TBWEF, Don Parrish, local producer and Board Member TBWEF, Craig Brown, National Cotton Council, and Phillip Kidd, Extension Agent-Integrated Pest Management.

Craig Brown, representing the NCC, and a strong advocate of weevil eradication programs throughout the entire cottonbelt, told the growers "Boll weevil eradication efforts have succeeded in Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina, Virginia, and portions of Alabama, and there is no reason this success can't be repeated in Texas, if producers and involved landowners will put their support behind a united eradication effort." He added, "Studies by NCC showed tremendous economic benefits where eradication programs have succeeded; Every dollar invested in eradication returns twelve dollars to the local economy." Area cotton growers and landowners will soon have the chance to vote in a referendum

Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation Board of Directors, and setting a maximum annual assessment necessary for carrying out a four year program to eradicate the weevil." Parrish said the Eradication Foundation will make a strong effort to secure state funds to assist in the statewide eradication effort. "We are already talking to legislators about entering bills in the upcoming January legislative session, and have received some encouraging responses." The foundation hopes to secure 50% of the necessary funds from the state. If this effort comes to pass, Parrish said the proposed assessment fee to run the program would be \$12 per acre for irrigated cotton production, and \$6 per acre for dry-land acres. Ricky Bearden, local producer

lock of cotton from only 15% of the bolls in a field equals a 3% loss in yield. The Texas Department of Agriculture will mail ballots to producers and landowners receiving a share of the cotton crop November 18. Ballots should be returned to TDA in Austin, postmarked no later than December 9, 1998. Questions related to voting can be answered by TDA at 512-463-7593. The Eradication Foundation can be reached at 1-800-687-1212. Zone committee members include; Tony Dill, Mike Kelly, Terry Co.; Shelby Elam, Chuck Rowland, Gaines Co.; Michael Todd, Dennis Banta, Andrews Co.; Kenny Heathington, Larry Moore, Lynn; Tracy Welch, Ricky Bearden, Yoakum Co.

Veterans Remembered



The tradition of honoring Armed forces veterans no longer with us was renewed again this year when Tommie and Grady McNabb, children of Darryl and Pat McNabb, placed 61 American flags on veterans graves commemorating Veterans Day, November 11. Darryl McNabb related a poignant incident which occurred when the family was placing the flags, donated by the American Legion Post here. "We had placed quite a few of the flags that morning, when we saw this vehicle come into the cemetery and slowly go down the rows of graves. The vehicle stopped and a couple got out, followed by three children from about ten

to three years old. They gathered around a grave we had already placed a flag on, and then they all knelt on the ground, and we assumed they were praying. We didn't want to disturb anyone, and moved on down a row. After a time, they all got up, and a little girl, I'd guess about five, came over to me just smiling up a storm. She looked at me and said 'We want to thank you for putting a flag on our granddad's grave.' I told her she was very welcome and bent down to shake hands with her, and told her she was sure a pretty little girl. She smiled and said thank you, and added, 'That's a very nice thing you all are doing.' That really made our day."

Last-Gasp effort by Congress offers some relief to hard hit agricultural producers

U.S. ag producers are slated to receive \$5.98 billion in federal aid and tax relief, financial aid desperately needed after enduring repeated years of Murphy's Law; 'Anything that can go wrong will go wrong.' U.S. Representative Larry Combest, R-Texas, and Vice-Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee thinks the relief package will provide a needed boost to ag producers. "This is a balanced approach with disaster payments to farmers and feed assistance to livestock producers," said Combest. Also, producers are taking note of several tax relief measures that provide the most meaningful and long-lasting help to our rural economy. "The USDA will have immediate authority and the extra administrative funds needed to get this cash to producers - pronto," Combest added. Tax relief measures were added to the farm package after Congress failed to pass a tax

relief bill and President Clinton vetoed and sent back to legislators the first ag appropriations bill passed by Congress. Clinton requested legislators add more income relief to the package for producers in light of the dismal farming situation. Congress responded, tacking on \$625 million in tax relief to the revised plan, and increased funding for several items. Some of the tax relief features include: Permanent Income Averaging, allowing income highs and lows to be averaged. Net operating Loss Carryback, allowing net losses on operations to be redistributed to income records up to five prior years. The carryback may make some producers eligible for tax refunds. Self Employment Health Premium Deductions, allowing producers to deduct all healthcare expenses beginning in 2003, four years earlier than currently mandated.

Final details of the plan are being worked on, but disaster relief could include; \$ 3.06 Billion in Lost Market Payments, payments to be made directly to producers, designed to offset a weak export market, and will equal about 50% of the 1998 Ag Market Transition Act (AMTA) payments, and the payments will not be subject to the current \$40,000 annual payment limit. \$875 Million for Multi-year Crop Loss Insurance Payments, applied to crop losses due to disaster for three of the last five years. \$1.5 Billion In Disaster Relief, going directly to producers suffering losses due to natural disasters in 1998. \$200 Million In Livestock Feed Assistance, providing cost-share assistance for supplemental feeding costs in 1998. While neither side of the aisle in Congress were 100% satisfied with the measure, it does provide needed relief for producers.

Long Distance Learning

Educators are using a variety of methods to deliver course work off campus, from videotapes to highly complex transmission systems. For example, microwave distribution systems can be broadcast live, one-way video to multiple sites. With this method, the interactive TAGER Network in Dallas-Fort Worth has delivered thousands of education and training courses over the years directly to corporations in the Metroplex and to colleges around the state. TAGER's nonprofit organization, now called the Alliance of Higher Education, unveils new multiple-transmission technologies this fall that combine microwave, fiber optic and digital technologies capable of one and two way video and high speed data transmission.

Also, satellites are used for one way video with two way audio transmissions via telephone hookups. Texas Tech's HealthNet uses this technology to cover 108 counties in its service area. Doctors, nurses and health administrators in more than 40 rural hospitals in Texas and New Mexico receive satellite broadcasts of education programs designed by Tech's Health Sciences Center. The network also can project Tech physicians right into hospitals or clinics in Alpine, Fort Stockton and Presidio to serve as consultants or advise on emergency medical treatment. HealthNet has become a national model of telecommunications health care delivery into rural areas.

Cable TV is a popular way of airing live programs or videotaped materials to students. The University of Houston (UH) broadcasts 30 graduate and undergraduate courses over the local public broadcasting channel and the city's education access channels. UH requires these students to have at least one face-to-face meeting with the instructor and one supervised exam. The state's first televised college course was a psychology class offered by UH in 1953.

While video has been the mode most students use, the fastest growing segment of distance learning is Internet-based instruction. With many students owning home computers, this method is proving to be simple and cost effective. It is interactive and allows students to work at their own pace. Students communicate with one another and the instructor through "chat rooms".

Other computer technologies such as compact disks (CD's) deliver educational materials. A number of business administration courses are available on CD's.

Universities, which use distance learning mostly in upper division and graduate level courses, tend to use two way, interactive transmissions, in which the instructors and students can see and talk to one another. Community colleges rely more on broadcast and cable TV. While the universities are reaching out long distances,

community colleges tend to stay closer to home.

In the 1990's, Texas Tech became the state's first university to offer distance learning in a big way, and now has virtual students in 50 states and 16 foreign countries. Two thirds of those are K-12 students in the U.S. or abroad who use Tech's self paced curriculum to supplement their studies or to get a jump on college credits.

About 600 distance learners attend a "virtual high school" in the Texas Tech Independent School District. Most are Texas youths whose parents work abroad; others, like singing star LeAnn Rimes, are performers, models and aspiring Olympic gymnasts on the road or in practice halls most of the time. They earn their high school diplomas through Tech's print materials or Web based text, CD-ROMs and video and audio instruction. Students submit lessons by mail, email or facsimile. Now Texas Tech ISD has added elementary and middle school study components, which appeal to students being home schooled.

In addition to course enrollments, Tech administers thousands of examinations via distance learning to K-12 students wanting to earn credits for grade advancement or other purposes.



'89 Champs Remembered



Players and coaches of the 1989 Class A State Champion Cowgirl Volleyball team were honored at the U.I.L. State Volleyball tournament in Austin this weekend. Team members include: top row, Coach Charles Cain, Coach Joyce Pierce, Marsha Farnham, Rena McElroy, Leslie Patton, Jo Lena Powell, Vee Ann Fitzgerald, Amy Jones, Manager Teresa Hinson, bottom row, Michelle Lowe, Corie Spencer, Sandra Ramos, Martha Rivera, Kemi Cobb, Ashlee Winn, Melissa Green, Coach Trisha Allman. The Cowgirls eliminated Iola 15-17 15-2 15-4 in semifinal action and downed Round Top-Carmine 15-10 15-6 in the championship match to finish their season with a 30-5 record. Juniors Leslie Patton and Melissa Green and Sophomore Rena McElroy were named to the Class A State All Tournament Team.

Special African Program at Library

The Yoakum County Library will host a special program of the Malawi Africa Mission Slide presentation by Wadonna Davis and Jo Anne Barron, Thursday, November 19, from 4 pm. to 5 pm. in the Texas Heritage Room at the library, featuring African novelties and ebony wood carvings, and a display of framed pictures of African Art in water colors by Susie Powell.

Thanks....

So very much to each of our Yoakum County citizens who cast a vote in the General Election. This is a special privilege we Americans enjoy. I sincerely appreciate the trust and confidence you have placed in me. It is my desire to serve this county and be of service to each citizen

Dallas Brewer

County Judge

Pol. Adv. paid for by Dallas Brewer

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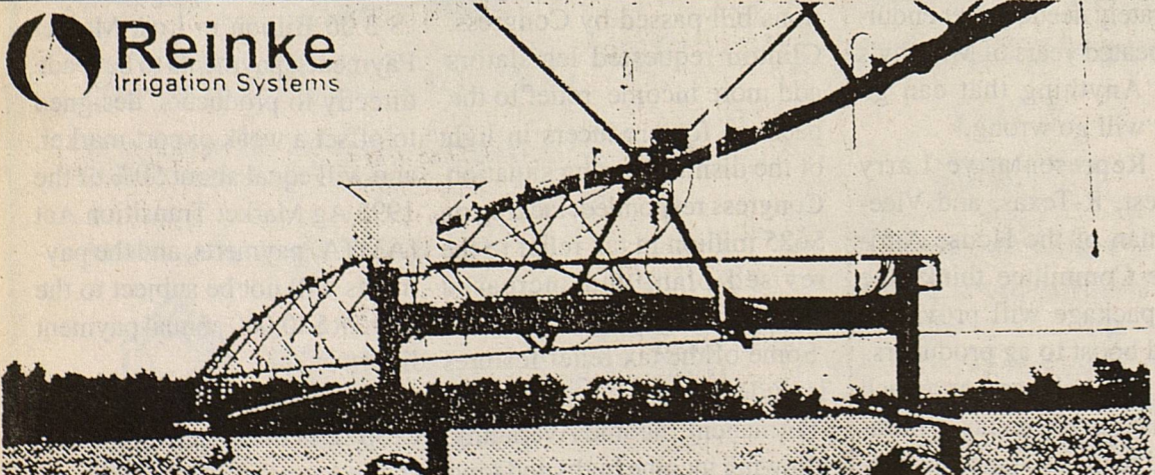
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"Early Birds" capture crown at Math / Science Meet

The PHS Math and Science Team survived a tough four A.M. departure for San Angelo Central High last Saturday, and managed to remain alert enough to win the small school Sweepstakes and set one school record. They scored 2,868 points to second place MacCamey with just 1711 points. Another indicator of the strength of the team's performance was their scoring only 195 points less than Lubbock High, a 5A division school and Magnet School there.

The Number Sense, Calculator, Math and Science teams all placed first, and the calculator team outscored all the schools, including Division 4A and 5A. Kristen Gray won all four of the events she competed in, and set a new school record with 268 points in the Math competition. Tommie McNabb grabbed the top scoring honors in Physics and Biology, even against the larger schools.

Seniors McNabb, Clint Burrus and Maranda Box all placed in the top three spots in all four events in their division.

Individual performances included;

Freshmen: Annaliesia O'Quinn, 1st NS, 1st Calc., 3rd Math, 4th Sci.

Sophomores: Aaron Cain 6th NS, 4th Calc., 8th Math, 7th Sci. Nicole Haynes 5th NS, 5th Calc., 7th Math, 8th Sci. Leslie Rowe 7th NS, 7th Calc, 1st Sci.

Juniors: Kristen Gray First in all four events. Jason Swann 12th NS, 10th Calc, 9th Math, 3rd Sci.

Seniors: Tommie McNabb 3rd NS< 1st Calc, 1st Math, 1st Sci. Clint Burrus 1st NS, 2nd Calc, 2nd Math, 2nd Sci. Maranda Box 3rd NS, 3rd Calc, 3rd Math, 3rd Sci.

PHS Student of the Week



Student of the Week is Renee Garcia, a senior and the granddaughter of Margie Garcia. She was nominated by Mrs. Canada, who said "A happy person is not a person in a certain set of circumstances, but rather a person with a certain set of attitudes. Renee has a positive attitude about each job she is given. She does each task with a smile. She does her best, and is always willing to help a fellow classmate or teacher."

Gifted and Talented kids visit

Lubbock Lake

On November 11, Gifted and Talented students from grades 1 through 8 toured the Lubbock Lake Landmark, hosted by the Museum there and the Region 17 Service Center. Accompanying the students were G/T coordinator and teacher Cynthia Blair, teacher Cindy Conway, and Kathy Haynes.

The students were told about area land features and some of the early mammals of the area. A tour guide described how early people crossed the land bridge to North America from Siberia. He said archaeological finds of animal remains in the area indicate mammoths, horses no larger than dogs, camels, and short-faced bears were common in the area. The students learned those early animals could not adapt to environmental change and did not survive.

They also saw a demonstration of how our water level has lowered dramatically because of draught and irrigation. Hunting practices of the early native Americans, and later settlement of the area by non-native Americans was explained by the guide.

Cross Country Team strong at state meet

The Cowboy Cross Country team not only faced some very tough competition in the state meet at Round Rock last Saturday, they also had to overcome a sea of mud on the tough course. Coach Mc Adams said the runners looked like they had been in a mud wrestling match after the race.

The Cowboys finished fifth in the big meet with 138 points, behind Premont High, Nagogdoches Heights, Clyde Eula, and Central Dilley.

Cowboy runner Felipe Reyna was the only individual to place in the top ten spots, finishing ninth, and bringing home a medal for his efforts.

Other team members included Luis Hernandez, Leo Luna, Luis Delgado, David Granados, Manuel Hernandez, and Ramon Lozano.

PISD Honor Roll

Elementary 'A' Honor Roll

First Grade

Claudia Andazola
Brock Carter
Brett Hawthorne
Ignacio Lozano
Alex Penner

Second Grade

Chris Addison
Landon Earnest
Derek Garza
Zachary Ramon
Crystal Tarango
Lydia Whitzel

Third Grade

Chandra Carpenter
Lauren Davis
Lauren Hise
Cody Mates
Zachary Ramos

Fourth Grade

Scott Addison
Nicole Culwell
Kimberly Jackson
Angelica Mendoza

Junior High

Fifth Grade

Micheal Crump
Reagan Haynes
Blake O'Quinn

Sixth Grade

Payton Bean
Cody Flores
Kerry Sisson

Seventh Grade

Trent May

Eighth Grade

Jordan Bean

Ninth Grade

Annaliesia O'Quinn

Tenth Grade

Emily Blair
Andrea Haynes
Lexi Warren

Eleventh Grade

Leticia Canon
Wendy Hernandez
Laura Morales
Kyle Sisson

Twelfth Grade

Maranda Box
Clint Burrus
Norma Delgado
Lisa Parrish

Taylor Banfield
Brandon Craft
Natalie Haynes
Nathan McCravey
Katelynn Young

Briana Conway
Reyna Gallegos
A.J. Martinez
Mari Ruiz
Eva Unger
Kimber Williams

Douglas Conway
Amber Friesen
Matthew Jimenez
M'Leah McKinzie
Katie Winn

Caitlin Carter
Jose Luis Gallegos
Erika Loewen
Araceli Mendoza

Casson Curtis
Skylar Keesee
Abel Rios

Evan Cain
Breck Hamm

Moriah Traweck

Sandra Gallegos

Lensey Cullins
Kimbe Jones

Jessica Flores
Angie Longoria
Anne Palmer
Jason Swann

Dustin Brunson
Cosme Casillas
LaCresha Johnson

Natalie Butler
Sydney Cueto
Abigail Hernandez
Troy Parrish

Wyatt Dearing
Christopher Garza
Jonathan Mindietz
Skyler Sainz
Holden Welch

Ryan Crump
Trent Hawthorne
Juan Lara
Marissa Melendez

Landon Craft
Meghan Garcia
Magareta Martens
Adrianna Ponce

Allison Friesen
B.J. Lester

Marlie Diaz
Brandon Hise

Jill Gray

Chris Estrada
Lesli Rowe

Kristen Gray
Patirck McGinty
Patty Ruiz

Steven Bunch
Cassie Dearing
Tommie McNabb

'A-B' Honor Roll

First Grade

Kristen Davis

Second Grade

Zachary Guerra

Third Grade

Maria Andazola
Joani Bell
Sergio Olivas
Jacob Rivera

Fourth Grade

Aileen Luna

Fifth Grade

Adam McCravey

Sixth Grade

Mayra Flores

Seventh Grade

Grady McNabb

Eighth Grade

Liz Wilmeth

Ninth Grade

Allison Butler

Tenth Grade

Roxy Fuentes
Kari Guetersloh
Elva Ruiz

Eleventh Grade

Joshua Bell
Velvet Canada
Fermin Luna
Chris Willis

Twelfth Grade

Tandi Jones

Emilia Gallegos

L'Shae Arnett
Elias Carrillo
Colby Ortega
John Tyson

Colby Wilmeth

Servando Luna

Adam Garcia
Nancy Luna

Krystle Blundell
David Granados
Nichole Newsom

Juanita Rodriguez

Miguel Lopez

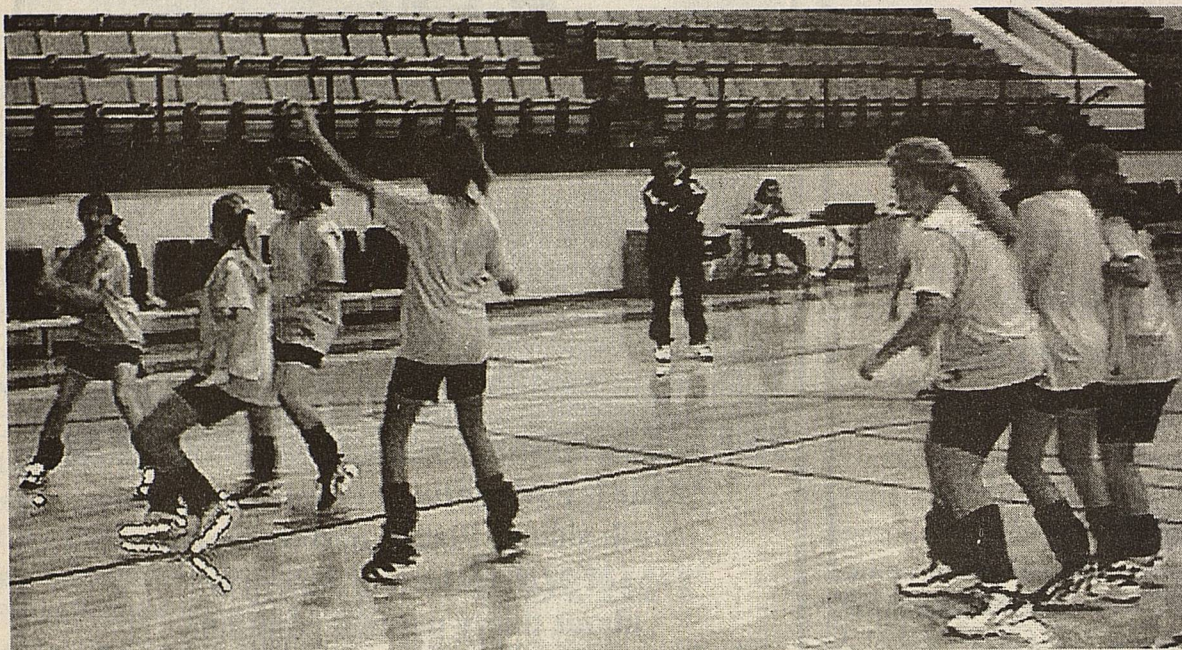
Curtis Arteaga
Flor Lara
Alez Perez

Becky Wilmeth

Taylor Gray
Adrienne Ramoz

Candace Bowers
Chris Leggett
Staci Tuggle

It's 'Roundball' time again



Junior Varsity Cowgirls in grueling daily workout



The Cowboy with the ball faces some intense defenders in workout session

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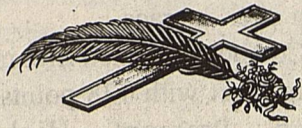
DANNY BELL

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Funeral Services held for Betty Livesay

Services for Betty Ann Livesay, 63, were held at 2 p.m. last Saturday in the High School Auditorium at Canute, Oklahoma. Mrs. Livesay died Tuesday, November 10, 1998, at University Medical Center in Lubbock. She was born May 2, 1935, in Canute. She married James Leonard ("Slats") Livesay on September 6, 1952. She was a devoted Christian and attended Avenue B Church of Christ in Elk City, Oklahoma.

She and "Slats and their family were long time residents of Plains, and she was employed by Plains State Bank here. Survivors include two sons, Gary Lynn and James Michael, both of Lubbock; A daughter, Terry Diane Blackshear of Lubbock; Two brothers, Bud and Leon; A sister, Lois, and six grandchildren.



Cowgirl Roundballer's working hard under new Head Coach Jan Newland

Thank You
FOR YOUR VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3rd. I LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOUR INTERESTS IN THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE IN 1999, AND TRULY APPRECIATE YOUR EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE
GARY L. WALKER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE,
DISTRICT 80

To Wed in December



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Vallie of Denver City announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristal Elaine to Timothy Eads, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walt Eads of Denver City. A wedding is planned for December 19th 3:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Denver City. All friends are welcome to attend.

Christmas Assistance Program
Accepting Applications
November 18 thru December 4

Apply at County Treasurer office, Yoakum County Courthouse. This program assists NEEDY families with food and toys. YOU MUST APPLY IN PERSON!

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We're making progress for you!

Our crews continue to work on the south side of Plains, and the update of YOUR electric system is about thirty percent complete

... Please Note ...
Lea County Electric Cooperative is storing retired and unusable wood products (e.g. poles and crossarms) in an area just east of the City of Plains yard. These items are available free of charge to the public. Please see Mary Ward at the Plains office for further details. A release form MUST be signed before any of this material can be removed from the storage site.
456-3322 or
1-800-510-5232
Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
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Send your comments and questions to: lcecnnet@lcecn.net

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Lifelines & Styles

TSA MO GA Presents Americanism Program

TSA MO GA members were treated to an informative Americanism program, November 9th, by three students who attended leadership conferences last spring and summer. Plains High School sophomore Emily Blair, daughter of Cynthia and Royce Blair, added to the program by singing "The Star Spangled Banner" and "Texas Our Texas".

Tandi Jones, daughter of Kathy and Steve Jones, gave a report on her eleven day trip to Girls' State in Seguin in June. Tandi was elected to the office of precinct chairman and was assigned to a political party on the day she arrived at the conference. She and the 538 other delegates from across Texas had the opportunity to hear political candidates Carole Keeton Rylander and Gary Mauro speak. The girls also visited Austin and heard Governor George W. Bush speak. Later they were treated to a luncheon on the capitol grounds.

qualities among high school sophomores throughout the nation. Carroll hopes to return to the HOBY conference as a junior counselor this spring, as does Clint, who was HOBY ambassador two years ago.

Club members brought Christmas gifts for Veterans at the Big Spring Hospital. Members are to bring canned food, for Christmas Baskets, on December 2nd, at the Community Christmas Tree Lighting, 5:30 p.m., at Pioneer Plaza.

Hostesses for the Patriotic program were Mary Jo and Elouise St. Romain.

Mattie Field and Sarah Jane Shelton, invited members and husbands to the Christmas Holiday Happenings Dinner Party and program at the ranch home of Mattie Field, December 14, 7:00 pm.

Senior Citizens Corner

Clint Burrus, son of Sarah Kay and Tommy Burrus, represented Plains at Boys' State for a week in Austin. Burrus also heard political candidates and the governor speak. He was elected senator and served in the "Hester" state. Over 1,000 Texas junior boys attended the leadership conference.

Meadow High School junior Cliff Carroll was sponsored by Tsa Mo Ga at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) Conference in Amarillo when the Plains representative was unable to attend. Cliff, son of Keitha and Lynn Carroll, gave club members an enthusiastic report of his three day weekend at the conference, founded by actor Hugh O'Brian. The conference promotes leadership

Our March winds came early this time. And the cold weather makes everyone wonder where summer went.

Visitors this week were Joan and Sam Ramsey, guest of George Sorrell.

Louise Green has had some time in a hospital. We miss her and wish a fast "Get Well" for her.

Our sympathy to Elvia Bridges whose mother's funeral will be Saturday in Seagraves.

Wednesday is our Thanksgiving "Turkey" day. Anyone wishing to come for the meal, please call early so the kitchen girls will know how much dressing to make. The Center

Tuggle's Celebrate 50th Anniversary



The children of Dorris and Louise Tuggle hosted a 50th Anniversary party in Grandbury, Texas. A fish fry followed the renewal of their wedding vows, performed by Justice of the Peace, Judy Watson. The event was hosted by Randy and Edith Tuggle of Plains, Odell and Janet Tuggle of Meridian, and Danny and Tink Tuggle of Grandbury. Louise Armstrong and Dorris Tuggle were married November 6, 1948 in Haskell, Texas and have resided in Brownfield and Plains, Texas since 1954. The couple were blessed with three grandsons, two granddaughters and one great granddaughter.

recognized the kitchen people this week with a bouquet and box of candy and a "Big Thank You" from all of us. They do a great job.

Don't forget the long hall for walking. These cold mornings make everyone hunt a place out of the weather.

The domino Tournament was fun. Fay Black and Gladys

Thomason won first place for the ladies. I do not challenge the women anymore.

Surely they are not afraid of the ladies!

See you next week, Smitty



To The Voters of Yoakum County:

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to each one of you for your vote, support and words of encouragement given on my behalf in my campaign for District Clerk in the General Election.

I am truly honored by the confidence you have entrusted in me and I will do my very best to professionally and efficiently serve all the fine people of Yoakum County.

Again, my sincere appreciation and heartfelt THANKS.

Vicki Blundell

Pol. Adv. paid for by Vicki Blundell

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Inspirational writing workshop Rescheduled at SPC

"Bleeding, Scabbed and Scarred: How to Write Inspirational Stories Editors Buy," a one-day writing workshop, has been rescheduled for December 5 at South Plains College.

Nancy Robinson Masters, an award-winning author and instructor, will teach the workshop. The class is scheduled 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Founders Room of the Student Center. Cost is \$50, which includes lunch.

"Writing about the triumphs and tragedies of your life is not only a powerful way to explore your personal feelings and help

others, it can also be financially profitable," said Jim Walker, dean of continuing and distance education at SPC. "Masters will show you how to share your personal experiences and inspire and encourage others. She says publications are looking for stories like yours, if you understand how to write when you are 'bleeding', revise when you have 'scabbed' and submit when you are 'scarred'.

To pre-register, contact the SPC Office of Continuing and Distance Education at 806-894-9611, ext. 2341.

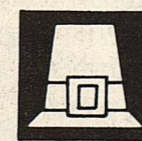
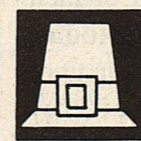
Fine Arts Club Meets

The Plains Fine Arts Club met Thursday, November 5, 1998, in the home of Judy Fitzgerald. Co-hosting the event were Michelle Hawthorne and Sandra Ellison. The club members were served a delicious meal of Mexican food with lemonade and pumpkin pie for dessert.

Dolores Davis gave a presentation "Books, Books, and More Books." She informed the club members of the many opportunities available at the Yoakum County Library. Following her presentation, Carolyn Culwell gave a book review on a book entitled True Women.

Members present at the meeting included Sue Banfield, Christy Brink, Beth Ann Cain, Melba Crutcher, Carolyn Culwell, Dolores Davis, Sandra Ellison, Judy Fitzgerald, Donna Friesen, Michelle Hawthorne, Kathy Haynes, Debra Hise, Martha Palmer, Melissa Roper and Rayla Williams.

The club's next meeting will be December 3, 1998, in the home of Sue Banfield.



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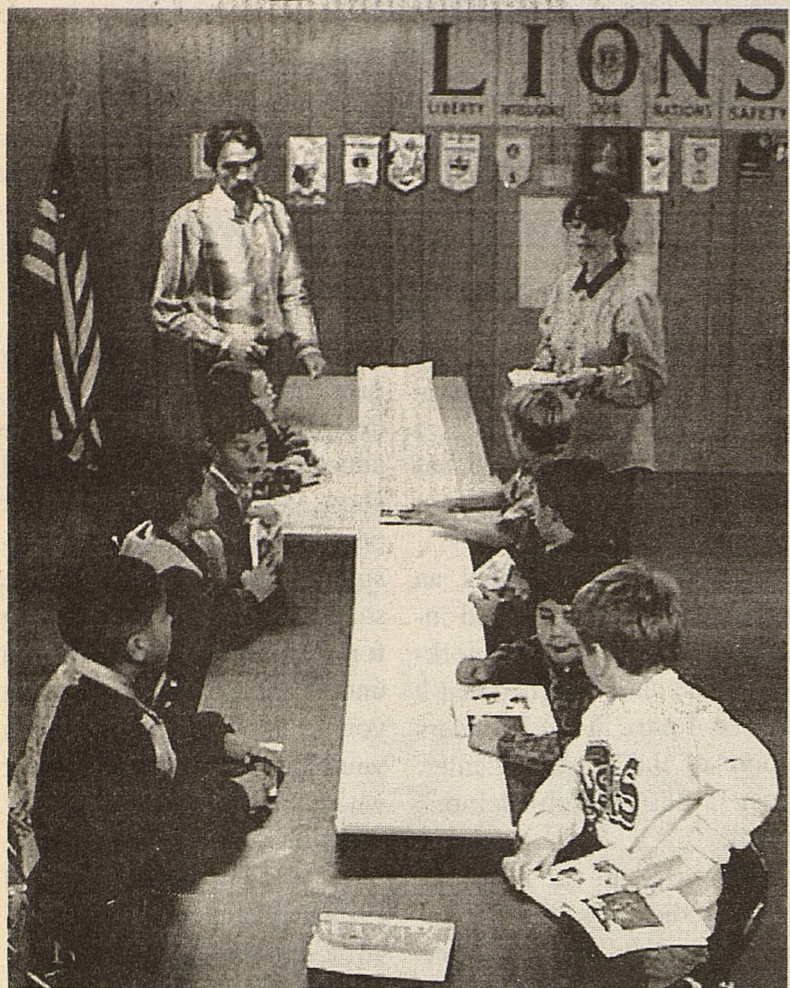
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Interest in Scouting revived here



Volunteer leaders Robert Loya and Sonya Loya and group of young Cubs

A number of locals have been hard at work recently trying to revitalize the Boy Scout program in the community. To date, over two dozen youngsters have signed up as Cub Scouts, in three classes, Tiger Cubs, Bear Cubs, and Webelos. Thirteen adults have volunteered their services for the programs.

Sonya Loya, community Chairperson, said more adult volunteers are urged to join the movement. She reported traditional funding for the nationwide scouting movement has been hindered recently by the sluggish stock market. "The Boy Scout program in the United States has always relied on financial help from business companies and large organizations, and lots of the money came from stock market dividends and profits, and now those funds have been sharply cut." She said local donations to the Cub Scout program would be welcomed.

The Cubs meeting on November 19 will feature a presentation by a U.S. Army Sergeant from the recruiting office in Lubbock. He will tell the youngsters how participation in scouting will benefit them throughout their lives and in their careers. Part of his address will detail how scouting has played a large role in the success of many citizens and members of the Armed Forces.

Tiger Cub members include

Dustin Altman, Justin Barrientes, Justin Gonzales, Jordan Rivera, Kameran Loya and Arthur Ruiz

Bear Cubs are Ryan Crump, Landon Earnest, Chris Gonzales, Zachary Guerra, Matthew Jimenez, Chris Loya, A.J. Martinez, Sergio Olivas, Coby Ortega, Zachary Ramon, Jacob Rivera, Skyler Sainz, Holden Welch, Brandon Loya, John Tyson and Elias Carrillo.

Webelos are Michael Crump, Steven Dominguez, Rudy Gonzales Jr., Justin Henry and Chandon Loya.

Alan Altman serves as the local Scoutmaster, Angie Altman is Treasurer.

Traditions and myths about trees

From the earliest human writings and myths, trees have represented the power and mystery of nature. Large, ancient trees seemed immortal, demanding respect and reverence. They could bare huge crops of seed and grow forests full of their own offspring. Even today, homeowners value their trees (maybe due to cost) as if they are part of the family! Some groups of people around the world have considered trees

closely bound with their own creation. Greeks believed the first man was made from an ash tree. In Siberia, man and woman were thought to have been created separately from a larch and a fir. Scandinavian myths state that gods breathed life into two tree trunks to make the first human couple. Other northern Europeans believed man was first carved from an alder. In Indonesia, vertical slices cut into a fig tree by two gods created man, while horizontal slices created woman. In New Guinea, man was considered a tree that moved! Even though these beliefs seem far-fetched by most of us West Texans, it just goes to prove just how much people around the world value their trees.

Some trees were well known for their special attributes. In many areas, birch was the tree of health, wisdom, and safety, was used in baby cradles and cribs, and was used as symbols of public office. Cedars were the trees of paradise in the mid-East. They were also symbols of faithful lovers in China and held as sacred in Nepal. Junipers were planted as protection from thieves and witched. Mountain ash twigs were tied into knots to prevent witchcraft. Ash was considered a tree of rebirth and planted as protection against evil creatures. Pine, acacia, white cedar, catalpa, and chestnut trees were planted in specific spots for specific gods around Chinese temples. Hazels were considered protection against lightning.

Some of our common trees were highly revered. Willows, for example, were the trees of sorrow. In colder climates, they were substituted for palms during Palm Sunday observances. Oaks were the symbols of strength and power. Many oak cults, like the Druids, existed. In China, pine was the symbol of friendship in adversity since it remains green all year.

Even ways of life and death have been associated with particular trees. Tree planting, for example, was considered an investment in life. In Germany, it was customary to plant a tree at wedding. As each child arrived, an apple tree was planted for every boy and a pear for each girl. The longevity and fruitfulness of the trees were thought to give strength to the marriage and children. Marco Polo said that the Khan had many trees planted because "he who plants a tree will live a long life."

Services Held for Ray Muston

Services for H.R. "Ray" Muston, 73, of Tokio, Texas, were held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday November 12, 1998 at Brownfield Funeral Home Memorial Chapel, with Rev. Pat Riley, Calvary Baptist Church officiating. Interment was in Terry County Memorial Cemetery, Brownfield, Texas, under the direction of Brownfield Funeral Home. He died November 9, 1998 at Denver City. He was born February 8, 1925 in Tuscola, Texas.

He lived in the Abilene area until 1935 and moved to Haskell County prior to moving to Yoakum County in 1942. He served in the 84th division of the Army Infantry during World War 11. He had worked as a Civil Service employee at Tinker Air Force Base from 1967 until 1975 at which time he moved back to Yoakum County and farmed until illness forced his retirement in 1987. He was a member of the Plains First Baptist Church.

He is survived by a brother, Herbert O. Muston, Jr., Henderson, Nevada, a sister Louise Melton, Grandbury, Texas and seven nephews.

There are 179 words in the Ten Commandments - 286 in the Gettysburg Address - 1,322 in the Declaration of Independence, and 26,911 in a government document regulating sale of cabbage.

We're wondering, whatever happened to the highly touted Paper Reduction Act?



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Y2K - Is It The "Millennium Bug?"

The computer glitch, referred to as the Year 2000 problem, or simply Y2K, is a frequent subject in newspapers and periodicals, even serious books. Yet despite the number of pages devoted to explaining the problems associated with the millions of faulty designed chips now installed in virtually every type of computer system around the globe, and the chaos they can cause when the year 2000 arrives, the coverage pales compared to the information available on the Internet. A simple click on 'Y2K' as a search source will bring up the equivalent of the Library of Congress in words on the subject, and most of them are not at all reader friendly.

Consider some of these quotes from a sample of sources on the net; From the CIA- "Many governments are unprepared for what could be tough circumstances. There will be possible social, political and economic turmoil stemming from the failure of computer systems, particularly in the banking, power-generation and telecommunications sectors. Most people are assuming things are going to operate the way they always have. That is not the case."

From the Chief Information Officer of the IRS; "Failure to achieve year 2000 compliance will jeopardize our way of life on this planet for some time to come."

From Harry Schultz, International Monetary and Geopolitical Advisor; "It's NOT going to be 'solved' in time. There isn't enough money, time or skilled people to do it, and part of the problem is insoluble. Some 79% of pre-BIOS chips can't rollover to 2000, but imbedded chips are a bigger worry. They are almost in everything using electricity. 7 billion chips guard and guide our lives. The Gartner Group says over 15 million chips will exhibit Y2K anomalies in 1999. Some guard power plants and hospitals. Some are on the seabed, in pipelines, concrete bank vaults, and heart pacemakers."

From Ed Yourdon, author and computer consultant: "Surveys of computer programmers involved with Y2K fixes are pessimistic. The last I saw asked for an assessment of how bad it could be on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is no big deal, and 5 is, you know, the end of Western civilization. They were usually in the range of 3 and a half to four. Serious stuff is going to happen."

From Skip Patterson, Executive Director, Bell Atlantic Telephone: "Our customers have a lot to worry about. We may get it all right. But if everyone else doesn't get it all right what's the point? We're only a link in a chain. We ALL have to get it right."

From Gary North, Y2K investigative reporter; "Chase Manhattan Bank has 200 million lines of code to check, then repair. Citicorp has 400 million. All big banks are similarly afflicted. And even if this could be fixed, bank by bank, there is no universal repair standard. Thus the computers, even if fixed (highly doubtful), will not work together after the individual repairs. A non-compliant bank's data will then make every compliant bank non-compliant."

The subject of banking (MONEY) and Y2K appears everywhere on the internet. As a lead in to the subject, a web spot featured this quotation: "Money is a singular thing. It ranks with love as man's greatest source of joy. And with death as his greatest source of anxiety. Over all history it has oppressed people in one of two ways; either it has been abundant and very unreliable, or reliable and very scarce"- John K. Galbraith, The Age Of Uncertainty. It then reported, "How are banks dealing with Y2K problems? No one is really sure. Banks are forbidden to disclose much on Y2K progress. Y2K ratings assigned to banks by the Federal Reserve are top secret."

"A May, 1998 Fed bulletin stated, 'Depository institutions are reminded they may not disclose publicly contents of agency examination reports or reviews of the institutions of any service provider, software vendor, including the confidential Y2K summary ratings contained therein..... moreover, they should avoid any statements that indicate or imply the institutions readiness has been approved or certified by a supervisory agency with regard to the year 2000 plan..... institutions should develop a pragmatic strategy for responding to customers inquiries about year 2000 readiness'."

In far fewer words, it's difficult if not impossible to get information on the Y2K subject from banks simply because they are not allowed to reveal it. Now there is some real food for thought.



You'll never see a pig turn it's snout away from a pail of food or water. A scene at Saturday's Denver City FFA Pig Show at the county barns.

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Keith Earnest



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From The Hack

I suppose everyone has embarrassing moments, but why does it seem I have had far more than my share? I recall one that rates about 8.5 on a scale of one to ten.

I was a Sophomore in High School. I suspect all Sophomores are easily embarrassed but can't explain that theory. I was terribly smitten by a girl we shall call Emmy Sue, and I thought I was prematurely in Heaven when I managed to get the seat right next to her in English class.

She was the original "vision of loveliness." She smelled so delicious I suffered through most of the class with a dull ringing in my ears and a pair of crossed eyes. I mean, I was SMITTEN!

We were studying (in my case, make that ENDURING) the works of Chaucer. You remember Chaucer... he was the guy before Shakespeare who didn't know how to spell. The instructor was a guy named Fred, and had a great deal in common with Tyrannosaurus

Rex - He was big, he was fierce, and the earth trembled as he strode up and down the aisles of the classroom. He wore a perpetual frown on his face for anyone, either gender, even thinking about causing any kind of disturbance.

I had my eyes in a dither, glancing at Chaucer, then sneaking sidewise to soak up Emmy Sue. She was absorbed in her book, fiddling with her pencil (Yes, we used pencils, ball point pens had not been dreamed up), when the thing fell from her hand to the floor between our desk chairs.

Quicker than even Michael Jordan can move, I leaned far over to retrieve the pencil in a gentlemanly manner. Unfortunately, I leaned too far, just as Emmy Sue was sliding out of her chair to get the stupid pencil, which I now clutched in my hand.

I still cannot fully explain it. Somehow, I managed to partially turn my chair over against Miss Heavenly, and also managed to jab the stupid pencil into her well shined, well curved beautiful calf.

I recall hearing her piercing, blood curdling shriek of pain, then she very loudly called me an "idiot expletive", pulled her pencil from her beautiful leg, and plunged the thing into my not so pretty calf, thru jeans and all.

It was my time to shriek with

pain, and I felt it was my turn to call this demon female an idiot expletive, but a very large, firm hand suddenly clamped my mouth shut, and old Fred hauled me to my feet, got Emmy Sue in hand, and marched us out of the room. His icy stare at the other class members, their mouths gaping open in shocked wonder at the sight, just daring anyone to even think about giggling at our predicament, kept the class in somber silence, but soon as he shut the door, we heard the guffaws, the shrieks of merriment. Now I know why they say kids can be very cruel animals. Here Emmy Sue and I were, being propelled towards Ichabod Hudson's principal office. He was referred to (behind his back, of course) as Ichabod because that's what his appearance brought to mind. He was also called (again, behind his back) Attilla The Hun, sometimes Ghengis Khan, for he was notorious in dealing out disciplinary action very zealously with a long, thick paddle.

To sum it up, I became quite familiar with Ichabod's long, thick paddle. Guess what? My Emmy Sue got a very serious chewing out. At first I was furious at this discrimination, enduring a serious type butt busting, while he used mere words to punish her.

Just a little reflection however, made me appreciate Ichabod's dilemma; How could any male, any age, possibly manage to smite such a vision of loveliness draped over a desk top? By the way, I still have the scar on my leg to prove this tale.

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A WEEKLY SUMMARY OF COTTON MARKETING NEWS

The anticipation of USDA's supply/demand report boosted the market early this week, but the figures released by the department disappointed observers and drove the market downward.

USDA surprised analysts by lowering its 1998-99 U.S. cotton crop forecast only slightly to 13.23 million bales, down from the October prediction of 13.29 million. Pre-report industry estimates averaged 13.03 million bales, prompting some negative views about the report upon its release. Although the government said its forecast accurately reflected expectations of a weaker harvest and smaller yields due to adverse weather conditions in several cotton producing areas, some observers believe further cuts should be made.

USDA's November alterations to its 1998-99 U.S. crop estimate produced changes in virtually every state, but the adjustments resulted in only a small net decrease from a month earlier. With the exception of Oklahoma, where 20,000 acres were added, the area for harvest across the Cotton Belt remained unchanged, which suggested an abandonment of approximately 19.4 percent. The department pegged prospective cotton yields at 612

pounds-per-acre, only four pounds-per-acre lower than the previous month's estimate.

Closer to home, USDA left Texas cotton production unchanged at 3.0 million bales, including 2.0 million bales from the High Plains region. However, the additional 20,000 acres in Oklahoma and a 20 pound-per-acre yield increase in the state pushed the Texas/Oklahoma crop 25,000 bales higher to a total of 3.1 million bales.

The positive influences of USDA's world data were all but ignored by the market. Notable cuts were made in world production and ending stocks. World output is down from the previous month's 84.7 million bales to 83.6 million bales, while carryout was lowered from 38.4 million to 37.3 million.

According to traders, demand still appears to be a concern for the market. USDA left U.S. consumption and exports unchanged at 10.6 million bales and 4.5 million bales respectively, but some in the market feel these numbers should be considerably lower. World usage, pegged at 86.4 million bales, was down slightly from October's 86.6 million bale estimate. Exports also were lowered from 25.1 million to 24.9

million bales.

Meanwhile, the Texas cotton harvest continues as growers have been stripping at full speed ahead of additional showers that have been forecast for the end of the week. Already this year, cotton in West Texas has been subjected to drought and extreme heat. A return of rainy weather may not bode well for crop quality. In fact, recent classing data already has shown a higher percentage of light spotted grades and an increase in leaf content.

On the export scene, USDA reported net U.S. export sales of 1998-99 crop cotton were 39,900 bales for the week ended November 5, considerably lower than the previous week's 99,000 bale total. According to the report, Hong Kong was the largest buyer of U.S. cotton during the week followed by Canada and Indonesia.

In spot cotton news, sales were also slightly lower than the previous week. In the five trading days ended November 12, sales of cotton on the TELCOT electronic marketing system totaled 39,175 bales, compared to the previous week's 54,202 bale figure. Average daily prices received by producers on TELCOT ranged from -56.41 to 59.64 cents per pound during the week.

HOOVES & HORNS

BY A.W. ERWIN



"We jus' survived one real nasty drought, but I'm not so sure I even noticed."

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All senior students are eligible to enter the essay contest. Contest winners from each school will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for 1st Place and a \$500 scholarship for 2nd Place to the college(s) of their choice.
The topic of the essay should relate to an evaluation of the water situation in our area and contain proposals for future conservation of that water.
The essays, due no later than April 5, 1999, should have a minimum of 1,000 words, and be typed and double spaced with parenthetical footnotes. References must accompany the paper in the form of a bibliography page. Reference material may be acquired from the Sandy Land UWCD office in Plains. In submitting the papers, students must supply cover sheets containing their names, essay title, local high school and date.
For further information, please contact the district office at 456-2155.

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