

Cowboy Country News

Published each Wednesday in the county seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas Volume VII, Issue 19, Wednesday, January 24, 2001



'Connection' annual meeting held Reports indicate 2000 was good year for organization



Connection Chair Linda Powell conducts portion of annual meeting.

Almost four dozen members and guests of the Yoakum County Connection attended the organization's Fifth Annual Meeting last Thursday evening. A slate of directors for 2001 was elected by acclamation. Directors include three year members David Brunson, Dennis Harrison, Linda Powell, Debbie Rushing, and Pam Burgess, who replaces resigned director Elva Lozano. Lee Ann Romines will serve a two year term, and Doug Brown one year.

Connection Treasurer L.J. Sanders delivered a financial report indicating the Connection improved its financial condition during the year. The 1999 Watermelon Round Up, principal fund raising event for the organization, showed a net profit of \$3236, but refurbishing the Connection building in Denver City, installing a large canopy to the building, and the salary of Executive Director Tonya Patton produced a net loss of \$4,117.

The 2000 Watermelon Round Up showed a net profit of \$7,686, resulting in an end of year profit of \$1,338, and a bank balance of \$18,459, up some \$1,300 from the December 31, 1999 balance.

Debbie Pollard, Yoakum County Extension Service, reported on plans for a youth leadership retreat, tentatively scheduled for this Spring.

Executive Director Tonya Patton reported on

Connection sponsored activities for county youths during the year, and reviewed plans for upcoming events and programs.

Round Up Chair Jeannette Head summarized the highly successful 2000 event, and thanked the dozens of volunteers who contributed to the fifth annual successful event.

Connection Chair Linda Powell asked for comments and suggestions for the organization to consider. Several members indicated a greater effort should be made to seek additional participation from citizens of both Plains and Denver City.

The Plains First Baptist Church Youth Choir, conducted by Patrick Hamilton, provided entertainment for the meeting, and Moriah Traweck and Emily Blair performed lead roles in two songs.

Door prizes were awarded throughout the meeting. Prize donors included Coast to Coast Home & Auto, The Magnolia, Kay & Kompany, Atty. Bill Helwig, Gary Walker, Kountry Klipper, Mustang Country, Renaissance Productions, Seller's Ag Supply, Tsa Mo Ga Club, Yoakum County Connection, Yoakum County Art Assn., Tangles Beauty Salon, Gwynn's II Salon, Debbie Rushing, Sams Club, Sandy Land Water Dist., and Lanelle's.

Llano Estacado Region Water Plan In Place

In T.R. Fehrenbach's epic work on Texas history, *Lone Star*, he explained the reason for the late development of the western portions of the state: Too many hostile Comanches and Apaches, and not enough water. The hostile Native Americans are no longer a problem. Adequate supplies of water, now and for the future, remain a perplexing, even growing concern.

In 1997, the 75th Texas Legislature enacted Senate Bill 1, mandating near and long term water plans be developed for all regions of the state. SB 1 also provided that future regulatory and financial decisions of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) be consistent with approved regional water plans. TWDB divided the state into 16 planning regions. Yoakum County, and 20 other South Plains counties were assigned to Planning Area 0, subsequently named the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Region. TWDB also appointed 21 members of the water planning group to represent the interests of the public, counties, municipalities, industry, agriculture, environment, small business, electric generating utilities, river authorities, water districts and water utilities. County Judge Dallas Brewer was appointed to represent Yoakum County.

Turn to Page 2, 'Water Plan'

Busy day in County Court

Seven criminal cases were heard in County Court last week, with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the state.

Remilio Leon Conde, aka Micky Conde, pled guilty to theft of \$50 or more but less than \$500. He was fined \$100, must pay \$255 court costs, and restitution of \$286. He was represented by Attorney Bill Helwig.

Rito L. Perez pled guilty to a first DWI cause, breath test refused. A 180 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. He will meet a \$300 fine and \$225 court costs with

Turn to Page 2,
'County Court'

Walker returns as Chair of Land and Resource Management in House

Austin - State Representative Gary L. Walker (R-Plains) has been named to serve on three standing committees in the Texas House of Representatives. Walker has been appointed to the Calendars Committee and will continue to serve in his capacity as Chairman of Land and Resource Management and as a member of the Natural Resources Committee.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to serve on the Calendars committee this session and the chance it gives me to learn more about the legislative process. I'm grateful to the Speaker for the opportunities he's given me," Walker said.

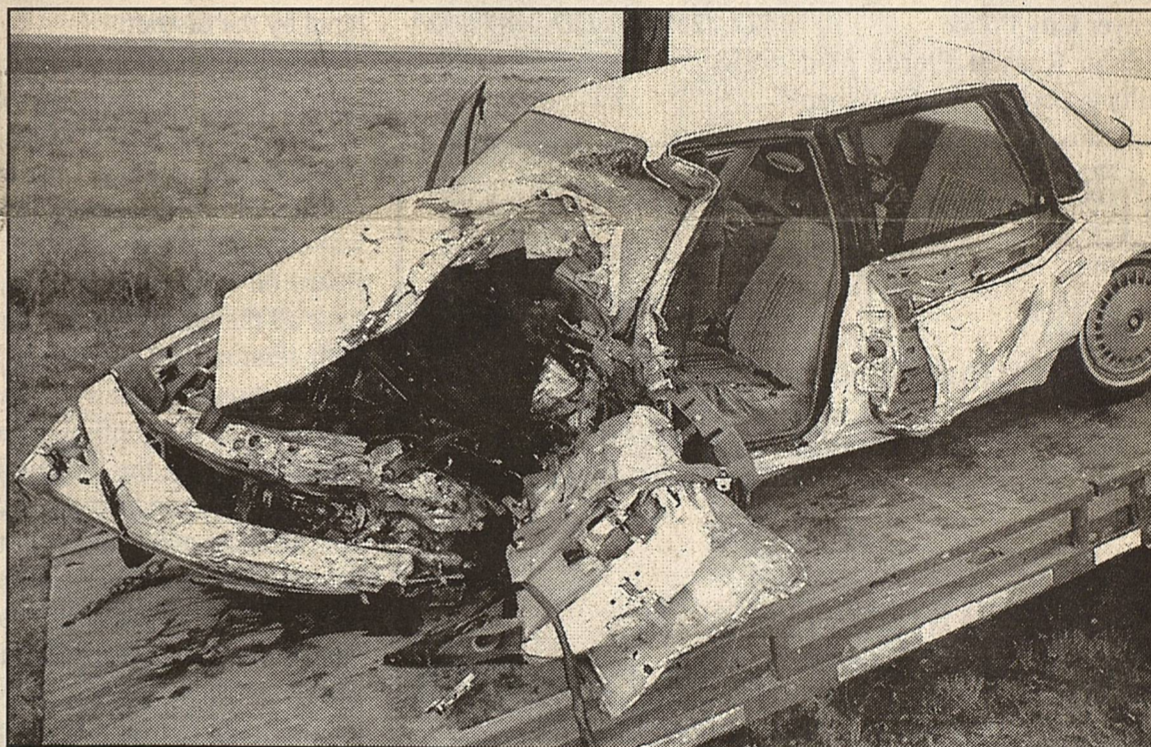
Now that committee appointments have been made, Representative Walker expects to be a busy member this session. Speaker James E. "Pete" Laney expanded the jurisdiction of the committee Walker chairs. In addition to overseeing the General Land Office and monitoring issues such as annexation, the committee now has jurisdiction over certain rural issues. "I'm definitely looking forward to working on those rural issues. The Rural Caucus worked long and hard through the interim, and hopefully we'll be able to make some headway on some targeted areas," Walker commented. Walker will once again serve on

the Natural Resources Committee. "I've been proud to serve on Natural Resources since joining the legislature. It gives me a chance to work on an issue that is important to all our citizens in West Texas - water," he said.

Representative Walker continues to maintain an open door policy for any constituent who comes to Austin during the legislative session. "Come by if you're in town. It is my honor to serve as your representative here in Austin."

Walker was first elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1994, and is currently serving his fourth term. Gary and his wife Frankie live in Plains.

Serious wreck sends one to hospital



A collision between the car and FedEx truck shown here early last Wednesday morning sent the driver of the Buick Century to the hospital in Brownfield. DPS Trooper Ron Shugart told CCN the driver, Dean Pate of Hobbs, NM, was later transferred to Covenant Hospital in Lubbock, with unknown but serious injuries.

Around six a.m. Wednesday morning, Mr. Pate was headed east on US 82/380, enroute to Lubbock. The FedEx driver, David Talbott, was westbound, carrying freight from Lubbock to the FedEx facility in Roswell. Trooper Shugart, who investigated the accident along with DPS Sgt. Mike McClure, said "Apparently Mr. Pate fell asleep. His car veered across the center stripe into the oncoming traffic lane. The FedEx driver tried to avoid the oncoming car by pull-

ing off the pavement to the shoulder of the highway, almost in the bar ditch. The Buick struck the front of the truck, demolishing the front tire and wheel and the first tire and wheel on the trailer. The vehicle continued down the side of the truck, and knocked both rear axles of the trailer out of line."

The FedEx truck ended up in a CRP field on the left, or south side of the highway. Plains Volunteer Firefighters Alex Barrientes, Jerry Dominguez and Michael Barrientes were dispatched to the scene to assist getting Mr. Pate from the car. EMS Technicians Marc Traweck and Alfred Loya, along with EMS students Diane Bennett and Linda Wright, gave medical assistance to Mr. Pate, and transported him to the Brownfield hospital.



From Page 1, 'County Court'

time payments. He will spend 72 hours in jail, with credit for 28 hours served. He must attend weekly AA meetings, complete the DWI first offender program, complete the batterers treatment program. An assault causing bodily charge was adjudicated. The arresting officer was Chris Ballard, Denver City Police.

Sharon Rosemond Hawkins pled guilty to assault causes bodily injury/family violence. A 30 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. She must pay court costs of \$219, serve 80 hours community service, and complete anger management counseling. Investigating officer was Deputy Kenley Powell. Barbara Stephens pled guilty to theft by check of more than \$500 but less than \$1500. She was sentenced to adjudication of guilt. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 90 days. She must pay \$210 court costs and \$831 restitution. Her attorney was Bill Helwig. Warren New served as Special Prosecutor in this case.

Walter Guillermo Ayala pled guilty to assault causes bodily injury. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. Time payments will pay a \$250 fine and \$210 court costs. He must complete the batterer's treatment program at his expense and serve 80 hours community service. Investigating officer was Gary Hester, Denver City Police.

Edwin Russell Pierce pled guilty to possession of less than

two ounces of marijuana. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. He must pay \$210 court costs, a \$250 fine and \$140 restitution to DPS. He must complete the Texas Drug Offender Program, attend weekly AA (narcotics) meetings, serve 24 hours community service and surrender his driver license one year. His attorney was Warren New.

Brandon Allan Lamoe pled guilty and was sentenced to a lesser included offense of disorderly conduct, a class C misdemeanor. He must pay \$210 court costs and a fine of \$100. His attorney was Bill Helwig.

In the January 17 session of County Court, Sandra Berry pled guilty to theft by check of \$20 or more but less than \$500. The defendant was sentenced to pay a fine of \$100, court costs of \$255, and restitution of \$248.42.

Free Legal Advice

The **Legal Hotline for Older Texans** helps low income people age 60 and older with legal problems concerning benefits, housing, health care or debt collection. Specially trained attorneys can also assist with questions about residential or long-term care, and issues about Medicare.

If you are 60 or older, with low income, and need legal advice in these areas, please call us at this toll free number; 1-800-622-2250, or TDD: 1-877-526-9953.

Continued From Page One, "WATER PLAN"

In the almost three years since passage of SB 1, the planning group of Llano Estacado Region has not been idle. With technical assistance from HDR Engineering, Inc. of Austin, they have compiled an impressive document of data, graphs, charts, maps dealing with water issues here on the South Plains, a document some two inches thick.

In compiling data used to create a viable water plan for each of the 21 counties in the Llano Estacado Region, a detailed study of the region included physical characteristics of the region, climate, geology, natural resources, population and projected future population changes, ground and surface water quality and quantity, the Ogallala Aquifer, and drought issues.

The plan indicates the City of Plains current water supply will be adequate until the year 2012. The manual states, "Local groundwater development beginning in 2012 will be needed to supply an additional 606 acre feet per year by 2050." The engineering report indicates the city will need to spend about \$113,000 on development projects by 2020, and about the same amount in 2030 and 2040. The report also concludes Ogallala resources in the area of the city's last two new water wells would be adequate to meet those projected needs.

The study on Denver City's water supply indicates its current supply will be adequate to meet demands until around 2019. By the year 2050, that city would have a shortage of some 1,800 acre feet per year. The study concludes, "There appears to be adequate saturated thickness of the Ogallala Aquifer about a copy of the complex Llano Estacado Region Water Plan is available for inspection at the County Clerk's office and both city's libraries.

14 miles from Denver City into which the city could locate new municipal wells."

The Supply/Demand scenario for irrigation water in the county is not as encouraging as that dealing with our two cities. A chart indicates in 2000 some 85,000 acre feet per year was available for irrigation. Projections indicate that supply will decrease to 80,861 acft in 2010, 76,900 acft in 2020, 73,300 acft in 2030, 69,800 acft in 2040, and 66,400 acft in 2050.

The Region Water Plan details efforts to offset decreases in irrigation water supplies by utilizing irrigation water conservation, precipitation enhancement (weather modification), brush control, desalting brackish groundwater, and municipal water conservation.

Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District, along with other water districts in the region has been an active player in assisting in water conservation, and a full page in the Llano Estacado Plan summarizes the many services and practices offered by the district.

Judge Brewer told CCN, "The 21 members of the Llano Estacado Region met at least once a month during the planning stage of this project. It was a very interesting process, a very complex undertaking. I learned a great deal about water, and why it's one of our most important resources." He said the project was completed and delivered to the Texas Water development Board on January 3 of this year. The current legislators will have all the regional water plans available for study during the 77th session, and the Water Development Board will have a year to submit a statewide water plan to the lawmakers.

Asked if he was optimistic about the success of the plan for Yoakum County, the Judge said, "I am guardedly optimistic. It really depends on how effectively we practice water conservation, and how much recharge the Ogallala Aquifer receives over the next 50 years. If we re-enter into a really prolonged drought, I'm afraid this region and probably all of the state will be in a world of hurt." Brewer said he enjoyed the long planning process, which he considers vitally important for our area. He served on the committee almost three years without any compensation from the state or county.

First golf tourney of 2001

Almost four dozen intrepid golfers braved very cold and windy conditions last Saturday in the years first tournament, a One-Man Scramble format, with a portion of the proceeds earmarked for the Golf Club's annual scholarship fund, benefiting Plains and Denver City students.

The format allows golfers to hit second shots, if needed, and routinely amount to the equivalent of 36 holes of golf. Following are the results of the five flights. Winners of tie contests were determined by score card playoffs.

Championship Flight:

- 1st - Doug Brown, 63
- 2nd - Richard Ashton, 65
- 3rd - Danny Bell, 67

4th - Kenny Dierschkie, 68

First Flight:

- 1st - Rodney Garcia, 69
- 2nd - Greg Black, 69
- 3rd - Chris Blundell, 69
- 4th - Kenny Smith, 70

Second Flight:

- 1st - David Brunson, 69
- 2nd - Jack Sessions, 71
- 3rd - Bob Blundell, 72
- 4th - Justin Overstreet, 73

Third Flight:

- 1st - Terry Ely, 72
- 2nd - Jeff Green, 74
- 3rd - Veronica Sanders, 76
- 4th - Joe Don George, 81

Fourth Flight:

- 1st - Rodney Garcia, 76
- 2nd - Ismael Ramon, 78
- 3rd - Gary Dyer, 78
- 4th - Allen Bell, 78

Addendum to Region Water Plan

Much of the material in the lengthy Llano Estacado Water Plan deals with possibilities of future drought, and precipitation enhancement programs. The Texas Tech Water Resources Center, at the region's request, prepared a computer generated groundwater model of the area, sections of which deal with these two issues.

The material states, "The drought of record was simulated as a four year drought, starting in 2015 and 2035, based on observances of historical droughts in the 1930s, 1950s and 1990s. The model indicates

approximately 96,600,000 acre feet of water would remain in the region Ogallala by 1950, or some 73 percent of the volume of water measured in 1995.

The region plan stresses the importance of continuing a successful precipitation program in the area. The Texas Tech study model indicates their prediction a successful program could boost the Ogallala volume of storage in 2050 to 119,000,000 acre feet, or some 90 percent of the 1995 volume.

The graphs reproduced here indicate these projections.

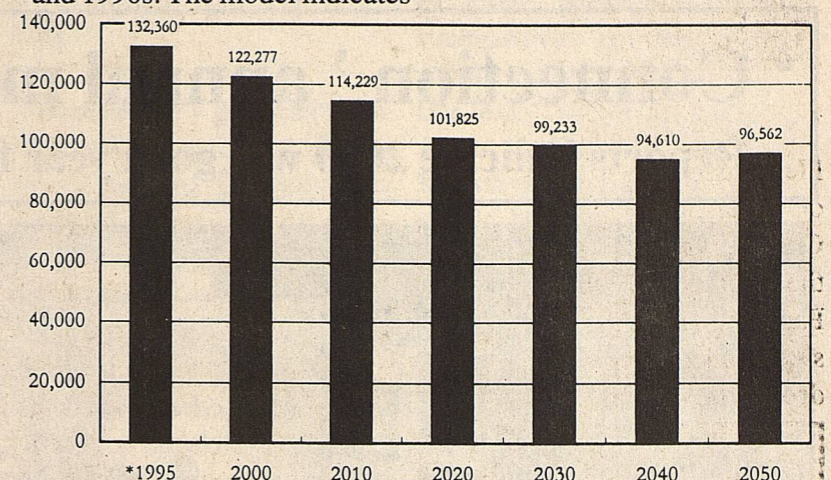


Figure 10. Region O Simulated Volume in Storage, Drought Simulation.

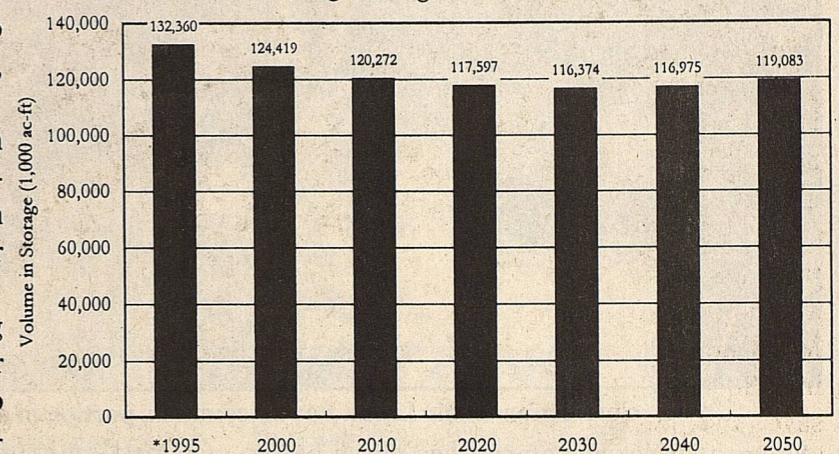


Figure 15. Region O Simulated Volume in Storage, Precipitation Enhancement Simulation.

County Communications To Be Improved

In Monday's session of Commissioner Court, Marc Traweck, Plains EMS, and Roger Unrein, South Plains Communications, again discussed possible remedies to improve radio communications for the EMS and Sheriff Department. Currently, a mid-range repeater is installed on a radio tower in the extreme southern portion of the county. The tower is owned by the City of Denver City. When Sheriff or EMS personnel are in the northern and eastern sections of the county, radio communication is often impossible.

Unrein and Traweck told the court a possible remedy for the problem could be the installation of a longer range repeater

on the county owned tower located near Yoakum County Coop Gin.

After considerable discussion the court authorized South Plains Communications to start the licensing procedures with the Federal Communication Commission. The final cost of the project cannot be determined before the FCC determines what the licensing fee will be.

In other court business, Ed Rogers, Yoakum County Hospital Administrator described the need for an automated hematology analyzer for the hospital lab. The court approved a proposal to advertise for bids for a 60 month lease of the instrument

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Loan Funds Available For Heat Pumps

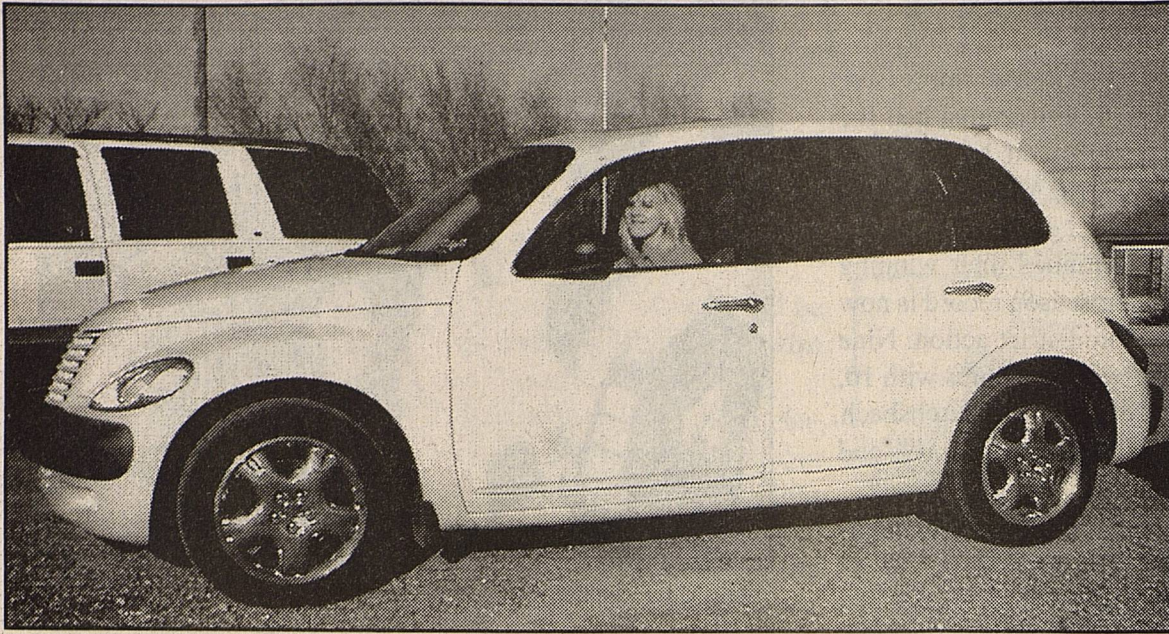
Heating bills putting the freeze on winter funds? Time to replace your old heating system, but don't know how to pay for it? We've got the answer! Lea County Electric has Energy Resource Conservation (ERC) loan funds available at 5% interest. With our ERC loan program, members can borrow money at a low, low 5% for up to seven years for a new heat pump or dual-fuel heat pump? Don't settle for your old, high-cost, low-efficiency heating system! Stop by Lea County Electric at 18 W. Washington in Lovington or give us a call at 396-3631. Funds are limited, so call today!

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Plains Resident Wins Car in Southwestern Bell Yellow Pages Sweepstakes



Amanda Lowrey of Plains received her grand prize on Friday, a new Chrysler PT Cruiser, for being the winner in the Southwestern Bell Yellow Pages "Your Ticket to Cruise" sweepstakes. Her husband Jeff drove the bright yellow PT

Cruiser to their home here from Dallas on Friday, January 19th. Amanda entered the contest at a Texas Tech football game in November. The contest took place at universities across the United States, including Texas Tech, Northwestern University, University of Connecticut, Uni-

versity of Wisconsin, University of Oklahoma, University of Kansas and Fresno State University. At the end of the five week promotion, a drawing was held and a winner was selected at random to win the car.

IRS Tax Tips

Avoid Headaches, Prepare Taxes Early

Earlier is better when it comes to working on your taxes. The IRS encourages people to get a head start on tax preparation. Not only do you avoid the last minute rush, early filers also get a faster refund.

Seven easy ways to get a good jump on your taxes long before the April 16th deadline rolls around: 1) Gather your records in advance. Make sure you have all the records you need, including W-2's and 1099's. Don't forget to save a copy for your files. 2) Get the right forms. They're available around the clock at www.irs.gov in the "Forms and Pubs" section. 3) Take your time. Don't forget to leave room for a coffee break when filling out your tax return. Rushing can mean making a mistake, which can be expensive. 4) Double check your math and Social Security number. These are among the most common errors on tax returns. Taking care on these reduces your chances of hearing from the IRS. 5) Get the fastest refunds.

When you file early, you get your refunds faster. Using e-filing with direct deposit can get you a refund in 14 to 21 days. 6) E-filing is easy. E-filing catches math problems, provides confirmation your return has been received and gives you a faster refund. 7) Don't panic. If you have a problem or a question, remember the IRS is there to help around the clock. Try our web site at www.irs.gov or call our 24 hour toll free number at 1-800-829-1040.

Education Credits Can Help At Tax Time

Are you footing the costs of higher education for yourself or your family? Education tax credits can help offset those costs. The Hope Credit and the Lifetime Learning Credit are education credits which you can subtract in full from your federal income tax, not just deduct from your taxable income.

Middle School Honor Roll 3rd Six Weeks

Junior High 'A' Honor Roll

Fifth Grade

Maria Andazola
Douglas Conway
Ryan Crump
Lauren Davis
Amber Friesen
Lauren Hise
Zachary Ramos

Sixth Grade

John Tyson
Scott Addison
Caitlin Carter
Landon Craft
Joe Luis Gallegos
Angelica Mendoza
Araceli Mendoza

Seventh Grade

Colby Wilmeth
Michael Crump
Allison Friesen
Skylar Keesee
BJ Lester
Adam McCravey
Balke O'Quinn

Eighth Grade

Abel Ramos
Evan Cain
Marlie Diaz
Cody Flores
Breck Hamm
Brandon Hise
Kerry Sisson

Junior High 'A-1B' Honor Roll

Fifth Grade

Anna Harms

Sixth Grade

Nicole Culwell

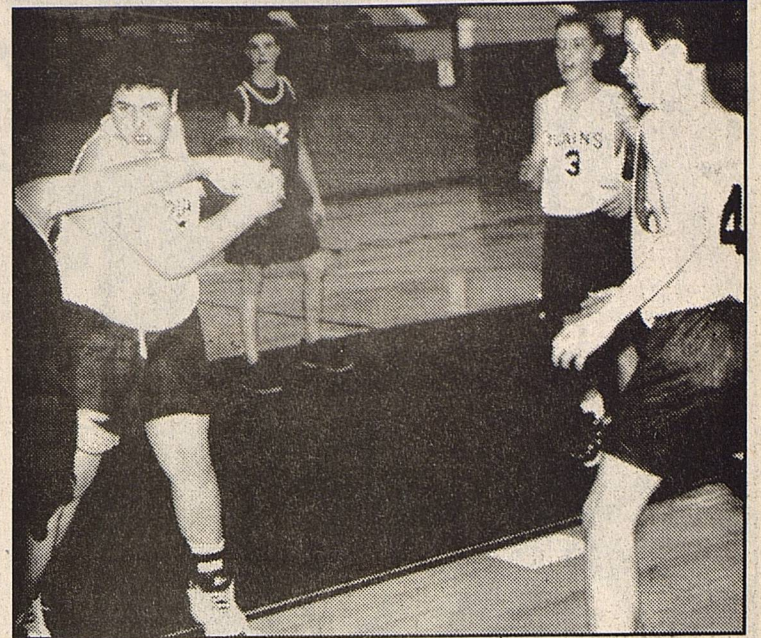
Seventh Grade

Ramiro Martinez

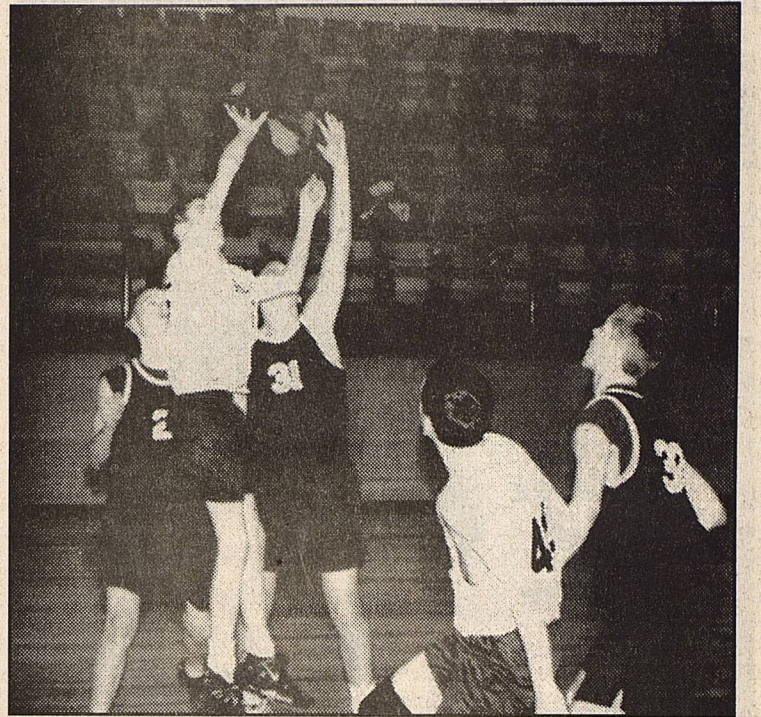
Eighth Grade

Payton Bean
Mayra Flores
Kristian Morales

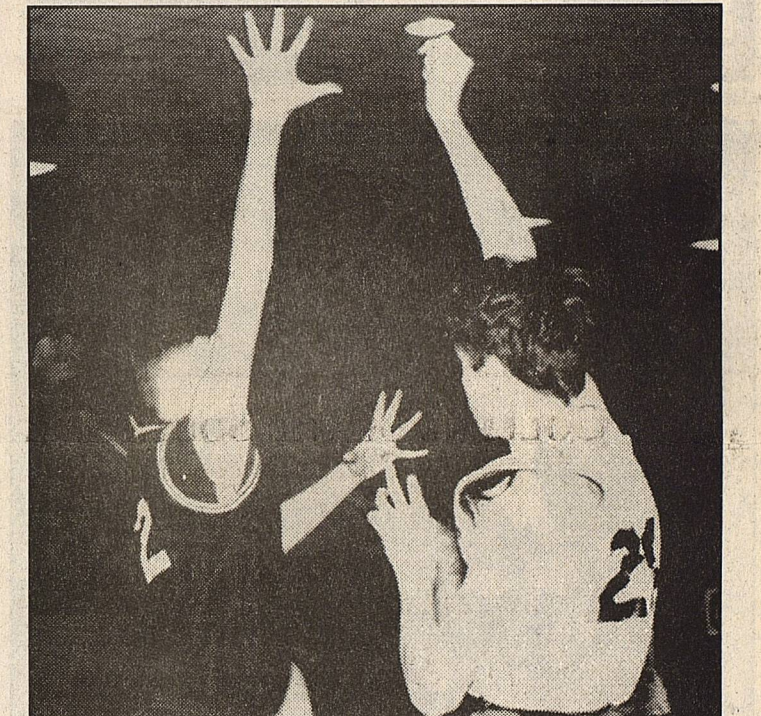
JR High Roundball Scenes



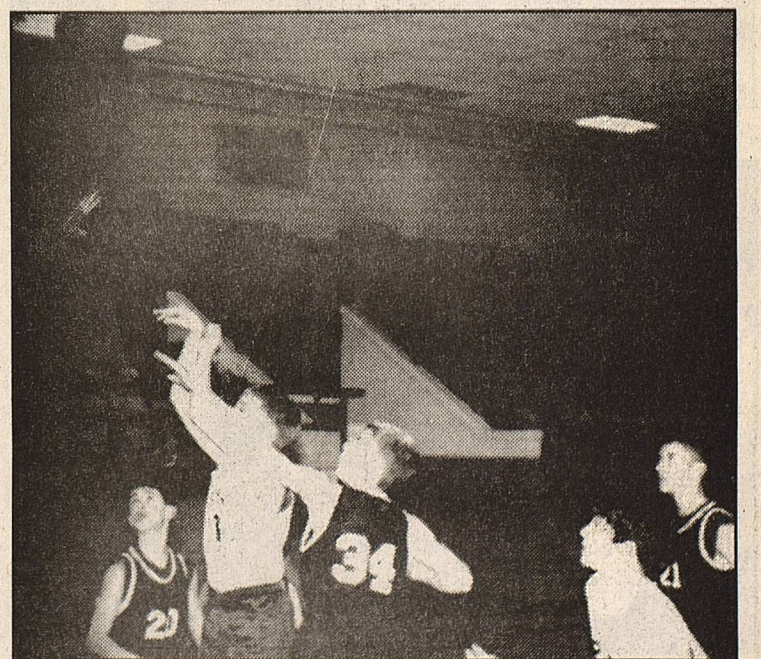
Brant Huerta was determined to keep the ball



Evan Cain gets jump shot off



Patrick Cotton shoots over defender

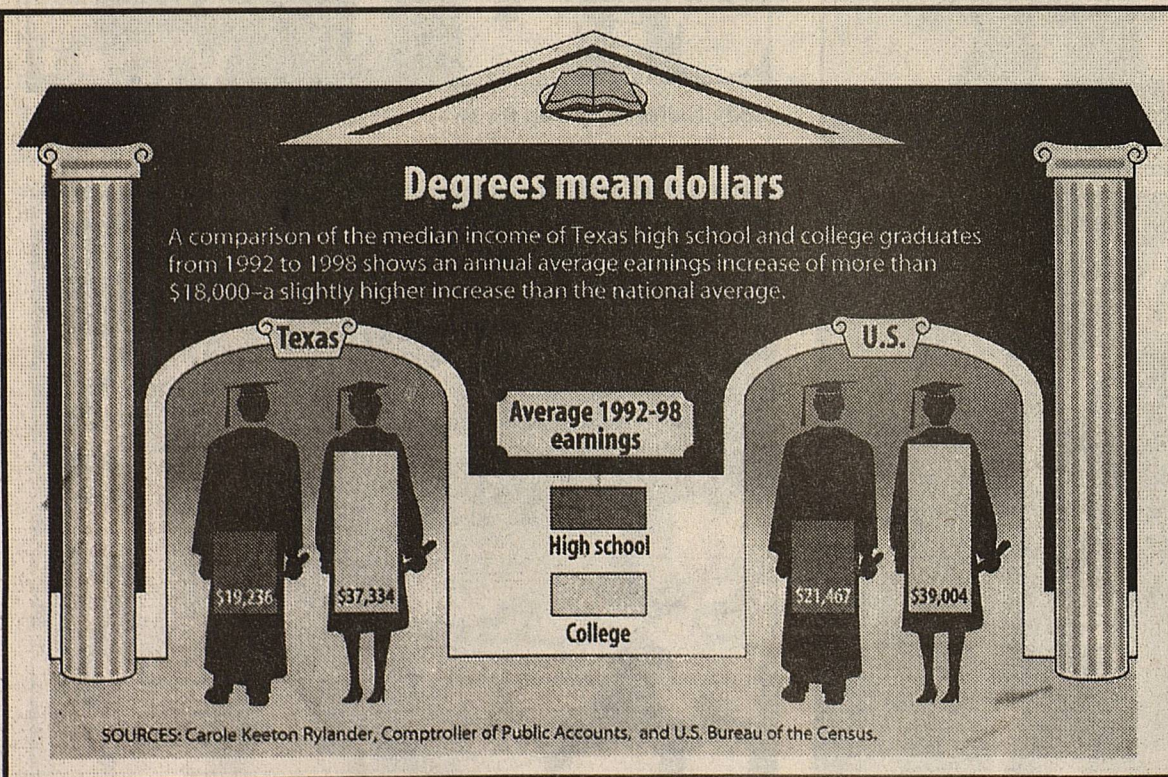


Kerry Sisson makes two pointer

Think about this

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following:

- There would be:
- 57 Asians
 - 21 Europeans
 - 14 from the Western Hemisphere, both north and south
 - 8 Africans
 - Of that 100, 52 would be female and 48 would be male. Seventy would be non-white and 30 would be white. Seventy would be non-Christian and 30 would be Christian. Eighty nine would be heterosexual and 11 would be homosexual.
 - Six people would possess 59% of the entire village's wealth and all six would be from the United States.
 - 80 would live in substandard housing, 70 would be unable to read, 50 would suffer from malnutrition, 1 would be near death, 1 would be near birth. Only 1 would have a college education. Only 1 would own a computer.



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Reception Honoring SUE HOLDER

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After 38 years of dedicated service in the legal profession and providing assistance to the citizens of Yoakum and surrounding counties. Sue Holder is now pursuing a career with the Yoakum County Tax Office. Come join us as we say farewell and thank her for 38 years of dedicated service.

Wednesday Afternoon, January 31st, 2001

The Helwig Law Firm

317 N. Main

Denver City, Texas

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

PISD Basketball Recap

Junior High:
(Only reports available)

7th Wranglers - The younger Wranglers scored an impressive 43-20 win over district foe Coahoma. T. J. Cordova had the hot scoring hand with 12 points, followed by Michael Therwanger and Casson Curtis, 9 each, David Allredge 5, Blake O'Quinn 4, Abel Ramos and Cade Arnett 2 each.

8th Wranglers - The 8th Wranglers continued their winning ways by downing Coahoma 43-23. Their season record is now 6 wins, 3 losses, and they are 5 and 1 in district action. Nine players made the scoring column, led by Cody Flores with 10, Evan Cain 7, Payton Bean 5, Kerry Sisson, Cole Krebsbach, Kelby Johnson and Brant Huerta 4 each, Patrick Cotton 2, and Brandon Hise with 1.

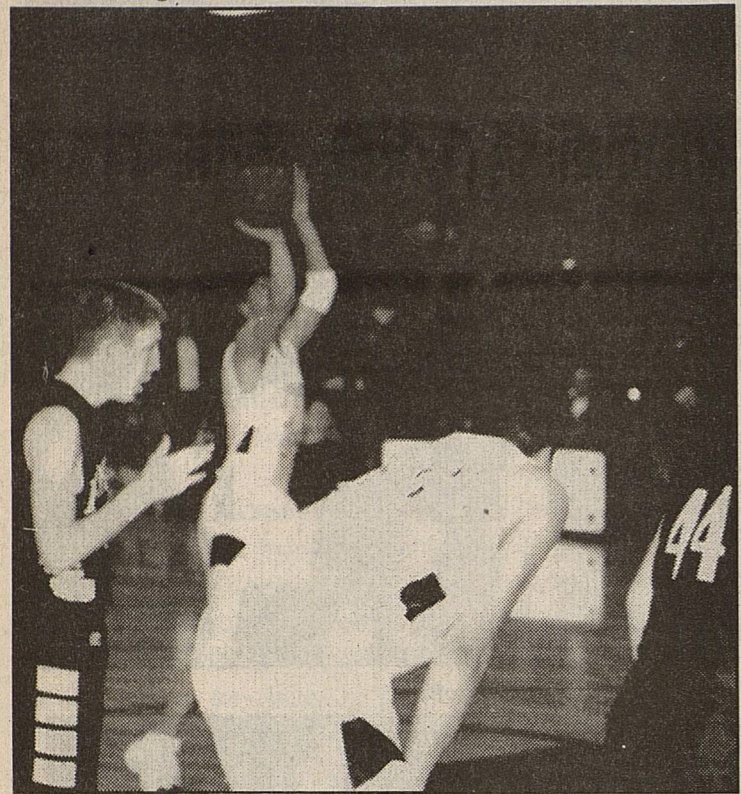
Varsity Cowgirls - The Cowgirls made the long trip to Colorado City a bit longer when they were downed 68-37 in district play. Chelsi Wagnon managed 10 points, Chelsea Blount had 8, Jessica Rodriguez 7, Lexi Warren and Kim Willis 4 each, Annaliesa O'Quinn 3. Kim pulled down 6 rebounds, and Mackenzie Winn was credited with 4 steals.

The girls next took on district foe Forsan at home, and scored their first district win 48-33. Chelsea Blount led the scoring with 13 points, and Chelsi Wagnon had 10, Jessica and Annaliesa 6 each, Kim 5, Lexi and Mackenzie 4 each. Annaliesa had 10 rebounds, Chelsea grabbed 8, and also managed 7 steals. Varsity Cowboys - The Cowboys were surprised by a good Colorado team and fell 52-37 in district play there. They could manage only 28% of their shots from the floor. Kelsey Blundell was top scorer with 7 points, Eddy Gallegos and Brett Squyres managed 6 each, Adam Gacia 3, Moises Gonzales and Jared Bell 4 each, Jarod Newland 2. Bell had 9 rebounds, Squyres 7, and Dustin Six was credited with 3 steals.

The Cowboys bounced back at home last Friday, downing Forsan 60-36. Their shooting performance improved to 42%, with Adam accounting for 16 points, Bell and Eddy had 10 each, Dustin and Tanner Hamm 8 each, Newland 6, Moises 2. Eddy had 10 rebounds, Bell 9, while Adam, Moises and Bell each had 3 steals. Their season record now stands at 17 wins, 6 losses, and they are 2 and 1 in district action. As of January 15, district standings are Colorado and Stanton 3-0, Plains 2-1, Coahoma 1-2, Forsan 0-3, Seagraves 0-3.



Kayla Willis goes to the basket



Jared Bell makes free shot

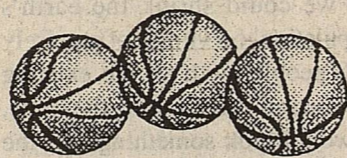


Mackenzie Winn works ball inside defense



Kim Willis, 40, ready to get ball from Chelsi Wagnon

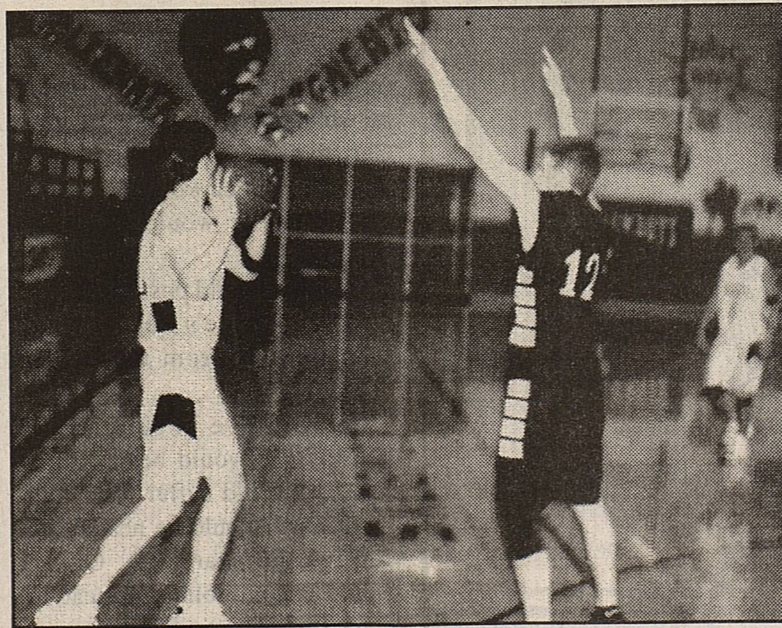
GO
COWGIRLS



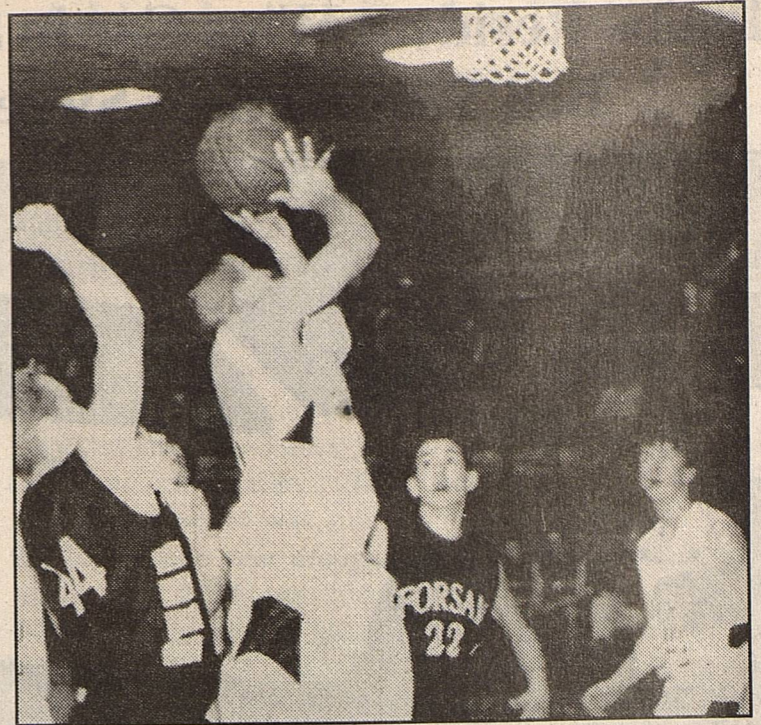
GO
COWBOYS



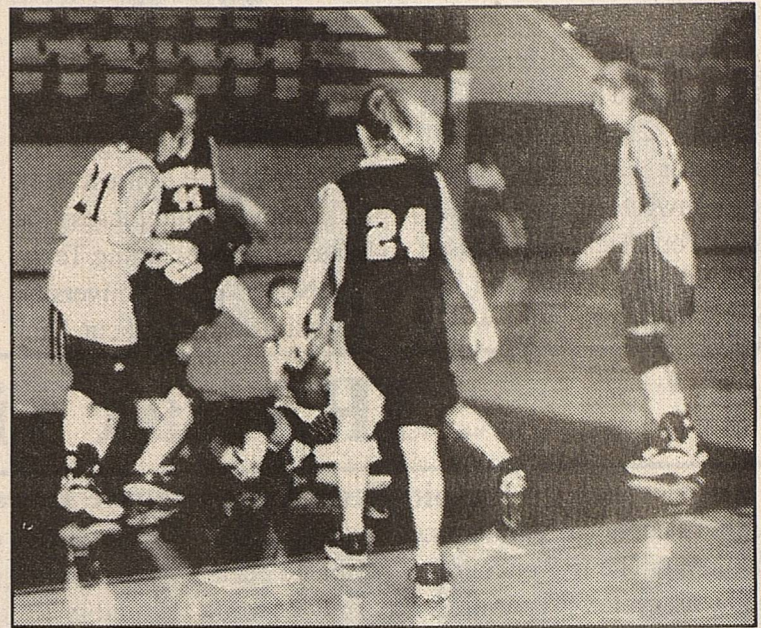
Kim Willis lays one up



Dustin Six tries to get ball inside



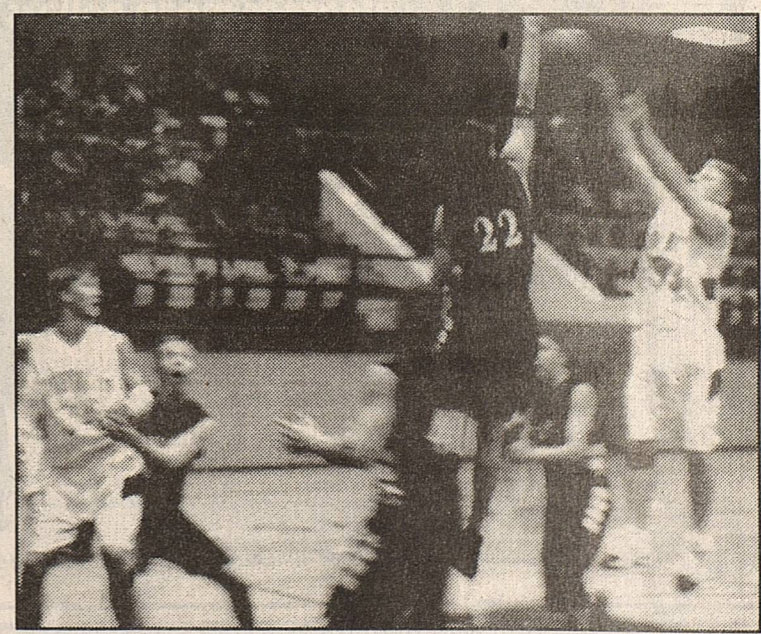
Adam Garcia makes two points



Sometimes you have to get down and dirty on the floor for the ball



Eddy Gallegos goes up for two



Brett Squyres goes high for jumper

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806-632-5375 Dain Mobile

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"BOSS" RED LEATHER GLOVES

\$2.95 Pair

WD-40

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BROWN JERSEY GLOVES

\$.99

Lifelines & Styles

Texas Folk Masters

Austin, TX.-December 18, 2000-Texas Folklife Resources (TFR) is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2000-2001 Apprenticeships in the Folk Arts grants. Apprenticeships in the Folk Arts is a program which provides small grants for master folk artists so that they might pass on their skills to qualified community members.

Gary Dunshee of Alpine is one of Texas' finest saddlemakers. He has enjoyed leatherwork since he was a child growing up in New Mexico. Upon moving the Alpine for school, Dunshee started work under the tutelage of George Nix at Big Bend Saddlery. Almost 30 years later, he now owns that same business. His apprentice is Wesly Mastic, also of Alpine.

Johnny Gimble of Dripping Springs actually learned how to play the mandolin before he began playing the fiddle. Gimble has played professionally since the age of thirteen. After serving in World War II, he joined Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys, playing with Wills for much of the next decade. Undoubtedly Gimble is the finest western swing fiddler alive today. For this apprenticeship, however, he has returned to the mandolin to work with western swing/jazz mandolinist Paul Glasse of Austin.

Jude Moreau of Groves established a career as a carpenter and an Acadian-style accordion player before deciding to build Cajun accordions. Moreau now builds accordions for Cajun musicians all over the United States, considering this "hobby" as his contribution to the promotion and preservation of

Cajun culture. Moreau will be apprenticing Wade Borel, also of Groves.

Alfredo Rodriguez of San Antonio first became interested in traditional Hispanic religious art while spending time with his grandfather, a small grocery store owner who carved nichos, or alters from store crates. Rodriguez taught himself how to carve saints, or santos, and since has conferred with talladores de santos from Mexico, Puerto Rico, New Mexico, Paraguay and the Philippines. Rodriguez now shows his santos woodcarvings in galleries and museums all over the United States. He will be apprenticing Ernesto and Refugia Moran, also of San Antonio.

Juan Antonio Tapia of Brownsville comes from a long line of conjunto musicians. His great grandfather, grandfather and father all played the accordion; now Tapia wants his daughter, Yolanda, to continue the family tradition. Tapia has played accordion professionally throughout his adult life, including a decade of travel in North and South America with singer Cornelia Reyna.

Texas Folklife Resources (TFR) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the presentation and preservation of the folk arts in Texas. The Apprenticeships in the Folk Arts program is made possible in part by funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Texas Commission on the Arts. For more information on this program, contact Caroline Herring at Texas Folklife Resources (512) 441-9255.

Library To Start New Hours

The Yoakum County Library in Plains will start new hours on Tuesday, February 6th. We will be open every Tuesday from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. for the convenience of our patrons. We have new computers that will be available for the public to use with the Internet, word processing, and research. We will have the regular hours, 9:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., the other days.

Yoakum County Librarian, Opal Roberts, hopes the extended hours every Tuesday will better serve our patrons and the community.

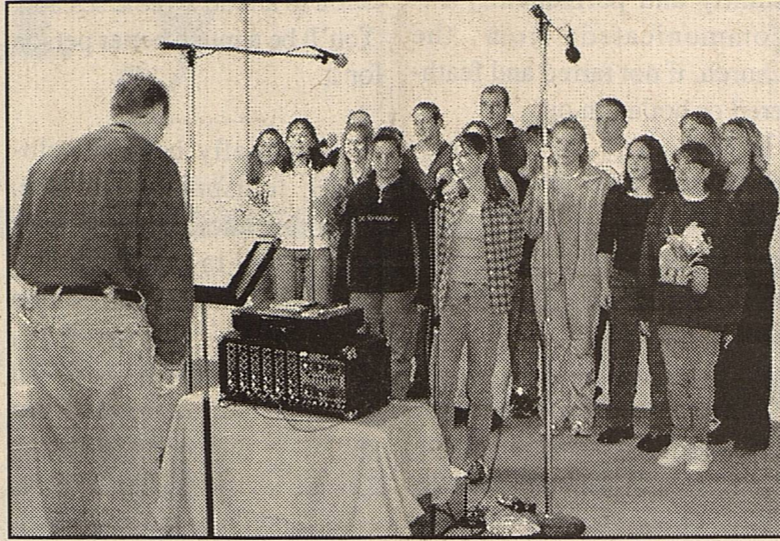
Johnnie's Restaurant will OPEN

February 1, 2001
6:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Plains, Texas

Sunday School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45
Evening Program 6:00 pm.
Wednesday
5:15 - 6:30 pm. Supper
6:00 pm. Zombies
7:00 pm. - RA's, GA's, Mission Friends,
Generation X, Sanctuary Choir Practice

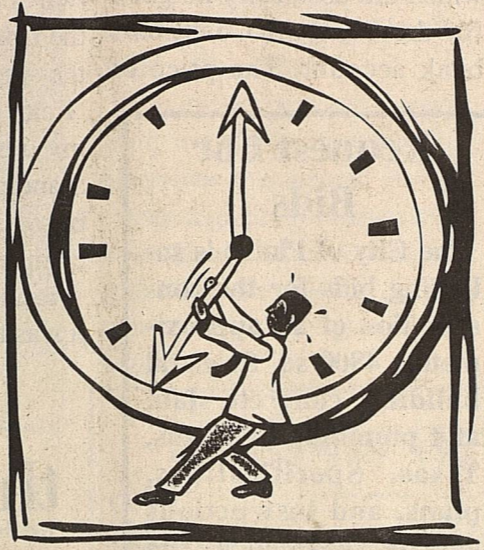
'Connection' Meeting Entertainment



The First Baptist Church Youth Choir, under direction of Patrick Hamilton, did a good job at the Connection Annual Meeting.

New Hours at the Yoakum County Library

Starting
Tuesday,
February 6th
Open
Tuesdays
2:00 pm
to
8:00 pm



Outstanding Citizen

My nominee to receive the 2000
Plains Chamber of Commerce
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

is

I believe that he or she should be
named for this honor because:

SEND TO
PLAINS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOX 550 PLAINS, TEXAS 79355
DEADLINE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2001

Plains Primary Healthcare Center

welcomes

Amir Memon, M.D.

to Plains and to the practice. He is board certified in Internal Medicine and is now accepting new patients here in Plains.

Plains Primary Healthcare Center

624 Cowboy Drive

Phone: 456-6391

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Volunteers for CASA Needed

Kimbra Willings - Orozco, Outreach Coordinator of CASA of Lubbock, is seeking area volunteers for training in the CASA program.

The Coordinator said, "We are a non profit organization which trains volunteers to represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in court proceedings. Volunteers are trained and court appointed to investigate, monitor, report and serve as advocates in court for abused/neglected children."

She says too often these children are abused again, by a net-

work of public agencies too overburdened to pay close attention to each child in care. CASA volunteers help secure a permanent placement in a safe and caring environment.

CASA Lubbock recently received a state grant which allows the organization to expand into Hale, Terry, Yoakum, Swisher and Castro counties. Area residents interested in assisting and benefiting these children with trained volunteer service should contact CASA at 916 Main St., Lubbock, Suite 425, or call 806-763-2272.

Library Storytime

Storytime at Yoakum County Library, Wednesday, January 17th, 2001, was attended by ; Micah St. Romain, Clayton Gass, Claire Carpenter, Jentry Wall, and Amanda Dusek. We said the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags, sang songs, read two stories; "Everyone Says" and "I Love Cats" ; and watched two movies; "Rainbow Fish" and "Curious George and the Pet Shop". We really appreciate these faithful Storytime patrons for coming out in such bad weather!

Card of Thanks

Thank You!

We are taking this means to express our sincere appreciation for the sympathy expressed to us, and the food provided for us after the services for Mom (Gracie Rushing).

Thanks again, and may God Bless.

Sincerely,

James 'Jr.' Rushing and family

Dear Citizen,

You are invited to attend the 16th Annual Plains Chamber of Commerce Banquet. This year's banquet will be held on Thursday, February 1, at 7:00 p.m. in the Plains School Cafeteria. Johnnie's Bar-B-Q of Midland will cater this year's banquet.

The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the Plains Citizen of the Year Award for 2000. The Knights of the West Trio from South Plains College will present the program for the evening.

Each year many businesses donate door prizes to be given away during the banquet. If you would be interested in donating a door prize this year please contact Carolyn Culwell at 456-8714 or David Brunson at 456-2288. Someone from the Chamber will be happy to pick up your donation prior to the banquet.

The Plains Chamber of Commerce meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 a.m. at Amiga's Restaurant. Dues for membership in the Chamber are \$5.00 per month for a business and \$1.00 per month for an individual. Membership dues and proceeds from fund raising projects are returned to the citizens of Plains through community promotion and improvement projects. Membership in the Plains Chamber of Commerce is not required to attend the Annual Banquet.

You are invited to come and be a part of the Plains Chamber of Commerce during our next regular meeting on February 7, and you are especially invited to attend the Annual Banquet on February 1, 2001.

The Plains Chamber of Commerce

First United Methodist Church 1202 Avenue G - Plains, TX.

Cordially invites you to worship
and grow in Christ with us!



Sunday Schedule

Sunday School - 9:45 am
Morning Worship - 10:45 am
Youth Fellowship - 5 - 6:00 pm

Wednesday Connections

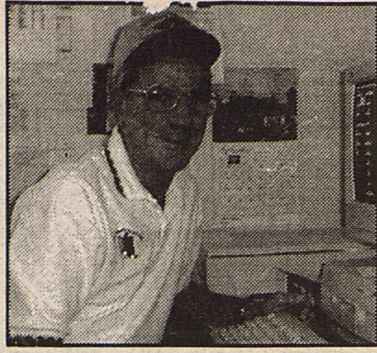
Food & Fellowship
Eve. Bible Study - 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Other Opportunities

Afternoon Bible Study - 5:15 pm Thursdays

GOD loves you and so do we!
Come grow in CHRIST with us!

From The Hack



A few weeks back I wrote a few blurbs in this column about some of the stuff now widely, and wildly, advertised via the tube, magazines, radio, ad-nauseum. Now we've got a really big one getting ready to entrance us. I heard this on a radio broadcast of ABC News last Wednesday. In fact, I heard it reported twice that day.

Kimberly-Clark, the huge corporation responsible for Pampers, napkins, and all sorts of other stuff, will soon start a national, \$40 million marketing campaign extolling the virtues and advantages of its latest creation - it's (gasp) **MOISTURIZED TOILET TISSUE!** The radio announcer, tongue in cheek, reported the new stuff would no doubt have great appeal to the thousands of 'more sensitive' customers around the

world. I can just imagine some of the jingles we will soon be exposed to; "Treat your booty like a beauty," and, "For all those who have always yearned for a shiny hiney!" Gimme a break!

Buster Graham, a charter member of the famed Table of Wisdom here, reported recently he had casually mentioned to a female cousin on the West Coast an episode occurring recently at the Table. He said he'd received an e-mail from his cousin, who seemed intrigued by the Table; She wanted to know "How many members are there, what is their average age, what are their backgrounds, educational levels, etc, etc. She indicated she would like to make a report on the Table to some sort of

ladies church group. I have two bits of advice the lady should seriously consider; You should not kick this sleeping dog, and you definitely should find something better to do with your spare time. If Buster gives her a TRUE report on such information, and she brings it to light in a church meeting, it's for certain she would be instantly and permanently excommunicated from the church, if not tarred and feathered or boiled in oil.

In truth, there are three characteristics all Table regulars exhibit at least one of; stretchers of the truth, exaggerators, or down right liars. I sat in on a recent gathering at the Table, and in a thirty minute period, here are the subjects of merit discussed by the seven members present; women, and why they act the way they do; Bill Clinton's deal to avoid further prosecution, and Monica Lewinsky's huge sigh of relief when she learned she would not have to further testify; Jessie Jackson's confession, which did absolutely no good for the Rainbow Coalition's bank account; The price of

natural gas, cigarettes and whiskey, with the greatest concern expressed over whiskey; A second round of discussion on women and why they act the way they do, which again was declared one of those subjects even God can't explain.

A word of advice to Ms. Cousin - if you ever visit Buster here, DO NOT accept his invitation to attend a Table session. You'll be a much better person for it.

It has finally been conclusively, indisputably proven, golfers are idiots, and should be incarcerated in mental institutions for their own protection and safety.

At the start of the One Man Scramble golf tournament last Saturday, the thermometer at the club house registered 33 degrees, and the wind was howling. I estimated the wind chill factor was about 8 degrees, and that was on my BODY, under seven layers of clothing.

My group made it to our starting tee, and I exaggerate not, two of us broke wooden tees in the frozen ground trying to tee the stupid white thing up.

I can only recall one time in my life I was more miserable; Standing the mid-watch a number of times while in Navy boot camp.

I cannot verify this, but when it was finally, thank God, over,

I heard more than one idiot complaining of broken graphite shafted clubs, turned icily brittle in the cold and wind. One guy swore he hit his ball pretty solidly and the thing exploded, scattering frozen debris on he and the others in his group.

It was bad enough my runny nose kept my jacket front slick and wet; When I would lean over to putt the ball, my weeping eyes would almost drown the ball.

I heard more than one prize winner ask the Pro, "Any chance of you giving us strong drink instead of your shoddy merchandise for our winnings?"

I witnessed a TV gurgle the other night which brought back memories of long ago. The video epic portrayed three young girls struggling to make it big in the music recording business.

I instantly flashed back to my senior year in high school. We had three lovelies who also aspired to fame as a sparkling trio. I honestly cannot remember all their names, but they were something like Olga, Fannie Mae and Gertrude, best I recall.

They were so enamored of themselves they would group up and sing in the restroom, going into classrooms, out of classrooms, opening lockers, going to or from lunch, during the Pledge Of Allegiance, the National Anthem, and,

I was told but never confirmed this, at the funeral of an illegal Greek immigrant who happened to be passing through Pecos and was struck by a rattlesnake while touring the courthouse.

It was on our senior class trip to San Antonio and Austin when the girls gained their everlasting claim to fame. They had reduced the rest of the class to idiocy by their gatherings to lustily sing, 'How Hot I Am', or, 'Me and my Fetish', or 'How I bribed the principal to pass English III.'

We toured Breckenridge Zoo in San Antonio, where the trio, now assuming the name "Too Hot To Fan Down", paused in front of the Chimpanzee cages, so charmed with the monks they chose "Texas, Our Texas" as their musical homage to the chimps. To say the beasts were unimpressed would be a huge understatement

It was not pretty, but it happened. The bull chimp screamed at the girls a few times, then reached down with both hands, gathered a copious amount of monkey-doo in his paws, and with amazing accuracy flung it though the cage bars onto the three musical wonders.

When they finally cleaned their faces and clothing, they were thereafter known as the 'Mokey-Doo Three' True Story.

Class action lawsuit abuse threatens business, hurts consumers

By Connie Yeats

Lawsuit abuse is taking a disturbing turn: the growth of abusive class action lawsuits.

Class action lawsuits have become the latest weapon of choice of some personal injury lawyers who are using these cases to pad their own pockets with millions of dollars. Now, many people are starting to ask where those millions come from? The answer is you, whether you're a small business person or consumer.

In theory, class action lawsuits are an easy way to speed up access to justice, consolidate legitimate claims and cut the cost of lawsuits. But more and more, class action lawsuits are being abused.

Today many of these suits are not about justice. They are about greed.

Class action lawsuits have become one of the biggest growth industries in the legal system. A study by the Federalist Society found that more of these cases are being filed in Texas courts and more businesses are being forced to settle without regard to the merits of the case. Juries rarely even hear these cases; they typically are settled before a single juror hears about them.

The same study showed that most of the plaintiffs in Texas cases are not even from Texas. Further, the study found that class action lawsuits filed in Texas state courts

have a higher settlement rate than those in federal courts or in other state courts across the country.

No matter where these lawsuits are filed, working men and women everywhere are picking up the tab.

Recently, class action lawsuits have been filed against technology companies, a toothbrush maker, a utility and - the latest target - health care plans. Whether or not these lawsuits are successful, the end result will hurt the very people the personal injury lawyers involved claim to protect - the consumer.

A class action lawsuit against a Texas computer maker shows how: Under the terms of the settlement, each class member got a \$13 rebate on new merchandise or \$6 in cash. The lawyers pocketed \$5.8 million in legal fees.

Or consider the health care lawsuits. While the idea of suing an HMO may appeal to some, we know the results will do more harm than good for consumers and the small businesses that provide health coverage.

Health care costs will increase as health plans defend themselves against these suits or pay any settlement costs. That means fewer small or large businesses will be able to offer health insurance. It means fewer Texans will enjoy access to health care coverage. Studies show that for every 1-percent increase in premiums, 300,000 to 400,000 people nationally lose their insur-

ance coverage.

So, if what we need is health care reform, then it should be done in Congress, not the courts.

And if you still think these lawsuits will improve healthcare, consider the track record of many other class actions, such as these:

Southwestern Bell customers were told they would benefit from a class-action lawsuit. Instead they ended up with three optional phone services for three months or a \$15 credit if they already subscribed to those services. The lawyers pocketed \$4.5 million in fees.

In 1997, lawyers got nearly \$2 million in fees in a settlement with Cheerios over a food additive where there was no evidence any consumer had been injured. That was nearly \$2,000 an hour for the personal injury lawyers. Consumers received a coupon for a free box of cereal.

It's obvious that there is a need for reform to stop these types of abuses. No one wants to eliminate class actions, which can be helpful to consumers when used the right way. But reform will help end many of the abuses that benefit lawyers at consumers' expense.

Connie Yeats is executive director of Bay Area Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse, a community coalition dedicated to raising awareness about the cost and consequences of lawsuit abuse.

Legal Notice

The Plains Independent School District, Plains, Texas is accepting bids for the following:
Year 2001 Improvements (Learning Center Roof Replacement) for Plains ISD
All bids must be submitted by 3:00 P.M. local time, 13 February, 2001 at the Superintendent's Office, or sealed bids may be mailed directly to:
James Haynes, Superintendent, Plains, ISD, PO Box 479, Plains, Texas 79355
Plans and Specifications are available and may be acquired from: Grimes and Associates, Consulting Engineers, PO Box 65, Wolfforth, Texas 79382, 806-863-2462
A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 3:00 P.M., local time, 06 February, 2001. All interested parties should meet at the Superintendent's Office, Plains, Texas.
The Plains Independent School District Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and waive all formalities.


BID PROPOSAL

Plains Independent School District will accept proposals for the purchase and erection of a fifty foot by sixty foot metal building. The proposal should include the slab construction, building materials, and erection of the building. The district will be responsible for the plumbing and electrical. As an alternative, proposals will be accepted for the building material, or kit, alone with no construction included. In this case the district would act as primary contractor. Proposals will be accepted until 2:00 p.m., February 2, 2001, in the Administration Office. Information can be obtained by contacting Eric Banfield, Business Manager, Plains I.S.D., Box 479, Plains, Texas 79355 or calling 806-456-7483.

Plains Independent School District will purchase goods in the following categories for the 2001 school year using price quotes according to Education Code Chapter 44.033: A). Weight Lifting Equipment, B). Metal Buildings.


The district is requesting the name, address, and telephone number of any vendor interested in supplying goods in these categories. A vendor list will be created for each category consisting of each vendor that responds to the ad along with others that the district elects to add. Information can be obtained by contacting Eric Banfield, Business Manager, Plains I.S.D., Box 479, Plains, Texas 79355 or calling 806-456-7483.

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*Maytag Appliances
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806-592-3973 or 592-3930

 "Its hard to stop a TRANE"

Request For Bids

The City of Plains is soliciting bids for the construction of an approximately 4800 sq. ft. metal building, concrete slab, and plumbing in Plains, Texas. Specifications, plans, and instructions can be obtained at the Plains City Hall located at 601 11th Street or by calling 806-456-2288. Bids must be submitted to the city by February 9, 2001.

TERRY COUNTY

TRACTOR
Massey Ferguson
Kubota
Bush Hog Shredders,
Lilliston Rolling
Cultivators, Lorenz
& Buffalo Cultivators,
Baker Disc & Switch
Plows, Spray Coupe,
Wilmar Sprayer
Brownfield, Tx.
806-637-4569

AA/AL-ANON Meeting
Alcoholic's Anonymous
meeting will be held
Mondays and Wednesdays
at 8:00 pm. Al-Anon
Mondays at 7:00 pm. Pate
Trucking Co., 214 Plains
Hwy. Denver City, Texas.
Call 592-8660 or 592-3455.

* House For Sale*
PRICE REDUCED
4 Br., 2 Bath
1508 Ave. G
For appointment
to see. Call Tim
456-7195 or 662-334-4416

Large House
for Sale
2-3 Br., Lg. Den, Lg.
Fenced backyard on
corner lot
1101 17th St.
456-7110

The Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District is currently sponsoring an essay writing contest for senior students at Plains and Denver City High Schools. 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. (A minimum of ten (10) essays must be submitted before a second place scholarship is awarded.)

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 criteria for the contest is:

1. A minimum of 1000 words
2. Typed and double spaced with parenthetical footnotes.
3. References must accompany paper in the form of a bibliography page. Reference material may be acquired from the Sandy Land U.W.C.D. office located in Plains.
4. Cover sheet containing; student's name, essay title, local high school, and date
5. The essays are due no later than **April 24, 2001.**

Winners last year consisted of: Jason Swann and Nicole Newsom from Plains and Glinnis Wolf and Shaunda Eady from Denver City.

For further information, please contact the District office at (806) 456-2155.