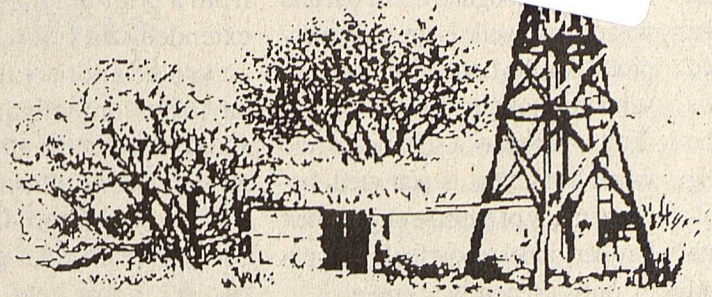


Cowboy Country News

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

Volume XI, Issue 25, March 2, 2005

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Yoakum, Terry Counties to share drug war grant

On February 25 the Governor's office announced the award of \$122,340 to Terry and Yoakum Counties. These funds will be administered by Yoakum County Criminal District Attorney's Office. The local project is titled Drug Law Enforcement Assistance Project, or D-LEAP.

This grant application was the result of a merger between the former Llano Estacado Drug Task Force which operated in Terry and Yoakum Counties, and the South Plains Regional Narcotics Task Force based out of Lubbock. Shortly after that merger the City of Lubbock opted not to administer the funding for the merged project, which left much of the South Plains, including Terry and Yoakum Counties, without a dedicated narcotics enforcement unit.

The City of Brownfield Police and Terry County Sheriff's office combined to partially fund employment of one Agent for Terry County. Yoakum County Commissioners also agreed to partially fund the employment of one Agent for Yoakum County. These positions were, however, dependent on the award of these grant funds. Under this new grant, it will allow for the additional hiring of one Crimes Analyst to work at the direction of the Terry County Sheriff's office, assigned to the project. The grant is a 25% matching grant which means for every \$100 spent by an agency \$75 will be reimbursed to them by the project. This project will differ slightly from the former Llano Estacado Drug Task Force Project in that each county involved will supervise their own agent directly, and the number of personnel will drop from five to three. What the project will do for this area is provide salaries, undercover funds, vehicle maintenance, funds, equipment and communications for narcotics investigations. Most importantly it will keep Narcotics Agents working to keep drugs off our streets and out of our schools.

The estimated cost per narcotics case can run from between \$500 and \$2000 per case for simple low quantity possession cases. Extended, complex cases such as the recent Rivera Organization cases in Terry County can run into the tens of thousands of dollars.

The future of projects such as this one is still in question. The governor's office has yet to announce funding opportunities for the 2005-2006 grant year. Those funding announcements would usually have been released in December, 2004.

For questions call: Yoakum County CDA Investigator Rick Dickson at 806-456-7480, Ext 132.

** CCN appreciates the cooperation of the CDA office for assistance with this article

County Officials Support TAC stance on Legislature's unfunded mandates



Yoakum County Judge Dallas Brewer, seated, and Pct. 4 Commissioner Jack Cobb review material from the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) seeking county members of the organization to notify the legislators of their stance against unfunded state mandates originating in Austin. In the February 28 session of Commissioners Court here, the court unanimously approved a resolution to the Texas Legislature protesting the Governor's proposal to lower the cap on property tax appraisals and urging the state to resume a stronger role in public education funding. The two officials will jointly address the issue at the Plains Lions Club meeting this Thursday.

"Stuffed With Love"

From students and staff of Plains Elementary

By Amber McWhirter:

"Several weeks ago, Plains Elementary launched our "Stuffed With Love" campaign to collect stuffed animals and money for the children of Sri Lanka who had been victimized by the huge Tsunami. After placing a large cardboard box in the hall, it was our hope the box would be stuffed with animals to show our support for these victims.

Not only was the box stuffed full the very first day, it continued to overflow day after day, while at the same time cash money donations poured in. Our small elementary, with less than 170 students, collected 1,189 stuffed animals and more than \$110 in donations - WOW!! What a testimony to the wonderful students here at Plains Elementary!

One of the more touching things about this effort was that we encouraged the kids to bring new or "Gently Used" stuffed animals. They searched under their beds, through their closets to find all the stuffed animals they could bring. Some of the animals weren't hard to find. They were animals which meant so much to these students. Some had been given to them as gifts, some had their own special names, and others were large collections of Beanie Babies, collected over



Student pictured from L-R: Marina Corrales, Autumn Friesen, Jacob Neufeld, Miya Matta, Joseph Sainz, Fermin Villegas, Matther Ramos, Omar Calderon, Kassidy Taylor, Trinidad Ruiz, Brittany Roper, and Bethany Mares several years.

Yet these kids knew there were other children who needed them more. I had one student in particular who had a hedgehog named Prickles. Prickles had been his friend for years, and he was having a hard time parting with the animal. I explained to him he didn't have to give it away, he had already given several other animals, and if Prickles meant that much

to him he should just keep it.

He replied, "No, Mrs. McWhirter, I know Prickles will make some other kid very happy, just like he made me." What an example of the great hearts our kids have here at Plains! Thank you, parents, for teaching your children what it means to have a kind spirit and giving heart. They are a reflection of you and the principles you teach them. And on

the behalf of the teachers and staff of Plains Elementary, we want to personally say 'Thank You' to all the students who participated in this effort.

Your generous spirit will bless a thousand or more kids on the other side of the world, and in return, I know you will each receive your own sweet blessing.

Plains Elementary, you are truly **Stuffed With Love!**"

WPGA Annual Meeting set March 8

Western Peanut Growers Assn. will host their annual membership meeting Tuesday, March 8, 2005 at the Gaines County Civic Center, 402 NW 5th St., in Seminole, Texas. Lunch will be served beginning at 11:45 AM followed by the program of activities. All members are encouraged to attend this informative meeting.

State Issues Consultant Gary Walker and Washington DC Attorney Mike McLeod will be giving updates on a number of legislative issues that may directly affect peanut producers. Business to be conducted includes reading of the minutes, a financial report, a research farm update, and election to fill three expiring director terms.

Members are encouraged to invite new peanut producers and friends of the industry.

Slow collections cause payroll problems for county hospital

In the February 28 session of Commissioner's Court, Yoakum County Hospital Administrator Clay Taylor used a number of charts and graphs explaining current financial problems facing the hospital, resulting in problems meeting the February 3 employee payroll at the hospital, two clinics and Dialysis Center. Taylor reported slow collections from individuals, insurance companies and Medicaid have created an approximate payroll shortage of some \$80 thousand.

Taylor pointed out it would not be necessary to use any funds not already earmarked for the hospital and clinic operation. The complex charts and graphs indicated slow payments from private insurance carriers, and increasing indigent medical care could be a cyclical situation. He pledged the medical staff would be encouraged to make greater collection efforts, and the computer software firm which actually does the billing would be encouraged to be more prompt in sending out statements and notices.

Members of the Court, and County Auditor Darinda McWhirter questioned Taylor at length. He stressed he and the hospital board consider the situation temporary, and he outlined proposed plans for working around the problem. After more discussion, the Court approved Taylor's request for the transfer of \$78,687 from the hospital's 4th Quarter budgeted funds to the payroll account, and if needed later, the transfer of \$85 thousand of budgeted funds from the two community clinics.

In other Court issues, Rick Dickson, a member of the Denver City Youth Council, outlined the many problems facing the

Turn To Page 3, COMMISSIONERS COURT



CAPITOL COMMENT
U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON



Do not tell Staff Sgt. Kevin Hinds, a Guardsman from Orange, that the Texas National Guard is composed of 'Weekend warriors.' He knows better. He has spent months in the mountains of Afghanistan helping train 800 Afghans to become soldiers. These Afghans will become the core of an army helping defend that country's fledgling democracy. Sgt. Hines' experience shows that the days when the men and women of the National Guard and Reserves could be called part-time soldiers are long past. Although they were always part of our military, they were originally planned to be mobilized in the event of all-out war, as well as to cope with domestic natural disasters or civil emergencies. Their role evolved into a more active participation in our national security over time, particularly when our armed forces were downsized after the end of the Cold War.

The Reserves and Guard shouldered an increasing part of our defense burden as the operational tempo of our military increased during the 90's, with peacekeeping duties in countries such as Bosnia and Haiti. However, after the 9-11 attacks in 2001, they came into their own. National Guard and Reserve troops protected vital installations throughout the United States. Others participated in the liberation of Afghanistan. Finally, the Guard and Reserves helped overthrow Saddam Hussein's dictatorship and freed the Iraqi people.

Of the National Guard's 15 best-trained, best-equipped and most ready-to-deploy combat brigades, all but one are either in Iraq now, have demobilized after returning from a one year tour in that country, or have been altered for duty in 2005-2006. Although the percentage of Reserve and National Guard troops serving in Iraq is slated to go down in the next troop rotation, today the mix stands at 50-50.

These men and women have all stepped up to do their duty to defend freedom. While they directly bear the burden of service, their family, friends and their employers also face demands during their tours of duty overseas. The job is made easier, however, because their neighbors in Texas are providing them a great deal of support.

For instance, when the 56th Combat Team of Texas' 36th Infantry Division shipped out for Iraq, 30,000 people gathered in Waco for the send-off. Imagine what it meant to those young men and women that so many of their fellow Tex-

ans cared enough to come out and wish them well. I am extremely proud that the Lone Star State is so supportive of our soldiers.

Employers play a significant role when a reservist is activated, because many of them struggle when key personnel report for long tours of duty. Recently, I traveled to Addison to attend a ceremony recognizing an employer's commitment to our troops and their families. The company, Concentra, was receiving the 5-star award from the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve for its support for the men and women who make up our National Guard and Reserve forces.

Concentra is entering an exclusive club. Nationwide only one percent of the 8,500 companies who support their Guard and Reserve employees have achieved the 5-Star Level of Recognition. This award means the employer has signed a statement of support for their National Guard and Reserve employees and supplements their salaries.

In addition to the above, Concentra has done something new. It helped create the Military Spouse Corporate Career Network, called the MSCCN. This organization is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to providing career opportunities and job portability for military spouses through a nationwide network of employers. With the frequent transfers that are a feature of military life, many spouses have found it difficult to pull up stakes and find work. In addition, they have often found themselves having to start from the ground floor at each new community where their spouse has been transferred.

MSCCN was started, with Concentra's assistance, by volunteer military spouses to help find jobs and build careers despite the frequent moves. This organization charges no placement fees to employers, service members or military spouses and is funded through the support and commitment of its network members. I applaud those who are working to improve the lives of our soldiers and their families.

Texas stands behind our citizen soldiers because they are one of America's unique traditions. The shot heard around the world at Concord Bridge was fired by our first National Guardsman, a Minuteman. They are always on duty to defend our freedom, and it helps them to know that all of us appreciate the sacrifices they make on our behalf.

Criminal Cases In District Court

In the february 24 session of District Court, Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the State, three cases were heard.

Vidal Zarate Garcia pled true and conditions of his supervision from a prior burglary cause were modified. His supervision was extended two years. He will pay additional \$60 court costs, \$250 appointed attorney fees at \$25 per month, will make \$30 monthly payments on delinquent fines and supervision fees. He will remain in jail until space is available in a substance abuse facility where he will remain not more than one year or less than 90 days. Warren New served as his attorney.

Sergio O. Molinar pled guilty to DWI with child under 15 years of age. A two year State Jail sentence was suspended and probated three years. He was fined \$1000, must pay \$343 court costs and \$25 time payment fee. He will pay \$50 monthly supervision fees, serve 160 hours community service, complete the DWI first offender program, attend weekly AA meetings and spend 28 days in jail. Investigating officer was Trooper Justin Knight, and Barry Crutchfield was his attorney.

Rober Perez also pled guilty to DWI with child under 15 years. His fine was \$1500, he must pay \$338 court costs and \$25 time payment fee. He will serve 120 hours community service, attend weekly AA meetings and complete the DWI first offender program. Trooper Robert Munsell was Investigating officer, and Jeffrey Conner was his attorney.

County Court Crime Cases

In the February 9 session of County Court, Judge Dallas Brewer presiding and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the state, two criminal cases were heard.

Justin Gabriel Gonzalez pled guilty to possession of alcohol by minor, enhanced. A 120 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. He was fined \$500, must pay \$211 court costs, serve three days in jail with two days credit, pay \$50 supervision fees, serve 24 hours community service, attend weekly AA meetings, and surrender his license 180 days. Investigating officer was Patricia Valdez, Denver City Police.

Jesus Manuel Corral III pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision from a prior criminal trespass cause. Supervision was revoked and he will serve 60 days in jail with credit for 46 days served.

Sergio Ordaz pled true to the state's motion to revoke supervision from a prior DWI cause.

Danny Glenn Sipes pled guilty to making false report to police officer. He will spend 24 hours in jail with credit for 7 hours. He was fined \$200 and must pay \$211 court cost. Public intoxication and failure to appear causes were adjudicated. Jimmy Hammons was his attorney, and Karen Hobbs, Denver City Police, was investigating officer.

Albert Anthony Jiminez pled guilty to offering false I.D. as a peace officer. A 180 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 24 months. He was fined \$1000, must pay \$211 court costs and \$25 time payment fee. He will spend 24 hours in jail with credit for 13 hours served. He must perform 100 hours community service, and pay \$50 supervision fees. Gene Walters was his attorney, and Eddie Bishop, Denver City Police, was investigating officer.

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Water District To Call Election

Members of the Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District Board of Directors met in regular session Friday, February 11, 2005, at which time the Board called for a board of directors' election to be held May 7, 2005, for the purpose of electing two(2) board of directors at large. The incumbents for these positions are Dennis Harrison and R.E. Bearden. These men have indicated they will seek re-election to these offices. These positions are for four year terms.

Application for place on the ballot may be picked up at the Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District office and will be received until 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 7, 2005. For further details, please feel free to contact the District office at 806/456-2155.

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Plains Independent School District Announces
A Public Hearing to Discuss the School Start Date for the 2005-2006 School Year
Objective: To seek a waiver from the state so that instruction can begin on August 15th for the 2005-2006 school year.
Meeting Date: March 10, 2005
Meeting Time: 6:00 pm. to 7:00 pm.
Meeting Place: Plains ISD Resource Center
A presentation will be made and questions will be answered.

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Cowboy Country News

Published weekly each Wednesday at 1205 Copeland Ave., PO Box 179, Plains, TX 79355.

Gary Dyer, Publisher. Subscription price in Zip Code 793 \$18 annually. Other Zip Codes \$20 annually. Periodicals postage paid at Plains, TX. POSTMASER: Send address changes to Cowboy Country News, Box 179, Plains TX 79355.

E-Mail us at ccn@crosswind.net

ID # 017574 Ph. 806-456-8451 Fax 806-456-2010

May 7, 2005

General Election Calendar

Listed below are the major dates concerning the upcoming City Council General Election to be held on Saturday, May 7, 2005.

PURPOSE

To elect three (3) Councilmembers. Those with expiring terms are: Councilmembers Steve Alldredge, Christy Brink and Dan Wall.

CANDIDATE FILING DATES

Monday, February 7, 2005 through Monday, March 7, 2005 at 5:00 PM

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE

Thursday, April 7, 2005 is the last day to register to vote in the May 7, 2005 City County General Election. Voter Registration is at the Yoakum County Courthouse Tax Office

EARLY VOTING

By Personal Appearance - Wednesday, April 20, 2005 through Tuesday, May 3, 2005. At Plains City Hall located at 1015 Ave. F from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

ELECTION DAY

Saturday, May 7
At Plains City Hall, 1015 Avenue F
Polls open from 7:00 am until 7:00

Loan Packets Available

Sandy Land UWCD has funds available from Texas Water Development Board for loan to farmers for the purchase of water conserving irrigation equipment.

Interest rates have been set at 4.15%. Equipment purchased with this money can be new or used. New equipment requires 20% down and seven years payout. Used equipment and sprinkler packages require 25% down and five year payout.

The Board of Directors will meet Friday, March 4, 2005, at which time any loans submitted will be reviewed for funding.

Since the inception of the Agricultural Loan Program, the District has loaned approximately \$8,000,000 to area producers. Water savings from these new efficient systems are just a part of the overall efforts the Directors of the Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District are involved in to accomplish their long-term goals of water conservation in Yoakum County.

Loan packets and guidelines are available at the District office. If you have any interest or questions concerning the Loan Program, call or come by the District office.

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or 891-0450
Home 592-3490

Jeff Lowery, Sales Assoc.
Mobile 806-592-1319
Home 456-3195

Obituary

Services held for Tommy Jan James

Funeral Services for Tommy Jan James, 64, of Sulphur Springs, were held February 28, 2005 at First Baptist Church in Sulphur Springs with Dr. Bob McCartney officiating and Tommy Johnston assisting. Visitation services were held March 2 at 1 PM in First United Methodist Church of Plains. Graveside services followed at 2 PM at Plains Cemetery. Mrs. James died February 26, 2005 in Montgomery, Texas. She was born in Morton July 22, 1940. The daughter of Tom and Lexa Sims of Bronco, she was educated in Plains through high school. Jan loved her high school years when she played basketball and volleyball and was a cheerleader and Football Queen. She later received an associate's degree in office administration from New Mexico Junior College. She married John James April 15, 1962 in Plains. She and John traveled the world with their two sons. She was a member of the Sulphur Springs Country Club Ladies Golf Association. She had made two

holes -in- one in her lifetime. She was an officer and director of the Sulphur Springs Country Club. She volunteered for Meals On Wheels, and was a substitute teacher in Sulphur Springs. She resided there until 1993. Jan was preceded in death by her parents, and her husband. Survivors include two sons and daughters in law, Jeff Zearl and Marleen O'Brien James, Trinidad, West Indies, and Ty Martin and April Turner James, Montgomery; two brothers and two sisters, Bobby Springer, Burkburnette, Butch Sims, Chico, Sue Billings, Seagraves, Betty Trout, Seminole; four grandchildren, Brandon James O'Brien, Chance Garrison James, Tayler Martin James, Dray Garner James, and a great granddaughter, Bailey Ann O'Brien. The Eulogy was delivered by Ty James, and arrangements were by West Oaks Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers donations to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society are suggested.



Every year in March we celebrate National Ag Week - a time for people across the nation to take note of the impact agriculture has on their everyday lives and the important role agriculture plays in history.

Agriculture's roots reach back hundreds of years, and the people who endured rough times are true pioneers who should be celebrated. This year's celebration will be March 20 - 26.

Over the years, these men and women have worked the land through prosperity and through adversity, never losing sight of the ultimate goal - keeping the dreams of their ancestors alive while making a living in agriculture.

It is no secret that agriculture can be a challenging way of life. Major advances have taken us miles away from the days of horse-drawn plows, but we still face challenges in weather, water availability and commodity prices. Rural economic development, nutrition and marketing have become important components of modern agriculture as well, and Texas producers have evolved to stay ahead of changes in the industry and respond to the needs of consumers.

As the second-largest industry in Texas, agriculture is an economic powerhouse, producing food, horticulture and fiber for consumers across the world. Texas agriculture employs about one out of every seven working Texans, and no matter how large the industry, its heart remains with the farmers and ranchers who contribute to it.

Let's take the time this month to be thankful to our agricultural pioneers for their vision and to the modern-day producers who dutifully carry out the monumental role of being a Texas farmer or rancher.

Urgent news for people who took

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TRANE "Its hard to stop a TRANE"

Regional Workshops Feature Peanut Production

Wednesday, March 2, 2005, in Brownfield
Thursday, March 3, 2005, in Littlefield

Peanut producers and industry personnel may receive the latest research and extension recommendations for peanut production in the Texas South Plains. The annual events will be held from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm., Wednesday, March 2, in Brownfield (Nikki Vinson Youth Center near the northwest corner of Main Street and U.S. 62/82) and Thursday, March 3, in Littlefield (Lamb Co. Ag. Pavilion, U.S. 385, about 0.4 mile north of U.S. 84). The events are organized by Texas Cooperative Extension in conjunction with Texas Peanut Producers Board and Western Peanut Growers Association. Pre-registration is encouraged to determine the lunch count and for educational materials. The Brownfield meeting will highlight Runner and Virginia production and the Littlefield meeting will emphasize Spanish and Valencia production. Information for all market types, however, will be available at both sites. "Information in this meeting is targeted to help producers

make better management decisions for their peanut crop," says Calvin Trostle, Extension agronomist, Lubbock. "If the information isn't readily useful to a producer then it won't help us accomplish our objectives." Topics include general sessions for varieties, weed control, and plant disease as well as a choice of up to eight topics available in concurrent breakout sessions. These include 'How a peanut plant grows,' irrigation, fertility and Rhizobium, marketing, and insects, as well as short updates from peanut commodity boards. Each concurrent session will be repeated once so producers can choose their topic of interest. To pre-register call your local (or neighboring) county Extension office including Gaines Co., (432) 758-4006; Terry Co., (806) 637-4060; Yoakum Co., (806) 456-2263; Dawson Co., (806) 872-7539; Cochran Co., (806) 266-5215; Hockley Co., (806) 894-3159; or Lamb Co., (806) 385-4222 (Ext. 235). Each meeting offers 3.0 CEU's.

March 2, 1836
Texas Independence Document adopted by the convention at Washington - On - The Brazos

FROM PAGE ONE, COMMISSIONERS COURT current youth center in Denver City. Dickson reported many parents will not allow their children to attend functions at the center, an old school building badly needing extensive repairs for safety sake. He said his message was merely a preliminary contact with the Court, and hoping they would show their support if the City of Denver City and other governmental entities there proved willing to support a new site for a youth facility. Judge Brewer indicated the Court would be receptive to consider any recommendation from Denver City officials at a later date.

Yoakum County Plains Clinic

Amir Memon, MD

and

Jo Lena Wall, PA - C

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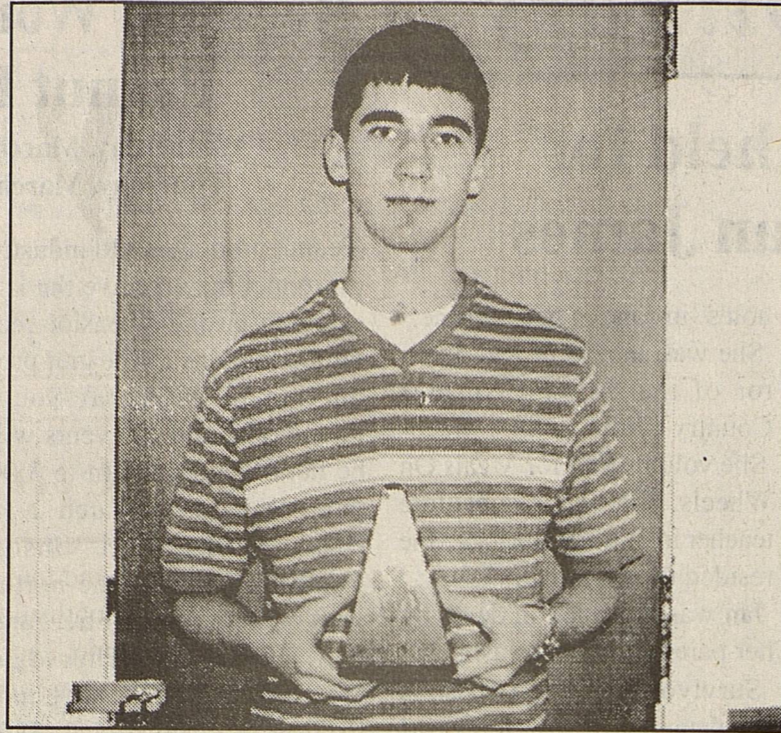
DANNY BELL

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Mobile 456-7517

Student of the Week

PHS Student of the Week is Scott Addison a sophomore and the son of Tim and Judi Addison. Scott was nominated by Mr. Eddleman, who said, "Scott is a great example of what a student-athlete should be in the classroom and in athletics. He is a mature, responsible, and hard working young man. He is willing to pay the price in order to be successful in all aspects of his life. Scott is honest, caring, and has a genuine consideration for all people."



PHS Honor Roll 4th Six Weeks

"A" Honor Roll

1st Grade

Lionel Contreras
Dantzen Debusk
Genoveva Esparza
Margaret Fehr
Alexus Flores
Yazmin Flores
Trevor Lewis
Brittany Michaleson
Maddie Munsell
Makenzie Patton
Aaron Ramos
Bailey Rios
Sienna Sosa

2nd Grade

William Boyles
Kristian Cueto
Riley Earnest
Clayton Gass
Brock McWhirter

3rd Grade

Brittney Roper
Herman Sawatzky
Kelli Sellers
Zackery Wilkins

4th Grade

Merrit Crump
Autumn Friesen
Matthew Ramos
Haley Welch

5th Grade

Greg Andazola
Mayra Cueto

6th Grade

Forrest Booth
Hannah Crump
Dylan DeBusk
Hunter Welch

7th Grade

Brandon Craft
Emilia Gallegos
Nathan McCrawe
Troy Parrish

8th Grade

Chris Addison
Yesenia Loya

"A" - 1B Honor Roll

1st Grade

Madison Davis
Briana Hernandez
Griselda Loreda
Bethany Mares
Brandon Pereyra

2nd Grade

Derrick Fehr
Deiderick Fehr
Dora Gallegos
Halee Lowery
Kasidee Taylor

3rd Grade

Helena Friesen
Lucas Hernandez
Percy Sosa
Bailey Winn

4th Grade

Whitney Davis
Katie Dearing
Isaac Fehr
Stacy Loewen

5th Grade

Dakota Earnest
Taylor Fitzgerald
Brooke Wilson

6th Grade

Jaxon Bean
Samantha DeLaRosa
Cody Friesen
Kevin Gass

7th Grade

Ignacio Lozano

8th Grade

Holden Welch

Cowboy Band Shines In Lubbock

On Saturday, February 19th, members of the Cowboy Band participated at UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest in Lubbock. 1-A-5A students performed for the same judges and were rated on a standard from Superior to Poor. Our students represented Plains well, with every participant receiving an Excellent or Superior rating for their performances.

Receiving TOP HONORS for their performances and advancing to the State level of competition are: Flute Trio: Angelica Mendoza, Lauren Hise and Lydia Whitzel. Brass Sextet: Meghan Garcia, Nick Curtis-trumpets, Douglas Conway-french horn, Nathan McCravey-euphonium, Cody Mayes-trombone and Steven Dominguez-tuba. Soloists competing were Angelica Mendoza-flute, Douglas Conway-french horn and B.J. Lester-piano. All had great performances and received Superior ratings from their judge. Band director, Georgann Weisgerber said, "I'm extremely proud of the hard work and dedication of the Cowboy Band members! Their talent never ceases to amaze me and I am lucky to be teaching such fine students!!"

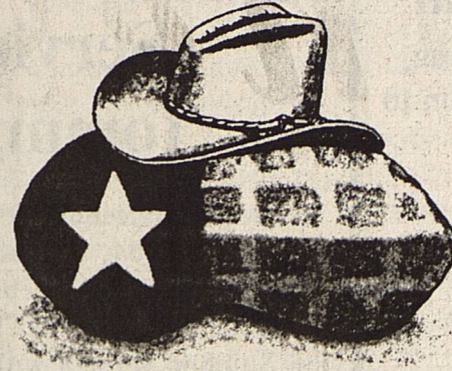
Cowboy Band members demonstrated their talents and brought home 12 UIL Gold Medals. These students will compete at the UIL State & Ensemble Contest in San Marcos Labor Day weekend.

Cowboy Track Results

A limited number of 2005 Cowboy tracksters competed in the Frenship Relays last Friday, competing in 4 - A school running and field events. They were 9th in a field of 12 schools, finishing with 32 points. Results include: Patrick Cotton won the 800 meter run in a time of 2:00.97 Joseph Loya was second in the

400 meter run, 52.40. Ben Hayes was 2nd in pole vault, 12 feet, and 4th in 110 meter hurdles, 16.0 flat. The Distance Medley Relay team of Michael Crump, Patrick Cotton, Chandon Loya and Payton Bean were 6th in the event. Coach Brink noted Payton Bean had a strong 7th place finish in the 3200 race, and 8th in the 1600 meter run.

ANNUAL MEETING OF WESTERN PEANUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION, INC.



TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2005

12:00 NOON

GAINES COUNTY CIVIC BUILDING
402 NW 5th Street Seminole, Texas

WPGA Members and Friends:

Please make plans to attend your annual meeting. State Issues Consultant, Gary Walker and Washington Attorney, Mike McLeod will be giving updates on a number of issues that may directly affect area peanut producers. Lunch will be served beginning at 11:45 a.m. followed by the updates and business meeting.

Tentative Agenda

Welcome.....	Ted Higginbottom, President
"Austin Update".....	Guest Speaker: Gary Walker, State Issues Consultant
"Washington Update".....	Guest Speaker: Mike McLeod, Washington Attorney
Call Business Meeting to Order.....	Ted Higginbottom, President
Minutes and Financial.....	Jimbo Grissom, Secretary/Treasurer
Election:	The membership will be nominating and electing directors to fill the positions of three expiring terms.
Research Farm Report.....	Mike Schubert, TAES
Other Business	
Adjourn	

Can Agriculture Survive The Decline Of The Ogallala Aquifer In The Southern High Plains ?

Texas High Plains agriculture, including crops and livestock, contributes over \$5.5 billion annually in revenues, but is highly dependent on water pumped from the Ogallala aquifer. More than 95% of water withdrawn from the Ogallala in the Southern High Plains is used for irrigation, but today that water source is declining at an alarming rate, with some wells already dry. Withdrawal rates exceed one foot per year while the potential for recharge is generally less than one inch. As depth to water increases, more energy is required to pump water to the surface, thus increasing costs and lowering profitability for producers.

About 20 to 25% of the U.S. cotton crop is produced in this once vast grassland. Most of this cotton is produced in monoculture systems that are economically risky and contribute to wind induced soil erosion and depletions of ground water resources. Although large numbers of cattle are found in this region, other than grazing of wheat pastures prior to entering area feedyards, little integration of livestock and crop production has existed. Complimentary benefits of integrating crop and livestock production could improve nutrient cycling, reduce soil erosion, improve water management, interrupt pest cycles, and allow economic risk to be spread out through diversification.

In 1997, scientists from Texas Tech, in partnership with other universities, government agencies, producers and area industries, worked together to design and implement a long term systems oriented field study that has compared the cotton monoculture typical of the region to an irrigated cotton, forage and livestock system for grazing by stocker steers. Both systems used a subsurface drip system to deliver irrigation water. No-Till planted cotton in the integrated system was grown in alternate rotation with small grains for grazing by the steers. A water-use efficient warm season perennial grass used

for grazing and autumn seed production makes up one half the integrated system acres. This research was funded primarily through the USDA-SARE program. Results of the first five years are published in the March-April issue of the *Agronomy Journal*

The integrated crop and livestock project has used 23% less water for irrigation, 40% less nitrogen fertilizer, fewer inputs of other chemicals, and has improved profitability by about 90%, compared with the cotton monoculture. Cotton grown in rotation with small grains reduced soil erosion potential to below critical levels while soil erosion potential for the cotton monoculture exceeded maximum levels recommended for a sustainable system. Inclusion of forages in the system improved soil microbial activity and increased carbon sequestration compared with the cotton monoculture. Integrating cotton and livestock production reduced economic risk through diversification of income with multiple marketable products compared with the cotton monoculture.

The agricultural future of the Texas High Plains depends on development and adoption of alternative strategies protecting natural resources and reduce demands for water, and can provide economic returns to sustain producers and rural communities. Diversification of the cropping and livestock systems away from monoculture practices is a step toward accomplishing these goals. "The greater the decline in water level in the aquifer as water becomes scarce, the more justification there will be to adopt the integrated approach" states Dr. Eduardo Segarra, economist on the project. Further research is needed urgently to test other integrated systems and to speed adoption of practices by producers and industries. Dryland systems must be incorporated to further reduce demands for irrigation water use.

Vivien Gore Allen, Texas Tech Dept. of Plant & Soil Science, Lubbock TX 79409-2122

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Urgent news for people who have had Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Surgery

Endovascular Technologies Corp., pled guilty to nine felony counts and agreed to pay \$92 million in penalties for not disclosing that its Ancure Endograft Stent System had failed in thousands of patients. These devices were inserted through the patient's groin to repair abdominal aortic aneurysms. If you or a loved one had complications from surgery to repair an abdominal aortic aneurysm after 1999, please contact attorney Lee Hollis at 800-701-3672 TODAY to find out about your legal rights. You may be entitled to substantial monetary damages.

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Lee Hollis practices only in KS, MO, NE, IA & MN, but associates with lawyers throughout the U.S.

Lifelines & Styles

TSA MO GA Meets

TSA MO GA hosted a Hawaiian Luau dinner to honor the Class of 2005 Monday, February 28, at the Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

Tyler Willis, Miss Texas USA 2005, was guest speaker. Her platform for her reigning year is "Leadership, Developing the Leaders Within".

Approximately 35 seniors, sponsors and administrators joined club members for the special dinner, the first of the year to honor the graduating class. Club members were hostesses for the hamburger meal.

On February 14, Ann McGinty presented a book review of Leadership by former New York City Mayor Ruolph Giuliani at TSA MO GA's meeting.

McGinty reported that Giuliani said, "Leadership just doesn't happen. It can be taught, learned, and developed." He points out that for success in leadership a person must be prepared, be accountable, and not assume anything.

Running the "fourth largest

government in the country" was not an easy job, but the former Mayor met the challenge head on. One who believes in 'seeing things with your own eyes.' Giuliani wanted his workers to know he took their plans and ideas seriously. He took into account everybody and tried to work and serve with everybody.

His method of operation took him straight into the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

"They had planned for just such an event to handle a catastrophe," McGinty said. "They had a command center with a generator, supplies, and staples, but they were located on a floor of the World Trade Center."

According to the book, Giuliani hit his 'lowest point' the morning after 9-11, but he got up and said, "Now it's our turn to fight back."

Hostesses for the February 14 meeting were Dolores Davis and Rennetta O'Quinn.

Certified Nurse Aide Class Begins In April

A short course in Certified Nurse Aide begins April 4 at South Plains College in Levelland.

Classes will meet 5:30-9:30 pm. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays April 4-May 5 in the SPC Technical Arts Building, Room 112. Clinical instruction will be 7:30 am.-4:30 pm., Saturdays April 16-30 at the Levelland Nursing Home. Instructor is Barbara Brattain, L.V.N. and cost is \$416.

The course provides skill de-

velopment to work in long-term care, home health or hospital environments.

Students completing the course will be required to take the State of Texas Certified Nurse Aide Competency exam. Students must provide proof of immunization for MMR, tetanus and have a current negative TB test.

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

GOOD MORNING!!!!

This morning when I wakened
And saw the sun above,
I softly said, "Good morning, Lord,
Cless everyone I love."

Right away I thought of you
And said a loving prayer,
That He would bless you specially,
And keep you free from care.
I thought of all the happiness
A day could hold in store,
I wished it all for you because
No one deserves it more.

I felt so warm and good inside,
My heart was all aglow.
I know God heard my prayers for you,
He hears them all, you know.

You have two choices, smile and close this page or pass
this along to some else to spread the good feelings. I know
what I did!!

"Walking on Sunshine"

Senior Citizens Corner

Here we are ready to bid farewell to our shortest month and hurry on into springtime. Each year appears to race past us more quickly and we pause to wonder what we've done with our time. At the Center we've seen many different things happen in what appears to be our routine lives. Events, both good and unpleasant, slip by us almost unnoticed and friends come and go among our senior family leaving us with memories of both heartache and laughter. How fortunate we are to have this family of senior friends and a place where we can gather to share the good and bad times of our quiet lives. Someone has said, "It's not how many years we live but what we do with those years that count, not what we receive, but what we give to others."

We want to remind everyone of the Turkey Dinner being served from 11:00 am. to 2:00 pm. on Sunday, March 6th, here at the Center. Drop by after church and bring a friend with you for a good lunch and time of fellowship. This is a fund-raiser effort for the Center, so we encourage everyone of all ages to come and enjoy the day.

Joe Nevarez is reportedly recovering from surgery this week and Raymond Singletery is spending some time in the local hospital. Our best wishes to each of these men. On the other hand, we understand that Moray Clark is at home now and improving each day. We look forward to seeing her back at the Center at lunchtime, and maybe she will soon be able to take a turn in the pool room. She has been missed there, too.

Names appearing on the visitor's list this week included Robert McCosby, who came as a visitor with Wynell Lewis; Monica Cases, Lucy Aguilar, and Julia Chatham who is Rosa's sister.

Winners in the weekly domino tournament were Billie O'Neal and Inez Turner. Inez drove over here from her home in Hobbs to have lunch and play dominoes with us.

It is good to see Shirley Mosser back in the lunchroom everyday and better still to hear that she has moved back to Denver City. Welcome home, Shirley. Take a moment to stop in the lunch line and congratulate Mary Lou Ramos! She became grandmother twice this past

weekend. Two of her daughters presented her with a new grandson! Mary Lou tells us this makes twenty-three grandchildren now.

Mark your calendars for May 14th. There is to be a Health Fair in the parking lot of the hospital. This seems to be a bit down the road from here, but if you have it on your calendar, you will not fail to take advantage of all that it offers.

Reports indicate that the new 'ticket' arrangement at lunchtime is working out well. Everyone receives a lunch ticket when they make their donation at the reception desk each day and at the end of the lunch period, a ticket is drawn for a free lunch. Save your ticket stub during lunch each day. You may be the lucky winner. Thanks to Harley Evans and Gail Ribble for taking care of the registration desk these past two weeks.

The seas were calm, the air was balmy, the skies were unbelievably blue, and the company was the world's best! We relived memories of other cruise experiences, but this one was unquestionably the best.

Surrounded by family and dear friends, we reluctantly watched the days slip by and Galveston Harbor reappeared. Tropical island paradises and undersea adventures topped the list of entertainment, while times of resting, visiting, playing family games, and eating all kinds of exotic foods made up a perfect vacation. We listened to music from different entertainment groups and heard the continual noise coming from the casinos and game tables as many played the dance of chance. As we get back into the normal routine, we continue to thank our children for such an enjoyable birthday gift.

It is the day we honor our Presidents today as I write this column. Someone has said that you usually don't get anywhere near the White House without oodles and oodles of drive. You need more than your garden variety vim and vigor. You need to ache for greatness and crave distinction. In political circles it is known as 'fire in the belly.' Being of the fairer sex myself, when I read those words I wondered if that really echoed the mindset of the feminine half of the White House teams who have dwelt there.

Retirement Reception

Please join us in expressing our
Appreciation to

Alcario (Callie) Sandoval

For his contributions to our
City and Community
Tuesday, March 8, 2005

3:00-4:00

City Hall
1015 Ave F
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Everyone Welcome

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Plains, Texas

Sunday School

9:30 A.M.

Morning Worship

10:45 A.M.

Evening Program

6:00 P.M.

YCSWCD Announces Annual Scholarship

The Yoakum Soil and Water Conservation District is announcing the availability of its annual

Conservation Scholarship. This is a two year, 4 semester (\$500.00 per semester) scholarship in the amount of \$2,000.00.

Scholarship applications may be picked up at the Yoakum SWCD office in the Farm Service Center in Plains or through the Denver City or Plains High School counselors.

To be eligible for the scholarship you must be a Yoakum County High School graduating Senior or a Yoakum County resident returning from active duty in the armed services.

For more information, please call Jackie Pate, District Secretary at 456-3703 ext. 3.

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Elderly Errand Run

How much do you hate going out in cold weather just to run errands? In February, Student Council members will be volunteering to go out for those of you who need us to run those errands for you. This service will be free of charge. Call Clarissa Zorilla at 456-8446 or Melisa Dorsett at 456-7445 (8:00-3:45) to set up a service for you.

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From The Hack

The following are supposedly actual notes from parents of schoolkids, some which I have seen before, but all of them still real works of hilarious art:

"My son is under a doctor's care and should not take P.E. Please excuse him."

"Please excuse Lisa for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot."

"Dear School: Please excuse John for being absent April 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and also 33."

"Please excuse Gloria from jim today. She is administrating."

"Please excuse Roland from PE for a few days. Yesterday he fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip."

"John has been absent because he had two teeth taken from his face."

"Please excuse Jennifer for missing school yesterday. We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch and when we found it Monday we thought it was Sunday."

"Sally won't be in school a week from Friday. We have to attend her funeral."

"My daughter was absent yesterday because she was tired. She spent a weekend with the Marines."

"Please excuse Mary for being absent yesterday. She was in bed with gramps."

"I kept Millie home because she had to go Christmas shopping because I don't know what size she wears."

"Gerald was out last week because his grandmother died in Kentucky again."

"Please excuse Stanley. The basement of our house got flooded where the children sleep so they had to be evaporated."

"Please excuse little Jimmy for not being in school yesterday. His father is gone and I could not get him ready because I was in bed with the Doctor." Masterpieces!

Notice To All Persons Having Claims Against The Estate of Norman Harold Frankfather, Deceased

Notice is now given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of **Norman Harold Frankfather** were issued on February 28th, 2005, in Cause No. 1466, pending in the County Court of Yoakum County, Texas to:

Mary Frankfather

The residence of such Executor and where claims may be presented is as follows:

**Mary Frankfather
1714 Franks
Denver City, Texas 79323**

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within four (4) months after the date of the receipt of this notice and in the manner prescribed by law or the claim will be barred if not barred by the general statutes of limitation.

DATED: February 28, 2005.

WARREN NEW

Warren new, Attorney for the Estate
PO Box 670, Denver City, Texas 79323
Phone: (806) 592-2129 - Fax: (806) 592-7733

Texas Yes!
Texas Department of Agriculture

Guts and Glory in Rural Texas
By Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs

Legends of Texas' past tell tales of obstacles and opportunities met with true grit and dogged determination as trails blazed west. That pioneering spirit lives on today - in the smallest communities of rural Texas where new paths to the future are being blazed in strategic planning, tourism, partnering and economic development.

Texas Yes! will be celebrating the perseverance, innovation and can-do attitude of rural Texas with the second Hardworking Rural Community Awards ceremony planned for March 2005. The program is open to all Texas Yes! Community Members. Rural communities from across the state were invited to submit application forms through mid-February, and the response was great!

An all-star advisory board of prominent Texans and leaders in business, tourism and education will select the top five winners. Twenty-one communities were honored at the inaugural event in 2003 with special honors going to Brownwood, Canadian, Fort Stockton, Jasper and Sulphur Springs. Stay tuned for details on the new winners.

Texas Yes! is a member-based program sponsored by the Texas Department of Agriculture for rural communities, businesses and organizations to promote business development, job growth and tourism in rural Texas. For more information on Texas Yes! call (866) 4TEX-YES or visit www.TexasYes.org.

My Wife Saved My Life

A little nagging never hurts too long

By Cindy Antolik, American Cancer Society, Texas Division

Kevin Ward of San Antonio says his wife's nagging saved his life.

"Wives have to do that sometimes. I'd been working on him for two or three years to go get a colonoscopy," says his wife Donna, "and he finally gave in."

"I thought I was pretty healthy, I never had a sick day in my life" says Kevin, "and that's why I stalled. She kept telling me I needed to get it done because of my age." Kevin was 62. "And she wasn't going to stop trying to get me there."

Kevin, a former body-builder, was confident his screening would turn out clear. He was a very fit person, lifting weights and working out most days, and he always ate right.

During his colonoscopy, Kevin knew something was wrong from the nurse's comments and from what he was seeing on the visual monitor during the screening. He had two small benign polyps and a third larger polyp that was cancerous.

Last July, American Cancer Society San Antonio board member and chair of the colon cancer committee, Dr. Rolando Saenz, performed Kevin's surgery. Dr. Saenz complained about having to "cut through all those muscles" that Kevin had amassed. The cancerous polyp was removed along with 18 inches of his colon. Fortunately for Kevin, the cancer had not spread to other locations and no radiation or chemotherapy was necessary.

"His surgeon told him that if he had his colonoscopy two or three years sooner, he wouldn't have had cancer, it would have been just another benign polyp that could have been removed during the colonoscopy," says Donna.

"I didn't have much pain with the surgery," says Kevin. "It was just a bump in the road. I wanted to get it over with and get on with the rest of my life. I already procrastinated long enough on getting the colonoscopy. I'm not going to procrastinate about things anymore."

"The only regret I have is that I didn't have the colonoscopy when I should have," says Kevin. "If it weren't for Donna, I'd be in bad shape because I would have waited for symptoms. I can do anything now that I did before. I just have this scar to remind me of my stubborn procrastination."

"I want to stress that just because you don't have symptoms, it doesn't mean you shouldn't get a colonoscopy," says Kevin.

"A little nagging never hurts," Donna adds. "Now I'm the one

doing the nagging," says Kevin. One son has already had a colonoscopy and Kevin is working on his other son and his other son and his brother. Many Americans Fail to Get Tested

Despite overwhelming evidence that testing can save lives, many Americans still are not following recommendations from the American Cancer Society to get tested starting at age 50. Colon cancer is the rare case in which testing can actually prevent the disease. Suspicious polyps (pre-cancerous changes or growths in the lining of the colon and rectum) are removed before they turn cancerous. Thanks in part to increased testing, colon cancer incidence rates decreased about three percent a year between 1998 and 2001. Increased testing and improvements in survival have also led to a lower death rate, which has decreased an average of 1.8 percent per year over the past 15 years.

When colon cancer is caught early, it has a 90 percent survival rate. Still, fewer than four in 10 (39 percent) of these cancers are discovered at the earliest, most treatable stage. The American Cancer Society says increasing colon cancer testing among adults 50 and older represents the single greatest opportunity to decrease colon cancer death rates in this country (more than 90 percent of cases are diagnosed in people over the age of 50).

Myths and Misperceptions About Colon Cancer

The reasons for low testing rates include many misconceptions. On common colon cancer myth is that only people with family history need to be concerned about colon cancer. While it is true that those who have a family history of the disease are at increased risk, the majority of cases occur in people whose only risk factor is their age, which is why people should start getting tested at age 50. Many women think of colon cancer as strictly a "man's disease", but the reality is that it kills more women than ovarian, uterine and cervical cancers combined. Other people think testing is necessary only when symptoms arise. Yet symptoms are often a sign that the disease has progressed into more advanced stages. Testing is most effective before a patient develops signs of illness.

Calling All Doctors

The Society also emphasizes the major role doctors play in increasing testing rates. "Physicians are the most important

factor in getting patients tested for colon cancer", says Durado Brooks, MD, the Society's director of prostate and colorectal cancer. "If your doctor recommends it, you're more likely to get tested. Doctors have so much to cover in so little time, but they need to take the time to emphasize the importance of testing. The American Cancer Society can help with materials to help doctors educate their patients."

The American Cancer Society Launches Nationwide Awareness Campaign

To increase the awareness of personal risk and to boost colon cancer testing rates, the Society launches a nationwide advertising campaign in February 2005 to emphasize the importance of getting tested starting at age 50, part of a comprehensive strategy to combat the disease from every angle, including research, education, advocacy, and patient services. In 2003, the Society worked with its partners at the American Heart Association and the American Diabetes Association to help achieve the goal of increased testing rates by lobbying for the new "Welcome to Medicare" physical as a part of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003. This benefit went into effect on January 1, 2005, and for the first time in the program's 40-year history a wellness physical where doctors can discuss and schedule lifesaving testing, like those for colon cancer, is available.

Texas Insurance Plans Cover Colon Cancer Screening

In Texas, by law state-regulated insurance plans must provide the full range of colon cancer screening including colonoscopy to those 50 and older. Those younger, testing may begin earlier if personal risk factors exist.

The American Cancer Society Can Help

For more information on colon cancer screening options contact the American Cancer Society at 800-ACS-2345 to receive a free colon information kit complete with a DVD, patient education brochure, questions to ask your doctor, and details on each test. Visit www.cancer.org/coloncancerTX for additional materials.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service.

NOTICE FOR BIDS Plains Independent School District

The Plains Independent School District will accept bids for four (4) copying machines until 12:00 Noon on March 10, 2005. To obtain bid specifications, please contact either the PISD Superintendent's office at (806) 456-7401, or the Plains Business Office at (806) 456-7483.

Bids will be reviewed and contract awarded at the Board of Trustees meeting at 7:30 PM on March 10, 2005.

Bids must be delivered to the PISD Business Office at 1000 10th Street or PO Box 479, Plains, TX 79355.

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