

50 Cents



Happy Birthday

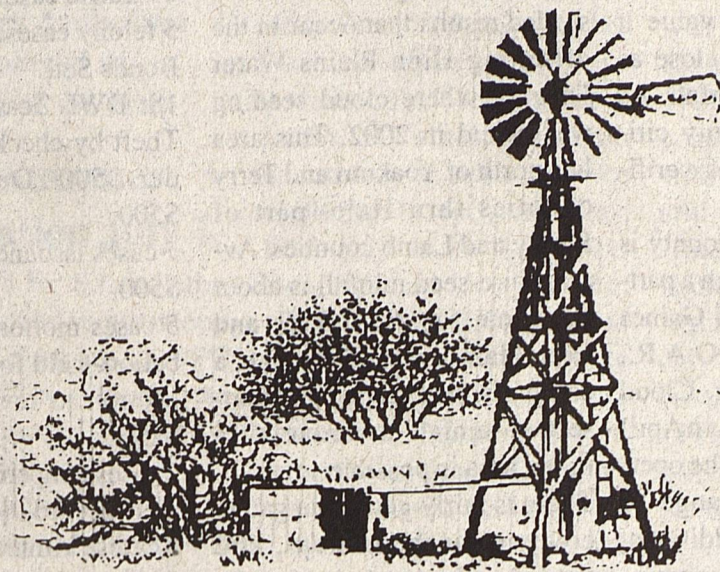
USA!

BAZE, BOOKBINDING
514 W 7TH AVE
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10/2002 10/2003 2



Cowboy Country News

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



Volume IX, Issue 41, July 2, 2003

Vandalism subjects nabbed, Grand Jury to decide fate

Sometime in the night of May 24, two Precinct 4 motor graders parked at the intersection of county roads 190 and 365, were severely damaged, with all of the glass on the cabs and all lights broken out, with baseball bats, it was later learned. Sheriff Don Corzine told CCN the vandalism was reported to his office by Commissioner Jack Cobb the following morning. "After some preliminary investigation, Deputy Kenley Powell, with assistance from Deputies Jerry Howard and Larry Murphree, began to follow up on clues, and street talk rumors, using good old fashioned detective work, which

paid off." On June 16, four male suspects, three 17 years, one 18, one 22, were arrested and placed in jail. Sheriff Corzine said the five men are now bonded out of jail. When the County Grand Jury convenes again they will consider the case, and make the decision whether to bring the five to trial. Because of the monetary damage to the graders, they could be charged with criminal mischief involving damages over \$1,500 but under \$20,000, a state jail felony, which could lead to a state jail sentence of 180 days up to two years, and an optional fine up to \$10,000.

July 4, Independence Day

On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress declared the American Colonies free and independent states. But it took the delegates two days to agree on a formal document announcing their action. On July 4, the Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. Since then, July 4 has been celebrated as the nation's birthday.

The founders of the new nation considered Independence Day an important occasion for rejoicing. John Adams wrote, "I am apt to believe it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward for evermore."

Independence Day was first celebrated in Philadelphia on July 8. The Declaration was read, bells were rung, bands played, and the people rejoiced. It wasn't until 1941 Congress declared July 4 a federal national holiday.

Weevil War spreads west into New Mexico



This boll weevil trap was photographed in 1999, completely full of cotton boll weevils lured by the pheromone baited trap here in Yoakum County. This scene cannot be found today, thanks to the eradication program here.

Supervisory personnel in the Plains District office of the Western High Plains Boll Weevil Eradication Zone are elated with this seasons eradication results to date - Since trapping started, exactly two boll weevils have been caught, in Gaines county cotton fields near the Texas-New Mexico stateline.

Weevil traps have been deployed in 210,400 acres of Yoakum County cotton ground. Only 130 acres have been sprayed this year. Mike Cobb, owner of Spray Plains, Inc. has the contract to do aerial applications here and in Lea County. To put these figures in perspective, in 2000, 44,222 weevils were trapped here, 3,186 in 2001, and only 11 in 2002.

Under Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation guidelines, a particular zone is considered functionally eradicated when an average of only .001 weevils per deployed trap are caught, and complete eradication only when zero weevils are found.

This spring officials of the Cotton Boll Weevil Control District in Artesia, New Mexico contracted with the Western High Plains Eradication Zone, and now the weevil war is being waged along the Pecos River valley from Artesia south to Malaga, just south of Carlsbad.

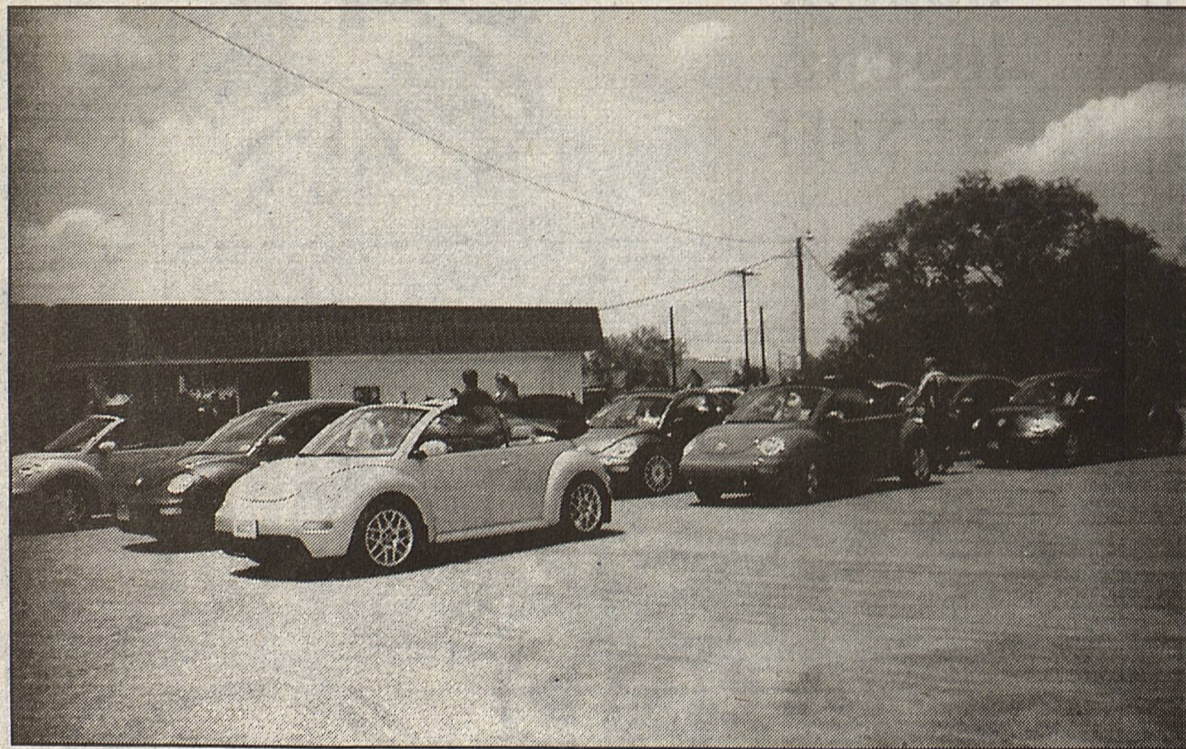
Five seasonal field hands from the Plains District make a Monday drive to the Pecos Valley project, where they join five seasonal area employees to monitor 2,400 weevil traps. Some 50 New Mexico producers have about 8,000 acres of cotton planted in the Pecos Valley.

Last week, 70 weevils were found in the Valley, and some 1,500 acres were sprayed. Richie Crockett, owner of Devil Dusters Flying Service is doing the aerial application. Under terms of the contract, all expenses of the Pecos Valley Project are paid for by the local producers.

A little closer to home, cotton producers in Lea County are being assisted in the weevil war by Plains District personnel. They are monitoring 12,153 acres of cotton fields, and to date, NO weevils have been found. Eradication in Lea County started in 2001.

A successful eradication of the cotton pests in Lea County and the Pecos River Valley would indirectly benefit all of the South Plains growing area. The weevils can migrate amazing distances, particularly on predominant Southwest winds. The Plains District has 36 seasonal employees, and seven supervisory officials.

Plains Invaded By Swarms Of Beetles



The Local Dairy Queen parking lot was awash with almost three dozen Volkswagen Beetle autos last week. A driver told CCN they were just part of an armada of over 300 Beetles enroute to some form of rally in Roswell.

One of the small and popular vehicles had a canoe strapped to its roof, the boat longer than the car.

One group of visitors were all in the same family, traveling in three vehicles.

For some reason the Beetles always remind the photographer of some form of transportation found in outer space - perhaps they were going to Roswell to take in that cities famed UFO memorabilia.

Baseball Cowboys reap post season honors, set many school records in 16 - 4 season



Kevin Bartley II
Co-MVP of the District
1st Team All South Plains
1st Team THSBCA
All State Team
THSCA All Star Team
Gatorade Player of the Year



Miguel Coronado
Co-MVP of the District
1st Team All South Plains
1st Team THSBCA
All State Team
Gatorade Will to Win Winner



TJ Cordova
1st Team All District
HM All South Plains
Gatorade Rookie of the Year

The 2003 Cowboy baseball enjoyed a fine winning season, winning the District Championship, and oh so narrowly missed claiming the Regional Championship crown. Coached by Kevin Bartley, Lubbock A-J Coach of the Year, assisted by Coaches Todd Davis and Robert Canon, the Cowboys set 10 new school records, and tied another. Details and more photos inside.

Court accepts bids on equipment

In a routine session of Commissioners Court June 30, bids were opened on Precinct 1 surplus equipment. A bid of \$451 from Dwayne Merritt was accepted on a 1984 Chevrolet pickup. Jose Aguilera bid \$150.99 on a 5 ton water trailer, \$250.99 on a 1973 GMC pickup, and \$200.99 on a 1981 Chevrolet pickup, which were accepted.

The court granted Spray Plains, Inc. to operate an aerial spraying business from the county airport.

Permission was granted Alltel Communications to lay, operate and maintain 48 inch deep communication cable under county roads near the Stateline in Precinct 2.

We Get Letters

Cloud Seeding Controversy:

Some day the people will be asked whether or not cloud seeding should be continued in Yoakum County. It is our decision. Presently we have theoretical calculations that show in the range of 40% more rainfall with seeding. Due to the complexity of weather I do not trust these calculations at this time. I believe whatever the value it should be verified as close as possible by actual rainfall. As described below, county citizens can help with this verification.

Seeding in Yoakum County is being conducted through a partnership with Terry and Gaines counties known as S.O.A.R., and the State of Texas. Cloud seeding is conducted from April until mid-September. The operating cost is in the range of \$130,000 with some additional ultimate equipment depreciation cost. The state furnishes 50% of the operating cost, and also provides consultants for seeding evaluation.

There are several areas where citizens can contribute. Local people could be an evaluation source, through individual ground observations, and discussions with their neighbors. To improve evaluations, citizens should install rain gauges and record the results faithfully

over the next few years for reference. They should also keep a diary, recording their impressions of the overall seeding program. The evaluation should be reasonable and objective, and should consider weather cycles such as the present drought cycle.

A second source of information is a comparison of unseeded results that occur in the offsetting High Plains Water District, where cloud seeding was halted in 2002. This area lies north of Yoakum and Terry counties thru Hale, part of Bailey and Lamb counties. Average pre-seed rainfall is about the same for the SOAR and High Plains areas. Therefore, a comparison of seeded and non-seeded rainfall at various sites in the area is possible.

There is fairly good rain gauge coverage in both areas, and seeded and non-seeded results could be compared county by county, which would probably be more accurate data. Our water district could then make these data available to county newspapers and other media sources.

The similarity of pre-seed annual average rainfall includes using 1961-1990 time periods for towns in the areas of interest is illustrated

L.J. Sanders
Plains

Texas Unemployment Rises In May

Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 6.8 percent in May from 6.6 percent in April, according to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

Total Nonagricultural Employment in Texas rose by 12,200 positions in May, the largest over-the-month increase since October 2002. Leisure & Hospitality posted the largest employment gain with 5,800 jobs, followed by 4,700 jobs in Education & Health Services. The increase in Leisure & Hospitality was its largest since October 1999.

"The increase in the unemployment rate is disappointing, especially after the slight reduction we saw in April," said TWC Chair Diane Rath. "However, the overall gain of jobs in Total Nonagricultural Employment and the significant growth

in Leisure & Hospitality are encouraging signs."

Continued instability in the airline and other travel related industries contributed to losses in Employment in Trade, Transportation & Utilities (TTU), which shed 2,600 jobs in May.

An upward trend in Construction employment that began last October ended in May with a loss of 3,100 jobs. This was the largest employment decrease in this industry since January 2002. In addition to the losses in TTU and Construction, 3,800 jobs were lost in Manufacturing, its largest employment drop this year.

Overall, six of the Total Nonagricultural industries experienced job growth in May. Professional & Business Services added 1,900 jobs, and 900 more jobs were created in Financial Activities.

Justice of Peace Court Summary

The following is a summary of cases filed and bonds set in Justice of Peace Court, Pct 1, Judge Melba Crutcher presiding.

44 traffic cases,
5 felony cases.

Bonds Set:
1St DWI- 2 cases-\$1000 bonds
Theft by check, over \$20, under \$500- Deaf Smith Co.- \$500.

7 cases issuance of bad check-\$500

5 cases motion to revoke probation- held for hearing.

Motion to revoke probation-\$2500

2 cases tampering with government record-\$2500

5 cases Criminal mischief, over \$1500, under \$20,000.

Assault on Peace Officer-\$2500

Escape causes bodily injury-\$3000

2 cases burglary of habitation-\$5000

Accident involving injury-\$2500

Motion to revoke probation-\$1000

2 cases driving while license suspended-\$500

Sexual assault-\$3000

Escape from custody- held for Border Patrol

DWI- held for Border Patrol

Terroristic threat- held for Border Patrol

Public intoxication-\$300

Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) Ranked by May Unemployment Rate (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

1	Bryan-College Station	2.1
2	Lubbock	3.2
3	San Angelo	3.7
4	Amarillo	3.8
5	Abilene	4.2
6	Wichita Falls	4.5
7	Tyler	4.7
8	Waco	4.8
9 (tie)	San Antonio	5.1
	Victoria	5.1
11	Killeen-Temple	5.2
12	Austin-San Marcos	5.5
13	Odessa-Midland	5.6
14	Fort Worth-Arlington	6.2
15 (tie)	Corpus Christi	6.6
	Longview-Marshall	6.6
17	Houston	6.7
18	Dallas	7.0
19 (tie)	Laredo	7.1
	Sherman-Denison	7.1
21	Galveston-Texas City	8.0
22	Beaumont-Port Arthur	8.8
23 (tie)	Brazoria	9.1
	El Paso	9.1
25	Brownsville-Harlingen	10.0
26	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	11.4

Affordable energy may be in Texas' future, if planning begins today

Imagine the electricity cooling your home and powering your business is being generated by a plant so environmentally friendly that it releases little or no emissions into the air. Science fiction? A pipe dream? No ... It's an approaching reality and Texas is in the forefront of making it happen.

In February, President Bush announced the FutureGen Initiative to develop a demonstration power plant based on clean energy goals.

Responding to the U.S. Department of Energy's initial request on feasible locations for a FutureGen project, the Texas Clean Coal Technology Council is providing information on why Texas is best suited as the site to develop such key technology.

Although still in the experimental stage, technology exists to build power plants that will generate electricity and hydrogen from fossil fuels at competitive prices with near-zero emissions. These plants will use abundant and inexpensive fuels, such as coal. By the year 2020, these plants could be a reality - generating electricity for prices less than today's cost. Carbon dioxide will be captured from the combustion process and stored underground for later use in oil pressurization or enhanced oil and natural gas recovery.

Zero-emission plants can contribute significantly to meeting not only Texas' energy needs but national and global demand because they can accomplish three important objectives:

- Protect the environment by producing electricity and hydrogen with near-zero atmospheric emissions.
- Increase energy supplies by providing carbon dioxide for the enhanced recovery of oil and natural gas.
- Use abundant (250-year supply) low-cost fuels, such as coal, in an environmentally responsible manner.

Recognizing the economic and environmental importance of



MICHAEL WILLIAMS
Chairman,
Railroad
Commission
of Texas

&



REBECCA KLEIN
Chairman,
Public Utility
Commission
of Texas

developing, demonstrating and commercializing technology that will produce clean, efficient and affordable energy, leaders in Texas' public and private sectors have a running start on the FutureGen project.

The clean power plant of the future already has been defined and the technology identified to enable commercialization of such a plant. Various consortiums in Texas are pursuing development and commercial use of this technology - the exact goal of the federal energy agency's FutureGen project. Private companies are collaborating with research institutes, universities and government to develop and launch clean energy technology.

All these entities, as well as North American Coal, Texas Utilities, the University of Texas, the Texas Public Utility Commission and the Texas Railroad Commission, are lending their expertise to the Texas Clean Coal Technology Council's effort to bring the FutureGen project to Texas. Americans for Balanced Energy Choices (ABEC) is spearheading the national focus on developing these cost-efficient, environmentally friendly fuel plants of the future.

Texas is an ideal location for the project for numerous reasons, including its capacity for business

growth; its pro-business environment; a growing labor force; world-class university and research resources; and its transportation infrastructure.

Of no less importance for a demonstration project that will develop technology to convert coal into clean energy is the fact that Texas generates more electricity from this domestic natural resource than any other state, using 92.4 million tons in 2001, according to the federal Energy Information Administration. Of all the coal used in the United States to generate power, Texas accounts for 10 percent of the consumption. Texas has estimated recoverable reserves of 9.7 billion tons of lignite, of which 724 million tons are at the 14 mines currently operating in this state.

Texas must develop all its resources - coal, oil, natural gas, and renewables - in order to meet the energy growth for the future. But with each passing day, the growing reliance on natural gas becomes more problematic for Texas consumers. Gas prices are susceptible to spikes, making it important to Texas consumers that the state maintains a balanced supply of fuel sources.

Developing technology that will use coal, our most abundant energy resource, to generate electricity in a way that results in little or no emissions paves the way for our energy independence. The FutureGen project can put Texas on the path to that independence.

The Clean Coal Technology Council's effort to land the FutureGen project deserves the support of all Texans. It focuses government, private business, and universities on a single, important goal: serving the public good.

Rebecca Klein is chairman of the Texas Public Utility Commission. Michael Williams is chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission. Both serve on the Governor's Clean Coal Technology Council of Texas.

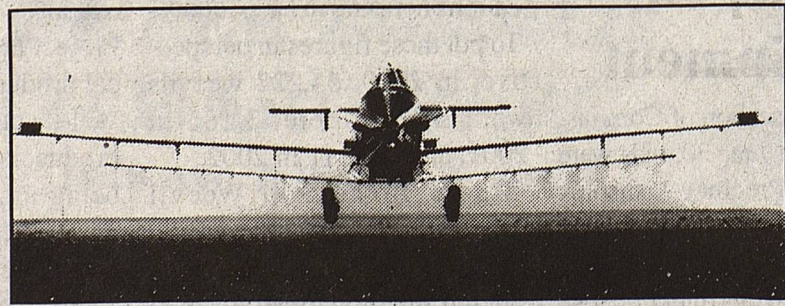
We Hope You
Have A
Joyous,
But SAFE



THE GREAT
KINGDOM
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the Character
Code

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
CHILDREN'S VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 6-10
6-8:30 PM
4 YEARS OLD THROUGH
COMPLETE 5TH GRADE

G.B. AERIAL APPLICATION, INC.



As the time to start a new crop this year rapidly approaches, it is obvious that agriculture in West Texas faces many challenges. The need for producing a crop with input costs held to a minimum is a must for most producers. Please keep the following in mind as you make your management decisions. We offer the following at very competitive prices:

**All brands of yellow herbicides

** All major brands of cotton seed, both genetic and conventional

** Liquid fertilizer

**Quality aerial application

If you have any questions feel free to stop by the office or you can contact us by phone at:
Office 456-6300, David Guetersloh Mobile # (806) 535-0065,
Dain Guetersloh Mobile # (806) 632-5375

Cowboys have stellar baseball season



Richard Diaz
1st Team All District
HM All South Plains



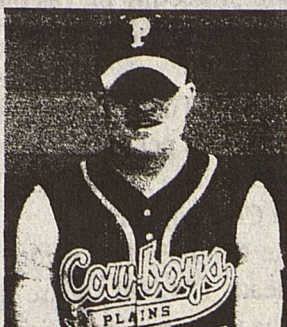
Armando Ramirez
1st Team All District
HM All South Plains



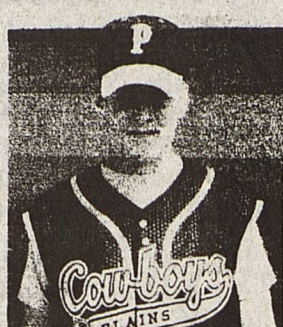
Evan Cain
1st Team All District



Arnold Cordova
1st Team All District



Nick Hays
HM All District



Adam McCravy
HM All District

School records broken or tied in 2003 season:

Batting average: Old record .453, set by Kevin Bartley II in 2002, new record .544
 Total hits: Old record 29, set by Jerry Rivas in 2000, new record 37 by Kevin Bartley II
 Runs scored: Old record 26 set by Kevin Bartley II in 2002, new record 34 by Kevin Bartley II
 Total walks: Old record 16 by Jeremy Morphis in 1999, new record 17, by Evan Cain
 Triples: old record 2 by Joshua Bell, Colt Winn, Kevin Batley II, new record 3, by Kevin Bartley II.
 Home runs: Kevin Bartley II, Miguel Coronado, T.J. Cordova tied record of 3 set by Steven Bunch and Alex Tarango in 1999.
 RBI's: Old record 22 by Gerry Rivas in 2000, broken by Miguel Coronado, 29
 On base percentage: old record .563 by Jeremy Morphis in 1999, broken by Kevin Bartley II, .597
 SLG percentage: .830 in 2002 by Kevin Bartley II, broken by Miguel Coronado, .895
 Stolen Bases: old record 24 by Kevin Bartley in 2002, broken by Bartley, 41
 Hitting streak: old record 7 games by Gerry Rivas in 2000, new record 19 games by Miguel Coronado.



Head baseball Coach
Kevin Bartley was selected by the Lubbock Avalanche Journal as Coach of the Year

SPC Summer Registration July 7

Registration for South Plains College's second summer term is July 7. Sign up at SPC Levelland will be 1-5 pm. in the Administration Building on the Levelland Campus.

Enrollment at the SPC Reese Center campus in Lubbock will be 1-6 pm. in Reese Building 1. SPC offers classes in Lubbock at the Reese Center and Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center. Registration permits are required at both locations.

Classes begin July 8, and final exams will be given August 7. Late registration is July 8-9. Courses will be offered in Accounting, Automotive Technology, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Information Systems, Physical Education, Psychology, Reading, Sociology, Spanish and Speech Communication.

Internet courses will be offered in Computer Information Systems, Electrical and Power Transmission Technology, English, Government and History. SPC's summer 2003 class schedules can be accessed online at www.southplainscollege.edu. To obtain a registration permit or additional information, contact SPC Levelland at 894-9611, ext. 2570 or 2375 or the SPC Reese Center at 885-3048, ext. 2902 or 4660.

Local Named To Honor Society

College of the Southwest in Hobbs, NM recently announced Laurel L. (Lori) Matus had been named a member of Alpha Chi, the National College Honor Scholarship Society. She is the daughter of Jennette and Jerome Head of Plains.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!

The Fourth of July has become one of the most festive and beloved celebrations in our nation. No single occasion more clearly defines us as a free people than Independence Day.

Each year in the Lone Star State, Texans don their red, white and blue garb, string up patriotic garlands and celebrate the Fourth of July with picnics, parades and fireworks. From Dalhart to Falfurrias, festivities range from backyard barbecues to stadium sized pageantry. Today's celebrations continue a grand tradition.

In 1777, the city of Philadelphia, the veritable birthplace of our democracy where both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were forged, held one of the most spectacular Fourth of July celebrations in recorded history. Armed ships lined the river, discharging 13 cannons in honor of the 13 United States; Congress, the president and military officers attended an elegant dinner with toasts to the patriots and soldiers who gave their lives in defense of freedom. A discharge of artillery and small arms followed, accompanied by live music; soldiers on horseback and on foot paraded through town and the evening closed with the chiming of bells and a grand exhibition of fireworks concluded with 13 rockets illuminating the sky.

Throughout the years as our country expanded westward, celebrations continued, fashioned by local interests and regional flare. In 1848, the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid on July 4th. Forty years later a monument to Francis Scott Key was unveiled in San Francisco. In 1960 the 50 star American flag waved for the first time as Ha-

wai entered the union. Our bicentennial in 1976 rivaled the 1777 Philadelphia displays and lasted for a year. And in 2002, with the September 11th attacks still weighing on our minds, Americans gathered across the country amid heightened security to celebrate the Fourth of July with a new appreciation for the price of freedom.

Though early celebrations were quite spectacular, it was clear, even then, that our experiment with democracy would be challenging. President Adams closed the letter to his wife saying, "You will think me transported with enthusiasm, but I am not. I am well aware of the toil and blood and treasure that it cost us to maintain this declaration, and support and defend these states. Yet through all the gloom I can see the rays of ravishing light and glory. I can see that the end is more than worth all the means." He knew too well that freedom isn't free.

This year as we gather in celebration of our independence and enjoy our liberties, it is important to reflect on the challenges our young nation still faces today. Threats to our way of life abound.

Terrorism is a reality we confront, and our troops are stationed around the globe in defense of our freedoms and placed in harms' way to battle those who wish to destroy our democracy. They will never succeed.

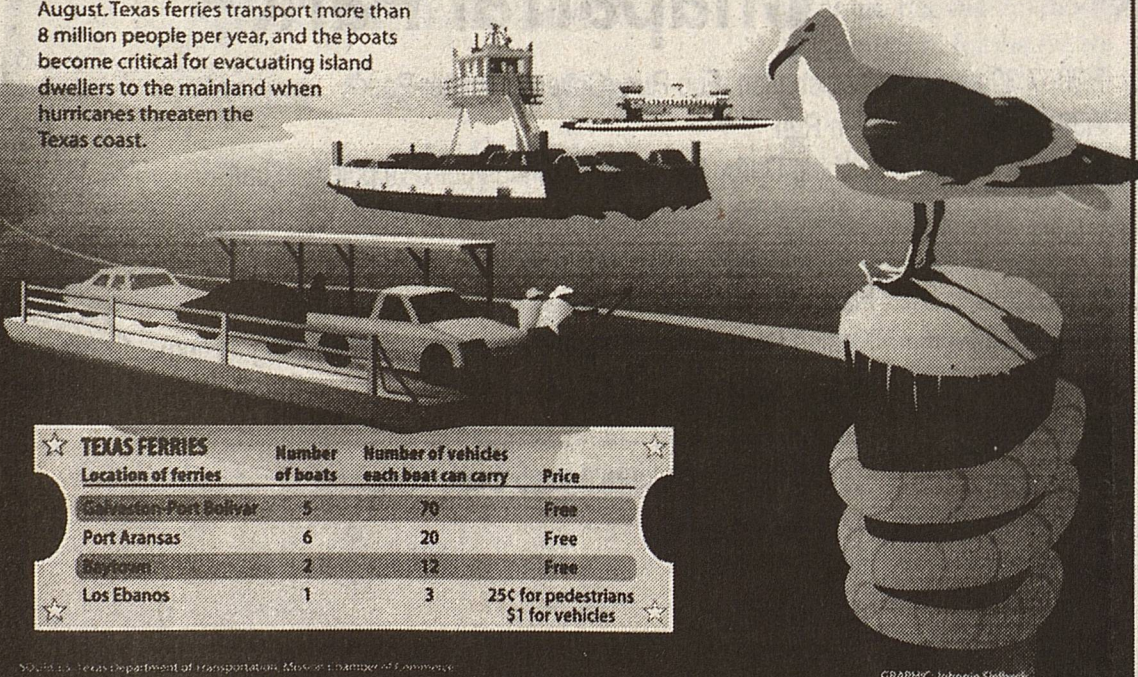
This Fourth of July, on the 227th celebration of our nation's independence, I hope you will take the opportunity to celebrate with family and friends the gift of liberty that is America and pay tribute to those heroes in the armed forces who keep the flame of liberty alive.

Texas at a Glance

Water Crossings

Texas ferries have been a small but necessary element of the Texas transportation system since the 19th century, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. The state operates ferries in Galveston and Port Aransas; Harris County operates the Lynchburg Ferry Service in Baytown; and a privately owned service, the Los Ebanos ferry, crosses the Rio Grande River about 14 miles west of McAllen, along the U.S.-Mexico border. Los Ebanos is the last hand-pulled ferry on the border, and passengers can even help pull it across.

The peak months for ferry use are June, July and August. Texas ferries transport more than 8 million people per year, and the boats become critical for evacuating island dwellers to the mainland when hurricanes threaten the Texas coast.



TEXAS FERRIES	Number of boats	Number of vehicles each boat can carry	Price
Galveston-Port Bolivar	5	70	Free
Port Aransas	6	20	Free
Baytown	2	12	Free
Los Ebanos	1	3	25¢ for pedestrians \$1 for vehicles

Yoakum County Plains Clinic

Amir Memon, MD
and
Jo Lena Wall, PA - C

We have Meningococcal Vaccines for Meningitis. It is recommended for students entering college, and may be required for some schools. Vaccinations at the Clinic are offered only until July 2. Please come to see us by this date!

TEXAS HEALTH STEPS

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 8-5
 Wednesday 8-5
 Thursday & Friday 8-5

Will take walk-ins Appointments preferred
 Please call 806-456-6365

G. B. Aerial Application, Inc.

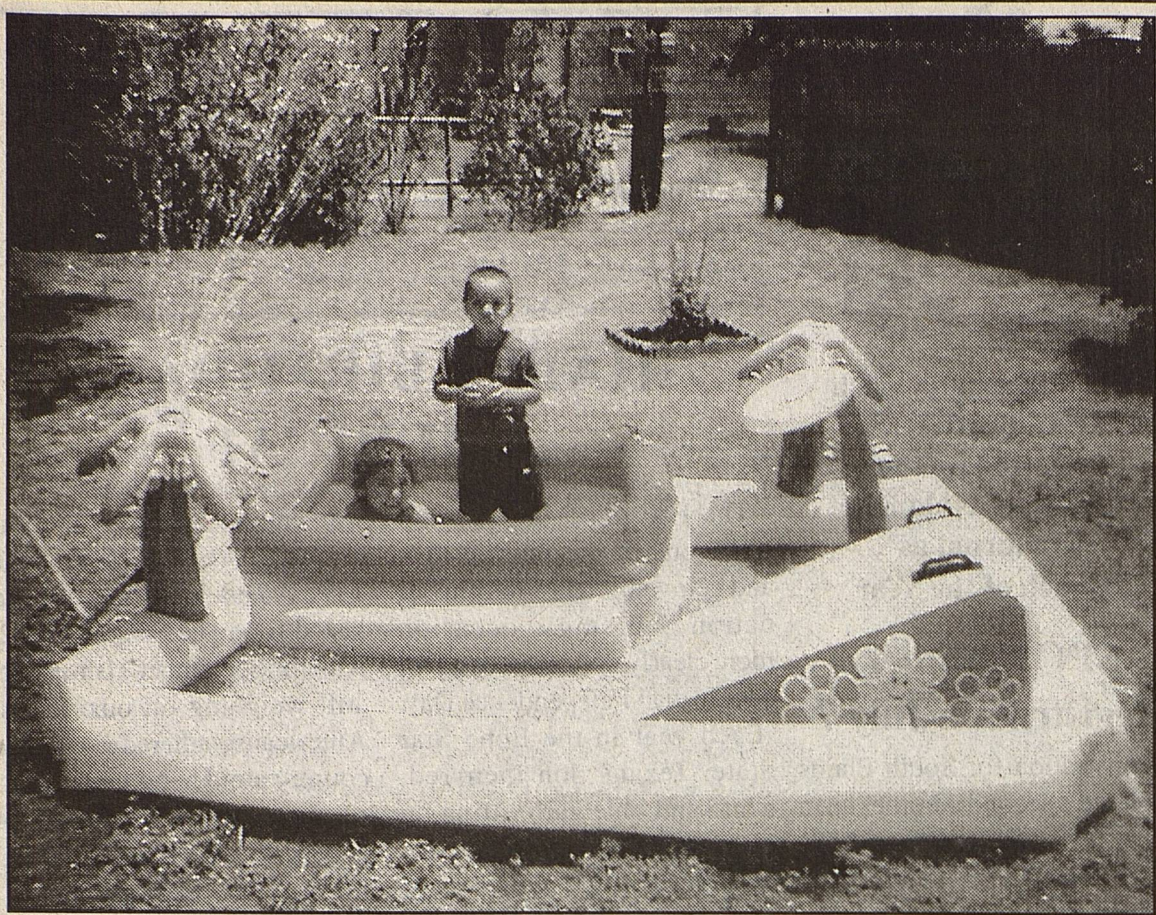


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You don't have to be a *BIG* kid and go to the *BIG* swimming pool to have summer time fun, as Samantha and Matthew Longoria demonstrate, in the backyard of their grandparents, Jimmy and Linda Longoria

Lea County Electric solicits bid interest

The Board of Trustees of Lea County Electric Cooperative has recently announced plans to construct a new headquarters building in Lovington, New Mexico. The board has further instructed its architect to give consideration to any of the Cooperative's members who are licensed in various construction trades.

Interested parties should forward the following information to Lea County Electric Cooperative, PO Box 1447, Lovington, NM 88260, c/o Alma Griffin on or before July 7, 2003 at 5:00 PM (MDT).

Business name, construction trade, address, telephone number
Member's name and LCEC member number.
Contractor's license number (as issued by the New Mexico Construction Industry Division.)
Preference for bidding as a general or sub-contractor.
Bonding capacity in dollars.
Those Cooperative members seeking additional information should contact Co-op General Manager Mike Dreyspring at either 800-510-5232 or (505) 396-3631.

Cain named to UT Arlington Honor Roll

Aaron Cain, a PHS graduate, was recently named to the University of Texas at Arlington College of Engineering Honor Roll for the Spring semester. To achieve the honor, students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or above. Aaron is a junior at UTA majoring in aerospace engineering, and the son of Charles and Beth Ann Cain.

Yoakum Soil & Water Conservation

District announce scholarship winners

Board Members of Yoakum County Soil and Water Conservation District recently awarded \$2000 college scholarships to Plains High graduate Sandra Gallegos, and Denver City High graduate Maria Gutierrez. The scholarships will be paid directly to the college the girls attend, \$500 per semester. The scholarships are funded by grants established by Yoakum County Commissioners Court.

Sandra ranked fourth in her graduating class here, was a member of the National Honor Society, and plans to attend Midland College. Maria was ranked fifth in her Denver City graduating class of 77 students, is active in community projects and is an assistant church teacher, and plans to attend Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi.



Front row left to right, Dora, Sandra and Evodio Gallegos, Francisco, Maria and Olga Gutierrez. Back row, members of Commissioners Court Ty Earl Powell, Jack Cobb, Woody Lindsey, Judge Dallas Brewer, Ben Coston, and Yoakum Soil and Water District officers Bud Forbus and Don Burgess.

To help save the Ogallala Aquifer, help save our Playa Lakes!

As communities across the western Great Plains struggle to deal with drought and declining water tables, a major yet relatively unknown natural resource is playing a critical role in replenishing the region's water supply.

Scattered across the western plains are thousands of playa lakes, the most numerous wetlands in the region, totaling more than 40,000 in eastern New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, western Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle - 95 percent of the world's playa lakes.

Playa Lakes are shallow, usually round, wetlands in a watershed area, and collect both rainfall and runoff from surrounding uplands. They are generally seasonal, holding water only after rainfall or runoff.

Over the past several decades evidence points to playa lakes as the primary source of recharge of the Ogallala. Those great plains states have relied on pumping the Ogallala for

agriculture, municipal and industrial use since the turn of the century. It is vitally important for users of the aquifer to understand the role playa lakes play in preserving the Ogallala. "We want producers to realize protecting a playa on their land directly benefits them, and for decision makers to understand protecting playas plays a huge role in the western Great Plains economy. They help put money in people's pockets," said Mike Carter, Playa Lakes Joint Venture Coordinator.

The Ogallala formation lies beneath 174,000 square miles of the western Great Plains. In 1990 it was measured to contain some 3.27 Billion acre feet of water. Reliance on it has steadily grown since World War II. In 1950 the Ogallala irrigated some 2 million acres of farmland. By 1997, it was watering 14 million acres. From 1950 to 1999 the formations water level dropped some 13 feet. Recent improved farming and irrigation practices have

slowed the dropping water table, but the rate of depletion continues to far exceed the natural rate of recharge.

Playa lakes themselves are also a threatened resource. Sedimentation occurs in the lakes surrounded by tilled lands. water runoff from rain or irrigation carry soil into the playas, gradually filling them and reducing storage capacity. Native grasses can be planted around playa perimeters to filter out soil, and in rangeland, playas can be fenced to prevent excess trampling.

Several programs are available to private landowners to protect the playas on their land in the current Farm Bill. For more information about these and other programs, contact the Playa Lakes Joint Venture, a conservation partnership dedicated to protecting these playas through cooperative and voluntary agreements with private landowners. They may be reached at www.pljv.org or call 303-926-0777.

THE 4th

LOVINGTON'S

4th Of July Celebration

Friday, July 4th, 2003

Chaparral Park

7:00 - 7:30 a.m.	Registration: Fun-Run (Covered Shelter-Park)
7:30 - 8:30	Fun Run
8:00 a.m.	Fishing Derby Registration (Bring your own pole and bait. Ages 4-16. Fishing license required for ages 12 - 16). Sponsored by Blooming Gardens.
8:30 a.m.	Flag Raising Ceremony
8:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Fishing Derby (Event begins immediately following flag raising)
9:30 a.m.	Hula Hoop Race
10:00 a.m.	Egg Toss
10:30 a.m.	Treasure Hunt (Children Ages 5 and Under)
11:00 a.m. - 9 p.m.	Food Booths Open
11:15 a.m.	-Legged Race
12 noon	Egg Toss II
12 noon - 5 p.m.	Water Polo
12:30 noon - 3:30 p.m.	Karaoke
1:00 p.m.	Slip and Slide Contest
2:00 p.m.	Water Balloon Toss
3:00 p.m.	WORLD'S GREATEST LIZARD RACE
4:15 p.m.	Tug of War Sign-In
4:30 p.m.	Tug of War Competition
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Bandfest
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Broken Cypress - Rock 'n Roll Band from Lubbock, Texas.
9:00 p.m.	Spectacular Fireworks Display

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Lifelines & Styles

Senior Citizens Corner

At the shrine in the national archives just off the mall in Washington, DC, three parchment documents are on display. The most visible, enclosed in a heavy brass frame standing like a tabernacle high above the others, is the Declaration of Independence (1776). Below it, on the surface of an altar, lie the Constitution (1787) and the Federal Bill of Rights (1789-1791). Today these three documents seem parts of a whole. They are the founding documents of the United States-America's Charter of Freedom! Their texts have become political scriptures-statements to which generation after generation of American's have returned for guidance and direction. Over time they have come to define American's as a people!

As we shoot fireworks and enjoy family picnics and reunions this year, let us be thankful for our country and all the freedoms it affords us. Let's remember not only those who fought for us on the battle fields, but those who fought for us in the houses of parliament to establish the governmental laws that protect our way of life today! What brave men these were! Buzz Aldrin, the second man to walk on the moon, gave us a wonderful definition of bravery. He stated, "Bravery comes along as a gradual accumulation of discipline."

America is a paradigm of freedom

to a war-weary world. On this Independence Day, let us remember, and be proud!

As you read this section today, there is a garage sale going on at the Senior Center. Drop by to see if there are some things you just can't do without.

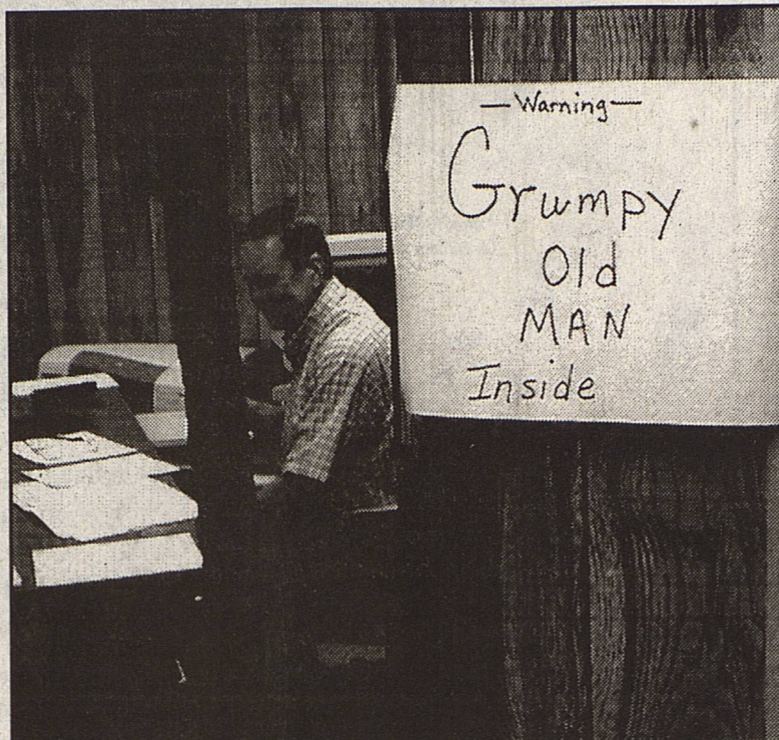
We are sorry to lose Mary Moya from our staff but we wish her well in her plans for the future.

Don't forget to sign up for the Basic Computer Skills class. This will be at the high school computer room. It will be taught by computer teachers and computer literate high school seniors. We are never too old to learn something new about our computers. Ten applicants are needed to hold the class. Let Gloria know, in the office, if you want to take advantage of this opportunity.

The guest list this week includes Alice Lehnert, Rosa Caniceros, and Lorene Randolph, who has been away for awhile. It is good to see each of you.

June Hanneman and Chris Humphries were the lucky winners of the '42' domino tournament this week. Chris states that the winning meal ticket will insure food for one more day!

The new line dance/exercise classes are well attended. There is always room for another one! Come join us! New routines are being learned as we enjoy good fellowship and fun.



The price of growing old (50 in this case). FSA Boss Gary Six found his office festooned with black ribbon, and marked with this entry sign last Thursday, which his female fellow workers said was adequate and accurate, but not nearly descriptive enough.

Texas Tech University Announces Spring 2003 Graduates

Spring commencement at Texas Tech University saw more than 1,900 students awarded degrees. Commencement ceremonies took place May 17 in the United Spirit Arena on campus.

About 5,000 Texas Tech University students made either the President's List or the Dean's List for the Spring 2003 semes-

ter. To be on the President's List or the Dean's List, a student must have taken 12 quality hours during the semester and maintained either a 4.0 or a 3.5 - 3.9 grade point average, respectively.

Kassie Lowe was named to the Dean's List. She is the daughter of Joel and Debra Lowe of Plains.

Baiting Car Thieves

Auto thieves in Houston may soon be in for the ride of a lifetime. In summer 2003, the Houston Police Department's Auto Theft Division will begin a bait car program to deter auto theft.

The division will place nine bait cars throughout the city. Each car will have sensors that notify officers by telephone or pager when someone opens the door, trunk, hood or window or starts the engine. Police will be able to follow the cars using a mobile tracking device embedded in each bait car.

Developed by Ontario based HGI Wireless Inc., the bait car technology allows officers to remotely shut off the engine and lock doors and windows, preventing high speed chases and keeping the thief trapped inside until authorities arrive.

The cars have hidden interior cameras.

"The beauty of the system is that it's low cost and not labor intensive, saving taxpayers a lot of money...they don't have detectives sitting in their patrol cars watching the bait vehicles," says Lt. Victor Rodriguez, who heads the Auto Theft Division's Grant Squad, which is funded by grants from the Texas Auto Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA).

The ATPA is funded by a \$1 per year fee for every automobile insured in Texas that is collected by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

Lt. Rodriguez says the program could reduce auto thefts in the Houston area by at least 10 percent, which could save insurance companies more than \$21 million annually.

July 14 Application Deadline For Camp SPC

Application deadline for this summer's Camp SPC at South Plains College is July 14.

Camp SPC, an optional extended orientation, is scheduled July 28-31 at SPC's Levelland campus and is designed to build college success skills, according to Claudine Oliver, director of guidance and counseling. Advisement and registration for fall classes will be included on the final day of camp.

Regular orientation, which is highly recommended for all incoming freshmen, is scheduled according to major beginning in mid July.

A peer mentoring project

called the Odyssey Program will be a new component of this summer's Camp SPC. Sophomore student mentors who are first generation college students will assist with the camp and help the camp students become oriented to college life during the first few weeks of school.

Cost for Camp SPC is \$50 for students who wish to stay in the dorms and \$20 for commuting students.

The camp is designed to support students in reaching their college and life goals, help ease the transition into college and empower students to serve as mentors and leaders in college and community activities.



Bridal Shower

honoring Jennifer Day

Bride elect of Jeff Mize

Sunday, July 13, 2003 2:00 - 3:30 pm

in the home of Mrs. Melba Crutcher 1008 4th St

Selections: Lubbock: Dillard's, Target & Linens-n-Things Brownfield: Nelson's Plains: Image-n-That

Come Join the Summer Fun!

Out door Swim Party-

Friday, June 27, 8-11 P.M., Grades 7 thru 12-Refreshments

Youth Center Pool Tournaments-

Friday, July 11, Plains Students and Adults-Grades 7 thru 12, trophies for 1st, 2nd, 3rd. 8:30 PM until finished. Saturday, July 12, Grades 7-12, singles and doubles, 8:30PM until finished.

Outdoor Swim Party-

Friday, July 25, 8-11 PM All Youth Center grades-food and drinks.



MEMBER 2003

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Cowboy Country News

Published weekly, each Wednesday at 1205 Copeland Ave., P.O. Box 179, Plains, Texas 79355

Holly Dyer, Publisher Gary Dyer, Editor

Subscription price in Zip Code 793 \$18 annually. Other

Zip Codes \$20 annually. Periodical postage paid at

Plains, TX. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Cowboy Country News, Box 179, Plains, TX 79355

E-Mail us at ccn@crosswind.net

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Plains, Texas

Sunday School

9:30 am.

Morning Worship

10:45 am.

Evening Program

6:00 pm.

First United Methodist Church

1202 Avenue G - Plains, Texas

456-3727



Sunday Schedule

Children's Choir - 9:45 am

followed by Sunday School

Adult Sunday School - 9:45 am

Morning Worship - 10:45 am

God doesn't want shares of your life
- He wants controlling interest!

From The Hack

Morris and his wife Esther went to the ste fair for years, and each time He would say, "I'd like to ride that airplane," and Esther would say, "I know, but it costs \$50, and \$50 is \$50!"

Many years later, the couple went to the fair, saw the airplane, and Morris said, "Esther, I'm 85 years old. If I don't ride this airplane, I might not get another chance!"

"Morris," Esther replied, "the airplane ride costs \$50, and \$50 is \$50."

The aircraft pilot heard them, and said, "Hey, folks, I'll make you a deal. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride, not say a word, I won't charge you. But if you say just ONE word, it's \$50."

The couple agreed, and away they flew. The pilot did all sorts of twists and turns, rolls and dives, but never heard a word from the couple.

When they landed, the pilot turned and said to Morris, "By Golly, I did everything I could think of to get you to yell, but you never did!"

"Well," Morris replied, "I was going to scream something when Esther fell out, but \$50 bucks is \$50 bucks!"

On New Year's eve, a lady stood up at the local pub and said it was time to get ready for the big celebration. At the stroke of midnight, she wanted every husband to be standing next to the one person who made his life worth living. The bartender was almost crushed to death.

On a recent visit to the Lubbock Vets Clinic, (No, I am not a Korean War wounded vet, I go there because good old uncle gives me free (almost) medical check ups, and a huge discount on prescription drugs. and I heard the conversation between a couple of ex-G.I.s next to me.

"Yeah, I was in the Aleutian Islands when the Japs invaded, and one night I got stuck with guard duty. My Sarge told me, "You see, hear or even think somethings going on, you challenge 'em, and if they don't answer, blow Hell out of 'em!"

"Well, about 1:30 that morning, I was stumbling around on my post, about to freeze my unmentionables off, and I hear this sort of shuffling sound, and loud breathing behind me. I whirled around, hollered the usual Halt Who Goes there, and I see this hulky looking thing coming at me and it went, rrr-wofff. That sounded like a Jap to me, though I ain't ever really seen a Jap, and I cut loose with my M-1 and four rounds later this big thing fell on the ground. I'd shot a grizzly bear grave yard dead. Caught all sorts of Hell too, you don't shoot them bears out of season, specially with armor piercing rounds."

This reminded me of a few guard duty stints I pulled the first year or so of Navy life.

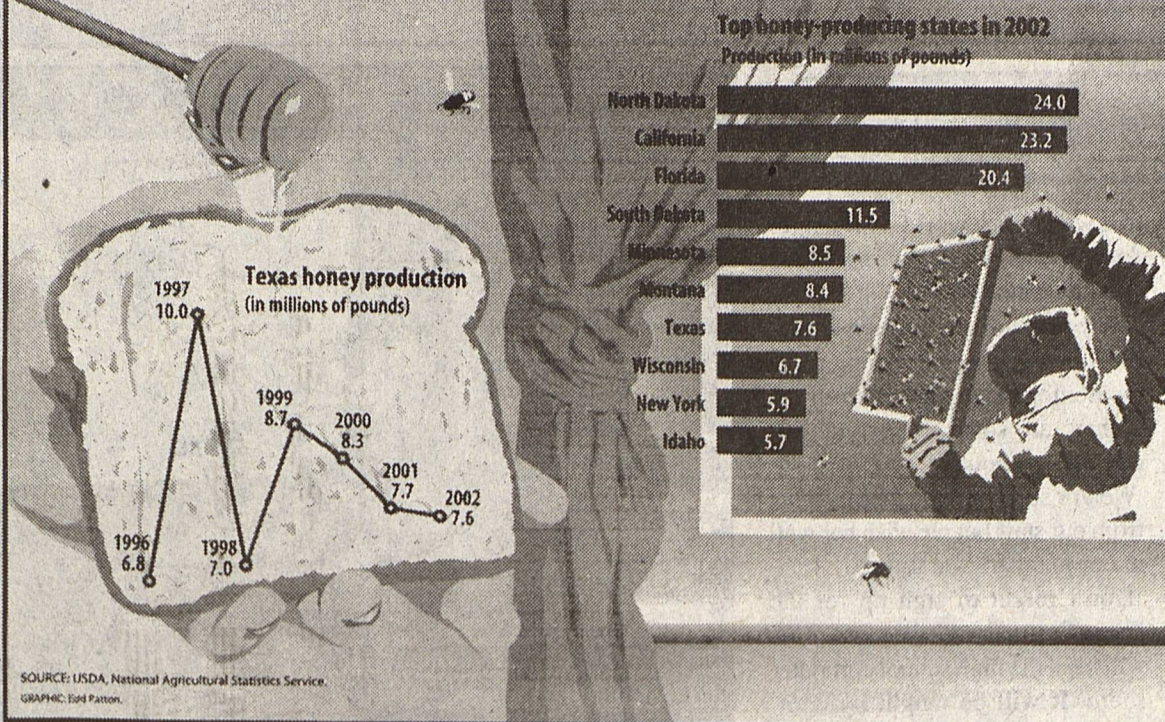
In boot camp at the Naval Training Center in San Diego, my CPO drill master, bless his very evil heart, got around to putting me on the 12 to 2 am watch.

Despite chamber of commerce nonsense, San Diego is cold in February. I faithfully donned my uniform, grabbed the fearfully effective navy version of a billy club, effective on anyone except those carrying guns, knives, grenades or sharp finger nail files, and trudged my route, protecting 87 snoring

How Sweet It Is

The Texas honey industry had a sweet year in 2002. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) National Agricultural Statistics Service, Texas beekeepers produced 7.6 million pounds of honey during 2002, down from 7.7 million pounds in 2001, but the value of the state's honey increased from \$5 million in 2001 to \$8.3 million in 2002, a 66 percent jump.

The Texas Agricultural Statistics Service doesn't know why honey became such a golden commodity in 2002, but the increase in value was mirrored on a national scale. The total value of U.S. honey production in 2002 was \$221.6 million, an increase of 68 percent from 2001. Texas ranked seventh nationwide in 2002 for honey production.



SOURCE: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. GRAPHIC: Ed Patton.

boot sailors from WHAT?

About an hour after walking my designated route, with memories of high school girls, home cooking, beer busts in my head, I heard a noise! My heart leaped - surely no saboteur wanted to blow up 87 worthless, childlike sailors! I quivered, "Uhhh Halt, Who Goes There!"

A very gruff voice responded, "Dyer, you mush brained idiot, don't you know me, your world favorite D.I.! I coulda slit your skinny throat, the way you stand watch! Besides that, you're standing on the barracks steam vent, now your worthless butt is soaked with steam, and that worthless thing is REALLY gonna freeze off the next hour! Resume your patrol!!!"

My, how I miss those old Navy days.

much better term. I go, "Hello."

"Hey, what's going on there?" goes this voice I instantly recognize as one of the daughters. No, I won't tell you which one.. but if you have just a few brain cells, you'll figure it out.

Puzzled at her greeting, I go, "What you mean, going on?" "I mean I've been trying for 15 minutes to get my office. No one is answering. I called the Judge's office, and the Auditors, and I can't get through to ANYONE!"

I was dumfounded a moment, and then burst out hysterically. "What's wrong with you?" she demanded. I got control enough to giggle, "You're probably out of luck. Those folks normally don't work Sunday mornings."

Silence for maybe 20 seconds, and then a harsh expletive, followed by "Oh My God, I thought it was Friday!" To make it even funnier, she was accompanied by her husband. He must have been brain dead too, to think it was Friday. See? I didn't mention her name at all.

Had a rather amusing phone call Sunday morn - no, hilarious is a

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NOTICE OF PROPOSALS
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COUNTY OF YOAKUM
The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive written competitive proposals for the purchase of New Medical Records Software for the Yoakum County Hospitals Physician's Clinic, until 10:00 AM on Friday, July 11, 2003. Proposals will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, July 28, 2003. For bid specifications and any other information, please contact Clay Taylor, Administrator, Yoakum County Hospital, 412 Mustang Avenue, PO Box 1130, Denver City, Texas, 79323. Seal and write "PROPOSAL SOFTWARE" on the envelope and mail or deliver to County Judge Dallas Brewer, PO Box 456/Cowboy Way and Avenue G, Plains Texas, 79355. NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED. Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

NOTICE OF PROPOSALS
THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF YOAKUM
The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive written competitive proposals for the purchase of (1) CT Scan Machine for the Yoakum County Hospital until 10:00 AM on Friday, July 11, 2003. Proposals will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, July 28, 2003. For bid specifications and any other information, please contact Clay Taylor, Administrator, Yoakum County Hospital, 412 Mustang Avenue, PO Box 1130, Denver City, Texas, 79323. Seal and write "PROPOSAL-CT SCAN MACHINE" on the envelope and mail or deliver to County Judge Dallas Brewer, PO Box 456/Cowboy Way and Avenue G, Plains, Texas, 79355. NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED. Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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