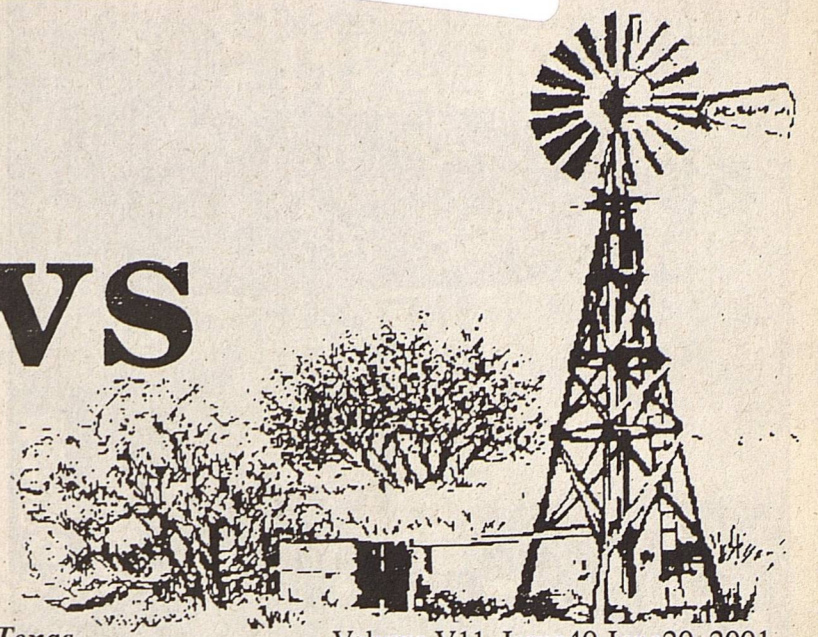


Cowboy Country News

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

Volume V11, Issue40, June 20, 2001



PISD Trustees Re-align Board

In last week's meeting of the Plains Independent School Board of Trustees, officers were elected for the current 2001-02 school year.

Danny Bell will now serve as President of the Board. He was first elected a Trustee in 1993. Wayne Sisson remains as Vice-President, a Board member since 1996. Brad Palmer, a Board member since 1994,

will serve as Board Secretary. Other Board members include John Gray, Randy Tuggle, Raymond Diaz and Dwayne Canada.

PISD Superintendent Jim Haynes said preliminary work and planning was underway establishing a budget for 2001-02, and setting the district tax rate, which should be completed by August 6.

Criminal cases in County Court

In County Court June 13, Judge Dallas Brewer presiding, Rosendo Holguin pled guilty to a first DWI, breath test refused. A 120 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. \$225 court costs and a \$500 fine will be met with time payments. He must serve 50

See 'Crime' on Page 2

Partisan politics raise questions about effective rural representation in State Legislature

Recent articles in the *Lubbock Avalanche Journal* indicate party politics involved in the convoluted House and Senate ongoing redistricting battle in Austin may not bode well for rural Texans, particularly rural West Texans.

In the June 10 issue of the AJ, veteran writer Burle Pettit expressed his opinion on the issue in the COMMENTARY section. Representative Delwin Jones, R-Lubbock, earlier drafted a redistricting plan, submitted to and passed by the House, but which failed muster in the Senate. The redistricting issue is now in the hands of the Legislative Redistricting Board. Pettit says emphatically, "Clearly, Darwin's plan works best for West Texans. Most all Republicans in the region would readily agree. Unless, of course, they're in the Legislature."

Jones' plan would re-draw district lines, and because of significant population changes in the area, Representative Gary Walker, R-Plains, would be paired against Representative Carl Isett, R-Lubbock, for a district seat. Many Republican critics of the plan claimed Jones' plan was meant to shelter the incumbency of House Speaker Pete Laney, a Democrat. Jones told those critics, "Incumbency is a factor which should be considered. Even the courts have

listed that as a requirement, but it goes beyond that. If a person is elected to an office, any office, he or she is put there by the will of the people involved. It's not the role of the Legislature to remove somebody who was put there by the voters. Among other things, that would be an insult to the voters of that entity."

The June 14 issue of the AJ featured an article describing the redistricting plan released by the state Republican Party. This plan would pair Laney against Gary Walker and David Counts, D-Knox City. The proposed plan is reported to heavily favor a Republican House, likely to create 109 Republican seats. The House currently favors Democrats 78-72.

Delwin Jones claims the GOP plan is against rural and minority interests, pairing 10 minorities and 14 rural House members. He maintains lawmakers should strive to keep rural communities with like interests intact, and have a strong voice for rural Texas.

Both the GOP proposed House and Senate redistricting maps were to be presented to the Legislative Redistricting Board Monday, June 18, when public testimony would be heard. A later meeting would allow testimony from House and Senate members.



Precinct Four's Joe Martinez and Courthouse Maintenance Foreman Danny Steffens were busy last week laying out and striping vehicle parking lines around the courthouse square, assisted by a number of recent PHS graduates on the summer workforce. Judge Dallas Brewer, checking on the progress, quipped to CCN, "We felt it might help some of the Commissioners understand a little better where they're supposed to park."

Denver City's Economic Development Council pursues new industry

Members of Denver City's Economic Development Council, the Chamber of Commerce, City Council members and many ordinary citizens are impatiently waiting to hear an official assessment of a business plan drawn up by the EDC, hopefully the first successful step towards creating a new industry in Denver City - Recycling used tires.

Mike Fears, recently hired as Director of the EDC, furnished CCN a copy of the business plan, which is now being analyzed by the Texas Tech Small Business Center. The Center is crunching financial numbers contained in the plan, and hopefully will furnish EDC their opinion of the workability of the new industry sometime this week.

The basic thrust of the business proposal is to recycle old vehicle tires, and convert them into a marketable product, or 'crumb rubber'. Currently, tire retailers and wholesalers dispose of used tires through disposers with permits from TNRCC. The tires are cut up, then dumped in landfills, which EDC thinks will soon ban the dumping because of space requirements.

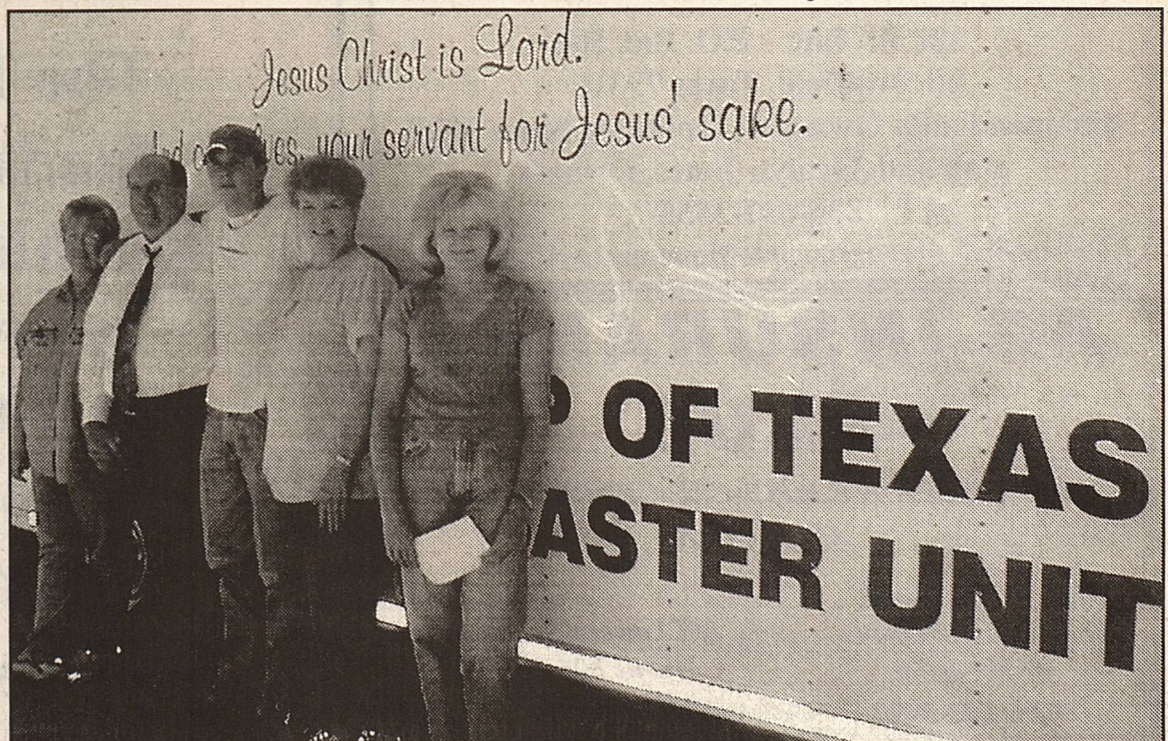
The business plan research indicates some 70 million pounds of scrap tires in their proposed operating area. Technology is now in place to remove 99.99 percent of the steel in used tires. The remaining crumb rubber would be a very saleable product; it could be used to replace asphalt, gravel or sand in playground areas, a much safer and softer surface for youngsters. It would be a superior mulch material in flower beds, the state would use more rubber in asphalt if adequate supplies were available, and one carpet manufacturer, Mohawk, currently

uses about 50 million pounds a year for backing. Dozens of other potential uses of the crumb rubber are mentioned in the plan.

The new business would require a 20,000 square foot building, and would contain a primary shredder, a primary granulator and other equipment to produce the final product. The business would also need six semi-trucks, and 100-48 foot vans, or trailers, to be placed at tire collection points, then to transport the scrap tires to the plant. Tire dealers would pay the recycling firm a tipping fee when the trailers are picked up, which would finance the day to day operation. Figures indicate 64 vanloads of tires would be needed at the plant daily. Plans call for 25 to 30 acres of land at the site.

Director Fears said the plan calls for EDC to form a limited liability corporation and raise an initial \$380,000 starting fund. A loan of \$1,900,000 would be secured from commercial sources. Personnel requirements for the venture would include four salaried people, manager, head mechanic, salesman and secretary, and 15 hourly employees. He told CCN, "We truly think this is a do-able project. We feel our figures are reasonable and valid, nothing is exaggerated or inflated. Once financing is in place, we think we could be in operation in 90 days, and our first product could be ready for sale and shipment in six months. Everyone involved in developing this plan is sitting on pins and needles, waiting to hear from Texas Tech. It will be a tremendous boost for our economy, which has taken some hard knocks during recent fluctuations in the petroleum industry."

'Hello, Houston... relief is on the way.'



Linda and Bill Wright, Justin Bennett, Linda Harris and Melba Crutcher pose beside First Baptist Church's Disaster Relief food preparation trailer. They and Jeff Roper, Chris McGinty and Chris Gscheidle left Sunday for Houston to relieve another crew of FBC members there helping feed thousands of flood victims still without electricity and potable water in their homes. CCN will feature a full story of the volunteers long and hard work at Houston in a future issue.

SPAG releases area population statistics

The South Plains Association of Governments, a voluntary association created by local governments within State Planning Region 2, recently issued a supplement to their Regional Forum publication, detailing population shifts in the area according to the 2000 Census. SPAG represents government entities in Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry and Yoakum Counties.

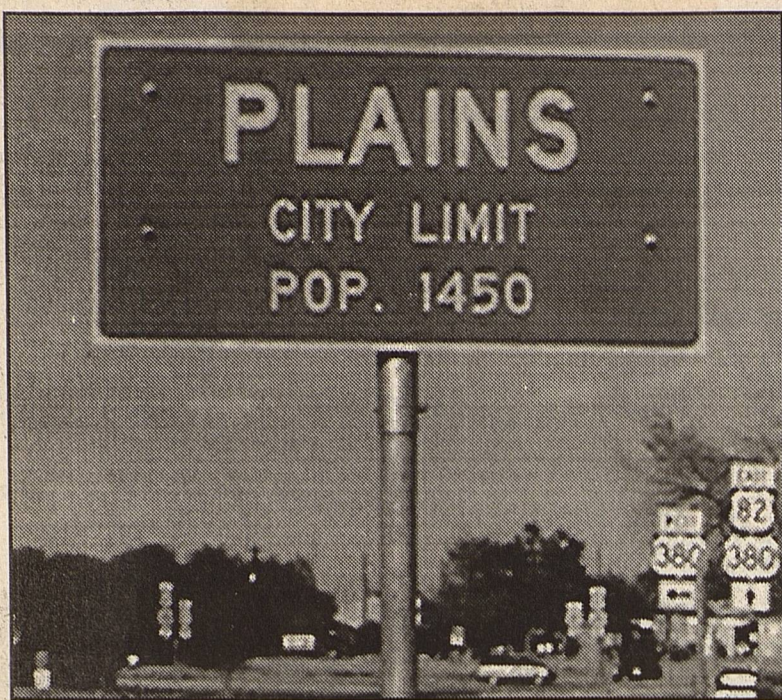
Only four of the 15 counties experienced total population growth; Dickens, 7.43%, Hale, 5.57%, King, .56%, and Lubbock, 8.98%. Of the eleven counties experiencing declining populations, Yoakum County was hardest hit, losing 1,464 residents, a 16.66% decline. As reported earlier, Denver City experienced the greatest loss of citizens, while Plains managed to grow by 28 residents since the 1990 Census.

Interestingly, only two counties

experienced growth in number of Anglo residents; Lubbock county's percentage grew 1.04%, and King County Anglos increased by 5.65%. Conversely, the percentage of Hispanics grew in all but two of the 15 counties. King County Hispanics decreased 35.85%, and Cochran's Hispanics decreased 11.35%. Dickens County led in increased Hispanic residents, 35.85%. Census figures there included prison inmates. Yoakum County Hispanics grew by 4.54%. Total population by Race/Ethnicity is made up of 60% White, 33% Hispanics, 6% Black, and 1% other.

See related photo, chart Page 2.

Sign of phenomenal growth....



TxDot employees recently completed installing new population signs at all highway entrances into Plains. The new figures show Plains grew by 28 souls during the decade since the 1990 Census. We are not yet bulging at the seams with folks, but growth of any kind beats decline of any kind.

John Sharp Announces For Lt. Governor

Austin-Former state Comptroller John Sharp has announced his candidacy for Lt. Governor of Texas. Mr. Sharp spoke to several hundred supporters Thursday morning at the Stephen F. Austin hotel. Accompanied by his wife Charlotte, daughter Victoria and approximately 30 members of his "special interest group", the school children of Texas, Mr. Sharp talked about the problems facing Texas today and his plans to solve them. Mr. Sharp's campaign will focus on education and the \$5 billion dollar state deficit, though he talked about water, infrastructure and Border issues, he believes the primary demand of the economy of the 21st Century is well trained and educated young men and women. "If these young Texans are healthy and well educated, they can be anything they can dream. And Texas will soar along with them. If they're

poorly educated, not only will they not prosper, but neither will Texas," said Mr. Sharp. He also proposed issuing bonds for buildings and our school children are in old buildings in such disrepair that some are unsafe. Funding for the public schools continues to be a problem. "The entire school finance system must be redone to produce fairness and results. It's unfair for a property poor district's children to be penalized, but the Robin Hood plan is also unfair." He also discussed the shortage of teachers in the classroom. "I intend to bring teachers back to the classroom. Whether it's paying their kids' college tuition, or giving them low interest loans or reduced rate mortgages, or simply finding the resources to pay them what they deserve, we must keep and return these vital professionals to the classroom where they belong."

2000 Race/Ethnicity of SPAG Counties

	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Total
Bailey	3,359	85	3,119	31	6,594
Cochran	1,872	183	1,646	29	3,730
Crosby	3,319	271	3,460	22	7,072
Dickens	1,869	223	660	10	2,762
Floyd	3,890	260	3,569	52	7,771
Garza	2,798	237	1,810	27	4,872
Hale	16,668	2,112	17,532	290	36,602
Hockley	13,261	860	8,459	136	22,716
King	318	0	34	4	356
Lamb	7,606	635	6,393	75	14,709
Lubbock	152,988	18,718	66,609	4,313	242,628
Lynn	3,403	172	2,923	52	6,550
Motley	1,186	57	173	10	1,426
Terry	6,421	641	5,626	73	12,761
Yoakum	3,818	92	3,363	49	7,322
Total	222,776	24,546	125,376	5,173	377,871

From Page 1.
"CRIME"

hours community service, attend weekly AA meetings and complete the DWI first offender program. A 72 hour jail sentence had been met with 246 hours served. Holguin also pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision from a prior evading arrest and detention cause. A 15 day jail sentence had been met with time served.

Samuel Calderon Orona pled guilty to a subsequent driving while license suspended charge. He was fined \$250 and must pay \$225 court costs. Arresting officer was Roger Holguin.

Victor Serrano pled guilty to DWI, breath test refused. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. Time payments will be made on a \$500 fine and \$225 court costs. He will serve 72 hours in jail with credit for 9.5 hours served. He must attend weekly AA meetings and complete the DWI first offender program, and serve 24 hours of

community service. Investigating Officer was Brad Taylor, DPS. Warren New served as defendant's attorney.

Michael Perez Aguilar pled guilty to assault causes bodily injury and family violence. A one year jail sentence was suspended and probated 24 months. Time payments will be made on a \$750 fine and \$255 court costs. He will stay in jail 72 hours with credit for 13.5 hours served. He will serve 100 hours community service, and anger management counseling provided by Women's Protective Service of Denver City, at his expense. Investigating officer was William Gardner, D.C. Police. District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state

Plains Youth Center Summer Activities

Pool Party-Out door pool-June 22nd
8:00 pm-11:00 pm
Grades 7-12
(Refreshments)
Pool Party-Out door pool-July 13th

8:00pm-11:00pm
Grades 7-12
(Refreshments)
Pool Tournament (Youth Center)
Friday, July 27th
Student adult trophies
1st, 2nd, 3rd
Grades 7-12 8:30pm
till finished
Pool Tournament
Saturday, July 28th

Singles and Doubles trophies 1st, 2nd, 3rd
Grades 7-12
8:30pm till finished
Pool Party-Out door pool-Friday, August 10th
all youth center grades
8:00pm-11:00pm
(Food Furnished)

SOLVE THE PUZZLE!!!

Adam, God made out of dust,
But thought it best to make me first.
So I was made before man,
To answer God's most Holy plan.
A living being I became,
And Adam gave me my name.
I from his presence then withdrew,
And more of Adam never knew.
I did my maker's law obey,
Nor ever went from it astray.
Thousands of miles I go in fear,
But seldom on earth appear.
For purpose-wise which God did see,
He put a living soul in me.
A soul from me God did claim,
So when from me the soul had fled,
I was the same as when first made.
And without hands or feet or soul,
I travel from pole to pole.
I labor hard by day, by night
To fallen man I give great light.
Thousands of people, young and old,
Will by my death great light behold.
No right or wrong can I conceive,
The scripture I cannot believe.
Although my name therein is found
They are to me an empty sound,
No feat of death doth trouble me,
Real happiness I'll never see.
To heaven I shall never go,
Nor to Hell below.
Now, when these lines you slowly read,
Go search your Bible with all speed,
For that my name is written there,
I do honestly to you declare.
The answer to this riddle is one word
and is found in the Bible only four times!

(See answer on page 6)

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* Federal eligibility and suitability requirements must be met.

Grasshoppers poised for another big season

County Extension agents and farmers report grasshoppers are back this season with a vengeance. This is not good news for gardeners, homeowners of farmers. They are one of the toughest landscape pests to deal with, especially during outbreak years. Their large size and tremendous numbers make them difficult to control with most insecticides.

The past three summers grasshoppers have taken advantage of unusually hot, dry conditions to flourish. Entomologists hoped wet weather last winter would break the hopper outbreak, but observations suggest otherwise. They appear in cycles and we appear to be in the middle of a six to seven year grasshopper infestation. Last year saw the highest population of grasshoppers in many years.

What can gardeners do about grasshoppers on flowers, vegetables and shrubs? Extension specialist recommend covering plants with special covers, called row covers, available through the internet or many garden supply stores.

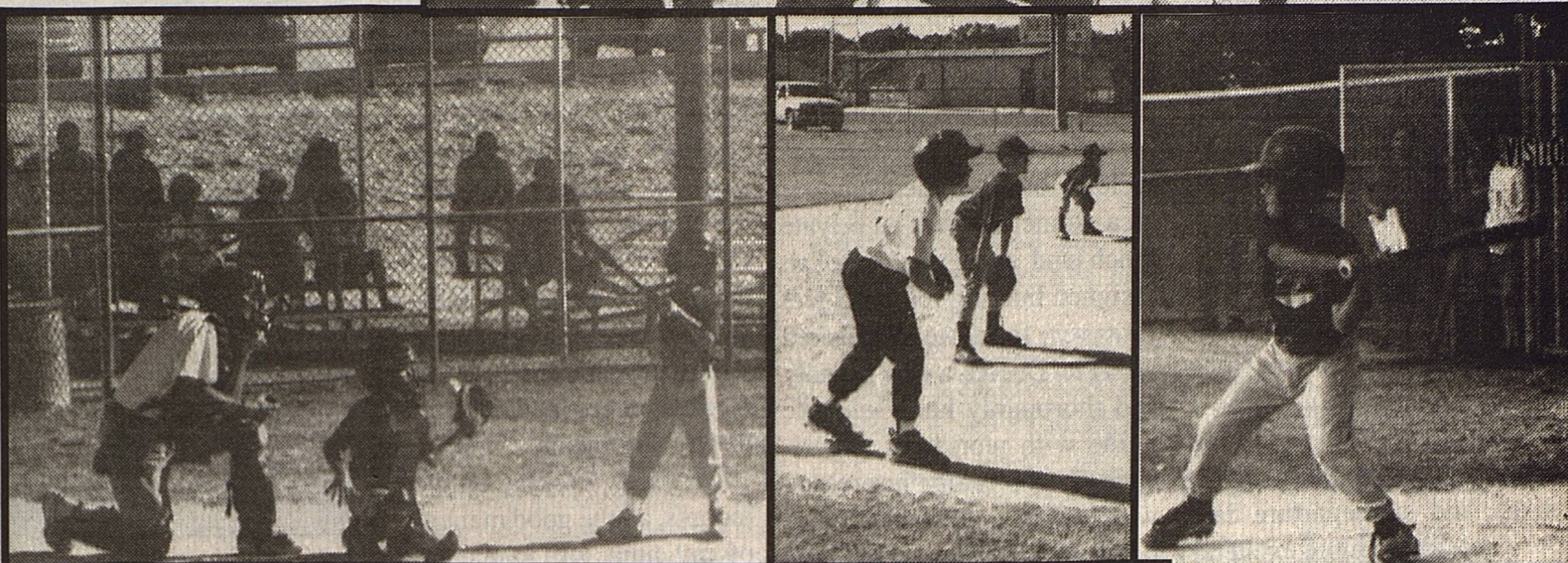
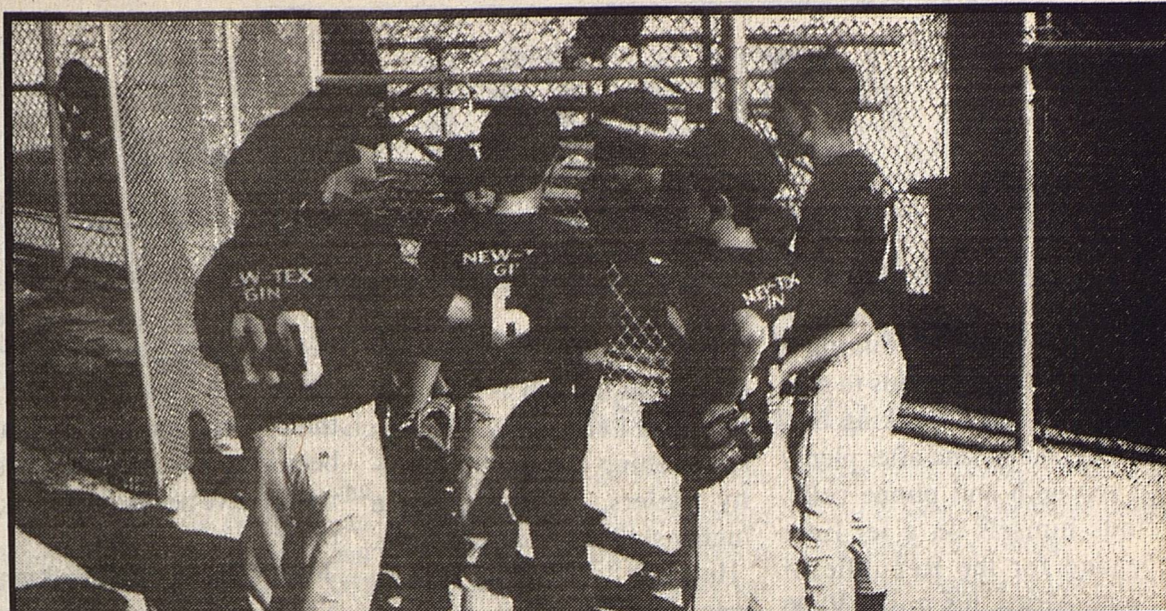
Pesticides are the only other solution. The best products contain the active ingredients permethrin, bifenthrin, esfenvalerate and cyfluthrin. Insecticides are not the perfect solution during heavy infestations, but they can help considerably. This is one of those pests where the best you can do is spray and pray.

J P Court

June 8, 2001-In Justice of the Peace Court Precinct 1, with Judge Melba Crutcher presiding there were 89 traffic cases, 2 public intoxication, 4 consumption of alcohol by minor. Bonds set: 4 cases possession of drug paraphernalia-\$600.00 bond, fugitive from justice-transported to New Mexico-no bond, 4 cases driving while license suspended-\$500.00 bond, false report to a peace officer-\$500.00 bond, 2 cases possession of marijuana-\$1,000.00 bond, driving while intoxicated-1st-\$1,000.00 bond, unlawful consumption of alcoholic beverage by minor-\$1,000.00 bond, driving while intoxicated-no bond-held for Border Patrol, 3 cases purchase/furnish alcohol to a minor-\$1,000.00 bond, 2 cases public in-

toxication-\$500.00 bond, failure to appear-\$1,100.00 bond, illegal dumping-\$500.00 bond, DPS warrants-Gaines county-\$260.00 bond, DPS warrants-Gaines county-\$400.00 bond, theft by check-\$1,500.00 bond, assault causes bodily injury to a family member-\$1,000.00 bond, driving under the influence of alcohol by minor-\$500.00 bond, engage in organized criminal activity-\$5,000.00 bond, failure to report to Peace officer-\$500.00 bond, driver failure to wear seat belt-\$200.00 bond, wrong side of road (not passing)-\$200.00 bond, assault causing bodily injury to a family member-\$1,500.00 bond, evading arrest-held until hearing, motion to revoke probation-Blanco county-held until transported.

Little League Action Scenes



Windbreak or Windblown

Do any of us really enjoy living up here on the Southern High Plains of Texas? Of course we do...but what could make my life a little more pleasant, particularly during certain times of the year? How about a windbreak to block and divert the wind and dust? Wouldn't several nice rows of trees, all planted in a custom designed configuration, make those winter and spring months a little more tolerable?

Sounds simple enough, doesn't it? To stop the wind and/or the blowing soil, just plant a few trees and the problem is solved, right? Well, there's a little more to it than that, but with the right materials, proper site preparation, planting technique, supplemental water and weed control, and the MIND SET OF LONG TERM COMMITMENT, an initial planting can mature into beautiful, functional, protective wind and soil barrier within a

reasonable amount of time. But where do you go for assistance in windbreak design, plant specie selection, plant acquisition, and other important technical information about windbreaks? How about the Texas Forest Service, which just happens to have a windbreak tree nursery in Lubbock, staffed with people anxious and willing to provide windbreak assistance?

So, when you decide to protect your homestead, your livestock, or your fields with trees and shrubs, or you decide to establish wildlife habitat, or maybe build a snow barrier, contact the West Texas Nursery of the Texas Forest Service in Lubbock at 806-746-5801. Summer is the perfect time to design your windbreak so you'll be prepared to order your trees in the fall and take delivery in the late winter or early spring, just in time for installation.

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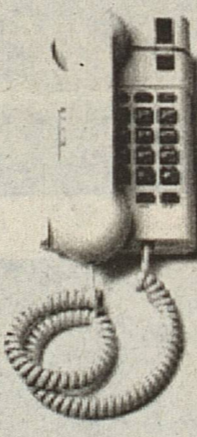
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Single Party Business Service (Includes Federal Subscriber Line Charge)	\$14.60	\$19.10
Directory Assistance	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.30

Toll blocking is available at no charge to low-income customers who qualify. Surcharges for emergency 9-1-1 services are assessed according to government guidelines.

Low-income individuals eligible for Lifeline and Link-Up telephone assistance programs may be eligible for discounts from these basic local service charges through state-specified telephone assistance plans.

Basic services are offered to all customers in the ALLTEL service territories at the rates, terms and conditions specified in the company's tariffs. If you have any questions regarding ALLTEL's services and benefits*, please contact an ALLTEL customer service representative at 1-800-452-5354.

*Temporary exceptions may apply in certain areas.



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ALLTEL es un proveedor de servicios de telecomunicaciones de calidad, que ofrece servicios básicos y de lujo a precios razonables dentro de su territorio de servicio. Los servicios básicos son ofrecidos según las tarifas siguientes:

Escala de precios para el servicio mensual (si existe)

	Máximo	Mínimo
Servicio residencial de línea única no compartida (Incluye el cargo federal por cliente de línea y el servicio de teclado)	\$8.75	\$9.50
Servicio comercial de línea única no compartida (Incluye el cargo federal por cliente de línea y el servicio de teclado)	\$14.60	\$19.10
Información por operadora	\$0.30	\$0.30

El bloqueo de llamadas con recargo está disponible para aquellos clientes con ingresos bajos que califiquen para dicho servicio. Existen recargos por servicios de emergencia (9-1-1) según los recargos gubernamentales.

Las personas con ingresos bajos que sean elegibles para los programas de asistencia para teléfonos Lifeline y Link-Up pueden ser elegibles para descuentos de estos cargos de servicios básicos a través de planes de asistencia específicos del estado.

Los servicios básicos son ofrecidos a todos los clientes en los territorios de servicio de ALLTEL, según las tarifas, normas y condiciones especificadas en las tarifas de la compañía. Si tiene cualquier pregunta acerca de los servicios y beneficios de ALLTEL*, póngase en contacto con un representante de servicio a los clientes de ALLTEL llamando al 1-800-452-5354.

*En ciertas áreas pueden existir excepciones temporales.



SAFARI

What's a dedicated sportsman who has hunted all his life do when the thrill of stalking a deer or antelope begins to pale a bit? He starts thinking bigger, of course, and after plenty of research and phone calls, finds himself on a jet liner headed for the Republic of South Africa, his trusty 30:06 rifle safely in the storage bay, enroute to a very memorable, but definitely not cheap big game hunt.

That's what happened to Lovington, NM resident Tom Peveler last May 23. He told CCN last week, "I have dreamed of hunting somewhere on the African Continent since I was a very young boy. I thought about this trip a long time, and as my plans took shape, and the departure date drew closer, the more excited I became. It's an experience I will always remember," then added with a chuckle, "And one I probably won't ever be able to afford again!"

The round trip covered over 21,000 air miles, and the flight to Capetown alone lasted almost two and a half days, with layovers. He then flew a feeder airline to Port Elizabeth, where his guide firm, 'John X Safaris' met him and carried him to their permanent and exceptionally furnished guest quarters, with excellent food and drink service. He said nine other hunters occupied the headquarters during his stay, and oddly

enough, they were all Americans.

Tom is a retired veteran peace officer, his last job as a Deputy Sheriff of Lea County. He stays busy selling custom built utility trailers, and doing some highly skilled taxidermy work.

He said, "The daily routine was a big breakfast, then get paired up with my professional hunter and the native tracker assigned to us. We would ride a SUV four wheel drive type vehicle to our assigned hunting area. Some of it was on private ranch land, some was part of an assigned hunting reserve. I feel I was very fortunate to be paired with Piet Dreyer, a very friendly and thoroughly knowledgeable guide with worlds of experience. I was really impressed with how he could take his binoculars, or spotting scope, look an animal over and tell me right off if it was a worthy trophy. He might tell me the animal had horns 38 inches long, and if I took the animal, the measurement would be amazingly close to that 38 inches."

Tom concentrated on prairie animals, mostly in the antelope family. The photos here indicate the quality of his trophies. He collected a stud Zebra, Kudu, Gemsbok (or Oryx), Blesbuck, Impala, Warthog (a really ugly one), Duiker, Steenbuck, Springbuck, and Fallow deer.

Asked about his choice of rifle, Peveler said he felt the 30:06 was adequate for all the

species he collected. "I did use my handloads, and they were a bit hotter than factory ammunition, and I was pleased with their performance. If I had been after the bigger species, I would have needed much more rifle."

John X Safari workers skinned all his trophies, and the meat was shared with area natives. The heads and horns were then boiled and then scraped free of all flesh. The hides were preserved in a salt solution. All of this will be kept in quarantine to ensure importing the hides and skulls into the U.S. will not cause sanitation problems.

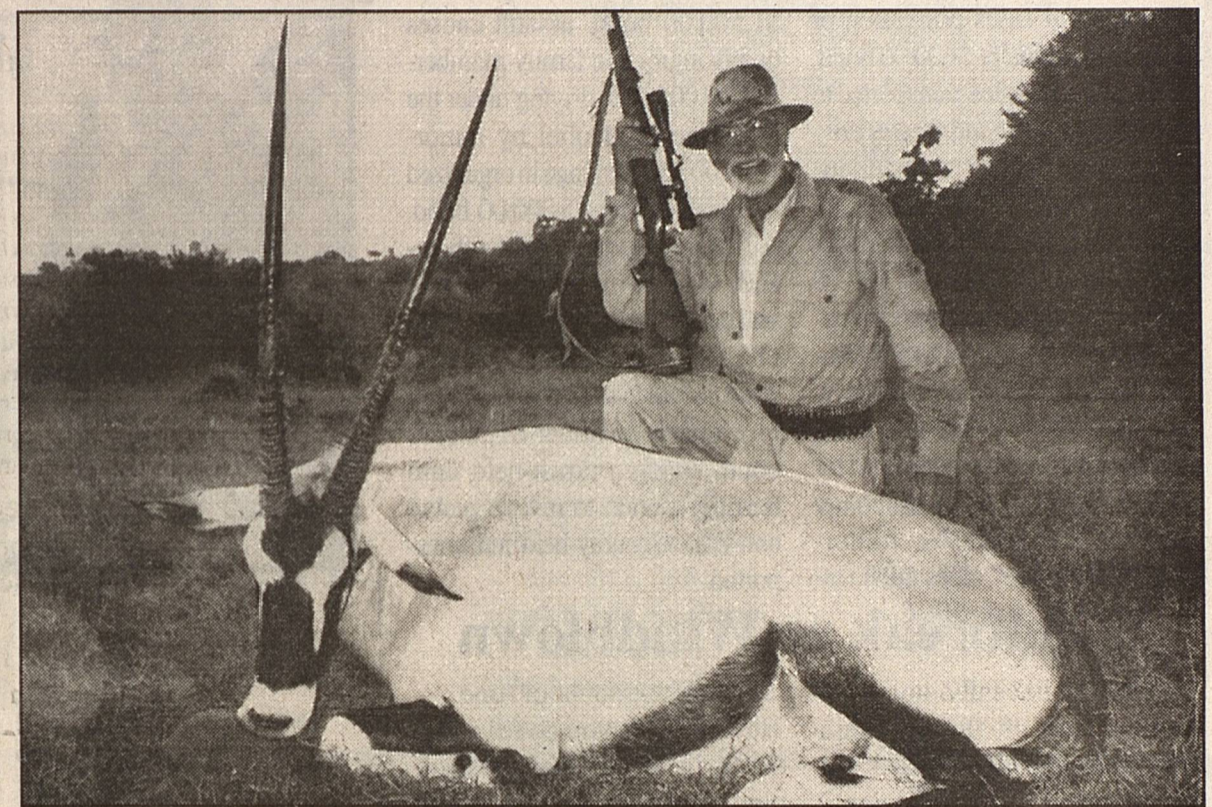
Tom said it may be four to six months before he receives his trophy shipments. "I'm sure when I start working on those mounts, all the good memories of my hunt will come back strong." He told us he only does taxidermy work for a few select friends, and is not interested in getting into it commercially. When the trophy shipment from South Africa arrives, he will have plenty of material to keep busy with for a long time.

****Editors note. This feature may not sit well with animal lovers and activists. It should be noted, the hunt included animals taken from over-abundant herds in South Africa. The nation has strict and well enforced big game and conservation laws, to ensure it's wildlife resources and natural beauty.**

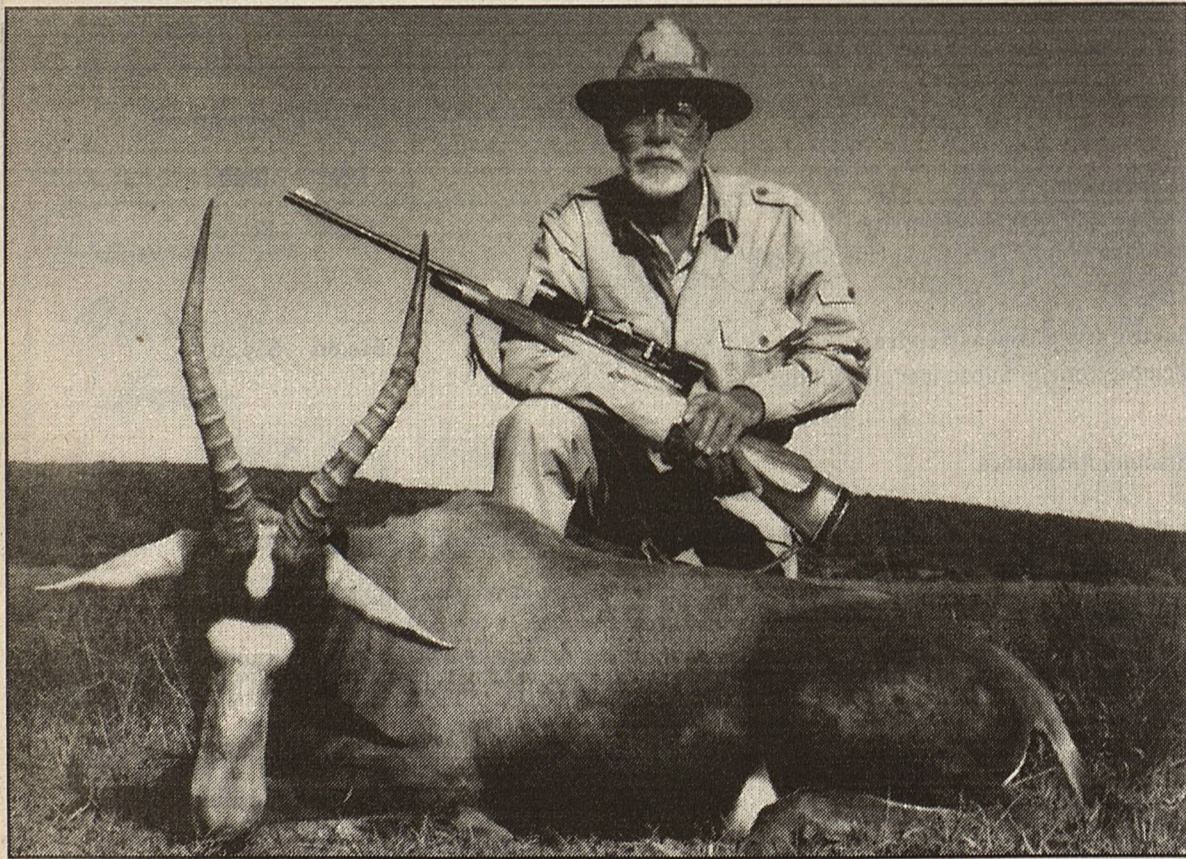
Hunt of a lifetime for Lovington man



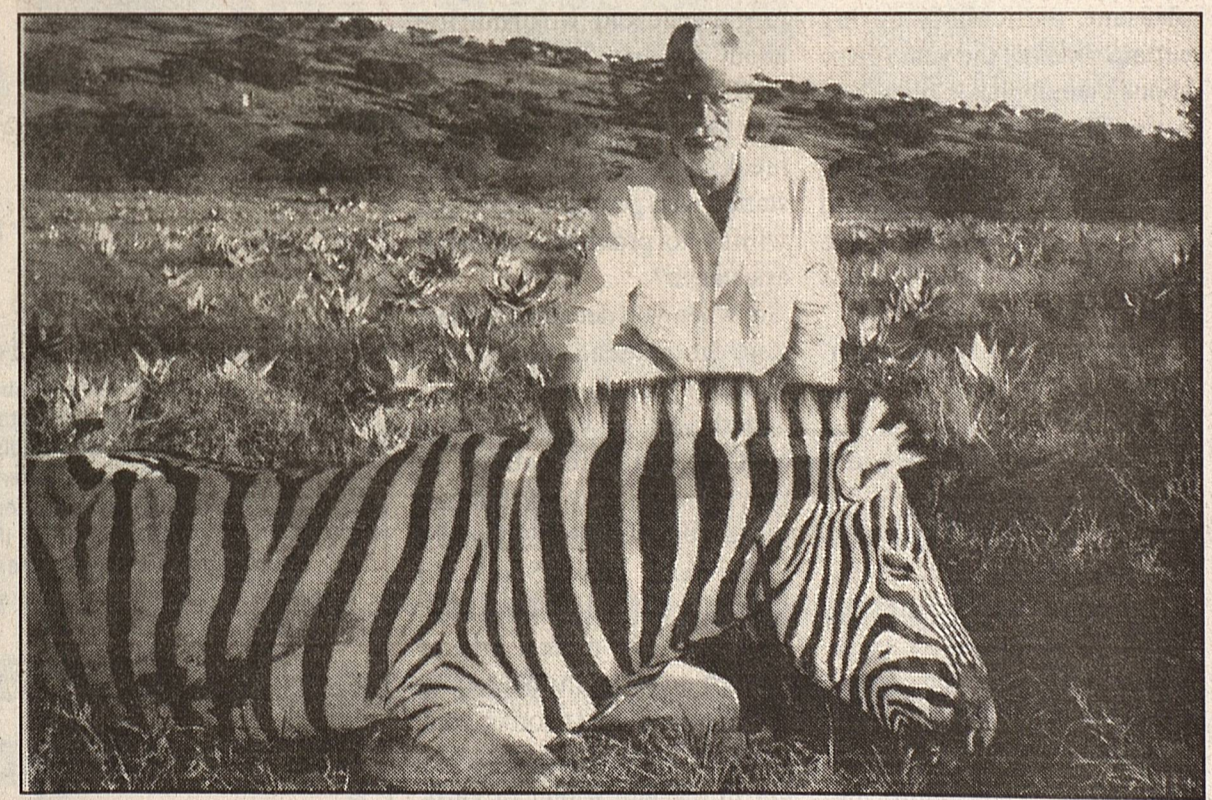
One of the most coveted prize animals in African Plains game, a magnificent Kudu



Peveler and a superb Gemsbok, or Oryx



An excellent Blesbuck.



A magnificent male Zebra, in its senior years, taken by Peveler

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Lifelines & Styles

Connection Meeting

Yoakum County Connection met Tuesday, June 12 in Denver City at Aurelio's Restaurant. David Brunson called the meeting to order, and introduced guests Melissa Howell, new Denver City Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, and Margaret Williams of Hobbs who teaches Clay Play for the summer youth program. Williams commended the current Plains and Denver City clay class students for their good behavior. Because of last year's increasing class sizes, a limit on enrollees was instituted this year for the 21 classes offered by Yoakum County Extension Service, Yoakum County Connection with help from the Texas Commission on the Arts and local donors.

Various art and educational classes for youngsters are being offered this June in Plains and Denver City, Tonya Patton is program director. This is the program's fifth year. It was reported a drawing by student Andres Alarcon was bought by the Connection at the Denver City HS Art Show held at the end of school.

L.J. Sanders reported a wooden plaque designed by Kenneth Bell of Denver City was recently hung at the Connection building, reading "In 1996, this property was donated by the Elsie Wood Family to the people of Denver City, Plains, and Yoakum County." Billie Jo Ayers had the winning T-shirt design for this year's Watermelon Round Up scheduled on September 1. The contest was handled by the Denver City Art Association and the Connection awarded Ayers \$100.00.

It was announced the next Watermelon Round Up meeting will be June 21 at 7:00 pm. in Plains. Tonya Patton reminded the group Story Book

A better Medicare — the right way

It is the one health care program most American seniors have relied upon for the better part of 35 years. Though vitally important, Medicare is inflexible, incomplete and out-moded. The bureaucratic, government-run program has failed to keep pace with changes in health care or the population.

To make matters worse, starting in 2010, 77 million baby boomers will begin entering the Medicare program and the number of beneficiaries will double over the next 30 years. Medicare in its current form cannot handle this immense demographic shift and still keep its promise to current and future beneficiaries.

Simply adding new benefits, such as eyeglasses, hearing aids and prescription drugs to the program will not solve the problem.

While health care has changed over the past three decades, so too have our expectations of what benefits are necessary. Only comprehensive modernization of Medicare will provide retirees with access to new benefits.

When Medicare was first envisioned, health care consisted primarily of acute care (hospitalization). It is no surprise that the need for hospitalization has decreased due to the availability of modern prescription drugs, something Medicare does not yet cover. Although two-thirds of America's seniors have some access to pre-

Theatre will be in Plains and Denver City schools on October 16 and 17 for presentations. The Connection is also sponsoring an upcoming young leadership meeting in July and a craft exhibit in October at the Connection building. Directors present included Dennis Harrison, Sue Holder, LeAnn Romines, Carolyn Culwell, Pam Burgess, Linda Powell, Doug Brown in addition to Brunson and Sanders. The July 4 celebration and fireworks in Denver City was announced. Special guest Mackenzie Patton was also present.

THANKS
for reading
CCN!



DORCAS R. HARDY

scription drugs, one-third of the over 40 million beneficiaries do not, and they need some level of coverage for their medicines.

Since tacking on a new drug benefit to Medicare would be short-term fix to Medicare's problems, we are left with two options. Either sit back, do nothing and watch the program fail to serve seniors and eventually face bankruptcy; or comprehensively reform Medicare to fiscally strengthen the program, improve the level of service and provide access to prescription drugs.

Comprehensive reform is the obvious answer.

Senators John Breaux (D-LA) and Bill Frist (R-TN) have pioneered the effort to reform the Medicare program. They model their proposal after recommendations from the National Bipartisan Commission on Medicare Reform, and the market-based health plan (FEHBP: Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan) enjoyed by more than 10 million federal employees and retirees and

Plains Student Named To HSU President's List
Abilene, TX-Hardin Simmons University announces that Plains resident Shaunda Eady made the President's List for the spring 2001 semester.

The HSU President's List honors students who completed at least 12 semester hours with a 4.0 grade point average.

Members of Congress and their families.

This year Senators Breaux and Frist have proposed the bipartisan Medicare Preservation and Improvement Act of 2001 (S.357) that, so far, is the best proposal on Capitol Hill. It offers a means of strengthening and improving today's Medicare system to ensure solvency and availability while providing prescription drug benefits and offering seniors more and better health care choices.

Such a plan would produce a strong Medicare program and provide incentives for seniors to choose efficient health care plans and providers. Seniors who are satisfied with their current Medicare coverage could keep the coverage they have; the new program would provide a guarantee that, if their needs change, they could opt in to a new plan. No senior would be without coverage.

Senators Breaux and Frist have begun a dialogue that can lead to market-based reform of Medicare that will guarantee seniors and disabled Americans the choices they want, the prescriptions they need and the high quality health care they deserve. This is a giant step in the right direction.

Dorcas R. Hardy served as Commissioner of Social Security under President Reagan. Readers may contact her at: Suite 1630, 1320 North Veitch St., Arlington VA 22201.

Plains Students Named To SPC Honor List

Residents from Plains are among students named to the President and Dean's Honor Lists for the spring 2001 semester at South Plains College.

"These students have maintained a high standard of academic excellence in their studies at South Plains College, and we are delighted to name them to the college honor lists," said Dr. Gary McDaniel, SPC president.

Students named to the President's Honor List must maintain a 4.0 or straight A

grade point average while carrying at least 12 semester hours of college level work.

Students named to the Dean's Honor List must maintain a minimum 3.25 GPA while carrying at least 12 semester hours of college level work with no failing grades.

Named to the President's Honor List from Plains is Dustin Sisson.

Named to the Dean's Honor List from Plains are Krystle Blundell, Candace Bowers and Dustin Brunson.

SPC's Second Summer Registration July 9

Registration for South Plains College's second summer session is July 9.

Sign up at SPC Levelland is 3:00-6:00 pm. in the Administration Building.

Enrollment at the Reese Center campus is 3:00-6:00 pm. in Building 1, Administrative Offices.

Classes begin July 10 at both locations, and late registration is July 10-11. An additional fee of \$15 and a \$5 add/drop fee will be charged for late registration.

Final exams are scheduled August 9.

Summer courses at SPC Levelland are offered in Accounting, Biology, Chemistry, Commercial Music, Computer Information Systems, English, Government, History, Law Enforcement Technology, Math, Physical Education, Psychology, Reading, Sociology, Span-

ish and Speech Communication.

Courses offered via the Internet are Introduction to Computer Science, Developmental English, Composition I, American Literature, American Government, Fundamentals, History of the United States Since 1876, Texas History and General Biology.

Summer courses at the Reese Center are offered in Accounting, Computer Information Systems, English, Government, History, Math, Psychology, Reading, Sociology, Spanish and Speech Communication.

Summer class schedules and other information can be accessed on line at www.southplainscollege.com or obtain by contacting SPC Levelland at 894-9611, ext. 2570 or 2375 or the SPC Reese campus at 885-3048, ext. 2902.

Walking For Well Being

Walking is fun and easy, besides having health benefits. Walkers have a lower rate of breast cancer and other cancers. It can reduce the risk of heart disease and is an important part of rehabilitation following a heart attack. There are also wonderful mind benefits. Walking improves your mood and helps ward off depression. It is one of the safest and easiest ways to exercise. Take a family member or a friend along with you and enjoy your neighborhood walking track.

Before you start any physical activity consult your physician.

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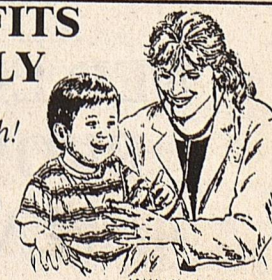


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From The Hack

A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand.
Thou shalt not weigh more than the refrigerator.
Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves for they shall never cease to be amused.

The following was cheerfully stolen from Stephen Henry, Publisher of the Levelland NEWS-PRESS. It always makes me cheerful to steal something rather than dream it up.

The subject was Fridge door sticky notes. Apparently his wife is as familiar with them as the Bride;
Kitchen closed..this chick has had it.

Martha Steward doesn't live here.
I'm creative. You can't expect me to be neat too.

So this isn't Home Sweet Home..Adjust!

Ring bell for maid service. If no answer, do it yourself.

I clean house every other day. Today is the other day.

I would cook dinner, but I can't find the can opener.

If you write in the dust, please don't date it.

My house was clean last week. Too bad you missed it!

A clean kitchen is the sign of a wasted life.

I came, I saw, I decided to order take out. If you don't like my standards of cooking, lower your standards.

You may touch the dust in this house but please don't write in it.

Apology: Although you'll find our house is a mess, come in, sit down, converse. It doesn't always look like this. Some days it's even worse.

A messy kitchen is a happy kitchen, and this kitchen is delirious.

If we are what we eat, then I'm easy, fast, and cheap.

The following is also cheerfully stolen. I'm even lazier today than normal. These are excerpts from a speech written by Ted Nugent, the Rock star. Strange, I didn't know any of them could write.

"I'm a bad American. I like big trucks, big boats, big houses, and pretty women. I believe the money I make belongs to me and my family. I don't believe in ignoring your kids and giving them Prozac. I don't think being a 'minority' makes you noble, or victimized. I don't celebrate Kwanzaa but if you want to that's fine. I think the cops have every right to shoot your butt if you're running from them after they tell you to stop - If you don't understand 'freeze' or 'stop', learn English. I don't want to eat anything with the words light, lite or fat-free on the label. The guys who wrote the Constitution were light years ahead of anyone today - now leave the document alone. I believe a self-righteous liberal with a cause is more dangerous than a Hell's Angel with an attitude. I think Bill Gates has every right to keep every penny he made and continue to make more. If it makes you mad, invent a better operating system. I don't like Hate Crime Laws - If someone murders someone else, that's a hate crime. I think turkey bacon, turkey sausage, turkey fake anything sucks. I thought the Taco Bell Dog was funny. I don't hate the rich. I help the poor. I realize wrestling is fake. I'm neither angry or disenfranchised, despite what the media tries to make the world believe. I may be a bad American, but that's tough!

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service



On The Level

with **Donald Haley**
USDA/NRCS

Illinois Bundleflower '101'

N.C. Clanahan works hard at growing things.

Cotton, peanuts, wheat, CRP grass, watermelons, Illinois Bundleflower, goats....

"Whoa...grows what?"

Goats...he has some good looking' Bohr goats....

"No...not goats!...That other one....Illinois Bundlesomething...."

Oh...you mean Illinois Bundleflower?

Yeah... he can sure enough grow it. We sort of call him the poster boy for Illinois Bundleflower!

"OK, so N.C. can grow this Illinois Bundleflower... but why does he want to?"

Well...it's kind of a long story, but the short version is that Illinois Bundleflower is an approved 'wildlife' species for CRP seeding requirements of sign-ups 16, 18 and 20 contracts.

Hundreds of local CRP acres have been sown with Illinois Bundleflower in the mix, but, with the exception of N.C. and a couple of others, the success rate for germination and establishment has been pretty low so far.

Producers who wished to enhance their point scores for CRP sign-ups 16, 18 and 20 agreed to seed a native grass mixture including a forb, shrub and/or legume for added wildlife benefit.

Illinois Bundleflower (Desmanthus illinoensis) is a 'legume'. Remember your soil chemistry and how legumes do good things like "fix" nitrogen from the atmosphere?

The name comes from the Greek "Desme", meaning 'bundle' and "anthos" meaning 'flower'.

Illinois Bundleflower is a perennial plant (comes back from roots) native to the

United States plains and prairie regions.

It is listed in the literature that it had several useful medicinal qualities to Native American Indians.

Before there were Walmart's and pharmacist's and SudaFed, the seeds were crushed and used in a brew by Native Americans to alleviate symptoms of colds and flu.

Leaves were also used by Native Americans as a pulp to soothe the skin and eye irritation long before there was even a notion of Visine.

The double compound leaves give Illinois Bundleflower a delicate, fern-like appearance, leading some to refer to it as Prairie Mimosa.

Other common names include Spider Bean and Pickleweed and much more romantic names, such as Prairie Primrose and Sweet Prairie.

Illinois Bundleflower reaches 36 - 60 inches (stalk height) and blooms June through August in flowers of brilliant white.

The fruit is a cluster of small, nut-like bundles called "pods".

This is like grandma's apple pie to domestic livestock and wildlife alike, as it is very high in both palatability and crude protein.

In range management terms, Illinois Bundleflower is known as a "decreaser".

This means that it is something grazing animals favor and it will 'decrease'



under improper grazing pressure, and thus, can be a strong indicator of proper grazing use. Anyway, that's your Illinois Bundleflower short course.

It's an interesting plant and one that has been seeded on many of our CRP contracts you pass everyday. If you should go by N.C. Clanahan's CRP, those are not just

weeds he's raising with his native grass.

If you ask N.C. how he got so good at growing Illinois Bundleflower, he will usually grin and say, "It's not somethin' I planned to do, or it probably wouldn't have worked!"

Notice of Public Hearing

Yoakum County, Texas
The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County cordially invites the public to attend a hearing on the topic of county redistricting on the 27th day of June 2001, at 1 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Commissioners Courtroom at the Yoakum County Courthouse in Plains, Texas. The Commissioners Court is considering one or more alternate plans for the redistricting of County Commissioners Court precincts. Changes in the existing boundaries of each Commissioners Court precinct will also have an impact on election precincts, polling places, and Justice of Peace/Constable precincts. Public comment is sincerely solicited.
Dallas Brewer
Yoakum County Judge

NOTICE OF TOTAL COLIFORM VIOLATION

The CITY OF PLAINS ID # 2510002 water system collected **TWO (2) COLIFORM FOUND** water samples during the month of **JUNE 2001** that contained Coliform bacteria. The CITY OF PLAINS water system is required to submit a minimum of **TWO (2)** water samples each month for bacteriological analysis

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) sets drinking water standards in Texas and has determined that the presence of total coliform is a possible health concern. Total coliform are common in the environment and are generally not harmful themselves. However, the presence of these bacteria in drinking water, generally is a result of a problem with water treatment of the pipes which distribute the water, and indicates that the water may be contaminated with organisms that can cause disease. Disease symptoms may include diarrhea, cramps, nausea, and possibly jaundice, and associated headaches and fatigue. These symptoms, however, are not just associated with disease-causing organisms in drinking water, but may also be caused by a number of factors other than your drinking water. The TNRCC has set an enforceable drinking water standard for total coliform to reduce the risk of these adverse health effects. Under this standard no more than 5% of the samples collected during a month can contain these bacteria, except that systems collecting fewer than 40 samples/month that have one total coliform-positive sample per month are not violating the standard. Drinking water which meets this standard is usually not associated with a health risk from disease-causing bacteria and should be considered safe.

If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact **DAVID BRUNSON** at **806-456-2288**.

School Depository Bid

Sealed bids will be accepted in the office of **James Haynes**, Superintendent, Plains ISD, 1000 10th Street, until 1:00 p.m., Monday, July 9, 2001. Bids will be opened and read at that time. Information can be obtained by contacting **Eric Banfield**, Plains ISD, Box, 479, Plains, Texas 79355 or calling **806-456-7483**. Plains ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids and to waive all technicalities and to accept the bid the District considers most advantageous.

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

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