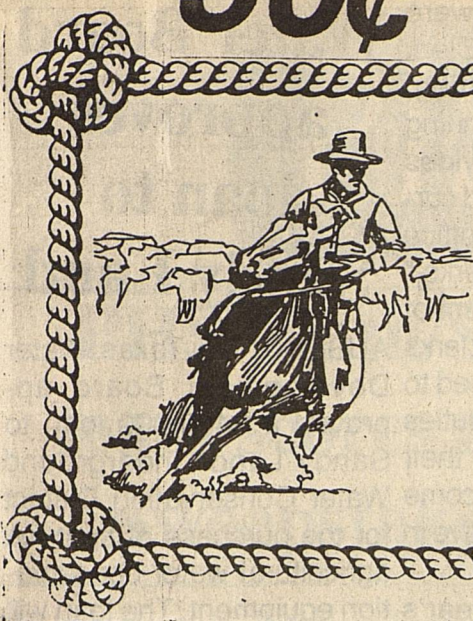


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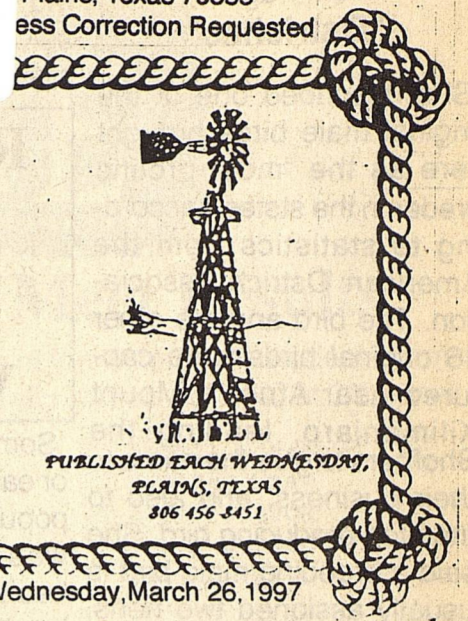
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Cowboy Country News



PUBLISHED EACH WEDNESDAY,
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Volume III, Issue 30, Wednesday, March 26, 1997

Lack of challenging candidates voids local elections

For the first time in memory, neither the City of Plains, the Plains Independent School District, or Sandy Land Water District will post an election for Council members, Board of Trustees or Board Directors this year.

Legislation passed in 1994 allowed governmental entities to cancel regularly scheduled elections when no candidates register to oppose incumbents in office. The law was passed as a means of avoiding unnecessary expense in holding an election solely for the purpose of re-electing incumbent office holders.

Plains City Hall, the PISD Superintendents office and Sandy Land all reported last week no citizens had filed to run for the offices.

In the proposed City Council election, incumbents Shane McKenzie, Bonnie Earnest and Owen Schneider will remain in office. Both

Dennis Harrison, of Denver City, and Ray Bearden will continue to serve as Sandy Land Directors, while Anna Gonzalez, Tim Addison and Brad Palmer will continue to serve as Trustees on the PISD Board.

Gary Walker, Consultant for Sandy Land, said last week, "I don't think there is any other way to read this, the fact no one chose to run in our Director's election, but as an expression of the public's satisfaction with the job our present Board of Directors is doing for the water district, and this is satisfying". City Administrator David Brunson also expressed his satisfaction with the cancelled election. "This saves the city, which means our tax payers, the money an election costs,

and it tells me the citizens here are appreciative of the job our present Council is doing in their interests".

Lions hear triumphs, trials of ostrich venture

Two dozen Plains Lions Club members and guests heard Dee Reneau describe her family's adventures in importing and commercially raising giant ostriches from Africa.

In 1989, her father, Newell Shofner, journeyed to Tanzania, Africa, and contracted with that country's Wildlife Association to buy captured there by the association. It was necessary to charter a jet aircraft to fly 47 of the huge birds to the United States. After a 30 day quar-

antine period in New York, the birds were transported by truck to the Shofner farm in the Sligo general area.

Today, the family owned "Kilimanjaro Ostrich Ranch" has birds penned at the original farm site, and also just east of town at their other raising facility.

Ms. Reneau said the firm currently has some 100 birds of breeding age, plus about 150 chicks.

Turn to page 2,
"Ostriches"

'Final Four' selected in search for PISD Superintendent

In a special called meeting of the Plains Independent School District's Board of Trustees early Monday morning, the lengthy search for a new Superintendent came a step closer to finality when the Board agreed on the four finalists still in the running for the position.

They are Don Ballard, Dawson ISD, Phil Warren, Lazbuddie ISD, Randy Burks, Wildorado ISD, and James Haynes, Balmorhea ISD. All are current Superintendents in their districts.

"Interviews with the four finalists will be held here, starting this week", said Trustee Danny Bell. He said the Board would also like to visit each of the finalists home school districts, if time permits. Original plans called for the top candidate to be named by April 14, just over two weeks from now.

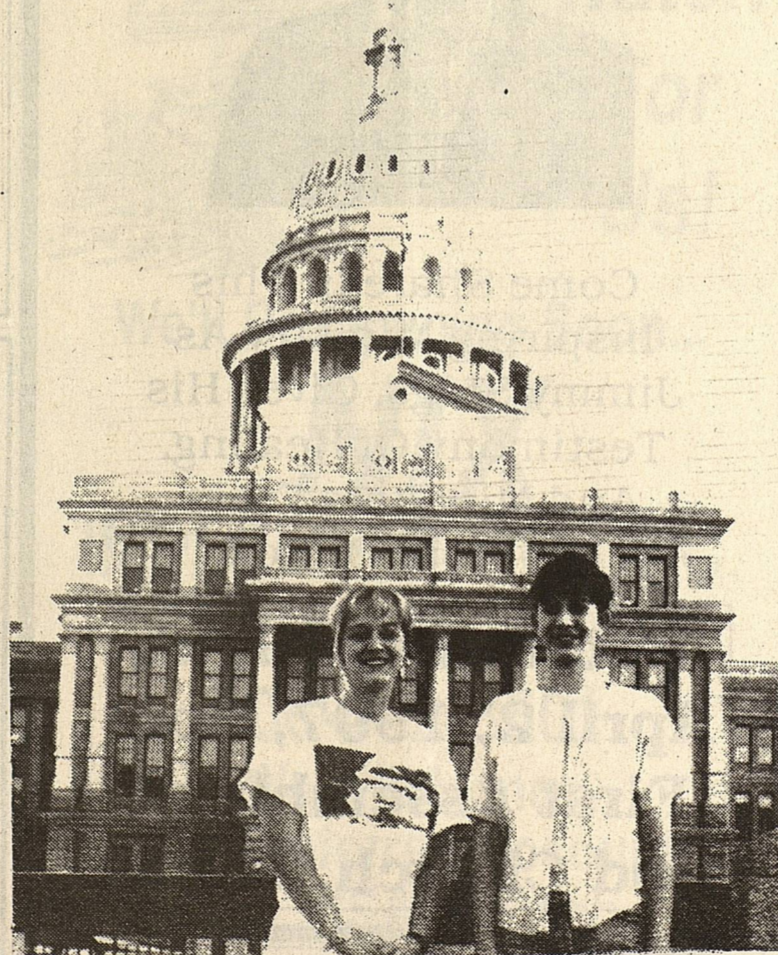
Spring is knocking on our door



The recent warm, almost balmy days, have started to paint our South Plains with the first tints of green - green budding trees, grass, and yes, the earliest emerging hated weeds. The photo shown here of the number Three hole at the Yoakum County Golf Course, while in black and white, definitely shows Mother Nature's hand in transforming our drab and bleak winter scenes to the new emerging season.

Golf Course Grounds Superintendent George Tovar and his crew have done a superb job in keeping the course in good shape throughout a cold and dry winter. The greens are fast, the fairways are starting to 'color up', and if Mother Nature would just give a small helping hand in the form of spring rains, the course would blossom into one of the very best municipal type's in the state.

PHS students serve in House of Representatives



Plains High School students Candace Bowers and Tandi Jones had an unique experience last week in the State Capitol. The girls served as House Sergeants during the legislative session.

"It was very interesting and exciting to see how the legislative session works", sophomore Tandi said. "I enjoyed the opportunity to see

Representative Walker and the other House members hard at work". She is the daughter of Steve and Cathy Jones.

Candace, also a sophomore, said "I really enjoyed the tour of the Capitol and the view of the city from there.

Turn to page 2,
"PHS Students"

Community marquee in need of repairs, dollars

At last week's meeting of the Plains Chamber of Commerce, plans were discussed for the badly needed restoration of the community marquee, or signboard, in Pioneer Plaza Park. President David Brunson told members an estimate had been obtained from B & B Sign Company of Lubbock for the complete renovation of the marquee.

B & B proposed dismantling the structure, transporting it to Lubbock. There, it would receive a complete overhaul and face-lift before being re-installed here. Cost of the project will be \$2,025.

The Chamber currently has approximately \$1,200 available in the marquee fund account, money raised from renting it's use to individuals, companies and groups. The Chamber agreed to approve the repairs with B & B, but no action will take place until the full amount of the repair bill is available.

The marquee is in constant use by county residents, displaying everything from birthdays, anniversaries, new arrivals, and local events, and is the only way of making a public announcement to travelers passing thru town either

east or west on Highways 380 and 82.

Chamber members are actively contacting civic groups and local governmental agencies for cash donations to the project, and community residents are welcome and urged to help renovate this important communication tool.

Chamber President Brunson said "I feel sure we can count on the community's help. When we first sought donations to pay for erecting the 'Welcome to Plains' on the east side of town, the town and county citizens responded so generously, we were able able to buy and erect three signs on all the east-west highways coming into town".

The marquee is a valuable publicity tool in promoting community and county events. It will definitely be needed to help spread the word about the annual Rodeo and Old Settlers reunion, and the second annual Watermelon Roundup, both scheduled in the month of August. Donations can be made to the marquee fund at City Hall or to and Chamber of Commerce member.

From Page 1,
"Ostriches"

She described one of the original male birds brought here as the "most prolific breeder in the ststes", according to statistics from the American Ostrich Association. The bird and the other 46 original birds were captured near Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro, leading the Shofners to give the name to their business, and also to their top producing bird. She said a breeding male bird is usually assigned two hens, but 'Kilimanjaro' takes care of eight hens. "He's one happy bird", Ms. Reneau chuckled. She described the trials and tribulations of running a present day ostrich ranch, with a crowded market and not enough consumer demand for the birds hides or meat. She said the ostrich association and individual breeders are actively promoting consumer demand for ostrich meat. Literature Ms. Reneau distributed at the meeting indicated the red meat is a flavorful and healthy opportunity to beef, pork and chicken.

She said a development south of Odessa may prove to be invaluable to ostrich raising operations like the Shofner's. Ostrich Products of America (OPA) is a huge new ostrich processing plant approved by the USDA which can house over 3,500 of the birds. It offers complete feeding and processing facilities, including meat processing, tanning of the hides, feather cropping, and marketing of ostrich products.

Ms. Reneau related some interesting data about the big, exotic birds. A fully grown male can stand 8 to 9 feet tall and weigh up to 460 pounds. A pair of ostriches can produce from 30 to 100 eggs a year, and a 14 month old bird, the desired age for slaughter and processing, will weigh about 250 pounds and yield over 100 pounds of meat and approximately 14 square feet of leather, plus the feathers.

She said visitor to the Kilimanjaro Ostrich Ranch are welcome to visit the operation east of town, but asks that they call ahead of the visit, to ensure employees are available to be with visitors. She said during the breeding seasons the big males become very aggressive, and have been known to charge at strangers, injur-

ing, or even killing themselves when they hit the restraining fences.

Restaurant suffers burglary, vandalism

Sometime late Friday night or early Saturday morning the popular "Lalito's Restaurant" was broken into. Owner Leobrado Ortiz and his family discovered the burglarized building when they arrived Saturday morning. Deputy James Melendez responded to their telephone call, and he and other Sheriff Deputies conducted an investigation at the scene.

Lt. Lisa Switzer, spokesperson for the Department, said the restaurant was broken into thru a window at the rear of the building. The Ortiz' cash register was stolen, along with a sum of cash and checks, and candy and gum. Several glass sugar containers were broken, and apparently the burglars satisfied their appetites with a quantity of fajita meat prepared for Saturday's business. A Compact Disc player was also taken in the burglary.

Lt. Switzer reported some finger and foot prints were obtained at the scene, and the investigation is continuing. She felt the incident would probably be featured in a future 'Crime Line' bulletin.

From page 1,
"PHS Students"

Being on the House floor during the session was a great experience". She is the daughter of Tim and Donna Bowers.

During the whirlwind tour of the Capitol city, the ladies had an opportunity to visit with Senator Bob Duncan of Lubbock, and tour some of the historic sites in Austin, visit famed Sixth Street, and of course, local malls.

Capping off this spring break, they flew from Austin to Dallas, where they were met by the Bowers for an excursion to Six Flags.

Plains Chamber of Commerce Meets Thursday, April 1, 7 a.m., at Johnnie's Restaurant

Court OK's building project at Denver City

A bid from West Texas Concrete and Metal Buildings of Seagraves was accepted in Commissioner's Court Monday for the construction of a new bath house at Stuff Moorehead Park in Denver City. The low bid was in the amount of \$80,129. The building project was mandated by an inspection of the old building by Health Inspectors who condemned the structure.

Other bids included one for \$94,319 from Braun Construction, and \$103,660 from Oasis Construction.

Jerry Woosley, with Quality Truck Tire II in Denver city, petitioned the Court to allow closing of Bryant Street and two alleys just outside the City Limits of Denver City. Plat maps show the street and alleys, but they have never been opened, and several structures and oil production sites are actually on the land. Quality Tire is in the process of constructing a new building at the site. The request was approved.

Treasurer Toni Jones' report for the month of February showing a balance of \$9,998,184 was accepted. A request to allow the public to use FAX machines at the

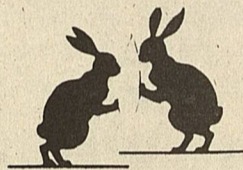
two County Libraries was approved. Customers will be charged \$2 for the first faxed sheet, and an additional \$1 for other sheets.

Karen Tovar, Director of the Denver City EMS, presented an invoice for the recent purchase of a new ambulance which was delivered last week. EMS had previously received a State Grant for \$35,000 to be used for the balance, and the Court had agreed to fund the balance of \$38,602.

Larry Schram, representing PEBSCO, the insurance organization used for some County business, delivered literature and information for a new service offered for post employment health services. Schram described how the IRS approved plan could save employees tax money. No action was taken on the presentation.

Local officials attend meet in College Station

College Station- About 550 county and district clerks and deputy clerks took part in the 25th Annual County and District Clerks' Continuing Education Seminar in College Station March 19-21. Participating in the seminar



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Water Board approves loan to Sandy Land

from Yoakum County were Mae Barnett, District Clerk and Deborah L. Rushing, County Clerk. The continuing education seminar provides valuable information and current procedures of the office to county and district clerks," said Rita Tyson President of the District and County clerks Association. It is designed to update participants on duties and responsibilities of their offices, helping them become more capable and effective in serving the public."

The theme for this year's educational program was the Rest not on past Accomplishments Fear not future challenges!" Participants took part in general sessions and workshop that covered such topics as Probate and Guardianship, Child Support, Delinquent Tax Suits, Bond Forfeitures, Indexing and Recording Procedures and the Juveniles Issues. During the seminar, new officials also had the opportunity to net-up to work with those who have been in office a while," Mrs. Tyson said. Talking with others who hold the same office from different counties is beneficial when it comes to handling similar situations or problems in your own community."

The seminar was sponsored by the V. G. Young Institute of County Government of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and the County and District Clerks' Association of Texas in corporation with the Texas Association of Counties. Clerks who attended all the sessions will receive 12 hours of credit. State law requires county and district clerks to complete a minimum of 20 hours.

AUSTIN- The Texas Water Development Board approved a \$400,000 loan to Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District for the purchase of approved agricultural water conservation equipment. The loan will be funded through the Board's Agricultural Water Conservation Bond Program. Sandy Land will use the funds to make loans to area farmers and ranchers so they can purchase and install more efficient water conservation irrigation equipment. The District's loan will carry an interest rate of 3.67%. The loans to farmers and ranchmen will carry an interest rate up to 4.67%, with five to seven year terms. Up to 80% of the value of the equipment may be borrowed. The District's jurisdictional area includes all of Yoakum County, covering approximately 531,200 acres in the Southern High Plains of Texas.

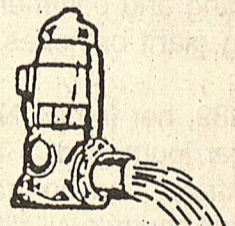
Congratulations, Megan!!
We are happy you were selected a Plains Junior High Cheerleader. We are proud..... Mom, Stephenia & Shay

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'PISD ACTIVITY PAGE'

PHS Math/Science team scores another Sweepstakes win

The record setting PHS Math/Science team traveled to San Antonio over the Spring Break weekend, and brought home another impressive Sweepstakes Trophy, triumphing over 20 other Class 2A schools. The win is the team's tenth victory in eleven contests. The Number Sense Team finished in second place, the Calculator Team was third, The Math Team scored a first place, and the Science Team was seventh. Individual results included;

Number Sense;

Kristen Gray 1st, Clint Burrus 5th, Tommie McNabb 19th, Maranda Box 18th, Shawn Cullins 2nd, Shawna Box 3rd, Heath Bowlin 14th, Derek Brunson 21st, Yancey House 4th, Jacob Lester 16th.

Calculator;

Kristen Gray 3rd, Clint Burrus 4th, Tommie McNabb 2nd, Maranda Box 3rd, Shawn Cullins 7th, Shawna Box 7th, Heath Bowlin 1st, Derek Brunson 13th, Yancey House 12th, Jacob Lester 11th.

Math;

Kristen Gray 1st, Clint Burrus 18th, Tommie McNabb 9th, Maranda Box 14th, Shawn Cullins 3rd, Shawna Box 6th, Heath Bowlin 9th, Derek Brunson 19th, Yancey House 7th, Jacob Lester 19th.

Science;

Kristen Gray 4th, Clint Burrus 8th, Tommie McNabb 11th, Maranda Box 21st, Shawn Cullins 15th, Shawna Box 12th, Heath Bowlin 5th, Derek Brunson 18th, Yancey House 14th, Jacob Lester 22nd.

Congratulations, again!

American Legion Post names Heath Bowlin candidate to Boys State

Local American Legion Post 585 announced recently it had selected Heath Bowlin, a Plains High School Junior, to be its representative to the annual Boys State Conference, sponsored by the Legion's Department of Texas. The event will be held this year on the campus of the University of Texas in Austin May 31 through June 6. The local Legion Post has been sending a representative to the prestigious Boys State for many years.

Heath is the son of Pat Bowlin of Plains. In assisting the Post Commander to select a candidate for the event, High School Principal Steven O'Quinn said, "Heath is an outstanding young man. He really works and strives at everything he does, whether in academics or in sports. He is the type young man parents, and teachers, can take pride in."

Heath is a member of the National Honor Society, participates in the schools record breaking UIL Math/Science Team, and is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He also supports a 4.0 grade average in PHS. He has been an 'All A' honor roll achiever all his years in high school, and was an All Academic Football selection this past season. He was also District Champion, Regional and State Runner-Up in UIL Calculator events his sophomore year.

Heath is one of only some 1100 high school Juniors who will be sent to Boys State this year by the Legion, from the entire state of Texas.

When asked to make a few written comments about his selection, Heath responded, "I am honored I am able to represent this town, and will do so the very best I can. I am anxious to learn more about our government system and how it actually works. I expect this to be an experience I won't forget, and hope I can learn some leadership techniques which I can use through-out my life. I want to thank each Legionaire here for my selection, and I will try to represent you well!"

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District One-Act Play contest here Friday

Plains High School will host the District 5AA UIL One-Act Play contest at the auditorium on Friday, March 28. Six plays will be presented during the day, and Dr. George Sorenson, former professor of theater at Texas Tech will serve as adjudicator. He will present his critiques to each of the six play companies at the end of the contest, and select two to advance to represent the District at the area contest on April 5.

The schedule for the day of plays is:

1:10 pm- PHS-"Riders to the Sea"

2:10pm- Tahoka-"Steel Magnolias"

3:10pm- Morton-"The Lottery"

4:10pm- Shallowater-"Little Women"

5:10pm- Seagraves-"The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie"

6:10pm- Sundown-"Meet Me In St. Louis"

7:30pm- Awards presentation and critiques.

Student of the Week



PHS Student of the Week is Lindi Rowe, a senior and the daughter of Pam and Bill Rowe. She was nominated by Gary Davis, who said, "Every teacher deserves to have the opportunity to work with someone as talented as Lindi. She devotes herself fully to everything she does and has a desire to improve herself and her talents".

Lindi is a member of the Student Council, the UIL Extemporaneous Speaking Team, and is playing the lead role in the UIL One-Act Play "Riders to the Sea". She is also involved in church work, and is a vocalist with "Spirit Wind", a national youth choir.

Spring Break trims track team

Many of the PHS tracksters were out of town for the meet at Seminole last weekend. Coley Burgess was 4th in the Shot with a 46'3" toss, and Steven Bunch was 6th in the Discus, distance unavailable. Kayla Redman took 2nd place when she tossed the Shot 34'11". In the JV Boys division, Derek Brunson won the Shot Put and was 2nd in the Discus. Felipe Reyna won the 3200 run, and was 3rd in the 800 run.



Heath Bowlin



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Literary Meet Results

The following is a recap of individual PHS students competing in a recent UIL Literary competition held at O'Donnell

CALCULATOR

1. Tommie McNabb
2. Kristen Gray
3. Clint Burrus
4. Heath Bowlin
5. Shawna Box

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

2. Kyle Sissons

NUMBER SENSE

1. Shawn Cullins
2. Kristen Gray
3. Shawna Box
4. Yancey House
5. Clint Burrus

MATHEMATICS

2. Shawn Cullins
3. Kristen Gray
4. Shawna Box
5. Yancey House

SCIENCE

2. Shawna Box
3. Derek Brunson
4. Heath Bowlin
5. Tommie McNabb
6. Clint Burrus

COMPUTER SCIENCE

4. Clint Burrus
5. Tommie McNabb

ACCOUNTING

1. Sandi Warren
2. Kristi Guetersloh

LITERARY CRITICISM

4. Maranda Box
6. Lisa Parrish

READY WRITING

4. Jacob Lester
6. Mary Morales

FEATURE WRITING

2. Maranda Box
4. Yvonne Gonzales

EDITORIAL WRITING

6. Anne Palmer

NEWS WRITING

3. Maranda Box
4. Clint Burrus
5. Tommie McNabb

HEADLINE WRITING

2. Clint Burrus
4. Tommie McNabb
5. Yvonne Gonzales

INFORMATIVE SPEAKING

5. Lyndi Rowe

PERSUASIVE SPEAKING


4. Roni Ponce

POETRY

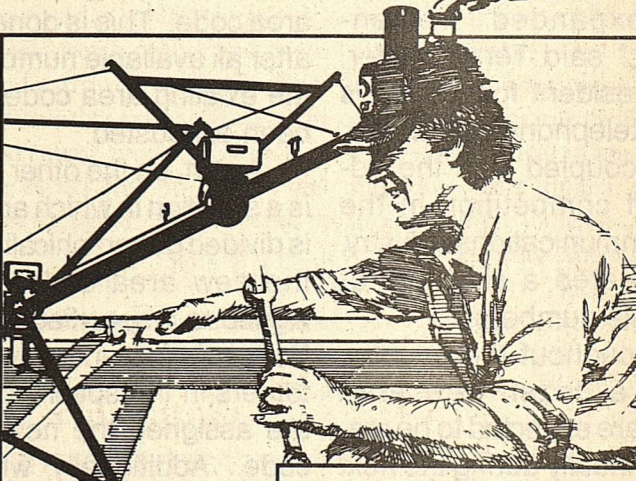
2. Lyndi Rowe

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6. Conchetta San Filippo



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Reinke Retro Kits are complete. They contain everything you'll need for gear-drive conversions. They are available in bolt-on or weld-on kits, and your system doesn't even have to be a Reinke. Sprinkler and electrical conversions are also available.


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THE FIRST NAME IN IRRIGATION

Lampman's Legacy could mean \$3 Billion Bonus for Texas Families and State Economy.

By John Sharp, Comptroller of Public Accounts

Earlier this month, Robert J. Lampman passed away at the age of 76. And though his death generated few headlines, his legacy could bring good news to millions of working Texas families this year.

Mr. Lampman's legacy is known today as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a federal program that returns money to low- and moderate-income folks who have children and who meet specific guidelines. It's that rare Washington initiative that actually makes a positive difference in people's lives—a pro-work, pro-family incentive helping those who are eligible receive what amounts to an extra paycheck.

In fact, if you are one of the 1.8 million working Texas families who qualify this year, you could be in line for a federal income tax refund of more than \$3,500. But you'll have to act soon, because the April 15 deadline is just around the corner.

Here's how it works. If you have a child living at home with you, and an annual family income of less than \$28,495, you may be entitled to a refund of up to \$3,556—even if you don't owe any taxes on your income. If you have no children, and an annual income of \$9,500 or less, you may be eligible for a refund of up to \$323.

To claim your EITC refund, simply fill out your standard

1040 or 1040A tax return, then attach a completed Schedule EIC form and mail both to the IRS. The IRS will compute your credit for you and send your refund.

These EITC refunds are typically spent on local purchases, giving the Texas economy a quick shot in the arm—as much as \$3 billion this year. The EITC is one of the quickest ways I know to inject that much money into local communities.

The individual effect on the bottom line of working households is even more impressive—often making the difference between financial self-sufficiency and public assistance. What's more, by requiring families to stay together, which in turn strengthens our communities and saves taxpayers even more money over the long haul.

But if eligible families don't ask for it, that extra paycheck will never arrive. That's why I am again reminding working folks who think they may qualify to sent their applications to the IRS before April 15. Just call the IRS toll-free at 1-800-829-1040 or get in touch with me at my special EITC hotline at 1-800-277-8383.

Robert Lampman's legacy can mean an extra paycheck for your family—and an important boon to the Texas economy.

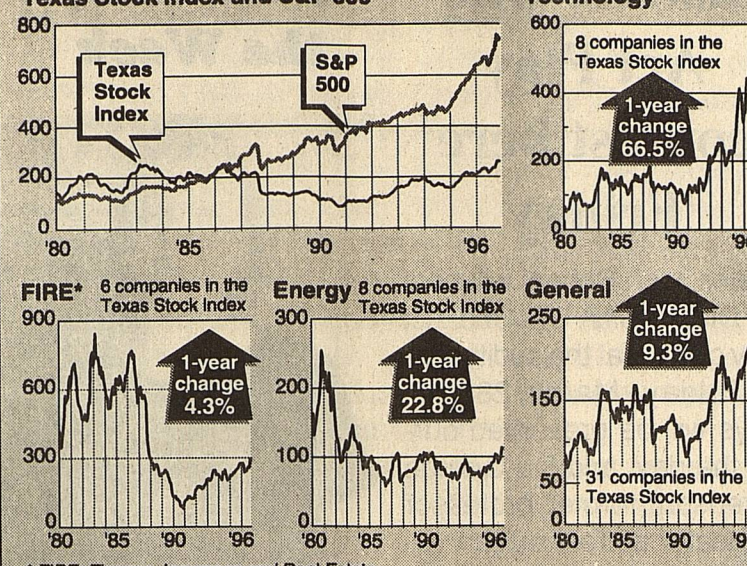
Keeping an eye on Texas

Technology leads Texas stocks

The Texas Stock Index (TSI) recorded a healthy 24 percent increase from December 1995 to December 1996, and outperformed the 500 national stocks that comprise Standard & Poor's 500.



Index: 1990=100



The Texas Stock Index includes:
Technology stocks: Carrington Labs Inc., Compaq Computer Corporation, Datapoint Corporation, Dell Computer Corporation, DSC Communication Corporation, Tandy Corporation, Tech Sym Corporation, Texas Instruments Inc.
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate stocks: American General Corporation, American National Insurance Company, Centex Corporation, Cullen/Frost Bankers Inc., Lomas Financial Corporation, Weingarten Realty Inc.
Energy stocks: Coastal Corporation, Dresser Industries Inc., ENSERCH Corporation, Halliburton Company, Mesa Inc., Mitchell Energy and Development Corporation, Tenneco Inc., Valero Energy Corporation
General stocks: Brinker International Inc., Browning-Ferris Industries Inc., Central & South West Corporation, Commercial Metals Company, Continental Airlines, Daniel Industries Inc., Elcor Corporation, Ennis Business Forms Inc., Farah Inc., GNI Group, Houston Industries Inc., Justin Industries Inc., Kimberly Clark Corporation, La Quinta Motor Inns Inc., Luby's Cafeterias Inc., NCH Corporation, Oshmans Sporting Goods Inc., Pancho's Mexican Buffet Inc., Pier 1 Imports Inc., Proter International Corporation, Qualex Corporation, Republic Group Inc., Southdown Inc., Southern Union Gas Company, Southwest Airlines, Stewart and Stevenson Services Inc., Sysco Corporation, Temple Inland Inc., Texas Industries Inc., Texas Utilities Company, Valhi Inc.

SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and DRI/McGraw Hill.

Locals sample Mexico bass angling



Danny Bell and 11.06 pounder
 A West Texas contingent of bass fishermen journeyed to Mexico's fabled Lake Guerrero the second week of March. They avoided the long, grueling drive by flying in two planes from here to Reynosa, Mexico, and then on to the Mexican lake long noted for its quality bass fishing.

Jack Cobb, Danny Bell, Gayle and Ron Craft occupied one plane, with Jim Jackson, Tim Willis, Lloyd Hodges and Shannon Thompson of Brownfield in the other.

The eight anglers stayed at Krystal is a six grade student and the daughter of Able and Yolanda Gonzalez and the granddaughter of Epimenio and Martha Vasquez III

Important Information about Area Code Changes

Due to an increasing demand for telecommunications services nationwide, the introduction of new area codes is taking place with more and more frequency. As new area codes are implemented, it is important that you know how these changes can effect you — even if your area code stays the same.

"During the past several years, use of cellular telephones, computer modems, FAX machines, and pagers has expanded tremendously," said Terry Beeler, vice president for ALLTEL's Texas telephone operations. "This, coupled with the advent of competition in the telecommunications industry, has created a shortage of available numbers."

Throughout the country, about a dozen new area codes are expected to be created annually during the next five years, according to Telephony, a telecommunications

trade publication. In contrast, a total of 13 new area codes were established from 1982 to 1991, that publication stated.

There are two types of area code changes — overlays and splits. An overlay is a situation in which a new area code is introduced into an area where another area code exists. All existing customers maintain their current area code, while new customers are assigned the new area code. This is done only after all available numbers in the existing area code have been exhausted.

A split, on the other hand, is a situation in which an area is divided geographically, and the new area code is assigned to a specified region. Both existing and new customers in the specified area are assigned the new area code. Additionally, when a split occurs, there is a transitional dialing period that pro-

vides callers a six-month window in which to familiarize themselves with the new number. After this time, dialing the new area code is mandatory when calling an applicable area.

Beeler says the transition period gives customers time to become accustomed to a new area code and to reprogram equipment such as speed calling features, fax machines, computer modems, or PBX's. In addition, ALLTEL is encouraging its business customers that will be affected by an area code change to make adjustments to company letterhead, advertising and promotional materials and business cards, as appropriate.

ALLTEL will notify its customers of any potential area code changes in their area. Customers with questions are encouraged to call ALLTEL at the number listed in their telephone directory.

Student's poem to be in print

Earlier this year, students in Jr. High School participated in a program in Mrs Foster's class designed to foster creative expressions among young people. Students submitted poems to the Anthology of Poetry, Inc.

Krystal Gonzalez's poem has been selected as one of

the most creative works and has earned a page in the 1997 edition of the *Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans*. Thanks to teachers like Mrs Foster who show interest in students and give them an opportunity to explore new avenues of creativity and share with others.

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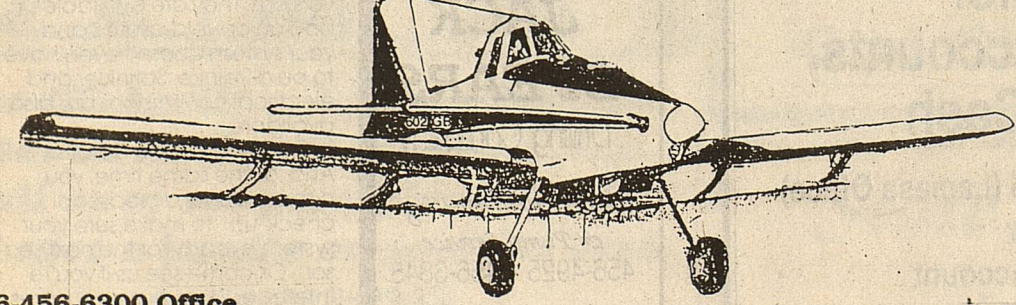
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Femme Friends



Couple plans May Wedding



Carissa Joyce Parks of Lewisville and Joe Don Nevill of Tahoka will be married May 24, 1997, at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Flower Mound.

She is the daughter of Dr. Weldon Parks and the late Janie Parks of Lewisville. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Everton Nevill of Tahoka.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Lewisville High School and attended Baylor University and the University of North Texas. She is employed as office manager of her father's dental practice in Lewisville. She is the granddaughter of Mary Lou Parks of Plains.

Nevill is a graduate of Tahoka High School and Texas Tech University. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in mechanical engineering at Texas Tech.

FILM TIME

Twenty children attended Earnest, Carolina Hernandez, Shelby Covarrubias, Sammy Melendez, Chase Ortega, Kevin John Gass, Isaac Kristie Lopez, Lexus Doyle, Autumn Friesen, Cody Jimenez, Hannah Crump, Friesen, Hunter Welch, Haley Merrit Crump, Katelynn Welch, Jacob Brink, Jaston Young and Raegan Young. Brink, Adam Nixon, Dakota

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The angel answered and said to the woman, fear not, for I know that you seek Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen.

COLLECTIONS

From Holly Dyer

Be careful what you ask for life. You might just get it. When you encounter obstacles in your path, remind yourself of your goals and get back on track. Resilience and persistence go a long way in helping you reach your dreams.

Easter sunrise services scheduled for community

The Plains First United Methodist Church invites the entire community to join in celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ at it's Easter Sunrise Services Sunday morning, March 30 at 6:30 a.m., in Stanford Park on the hill at the east side of the park.

The ceremony will herald the crucifixion and resurrection pageant with hymns by a community choir, and a brief Easter message by Rev. Rick Doyle, Pastor of the First United Methodist Church.

The church stresses the event is a non-demoninational celebration of the season, and welcomes all.

Tsa Mo Ga attends Caprock District convention

Eight Tsa Mo Ga members attended the Caprock District of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs in Lubbock March 22. District President Donna Craig greeted some eighty Federation members, with Nelda Laney, wife of House Speaker Pete Laney joining in the welcome.

The Federation is celebrating it's 100th Anniversary in Waco April 30 to May 2.

A special feature of the meeting was recognition of "Angels", club members with 50 or more years service. Local Tsa Mo Ga members Wilma Powell, 62 years, Mary Jo St. Romain, 62 years, Sit Jones, 58 years, Mattie Field, 52 years, and Sarah Jane Shelton 52 years, took part in a processional "Lighting of the Torch" ceremony.

In the Caprock District, Tsa Mo Ga won a first place for their club yearbook, and it will be eligible for judging at the statewide level. The club also selected Nelda Laney as their "Women of Achievement" honoree, and President Wilma Powell presented her with an award.

Gary Walker, District House Representative and his wife were guests at the meeting. Also attending were Tsa Mo Ga members Zaretta Winn, Valeria Winn and Billie Blundell also attended.

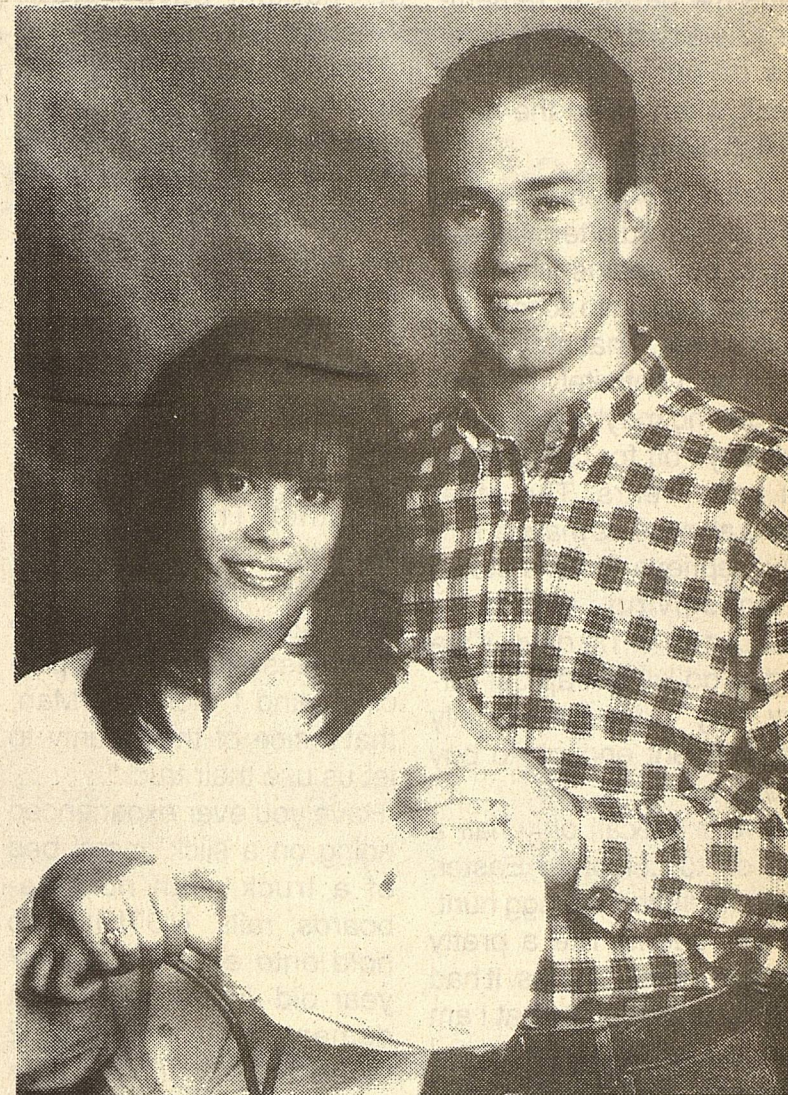
Babe Ruth's Needed

The Senior Babe Ruth League is seeking male players between the ages of 16 to 18 to compete in this years schedule. Proof identifying age 18 prior to August 1, 1997 is required.

For more information, contact Kathy Smiley, 592-3982, or Bruce Greer, 592-3022 prior to April 14.

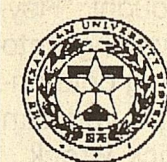
** Need help understanding property taxes? The State Comptroller's office explains taxes - and your rights as a taxpayer - in a free booklet available at your local appraisal district**

Engagement, Wedding announced



Mr. and Mrs. Richard Crow of Baird, and Ms. Sue Crow of Floydada, wish to announce the engagement and approaching marriage their daughter, Jennifer, to Monte Pierce, son of Joe and Joyce Pierce of Plains. The couple will wed June 21 in the First Methodist Church of Floydada.

The bride-elect attends Texas Tech University, and is employed by Total Home Health Care of the Methodist Hospital System. The prospective Bridegroom is a 1995 graduate of Texas Tech and is currently employed as a Teacher and Coach in the Littlefield Independent School District.



HOWDY!

By: *Fathy Adair*



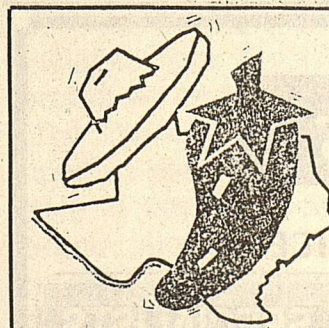
How Blood Pressure Builds

Question: My Doctor says my blood pressure is too high. How does blood pressure build in my arteries and how do I stop it?

Answer: Arteries spread oxygen-rich blood throughout your body. As the arteries stretch deeper and deeper into body tissues, they get narrower and narrower, ending finally at the arterioles. Arterioles are tiny blood vessels that supply blood to the network of capillaries, which are the blood source for individual cells. Arterioles are critical in maintaining your blood pressure. When their muscular walls tighten, there's less room for the blood to flow, so the blood pressure increases, much like when you crimp a garden hose. If the arterioles relax, there's more room inside for the blood to flow, so the pressure falls. There are several types of medications designed to lower blood pressure, including ACE inhibitors, calcium channel blockers, beta blockers, diuretics, and anti-adrenergic agents. These medications approach the problem of reducing blood pressure in different ways.

Your Physician will review your individual health history and other risk factors to determine which medication, if any, is best for you.

Prepared by Dr. Barbara Hahn, Texas A&M Health Science Center College of medicine

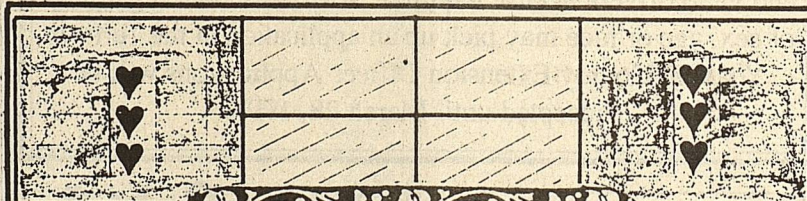


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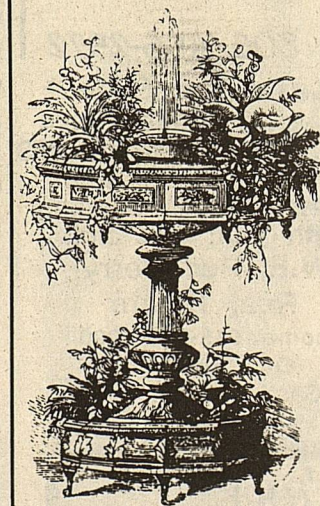
We close at 2 p.m. Sundays, and reopen Tuesday, 11 a.m.

806-456-2233

You are invited to a "Baby Shower" Honoring Connor Guetersloh Son of Chad & Buffie April 5, 1997, 6:30 PM Macky & Connie McWhirter Home 1104 4th Street, Plains, Texas Couples Welcome!



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From The Hack



Reporting the school news this week, a bit difficult because of the Spring Break, made me pause to remember.... we had no such luxuries or perks like Spring Break when I trod the halls of High School.

I realize my memory could be a bit flawed after all these years, but seems like I vividly recall going to school 397 days a year. That may be off just a bit. I definitely remember getting maybe two and a half days off for Christmas - on Leap Years. The other years allowed us maybe 1.75 days reprieve. Seems like on Thanksgiving we were excused 1 & 1/2 days, if we had to go kill or trap our turkey, only 1 day if a family was affluent enough to buy one.

I swear I recall only half a day off to celebrate Easter, which included the egg hunt. If this seems like a pretty tough schedule, it was. It had to be, considering what I am about to tell you. The school teachers, administrators and Board members will want to lynch me, but it happened.

It was mid April, I was a spring itchy Junior, and when Pecos local Seniors, identical twins Charles and James started suggesting a 'spring breakout day', everyone was intrigued. The twins said, "Let's get a bunch of guys and gals together, we'll skip

school tomorrow and go to Balmorhea and swim and mess around in the Springs at Phantom Cave". Wow! What a deal!

The next morn, nine boys and four fearless girls assembled just out of town. At exactly 8:15 am, the time school started, a truck roared up, and there sat the Titus twins in a large, flat bed truck, grinning like they'd discovered the mother lode of gold mines. We all leaped aboard, but I had a hesitating thought. A sign on the truck door read, 'Precinct Three, Reeves County, Texas'. I remembered then the Titus twins dad happened to be County Commissioner of that precinct, and I thought, "Man, that's nice of the County to let us use their truck".

Have you ever experienced riding on a slick, metal bed of a truck, with no sideboards, rails, NOTHING to hold onto except a fat, 17 year old Junior girl, with a demented driver doing 82 miles an hour? The max speed of the old Chevy truck? Fingernails digging into bare metal and whatever nearby flesh we could grasp, I could hear the twins demented screams of laughter from up front, while I desperately tried recalling all the Biblical passages and prayers my grandmother had taught me. In my terror, in my fevered puberty, I had the wild thought, "Hey, you got a girl holding onto you, you're holding onto another girl, and all you can think of is a truck wreck... you're a pervert!"

The 32 mile trip was made in about 21 minutes, I recall. We had a brief pit stop to let

all us passengers throw-up, and were off to the Phantom Caves and swimming pool at Balmorhea State Park. Naturally, the fat girl I had clutched so desperately on the truck ride was in love with me, and during our excursion exploring the Phantom Cave, became wedged between a rock and a hard place, and became hysterical, wailing, "Oh, please, help me... send Gary, let him pull me out!" I was so glad it was dark in the cave, for I'm sure my face was beet red... see, I was afraid of the cave, the dark, the dampness, but especially of the fat girl.

Well, we finally managed to pry her out of the thing, and I had to face her wrath. By now even the twins were exhausted, and announced we were going home. Reluctantly, we boarded the slick bedded truck and roared off. Just past Balmorhea, at the hamlet of Saragosa, we heard the motor explode, half a piston rod almost killing a guy when it sailed out of the block. We were done. Fortunately, about half a mile

off the highway lived a family named Wynn, with a daughter in High School, thank the Lord not one of us. We all trudged up their road, tired, hungry, nasty with cave mud and yucky bat stuff, and by now plenty worried about the busted truck, the truancy, the coming consequences, and I wasn't a bit easy about the fat girl who kept eyeing me.

Well, the Wynn's put us all up for the night, but refused

to take us to town, saying, "No, this is as far as you made it, this is where you'll stay... we'll contact all your parents, and the school, then you can ride the bus to school tomorrow morning". I now suspicion they must have been a bunch of Child Psychologists, for they knew what they were up to. When the bus pulled up at school next morning to dump our pitiful bodies off, we were greeted by a smirking school body, a grim looking bunch of teachers, a line of parents, school administrators, some carrying paddling boards, a Deputy Sheriff, and a County Commissioner named Titus with a face redder than a boiled beet.

Maybe Spring Break is a good idea after all.

Eye on Texas

Income tax refunds

More than 1.8 million Texans applied for income tax refunds under the Earned Income Tax Credit program in 1996. EITC refunds may be sent to:

- Families with two or more children, and a gross income of no more than \$28,495. The maximum refund could be \$3,556 in this category.
- Families with one child, and a gross income of no more than \$25,078. Maximum refund: \$2,152.
- Families consisting of adults between the age of 25 and 64 with no children, and a gross income of less than \$9,500. Maximum refund: \$323.

To inquire about the Earned Income Tax Credit:

- Visit your local Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) center
- Call IRS toll-free: 1-800-829-1040
- Call the Texas Comptroller's EITC hotline: 1-800-277-8383.

SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS OIL & GAS DIVISION DISTRICT 8A DATE OF ISSUANCE: March 21, 1997

Notice of Application

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Applicant, COLLINS & WARE, INC., 508 W. WALL, SUITE 1200, MIDLAND, TX 79701, has made application for spacing exception permits under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code Section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the distance between wells requirement to drill:

Rule 37 Case No. 0215526, Well no. 1406, Plains Unit, 3731 Acres, Sec. 392, Blk. D., J. H. Gibson/GW Nelson Survey, A-739, Brahaney Field(s), Yoakum County, being 1.5 miles in a Northwest direction from Plains, Texas. The location of this well is as follows: 4039' from the South line and 4050' from the West line of lease. 1229' from the North line and 1229' from the East line of survey.

Rule 37 Case No. 0215527, Well no. 911, Plains Unit, 3731 Acres, Sec. 369, Blk. D., J. H. Gibson Survey, A-320, Brahaney Field(s), Yoakum County, being 2 miles Northwest direction from Plains, Texas. The location of this well is as follows: 4047' from the North line and 6723' from the West line of lease. 1320' from the South line and 1195' from the East line of survey.

Rule 37 Case No. 0215528, Well no. 1811, Plains Unit, 3731 Acres, Sec. 391, Blk. D., J. H. Gibson Survey, A-330, Brahaney Field(s), Yoakum County, being 1.5 miles Northwest direction from Plains, Texas. The location of this well is as follows: 5508' from the North line and 6590' from the East line of lease. 140' from the North line and 10' from the West line of survey.

Rule 37 Case No. 0215525, Well no. 1603, Plains Unit, 3731 Acres, Sec. 392, Blk. D., J. H. Gibson/GW Nelson Survey, A-739, Brahaney Field(s), Yoakum County, being 1.5 miles Northwest direction from Plains, Texas. The location of this well is as follows: 2535' from the South line and 2725' from the West line of lease. 2535' from the South line and 1235' from the East line of survey.

Field rules for the Brahaney field are 660/1320, 40 acres. These wells are to be drilled to an approximate depth of 5400 feet. PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Rule 37(h)(2)(A), these applications may be granted administratively if no protest to the applications are received. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected person include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the ap-

plication with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Dianne Sumrall - Production Admin., at (915) 687-3435. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission at (512) 463-6748. IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, YOU MUST FILL OUT, SIGN AND MAIL OR DELIVER TO THE AUSTIN OFFICE OF THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST. A COPY OF THE INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST ALSO BE MAILED OR DELIVERED ON THE SAME DATE TO APPLICANT AT THE ADDRESS SHOWN ABOVE. THIS INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE BY APRIL 17, 1997. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, THE REQUESTED PERMIT WILL BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

* Public Notice *

Notice is hereby given that Collins & Ware Inc., 508 W Wall, Suite 1200, Midland Texas 79701 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for and Enty of Density for the Plains Unit, 3731 Acres, located in all and or portions of sections 335, 336, 368, 369, 370, 371, 390, 391, 392, 393, 426, Block D, J.H. Gibson Survey, District 8A, Brahaney Field(s), Yoakum County, Texas, being approximately 2 miles in a northwest direction from Plains, Texas. Field rules for the Brahaney field are 660/1320, 40 acres.

Pursuant to the terms of the Enty for Density, this application may be granted by the Commissioners if no protest to this application is received. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator of leases of record of adjacent tracts. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for this application. A protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have questions regarding this application, please contact Chuck Sledge - Production Engineer for Collins & Ware, Inc. at (915) 687-3435. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission at (512) 463-6748.

If you wish to request a hearing on this application, you must notify the Railroad Commission of Texas, Oil and Gas Division, Permitting Services Section, PO Drawer 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, in writing of your intent to appear in protest. This intent to appear in protest must be received in the Railroad Commission's Austin Office by April 1, 1997. If no protest is received within such time, the requested application may be granted by the Commissioners.

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Summer help (May to September): Result Demonstration Technician needed to assist with research projects in Terry and Yoakum Counties. Reliable vehicle, proof of insurance, and valid drivers license required. Any individual regardless of sex, age or race may pick up an application at the Terry or Yoakum County Extension Office. Applications will be accepted until March 28, 1997.

Country acreage for sale

10 acre tracts with highway frontage, approx. 1.5 miles from Plains. Deed restrictions apply. Priced @ \$20,000. W.E. (Red) Berry Real Estate 806-592-3523 or call Gary Dyer, 806-456-8451

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3 Bedroom, 2 Bath Mobile Home. Call: 806/456-2572

* Land For Sale * 630 ac., W. Gaines Co.- 4 wells, 4 pivot systems- 283 acres in CRP- \$300 ac., possible owner financing with good dwn. pmt. W.E. Red Berry Real Estate home 915-758-5200 Off. 592-3523 Gary Dyer, Agent- 456-8451

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