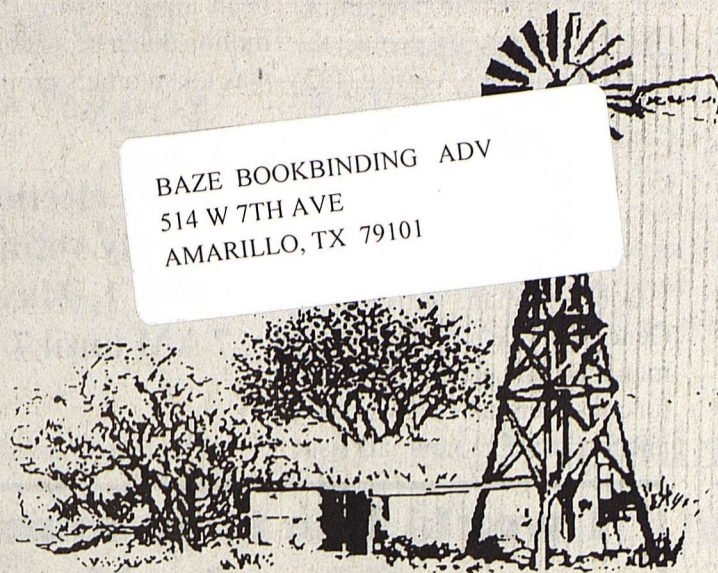


Cowboy Country News

Published each Wednesday in the county seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas Volume XII, Issue 26, March 15, 2006



Election results please winners, voter turnout dismays officials

According to numbers from the Tax Assessor/Collector office here, 4,291 residents of Yoakum County are registered to vote. In the March 7 Republican and Democrat Primary Election, a grand total of 777 votes were cast - 673 for Republican candidates, 104 for Democrats. That translates to a sparse 18 percent of registrants exercised their voting rights. This disappointing tally sheet was repeated in virtually all areas of the state, a disappointment to election officials and many candidates.

The most closely contested local race was for the selection of a Republican candidate for Commissioner of Precinct 4, featuring four candidates. Shane McKinzie recorded 87 votes, and will face runner-up candidate Tim Addison, 75 votes. They were followed by Steve Jones, 61, and Kreg Keese, 42. A special runoff election will be held April 11 between McKinzie and Addison. Early voting for that contest starts April 3 and continues until April 7. The Republican winner will then face Commissioner Jack Cobb, who ran unopposed on the Democrat ballot and drew 33 votes. County Clerk Debbie

Rushing reported there will be other candidates across the state who will be on the runoff ballot, but she cannot release names until the official ballot is received from the Secretary of State's office.

Incumbent Delwin Jones handily defeated two Republican and a Democrat challenger for his District 83 State Representative office. His 321 votes outdistanced the 293 vote total of his two Republican candidates.

The only two local offices which will be contended for in the November General election will have Democrat Commissioner Cobb facing the Republican winner of the Special Election for the Pct. 4 job, and Pct 2 Commissioner Ben Coston facing Republican Jim Brown.

County Judge Candidate Jim Barron, first time Republican candidate for County Judge, garnered 570 votes; Incumbent District Clerk Vicki Blunde 597. Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark 507; County Clerk Debbie Rushing 573; Treasurer Barbara Wright 572; Pct. 1 Justice of Peace Melba Crutcher 273; Justice of Peace Pct 2 Troy Scott, D, 49.

County Golf Club Pro Shop Undergoing Major Facelift



Workers were busy this week on the complete renovation of Yoakum County Golf Club's Pro Shop. The original building, more than 30 years old and badly deteriorated, will be partially saved as a completely refurbished facility, including plumbing and code meeting electrical work. Pct. 4 Commissioner Woody Lindsey told CCN the renovation was budgeted for approximately \$250,000, which included services of a licensed engineering/architectural firm, required by the State for governmental projects costing over \$100,000. Main contractor for the project is Tejas Partners Construction. Commissioner Lindsey estimated a completion date for the 2000 square foot building and open patio, shown in left of photo, around the last of May or early June.

Officer of the Year and pretty good helper



Deputy Chris Vigil was awarded Unsung Hero and Officer of the Year, February 23, at a special ceremony in Lubbock, Texas. Deputy Vigil has worked with the Lubbock Sheriff's Office since April 1999. During his tenure he has served as a Deputy in the jail, Courts Division, Warrants Fugitive Division, and Patrol Division. Deputy Vigil and his canine partner, Alf, currently serve the citizens of Lubbock County as a Narcotics Interdiction and Patrol team.

Deputy Vigil specializes in defense tactics and SWAT related issues. He served on the Detention Response Team and as a team leader. He is currently a leader for the Lubbock Tactical Operations Unit. He is also an instructor of self defense to veteran officers and rookies.

Deputy Vigil and wife, Amy, have two children, Nathan and Kaitlin. He is the son of Pat and Timmie Vigil of Lubbock, and son-in-law of Dennis and Melba Crutcher of Plains.

Still no computer, still enjoying scenic drive to Lovington. Please help pray sanity returns next week!

Criminal cases in County Court

Three criminal cases were heard in County Court March 8, with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the state.

Noemi Ramos Guzman pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision from a prior marijuana possession cause. The court ordered defendant to serve 140 days in jail with credit for 140 days served. Warren New was his attorney.

Gabriel Gonzalez Lopez pled guilty to possession of marijuana, two ounces or less. A 180 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 24 months. He was fined \$350, must pay \$220 court costs and \$25 time payment fee. He will lose his license 180 days, serve 24 hours community service, complete the drug offender program and pay \$50 per month supervision fees.

Randall Gene Clark pled true to motion to proceed in a marijuana possession cause adjudicated, must pay \$61 delinquent court costs and delinquent CSCD fees of \$482 on plea day.

Defensive driving on tap for some county employees

In the March 13 session of Commissioners Court, Dale Thompson discussed a mandatory defensive driving course for all county employees required to drive county vehicles. Following discussion, the Court approved those 6 hour classes, and agreed to make the classes available to other employees desiring the classes, but only after the training was finished by county vehicle operators.

The court accepted the resignation of Cull Forbus from the Yoakum County Child Welfare

Board, and voted to appoint Gena Pollack to the vacant position.

The court agreed to approve participation with other entities in the purchase of a T-1 electronic communication line for Denver City's Learning Center. The Center had earlier approved and budgeted the purchase, and Yoakum County Hospital, Plains ISD and Denver City ISD will share a monthly rental fee of \$320 for use of the line.

Turn To Page 2, Commissioners

FSA allocates funds for socially disadvantaged

The U.S. Department of Agriculture FSA allocates a portion of its farm loan program specifically for socially disadvantaged applicants (SDA) including minority and women producers.

"FSA farm loans are available to all qualified applicants, but by setting aside funds specifically for minorities and women, the Agency ensures members of these specific groups can receive a portion of available funds, assuming they meet FSA loan eligibility requirements," said Wayne Cornelius, Farm Loan Manager for Gaines, Yoakum and Andrews counties FSA.

By FSA definition an applicant is considered socially disadvantaged if he or she is a member of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice, without regard to individual qualities. FSA has identified socially disadvantaged groups as Women, Blacks, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asians and Pacific Islanders. FSA offers both direct and

guaranteed farm loans, Farm Loan funds may be used to purchase farms, livestock, or equipment. They may also be used to operate a farm, build or repair service buildings, pay for soil and water conservation services, and in some cases re-finance debts.

For direct loans made by FSA to purchase a farm the terms may extend to 40 years with a current interest rate of 4.0 percent. Direct operating loans may be made for one to seven years with a current interest rate of 4.875 percent, which is subject to change.

"Applicants requesting direct real estate loans should be aware funding for this program is limited and may require a waiting period before funds are available and applications approved," said Farm Loan Manager Wayne Cornelius.

FSA guaranteed loans are made by banks or other commercial lenders and are guaranteed by FSA up to 90 percent of the loss. The guaranteed loan program includes

Turn To Page 2, FSA

**From Page 1,
FSA**

both operating and real estate loan programs. If an applicant is able to obtain financing from a private lender equal to 50 percent or more of the total funds needed to jointly finance the purchase of the farm, the interest rate on the FSA direct loan would be fixed at 5.125 percent.

SDA loan applicants do not receive automatic approval. Individuals must be U.S. citizens with a satisfactory history of meeting credit obligations, have sufficient education, training or experience managing or operating a farm, possess the legal capacity to incur debt, and are unable to obtain credit through traditional lending means.

"Qualified loan candidates are provided information and assistance to develop sound management practices, analyze problems and utilize available resources essential for success in

the ever changing agricultural environment," said Cornelius. For more information regarding FSA loan programs, contact the Gaines County FSA office, 432-758-3254, ext. 115 or visit the USDA web site, <http://www.usda.gov>.

**From Page 1,
Commissioners**

Bob Sherman, with Trinity General, made a proposal for a management program project for construction of a new county jail facility. The new jail issue

has been before the court before, but no definite plans have been approved for the multi-million dollar project. No action was taken on his proposal.

**City election
early voting
May 1 - May 9,
7 AM until 7 PM**

**I would like to announce
my candidacy for Mayor,
bringing 12 years experience
as a City of Plains Council
member. Your continued
support will be appreciated.**

Pam Redman

City Election May 13
Political Advertisement Paid For By Pam Redman

**** Tim Addison ****

Republican Candidate for Commissioner Pct. 4

I would like to take this time to thank the voters of Precinct 4. Your support has allowed me the opportunity to be in the Republican runoff April 11, 2006. I would also like to congratulate my opponents in the primary for the professional manner in which they ran their campaigns. It is apparent the community thought each candidate was well qualified for the job. I look forward to discussing the issues with you in coming days.

Subject to Republican Primary Runoff April 3rd through the 7th.
Political advertisement paid for by Tim Addison

Plains Family Health Clinic



The professionally trained and dedicated staff of Plains Family Health Clinic are available and ready to meet the medical needs of the community

Prescription Assistance Friday, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

For more information call 592-2121, EXT 521 or

592-2121, EXT 506, or the Plains Clinic

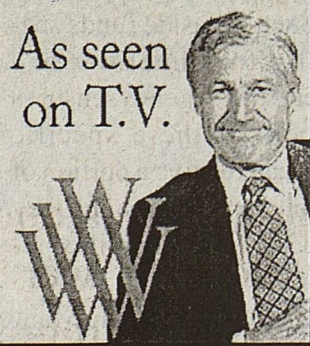
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Home - 806-592-3490

Jeff Lowrey Assoc.
CELL 806-592-1319
Home 806-456-3195

From US Senator

Kay Bailey Hutchison

R, Texas

Reading is a Key to Success

When you teach a child to read you give them one of life's greatest gifts. Children who unlock the world of the written word gain unlimited opportunities to unlimited opportunities for learning and discovery. Sadly, many children do not have access to books at an early age. Millions of children are growing up without books because their families have limited means or do not have ready access to appropriate children's books. Some parents themselves were not read to as children and find it difficult to start the habit with their own kids. Unfortunately, getting a late start reading can contribute to continue the cycle of poverty. Teaching children to read early helps break that cycle.

Early readers enter school ready to succeed academically. When children love reading, they do better in school and enjoy classes more. Reading is the foundation for learning and excellent reading comprehension facilitates studies in subjects such as math and science.

As a parent, I recognize the value of literacy and importance of promoting it at every stage of a child's life. Every night at bedtime, my husband and I read a story to our children. Reading stories with children teaches them about the world and how fun reading can be at the same time. Many children dislike going to the doctor because they relate a visit to the doctor with being sick or getting a shot, but a national literacy program is challenging that. Since doctors have regular contact with young children and their parents, these visits are valuable opportunities to share information about reading.

Founded in 1989, Reach Out and Read serves more than 2.1 million and distributes Over 3 million books yearly that trains pediatricians to advise parents about the importance of reading aloud to their children. It also gives new books to children at pediatric checkups from the age of six months to five years.

If there is one thing children love, it is getting gifts. There is always a look of joy on a child's face which opening presents at a birthday or during holidays. Associating this same feeling with reading is invaluable. Now, instead of dreading a trip to the doctor, a child can look forward to acquiring a new book.

There are over 2,500 programs in hospitals and health centers across the country, and 28,000 pediatricians, nurses and other clinicians have been trained to be part of the program. Reach Out & Read also has volunteers who read aloud to children in clinic waiting rooms and provides parents with ideas about how to get the most out of reading with their children.

I am proud to support Reach Out & Read programs in Texas and nationwide. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I help secure funding for worthwhile programs such as this. For our country to remain competitive in a global economy, it is essential our children are well educated and the best educations start with early reading. Supporting education programs remains a top priority for me in the Senate, and last fall Congress approved over \$9 million to fund Reach out and Read which has a program in all 50 states.

I recently visited some Reach Out & Read programs in Texas. Dyess AFB in Abilene established Texas' first Reach Out & Read program for children on a military base and I was honored to have the opportunity to read to children there. I also recently read to children at Reach Out & Read clinics in Amarillo and Odessa. These are just a few of the 180 Reach Out and Read programs in Texas. When I read to these children I see their growing interest in reading beam from their faces. It's obvious they are excited about books and enjoy having adults read to them. That is a great sign for our future.

We are fortunate to have Reach Out & Read providing books to children so they can begin building their own personal libraries early. When children develop a sense of ownership in books, they cherish them. This makes a huge difference in their level of interest and helps them acquire skills benefitting them the rest of their lives.

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Eradication Foundation**

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Principal offices in Dallas, Texas. Some cases are likely to be referred.

PHS Golfers brave winds

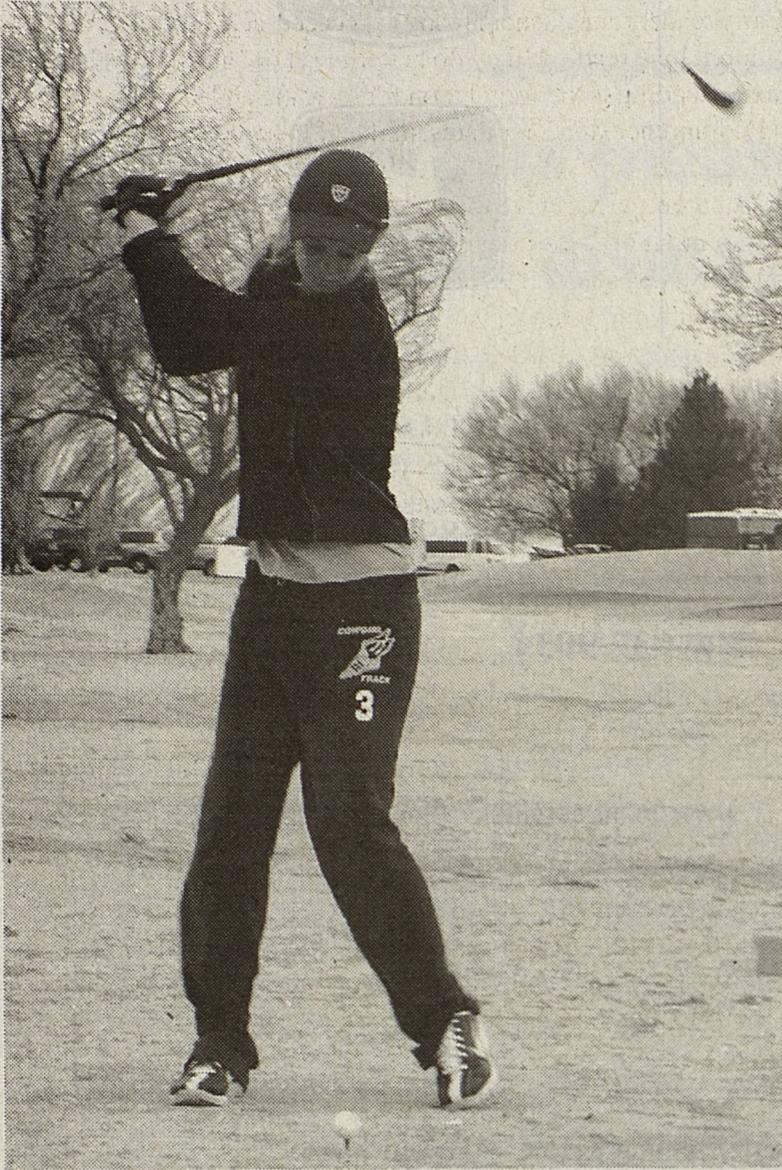
The Plains Cowgirl Golf Team hosted the annual tournament March 8 at Yoakum County Golf Course, and could not have chosen worse weather conditions. Howling winds gusting to 50 mph with blowing dust boosted all team scores. Individual performances included:

COWGIRLS - M'Leah McKinzie 121, Meghan Garcia 123. Jordan Williams 125, Lauren Davis 127, Jennifer Eccles 130, Amber Friesen 142.

COWBOYS #1 - David Alldredge 90, Kurt Alldredge 91, Blake O'Quinn 98, Colby Wilmeth 119.

#2 - Chris Gonzales 119, Rudy Gonzales 124, Skyler Sainz 129, Colby Ortega 145.

#3 - Nick Curtis 138, Stephen Dominguez 142



Lauren Davis

PHS places 2nd in UIL Academic Meet

Persuasive Speaking
Scott Addison 2nd

Calculator Team 1st
Seniors
Allison Friesen 1st
BJ Lester 2nd
Blake O'Quinn 5th
Sophomores
Amber Friesen 2nd
Lauren Davis 4th
Freshmen
Yesenia Loya 2nd

Computer Science Team 1st
Amber Friesen 2nd
Allison Friesen 3rd
Adam McCravey 5th

Mathematics Team 3rd
Freshmen
Yesenia Loya 2nd
Chris Addison 4th
Sophomores
Kurt Alldredge 2nd
Seniors
Allison Friesen 1st

News Writing
Allison Friesen 2nd
Blake O'Quinn 3rd

Feature Writing
Allison Friesen 5th

Headline Writing
Blake O'Quinn 2nd

Number Sense Team 2nd
Freshmen
Chris Addison 2nd
Sophomores
Kurt Alldredge 2nd
Amber Friesen 9th
Seniors
David Alldredge 1st
Blake O'Quinn 3rd

Ready Writing
Maria Andazola 4th

Science Team 3rd
Juniors
Antonio Martinez 4th
Sophomores
Kurt Alldredge 4th
Freshmen
Zachary Guerra 1st
Yesenia Loya 4th
Chris Addison 5th

Varsity Cowboy Track

"Pretty dang good." was the way Coach McWhirter described his seven man track team after they captured 129 points and a second place finish in the Mean Green Relays March 10. Individual results included; Sergio Olivas 2nd, shotput* Mario Ruvalcaba 1st, long jump* Ben Hays 1st Pole Vault* John Tyson 1st, Scott Addison 3rd 800 meters* Ruvalcaba 1st, Johan Cueto 6th 100 meters* Joseph Loya 1st, John Tyson 3rd, Scott Addison 6th, 400 meters* Ben Hayes 5th 300 hurdles* Joseph Loya 1st, Mario Ruvalcaba 4th 200 dash* Abel Ramos 1st 1600 meter run* Abel Ramos 1st 3200 meter run. Mario Ruvalcaba, Scott Addison, Joseph Loya, John Tyson 1st, 1600 Relay.

Plains Cowgirls Track Results-Friday, March 3, 2006 at Seagraves

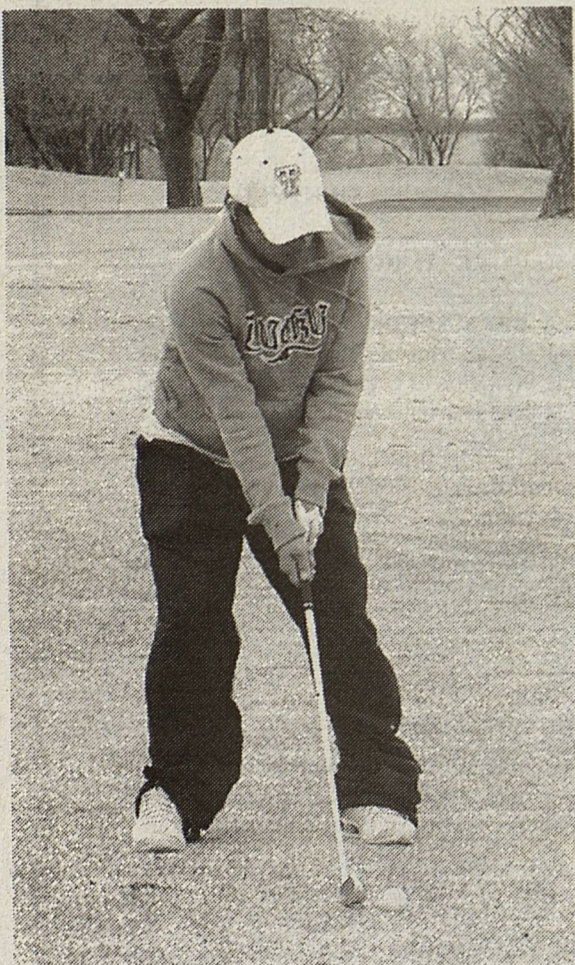
200 M Dash: 4th Katie Winn, 5th Desiraye Broome * 800 M Run: 3rd Lydia Whitzel, 6th Elizabeth Perez * 1600 M Run: 3rd Lydia Whitzel, 4th Elizabeth Perez * 400 M Relay: 3rd Katie Winn, Desiraye Broome, Brianna Conway, Reyna Gallegos * 800 M Relay: 2nd Katie Winn, Desiraye Broome, Brianna Conway, Reyna Gallegos * Discus: 5th M'Leah McKinzie * High Jump: 1st Reyna Gallegos, 2nd Desiraye Broome * Long Jump: 3rd Desiraye Broome * Shot Put: 4th Joani Bell

Jr. High sending 12 to State TMSCA meet in San Antonio

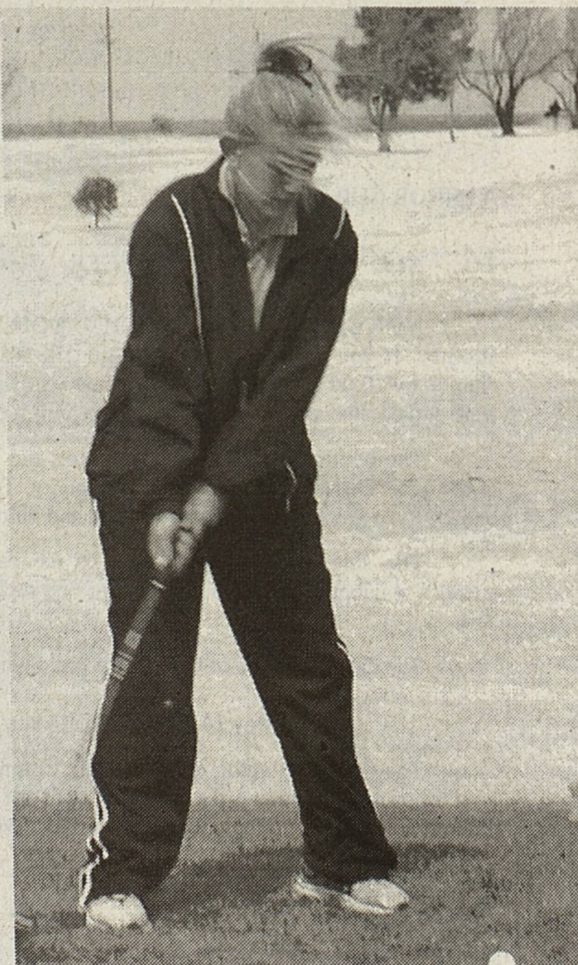
Plains Middle School will send 12 individuals or team members to the big state meet in San Antonio next month. Prior to the last qualifying meet here last week, only one student, Troy Alldredge had qualified for state, but when the home meet was over he would be joined by 11 other students. Middle School Principal Michael Michaleson was well pleased, noting "how well our kids have worked and how the community supports them and our school. I really don't think you realize how special that is... it's exceptional." Final results included; Number Sense individuals Troy Alldredge and Nathan McCravey. Math Team McCravey, Forrest Booth, Justin Taylor, Hannah Crump. Science Team; Christopher Davis, Adriana Corrales, Myra Cueto.

Middle School Track Update

The Wrangler track teams continue their successful outings. The 8th boys took fourth place honors while the 7th boys continued their winning ways with a first place finish at Morton March 9. Individual results included; 8th Wrangler Benjamin Marques 2nd high jump and discus, 4th 800 relay 5th in 400 relay. Jonathan Lira, only first place winner in the 2400 meters, Troy Parrish 6th 800 meters. The 7th Wranglers scored 207 team points to runner-up Farwell's 124 points. First place honors went to Peter Neurdorf 2400, Federico Villegas 800 and 1600, Edward Valdez 100, Kameran Loya 400, Martin Burgoin, Valdez, Jaaron Bell, Guadalupe Lara 800 relay, Loya, Brugin, Dylan DeBusk, Theo Cordova 1600 relay. Second place winners included Alan Lara shot put, Eric delgado discus, Jaxon Bean 2400 meters, Roberto Reyna 110 hurdles, Valdez 200 meters, Neurdorf 1600 meters. Third place winners included Villegas, triple jump, Lara 2400 meters, Ortega 100, Burgoin 200. Also earning points were DeBusk high jump, Valdez and Jose Corrales discus, Bell 400 meters, Kevin John Gass 300 hurdles.



Meghan Garcia



M'Leah McKinzie



David Alldredge



Blake O'Quinn

Payless Car Sales Comes To Hobbs

Payless Car Sales has Announced the Selection of Western Honda in Hobbs, New Mexico as the Exclusive Dealership to Handle The Disbursement And Liquidation of their Fleet Vehicles to the Public.

Payless Car Sales was formed in the early 1990's with the main objective of assisting Payless Car Rental locations with the disbursement and liquidation of their fleet vehicles to the public.

The Payless Car Rental system is one of the top 10 car rental brands in the world with over 120 locations in 20 countries, and through a recent European partnership now service more than 60 countries with over 1400 locations.

Western Honda at 4502 Lovington Hwy, next to the Iron Skillet Restaurant, in Hobbs will hold this Disbursement and Liquidation Sale to the Public on Wednesday, March 15 through Monday, March 20, 2006, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., except Sunday, 12 a.m. - 8 p.m.

GENERAL PUBLIC ONLY! NO WHOLESALERS PLEASE!

From The Hack

The two following items were stolen from a publication I feel confident 93 percent of you do not subscribe to, so I feel 93 percent safe:

A church had a man in the choir who couldn't sing a bit. Several members hinted he could serve in other church areas, but he still came to choir practice. The director was desperate, and finally went to the pastor. "You've got to get him out of the choir, the members are ready to quit and so am I!"

Reluctantly the pastor approached the guy. "I'm afraid you need to leave the choir." The man asked, "Why should I?"

"Well, people tell me you just can't sing."

"So what," the guy asked, "Fifty people have told me you can't preach!"

PS - I swear I have no locals in mind!!

I have seen the unquestionable proof of the veracity of the following statement I have heard for way too many years now - GOLFERS ARE STUPID.

Absolutely true. Recently our PHS Golf teams played an invitational tournament here under wind conditions even the fiercest, most conservative judges would consider very cruel and very unusual punishment. I saw a visiting school girl take a mighty swing at the ball, and slightly out of balance, she was blown down the fairway further than her ball. I watched in awe as a young lad from Sundown whacked the ball into the howling wind, then had to duck when the howling wind flung it back at

him and the other players on the tee box.

I left the course, the lens of my camera sandblasted beyond repair, along with my already marred facial features, questioning the sanity of anyone organizing such a torturous event, much less playing in it.

Three days later, I found myself entered in a form of madness called a golfers One Man Scramble, which in simple terms means you get to hit the stupid ball TWICE on each and every shot. Guess what? The wind was even fiercer than that Wednesday the kids played. It was blowing so hard three Mallard ducks drowned on the white capping water hazard lake. Three of my brand new Titleist balls lost their dimples, absolutely blown away by the sandblasting wind. On the Hole From Hell, number 11, I had four, count-em, four new balls plunk into the lake serving as the grave for the drowned ducks. I ended up losing three more before the day was over, probably blown all the way to Seminole.

It slowly seeped into my mushbrain head. "You're dumber than those kids playing Wednesday. They HAD TO, it's part of the program, don't you know? I, of course had to PAY THIRTYBUCKS to play in the dumb game."

With the Primary election smoke now blown away, I am recalling a number of earlier political highjinks featured in a number of publications.

Remember Jim Hightower, the former Texas Commissioner of Agriculture, and quite a character? It's said he once explained his attitude about political neutrality by referring to the author Dante, who wrote, "the hottest places in Hell are reserved for those who in time of great moral crisis maintain their neutrality." This Jim translated to Texan

talk with "There ain't nothing in the middle of the road, but yellow stripes and dead armadillos."

When he ran unsuccessfully against Rick Perry, he pointed out his opinion of Perry's misstatements in the campaign: "If BS was music, my opponent would be the Boston Philharmonic." At being told the City of Austin had negotiated a deal to buy electric power generated from a West Texas feedlot residue, he opined, "For the first time in history, BS is going to flow from the countryside into the state capitol."

Another noted Texas politician, Bob Bullock, was noted for his witty tongue. He once proposed a political candidate truth testing system: "All candidates for public office ought to have to take truth serum before they make a political speech and ought to have to take a lie detector test when they're through."

Think Texas

Agriculture Commissioner
SUSAN COMBS

This March take a moment to give a nod to the farmers and ranchers of Texas. It's easy to forget that these hard-working men and women touch our lives every single day, whether it's through the food we eat, the clothes we wear or the plants we tend in our own backyards.

This year's National Ag Week recognition will take place from March 19 - 25. National efforts are underway to educate Americans about how food, fuel and fiber products are produced and about the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.

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

Agriculture can be a challenging way of life. Major advances have taken us miles away from the days of horse-drawn plows, but we still face challenges in weather, water availability and commodity prices. Rural economic development, nutrition and marketing have become important components of modern agriculture as well, and Texas producers have evolved to stay ahead of changes in the industry and to respond to the needs of consumers.

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

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION - FC 102.010

THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO. 8470

IN THE INTEREST OF

IN THE 121ST DISTRICT COURT

OF

A MINOR CHILD

YOAKUM COUNTY, TEXAS

TO: ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, Respondent, GREETING:

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty (20) days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

The petition of Randall Glen Bruton and Frances Laverne Bruton, Petitioners, was filed in the 121st District Court of Yoakum County, Texas, on March 1, 2006, against the Unknown Father, Respondent, in the above-entitled and numbered cause.

The suit requests termination of the parent-child relationship and Petitioners to be allowed to adopt the child, the subject of this suit, as more fully shown by petition on file in this suit.

The date and place of birth of the child who is the subject of this suit is:

May 14, 2005, Coban, Alta Verapaz, Republic of Guatemala

The Court has authority in this suit to render an order in the child's interest that will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of said Court at Plains, Texas, on March 7th, 2006.

ADDRESS OF PETITIONER OR ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER
WARREN NEW
P.O. BOX 670
DENVER CITY, TX 79323
806.592.2129

VICKI BLUNDELL
District Clerk, Yoakum County, Texas
P.O. Box 899
Plains, TX 79355-0899

By: *Sandra Roblez* Deputy
Sandra Roblez

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