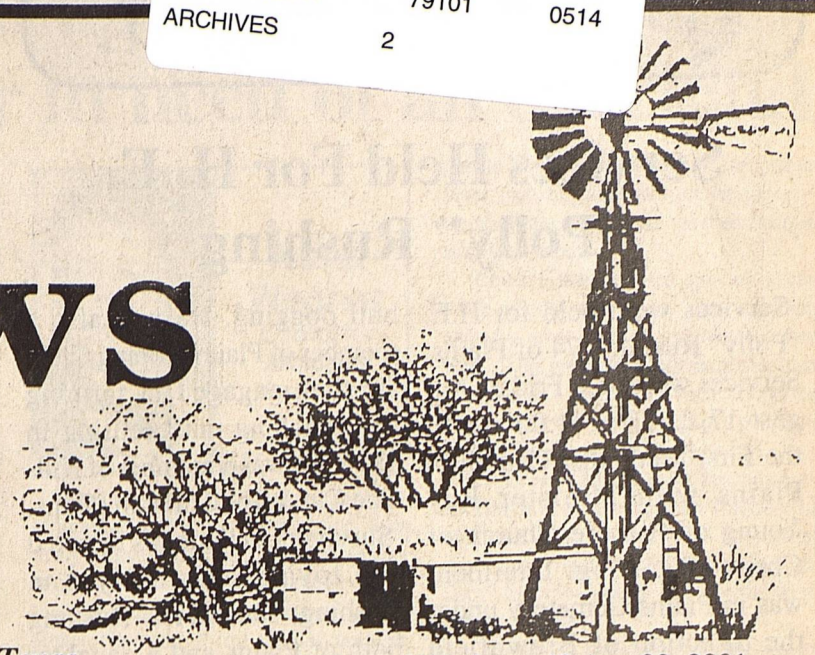


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Cowboy Country News

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

Volume V11, Issue 49 Aug. 22, 2001



Six PHS Grads Receive UIL Scholarships

A recent press release reported six Plains High graduates received Texas scholarships from the Texas Interscholastic League Foundation. This year TILF awarded 445 new scholarships and renewed some 250 awards for 2001-02 with an approximate value of \$1,344,000.

Emily Blair received a UIL music scholarship in the amount of \$1000, payable \$500 per semester. The music scholarships go to students who have competed in the UIL Academic State Meet, and have earned superior ratings in solo performances at the UIL State Solo and Ensemble contest. Emily plans to attend West Texas A&M and major in music performance.

Amanda Garcia received an Abell-Hanger Foundation Scholarship in the amount of \$6000, payable \$1500 each semester the first two years.

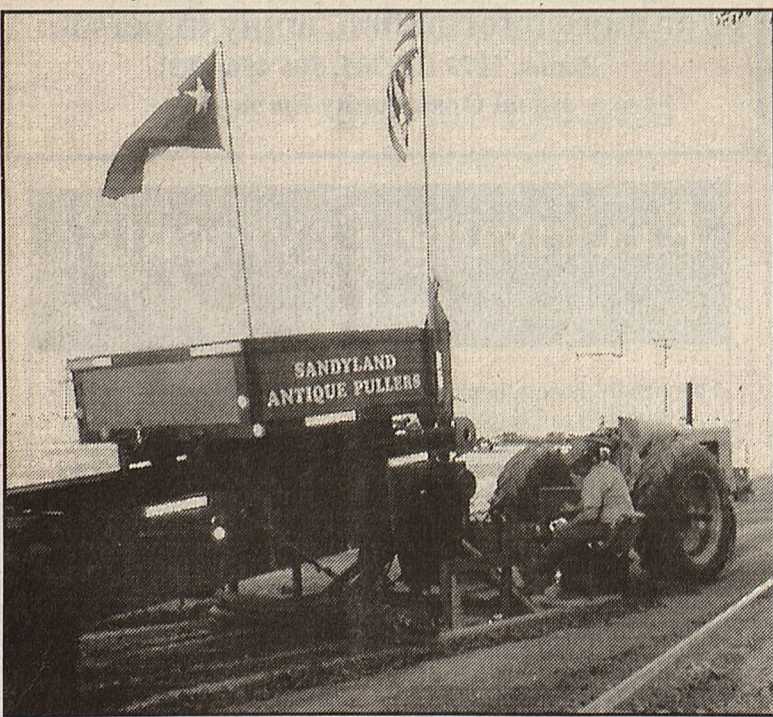
These awards go to students who participated in the UIL State Meet, and one scholarship goes to a student who plans to major in nursing. Amanda competed in number sense and calculator at the State Meet. She plans to attend Odessa College and major in surgical technology.

Andrea Nicole Haynes received a \$1000 scholarship from the H.J. Lucher Foundation, payable \$500 per semester the first year. This year the Foundation awarded 25 scholarships to students with outstanding UIL Academic Meet records who will attend state supported colleges or universities. Nicole was her class Valedictorian, and competed in state UIL Journalism and also

Turn To Page 2, "Scholarships"

Antique tractors chug in local pulling event

The local Sandyland Antique Pullers held their first pulling contest here Saturday, August 18. Some 30 old, restored machines roared (as loud as their limited horsepowers allowed) at the club's track near the north end of Cowboy stadium. Most machines came from area towns, but some tractors came from as far away as Abilene and Amarillo.



This old Moline made an impressive pull of the weight sled.



A 'Popping Johnnie's' front wheels are just starting to come off the ground as it reaches the limits of its power

Crime cases in County Court

Two criminal cases were heard in County Court August 13, with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding, and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the state.

Rickey Len Conkle pled true to aggravated assault of a family member. He will make \$20 monthly payments on \$200 court appointed attorney fees. he must attend weekly AA meetings (narcotics), He must serve an additional 25 hours community service. His attorney was Warren New, and investigating officer was William Gardner, Denver City Police.

Kenneth Glanville Beck pled guilty to a subsequent DWI charge. A one year jail sentence was suspended and probated 24 months. He must attend weekly AA meetings, serve 80 hours community service, serve 72 hours in jail with credit for 8.5 hours served, complete the managed care program and the DWI repeat offender program. His attorney was Rafe Foreman, and arresting officer was Trooper Brad Taylor, DPS.



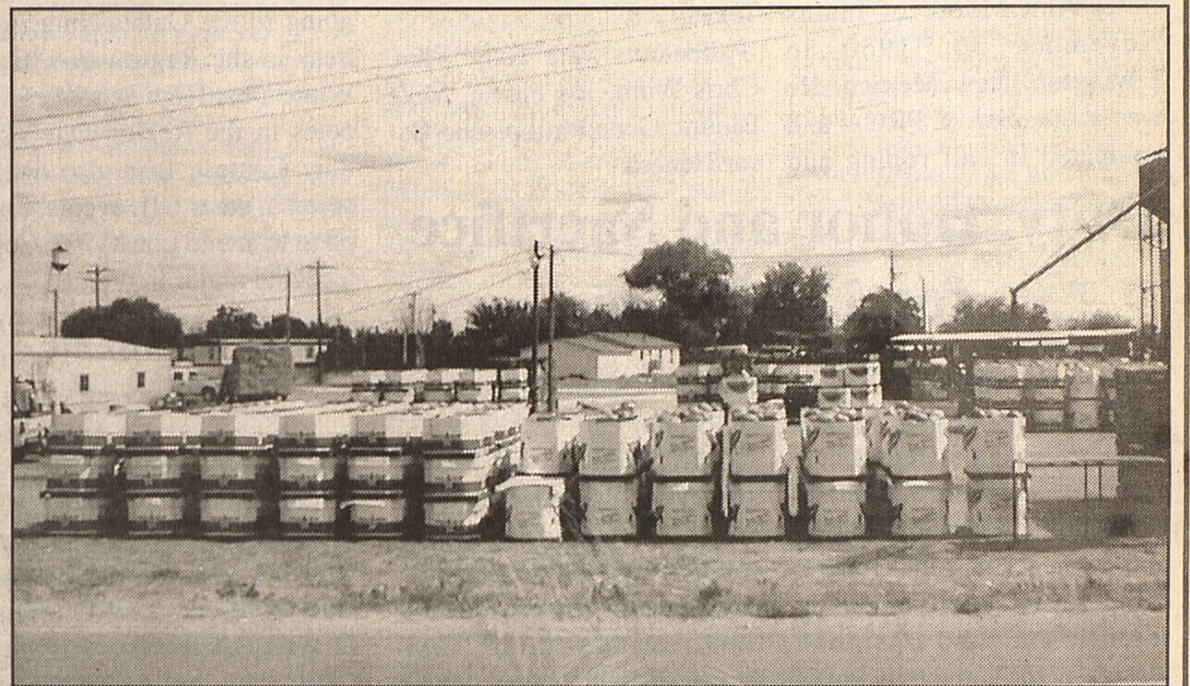
School has started.
PLEASE
drive safely
around our
kids!

Good news, bad news at PISD

Plains ISD Superintendent told CCN he was "elated" to receive official word from the Texas Education Agency the Plains Independent School District had been declared an Exemplary District, the highest possible rating. The High School and Middle School were rated exemplary, and Elementary School missed the Exemplary level by less than one percentage point.

The bad news is, first day enrollment is down from last year's level. Attendance figures for the three schools shown here indicate the 2001 enrollment, with the 2000 enrollment in parentheses; PHS - 146 (163). Middle - 136 (148). Elementary - 209 (195) Pre-K-21 (20)

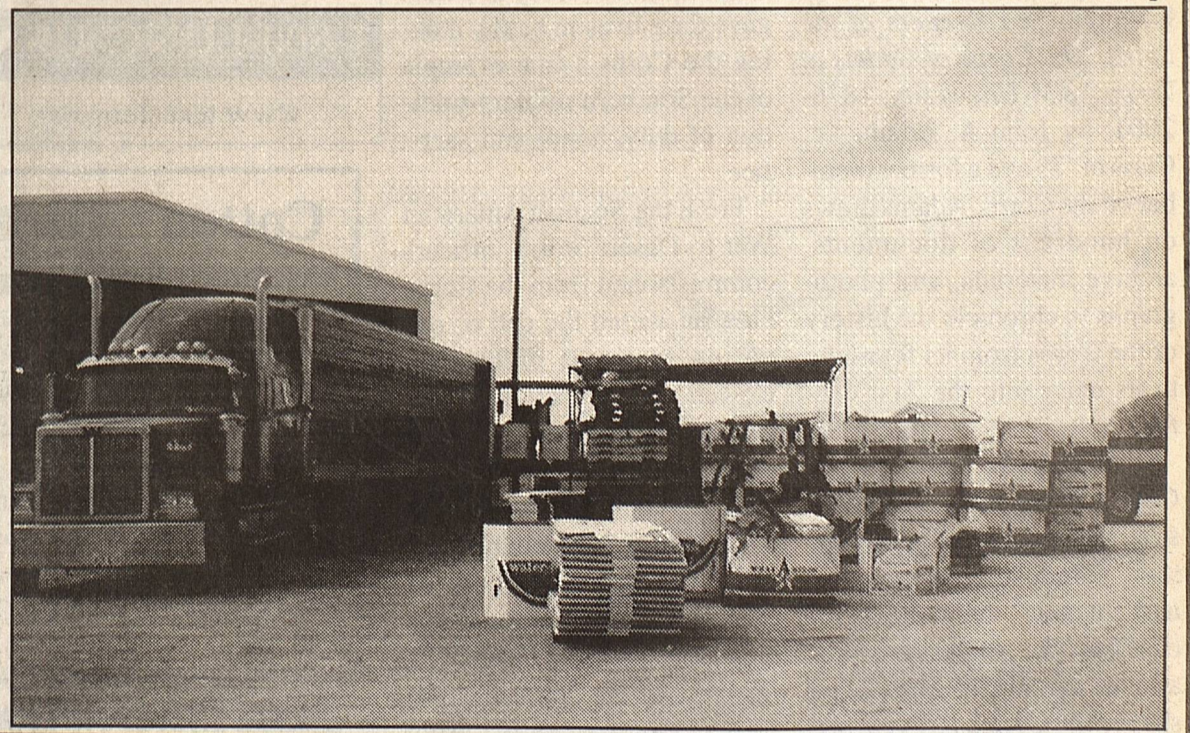
Melons plentiful for 6th Watermelon Round Up



The Anderson Produce watermelon shipping facility on the west side of Plains is a very busy place, as these photos show. Thousands of county watermelons are being brought to the Anderson plant, as well as seven other shipping points in the county.

A recent tour of the Anderson yard found over a dozen semi-truck rigs waiting to be loaded, and a quick scan of their license plates illustrates the scope of the market for Yoakum County watermelons - trucks were spotted from Iowa, Illinois, New Jersey, Montana, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and several destinations in

Canada. The 6th Annual Yoakum County Round Up is just nine days away from this issue of CCN. Yoakum County Connection, the founding organization for the Round Up, and dozens of volunteers have finished preparations for the September 1, all day fun event. The Round Up is being promoted in a number of area newspapers, and a number of radio and television stations will soon be advertising the Round Up. Chair person Jeannette Head said she hopes county citizens will help promote the festival by inviting friends and family to the Round Up.



Bacterial Blight found in area cotton

Dr. Terry Wheler, Plant Pathologist, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station at Lubbock, has reported some cotton fields with bacterial blight problems are developing around the Muleshoe area. Dr. Wheeler has emphasized this pathogen is present in numerous fields all around our area, but usually does not have the proper conditions to develop into a major problem.

The current weather trend of cooler temperatures and overcast, rainy days may aid the pathogen's development. There are no fungicides labeled for control of bacterial blight on cotton. Tests are being conducted with copper hydroxide fungicides for control of the disease, for a possible 18 label.

At present, the only sure method of managing bacterial blight is by planting a variety with resistance The Plains Cotton Improvement Program and cotton seed companies supported a blight nursery, maintained by the Texas Ag Experiment Station, in 2000-01. Many commercial varieties and breeding lines are being evaluated for disease resistance. A list of varieties tested and their rating is shown here.

Susceptible	Partially Resistant	Resistant
All-Tex AT101RR	All-Tex Xpress	All-Tex Excess
All-Tex Atlas	All-Tex Xpress RR	FiberMax 819
All-Tex Atlas Plus	Paymaster 2280 BG/RR	FiberMax 832
All-Tex Atlas RR	Stoneville BXN 16	FiberMax 958
All-Tex Excess Plus	Syngenta 2165c	FiberMax 966
All-Tex Max-9		FiberMax 989
All-Tex Top-Pick		Paymaster 1218 BG/RR
DeltaPine 2379		Paymaster 2167 RR
DeltaPine 458 B/RR		Paymaster 280
FiberMax 5013		Stoneville 239
Paymaster 183		Stoneville 239BR
Paymaster 2145 RR		Syngenta NK 2387c
*Paymaster 2200 RR		

Obituary

Services Held For H. E. "Polly" Rushing

Services were held for H.E. "Polly" Rushing, 74 of Plains. Services were held Friday, August 17, 2001 at 11:00 am. in the First Methodist Church in Plains with Minister Ray Young of Hillside Church of Christ officiating. Interment was in Plains Cemetery under the direction of Brownfield Funeral Home.

He died August 14, 2001 in Plains. He was born June 2, 1927, east of Plains on the Bennett Family Ranch. He served in the U.S. Navy during WW11. After the navy he spent some time working on a large ranch in Arizona and then returned to Plains. He married Betty Ann Moore of Plains November 30, 1950 in Lovington, New Mexico. He was a member of PRCA and competed in calf roping and

bull dogging. He was also a member of Plains Roping Club. He then engaged in farming and ranching until retiring in 1989. He was a member of Hillside Church of Christ in Plains.

Survivors include his devoted and loving wife Betty Ann Rushing, son Morris Rushing both of Plains and a daughter Peggy Testa of Dallas, Texas. 4 grandsons; Dan Rushing of Austin, Texas, Jay Rushing of Lubbock, Texas Doug Rushing of Ft. Hood, Texas and Clint Montfort of Dallas, Texas. 3 step grandchildren Mike, Troy and Jim Testa of California. 2 great grandchildren Kylar and Kinley Rushing of Austin, Texas.

Pallbearers were Tony Winn, Chris Winn, Joe Pierce, Mike Blount, Gene Phillips and Oscar Henard.

Duty, Honor and Sacrifice for 125 Years

COLLEGE STATION- In 1876, students newly arriving at the land-grant State Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas paid \$128.50 in tuition and fees, lived rent-free on campus, and were personally interviewed and assigned classes by the University President.

In the 125 years since, Texas A&M University has changed dramatically, and yet its Corps of Cadets, one of the oldest surviving collegiate military programs in the nation, still personifies the Aggie spirit and adds to the University's rich heritage.

Now, to coincide with the Corps's 125th anniversary, Texas A&M University Press has published *Keepers of the Spirit: The Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M University, 1876-2001*, by John A. Adams Jr., Class of '73 and a former member of the Corps. Adams draws on hundreds of documents, archive materials, and photographs to chronicle the history of the Corps from its founding to its entry into the 21st century.

Adams sheds light on the Corp's shaky early years that saw rugged conditions, constant administration turnover, and financial difficulties; focuses on the values, customs and controversies that have shaped the Corp's 125 year history; discusses the admission of women into the Corps; and cites the challenges faced by a

military institution in its fledgling years.

"Neither cadets nor faculty fully how to proceed," Adams writes. "The balancing act was how to maintain proper military standards while at the same time realizing these 'uniformed cadets' were nothing more than inquisitive, restless teenagers. Thus, a fine balance continues throughout the Corps of Cadets history to the present day."

In the 20th century the Corps gained national recognition as its graduates performed courageously in World War I and II, Korea and Vietnam. Since 1876, the Corps has produced more than 43,000 commissioned officers, many of whom gave their lives in battle, making the Corps a true example of the Southern military tradition of duty, honor and sacrifice.

"From the Spanish American War to Desert Storm, officers commissioned from the Corps have answered the call of our nation in times of crisis," Bowen says. "They have also carried their talents into all other sectors of our nation. Through their corporate leadership, through their public service, through their love of country, members of the Corps make the University proud."

Keepers of the Spirit is available at stores or direct from Texas A & M Press, 1-800-826-8911, or secure online ordering www.tamu.edu/upress.

From Page 1, "Scholarships"

One Act Play. She will attend West Texas A&M and major in children's clinical psychology. Eric Paul Nixon also received a \$6000 Abell-Hanger Foundation Scholarship. Eric competed in science at the 2001 UIL State Meet, and also participated in math and number sense throughout high school. He plans to attend South Plains College and major in mechanical engineering.

Lesli Lynn Rowe received one of 15 scholarships awarded by the Clark Scholarship Foundation, the grants going to UIL State Meet participants. Lesli won first place in headline writing at the 2001 state meet, and competed in a number of other events. She plans to attend West Texas A&M, but her major is undecided.

Lisa San Filippo received a \$1000 scholarship from the Keitha Morris Memorial fund, going to the Outstanding Actress in the Region in which White Deer High School competes in the Region One Act Play Contest. Lisa also competed in other UIL events. She plans to attend Lon Morris College and major in drama.

Jury trial in JP Court

On July 24, Martin T. Woods requested a jury trial for a speeding charge. Judge Crutcher presided, and the state was represented by Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark. The jury found Woods guilty of speeding, 77/70 mph. He must pay court costs, and was fined \$80. Investigating Officer was Trooper Brad Taylor, DPS.

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Cotton ' Turnrow Meetings '

Scott Russell, Extension Agent, Integrated Pest Mangement for Terry and Yoakum Counties, has scheduled a number of meetings for area cotton producers. Topics scheduled for discussion at the meetings include current insect pest problems, and crop termination. One CEU in the General category will be earned at each meeting.

TOKIO Co-Op GIN - Wednesday, August 29, 10:30 AM
 TERRY COUNTY Co-Op GIN - Wednesday, August 30, 8:30 AM
 YOAKUM COUNTY Co-Op GIN - Tuesday, September 4, 9:30 AM.

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Growth, Soaring Health Costs

Driving State Budget

by Lieutenant Governor Bill Ratliff

Traveling throughout Texas since the legislative session ended, I have found folks from every end of our state who only have one comment to make on the work of their legislators did in Austin this year. Time and time again, I've heard: "\$114 billion is a lot of money."

They get no argument from me. \$114 billion is a lot of money. But I wouldn't be doing our state any service if I didn't tell Texans why our state budget has grown and still struggles to keep pace with the demands placed on it.

Historically, Texans have been quick to brag that we live in a big state. And they're right. Covering well over a quarter million square miles, Texas is 68 percent larger than California, with a boundary line that could rope in all of the state in New England, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois combined. As they say: It ain't braggin' if it's true.

But there is another part to that story that is equally true. With more than 20 million people in Texas by the last census count, our population has soared 25 percent in just the last ten years, surpassing New York to become the second largest state in the nation. And year after year, Texas lawmakers have faced the challenge those growing demands have placed on our budget by rejecting tax increases and stretching our state dollars further and further to try to make ends meet.

Although Texas now ranks No. 2 in population and still outstretches every other state in the continental U.S., when it comes to per capita state spending, we topple the charts to No. 49, second only to Mississippi in the small amount we invest in the men, women and children who live here.

While many Texans can find good reason to put our public school system, which has been adding 70,000 new students a

year, at the top of their lists of the largest state expenses, the single item that is driving our state budget harder, higher and faster than any other is the soaring cost of health care. In fact, the only population in Texas that is growing at a quicker pace percentage wise than our school children, is the number of people in our nursing homes. And four out of five of them depend on some kind of public assistance.

Many Texans are surprised to learn how deeply rooted health care costs are in the state budget. While the Medicaid program for poor children and elderly citizens who cannot take care of themselves is a huge health cost for the state, recent estimates for the state employee health plan have shown increases ranging anywhere from 20 to 40 percent for each two year budget period. The state health insurance plan for our retired teachers alone required an additional \$452 million last session, just to stay solvent for the next two fiscal years.

Texas' mental health and mental retardation facilities also have an enormous medical cost attached to them. Many of their clients face serious physical problems, in addition to challenging mental conditions. And very few of them have adequate resources to take care of themselves.

Texas' foster children program is another costly investment. Many foster children are foster children simply because they have such serious health conditions that their parents cannot take care of them. Others have been abused or neglected to

such an extreme that they require serious medical attention to restore their lives.

Texas also runs one of the largest hospital systems in the world within the confines of our prison system. There are approximately 150,000 state inmates behind bars in Texas on any given day. Some of them have AIDS, or are HIV positive. It should come as no surprise that a growing number of aging inmates are housed in geriatric units, or should be. After all, Texas is tough on crime and the number of state prisoners now serving life sentences means we have more and more inmates who need the kind of major medical care required by an elderly population anywhere.

Pharmaceuticals are a health cost driver in the state budget that cannot be ignored, and it is an area that clearly illustrates the dilemma lawmakers have faced in setting spending priorities. In the last two years alone, state prescription drug costs have skyrocketed 56 percent, while general revenue spending for the next biennium increased only 8.8 percent, or 4.4 percent a year.

There is little question that lawmakers are going to have to give serious, thoughtful and credible consideration to all of the tough issues Texas will face in the future. And there is even less doubt that finding a way to corral the rising cost of health care in the state budget should be at the top of that list.



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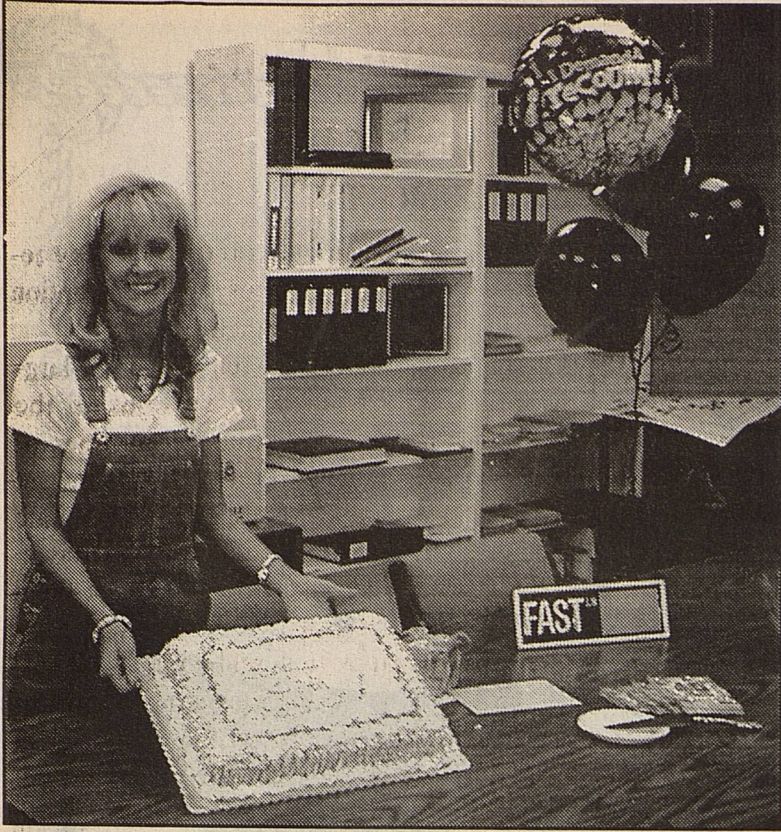
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MEMBER 2001
Cowboy Country News
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Cowboy Country News
 Published weekly each Wednesday at 1205 Copeland Ave., PO Box 179, Plains, TX 79355
 Holly Dyer, Publisher Gary Dyer, Editor
 Subscription price in Zip Code 793 \$15 annually
 Other Zip Codes \$18 annually. Periodical postage rate paid at Plains, Tx. POSTMASTER; Send address changes to Cowboy Country News, Box 179, Plains, Tx. 79355
 E-Mail us at ccn@hiplains.net
 ID# 017574 806-456-8451 FAX 806-456-2010



Sandy Land Water District officials honored Administrative Assistant Kathy Jones with a surprise birthday party Friday, August 17

JP Court Summary

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

Two cases minor in possession of alcohol
 Four complaints filed by County Sanitarian
 90 traffic cases
 One class A misdemeanor, one class B
 One felony case.
 One possession of drug paraphernalia.
 Two cases driving under influence of alcohol by minors.
 Three cases public intoxication.

Bonds and Fines set:

8 DWI, first offense - \$1000 bond
 2 cases DWI, second - \$1500 bond, interlock device
 6 DWI, third - \$2500 bond, interlock

2 cases motion to revoke probation - held until hearing.
 10 cases public intoxication - \$500 bond.

3 parole violation - held for parole officer.
 Abandon/endanger child - \$5000 bond.

2 cases assault causing bodily injury to family member - \$1500 bond.
 Unlawful possession of firearm by felon - \$5000 bond.

4 cases driving w/suspended license - \$500 bond.
 2 cases evading arrest - \$2000 bond.

Theft by check - \$500 bond.
 Assault causing bodily injury - held for border patrol.

3 cases drug possession - \$500 bond.
 2 cases unrestrained child under two - \$200 bond.

4 cases consumption of alcohol by minor, 3rd - \$500 bond.
 2 cases public lewdness - \$500 bond.

4 cases possession of marijuana - \$500 bond.
 Delivery of controlled substance to minor - \$5000 bond.

Possession of alcohol, minor - \$150 fine.
 Evading arrest/detention - \$500 bond.

Medicare at age 36 - It's like a Studebaker in need of an overhaul

Medicare turns 36 this week and is already in desperate need of a new lease on life. The program, created in 1965, was a promise to seniors that their health care needs would be met when they turned 65. Unfortunately, even though the definition of health care has changed - Medicare has not.

Medicare has not kept pace with society's advances. While we have all purchased PT Cruisers or Palm Pilots, the Medicare program still requires us to use Smith & Corona typewriters.

Americans throughout the country worry that this program is going through a mid-life crisis and will not be able to survive to meet their needs as they look towards retirement.

With 77 million baby boomers starting to enter the Medicare program in 2010, there will be a doubling of Medicare beneficiaries over the next 30 years. Medicare, in its current, creaky form, simply cannot handle that immense demographic shift and still keep its promise to current and future beneficiaries.

Fortunately, a solid bloc of Republicans and Democrats in Congress recognizes that sweeping reforms are needed now to revitalize the health care system for seniors and disabled Americans.

A good starting point would be the Medicare reform bill introduced by two level-headed centrists: Sen. John Breaux, a Louisiana Democrat, and Sen. Bill Frist, a Republican from Tennessee.

The bill incorporates many of the reforms Sen. Breaux championed while chairing the now-disbanded National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare and is consistent with the principles recently announced by President Bush. Those proposals centered on a public-private partnership that would allow the elderly more choices and greater flexibility in managing their health-care needs.

Most of today's seniors - roughly two-thirds, in fact - already have good prescription drug coverage. It's absolutely vital to protect those seniors and the private health-care choices they enjoy rather than herd them into a one-size-fits-all, government-managed program.



Nona Wegner
 Council for Affordable Health Care

And it's equally vital to extend prescription drug coverage for medicines to as many of the remaining 12-million seniors as possible - preferably through subsidized private plans that offer them a comprehensive menu of care options, and that encourage them to shop around for the best deal for their Medicare dollars.

The major goals of Medicare reform should be to strengthen the system fiscally, to improve the level of service, and to ensure that low-income seniors receive assistance for prescription-drug coverage.

Obviously, there are senior citizens that have difficulty paying for the medicines they need to survive and live a better life. But not every senior citizen on Medicare falls into that category.

Sixty-two percent of seniors without coverage spend \$500 dollars or less each year on prescription drugs. We need to start treating seniors like the savvy consumers that they are and allow them to pick and choose their prescription drug coverage.

A reform modeled after the successful Federal Employees Health Benefits Program would provide a better structure for Medicare. That's the program that provides health-care coverage for federal employees and members of congress.

Ironically, the current market-based system for federal employees produces a more financially stable and viable program than Medicare. And it could provide better incentives for seniors to choose efficient plans and/or providers. It also offers better financial incentives for physicians and other health-care providers to provide high-quality, low-cost care.

This type of program would allow seniors to choose among competing private plans, including a modernized fee-for-service Medicare program for the plan that best suits their needs.

Under a market-based system, people could choose their own plan, deciding annually what options and features they want. If the premium of one insurance plan is high, then a patient pays more or opts for a less-expensive plan. If a plan's premium is low, then the patient pays less.

Either way, patients drive the choice - not HMOs or the government. If applied to Medicare, this system would let seniors determine which health plans survive. They literally would vote with their Medicare dollars.

Choosing a market-based plan would be strictly voluntary. Seniors and the disabled who are satisfied with their current coverage can keep what they already have. The new program simply would provide a guarantee that if their needs change, other plans would be available, and no one would be left without coverage.

In order to deliver high-quality prescription-drug coverage that benefits all Americans, we must strengthen and improve the Medicare program to meet the needs of seniors and the disabled now and for years to come.

We also must provide special assistance for low-income seniors while protecting the choices most already have. Our goal should be to guarantee real, comprehensive reform without strapping seniors into a rigid, government-fashioned straitjacket.

Working together in a truly bipartisan fashion, President Bush and Congress can forge the far-reaching reforms that Medicare needs to flourish for years to come. These steps will ensure that seniors and the disabled have the choices they want, the prescription medicines they need and the high-quality health care they deserve.

Nona Wegner is a National Spokesperson for Citizens for Better Medicare, and the president of the Council for Affordable Health Care. Readers may write her at P.O. Box 34337, Washington, DC 20043.

Yoakum County Even Start Family Literacy Fall 2001 Registration

* August 27 through August 31, 2001
 * 8:00 am to 12:00 noon
 * The Learning Center, 600 N. Soland (North side of Kelley Elem. School, Denver City)
BRING:

* Social Security Card
 * Show records for children not enrolled in school
 Even Start classes begin: Tuesday, September 4th at 8:00 am. Stop by the Even Start Food Booth at the Watermelon Round Up, Saturday, September 1st, in Plains

Even Start del Condado Yoakum Fall 2001 Registraciones

* Agosto 27 hasta Agosto 31, 2001
 * 8:00 am. hasta las 12:00 pm.
 * The Learning Center, 600 N. Soland, at Kelley Elementary School, Denver City
FAVOR DE TRAER:

* sutarjeta de seguro social
 * tarjetas de vacunas de los ninios que ahun no estan en la escuela
 Las clases de Even Start comiensan el 4 de Septiembre a las 8:00 am.

Pro favor llegue al puesto de nosotros en la Watermelon Round Up en Plains el Sabado, Septiembre 1

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6th Annual Yoakum County Watermelon Round Up



Saturday, September 1
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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Booths
Great Food
Pig Races
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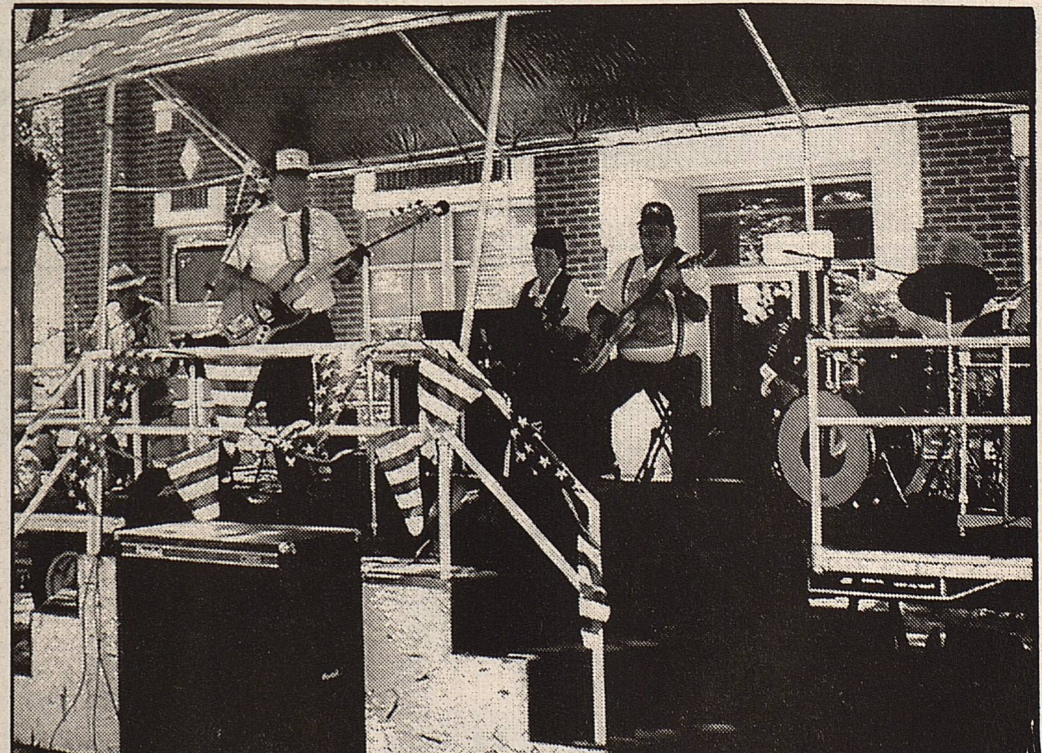


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Contest**



See Lots Of Huge Melons



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Courthouse Square, Plains, Texas

Lifelines & Styles

60th Anniversary Of The PHS Class Of 1941



Back Row-L-R: Velma Addison, Billie Anderson, Juanita Melton, Lorraine Johnson, Barbara Wallace, Doris Mobley, Geneva Hudson, Imogene Forrest, Lucia Fitzgerald, Ruth Alldredge, and Eloise McKee.

Front Row-L-R: Horace Johnson, Bobby Perry, Odus Walser, Super. Roy Elliott, Jack Cannon, Jack Albright, and Clyde Coke.

A reunion of members of the Plains High School class of 1940-1941 celebrating the 60th anniversary of the class will be held from 1 to 5 pm. on September 1 in the Fellowship Hall of the First Baptist Church of Plains. In addition to former members of the class, their families, and friends of the class from previous and subsequent years are welcome. The reunion will be come and go and light refreshments will be served.

For more information contact Ruth Alldredge Trice, Reunion Coordinator, Phone 505-393-8398, e-mail address: hobbspot@juno.com.

Senior Citizens Corner

We are still having our pot luck and takes blood pressure and on suppers every month. Everyone Tuesday Generations come and brings real good food and we take blood pressure.

visit with different folks at Our prayers, love and condonight that we don't sit with at lences go to Zelma Boone on noon. the loss of her brother.

We have some nice jackets for Winners of the men's pool men and other nice things in the tournament were men's 8 ball way of clothing. 1st Cookie Blancet, 2nd Pete

We are always open from 9:00 Arenivas, men's 9 ball 1st until 3:00 Monday through Friday. The garage sale and exercise room are together. You are Jean Poage, 2nd Dreta Davis, welcome to use the exercise women's 9 ball 1st Betty equipment. Cantrell, 2nd Betty Scott.

Thursday mornings is when Until next week, Memorial Home Health comes Wanda B.

The Plains Booster Club will meet August 27 at 7 PM in the school cafeteria to finalize plans for the annual "Meet the Cowboys, Cowgirls and Band Members" scheduled for Thursday, August 30 at 7 PM at the football field



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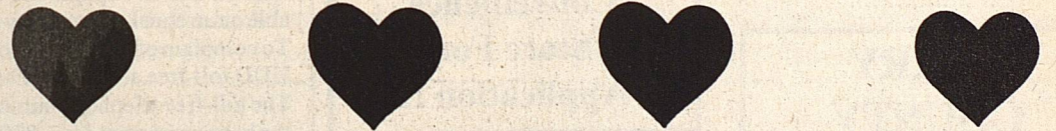
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Lori Vantine & Archie Harris Special THANKS to Plains City Employees Plains Public Schools...Debbie Garland Plains Cowboy Country News, Denver City Press Juried Show Chairs Uvonne Morgan, Wadonna Davis Thelma Cheatham

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

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Wednesday Connections
Food & Fellowship - 5:30-6:30 pm
Bible Study - 6:30-7:30 pm
Other Opportunities
Fitness/Exercise Class - 5:30-6:30 pm
Tuesdays & Fridays
Afternoon Bible Study - 5:15 pm Thursdays
God loves you and so do we!
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Plains, Texas

Wce Care registration is in progress for the coming year. If you would like your child to attend Wce Care please contact Melissa Hamilton - 456-5081 or the church office 456-3661. Wce Care will begin Sept. 4, 2001

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From The Hack

What do rabbits and governmental workers have in common? I can think of nothing but the fact both are capable of multiplying at astounding rates. An AP article startled me this week. Seems like the US Department of Agriculture is quite involved in rabbit meat classification. Young rabbits are classified as 'fryers', while rabbits six months of age or a bit older are classed 'roaster, or mature' rabbits. The USDA has now added a 'stewer' class for old rabbits, those with facial hair probably as white as their tails. The article says the rabbit meat industry is growing by leaps and bounds... perhaps they should say by Hops. I can envision another boom in the fast food industry - RABBURGERS! Some marketing genius will no doubt soon be buying space along Interstates and busy urban streets, sites for thousands of Rabburger joints. They will attract customers, not with huge golden arches, but huge Golden Ears wiggling high in the air. I would guess the customer seats would be covered with rabbit fur, putting a huge dent in the naugahyde business. Customers mindful of cholesterol could order Rab Stew, virtually fat free, while the more daring diners could throw caution to the wind and eat greasy Rabburgers to their hearts content. I can see great fortunes being amassed by rabbit entrepreneurs. The only dark spot I envision is some fool employee making minimum wage mentioning the Easter Bunny to younger diners. That would be disastrous.

CCN has belonged to the Texas Press Association some five years. Good organization, with lots of friendly help for Texas newspapers, particularly those of the minor size, like ours. A recent article in TPA's monthly Bulletin detailed newspaper publishers dilemma, increasing costs, diminishing profits.

Man, that caught my eye. I delved further in the article, which concluded with a series of questions addressed mainly to "smallies", like us. Intrigued, I decided to respond to the questions, and then run my answers by the Bride, who naturally holds the check book of the operation, and all our personal habits. Here are the Q's and A's:

Q. Does your newspaper have a marketing plan?

A. Definitely - Buy it as cheap as you can, sell it as high as you can.

Q. How well do you know your customers?

A. Some of them well enough to not want to know them ever again. Some of the unknowns I'm sure I don't want to know. Some of them I, We, All of us Love, because they pay us on time.

Q. What are you doing to improve the quality of your newspaper to readers and advertisers.

A. Working tirelessly everyday, asking more people to send news items which would decrease the length of my column, advertisers to submit camera ready ads so I would not have to use my limited artistic talents, decreasing the length of local politicians news releases. We're serious about improving.

Q. How are you positioning yourself for the future?

A. Everything humanly possible. I carry a licensed hand-

gun. I also have a Pickup Truck full of gas at all times, and one last remaining non-maxed out credit card for use in case of upcoming libel, besmirchment of character or treasonous charges are brought against me.

Q. What are you doing to improve the quality of your employees to serve your readers?

A. Absolutely nothing. For what I pay them, a little improvement is very unlikely. A raise in salary could change this, but very unlikely to happen.

Q. What marketing strategies are you using to maintain and grow readership and revenues?

A. Please refer to all of the above.

When finished with the completed survey, I proudly handed it to Bride for her perusal. She usually sniffs, snorts, bellows when she reads something she is offended by. This time she hiccuped, gagged, and I thought would fall over. She recovered sufficiently to snarl, "Thank you, Thank You So Much. This confirms what my friends and family have whispered to me for years. You're a SWINE!"

* Help Wanted *

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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Gleefully stolen from the Levelland News Press;

An older friend told me the following story. "When the young waitress in the cafe down the street started waving hello every day, I was flattered. She was so young... and I am

not so young.

"One day she waved and beckoned to me. When I strolled over, she asked, 'Are you single?'

I smiled very broadly, and replied, 'Why, yes, I am.'

"And then she smiled and

said, 'Great! So is my mom. Would you like to meet her?'

Think Watermelon Round Up!

CAPITOL COMMENT

U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

It's no news to most Texans that the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, has been a driving force in our state's strong economy. NAFTA is the most productive trade alliance in the world, with nearly 400 million people producing close to \$10 trillion worth of goods and services, and Texas has benefited greatly from being situated at the very center of that whirlwind of economic activity. By 1999, the value of Texas exports to Mexico had reached \$41.1 billion, up from \$23.8 billion in 1994. In fact, 47 percent of all U.S. exports to Mexico originate in Texas. This has brought us thousands of highly skilled, well paid positions in electronics, high technology and other industries.

However the trade agreement's potential has yet to be realized in its entirety. Under the 1994 accord, Mexican trucks and drivers were given access to border zones in 1995. By 200, foreign owned trucks and drivers were to have full access to all U.S. highways, which hasn't happened because NAFTA does not and cannot require the United States to admit vehicles what don't meet American standards. Concerns over safety and other issues have postponed full implementation of NAFTA's trucking provisions.

Texas is as the center of the

ongoing NAFTA truck debate, as well. Nearly 70 percent of current truck traffic coming from Mexico into the United States enters Texas, impacting our roads and state inspection facilities to a greater extent than any other state. Texas witness 2.4 million crossings of Mexican trucks last year. That number stood at 510,000 the year NAFTA was passed.

One of the major stumbling blocks to full implementation is the absence of resources that would allow U.S. and Texas officials to thoroughly inspect and monitor trucks operating on our roads and highways.

To accomplish that, we need: *Inspection facilities with the capacity to handle the increased traffic. *Adequate numbers of well trained inspection personnel. *The ability to enforce weight limitations; Mexican trucks are permitted to carry a maximum gross weight, including the truck itself, of 117,000 pounds, compared to a limit of 80,000 pounds for U. S. trucks. *The ability to collect reliable information on and monitor the safety records of all trucking firms and their drivers, regardless of their country of origin.

Right now we are able to inspect only a small percentage of trucks that cross into U.S. commercial zones along the border. Of the ones that are in-

spected, a third are turned away for safety violations, clearly, additional inspection facilities and staff are needed immediately.

Congress and the President are moving forward to make the NAFTA trucking provisions a reality. The Senate Appropriations Committee last month approved a measure I outlined that provides \$100 million for border inspection stations, inspectors and other border infrastructure improvements, the lion's share of which would go to our state. It only makes sense for these resources to be located in places where they will be most effective.

This legislation reflects Congress' commitment to full implementation of NAFTA, and to keeping American highways safe at the same time. It outlines rigorous safety oversight requirements that cannot be met unless we also provide the resources needed for quick, comprehensive monitoring of all commercial trucks and buses.

I voted for NAFTA and I support free trade. But we cannot throw open our borders completely until we have put in place the personnel and facilities necessary for conducting large scale, routine inspections at all trucks that cross our border.

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The City of Plains

will hold a meeting at 5:30 p.m. on August 30, 2001 at Plains City Hall, 601 11th Street to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 2001

The proposed tax rate would decrease total taxes in the city of Plains by 1.82% percent

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PROPANE

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2001 Watermelon Roundup Activities

James Altman &
Karen Williams - Activities Chairmen

Cathy Whitten, Mistress of Ceremonies

Friday, August 31, 2001

6:30 p.m.

Brisket & Chili meat passed out to cooks/Cooks meeting - Gazebo, Stanford Park

Saturday, September 1, 2001

8:00 a.m.

Kid's Rides Open

Until 8:45 Register for Fun Run - NW of Old Courthouse
Brisket & Chili Cook-Offs start - Stanford Park

9:00 a.m.

Watermelon Producers Contest

Watermelon Weigh-In - Pioneer Park by City Hall

Alltel Fun Run starts - NW of Old Courthouse

Alltel Toddler Run starts - NW of Old Courthouse

Classic Car Show starts - Front of school

Pony rides/Space walk/Gyrosphere/Train Ride-Front of New Courthouse

Books open for Team Roping - Plains Rodeo Arena

10:00 a.m.

Boot Toss - Front of New Courthouse

Petting Zoo - Pioneer Park by City Hall

Team Roping - Plains Rodeo Arena

11:00 a.m.

Watermelon Rolling Contest - Front of New Courthouse

Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest - Front of New Courthouse

1:00 p.m.

Hay Hop - Front of New Courthouse

1st National Bank/Brownfield Horseshoe Pitching Contest - Pioneer Park by City Hall

Watermelon Awards & Recognition Ceremony - Stage

2:00 p.m.

Balloon Toss - Front of New Courthouse

3:00 p.m.

Obstacle Course - Front of New Courthouse

Cowpatty Bingo - Front of Old Courthouse

Chili Cook-Off & Brisket Cook-Off Judging - Gazebo/Stanford Park

4:00 p.m.

Watermelon Eating Contest - Front of New Courthouse

Brisket Cook-Off & Chili Cook-Off Winners Announced - Stage

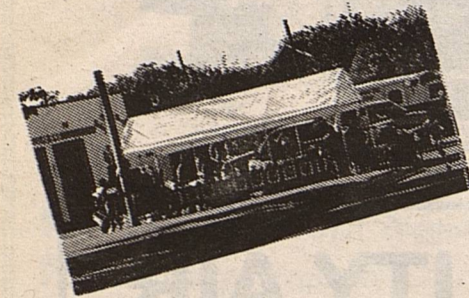
Brisket, Chili Auction - Stage

Turner Club Quilt Auction - Stage

Car Show Awards - Stage

5:30 p.m.

Final Announcements - Stage



Port-a-Potties between Library & Old Courthouse, Car Show, Rodeo Arena & City Hall



SIXTH ANNUAL YOAKUM COUNTY

WATERMELON ROUND-UP



Saturday, September 1, 2001

Plains, Texas

Yoakum County, Texas

home of the most delicious watermelons you've ever tasted!

Dear Friends,

It is with much pride and appreciation that I say thank you for another year of unselfish work that you have given to the Watermelon Roundup. Without the tireless and patient efforts of everyone in town, the Watermelon Roundup would not be possible.

Thank you for making the Yoakum County Watermelon Roundup a wonderful success for the 6th year in a row.

Sincerely,

Jeannette Head
Chairman

"If you want to have truly effective change...you many actually have to change something."

Six years ago a group of energetic, community-minded citizens of Yoakum County had a vision of expanding opportunities for art and cultural activities for the youth of our county. From that vision came an organization called the Yoakum County Connection.

Last year the "Connection" provided summer youth art programs that attracted nearly 350 participants in activities that ranged from balloon art to pizza making, from microwave munchies to watercolors, and from photography to cartoon art. Proceeds from the 5th Annual Watermelon Roundup provided most of the funds necessary for these programs.

I sincerely believe that the 6th Annual Watermelon Roundup will prove to be the biggest and best yet. I believe this because I have seen the commitment and dedication of the more than 100 volunteers who have put in thousands of hours laying the groundwork in preparation for the Labor Day Weekend celebration.

A small group with a vision and the courage to "...actually change something" has caused "...truly effective change..." in Yoakum County.

I look forward to this year's Watermelon Roundup, and to the exciting programs being implemented by Tonya Patton and the "Connection" for the youth and future of Yoakum County, and I am truly honored to serve as Chairman of the Yoakum County Connection for the 2001.

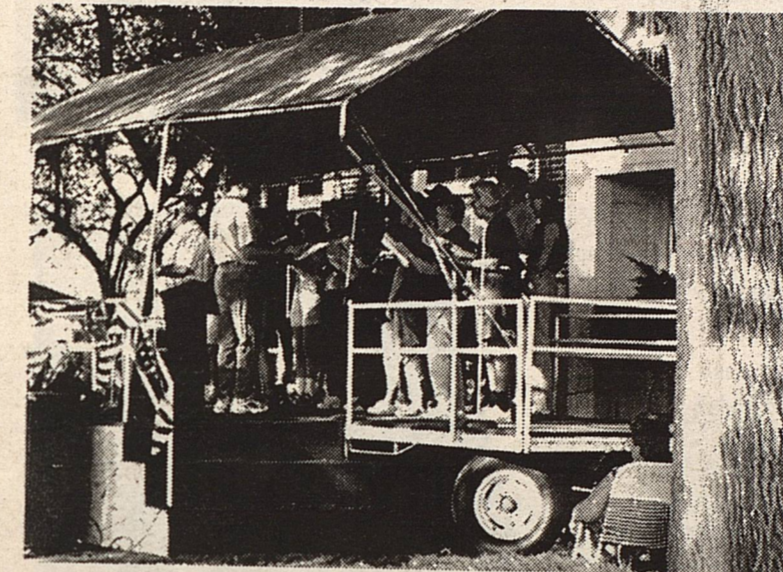
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Chairman - Yoakum County Connection

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2001 Texas & Oklahoma Watermelon Queen

Amanda Key is the 20-year-old daughter of Michael and Debra Key from McAllen, Texas. Amanda was chosen as the 2001 Texas & Oklahoma Watermelon Queen in January at the annual meeting held in McAllen, Texas. She presently attends Austin Community College in Austin, Texas. In the fall Amanda plans on attending the University of Texas in Austin to continue her studies in elementary education.

Amanda is a spokesperson for the Texas & Oklahoma Watermelon Association for one year and will then compete for the National Watermelon Queen title in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in February 2002. She will be doing in-store promotions, parades, and festivals like ours in Yoakum County.

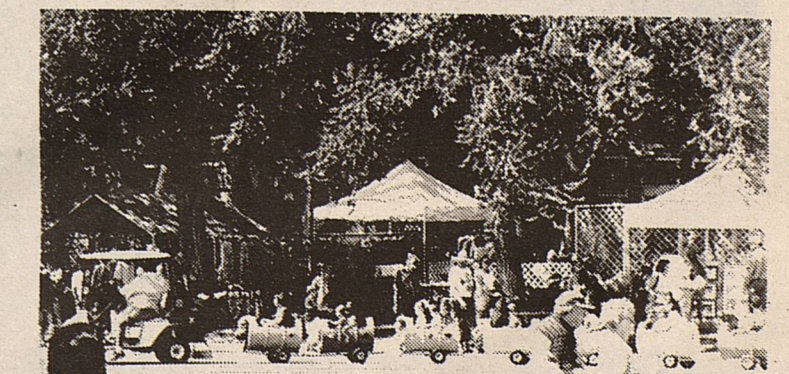
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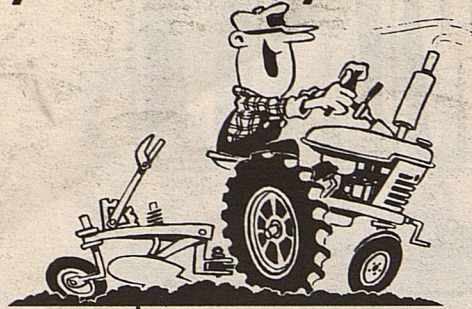
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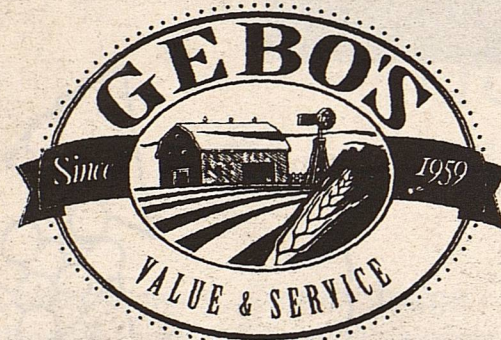
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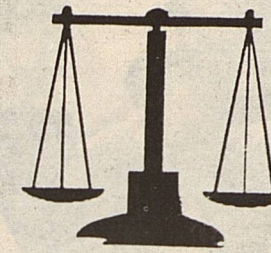
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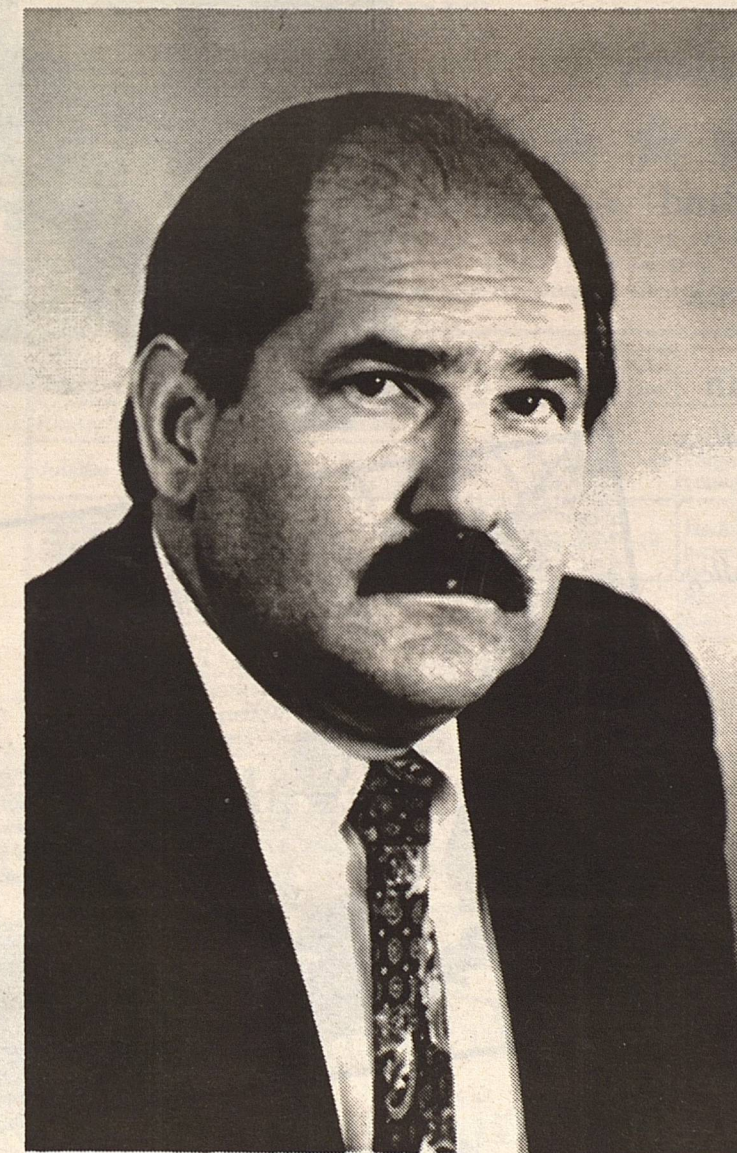
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Plains, Texas

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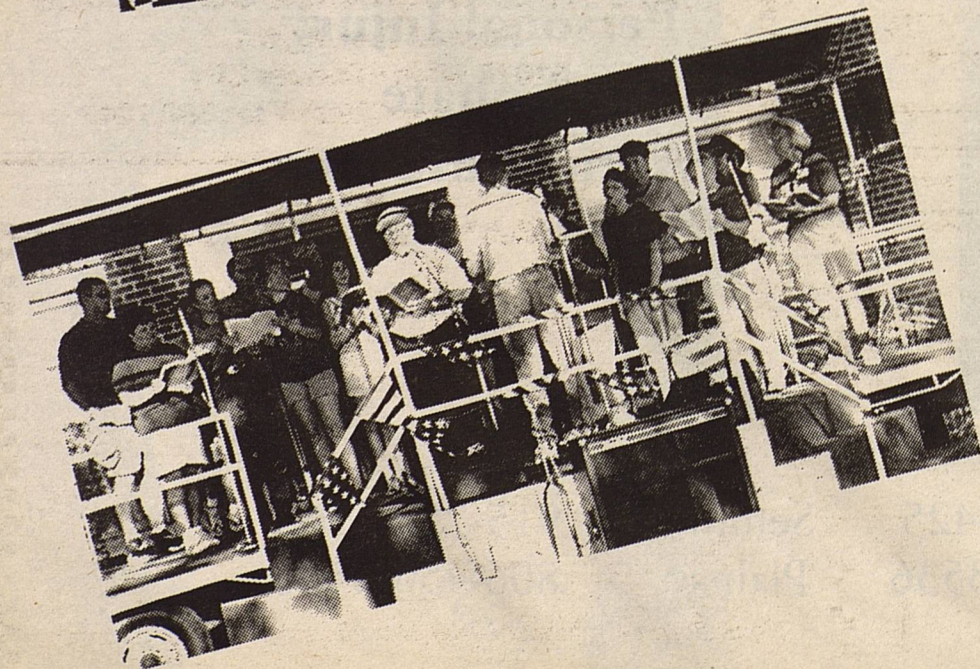
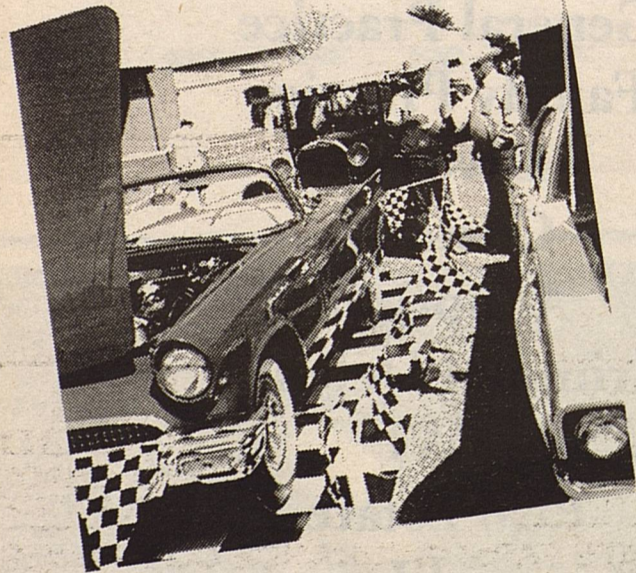
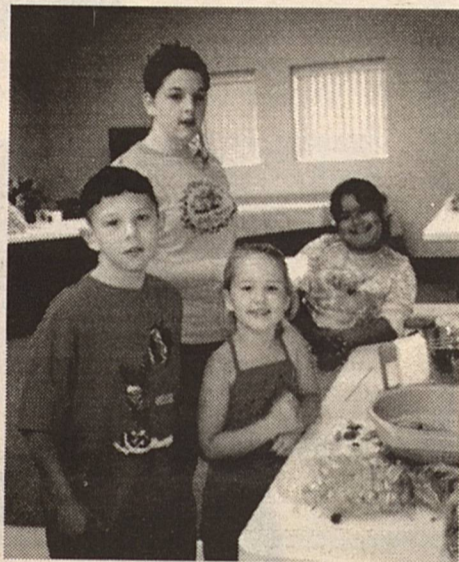
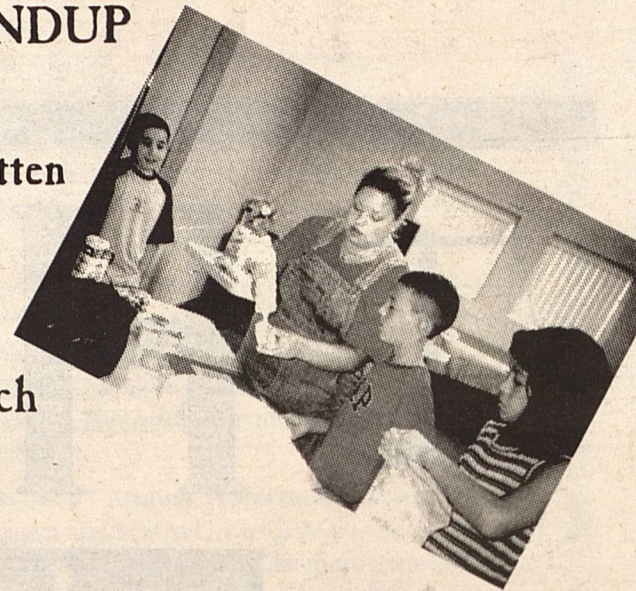
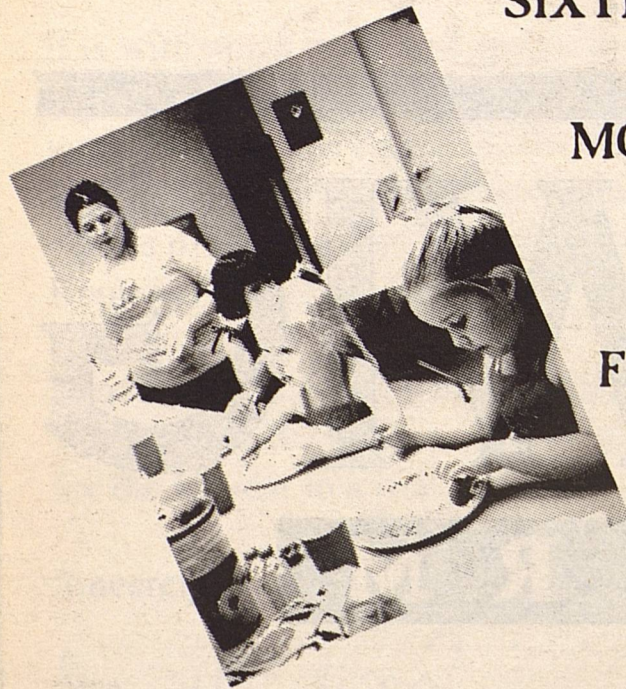
Chapparrel Band

Country Rock

John Hartin
South Plains College

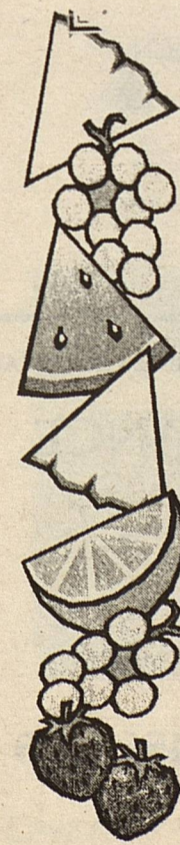
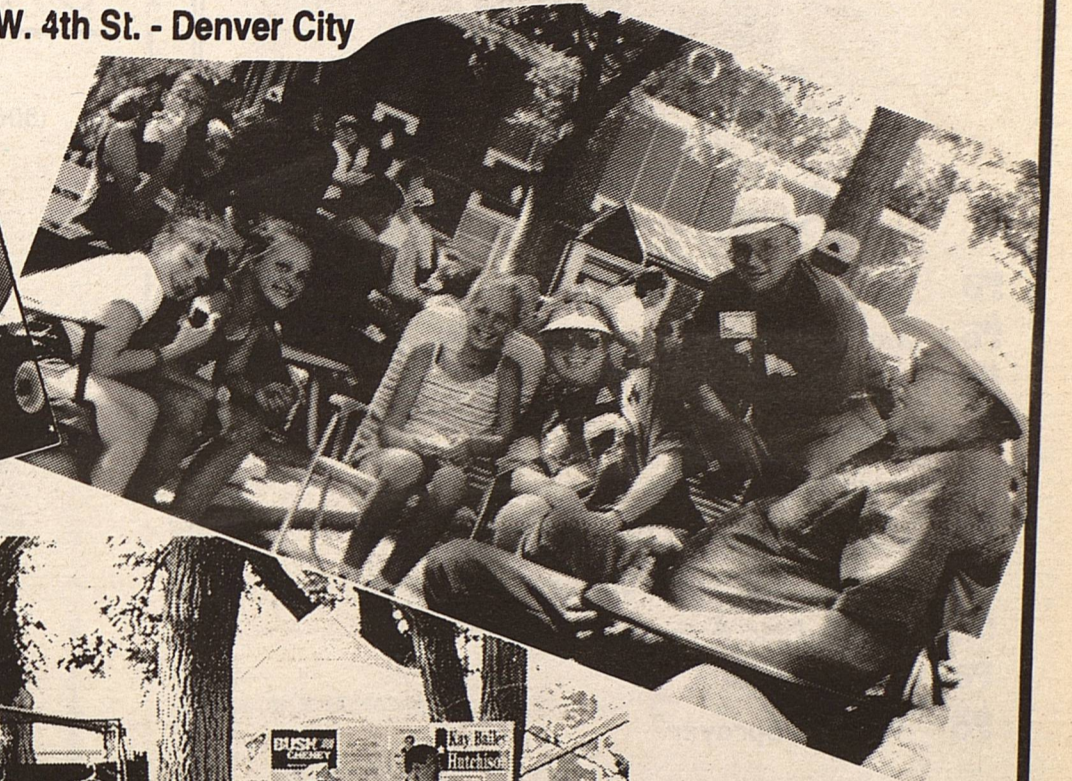
Joe Carr
South Plains College

Auction



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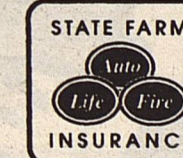
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Watermelon Varieties

Worldwide, there are over 1,200 varieties of watermelon. About 200-300 varieties are grown in the U.S. and Mexico, although there are about 50 varieties that are very popular. Most varieties are grown regionally, with only a few produced on a national scale.

TYPES AND VARIETIES OF WATERMELON			
Types	Varieties	Shape / Size	Seeds
Picnic Types			
Jubilee	Jubilee, Jubilation, Au Jubilant and Royal Jubilee	Oblong, 20-45 lbs.	Large sized brown
Crimson Sweet	Crimson Sweet, Royal Sweet, Mirage, Huck Finn, Au Producer and Regency	Round to oblong 16-35 lbs.	Medium sized brown
Allsweet	Allsweet, Sangria, SunSugar, Fiesta and Cal sweet	Long 18-30 lbs.	Small brown or black
Seedless Types			
Triploid Hybrid	Tri-X Brand 313 Seedless, Crimson Trio, Queen of Hearts, Chiffon (Seedless), Millionaire, 5244	Oblong to round 10-20 lbs.	An occasional seed may be found
Icebox Types 5-15 lb.			
Icebox	Sugar Baby and Tiger Baby	Round, 5-15 lbs.	Dark
Yellow Flesh Types			
Yellow flesh	Desert King, Tendergold, and Honeyheart (Seedless)	Round, 10-30 lbs.	Black or seedless



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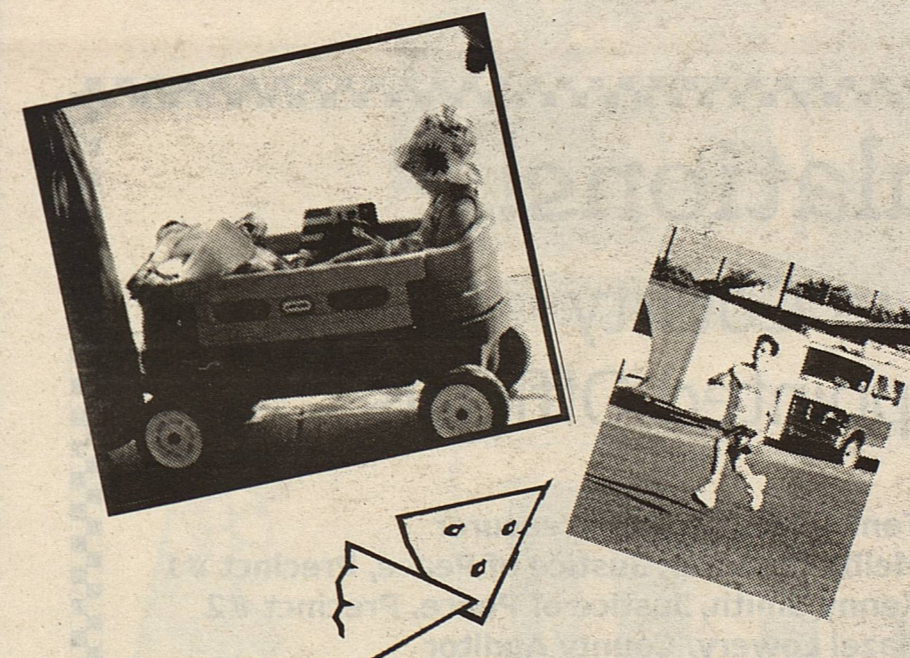
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World Watermelon Production (lb.)

Top 10 Countries for Watermelon Production

Country	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
China	241.5	254.6	320.5	382.5	383.5	415.1	479.2	514.5	514.5
Turkey	72.8	64.2	81.1	71.7	79.4	79.4	86.0	83.8	65.5
Iran	58.3	27.2	38.8	36.3	33.1	30.5	46.4	47.9	48.5
USA	24.3	24.3	37.8	37.8	40.0	40.4	44.1	40.7	40.7
Egypt	22.2	19.7	15.7	15.7	20.3	26.5	24.8	38.3	36.4
Others	338.7	338.7	299.5	291.8	286.6	320.5	309.9	317.6	323.8
World	757.8	748.7	793.5	837.5	842.9	912.5	959.5	1,042.5	1,050.4

Source: Derived from U.S. Department of Agriculture, ERS from data reported by FAO, UN

Top Producing Watermelon States 2000

STATE	POUNDS PRODUCED	ACRES HARVESTED	DOLLAR VALUE
Florida	864,000,000	27,000	\$45,360,000
Texas	560,000,000	40,000	21,840,000
California	615,000,000	12,300	72,570,000
Georgia	468,000,000	24,000	21,528,000
Arizona	266,300,000	7,100	18,108,000
Indiana	158,600,000	6,100	10,150,000
North Carolina	160,000,000	10,000	9,600,000
Missouri	121,800,000	5,800	4,446,000
South Carolina	150,000,000	7,500	7,650,000
Delaware	78,000,000	2,600	5,460,000
Oklahoma	42,000,000	6,000	2,940,000
Maryland	56,600,000	2,900	5,094,000
Alabama	50,700,000	3,900	2,839,000
Arkansas	40,500,000	2,700	1,701,000
Virginia	33,000,000	1,500	1,650,000
Louisiana	24,200,000	2,200	1,670,000
Mississippi	13,900,000	2,100	878,000
Hawaii	12,600,000	560	2,898,000

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Brochure...	...Linda Powell
Tabloid...	...Linda Harris/Joni Hancock
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Sliced Watermelon Booth...	...Toni Jones
Kids Games...	...Karen Williams
Fun Run/5K...	...Melvin Dearing
Cow-patty Bingo...	... Kathy Jones/ Ty Powell
Pig Races...	...Dottie Mayes/Arlon Gentry
Seed Spitting...	...Lori Vantine
Horseshoe Pitching...	...Karen Williams
Stage Entertainment...	...James Altman
Great Melon Contest...	...Bill Helwig
Watermelon Decorating Contest...	...Linda Powell
Brisket/Chili Cook-Off...	...Ted Welch
Producers and Growers Contest...	...Bill Helwig
Melon Selling...	...Plains State Bank
Team Roping...	...Jerry Parrish
Signs...	...Yoakum County Hospital
Art Contest...	...Denver City Art Association
4-H Clubs...	...Debbie Pollard



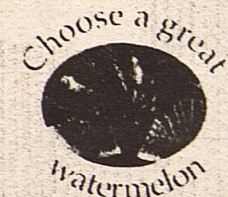
The National Watermelon Promotion Board

NWPB
 P.O. Box 140065
 Orlando, FL 32814-0065
 Web: <http://www.watermelon.org>



Tel: (407) 895-5100

Fax: (407) 895-5022



It's as easy
 as 1, 2, 3.

How to choose a Watermelon Video

1. Look the watermelon over, choose a firm, symmetrical watermelon that is free of bruises, cuts and dents.



2. Lift it up - the watermelon should be heavy for its size. Watermelon is 92% water, that accounts for most of its weight.



3. Turn it over - on the underside of the watermelon there should be a creamy yellow spot from where it sat on the ground and ripened in the sun.



Following these tips will help you pick the best watermelon available. Just remember, the keys to picking a great watermelon are as easy as 1, 2, 3.

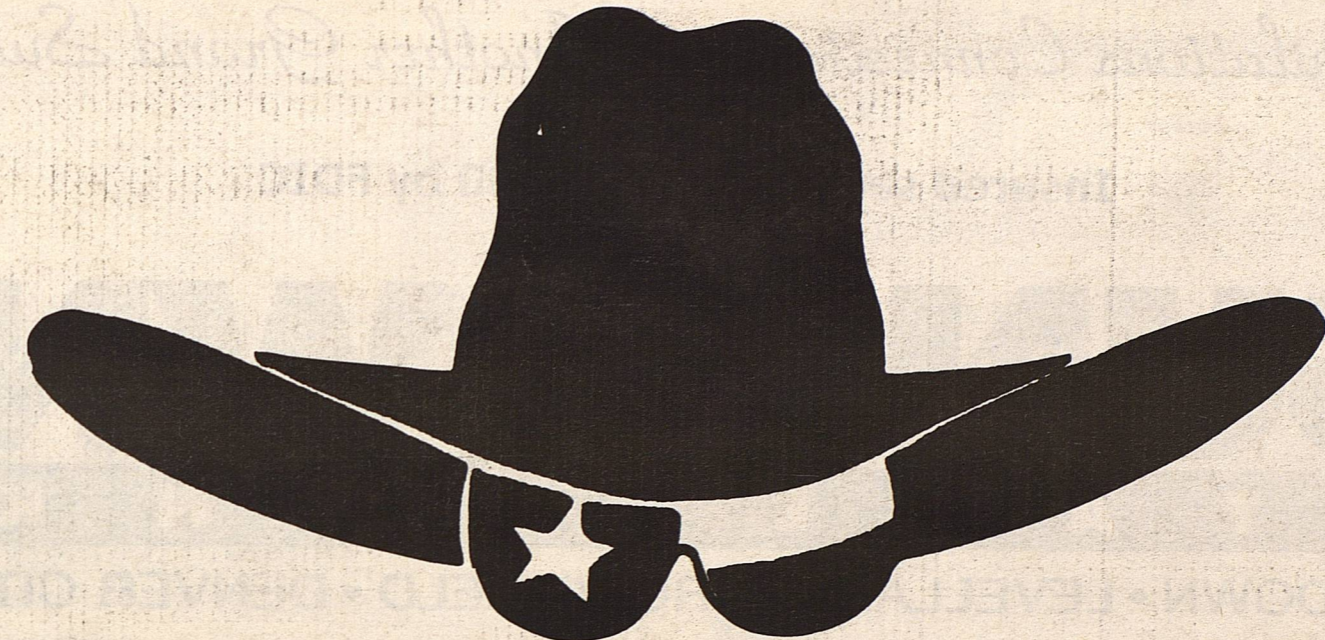
Fun Facts

Throughout the years, watermelon has found itself in many pickles, jams, and other interesting situations. Here is a list of fun facts you many not have known about watermelons:

- Watermelon is grown in over 96 countries worldwide.
- In China and Japan watermelon is a popular gift to bring a host.
- In Israel and Egypt, the sweet taste of watermelon is often paired with the salty taste of feta cheese.
- Watermelon is 92% water.
- Watermelon's official name is *Citrullus lanatus* of the botanical family *Curcubitaceae* and is related to cucumbers, pumpkins and squash.
- By weight, watermelon is the most-consumed melon in the U.S., followed by cantaloupe and honeydew.
- Early explorers used watermelons as canteens.
- The first cookbook published in the United States in 1796 contained a recipe for watermelon rind pickles.
- Food Historian John Martin Taylor says that early Greek settlers brought the method of pickling watermelon with them to Charleston, South Carolina.
- A watermelon was once thrown at Roman Governor Demosthenes during a political debate. Placing the watermelon upon his head, he thanked the thrower for providing him with a helmet to wear as he fought Philip of Macedonia.
- In 1990, Bill Carson, of Arrington, Tennessee, grew the largest watermelon at 262 pounds that is still on the record books according to the 1998 edition of



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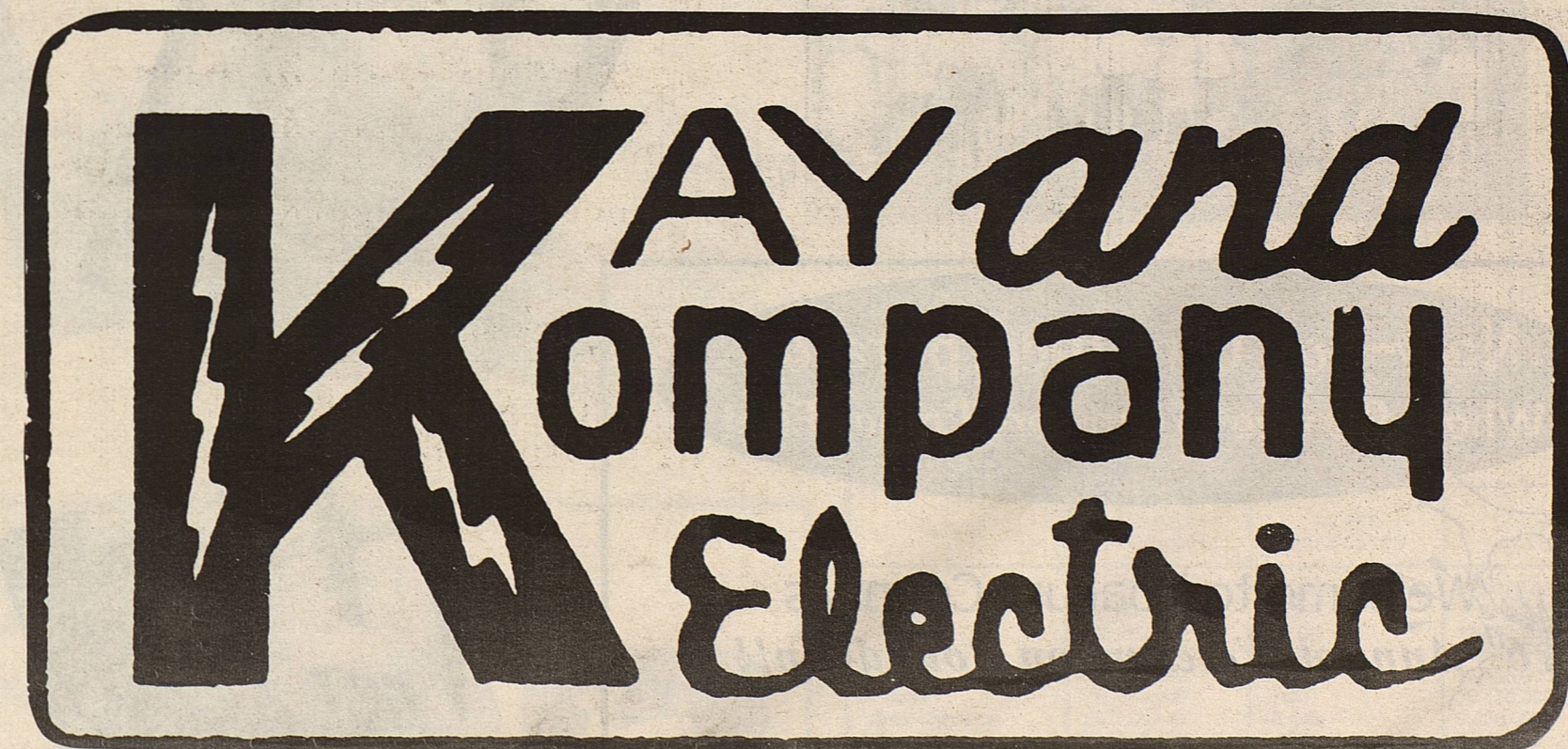
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**We salute the
 2001 Watermelon Roundup**



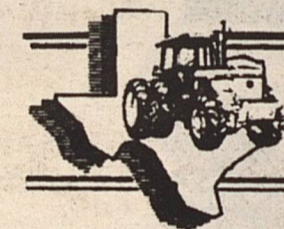
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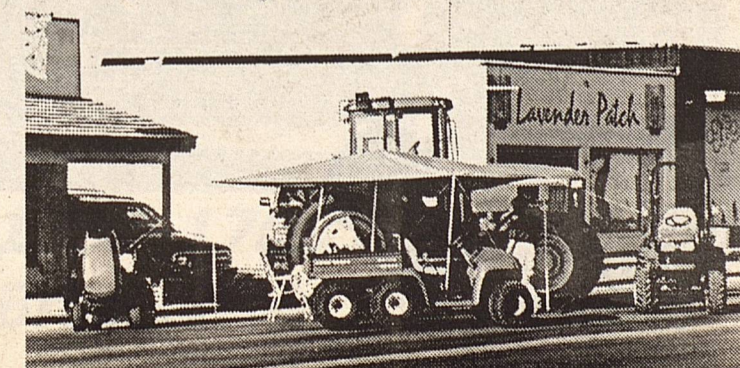
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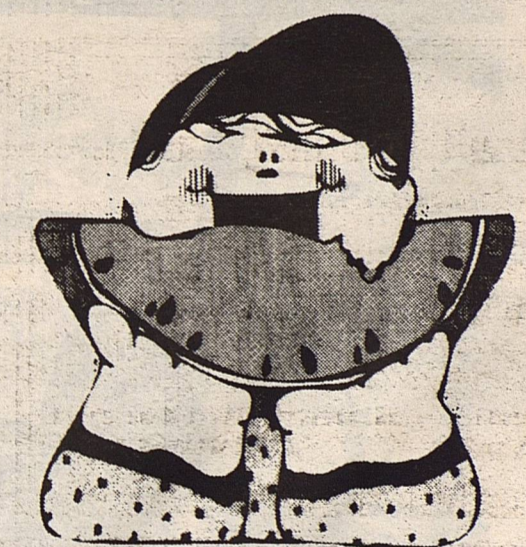
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 ☆ Welcome ☆
 ☆ to the ☆
 ☆ 6th Annual Watermelon ☆
 ☆ Round-up! ☆
 ☆ The City of Plains ☆
 ☆ Mayor, City Council & Employees ☆
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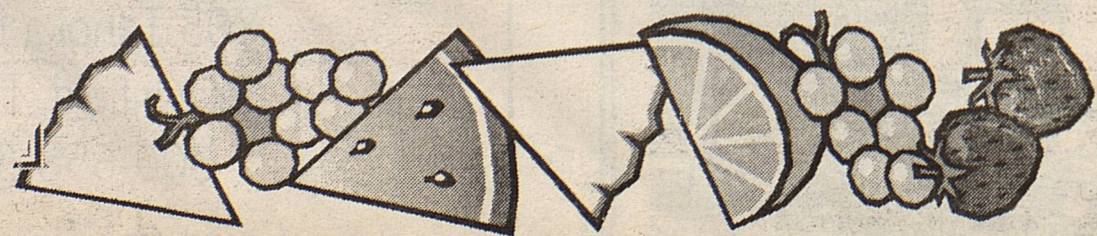
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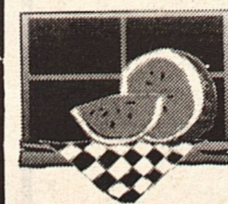
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Nutrition Facts

Serving size: 2 cups watermelon, diced (280g)

Amount Per Serving		% Daily Value*	
Calories	80	Calories from Fat	0
Total Fat	0g		0%
Saturated Fat	0g		0%
Cholesterol	0mg		0%
Sodium	10mg		0%
Potassium	230mg		7%
Total Carbohydrate	27g		9%
Dietary Fiber	2g		8%
Sugars	25g		
Protein	1g		
Vitamin A	20%	Vitamin C	25%
Calcium	2%	Iron	4%

* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs:

	Calories:	2,000	2,500
Total Fat	Less than	65g	80g
Sat. Fat	Less than	20g	25g
Cholesterol	Less than	300mg	300mg
Sodium	Less than	2,400mg	2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate		300g	375g
Dietary Fiber		25g	30g

Calories per gram:
Fat 9 • Carbohydrate 4 • Protein 4



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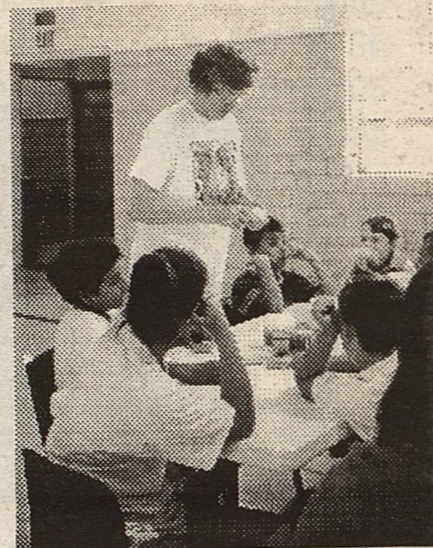
2001 SUMMER YOUTH ART PROGRAM

It was a great summer. We had an abundance of interest in all the classes this year. The kids did a great job. A special thanks to the instructors. Without them, this program would not be possible. The instructors for the classes were: Treon Ortega-Drug-Free That's Me!; LeAnn Romines-Watercolor (Denver City); Susie Powell-Watercolor (Plains); Debbie Pollard-Cool Clay Pots, Designer Melons, Reaching for the Ropes; Margaret Williams-Clay Play, Tracy Lowrey-Snack Attack, Electric Art, Little Britches; Judy Woods-Scrapbook, Shannon Patton-Electric Art, Sonya Loya-Impressions, YaYa Boxes; Tonya Patton-Creating Crafting, Snack Attach, Little Britches, Electric Art; Tanya Schumacher and Kathryn McCulloch for Reaching for the Ropes; Tara Price - Balloon Art.

Thank you to the Texas Commission on the arts for funding a \$500 grant for this program. Thanks to the City of Plains, Denver City Youth Center, Yoakum County Extension office, Yoakum County Club room, and Yoakum County Connection for providing their buildings for the Yoakum County Connection Summer Youth Art Program. Also, thank you to Yoakum County Extension for providing supplies for some of the classes.

A special thank you to all of you who allow us to teach your children about art. We look forward to the 2002 Yoakum County Connection Summer Youth Art Program. Make sure to sign up early in May 2002.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Tonya Patton at Yoakum County Connection, PO Box 117, Plains Tx 79355.



Yoakum County Connection
P.O. Box 117
Plains, Texas 79355

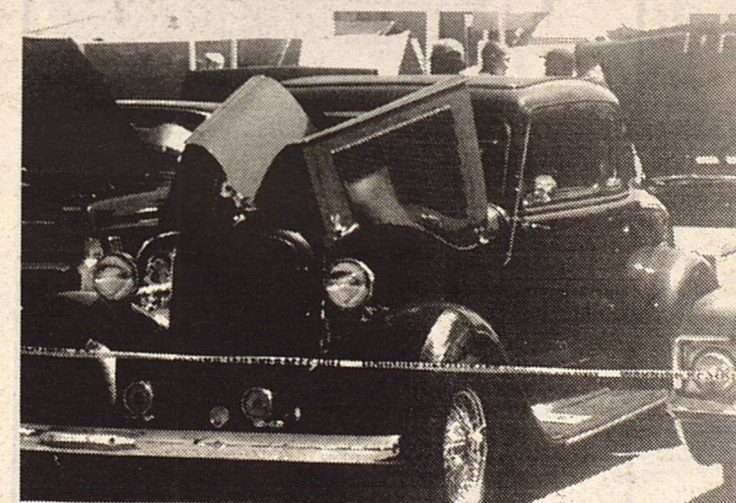
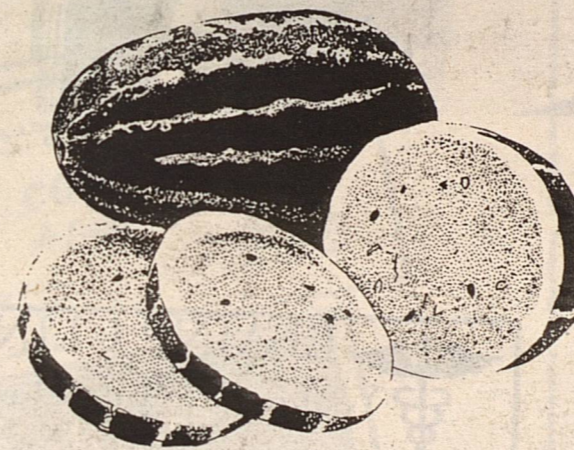
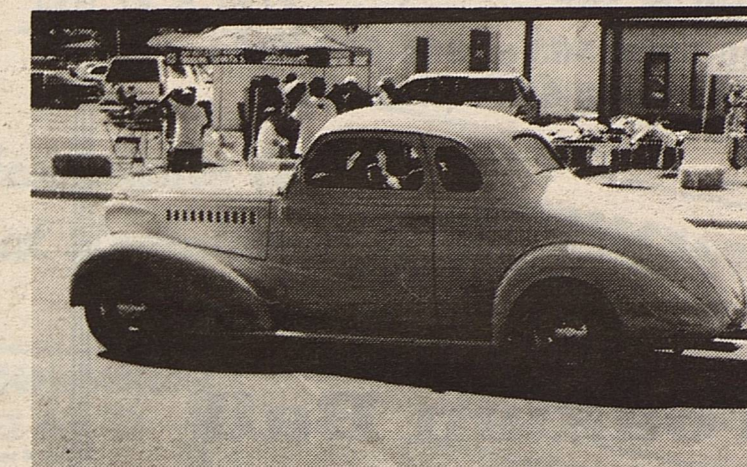


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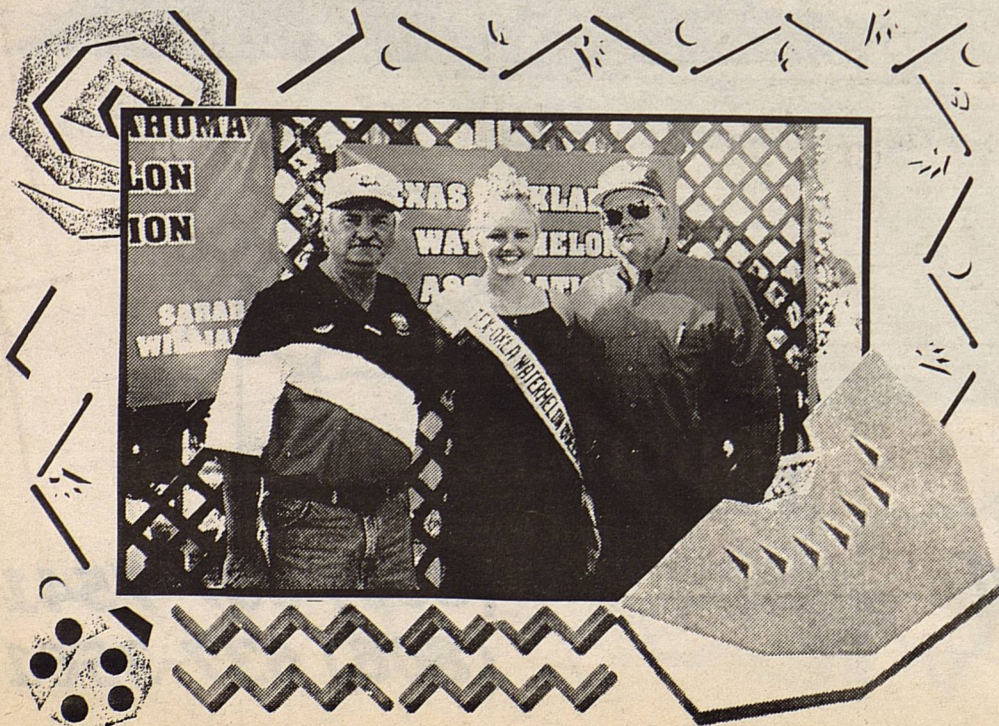
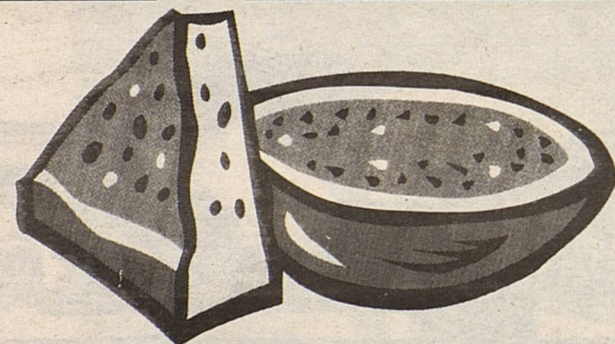
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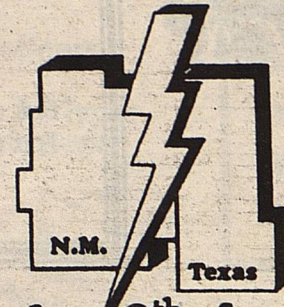
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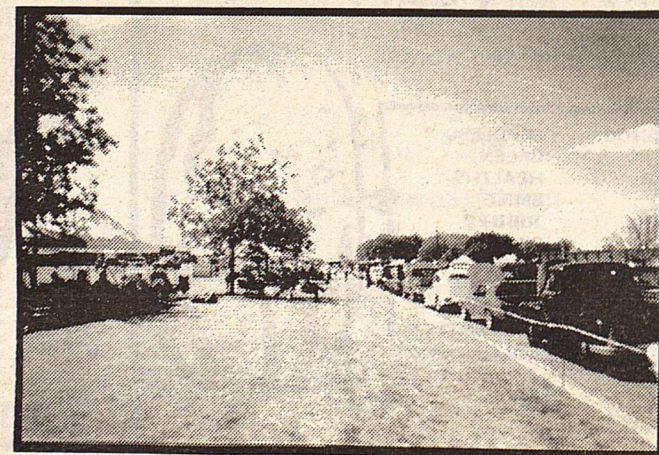
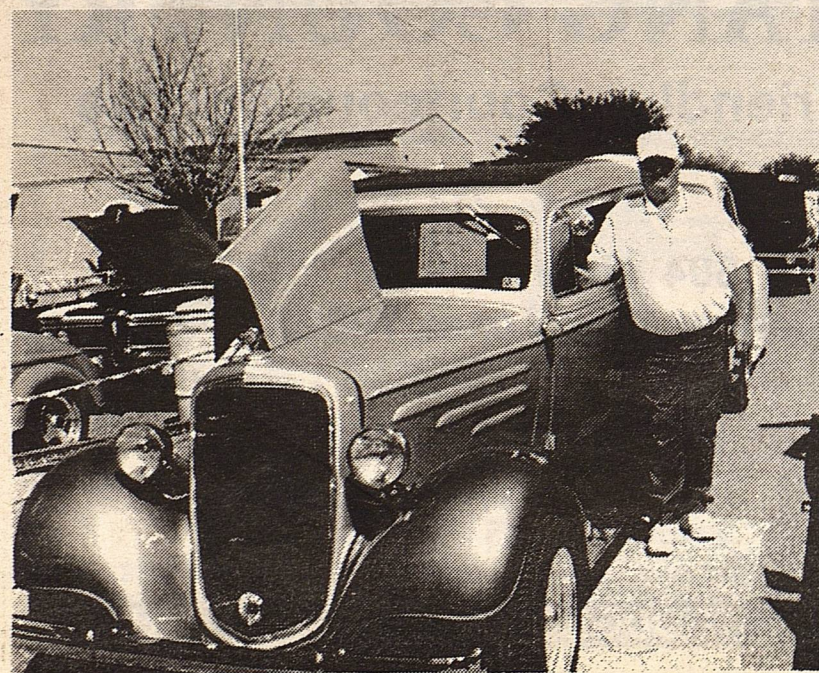
CAR SHOW 2001



Area car shows have been great this year, having beautiful, quality cars and trucks coming from all parts of the surrounding country. We also expect a wonderful show again this year, as we have had several inquiries and a lot of positive interest shown. We had 112 cars registered for competition and several more on display only, last year. So with good weather, we hope to have even more this year.

All interested participants are welcome to contact us, and we hope to see many spectators viewing these interesting and beautiful vehicles.

See you at Watermelon Roundup,
Terry and Wadonna Davis
Box 294
Plains, TX 79355
806-456-6789



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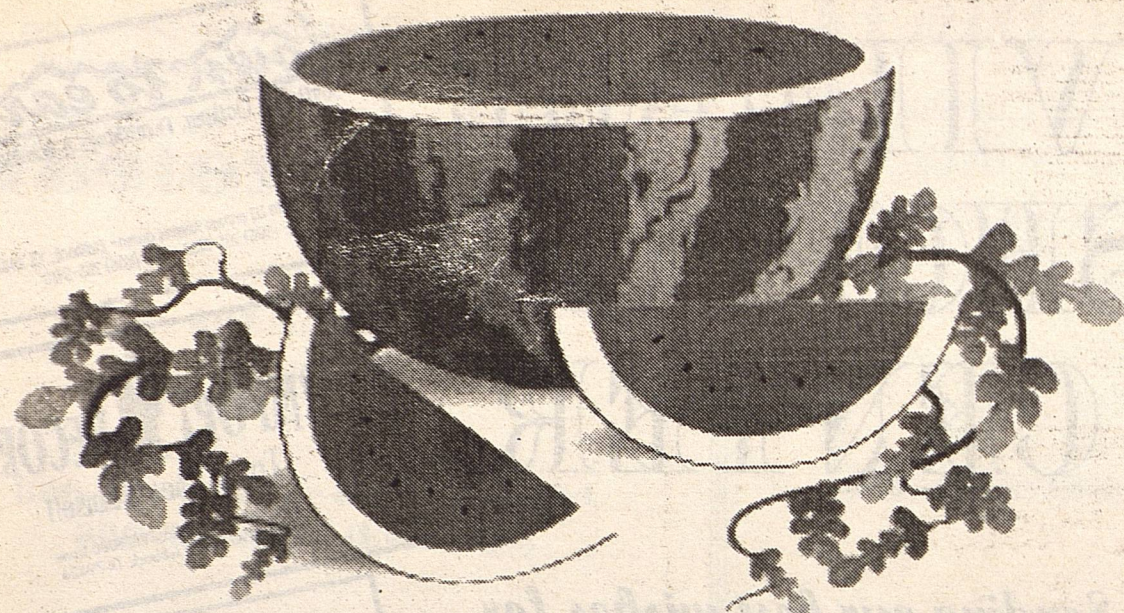
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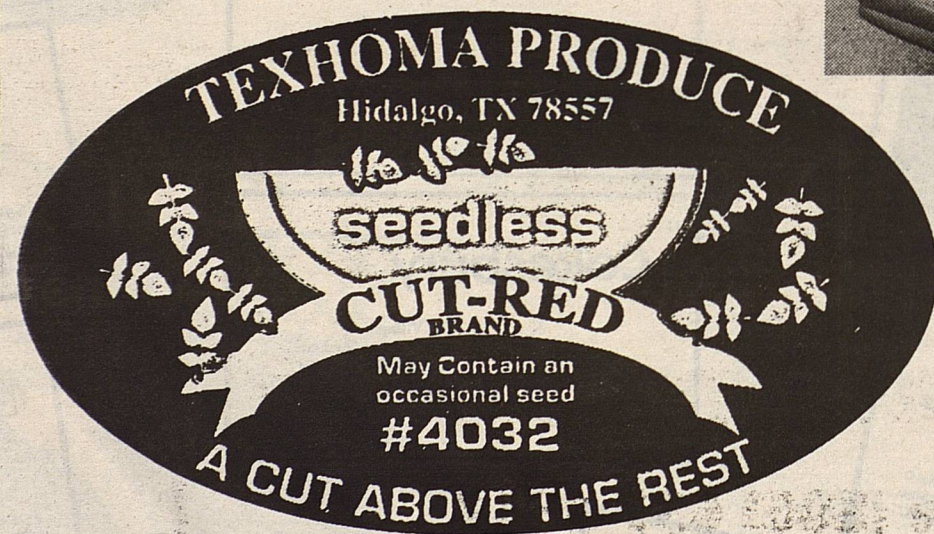
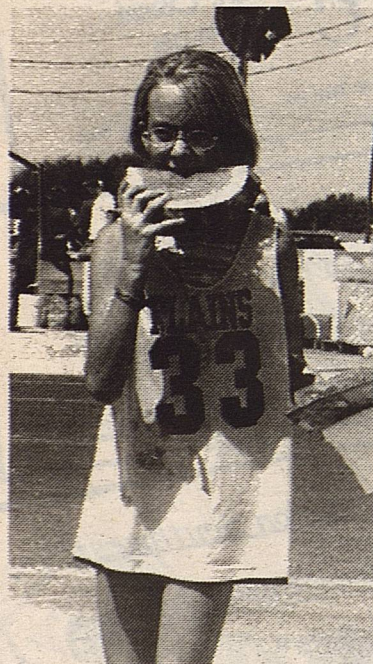
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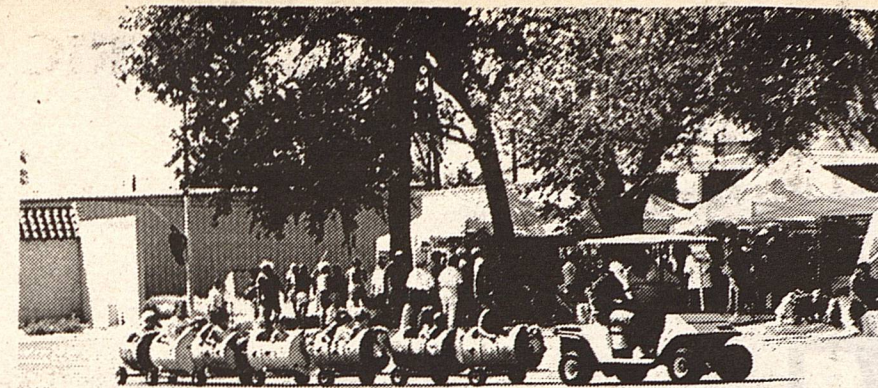


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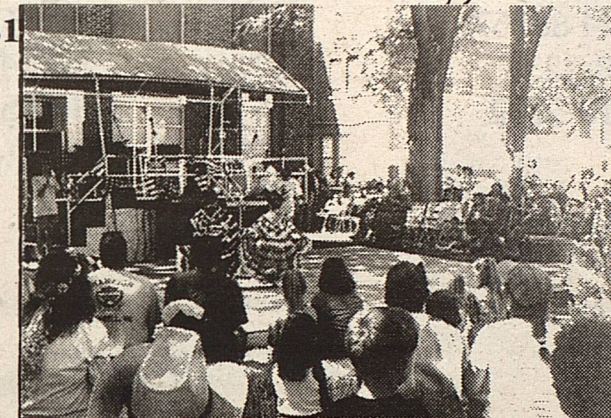
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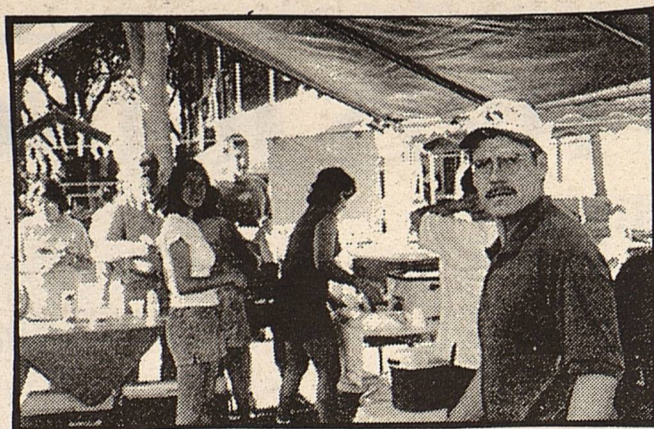
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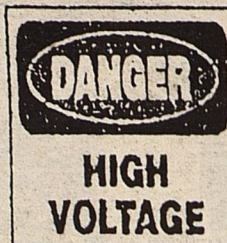
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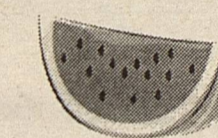
Watermelon History

Egypt

Europe

Watermelon is thought to have originated in the Kalahari Desert of Africa.

The first recorded watermelon harvest occurred nearly 5,000 years ago in Egypt and is depicted in Egyptian hieroglyphics on the walls of their ancient buildings. Watermelons were often placed in the burial tombs of kings to nourish them in the afterlife.



From there, watermelons spread throughout countries along the Mediterranean Sea by way of merchant ships.

By the 10th century, watermelon found its way to China, which is now the world's number one producer of watermelons.

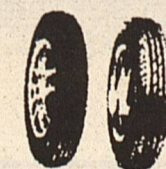
The 13th century found watermelon spread through the rest of Europe via the Moors.

In 1615 the word "watermelon" first appeared in the English dictionary, according to John Mariani in his book, "The Dictionary of American Food & Drink."

Southern food historian, John Egerton, believes watermelon made its way to the United States with African slaves as he states in his book, "Southern Food."

The United States currently ranks fourth in worldwide production of watermelon. Forty Four states grow watermelons with Florida, Texas, California, Georgia and Arizona consistently leading the country in production.

Watermelon has become a year-round staple in households the world over. With more countries than ever importing and exporting watermelons, it is easy to find the sweet, healthy and refreshing fruit any time of the year.



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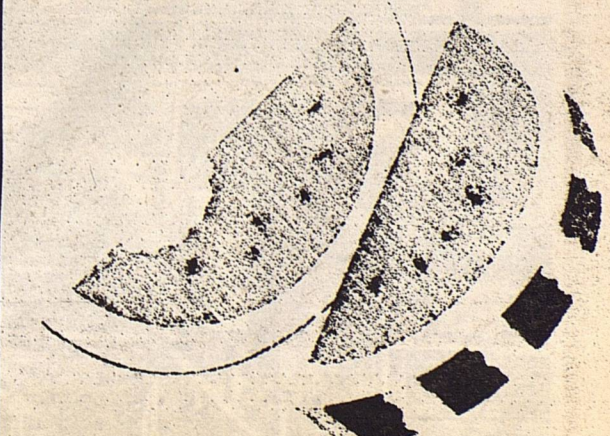
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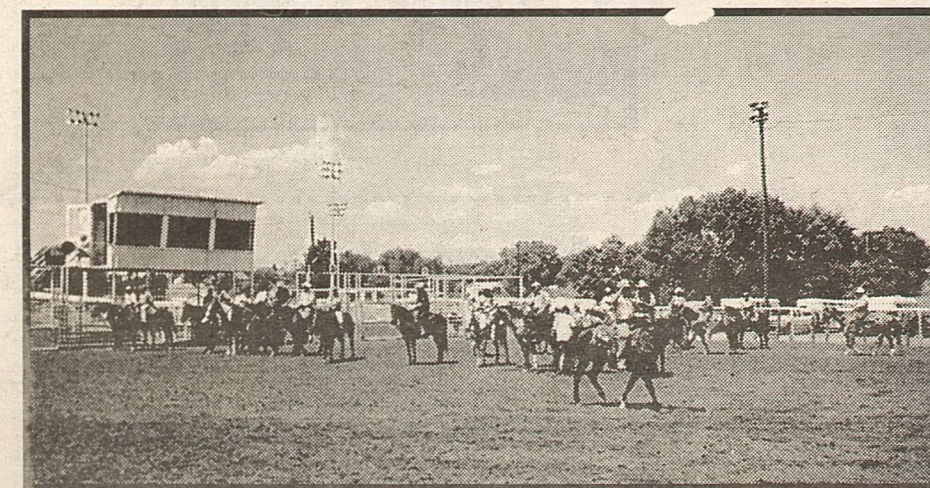
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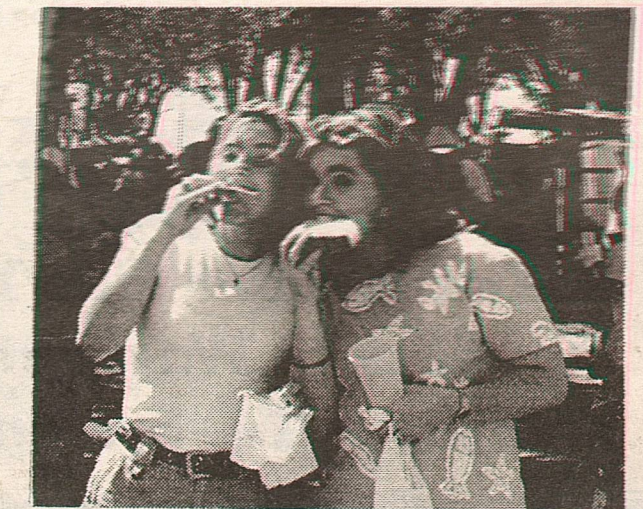
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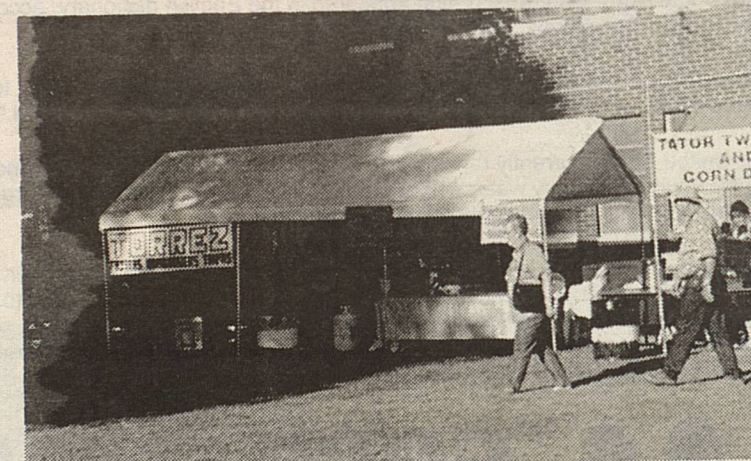
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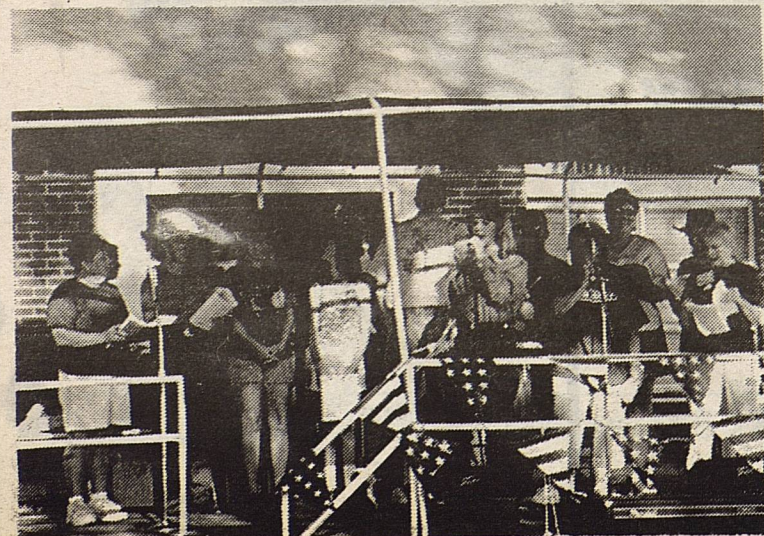
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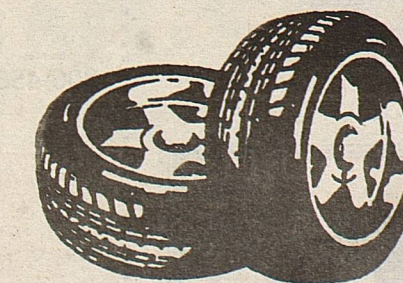


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