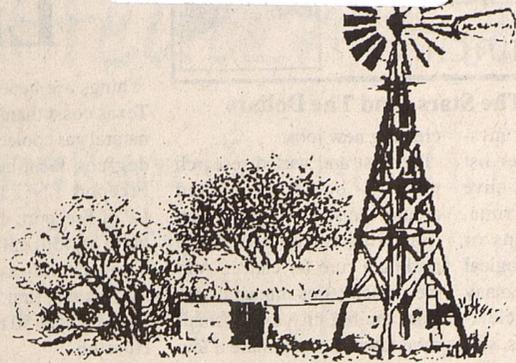


Cowboy Country News

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

Volume X, Issue 35, May 12, 2004



Lions hear Haynes, Walker report on school finance melee in Austin

In the May 6 meeting of the Plains Lions Club, guset speaker Jim Haynes, Superintendent of Plains ISD, assisted with comments from former State Representative Gary Walker, could report very little positive or encouraging coming from the state capitol where the Legislature wrestles with school finance issues.

Superintendent Haynes prefaced his remarks with the comment, "Governor Perry early on declared he didn't want to call a special session on the finance issue until he had 'consensus from both the House and Senate members'. Well, now that the session has been underway over 15 days, he found consensus - neither the House or Senate members liked his proposals dealing with tax money to fund our schools and turned his plan down cold. That's real consensus."

Both Haynes and Walker agreed public school financing is a particularly thorny issue for small, rural schools such as Plains' and Denver City's, and the fact they are subject to the notorious 'Robin Hood' property taxation plan compounds the problem. This year Plains ISD was forced to send almost \$3 million of tax revenues to other schools, and Denver City was forced to return even more.

Both speakers agreed it was important for school districts to be able to tax locally to pay off bond revenues, in Plains ISD's case a bond passed to fund needed repairs and maintenance throughout the school complex. They also affirmed school tax funds should be generated from a broader base of taxable sources; Public education should be funded by the public in all areas of the populace.

Haynes described certain unique factors making current financing methods difficult for the Plains District. "Our current student population through all grades will run about 435 to 440 students in daily attendance. The state, however, requires us to use a formula expressed as Weighted Average Daily Attendance, or WADA. This attendance figure is influenced by a number of factors including students requiring special education, students with physical problems, migrant students, and students speaking very little English. Common sense indicates these students are more difficult to educate, therefore more expensive to educate. Their special needs must be met with special instructors and methods." Please Turn To Page 2, 'School Finance'



Plains Lions pay rapt attention to Jim Haynes, Gary Walker comments about school funding

Routine session in Commissioners Court

In the May 10 session of Commissioners Court, the Tax Assessor/Collector office reported \$19,426 in county taxes were collected in the month of April. The court also approved a \$65 limit purchase for a new phone for the office.

Ed Hansen, President of the Plains Chamber of Commerce, outlined for the court a marquee sign with programmable electronic features the Chamber is attempting to purchase with the help of the City, Plains ISD and private donations. The 10' X 3.5' sign could carry three lines of messages, and would be viewable from two sides. Hansen said the sign would cost some \$24,000, and the Chamber could invest \$9000

in the project. He reported Plains ISD Superintendent Haynes indicated the Trustees would want to wait till all questions of school finance are finalized in the current special session of the Legislature before making a decision on the sign. Judge Brewer said the commissioners were faced with somewhat the same problem, in not knowing if caps on appraisal values by the session could affect future county revenues, and pointed out any funds spent now on the sign would be originally budgeted for other projects. Hansen said he fully understood both entities dilemma, and no further action was taken.

Turn To Page Three, "Commissioners"

'95 PHS grad buys I. F. L. arena football team Hard work pays off for Victor Bernal

It is not at all uncommon for young high school boys to fantasize about their future endeavors, whether in sports, the business world, even romance. It is a bit unusual, however, for a high school senior to dream of being associated some day with a professional football team... not necessarily as a star player, but a true part of the organization in the sport he so loved.

These are part of the thoughts of one Victor Bernal, who walked down the aisle of the Plains ISD auditorium in the summer of 1995 to collect his graduation diploma.

He had played football all through his public school years, but upon graduation he would not be signing any player contract with any major college team. Instead, he would apply for work at Lubbock auto giant Gene Messer Auto Group - in fact, he would apply seven times before he was finally accepted as a sales representative for the Fortune 500 Company. He, and the Gene Messer firm, discovered he had a real talent in selling automobiles, holding the full time position while attending Texas Tech and majoring in business management.

He was soon promoted to the finance department and was named sales manager. At the barely seasoned age of 26, Vic-

tor was promoted to the lofty position of General Manager of the entire Gene Messer Group. After eight successful years, he learned from friends of the organization of a new professional indoor Intense Football League, and he instantly knew he wanted to own one of the six teams in the league, and he had his eye on one particular team, the El Paso Rumble.

Victor said "I knew very little about El Paso, and there was lots of interest in buying the new team, but I came to the table first. I always wanted to be a successful entrepreneur, I loved football, and I knew this was the perfect opportunity."

Bernal's mentor and head football coach here, Larry McMinn, remembers the young man well. "Victor became our starting quarterback about half-way through his sophomore year. I knew the guy loved the game, and we all realized he didn't possess huge amounts of raw talent, but he managed to get the job done. The other guys on the team looked up to him, because they knew he was giving everything his best shot." McMinn said he had been impressed with Victor and his family's drive and determination. His hard working single mom would develop and nurture a strong work ethic in her and his three brothers and sis-



Class of 1995 Best Buddies - Ladd Winn, Brad McMinn, and Victor (Senky) Bernal

ter, and it remains one of Victor's greatest assets.

Victor continued, "When I first came to El Paso I didn't know a soul. I lived a month and a half in a hotel and spent 15 to 16 hours a day cold calling people and going around door to door. This has been an incredible and challenging ex-

perience. We feel blessed, and we strive to have the best organization and players from top to bottom. We will represent El Paso in the highest manner."

For Bernal work never seems to end, but he wouldn't have it any other way.

Relay For Life plans finalized

14 hour battle against cancer starts in Denver City's Mustang Stadium Friday, May 14 at 6 PM

The American Cancer Society sponsored Relay For Life fund raising program opening ceremonies start at 6 PM, after relay teams register and a team captain meeting is held. For weeks volunteer relay committee members, sponsors and team leaders have been at flank speed with plans for raising funds needed for the ongoing battle against cancer.

At last report some two dozen relay teams have been organized in Plains and Denver City, numbering hundreds of volunteers who will walk, run, some even 'wheel-chairing' around the oval track.

The "Laps For Loot" will continue throughout the night, until closing ceremonies at 8 AM Saturday.

A major fund raising effort of the Relay For Life is teams selling luminarias, for as high as a buyer wants to go, but not less than one dollar each. The night's schedule calls for a spectacular Luminaria Ceremony at 10 PM Friday, when

thousands of the candles will be lit around the stadium running track, on the field and in the east stands. Luminarias are for sale to the general public, not for just cancer survivors or victims.

The busy schedule includes one moving ceremony in which cancer survivors will assemble and make a lap around the track on foot, or by wheel chair if necessary. This will be followed by team introduction ceremonies and parade around the track. The survivors will then gather for a small celebration in the hospitality tent.

Relay visitors and supporters will be entertained throughout the evening by multi-talented groups and individuals, including 'Highway 114', Martha Sellers, Ashley Vantine, Moriah Traweck, Gina Beard, Bill Trice, Double Eagle Band, and Magician Jimmy Norman.

Other intriguing events include a limbo contest, baton judging, Pinata games, pajama contest, and a couple of real

puzzlers - 'Midnight Madness' and "Miss"ter Relay Pageant.

For Life will offer pants and visitors a full night of entertaining events, but the bottom line for the event is MONEY - money donated by county citizens for the American Cancer Society and its ongoing battle against the disease through research, educational programs, advocacy and services to patients in Yoakum County. We urge you to join us Friday evening. Bring your cash, bring your checkbook, and bring your generous heart for this serious task.

The complete schedule for the Relay For Life:

5 - 6 PM : Team registration, campsite set-up, survivors registration, captain's meeting
6 PM: Opening Ceremony
6:15 PM: Survivors introduction and lap.
6:30 PM- Team Parade, and survivor celebration
8 PM Luminaria sale ends

Turn To Page 3,
"Relay For Life"



CAPITOL COMMENT

U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON



Reaching For The Stars, And The Dollars

Pick up any paperback mystery on today's bestseller list and the pages will come alive with stories of cyber crime, toxic chemical weapons or feats of genetic and biological wizardry. The settings for many of today's most popular television shows are crime labs, science halls and emergency rooms. But America's fascination with science, medicine and technology is not merely fictional, our leadership in new and emerging fields is very real. And Texas is leading the way. After joining the Senate Appropriations Committee in 1997, I realized that Texas fell drastically behind in federal research and development dollars. I launched a campaign to elevate the profile of Texas institutions and boost their share of federal funding. Branches of the federal government, from the Defense and Energy departments to the National Institutes of Health, rely on the academic world to conduct research projects on their behalf. Nearly 60 percent of all funding for academic research comes from the federal government. Texas needed to get a larger slice of the pie.

For the past five years, I have convened annual higher education summits in Washington, D.C. to bring together Texas' academic leaders and senior Administration officials to help build new research partnerships. I'm pleased to report that our hard work is paying off. According to a newly released study, federal research funding for Texas colleges and universities has increased dramatically in recent years. The RAND Corporation announced that Texas higher education institutions took in \$1.26 billion in federal research money in fiscal year 2002, up more than \$100 million from the previous year. This survey shows that through greater collaboration and our annual summits we are transforming Texas into a science powerhouse. I've always known our schools perform groundbreaking work. Now federal decision makers are recognizing Texas' excellence as well.

These dollars are important for attracting top scientists, professors and students to Texas, as well as expanding our horizons and building a broader base of knowledge. These research dollars have an important economic development impact on our state. For every \$1 invested, Texas gets a \$5 economic boost, fostering commerce and

creating new jobs. The vast and varied research projects being conducted around the state run the gamut from wind energy research to finding a cure for cancer. And their discoveries impact us all, from the big city to the small rural town. Let me share a few examples with you. I recently announced an important partnership between the University of Texas System and Sandia National Labs, our nation's leading nuclear weapons laboratory. Sandia's strength in biotechnology, engineering and microsystems research will be complemented by the brilliant and innovative minds in the UT System. This partnership will enable Texas students and professors to take part in important research efforts that contribute to the defense of our homeland. Texas Tech University is cultivating a center of excellence at its Institute for Forensic Sciences. The major focus of the Institute is to assist those combating terrorism attacks through forensic methods, clearly an important priority as we face terrorism in the 21 century.

Texas A&M continues to stand out with its agricultural leadership shown through its Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center. At the Center, researchers and students alike are working to create healthier fruits and vegetables infused with vitamins and proteins.

The Houston Scientific community has recently formed the NanoHealth Alliance that includes the University of Houston, Rice University, MD Anderson and the UT Health Science Center among others. The Alliance provides unique national resources of material science, biotechnology and medicine, and will study how the emerging field of nanotechnology, a science measured in billionths of a meter, can impact the medicines we take.

As you can see, the work being done all around the state is more exciting than any work of fiction. Our schools are contributing to the safety, health and well being of not just Americans, but people the world over. In January, I helped launch The Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas, bringing together our state's premier research academics to forge new alliances. Together our universities and local and federal leaders will continue to partner toward our goal of making Texas a state of science.

Texas facility tapping into Liquid Natural Gas market

Things are heating up on the Texas coast thanks to a type of natural gas cooled to minus 260 degrees Fahrenheit. In 2004, Freeport LNG Development LP of Freeport, Texas plans to build a \$450 million, 200 acre liquid natural gas (LNG) facility, Texas's first, on Quintana Island, about 50 miles south of Houston.

The facility would be the fifth in the United States and will put Texas on the map in the LNG industry, said Bill Henry, company vice-president. Natural gas producers in Texas brought more than 5.1 trillion cubic feet of gas to the surface in 2002, and this production accounts for more than one fourth of the annual production in the U.S. But U.S. production and imports lagged consumption by about three trillion cubic feet that year, making LNG a hot commodity in the effort to meet growing demand.

LNG is not new here. Alaska has exported LNG since 1969, and the first receiving terminal built in Everett Mass. in 1971 still operates. Other LNG facilities are in Maryland, Georgia, and Lake Charles, Louisiana.

When natural gas is transformed into LNG, it is condensed to 1/600th its normal size, allowing more efficient transportation and storage. When needed for generating electricity or for business use, LNG is drawn from holding tanks and into vaporizers, warming it until it reverts back to a gas.

Suppliers can then deliver the gas, primarily methane, to consumers through Texas extensive pipeline system measuring

A real gas

Americans use natural gas to generate electricity, to heat homes and businesses and to power numerous residential and industrial facilities. The U.S. contributes about 24 percent of the world's natural gas production each year, according to Columbia Gas of Virginia. Texas leads the U.S. in natural gas production and consumption.



SOURCE: Energy Information Administration/Natural Gas Annual, 2002.

Consumption (2002) in trillion cubic feet		Production (2002) in trillion cubic feet	
State	Total	State	Total
Texas	4.29	Texas	5.14
California	2.27	Gulf of Mexico	4.67
Louisiana	1.34	New Mexico	1.63
New York	1.19	Oklahoma	1.55
Illinois	1.04	Louisiana	1.36
U.S. consumption total	23.00	U.S. production total	19.90

more than 160,000 miles, according to the Railroad Commission.

LNG made up about 6 percent of total gas imports into the U.S. in 2001, but increased more than 13 times to almost 240 billion c.f. between 1995 and 2001.

The tight supply, increasing demand and rising prices have seen an increase of more than \$1.20 per thousand c.f. of natural gas since 1998 - created the need for the new facility, Henry said.

"If you look at the projections, the National Petroleum Council report published in 2003 projects a need for about eight terminals in the U.S. in the future," Henry said. He thinks Texas is a prime location for at least one LNG facility.

What makes Texas a good destination for LNG is while the state is a large producer of the gas, it's also the biggest consumer. In has big markets in the industry, a good pipeline infrastructure to move the gas, and deepwater ports where ships can offload. Henry said not only will the Freeport project help meet consumer demand, it

will also create good full-time jobs. "There's \$450 million in construction bids out right now. The LNG storage tanks are the biggest and most expensive in the world," Henry said. Construction will create about 500 jobs everyday and 900 at peak times, and the project will take about three years.

When the construction work is done, the Freeport facility will take LNG cargo from ocean going tankers, each capable of holding one million barrels of LNG, at 42 U.S. gallons per barrel.

"The chemical industry is our economic backbone, and this will ensure them an energy supply and provide economic stability," said Freeport Mayor Jim Barnett.

Locals initially posed many questions about spills and leaks, according to Henry. If LNG is leaked from a holding tank, raised dikes capable of collecting contents of a full tank will prevent spreading. Once exposed to outside air, ground or water, LNG quickly reverts back to gas and does not soak into the ground or mix with water, preventing environ-

mental damage. LNG is also stored under normal atmospheric pressure, unlike methane's gaseous form under high pressure in pipe lines.

Freeport LNG also is touting the LNG industry's safety record. There have been only two major accidents in the U.S. involving LNG - one in 1944, one in 1973. The 1973 incident occurred when vapors from a solvent being used to clean an empty LNG tank exploded.

LNG will not burn as a liquid, and the storage tanks at the Freeport facility will include the latest in safety improvements developed over the last 30 years, said Henry.

Texas is signed up for a crash course on big time LNG facilities. In addition to the Freeport facility, Houston based Cheniere LNG is developing a proposed terminal of similar size for Corpus Christi, and Exxon-Mobil is planning one for Sabine Pass, near the Texas Louisiana border.

**Material for this article courtesy FISCAL NOTES, a publication of the Texas Comptroller Office and produced by Clint Shields.

Continued From Page One, " School Finance "

Haynes reported PISD averages about 26 percent migrant students each year, which means those students will enroll in at least two different schools during the school year, some of them four or five schools. 22 percent of PISD students will have limited English speaking abilities, and both of these categories require teachers with special skills at additional educational expense. " The Legislature needs to recognize these factors. All schools, all students do not have the same, identical characteristics."

Gary Walker added prior to the close of the program, " This is a continuing problem, one which will not go away after whatever this legislative session results in. A large problem is the growth of our state. Each year on average 70 to 80 thousand new students enter our public schools. As the school populations grow, so do the costs of educating our kids. It's a huge problem."

JP Court Summary

The following is a summary of cases filed and bonds set in Justice of Peace Court, Pct. 1, Judge Melba Crutcher presiding.
Cases Filed:
175 traffic cases
2 possession of drug paraphernalia
6 cases filed by County Sanitarian
1 case filed by Texas Comptroller investigator
Bonds Set:
Assault causing bodily injury/family - \$1500
Assault with deadly weapon-\$6000

Failure to appear- \$500
Possession drug paraphernalia-\$500
Bail jumping, failure to appear, Gaines County- \$2500
Motion to revoke probation-held until hearing
Bond forfeiture/motion to revoke probation-\$2500
Robbery-\$5000
Harassment- \$1000 bond
Duty on striking fixture- \$500
Driving/license suspended-\$500
Assault causing bodily injury-\$1500
Possession marijuana- Motion to revoke probation- \$5000

TA MEMBER 2004
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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The City General Election will be held on May 15, and I would like to return to service for our community. Having served as a councilman from 1991 to 1999, I have the experience to serve the best interests of our citizens
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What About?.....
You know, in America we are all spoiled when it comes to material things like clothing, toys, gadgets, and especially new cars. I remember sometime back a story in a newspaper or a magazine I was reading about the " Trash Kids " of Monterrey, Mexico.
There is an area, if I remember right, that is a couple of square miles in size and is the local dump yard. Everyone remembers the " old dump yards", right? (If you do that will show your age, huh? Now we dignify the area as a "landfill")
Anyway, thousands of kids who are castaways of society live there. They have no one, no family, and nobody from the city cares for them. These kids live in cardboard houses or in old cars if they are lucky enough to find one.
To eat, they search and seek out food in the smelly remnants of the city's trash piles. They find what ever they can to eat. These kids are in " hog-Heaven" when they find a week old hamburger, left over meat or even an

old pizza.
What about us? Are we in America getting too soft? Are we, as a society, forgetting what it is to live in poverty or on a fixed income? (Well, that is unless you're retired and living only on your Social Security.)
As a person who was born in the early 50's and didn't have to live in the great depression era, only to living in a time of plenty. Living in a time of having good things to eat each meal and very few leftovers. (Well, in my own defense, with 7 boys in the house, mom and dad never had many leftovers!)
I can't help but wonder what would happen if we really " went to war again"? Are we able to do that kind of suffering again? I bet the kids of Matamoros would be thrilled with the kind of " suffering" we all go through.
Kids who get excited over trash to eat, a cardboard box for shelter, and a piece of leather for shoes.
And I have never mentioned something money can't buy..... his or her need for love from someone.
Until Next Time.....
Mark A. Jones
www.markajonesfuneraldirectors.com

Pecan Tree Workshop Set

Local and area pecan tree enthusiasts are encouraged to attend a pecan production workshop to be held at the Gaines County Extension office Thursday, May 13. The program will begin with registration and refreshments at 8:45 a.m. followed by the program at 9 a.m. Bill Ree Jr., Entomologist with the Texas Cooperative Extension in College Station will conduct the workshop along with County Extension Agents Terry Millican and Andy Cranmer.

The workshop will begin with an educational meeting at the

Extension Office and then travel to some area pecan orchards for early season management practices. The program will address all areas of pecan tree management with a focus on insect and disease management and control, irrigation, fertilization, and general tree care.

The program is sponsored by the Texas Cooperative Extension. Licensed pesticide applicators will receive one hour of CEU units in integrated pest management and one CEU in general for attending.

From Page One.
"Relay For Life"
 9 PM: Limbo contest, magician
 10 PM: Luminaria Ceremony
 11 PM: Campsite, Baton judging
 12 Midnight: Midnight Madness
 1 AM: Talent/Karaoke contest
 2 AM: Pinata
 3 AM: Pajama contest
 4 AM: Macarena contest
 5 AM: "MISS"ter Relay Pageant
 6 AM: Luminaria pickup
 7 AM: Team raffle drawings, campsite cleanup
 8 AM: Closing Ceremony
PLEASE JOIN US!

TDH encourages use of repellent for protection against West Nile Virus

Dust off the insect repellent. It's mosquito time in Texas. And with the mosquitoes West Nile virus once again will be circulating in the state, according to the Texas Department of Health (TDH). One of the first lines of defense against getting the illness, health officials say, is using repellent containing DEET.

"DEET is an effective repellent, lasting longer than other repellents," said Joe Garrett, a veterinarian with zoonosis control at TDH. "It's safe for children if used according to directions." 77 percent of the people who got West Nile infection in 2003 did not use repellent.

Anyone can be infected with West Nile virus, but people over 50 are at greater risk. "Older people, especially those who have medical problems, are more likely to develop the more serious forms of the illness including encephalitis and meningitis," Garrett said. "Many of the fatal cases in Texas occurred in the elderly population." While not every mosquito carries the virus, avoiding any mosquito bite is key to preventing West Nile illness.

Symptoms of West Nile virus appear from three to 14 days after a person is bitten by an infected mosquito. The virus infections usually are mild with flu-like symptoms including fever, headache, sore throat, body aches and fatigue. Symptoms of more severe West Nile infections are headache, high fever, stiff neck, disorientation, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, coma and paralysis. If you have these symptoms contact your health provider immediately.

"In 2003 we had a lot more human cases of West Nile illness than in 2002," Garrett said. "The increase was probably not due to any change in the disease itself, but because the disease had finally covered the entire state. There were more people exposed to the virus and therefore, more people infected with it."

There were 36 deaths from West Nile virus in 2003, occurring in 25 counties, including the West Texas counties of Crosby, Hale, Flord, Parmer, Randall, Potter and Lubbock.

For more information on the virus visit the TDH Web site, www.tdh.state.tx.us.

From Page 1,
"Commissioners"
 Sheriff Don Corzine asked for approval of the hiring of Vicki Lamar as a dispatcher for the Sheriff Department effective May 10. The court approved the request.
 The court voted to approve two memorial gifts from two individuals totaling \$150 to the Cecil Bickley County Library.
 The resignation request of Nancy Whitaker from the Yoakum County Child Welfare Board was approved.
 Clay Taylor, Administrator of Yoakum County Hospital, reviewed five bids received on the purchase of exercise equipment to be used in the hospital's new Physical Therapy/Wellness Center. Only one bid covered all equipment originally called for in the initial bid request, and after a review, the court approved the hospital board decision to accept a bid of \$136,842 from Body Works Fitness in Lubbock. The equipment will be paid for with budgeted funds.
 The court also approved advertising for the purchase of furniture and equipment to be used in the new labor and delivery room, also included in the original budget.

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Health Fair

Yoakum County Hospital

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May 15th

Saturday

8:00 a.m. - Noon

Blood Pressure Checks
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Skin Cancer Examinations
Pink Pantry Bake Sale
Arts and Crafts
Door Prizes

NOTICE FOR BIDS
 THE STATE OF TEXAS
 COUNTY OF YOAKUM
 The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 4 PM Friday, May 28, 2004, for the purchase of furniture and equipment for labor and delivery room.
 Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Tuesday June 1, 2004.
 For a list of the equipment and more information, please contact Darinda McWhirter, Yoakum County Auditor, 806/456-2422 or PO Box 516, Plains, Texas 79355. Bid price will be paid from 2004 budgeted funds.
 Sealed bids should be marked, "FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT FOR LABOR AND DELIVERY ROOM" on the envelope and mailed or delivered to County Judge Dallas Brewer, PO Box 456/Cowboy Way and Avenue G, Plains, Texas 79355. **NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED**
 Commissioners court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.



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Cowboy Band On Way To State!

The Cowboy Band performed recently at the Region 16 UIL Concert and Sight-Reading contest in Sundown. The band received first division superior ratings from all three judges in both concert and sight reading efforts, winning the Sweepstakes Award for UIL competitions this year. The award is given to ensembles receiving division 1 ratings in marching, concert and sight reading, and is considered the highest UIL award presented to Texas bands.

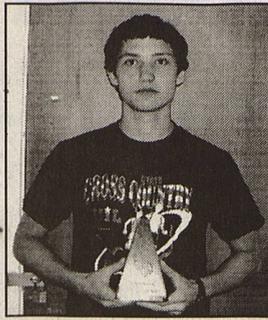
The judge's comment sheets included many complimentary messages; "Wow! You guys were awesome!", "I like your confident style of playing and it really sounds nice today!"

Band Director Georgann Weisgerber said, "The band had an outstanding day because of hard work and dedication during the preparation process, and I thank you ALL for this!" The band's 1st Division Superior ratings won them the opportunity to perform at the UIL Texas State Wind Ensemble

Festival in Austin last Saturday. They performed at Bates Recital Hall on the UT campus. Their performance was outstanding and the band received a Distinguished Performance Award. The adjudicators were well know university band directors from across the country. The band also had the opportunity to work with Jerry Junkin, Director of Bands at University of Texas-Austin.

Congratulations to the Cowboy Band for an incredible year.

Student of the Week



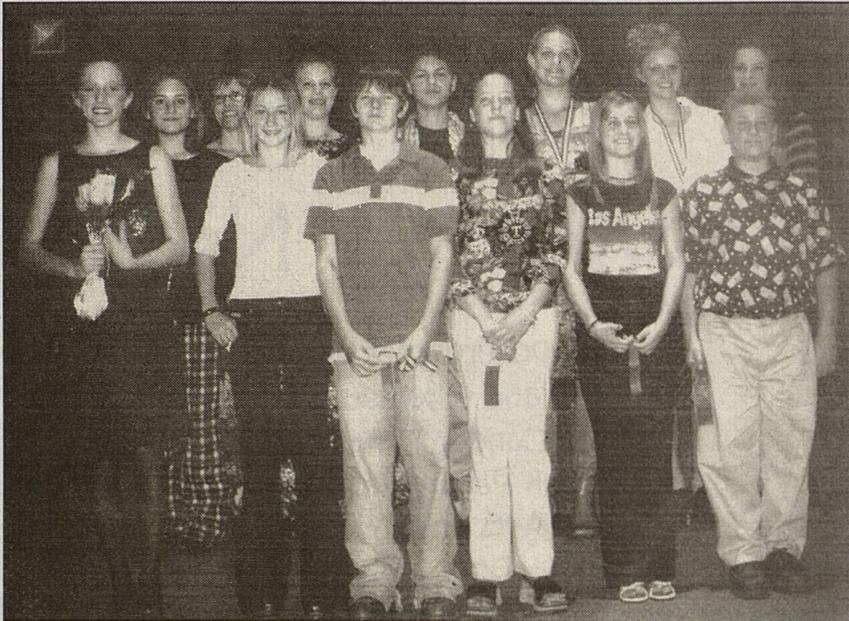
Student of the week is Chandon Loya, a freshman and the son of Alfred and Sonya Loya. He was nominated by Mrs. Jones, who said, "The challenge of change prompts determination to adapt and succeed. Chandon met this challenge with adjustments and the last eight months has become a fine student."

PISD Sports Capsule

Baseball: The Cowboys closed their regular season with 21-7 win over Whiteface. Armando Ramirez started on the mound, and was relieved by Richard Diaz in the fourth for the win. They scored their 21 runs on 16 hits and 11 walks to finish the regular season 14-4 and 9-1 in district play.

Jr. High District Tennis: The Boys team scored 70 points to win district honors at the May 4 Sundown meet. Chris Addison was 2nd in 7th boys singles, Derek Garza 4th. Chris Gonzales and Zachary Ramon were 2nd in 7th doubles. John Tyson was 3rd in 8th boys singles, and in 8th boys doubles Elias Carrillo and Cody Mayes were 1st, Doug Conway and Jacob Rivera 2nd/ In 8th girls doubles, Lauren Davis and Katie Winn placed 1st.

Jr. High One-Act Play Excels



Front Row: Lauren Hise, Heather Parrott, Chase Guetersloh, Kimber Williams, Katie Winn, Colby Ortega. Back Row; Jordan Williams, Director Donna Friesen, Amber Friesen, Douglas Conway, Joani Bell, Lauren Davis, Skye Sellers

The Plains Jr. High One-Act Play, *The Small World Of Millie McIvor*, under the direction of Donna Friesen, received a second place rating in UIL District competition held recently at Sundown ISD. The students worked very hard and performed extremely well. Those receiving special awards included Lauren Hise, Best Actress, Chase Guetersloh, All Star Cast, Joani Bell, All Star Cast, Lauren Davis, Honorable Mention. Following the competition it was determined Plains production earned the same number of points as Sundown, originally given first-place honors, resulting in Plains Junior High being named Co-Champion. Other schools in the competition included Smyer, Whiteface and Farwell.

ACADEMICS

The PHS academic team of Nolan Newsom, Brandon Hise, Evan Cain, Adam McCravey, B.J. Lester and Allison Friesen competed in the State UIL contest in Austin May 7-8. Brandon was 5th overall in math, the calculator team of B.J., Brandon, Allison and Evan were 4th, and the computer science team, Nolan, Brandon, Adam and Allison were 3rd.

QUIZ BOWL

Sessions remaining are; Thursday, May 13, 10 AM-Junior winners vs Freshmen winners, Freshman/Junior winner vs Soph/Senior winner Thursday, May 20, 10 AM-Student body winner vs Faculty

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Pam Redman

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Secretary:	Meghan Garcia
Treasurer:	Clarissa Zorrilla
Historian:	Brant Huerta
Reporter:	Daniella Lazos

Senior Class Officers

President:	Patrick Cotton
Vice President:	Brant Huerta
Secretary:	Kristian Morales
Girl Representative:	Daniela Lazos
Boy Representative:	Cody Flores

Junior Class Officers

President:	Ashli Hunter
Vice President:	Blake O'Quinn
Secretary:	Allison Friesen
Girl Representative:	Skyler Keesee
Boy Representative:	Todd Williams

Sophomore Class Officers

President:	Steven Dominguez
Vice President:	Clarissa Zorrilla
Secretary:	Nicole Culwell
Girl Representative:	Araceli Mendoza
Boy Representative:	Joe Luis Gallegos

Freshman Class Officers

President:	Douglas Conway
Vice President:	Sergio Olivas
Secretary:	Chase Gueterslough
Girl Representative:	Katie Winn
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Lifelines & Styles

Senior Citizens Corner

On the first day of Open House Week there were several visitors to share activities. Jack and Sandra Harmon were guests of I.V. Harman; Alice and Frank Schrum were guests of Chris Humphries; Alfredo and Catarina Salinas were joined by his brother and wife, David and Soledad. G.W. Cleveland, Marie Cothren and Rita Fannin were also luncheon guests. Tuesday, Eddie and Linda Coker, Forrest and Shirley Savage, Daphne Harrison and Lela Mae Hobbs were guests making their first visit or have not visited the Center for a long time. We welcome each of these folks.

Monday was also birthday/anniversary day. Bob Phillip, Pat Altman, Geraldine Gordy, Eunice Groves and Charlie Gillis celebrated birthdays while Geraldine was the only one to celebrate a wedding anniversary in memory of Jerry.

Nancy Chamberlain continues to remain in Lubbock for further treatment. For those wishing to contact her, the address is 10101 Evanston, Duplex #2, Lubbock TX 79424. Her phone is 806-891-1878.

Several people enjoyed an hour of Bingo after lunch Tuesday as Bruce Greer called numbers for them.

Nearly three dozen mystery photos appeared on the wall Tuesday. The site council ladies were busy helping clients guess the identity of each one. Each was a photo of someone of the center family and covered years from babyhood through the teens. While some were readily recognizable, others remained a mystery until the name was revealed.

Fifteen eager pool players met Monday night to enjoy the competition for the week. Everyone who enjoys playing pool, or other table games, come on down. The coffee is hot, the cokes are cold and the snacks are filled with calories.

Last week I wrote of raising sons. In honor of Mothers Day, this week I focus on daughters, truly part of a mother's heart. This is a personal poem to my daughter written for her birthday three years ago:

The long awaited morning came,
the long awaited word -
"You have a baby girl, June,"
was the message I heard.
And so began the journey
Of weeks and months and years-
The happiness, the laughter
The pride and sometimes the tears.

The bonding and the letting go-
The dreams both great and small;
And always love, the constancy
That wove its way through all
Each step you took; each dream you dreamed,
By chance or by design,
Each goal and each accomplishment
Were yours, and yet were mine
And so you walked through sunny days-
Grew in body and in mind,
Until before we caught our breath
Childhood was left behind.
Then youthful days were laid aside,
I looked and there you stood-
Fearless, dream-filled, eager,
Facing womanhood.

I thought it the final 'letting go'
In this race we had run,
Until one day I realized
We'd only just begun.
Life's cycle of love continues
As long as we draw breath.
The final 'letting go' awaits
The hour we know as death.

So enjoy your life with the special loves
And trust that each 'letting go'
Will bring that strange fulfillment
Only mothers hearts can know.

ATHLETIC BANQUET ANNOUNCED

The Plains Athletic Booster Club will host the annual Athletic Banquet May 18 at 7 PM in the School Cafeteria. This is the time to honor our student athletes... please join us!

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CONGRATULATIONS!



Joseph (Nene) Martinez, Plains High Senior, and Antonia Murgua Garcia, Senior at Paramount High, Paramount, California. Joseph graduates May 28, and Antonia graduates June 17. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Martinez, and she is the daughter of Abraham and Maria Toscano. We Love you both, and Good Luck!!
'Toni', we are very proud of you!
Love, Mom and J.C. Chambliss

Art Association May Meeting Held

In the monthly meeting of the Yoakum County Art Association May 4, Betty Esterp gave the Treasurer's report, followed by President Jeannette Head reading the names selected by the nominating for club offices. Janelle Brantley moved to accept the nominees by acclimation. The new officers include: President- Lisa gentry Vice Pres.- Janelle Brantley Secretry/Reporter- Sheila Stephens Treasurer- Julia Lemley Program Chair- Susie Powell Hostess Chair- Linda Powell Education Chair- Inetta Teaff Juried Show Director- Yvonne Morgan Photographer- Mary Dale Williams Scrapbook Chair- Wadonna Davis

Telephone Committee- Jeannette Head, Betty Esterp The door prize donated by Artist of the Month Lisa Gentry was won by Sandra Ellison. Sheila Stephens introduced guest artist Vickie Clark, who demonstrated in pastels, and showed slides of pastel demonstrations.

Linda Powell read a poem in loving memory of Jimmie Bayer, and the association's annual scholarship will be presented in the name of the long time association member. A money tree was presented to Eileen Phillip who is moving to Lubbock.

Next month's meeting will feature Renae Simpson's use of colored pencils, and installation of the new officers. The public is invited.

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10:45 A.M.
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Letter from Home... Carolyn Hart
A Death in Vienna... Daniel Silva
Blacklist... Sara Paretsky
Balance of Power... Richard North Patterson
Nighttime is My Time... Mary Higgins Clark

VIDEOS

The Cat in the Hat (DVD)
Nicholas Nickleby (DVD)
Good Boy! (VHS)
Brother Bear (VHS)
Looney Tunes Back in Action (VHS)
Springtime with Roo (VHS)
Dora the Explorer: Pirate Adventure (DVD)
Cheaper by the Dozen (DVD)

NONFICTION

The Texas Indians... David LaVere
What Color Is Your Parachute?... Richard Bolle
An American Plague... Jim Murphy
A Man of Faith... David Aikman
Tasha Tudor's Garden... Tovah Martin
Going Wild... Robert Winkler
Three Weeks With My Brother... Michaelas Spark
The Family Handyman Home Improvement 2004
2004 Handbook of United States Coins

Retirement Reception

Honoring
Janelle Cobb
and
Lela Warren

Thursday, May 13, 2004

3:30 - 5:00 P.M.

Plains Resource Center

A Retirement Reception honoring

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Friday, May 21, 4:30-5:30 pm
Resource Center

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From The Hack

Days before last Sunday's observance of Mother's Day. I was dreading it. I knew our church services would honor all our mothers, both past and present, and I would be jarred again by memories of Holly's experience as a mother.

It has finally, inevitably struck home for me how incredible the role of motherhood is in our society. I thought of our parental situation;

Holly was the Blood Mother of four kids, three still living. She was also the Heart Mother of my four kids. She loved her role as grandmother of her two lines of off springs - She often bragged to friends, "I have 8 kids, 19 grandchildren, 7 greats at the last count, but you know how that goes - I may have another great on the way anytime!"

In Sunday's church services, all the Moms were honored, and as I looked about the room when they stood, the moment really hit home. There all these women were, the very young, the middle-young, the semi-elderly, the elderly, and the very elderly.

At risk of sounding like a girl-show hostess, I seriously want

to tell you what a feeling of gratitude I experienced as I saw all the beaming faces, in their Mom's Day finery about the room, many with young kids hanging on and smiling at them.

I recalled (as I was told for many years) my blood mother passing away with pneumonia when I was not quite four.

Then, when I was between 5 and 6, my dad Pete Dyer married Blanche Beane. She would, despite my very young protests for a brief time, become my mother, one I never lacked for her expressions of love, care and encouragement until the day she died in 1994. I have on more than one occasion visited the grave of my blood mother, Ruth, just a few miles east of Ovalo, south of Abilene. My mother Blanche rests in the Plains Cemetery beside Pete Dyer in the family plot shared by her family and the Dyer's.

My Bride Holly and my tombstone is now in place in that plot. On Mother's Day, I paid it a visit, and one of the daughters had placed flower, and festive, flying ballon by the headstone, bearing the message, "Happy Mother's Day"

I was deeply touched. Then, I looked about, and I could see similar markers, flowers, crosses, marking the place of rest for hundreds of other mothers. What a thought! All those great ladies being recognized for their supreme efforts in bringing forth good children... good citizens.

For those of you I missed, a belated Happy Mothers Day!

Borrowed from my friend Stephen Henry in Levelland: A college professor, an avowed atheist, was teaching a class and stated he was going to prove there is no God. Addressing the ceiling, he shouted, "God, if you are real, I want you to knock me off this platform. I'll give you 15 minutes!"

The class was stunned, and the room was silent. Ten minutes passed. Again the professor taunted God, saying, "Here I am God, I'm still waiting!"

His count-down got to the last few minutes when a Marine just released from active duty and newly registered in the class walked up to the professor, hit him full force in the face, and sent him falling from the lofty platform. The professor was out cold.

The students were shocked, babbling in confusion. The Marine took a seat in the front row and sat silently with the class.

The professor finally came to, shaken. Regaining his senses, he managed to ask the Marine, "What's wrong with you? Why did you do that?"

The young man replied, "God was busy. He sent me."

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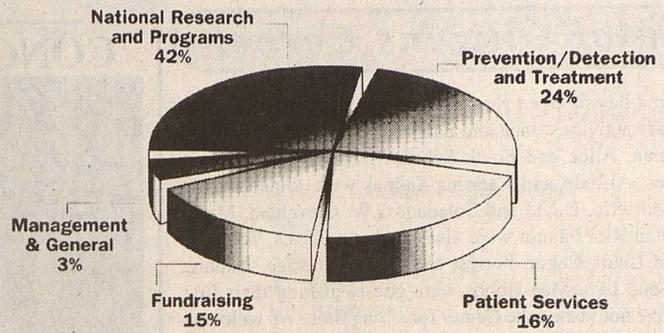
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NOTE: Texas allocated 42% of unrestricted contributions and legacies to National Headquarters which are budgeted by National for its administration of research, program development, and general supporting services to be conducted in the ensuing year.

NOTICE TO PARENTS 2004-2005 PRE-REGISTRATION PRE-KINDERGARTEN & KINDERGARTEN

**PRE-REGISTRATION DATE : TUESDAY, MAY 18
WEDNESDAY, MAY 19**

Plains Independent School District will hold pre-registration for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten from 8:30 am until 3:00 pm on the days listed above. Parents should report to Plains Elementary School for registration and bring the appropriate documents as listed. It is not necessary for children to be present at registration.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

There are certain guidelines which must be met for a student to be enrolled in our pre-kindergarten program. Any child who will be four years old on or before September 1, 2004, may qualify for pre-kindergarten providing all guidelines are met. When registering, please bring child's birth certificate, social security card, immunization record and proof of family income. Proof of income maybe a recent paycheck stub or food stamp eligibility form number 1009, we can no longer accept the food stamp card as proof. We have to have this form. We need all of these documents before you child can qualify.

If you know a child in our community who may qualify, please pass this information on to the parents.

KINDERGARTEN

To enroll in kindergarten, a child must be five years old on or before September 1, 2004. Please bring the child's birth certificate, immunization record and social security card. We will need a copy of these documents before the first day of classes in August.

If you know of a child who may qualify for kindergarten, please pass this information on to their parents. It is very important that we know how many children will be in our pre-k and kindergarten classes for the 2004-2005 school year. The children that were enrolled in pre-k this year do not have to register.

Welcome to the reel world

Texas may not stretch all the way to Hollywood, but it does include Long Island, Cuba and Afghanistan. Or rather, it has dressed up Houston as Long Island, San Antonio as Cuba and Odessa as Afghanistan. According to the Texas Film Commission, many Texas cities double for various worldwide locations. The 42 television and film projects produced in Texas in 2003 generated more than \$150 million for the state's economy that year. In 2002, the state had 15 fewer projects, but studio budgets increased, meaning more money for the state.

"As far as local spending goes, we estimate that 50 percent of a project's budget stays behind in its host community," said Carol Pirie, assistant director at the Texas Film Commission. That 50 percent translates into hundreds of millions of dollars for local and state economies.

Number of projects in Texas					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Austin	12	16	24	28	18
Dallas/Fort Worth	19	18	16	9	7
Houston	4	6	10	11	9
El Paso	0	1	0	2	4
San Antonio	3	5	2	12	3

SOURCES: Texas Film Commission
*2003 figures only