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Cowboy Country News

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

Volume V1, Issue 25, March 8, 2000



“Republic of Texas” not a dead issue yet

Almost unbelievably, the radical “ Republic of Texas Provisional Government” group is still alive and well. E-Mail addressed to CCN, among dozens of other newspapers about the entire state are admonishing periodicals to re-enlist in their fight to declare The State of Texas, as we know it, to be abolished, and formally declared “ The Republic Of Texas”.

During several years of confrontation with state officials and agencies, the ‘ Republic’ faction declared themselves to be completely dis-associated from the present government of the state. The group eventually brought a number of their leaders down in a standoff battle to avoid arrest in the Davis Mountain area of the state. Gunfire in the standoff resulted in death and wounding of numbers of the group, and many criminal court convictions of ‘ Republic’ members.

While in absolutely no way does CCN agree with, condone or support any “ Republic of Texas” efforts, we will reproduce here the entire E-Mail message:

“Dear Editor,

At this very moment, 164 years ago, the people of Texas were fighting for their very survival. As the men of the newly formed Provisional Government of the Republic of Texas were dealing with their newly declared independence and as Sam Houston was training and preparing the new Texas Army for what was feared a hopeless battle, over 180 men were huddled in a crumbling, adobe mission called the Alamo preparing to die.

These men were fighting for basic rights and justice. The things that we take for granted now were utmost on the minds of the early Texans. Trial by jury, freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of religion, freedom to bear arms, and many more were secured by the blood and toil of these patriots. The idea that the “people have the inalienable right to reform, alter, or abolish their government in any manner they may deem expedient” was important to these men. Unfortunately, the struggle to secure Texas independence and the rights that we gained as a result is not over. It continues today. As more and more begin to consider themselves citizens of the Republic of Texas, and not of the United States, the idea of Texas independence begins to live again. Many people have called (877) See page 2.....’Republic’

Lions help youngsters with new outlook on life

In 1994, the Plains Lions Club became a contributing member of Lions International’s Eye Care Program. Club’s across the nation, and in many foreign countries make regular donations to youngsters with vision problems and whose parents or guardians are unable to financially afford eyeglasses.

At last Thursday Lions Club meeting, Lion David Brunson told of the local club’s participation in the Eye Care Program since 1994. To date, 59 local youngsters have been examined and fitted with glasses. The Club has contributed almost \$2,300 for eye care.

The club works closely with the Plains school district. The School Nurse, Gaye Wilmeth, often detects students with reading problems stemming from poor vision, with families often unaware their children need glasses. The youngsters are often referred to Dr’s.E.M and David Wright in Denver City for an examination and prescription. The Optometrists offer many of the Lion sponsored children generous financial discounts.

P.H.S. Produces Second National Merit Scholar



Kristen Gray in center, with proud parents Diane and John Gray

Teachers, administrators, even Plains ISD were deservedly elated when word was received recently notifying the school district Kristen Gray was one of less than 16,000 high school senior finalists slated to receive a prestigious (and financially valuable) National Merit Scholarships. Clint Burrus, a 1999 PHS graduate now at Southwestern University in Georgetown, was the first Plains student to achieve the honor. Kristen will graduate this spring with the second merit scholarship honor.

The selection process qualifying students for the National Merit Scholarship award is lengthy, and arduous. Over 100,000 students across the nation were initially considered for the program. Only 16,000 of those achieved the finalists rank.

A number of factors determine the exact scholarship amount for each student to attend a college or university. If the school is a private institution, the dollar amount is generally larger than one for students attending a state supported school, because of overall costs at each type institution.

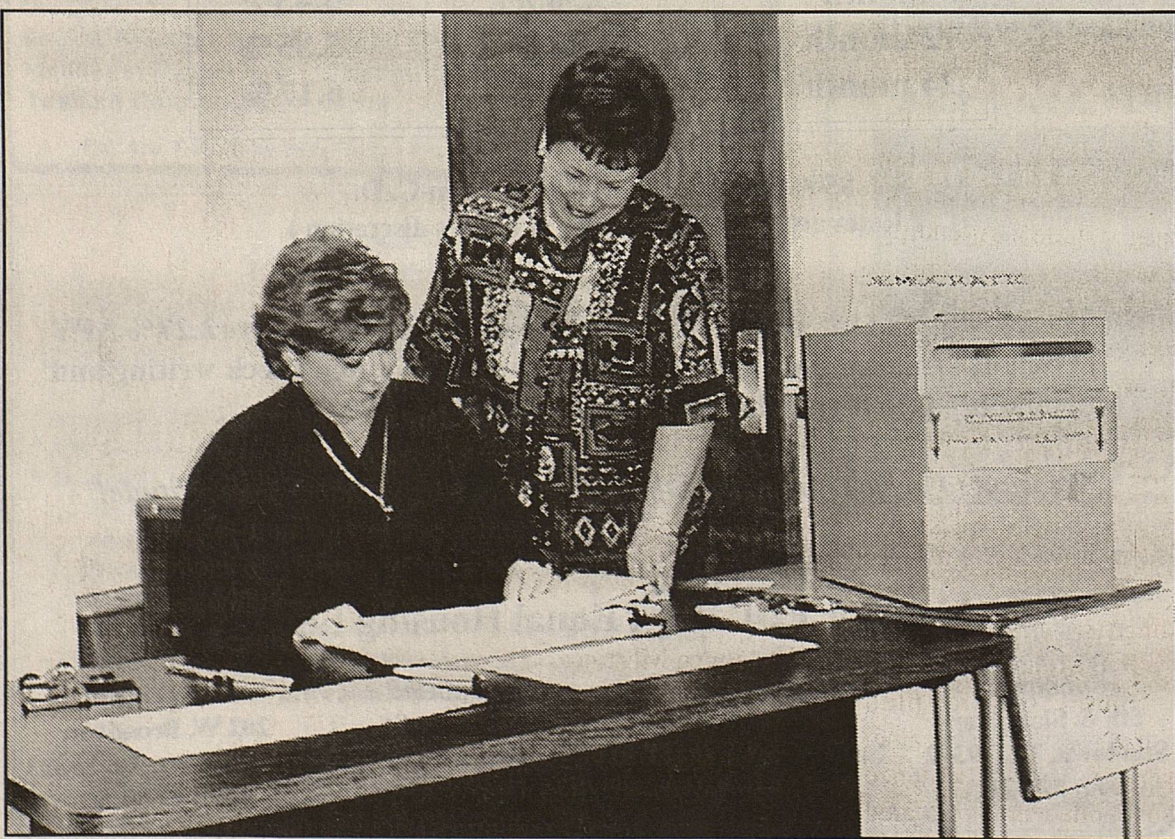
Kristen has been accepted as a fall semester student at Texas A & M University. She recently received a letter from A & M detailing what

she may expect in the form of scholarship assistance. She will receive a President’s Endowed Scholarship of \$12,000 for eight semesters as a full time student. She also receives a \$2,000 merit scholarship for achieving the semi-finalist National Merit Scholarship level. Kristen can also claim another \$12,000 for naming A & M as her school as a finalist achiever. Additionally, she can claim another \$1,000 after successful completion of two semesters at A&M if she choses to study abroad.

Kristen could possibly earn an additional \$7,000 from A&M, depending on her academic performance, a possible \$34,000 in financial assistance.

Kristen currently plans to pursue a degree in the field of aeronautical science. The personable senior is not only brainy, she has been busy in sports and many other activities throughout her years in the Plains school system. This year she ran cross country, was a member of the Cowgirl basketball team, and will again run track this season. Last year she qualified for the state track meet, and quite possibly could have won the 300 Hurdle event in Austin, had she not hit one hurdle.

Early voting for Primary nears deadline



If you’re planning to take advantage of the ease of voting early in either the Democrat or Republican March Primary Election, you’d better make your selection choices by 5 P.M. this Friday, March 10.

Early voting in the county started at the courthouse in Plains and the tax office in Denver City February 28.

Possibly prompted by a num-

ber of important state political races, and the national vote for the presidency, early voter numbers have been good at both voting sites. As of 5 P.M. on Monday, 97 democrat and 39 republican ballots had been cast in Plains. Turnout in Denver City early voting was 157 democrat and 79 republican ballots. These numbers compare to 306 democrat and 223

republican ballots in the last 1998 early vote count.

A local elected county official told CCN. “ I’m certainly not in favor of a presidential race every year, but it’s gratifying to see good early vote numbers. We certainly needed a turn around from the voter apathy we’ve experience in recent years.”

Criminal cases in District, County Court

In District Court February 28, with Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding, two criminal cases were heard. Juan Garcia Jr., AKA Johnny Garcia, pled guilty to possession of cocaine. A seven year prison sentence was suspended and probated seven years. He was fined \$1000, must pay court costs of \$246, and restitution to DPS. Two charges of eaveading arrest were adjudicated.

He will be in custodial supervision of the Brownfield Regional Court Residential Treatment Center no less than one month and no longer than 24 months. He will be responsible for all costs of his residency at the Center. He will

remain in county jail until space is available at the Center. He was represented by Attorney Vince Martinez.

Christopher Brit Marion pled guilty to burglary of a building. A two year prison sentence was suspended and probated five years. He must pay court costs of \$231, appointed attorney fees of \$400, was fined \$1500, and must pay \$157 restitution. He must also pay an additional \$315 restitution if not paid by co-defendant in the case. He must also testify truthfully co-defendants in the cause. He was represented by Attorney William McGowan II.

In County Court March 1, Judge Dallas Brewer presiding,

Rafael Ibarra pled true to the state’s motion to revoke supervision from a prior DWI charge.

He must serve 90 days in jail, with credit for 15 days served, and will then be held for the US Border Patrol.

Manuel Avila Ramos, AKA Manuel Ramos Avila, pled guilty to DWI. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. He must pay \$225 court costs, serve 6 days in jail with credit for 26 days served, attend weekly AA meetings, and perform 24 hours community service. He will be held for release to the US Border Patrol.

Turn to Page 2 ‘Court’

From Page 1.....'Republic'
 RTX_INFO to find out about this new struggle for freedom, liberty, and independence. I ask you to do the same.
 As we enter the 165th year of Texas independence, I urge all citizens of Texas to remember the sacrifice that the early Texans gave to secure freedom, liberty, and independence for the people of today. I further encourage all Texans to join us as we gather at the Crockett Hotel in San Antonio on Saturday, March 4 at 1:00 pm. to celebrate our Independence and remember those who fought to make us that way."
 Daniel Miller,
 Vice President, Republic of Texas Provisional Government

Normal newspaper etiquette, or practice, dictates editorial opinion should not appear on front pages. We agree, but feel this is a necessary exception to the practice. Please pay attention to the ending lines of paragraph three of the writers letter; "As more and more begin to consider themselves citizens of the Republic Of Texas, and NOT of the United States, the idea of Texas independence begins to live again."

CCN's question is, how many of your friends, neighbors, church members, fellow shoppers, organizational members, relatives, have you heard supporting Republic of Texas "reforms?"

We suggest if you get this message, and assuredly more to follow, with even more radical messages in dissent with our State, put it where it belongs; It will assist greatly with a birdcage.

Grain sorghum yield contest winners announced

National and state winners of the National Grain Sorghum Producers 1999 yield and management contest were recognized during the organization's 2000 conference in Corpus Christi.

Winner of the five division contest included;

Leila Beaver, Sterling, Nebraska, took first place honors in conventional-till, irrigated with a yield of 210.15 bushels per acre (a bushel of sorghum weighs 56 pounds).

Chris Beaver, also of Sterling, was first in conventional-till non irrigated with 225.46 bushels.

From Page 1
 'Court'

Darrell Armando Bayona also pled guilty to DWI. A 90 day jail term was suspended and probated 12 months. He was fined \$500, must pay \$225 court costs, attend AA meetings, have an interlock device installed on any vehicle he operates after his 90 day license suspension, and must serve 24 hours community service.

Henry Gutierrez pled guilty to DWI with open container. His jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. He was fine \$500 and must pay \$225 court costs, and serve 4 days in jail with credit for one served, and perform 24 hours community service.

Martin White, Curry County NM, took first place in mulch-till, non-irrigated with a yield of 123.92 bushels.

First in no-till, non-irrigated was Richard LeClair of Cloud County, Kansas, with 166.47 bushels.

Kenneth Beaver, Johnson County, Nebraska, was first with the ridge-till, irrigated division with a yield of 201.85 bushels.

A Texas producer, Wade Burgess of Hansford County managed a second place prize in conventional-till, irrigated with a yield of 190.17 bushels.

Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation Hiring For 2000 Season

The Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation is hiring employees for the 2000 cotton growing season in the Western High Plains zone.

Various positions are available throughout the five county zone. Seasonal positions include assistant field unit supervisors, airport records, ground observers and trappers.

Trappers are the frontline troops of the eradication effort. They check each trap weekly, making sure it is in place and functioning properly, recording the number of weevils captured and reporting the information to field unit supervisors. The information gathered by trappers is integral to the success of the program.

Assistant field unit supervisors duties include contacting growers about trapping and spraying activities and recording all the information gathered by trappers.

Airport recorders observe and document activities of each contracted aerial applicator when operations are in progress at airfields and ground observ-

ers monitor the application process when aircraft apply treatments to cotton fields.

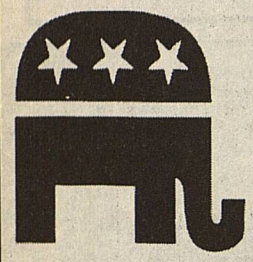
Training for all positions is provided, so previous experience is not necessary, but a background in agriculture is helpful.

Applicants must be at least 18 and insurable under the Foundation's insurance.

Interested individuals may apply at one of the following district offices: Plains, 1179 CR 305, (806) 456-4121, Seagraves, 510 Railroad Ave. (806) 546-9108, Brownfield, Rt. 5, Box 61, (806) 755-2617, Seminole, 1104 Hobbs Way, (915) 758-1261.

For more information on employment opportunities with the Foundation, visit our website at www.txbollweevil.org

Mar. 18, 1861 - Gov. Sam Houston refused to take the oath of allegiance to the Confederacy. The Secession Convention replaced him with Lt. Governor Edward Clark.



Yoakum County Republican Precinct Convention

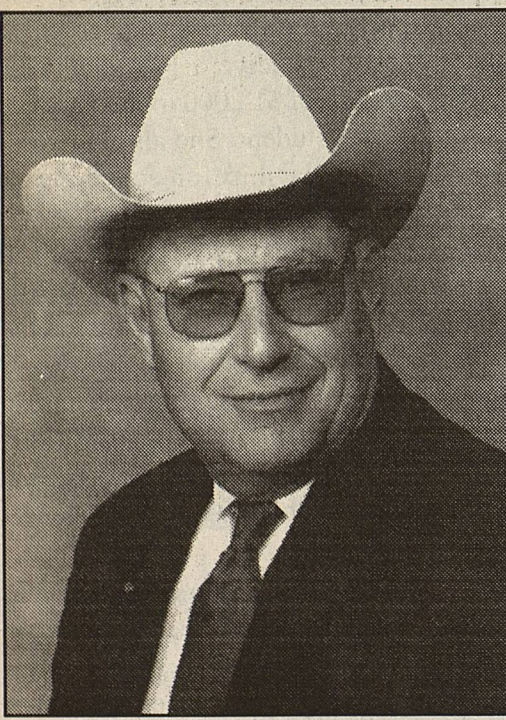
Tuesday, March 14, 2000
 7:15 p.m.

Republican polling places where Precinct Conventions will occur.

Plains - Community Building - 1006 Ave G.
 Denver City - Fireman's Hall - 401 Ave C.

Early voting for March Primary continues until March 10

Ty Earl Powell



Lifelong resident
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 Sincere concern for the county's future
 **
 Experience working with tax valuations and taxing entities
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 College degree in Agricultural Economics

Democrat Candidate For
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Political advertisement paid for by Ty Earl Powell

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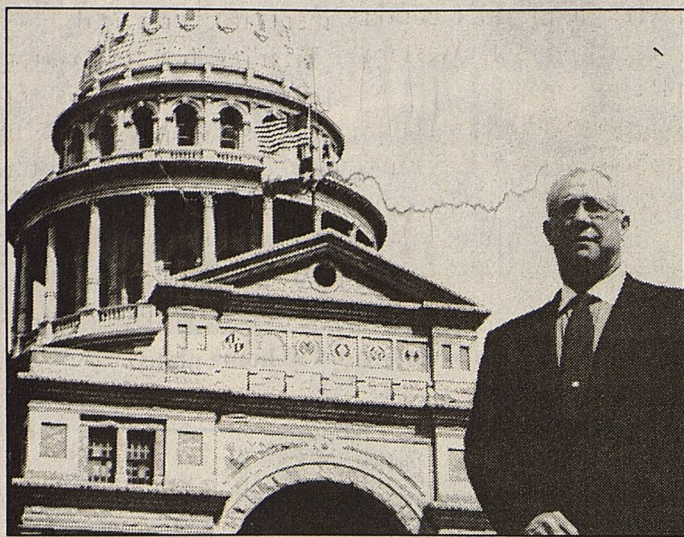
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Walker ★ For West Texas State Representative District 80



"Primary Election Day is on Tuesday, March 14th. One of the most precious rights we have is the right to vote and let our voices be heard. I encourage you to join me in exercising that valuable right. Please vote in the Republican Primary Elections on Tuesday, March 14th."

-Gary L. Walker

Your Vote Is Important.



Pol. adv. paid for by "Walker for West Texas," Mike Broussard Treasurer, PO Box 780, Plains, TX 79355

Productive Appraisal Saves Farmers, Ranchers Tax Dollars

Farmers and ranchers may be eligible for property tax relief on their land. They may apply for a special, lower appraisal of their land, based on what the land will produce rather than what it would sell for in the open market, said Sandra Stephens, chief appraiser of the Yoakum County Appraisal District.

"The Texas Constitution provides for two types of agricultural productivity appraisal," Stephens said. Article 8, Sec 1-d-1, addresses what is known as agricultural appraisal. Article 8, Sec. 1-d. also addresses agricultural appraisal but has different qualification requirements. Property owners rarely apply for agricultural appraisal under Section 1-d. Yoakum County has all land owners under the 1-d-1 special appraisal.

Land owners must file for special appraisal at the appraisal district office by April 30. Those who must file this year are land owners whose property did not previously receive 1-d-1 appraisal and new owners of qualified land. The appraisal district must accept late-filed 1-d-1 appraisal until the day before the appraisal review board approves the 2000 appraisal records.

To qualify for 1-d-1, the owner must use the land for agriculture or growing timber. This form of appraisal does not restrict ownership to individuals and does not require agriculture to be the owner's primary business.

This special appraisal requires that the land's use in a qualifying agricultural or timber purpose meets the degree of intensity generally accepted in the area. The owners must show that they devoted the land's use principally to a qualifying use for at least five of the preced-

ing seven years. The law also provides that a property owner may use the land for wildlife management to receive the special appraisal, if the land had been qualified for agriculture in the preceding year.

"In addition, land owners should know," Stephens said, "that the law provides specific penalties for taking qualified land out of agricultural or timber production."

The roll back tax is the difference between the taxes paid under productivity appraisal and the taxes that would have been paid if the land had been put on the tax roll at market value, Stephens explained. The law also requires that the roll 1 back tax include interest charges. Under 1-d-1 appraisal, an owner triggers a roll back by changing the land's use to a non agricultural use. The roll back taxes are based on the five years preceding the year of the change.

Land owners must apply for productivity appraisal with each appraisal district in which they have land. Failure to do so could result in land owners paying taxes on the land's full market value.

Additional information and application forms are available from the county appraisal district office.

The organic food industry has been growing at a rate of 20-24 % for nine consecutive years, as opposed to conventional grocery industry growth of 3-5 % for the past 15 years, according to an article in the W.K. Kellogg Foundation newsletter, *Seeds of Change*.

Plans To Make Tech A Top-tier Research University

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander will urge the Texas Legislature to establish an annual fund to enable Texas Tech University to join the highest ranks of research institutions in the country.

"We must have a serious and sustained commitment to basic research at our state's universities," Comptroller Rylander said at Texas Tech's fall commencement. "To meet that challenge, I believe the state must dedicate \$50 million every year to create a research university excellence fund to

support development and nurturing of additional top research universities in Texas."

The money would help Texas Tech join the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University as a Tier 1 research institution.

Texas Tech could enhance education, attract and retain more high quality faculty, use state money to leverage greater federal research support, attract new companies and industries to the Lubbock area, and produce spin off companies.

LEARN INC. will be in the Plains ISD Resource Center from 9:00 am. - 3:30 pm. March 21 to assist Seniors and Parents with Education Pell Grants (Free application for Federal Student Aid). Former students now out of high school who plan to attend College and need financial aid are also welcome.

ELECTION CALENDAR

Listed below are the major dates concerning the upcoming City Council General Election on Saturday, May 6, 2000. The purpose of the election is to elect a Mayor and two (2) Council members. Those with expiring terms are Mayor T.J. Miller and Council members Pamela K. Redman and Kent Welch.

Filing Dates To Run

Monday, February 21, 2000 until Wednesday, March 22, 2000 at 5:00 p.m.

Last Day To Register To Vote

Thursday, April 6, 2000 is the last day to register to vote in the May 6, 2000 City Council General Election.

Early Voting

By Personal Appearance-Wednesday, April 19, 2000 until Tuesday, May 2, 2000. At Plains City Hall, 601 11th Street from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Election Day

Saturday, May 6, 2000
Polls open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.
At Plains City Hall, 601 11th Street

ELECT BETTY RIVAS for Yoakum Co. Tax Collector



Early Voting:
February 28-March 10
Democratic Primary: March 14

It has been my pleasure for almost 22 years to be employed by the Yoakum County Tax Office. During this time, I have worked closely with the Tax Collector, serving the citizens of Yoakum County and performing the duties of the office.

I believe my qualifications would allow a smooth transition if elected your Tax Collector. My pledge to you is to serve the public in a professional, courteous manner, while at the same time working diligently to perform the duties of this office.

The responsibilities of the Tax Collector are as follows:

- * Calculation and collection of taxes for Yoakum County, Denver City ISD, Plains ISD, City of Denver City, City of Plains, and the Sandyland Underground Water District.
- * Distribution of all tax money to each entity.
- * All motor vehicle titling, sales tax and registration.
- * All boat titling, sales tax and registration.
- * Voter registration, maintenance of voter records, assists with all elections. Provides voter lists for county, state, and federal elections.
- * Works closely with the County Treasurer and Auditor.
- * Attends conferences and seminars in order to complete education credits.

I would certainly appreciate your vote and support in the DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY, Tuesday, March 14. Early voting begins February 28 thru March 10. 8:00 to 5:00 p.m. at these locations: Denver City - Yoakum County Tax Office, Plains - Yoakum County Clerk's Office.

Pol. Adv. Paid for by Betty Rivas • Box 84 • Denver City, TX 79323

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- * Airport Recorders
- * Trappers
- * Ground Observers
- * Mist Blow Operators

At least 18 years old & valid driver license and be insurable under foundation fleet insurance policy. No experience necessary. Outdoor work. Ag background helpful.

If you applied or worked during 1999 you must complete a new application for the 2000 season.

For more information, apply in person:

Plains 1179 CR 305 Plains, TX 806-456-4121	Seagraves 510 Railroad Ave. Seagraves, TX 806-546-8858	*Brownfield Old Union School Brownfield, TX 806-755-2617	Seminole 1104 Hobbs Hwy. Seminole, TX 915-758-1261
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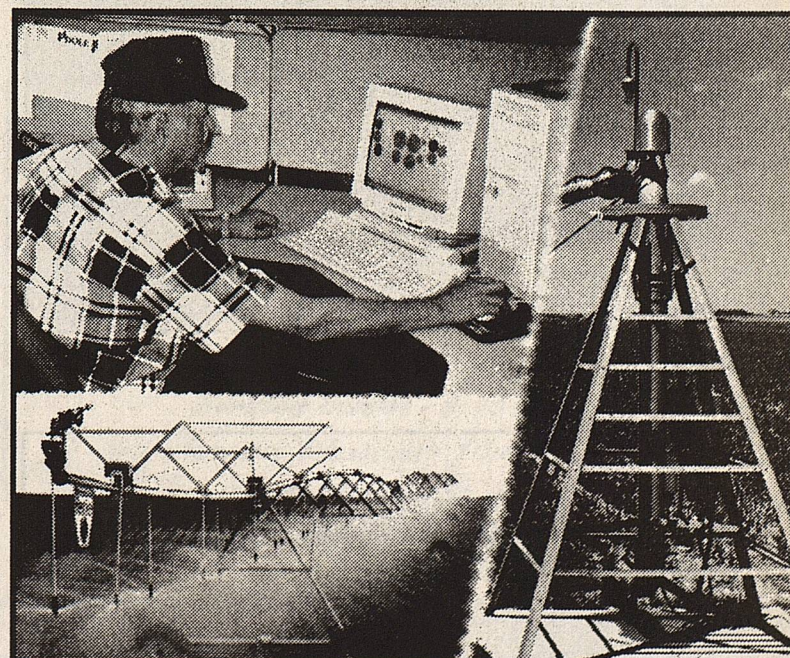


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Cowboy Baseball Action

Complete statistics for the Cowboys first five contests were unavailable at presstime. They lost their opening game to Denver City JV 8-6 after a very brief practice time.

They next competed in a two site tournament held in Brownfield and Lubbock Cooper. They lost their opener to 3A Roosevelt 21-8. They came back to defeat 3A Shallowater 11-10. 3A Muleshoe beat the Cowboys 16-6, and they also fell to 5A Lubbock High 22-3. Coach Carter is confident the Cowboy's record will improve with more practice time on the diamond.



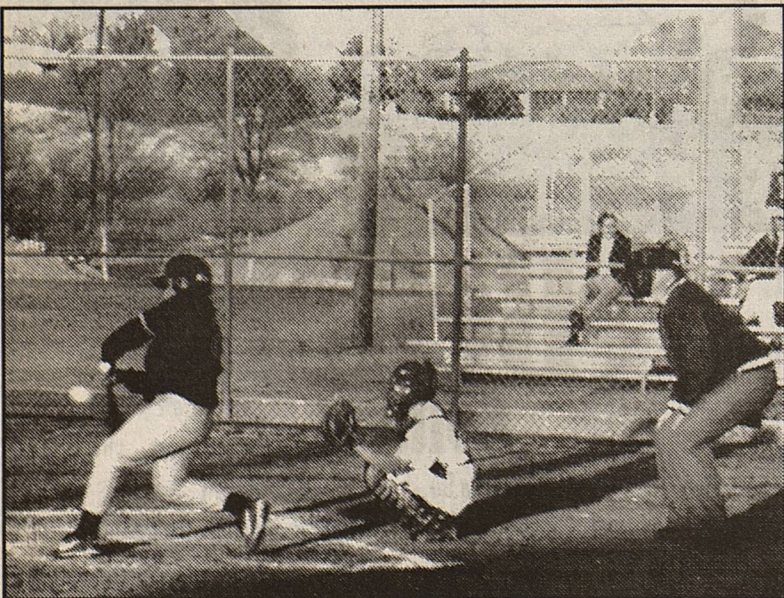
Jared Bell is ready to smack it



Coach Carter signals Brett Squyres to hold at third



Josh Bell coming into third



Miguel Coronado makes a mighty swing

Math/Science Meet here sees PHS on top

Plains High hosted a UIL Math/Science Meet here Saturday, attended by 18 schools and 200 students. The Plains team repeated as Sweepstakes winners, with the Number Sense and Calculator teams finishing first, Math team second, and Science team 6th.

Individual performances included:
Freshmen - Jill Gray, 1st NS, 2nd Cal, 1st Math, and Top Gun Award.

Liz Wilmeth, 5th NS, 3rd Cal, 3rd Math

Jordan Bean, 7th NS, 2nd Cal, 5th Math, 3rd Sci.

Sophomores - Annaliesa O'Quinn 2nd NS, 2nd Cal, 3rd Math, 7th Sci.

Chris Hanson 3rd NS.

Juniors - Amanda Garcia 2st NS, 5th Cal.

Eric Nixon 7th Math

Seniors - Kristen Grat 1st NS, 1st Cal, 1st Math, 1st Sci, 1st Chem, 1st Comp. Sci., Top Gun Award.

Velvet Canada 6th NS, 4th Cal, 2nd Comp. Sci.

Kyle Sisson 3rd Comp. Sci.

Wendy Hernandez 4th Comp. Sci.

Computer Science Team qualifies for state meet

The PHS Computer Science Programming Team competed in TCEA Regional competition in Lubbock. They tied for second place with Stinnett West Texas. They competed against 1, 2 and 3A teams to qualify for the big State Meet in Austin April 29. Team members include Kyle Sisson, Kristen Gray and Velvet Canada.

First Track Meet of season

Because of a number of conflicting events, PHS sent a small number of track and field athletes to last weekend's meet in Morton. Only five Cowgirls entered the meet. Performances included;

800 Relay - 4th Place - Jill Gray, Jessica Rodriguez, Chelsea Blount, Kayla Willis, time 2:02.2

3200 M Run - 6th Place - Wendy Hernandez, 14:17.22

100 M Dash - Kayla Willis, time .14.38

Cowboys - 400 Relay - 4th place - David Luna, Moises Gonzales, Jarod Newland, Israel Moreno, time 45.8

400 M Dash - David Granado 6th, 54.71

100 M Dash - Israel Moreno 1st, 11.41

Shot - Josh Bell 5th, 42' 9.75" . Chris McGinty 38' 9.75"

Long Jump - Jared Bell 2nd, 20'

Triple Jump - Jared Bell 4th, 40' 5.5"

Cowboys named to 3-AA All-District Team

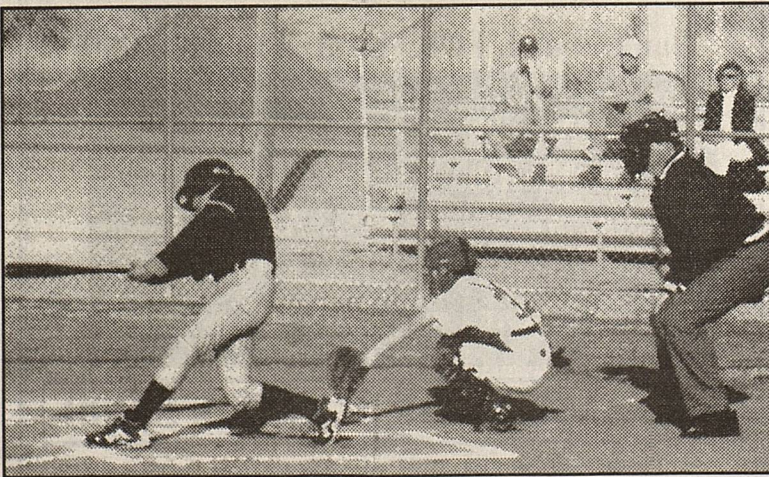
Plains ISD was recently notified eight PHS Cowboys were named to the 1999 - 2000 3AA All - District Team. The players included;

First Team - Eddie Gallegos, Patrick McGinty, Josh Bell.

Second Team - Dustin Six, Justin Bennett.

Honorable Mention - Kelsey Blundell, Fermin Luna.

Jared Bell was recognized as one of two 'Newcomers' named to the team.



Adam Garcia connects for good hit



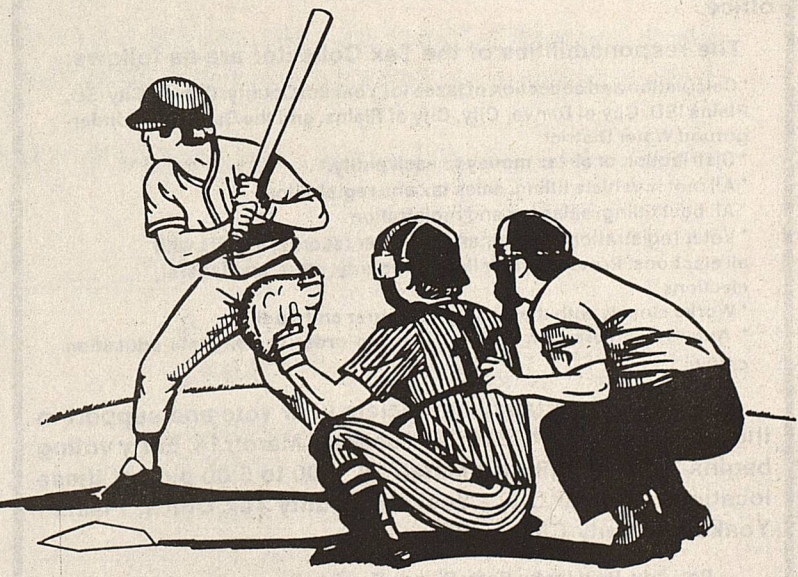
Jeremy Morphis tags Mustang out at home plate



Morphis with solid base hit



Jerry Rivas connects solidly here



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Home

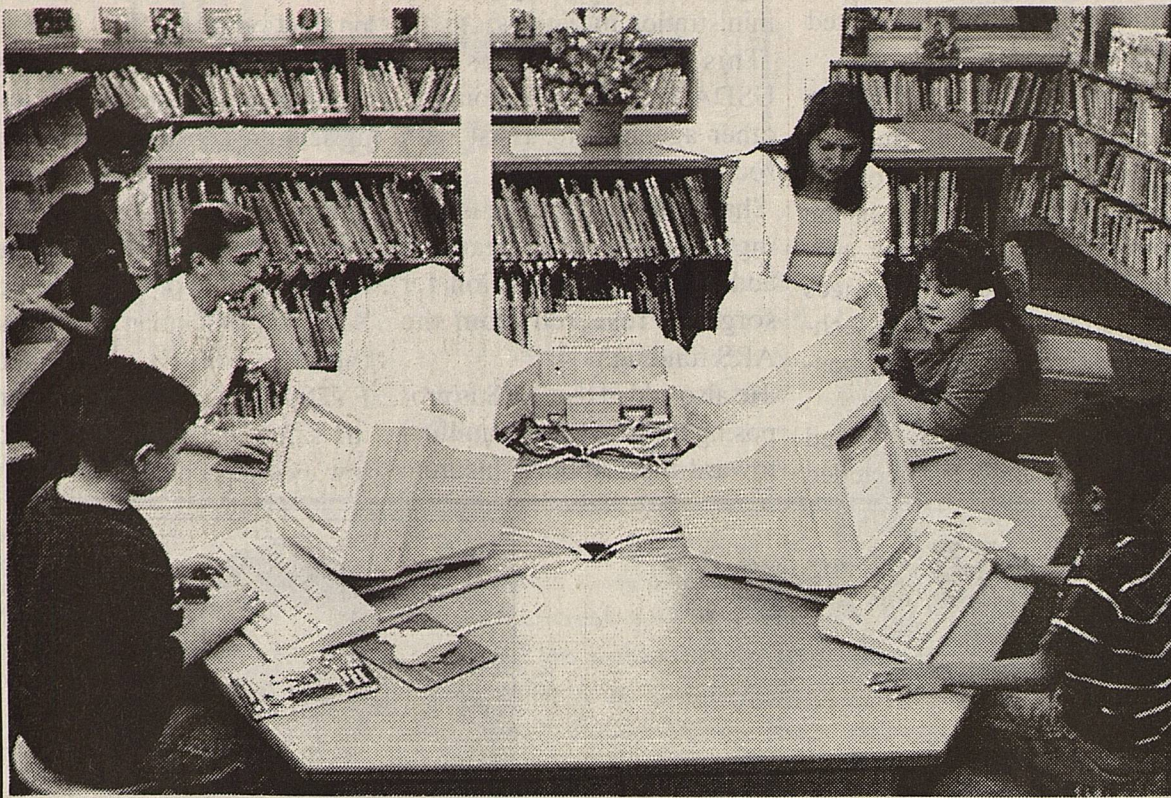
Mobile

Jack Cobb

456-7452

456-7512

Exploring wonders of the electronic world

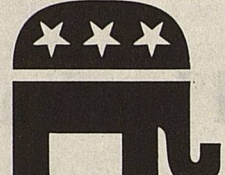


This scene is repeated virtually everyday at the Plains Library. When school is out, many youngsters head for the library and the computer table. Some of the older youngsters hone skills they are developing on school computers, others are more interested in the many games to be found on library computers. Move over, Poke Mon, there are other interests out there.

TSA MO GA Honors Seniors

The year 2000 PHS Senior class were guests of honor at the February 28 TSA MO GA Club meeting. Each senior received a card with their photo, and a millennium keepsake Gold Dollar.

Following dinner, program coordinator asked the seniors to introduce themselves and describe their plans for the future. Terry Isaacs, a former teacher here and now Associate Professor of History at South Plains College in Levelland, was guest speaker. He complemented the seniors for their individual goals.



Yoakum County Republican Precinct Convention

Tuesday, March 14, 2000
7:15 p.m.

Republican polling places where Precinct Conventions will occur.
Plains - Community Building - 1006 Ave G.
Denver City - Fireman's Hall - 401 Ave C.

Club president Judy Head led the class in a 'Yoakum County Millennium Trivia' game, and each student received a millennium gift.

The club's March 13 meeting at the Library will have an international affairs theme, hosted by Bonnie Earnest and Connie

McWhirter. Jered Sellers will speak and present a slide show on feeding the hungry in Turkey.

Cub Scout Derby Winners

The Plains Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby car race was held February 26. Fastest car honors went to Kevin John Gass.

Basic Peace Officer Academy Scheduled At SPC

A Basic Peace Officer Academy begins May 15 at South Plains College's Levelland campus.

The 560 hour course will meet at 7:00 am. to 6:60 pm. weekdays through August 17 in the SPC Petroleum Technology Law Enforcement Building, room 115. The course is open to persons 21 years old or older who are interested in becoming peace officers in Texas.

Registration deadline is April 14. Enrollment is limited to 25 persons. A non-fundable \$25.00 application fee is required for persons wishing to obtain a registration packet. Packets are available in the SPC Law Enforcement Office.

The course meets Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) requirements

for persons who wish to take the state peace officer licensing exam.

The course will cover all Texas laws and procedural requirements, use of force, human relations, professionalism and ethics, fitness and wellness, strategies of defense, mechanics of arrest, criminal investigations and many other topics needed to begin a career in law enforcement.

Costs, which cover tuition, books, fees, ammunition for weapons qualifications and other items, are \$1,500 for Hockley County residents, \$1,700 for non residents and \$1,900 for out of state residents. College housing is available.

For housing or payment information, contact SPC at 806-894-9611, ext. 2379 or 2291.

10 principles for Texas in the New Century

- Develop a better-educated workforce
- Direct more of every education dollar into the classroom
- Raise the bar on student performance
- Cut taxes in Texas
- Introduce competition into Texas government
- Improve government performance and accountability
- Reduce the size of government
- Bring common sense to regulations
- Use technology to cut costs and increase quality
- Return control to communities and individuals

The three scout den winners included Tiger Cubs: 1st, Kevin John Gass, 2nd Hunter Welch.

Wolfs- Blake Longoria 1st, Justin Gonzales 2nd. Bears- Derek Garza 1st, A.J. Martinez 2nd.

First place winners received food gift certificates, and Gass received a \$25 savings account at the Yoakum County Credit Union.

Cub leaders gave special thanks to all donors including the credit union, Dairy Queen, Diann's Takeout, Cowboy Cafe, Vicky Blundell, Vaughn & Carolyn Culwell, Edwin & Christy Brink, Life's A Party, and Lowe's. Shannon Patton served as finish line judge.

You grow up the day you have the first real laugh... at yourself.

30 Color Photos

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1 - 8X10
2 - 5X7
2 - 3X5
16 King Size Wallets
8 Regular Size Wallets




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Tuesday
March 14, 2000


Now is the time to order your Easter Cards

group charge 99¢ per person



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This is a youth oriented society, and the joke is on them - youth is a disease from which we all recover



The Journey

*For the joy set before Him,
He walked on toward the cross*

First Baptist Church Sancurary Choir will present **The Journey** a musical arranged and orchestrated by David T. Clydesdale
Directed by; Patrick Hamilton
Sunday, April 9th

TAKE 10

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1 Hour \$40.00 Swedish
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Do you feel like you are on a boat that is adrift at sea?
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God's LOVE and GRACE in a NEW WAY.*

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*First United Methodist Church
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Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.
Morning Worship - 10:45 A.M.
You'll Be Glad You Did!*



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	*24-Hour Emergency Department

Yoakum County Is Licensed By The State Of Texas
and is a member of American Hospital Association & Texas Hospital Association

Democrats To Select Delegates For Presidential Nomination

Texas will send 231 delegates and 32 alternates to the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles in August of this year. These Texans will help choose the Democratic Nominee for President and Vice President, and they will express opinions on key national issues. How does a voter become a delegate to the National Convention?

The process begins by voting in the Democratic Primary on Tuesday, March 14, 2000, or by participating in early voting. Next, the voter must file a form with the State Chair of the Texas Democratic Party no later than May 15, 2000. The final requirement is to be elected National Delegate at the State Convention in Fort Worth, Texas, on June 9 and 10, 2000. Prior to the State Convention, prospective delegates should first attend their Precinct Convention on Tuesday, March 14, 2000 at 7:15 p.m. at the polling place where they voted. At the Convention, voters sign in according to their Presidential preference. This year the choices are Al Gore and Bill Bradley. The number of delegates elected to the County Convention for each candidate is based on the sign in sheet. (If 75% sign in for Al Gore, he gets 75% of the delegates.) The Precinct Convention is also an opportunity to introduce resolutions concerning state and national issues.

Example of precinct resolution: "BE IT RESOLVED that children should not ride in a pickup bed." This resolution could be forwarded from the Precinct to the County and then the State Convention, where it could become a part of the

party's platform. Members of the Texas House and Senate who are Democrats would then be encouraged to pass a law prohibiting children from riding in pickup beds.

The next step in the process is the County Convention. The new Democratic Chairman in Yoakum County is Billy Ray Moore of Denver City. He will host the County Democratic Convention in his home at 602 North Adams on Saturday, April 1st at 10:30 a.m. Those voters who participated in their precinct convention may attend the county convention. Again, voters first sign in according to their Presidential preference. Delegates are elected and issues are debated. All Democratic elected officials in Yoakum County and the Democratic candidates will be served. For more information about the political process in a Presidential election year, call Billy Ray Moore at 806-592-3608.

Democratic polling places where Precinct Conventions will occur at 7:15 p.m. 3/14/00. Precinct #101 Precinct 1 Building, 139 E. Broadway, Denver City, #202 Community Building, West 15th St., Denver City, #303 Yoakum County Library, 901 Avenue E., Plains, #305 Denver City Library, 205 E. 4th St., Denver City, #404 Corral Youth Center, 911 Avenue G., Plains, #406 Tax Office (Branch), 122 W. 4th St., Denver City.

What is a Democratic primary? An election in which qualified Democratic voters nominate candidates for political office, choose party officials, or select delegates to a party convention. R.S.V.P.!!

FY 2001 Budget Gives Crop Production Little Attention

Ray Watson, executive director of the Texas Grain Sorghum Association joins the National Grain Sorghum Producers in urging producers to contact their political leaders concerning a lack of funding for production agriculture in the proposed 2001 national budget.

During a USDA briefing earlier this month conducted with representatives from various commodity groups including Dan Shaw, National Grain Sorghum Producers (NGSP) Washington Representative, it was announced that the total request by USDA is \$64,953 billion, a \$2 billion increase over FY2000's budget.

According to Shaw, most of the increases are in Food Safety, Buildings and Facilities, Initiatives Targeting, Environmental Production, Climate Change, Air Quality and the Food Stamp Program.

Discretionary program outlays account for approximately \$16.7 billion or about 26 percent of the budget. Funds included in this category are Special Supplemental Nutrition Programs for Women, Infants and Children (WIC); rural development, research and technical assistance; soil and water conservation technical assistance, management of the National Forests and Grasslands; state and private Forestry Programs and domestic and international marketing assistance.

Accounting for the remaining 74 percent are the Mandatory programs or services required by law such as most of the nutrition assistance programs, commodity programs and many of the conservation programs.

Shaw reports that the total USDA program level is projected to decrease from \$105.4 billion in 2000 to an estimated \$100.2 billion in 2001.

The program level represents the gross value of all financial assistance the USDA provides to the public, whether in the form of grants, loans, cost sharing and professional services consisting of research or technical assistance, or in kind benefits such as commodities.

Secretary Glickman pointed out that funding is also included

within a number of agencies to support programs proposed as segments of multi-agency Administration initiatives.

This basically means that USDA funds will be going to other agencies to assist with social programs.

Shaw indicated that he is asking Congress to earmark an additional \$1.65 million for sorghum research from the ARS funding.

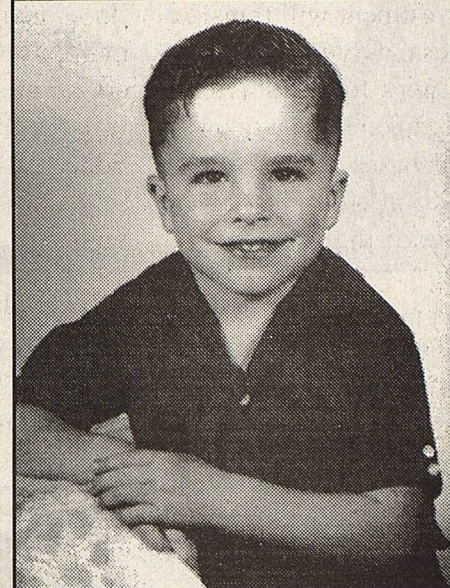
He also added that ARS is proposing to cut at least \$1 million toward the Lubbock Institute

for Research in Plant Stress facility, which could deliver a fatal blow to a large portion of production research.

"We will try to get Congress to reinstate all other production agriculture cuts that were made by ARS," concluded Shaw.

"The United States Department of Agriculture should be the department of the producer. Secretary Glickman states that the President's proposed FY2001 budget will strengthen the safety net for farmers and low income populations

Happy Birthday, Roger !!



A good husband...
A good father...
A good FORTY !
Love, Diane, Travis & Justin



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Friday, March 10	8:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 11	8:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 12	2:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 16	8:00 p.m.
Friday, March 17	8:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 18	8:00 p.m.

Opening Night

Matinee

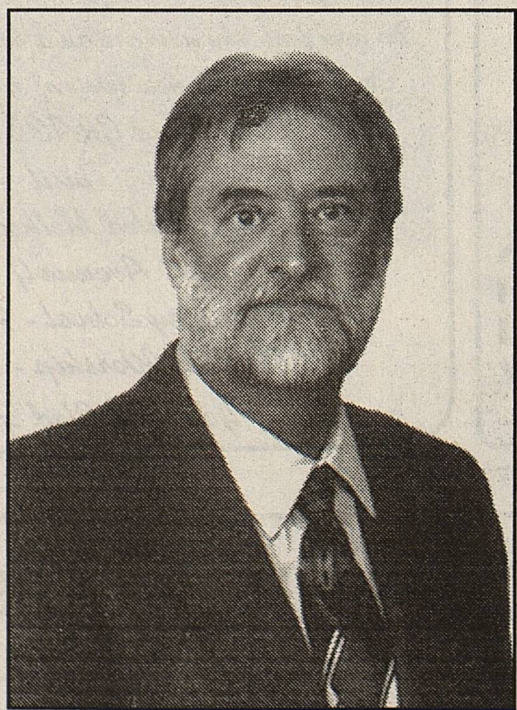
6610 Lovington Highway · Hobbs, New Mexico

Rex Swann

PLAINS

Early Voting
Feb. 28 - Mar.
10 at County
Clerks Office,
Yoakum
County
Courthouse

Primary Voting
March 14,
Community
Building

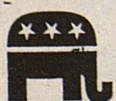


DENVER CITY

Early Voting
Feb. 28 -
Mar. 10 at
County Tax
Office

Primary Voting
March 14,
Fire Station

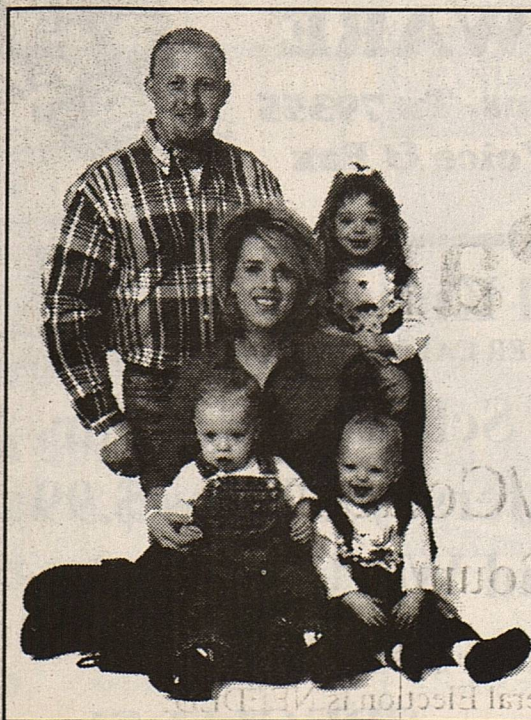
"Your Vote For
Conservative
Common Sense"



Republican Candidate For
**Yoakum County Commissioner
Precinct 3**

Political Advertisement Paid For By Rex Swann

JEFF LOWREY



The Lowrey Family

Life long resident of
Yoakum County*
Graduate of Texas Tech*
Family man* Strong
background in
Agricultural and
Insurance
Management*
Democratic Candidate
for Yoakum County
Tax/Assessor Collector

Political advertisement paid for by Jeff Lowrey

Texas loses \$2 billion expansion plan to Arizona

Intel - the world's leading manufacturer of microprocessors - recently announced that it was indefinitely postponing the placement of a major manufacturing facility in Texas.

Instead, Intel chose Arizona for the \$2 billion expansion. That investment will translate into thousands of jobs, increase tax revenues for state and local governments, a major boost to the tax bases of local school districts, and additional diversification of the economy - a windfall for the people of the Grand Canyon State. Meanwhile the Lone Star State is being left behind.

Intel's departure reinforced the concerns of many of our state's economic development advocates who fear that our nation's largest industries whose activities are "capital intensive" will choose states other than our own in which to develop facilities.

Texas surrendered millions of dollars in revenue in order to avoid returning a small percentage of that amount. Texas school districts missed out on millions of dollars in additional revenue because the State of Texas did not want to lose a small percentage of its franchise tax collections. No advocate of tax incentives has ever suggested giving money away in order to attract businesses to Texas. What we support is collecting taxes, and providing a small rebate on taxes collected, in order to accomplish that goal. Instead, when we lose an expansion like Intel's, we will

collect nothing at all. If given the option of receiving a dollar with the caveat that a nickel of it must be returned or not receiving a dollar at all, which would you choose? Texas chose the latter. Next session, we need to rethink our logic.

In economics, the concept of multipliers is elementary. Every job created serves as a catalyst for the creation of additional jobs in the construction, services and other sectors. The higher the wage paid in a given job, the greater the multiplier that may be applied in estimating that job's overall contribution to the economy.

Attracting high wage, high technology jobs to Texas serves to develop our economy, not only in the high tech sector as some have alleged, but throughout our entire economic structure.

Texas must expand the Investment Tax Credit (ITC) program to include all Texas counties.

A statewide program, in addition to being simple to implement and administer, would allow Texas to compete with other states.

When the Legislature reconvenes in 2001, we must address the disincentives in our state's tax structure that discourage major manufacturers from locating here. A statewide investment tax credit program would be a serious first step in the right direction.

Bill Hammond,
Texas Ass. of Business and Chambers of Commerce

Student of the Week



PHS student of the week is Aaron Cain a junior and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cain. He was nominated by Mr. Canon who said, "Aaron is willing to accept new challenges, in the classroom, on the athletic field or the World Wide Web.

In class he tries to excel at whatever we are doing. He is willing to try new programs and approaches to instruction and learning.

On the athletic field, he is willing to play where ever he is needed, whether that is cheering on team mates or being the center of attention on the mound. One of his strongest qualities is perseverance. "He puts his head to the plow and never looks back." He stays with it to the end or completion. I have seen him study material, and if he did not understand it completely, he will restudy until he has a firm grasp of the ideas presented.

On the field I have watched him work after practice to master skills needed to achieve his goal. He is presently working on a project over the Web with NASA. He will be traveling to Houston this summer to finish the project.

He will be taking his CCNA exam to get his networking license in 2 weeks.

Mason's score big at San Antonio



The Mason Clan and Grand Champ Pig at San Antonio - Ashlei, Kelton, Weldon, Sara, Larry and Novella

The February 18 judging at the San Antonio Livestock Show was a memorable occasion for Larry and Sara Mason of Plains. Son Kelton, an 18 year old senior at Brownfield High and FFA member, showed the Grand Champion pig, a 259 pound Crossbred affectionately called "Honky". The affection Kelton may have felt for Honky was not strong enough for him to turn down the \$51,500 check for his winning effort, beating out some 3,800 show pigs originally destined for the show.

This is not the first time Kelton has struck greenback gold. He previously won Reserve

Championship honors there, has won Champion and Reserve Championships at El Paso, and both championships at the giant Houston Show.

Sister Ashlei, a 16 year old Junior at Brownfield and also a member of FFA, showed the Light Weigh Cross Breed Champion at San Antonio, a \$2000 winner in the sale for it's 221 pounds.

Both animals were bred and raised at the Mason's animal facility just out of town. A pretty good outing for home grown porkers.



Ashlei and champion Light Weight Cross pig at San Antonio

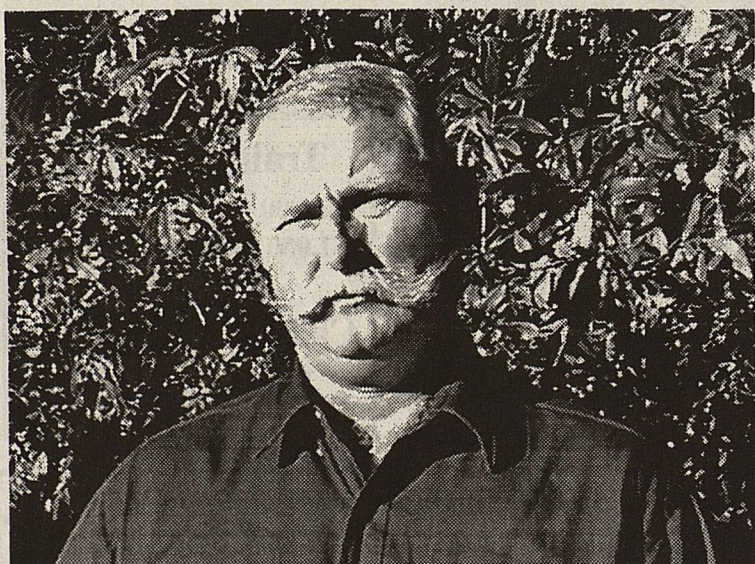
Farm Price Barometer

December 1999

Commodity	Current Price	Parity Price	Percent of Parity
Barley (bushel)	\$2.14	\$5.99	36
Cattle (cwt)	66.40	153.00	43
Corn (bushel)	1.72	6.69	26
Cotton, Upland (lb)	.436	1.77	25
Eggs, (dozen)	.613	1.51	37
Flaxseed (bushel)	3.50	12.20	29
Hogs (cwt)	35.40	103.00	34
Lambs (cwt)	76.30	158.00	48
Milk, All (cwt)	12.40	30.80	39
Milk, Mfg. (cwt)	10.70	28.06	38
Oats (bushel)	1.13	3.50	32
Peanuts (lb)	.213	.664	32
Rice (cwt)	6.14	27.80	22
Sorghum Grain (cwt)	2.60	10.50	25
Soybeans (bushel)	4.29	14.10	30
Wheat (bushel)	2.43	9.78	25

* Lamb prices are one month behind all other prices in this analysis.
Note: Percent of parity represented by current market prices is shown under commodity uses. Parity is the price farmers would receive if farm prices had increased at the same rate as expenses, using 1910-14 as a base period. Statistics from USDA.

**Elect
Hershel
R.
Smith**

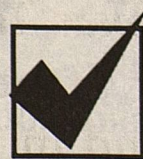


Republican Candidate For
Yoakum County Commissioner Pct. #3
Your Support and Vote is Greatly Appreciated!

Subject to the Republican Primary, March 14, 2000

Political Advertisement Paid For by Hershel R. Smith

Vote



Suann Parrish

for

**Tax Assessor/Collector
Yoakum County**

Your vote in the Republican Primary is appreciated.
Your vote in the November General Election is NEEDED!

Political advertisement paid for by Suann Parrish, PO Box 815, Plains, Texas 79355

Thanks!

For allowing me to visit with you in your home, businesses, vehicles, turnrows, shops and porches. I have been impressed with your honesty and hospitality. I was a little apprehensive at first about knocking on your doors, but you have made me feel at ease. As this Primary comes to a close, I have more appreciation for our community than ever before!

Terry Davis

Candidate For

Commissioner, Precinct 3

Political advertisement paid for by Terry Davis

From The Hack

case of a malpractice suit, says "OK, knock this sucker out... but try to keep him awake enough to tell some of his dirty jokes..."

Next step? The head man grabs a Black and Decker drill thing, flips a coin up three times; where it lands on your belly determines the drill site. He selects a semi-sharp 7/8" drill bit, and proceeds to probe three times in your quivery belly with same.

The object of all this exploratory drilling is to determine the exact hole to stick an instrument called an "Atomic Disintegrator" about 27 inches into your gut, then actually atomize the offending gall bladder. Can you imagine the explosion scheduled to take place in my innards? I was really disappointed when Bride told me the detonation would probably be much quieter than my normal sounds in bed.

Next step is, call the Hoover Vacuum people, who have a very small but powerful suction device which they stick in you, and literally suck all the resulting mush and muck out.

I have absolutely no idea where all this stuff goes, but I don't want the guy's job who disposes of it.

They tell me when all this carnage is over, and you awake, you finally look down and drowsily mumble, "What in Hades am I doing with four belly buttons? Three of 'em aren't even in line!"

I am sure quite a few of you faithful are probably reduced to tears by now, thinking of my plight. PLEASE - NO cards, flowers or phone calls! I insist!

Major surgery, according to my Preacher guy, is when the knife is used on YOU - Minor surgery is when the OTHER guy gets dis-embowled, or whatever.

A daughter of ours recently underwent Minor surgery since it happened to her. At the moment she reads this, she will absolutely HATE me for several days, despite knowing I am poking a bit of fun at her misery.

Now for the serious MAJOR surgery stuff. I am about to become the victim. I shall bravely lie under the surgeon's instruments of torture about the time most of you read this, Wednesday, possibly a day to be recorded in history. If I survive, you will read further columns of this nature. If I do not, I demand Brother Bill to pay off the gambling wager he made against my demise.

Now, some of you may scoff at the idea of a "Scope Job Gall Bladder Removal" being MAJOR surgery. Yes, I know, years past, the cutters used to saw you open about 13 inches, reach in with ice tongs and rudely jerk the offending organ out. Today, granted, it's much simpler.

The Doc always wears a face mask to hide his identity in

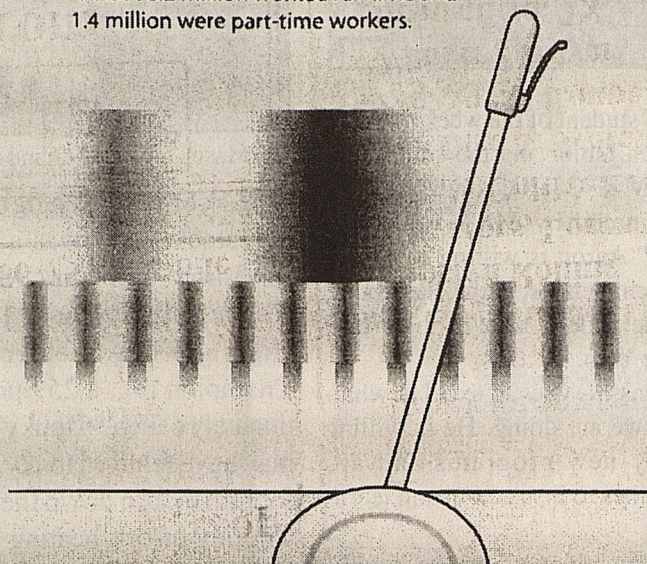
Texans: A Force at Work

About 10.1 million people in Texas in 1998 were drilling for oil, selling soft drinks at convenience stores, writing software code, running multinational corporations, playing professional basketball and working at thousands of other jobs. Those who didn't have a job, but were checking classified ads, job Web sites and job banks were included in this number.

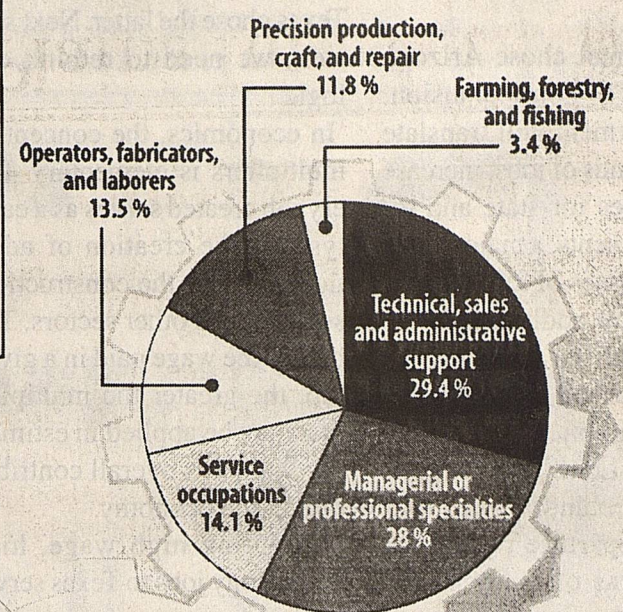
They comprised the Texas civilian labor force, which, as defined by economists, are those people older than 16 and not in the military, prisons or mental hospitals. They either have jobs or are actively looking for them.

Here are key facts about Texas workers in 1998: About 5.6 million men and 4.5 million women were in the labor force. Women had a higher unemployment rate (5.5 percent) than men (4.3 percent).

The breakdown according to race was: 8.6 million white and 1.2 million black. Workers of Hispanic origin—included in both the white and black population groups—numbered 2.9 million. About 8.2 million worked full time and 1.4 million were part-time workers.



Employed workforce by occupations



SOURCES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. GRAPHIC: Gilbert Comstock.

If you really persist in expressing your sympathy, cash is ALWAYS acceptable, as well as all credit card offers. Doctor Gordon is not known to cut corners in his bilking procedures.

My extreme thanks to all 2 of you! If I live, you may possibly get next week's paper almost on time.

A minor occurrence the other night brought chuckles around town. In the early pre-dawn hours Thursday, a wild series

of extremely loud beeping sounds went off on the northeast part of town. We are told many people in the immediate area were awakened and scared enough to check their immediate surroundings. Several reported the origin of the blaring beeps was difficult to pinpoint, and seemed to be echoing all over that section of the city.

Finally a brave wife told Hubby, "I know where that's coming from, it's a burglar alarm!" She grabbed the phone, and called her suspicions in. A Sheriff Deputy was dispatched to the scene. He thought the caller was correct, and called

what he (and she) thought was the offending residence.

He told the guy answering, "You really need to turn off your burglar alarm, you've got half the town awake already."

The guy said, "I've been outside looking around for whoever the idiot is causing all this ruckus, and it AIN'T me. We don't own a burglar alarm!"

By now half the northeast side of town was awake. The Deputy finally drove by a residence on 2nd street, and a Pickup's alarm was still going crazy. He reported he beat and banged on the door until his knuckles bled before the homeowner sleepily opened the

door, looked around groggily, and asked, "Where is all that racket coming from!?" No one yet has a clue why the truck's alarm went ballistic.

An honest 7 year old came in after school and confessed to her parents that Billy Brown had kissed her after class.

"How did that happen?" her mother gasped.

The girl hesitated, but finally said, "Well, it wasn't all that easy, but three more of my girl friends helped me catch him in about two blocks."

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Wilmar Sprayer
Brownfield, Tx.
806-637-4569

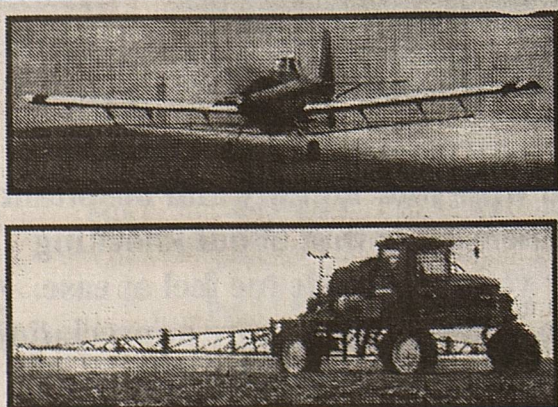
Assistant Manager Trainee Needed
\$2,000 monthly full time
\$1,000 monthly part time
if qualified
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456-7195 or call
662-334-4416

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