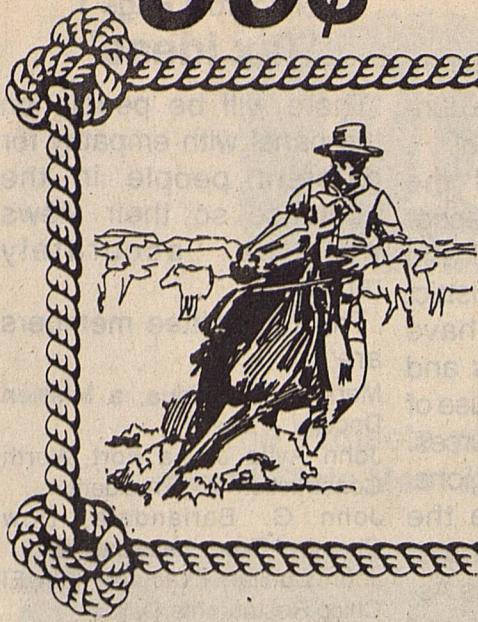


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Cowboy Country News



Published each Wednesday at the County Seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas.

Volume 2, Issue 36, Wednesday, May 15, 1996

Some Cotton Producers Busy Planting Others Still Watching Sky For Rain

Yoakum County cotton producers with irrigated acreage have been busy recently getting seed in the ground. Representatives from the three main area gins were polled this week to determine which stage of planting their customers are. New-Tex Gin reports an estimated 70 - 80% of their irrigation producers are through planting. Yoakum County CoOp Gin estimated 70% completed, while Tokio CoOp Gin thinks their irrigated customers are no more than 30 - 50% finished planting. All gins agreed the dry land producers continue to

wait for rainfall before taking on the expensive planting process. The next two, or two and a half weeks are critical for a dry land cotton crop. If no rain is received until after June 1, many acres will probably be planted to milo.

Spokesmen for the gins, and Gary Six of the Farm Services Administration, agree that because of recent changes in the U.S. Farm Bill, and the extreme drouth, overall cotton acreage in the County could be down 20-30% from last years planted acres.



A semi-trailer load of Associated Farmers Delinting cotton seed prior to unloading for local producers.

County Parties To Accept Candidate Hopefuls For County Clerk Spot On Nov. 5 Ballot

Both the Democrat and Republican County Committees are accepting applications for eligible candidates desiring to run for the office of County Clerk in the November 5 general election. Harry Richardson, Republican County Chairman, reports his group will meet June 6 at 7:30 PM in the party house at Yoakum County Park to consider possible Republican candidates for the position. Democratic Chairman Ty Powell urges any and all would be candidates to contact him im-

mediately. Both County parties will announce their choice of candidates by June 30. Democrat Committee personnel include Powell, Carolyn Culwell and Sara Guetersloh of Plains, and Charley Gillis, Loretta Watkins, Earlene Freeman and Kathy Smiley of Denver City. Republicans include Richardson, David Brunson and Candi Seaton of Plains, and Leslie Floyd, Donna Givens, Karen Keith and Debbie Maxwell of Denver City.

Criminal Court Cases Heard

One criminal case was heard last week in District Court, presided over by Judge Ray Anderson. Ernest George Strickland, 19, originally convicted on a deadly conduct charge stemming from a drive-by shooting in Denver City in April of 1995, pled guilty to violating terms of his probated sentence, when he was arrested for possession of marijuana. He also pled guilty to a Feb. 13, 1996 charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

He was sentenced to serve eight years in the Institution Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for the motion to revoke probation, and ten years for the second offense, both sentences to run concurrently.

Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state, and the defendant was represented by Attorney Bonnie Ericson.

In County Criminal Court, presided over by Judge Dallas Brewer, Jimmy Kent Savage, 47, pled guilty to driving while license suspended. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail. He was fined \$600 and ordered to pay \$157 Court Costs, which will be laid out in jail.

Richard Clark represented the state, and the defendant was represented by Attorney Jerry Corbin.

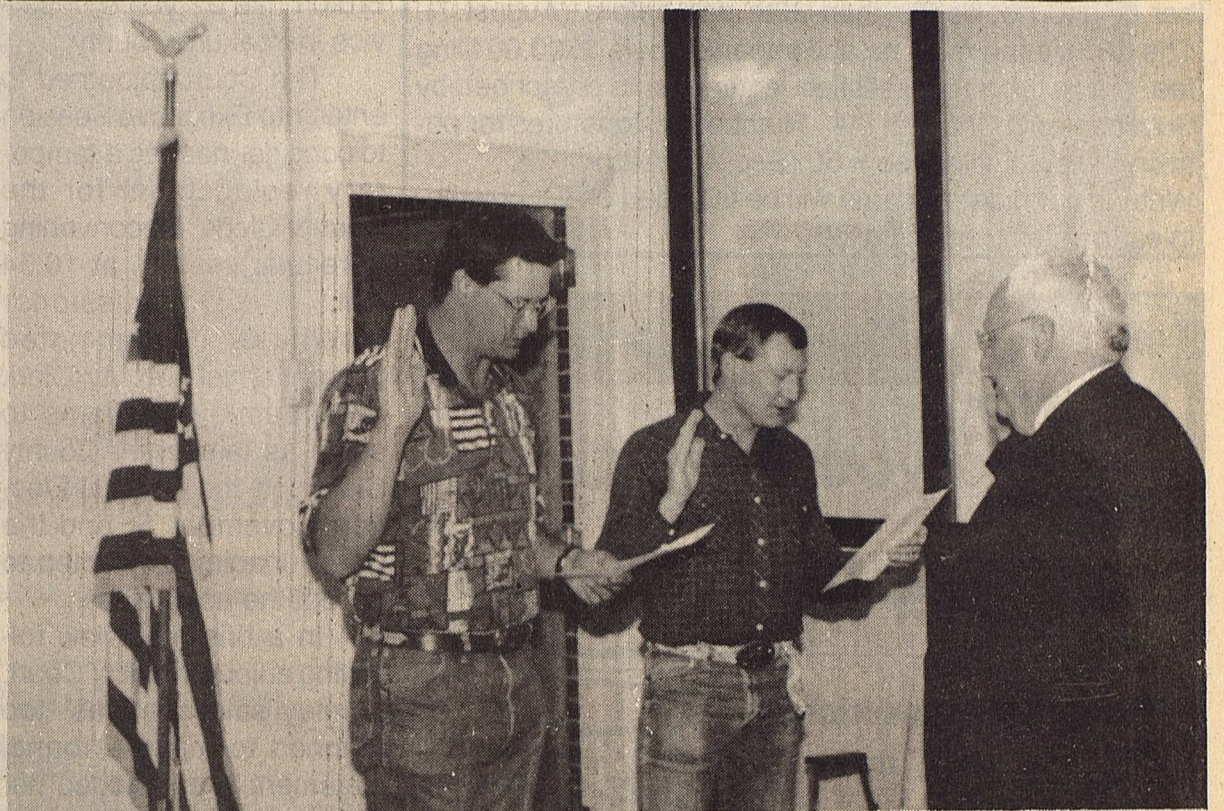
County Court Meets

Yoakum County Commissioners Court met Monday, May 13. Prior to entering into the session addressing agenda items, Clarence Reed, Lee Kidd and Homer Inlow expressed their appreciations to the Court for their cooperation with opening a new street in Denver City, connecting 8th Street with State Highway 214. Shell granted a right of way for the project, which will facilitate access to and from school property. The graded road will be black topped in the near future.

Commissioner McWhirter, Prec. 4, presented a contract from Earl Brown Jr. for the installation

Turn to Page 2, 'County Court'

P.I.S.D. Board Members Installed In Office. Ashburn Steps Down, Honored For Nine Years Of Service



Danny Bell, Wayne Sisson sworn in by Pete Simmons

The PISD School Board of Trustees met last Monday morning in a called meeting.

The votes in the Trustee Election held May 4 were canvassed, and incumbent Danny Bell, District 3

Trustee, and Wayne Sisson, District 4 Trustee, were declared officially elected.



Supt. Simmons Presents Stanley Ashburn With Plaque For Nine Years Service

Superintendent Pete Simmons, after officially notifying the Secretary of State's office in Austin by Fax message of the election results, administered the oath of office to Bell and Sisson.

Simmons then called retiring Trustee Stanley Ashburn forward, and presented him with a plaque honoring his nine years of service on the Board. He expressed his and the entire Board's appreciation for the many hours of dedicated service Ashburn contributed to the school district, and to the school students.

Ashburn responded he was honored to have been able to serve, and privileged to work for the students, and with the school administration, faculty and staff.

Governor Solicits Tax Ideas For Funding Education

An article in the May 1 issue of the Austin American-Statesman indicates Governor George W. Bush doesn't intend to forget his oft repeated vow to resist any attempts to adopt a state income tax law for public school funding in the state. He recently selected 16 individuals from across the state to serve on his Citizens Committee on Tax Relief. In a somewhat novel approach, the committee will not seek

alternative suggestions from Texans, write reports for or give advice to the Governor on the volatile school funding issue. Instead, they will conduct town hall type meetings in every area of the state, asking citizens which of three tax proposals for education they find the most equitable and effective, the present property tax, a value-added tax, or a consumption tax. All three methods of financing state education have both critics

and proponents. The Governor's Committee of 16 was selected to represent a broad spectrum of backgrounds and interests from around the state. Bush aides say the group is sufficiently diverse so that anyone who testifies will find a receptive ear. Gary Wood, Executive Vice-President, Texas Taxpayers and Research Association, said

Turn to Page 2, 'Tax Ideas'

General Election Information To Fill Unexpired Term In Office

The office of COUNTY CLERK, UNEXPIRED TERM, must be placed on the ballot for the General Election to be held on November 5, 1996, due to vacancy in the office created by resignation for retirement.

The following applies to candidates for the unexpired term. (All section numbers refer to the TEXAS ELECTION CODE.)

1) **Nomination by political party:** A person must receive a favorable vote of a majority of the executive committee members present at the meeting. Party must file the Certificate of Nomination by 5:00 PM, September 6, 1996, in the office of the county clerk. (Sec. 145.036-037)

2) **An independent candidate** must file an application for a place on the ballot with the county judge not later than 5:00 PM on the 30th day after vacancy occurs (Sec. 201.023) accompanied by a petition that satisfies requirements prescribed by Section 141.062. (Number of petition signatures required = 104 (Sec. 142.007))

3) **Write-in candidate** must file a declaration of write-in candidacy which satisfies the requirements of Section 141.031 with the county judge not later than 5:00 PM on September 6, and not earlier than 30th day before (August 7). The declaration must be accompanied by a \$600.00 filing fee. (or petition that satisfies requirements prescribed by Subchapter C Chapter 141. Number of signatures for petition-in-lieu of filing fee = 50 (Sec. 172.025))

Write-in candidate's name will be included on list of write-in candidates (not on ballot).

Cont'd from Page 1, 'County Court'

of another Dry Hydrant in the Tokio area, and the contract was approved.

Bids for the purchase of a new loader for Precinct 3 with trade-in of a 1992 John Deere loader, were reviewed. Commissioner Barron moved to accept a bid from Yellowhouse Machinery for a 624G John Deere loader priced at \$111,200. \$69,200 was allowed for the trade-in loader, for a net price of \$42,000, which was approved.

An official letter of resignation from retiring County Clerk Ruby Bruton was read by Judge Brewer, and the Court voted to accept her resignation effective June 1. Bruton has 22 years of service in Yoakum County.

The Court adjourned to enter into Executive Session to consider naming a temporary replacement for the County Clerk. Reconvening in regular session at 10:54 AM, Commissioner McWhirter nominated present Chief Deputy Clerk Julia Lemley of Plains to serve as temporary County Clerk until the General Election November 5, and the Court unanimously voted to accept the nomination.

In a brief interview following adjournment of Court, Lemley said she was "too stunned to make a formal statement," and added her appreciation to the Court for appointing her to the position.

Freshman Kayla Redman and Senior Ralph Ramirez represented PHS in the huge State Track Meet in Austin last week. Kayla took 4th place in the 1-A Shotput, and Ralph finished 7th in the 1600M Run. Congratulations to both!

Sonia Avila Honored

Sonia Avila of Plains High School in Plains, TX was honored for her outstanding contribution to the Texas Soil and Water Conservation program at a Region I Awards Banquet on Tuesday, May 14, 1996. The banquet was held at 7:00 PM at the Plainview Country Club in Plainview, TX.

Sonia was one of the three local award winners in the Yoakum Soil and Water Conservation District's essay contest who received \$50 savings bonds. She will receive the third place essay award in Region I. She is the daughter of Mario and Margarita Avila, and is a Junior in Plains High School.

The purpose of the awards program is to recognize and honor a Soil and Water Conservation District and individuals who have dedicated their efforts and talents to making wise use of renewable natural resources. Sponsors of the regional awards program are the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the 214 Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Texas.

Cont'd from Page 1, 'Tax Ideas'

"There will be people on the panel with empathy for different people in the audience so their views will be accurately reflected".

The Committee members are:

- Mario R. Anzaidua, a Mission Doctor.
- John Avila Jr., a Fort Worth Construction Co. President.
- John G. Bariandale, Dow Chemical Exec., Lake Jackson.
- John Cuellar, Executive with El Chico Restaurants, Dallas
- Dwain Hughes, Chief Fin. Officer, Tandy Corp, Ft. Worth.
- Richard Kinder, Houston, Pres/CEO, Enron.
- Wales Madden Jr., Amarillo Attorney.
- James Martin, Austin, VP, Int'l. Assn. Ironworkers.
- Tommy L. Moore, publisher, San Antonio Informer.
- Diana S. Natalcio, President, UT-EIPaso.
- Charles 'Vin' Prothro, Dallas, CEO Dallas Semi-Conductor Corp.
- Bob Stallman, Columbus, rice producer, Farm Bureau Pres.
- Jerry T. Stallworth, Marshall auto dealer.
- Paul m. Strunk, Rockport, Pres. Oil & Gas Co.
- Mary Beth Williamson, San Antonio, civic volunteer and bank director.

The Committee will report to Governor Bush their findings and conclusions prior to the convening of the next Legislative session.

Keeping an eye on Texas

Top 10 new jobs until 2000

Occupations projected to post the highest number of new jobs in Texas until 2000 include:

1. Registered nurses
2. General managers and top executives
3. First line sales supervisors
4. Computer systems analysts
5. Teachers, secondary schools
6. Managers and administrators
7. Licensed practical nurses
8. Professional/ technician
9. Accountants and auditors
10. Teachers, elementary schools



SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and Texas Employment Commission.

May 11 Is Bad Date In Texas For Tornadoes

Historical records indicate Texas may have been lucky this past May 11, when no tornadoes were reported across the Lone Star State.

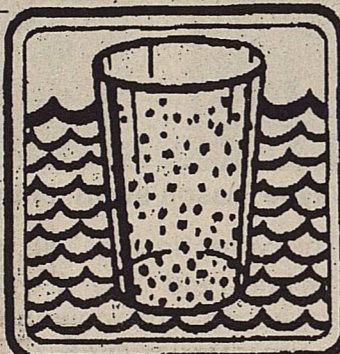
On May 11, 1953, a savage tornado devastated Waco, killing 114 and injuring 597 people and causing \$41 million in damage.

That very same day, the same violent storm system over much of the state created another killer tornado at San Angelo, where another 11 people died, and injured 159, creating over \$3 million in damages.

On May 11, 1970, another storm system most South Plains residents remember well produced the twister which hit Lubbock. Another 26 people would die there, with scores of injuries, and come \$250 million in damages.

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- * Etc.



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THANKS AGAIN,

WAYNE SISSON

Attention All 3rd -12th Grade Girls !
Lady Thunderbird Basketball Camp
July 7 - 12. New Mexico Junior College, Hobbs, New Mexico
Directed by BRENT PALMER, Women's Basketball Coach, NMJC.
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PhysiSouth Dodge

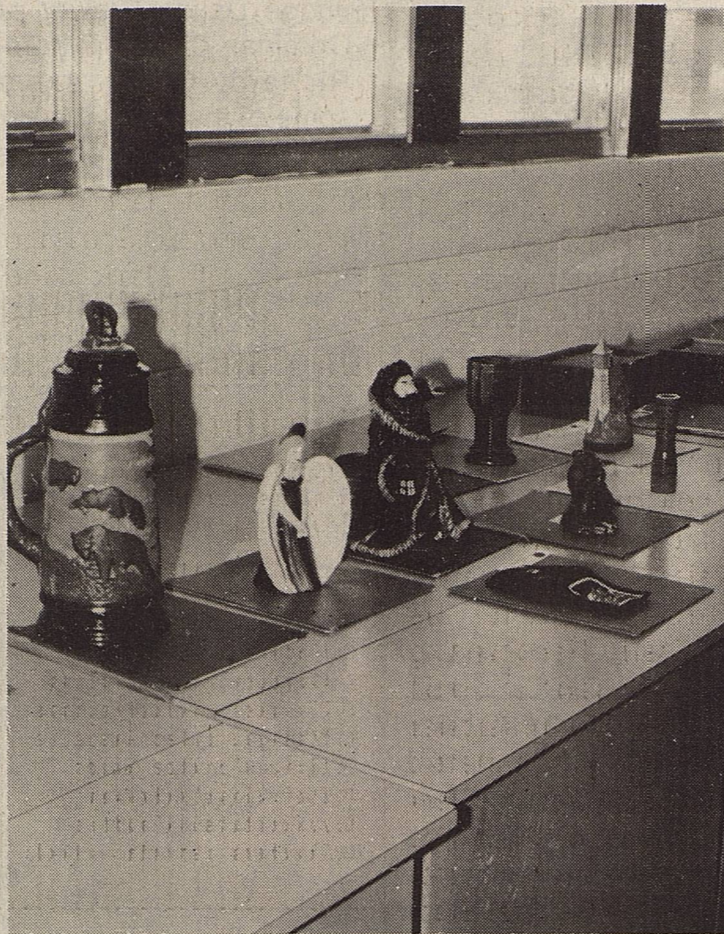
'PISD ACTIVITY PAGE'

Examples of Industrial Art Projects

The Projects pictured below are representative of the excellent Industrial Technology work exhibited in the recent State Meet at Waco, in which PHS students scored a 1st place in team point standings and 2nd place overall.



Walnut and Maple Chess table by Valerie Blair



Ceramic, Wood and Leather projects by Eward Escobar, Lee Tyson, Steve Vasquez, Cosme Casillas, Pat Tirrell and Heath Johnson



Oak Chest of Drawers by Pat Tirrell

High School Class Officers 1996-97

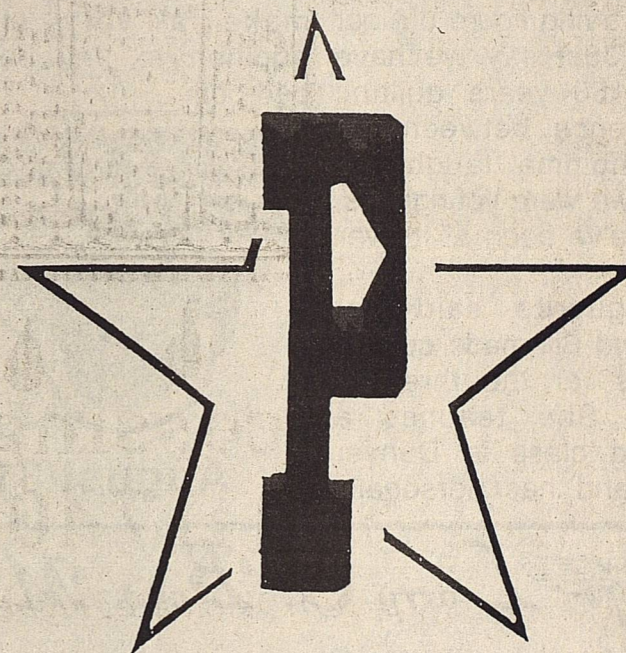
The PHS student body recently elected officers for their respective classes. Those elected are:
Freshmen:
 Pres. Jeremy Humphrey; V-Pres. Jessica Flores; Sec. Laura Morales; S.C. Boy Joshua Bell; S.C. Girl Patti Ruiz
Sophomore:
 Pres. Tommie McNabb; V-Pres. Cassie Dearing; Sec. Tandi Jones; S.C. Boy Matt Morgan; S.C. Girl Juanita

Rodriquez
Junior:
 Pres. Sandi Warren; V-Pres. Tanya Hernandez; Sec. Shawn Cullins; Treas. Yvonne Gonzales; S.C. Boy Jamie Caballero; S.C. Girl Shylah Winn
Senior:
 Pres. Yancey House; V-Pres. Marte Pierce; Sec. Sonia Avila; S.C. Boy Jacob Lester; S.C. Girl Kristi Guetersloh

Delightful Kindergarten Students Recipes

M'Leah's Spaghetti: You get these little hard sticks and put them in hot water. You buy the sauce and then pour it on the spaghetti. Then you eat it.
 Joani Bell's Banana Pudding: Get a bowl. Mix up the banana stuff. Smush the bananas. Put them in a pan. Put the cookies around the bowl. Now eat from the bowl.
 Jacob Rivera's Macaroni & Cheese: First, put the macaroni in a bowl and cook it about 5 minutes or fifteen. Then put it in a green bowl and put all the cheese on it. Then mix it up and we eat it.
 Jacob Garza's Chocolate Chip Cookies: Put that stuff in a bowl. Put it in an oven for 5 minutes. Then put chocolate chips on the cookies. Put them in a bag. Let them cool down.

PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL



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 95 Mercury Sable
 New 95 Mercury Mystique
 95 Thunderbird LX
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 95 F-150 Regular Cab
 95 Ford F-150 Reg. Cab
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 93 F-150 XLT SuperCab
 94 F-150 XLT 4x4, Reg. Cab
 95 F-150 SuperCab XLT
 95 F-150 XLT SuperCab

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 95 Windstar
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 90 Pontiac Transport
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Student of the Week



Mary Morales is the

honored student of the week. She is a Junior and is the daughter of Mr. Mrs. Angel Morales. Mary was nominated by Mrs. Banfield.

"This week's student of the week has shown me over the past 2 years, that she is serious about the quality and consistency of her work. She has been a leader in my class. I really appreciate being able to count on her. She is a kind and generous student who has contributed greatly to our school. I see success for her in the future because people recognize and reward that kind of outstanding effort," said Banfield.

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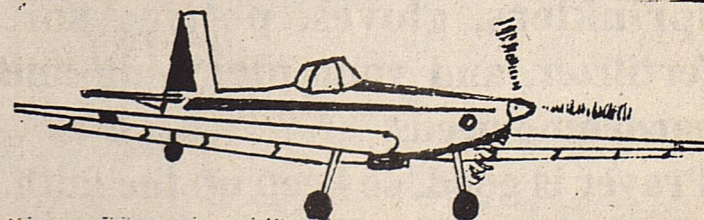
Athletic Banquet

Everyone is invited to attend the 1996
 Plains Cowboy - Cowgirl
 All Sports Banquet.

Monday, May 20, 1996
 7:00 p.m.
 Plains Cafeteria

Meal: \$6/plate

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Modern Quilting Bee Days



L-R: Tommie Brown, Marguerite Adams & Helen Beal merrily stitching away

Thursdays are needle and thread days for Marguerite Adams, Tommie Brown and Helen Beal, a talented trio of quilting buff sisters. They gather at one another's homes each Thursday, and spend the day in a mini-assembly line, turning out artistic, hand made quilts for friends and family.

Interviewed in Helen's home last week, the sisters were asked how long they had been practicing the ancient craft. Helen laughed and said, "We know what you're doing, you're trying figure out our ages. Just say we have over 150 years quilting experience between us. Our momma taught us when we were young girls, and we've been at it ever since".

Marguerite said her husband Bill made quilting frames for the three of them. She teaches a quilting class in Denver City, and has personally

completed over 150 quilts in the last 13 years.

Tommie said the weekly sessions provide them an opportunity to practice the art, as well as enjoy a bit of 'female bonding'. "We crack a lot of jokes, and pick at each other quite a bit", a totally believable statement, as they are well known in both Denver City and Plains for their wit and sense of humor.

There is nothing humorous about the quilts they create, however. The complicated patterns and multitudes of vivid colors make a very classy addition to any bed or bedroom.



August 31

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60th Anniversary For Harveys'

Roger and Ann Harvey of 3447 Amherst Dr, B212, Amarillo, TX, are celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary with a reception at the home of Norma and Eual Strickland, 3501 Goodfellow Lane, Amarillo, on May 19, 1996. The event is being hosted by their children, Norma & Eual Strickland of Amarillo and Rojanna & Orvel Ray Luster of Widorado, TX.

Harvey married the former Anna Lee Riley on May 21, 1936 at her home west of Perryton, TX. The couple previously taught and resided in rural schools in Bailey and Cochran counties, Whiteface, Abernathy, Plains, and after retirement moved to Red River, NM. They have lived in Amarillo for 2-1/2 years.

Harvey is a retired teacher and administrator after 42 years of service. Mrs. Harvey is retired from teaching after 35 years.

D.C. Students Get Mini-Lesson In Civics

Three bus loads of Denver City second grade students, 138 strong, descended on the County Courthouse Thursday morning to get a first hand lesson in County Government.

Assembled in the second floor Courtroom, the youngsters listened to County Judge Dallas Brewer and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark explain some of the many functions of their respective offices,

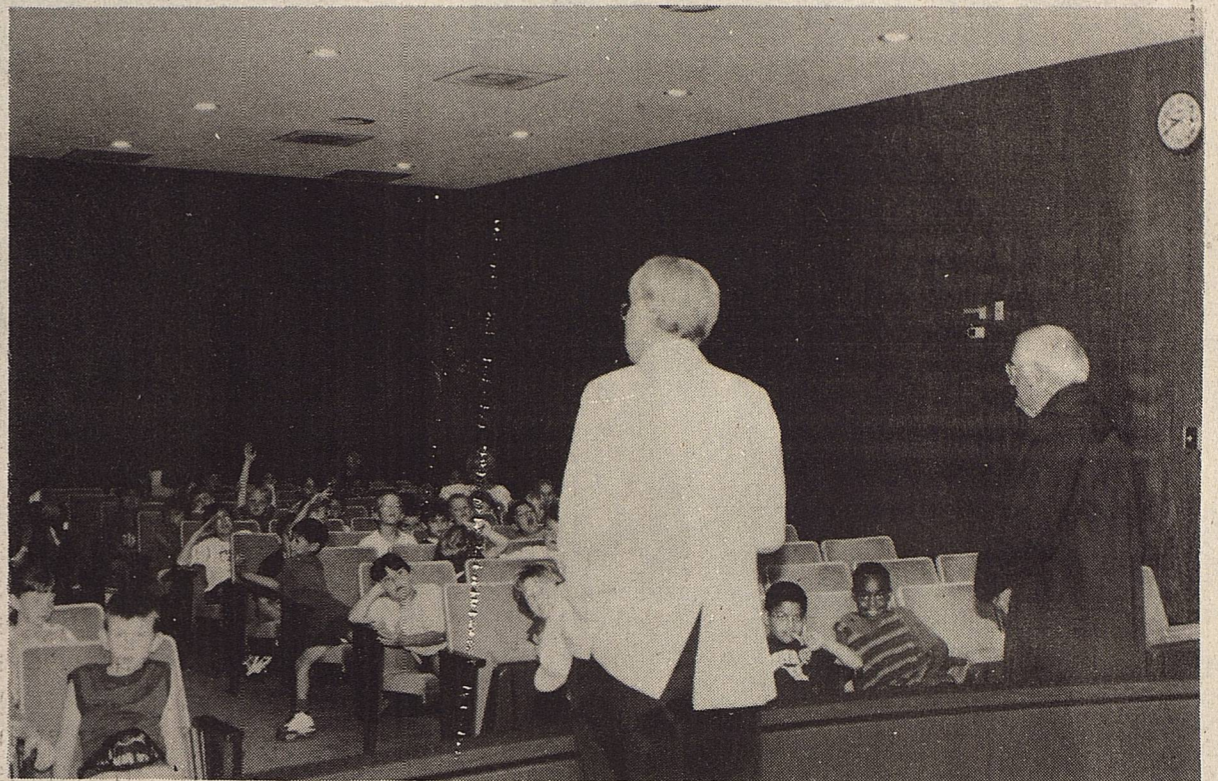
and how the the County justice system works.

The two officials encouraged questions from the students, and dozens of hands were waving for recognition at any given time. One young lady interested in county civics asked, "If you get put in jail, how do you get out?". Another young man directed the question to Judge Brewer, "What do you do with someone who

is a murderer?", and when the Judge told him, as the

County Judge, he didn't handle murder cases, that they were handled by the District Judge in District Court, the look of disappointment on the youngsters face was quite apparent.

The group was then given a tour of the first floor of the County Jail, a visit which appeared to impress all the students.



Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark, Judge Dallas Brewer answer 2nd graders questions.

Thank You

My special thanks to the entire Commissioner's Court for naming me as the interim County Clerk from Ruby Bruton's retirement June 1 until the November 5 General Election. I will continue to work hard for the people of Yoakum County, and I will be a candidate for the office in the November election.



Attention Producers

All county agricultural producers and landowners are urged to use caution when planning a controlled burn of CRP acreage, and asked to notify either the Denver City or Plains Volunteer Fire Departments in advance of any rural CRP burn.

Both fire departments have reported instances of producers burning their CRP acreage, without notifying the departments. In a number of cases, the fires were reported by neighbors or passers by unaware of the controlled nature of the burn, resulting in the fire fighters being dispatched to the scene needlessly. If the fire department is deployed on a wasted trip, a fire in the city during their absence could be a potential disaster, and results in unnecessary expense and wasted volunteer man hours.

Keeping an eye on Texas

Bigger bucks for college grads

As many as 66 percent of high school graduates in 1995 said they planned to attend college. Those who did can expect a higher salary when they enter their professions.

Percent of high school grads planning to attend college:



Education and average annual salary

Professional (doctor, lawyer, etc.)	\$74,560
Doctoral degree	\$54,904
Master's degree	\$40,368
Bachelor's degree	\$32,629
Associate degree	\$24,398
Some college, no degree	\$19,666
High school only	\$18,737
Not a high school graduate	\$12,809

SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Texas Education Agency and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Election Notice

Qualified citizens of Yoakum County desiring to apply for the position of County Clerk of Yoakum County, as a Democratic Party Candidate, to complete the term of office of current County Clerk Ruby Bruton, scheduled to retire June 1, 1996, should contact Ty Earl Powell, County Democratic Chairman, 456-3171, Mobile # 893-0655 immediately.

A candidate will be chosen by the Yoakum County Democratic Party Committee during the month of June, and will be placed on the November General Election Ballot.

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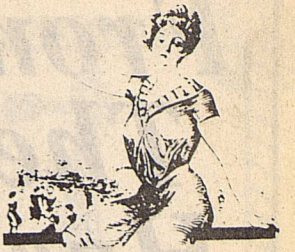
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# Femme Friends



## Library Filmtime



The weekly Filmtime on May 8, 1996 was enjoyed by talking about Sunday being Mother's Day and the end of the year Party which will be on May 22.

The children sang 3 songs, played 2 games, watched a movie and heard a book read.

There was a birthday party for children with summer birthdays. The party honored; Berkleigh Gressett, Hunter Welch, Lee Dearing, Chris Addison, Wyatt Dearing and Cody Friesen. The mothers furnished donuts

and milk.

Other children attending were: Troy Parrish, Elizabeth Cox, Alfredo Martinez, Rhaela Stall, Brett Hawthorne, Kevin John Gass, Holden Welch, Haley Welch, Ashley Hainer, Lexus Jimenez, Kenyon Powell, Alex Penner, Jasmine Witzel, Hannah Crump, Kelsey Curry, Gretta Poole, Rhaemi Stall, Jacob Brink, Isaac Doyle, Katie Dearing, Charity Hainer, Kristie Lopez, Karla Powell, Heather Penner, Lydia Witzel, Sherman Gressett, Autumn Friesen, Stephanie Addison, and Merrit Crump.

## Senior Citizens Corner

This month is "Older Americans" month. We all quality--so be kind to us. Every day is one more day to enjoy our time in this hot sun.

Be watching, soon there will be a nice "Senior Citizen" sign to show the world where we meet each day for relaxing entertainment and a good meal.

Recent visitors were

Dorothy Connally, J.C. Walker and Ida Garnes is back after a long illness.

Reba Baker is able to be back in her home.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Garage-Bake-Jewelry Sale last Saturday. It was very successful.

Our condolences to the families of Noah Maynard, Mae Weed and Mrs. Odom.

See you next week, Smitty

## Fine Arts Club Meets

The Plains Fine Arts Club met for its last meeting of the 1995-96 year on May 2, 1996. The meeting was in the Clubroom with a salad supper. There were beautiful bright pink decorations by Judy Fitzgerald. Desserts were brought by Debra Hise and Christy Brink. Members furnished an array of delicious salads. The members enjoying the meeting were: Mrs. Sue Banfield, Christy Brink, Beth Ann Cain, Melba Crutcher, Sandra Ellison, Judy Fitzgerald, Debra Hise, Michelle Hawthorne, Paula McMinn, Yvette Ramos, with Dolores Davis for the business meeting.

Judy called the business session to order with the roll call and reading of the last minutes. The Sacred Music Program was rescheduled for Thursday, May 23, at 7:30 PM at the First United Methodist Church. Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the program.

The Club will have a "Holiday Booth" at the Watermelon Festival on August 31, 1996. A hostess gift was provided by Judy Fitzgerald and Dolores Davis was the lucky lady.

The meeting was adjourned until the new Club year in September.

Sandra Ellison, Recording Secretary

## Thought For The Week

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." | John 1:9



## Bridal Shower Honors Darcey Pierce



A bridal shower honoring Darcey Lee Pierce, bride-elect of Troy Fillingim was held Sunday, April 28, in the home of Mrs. Mackey McWhirter.

Sheila Stephens presented the honoree with the bride and groom's Unity Candle, which was displayed on the registry table next to a picture of the bride and groom.

The serving table was covered with a white Battenberg Lace tablecloth. The centerpiece consisted of 3 brass Verde candles surrounded by pink silk magnolias at the base.

Pink and white petit fours along with a fruit plate and dip were served by Kathy Six and the punch was served by Jan Lester.

The hostesses pre-

sented Darcy with a corsage of fresh white and pink roses. Their gift was four place setting of Cheyenne dinnerware and a four piece matching canister set. A wooden rolling pen signed by all the hostesses was presented to Darcy as a keepsake.

Honored guests were bride and groom's mothers' Joyce Pierce of Plains and Mrs. G.G. Fillingim of New Home. The brides grandmothers Mrs. James Warren and step-grandmother Mrs. Gilbert Pierce both from Plains were also present. The groom's paternal grandmother Mrs. Gene McKee of Lubbock and maternal grandmother Mrs. J.R. Fillingim of New Home also attended. Other relatives attending were Mrs. Lela War-

ren of Plains, Mrs. Joetta Willis with daughters Tyler and Kaci from Brownfield, Janie Cowart of Plains and daughter Rhonda of Lubbock, Mrs. Carol Warren of Abilene, Mrs. Michelle Warren of Littlefield, Jennifer Day and Laci Naylor, both of Lubbock.

Many lovely gifts were displayed by the hostesses who included Mrs. Connie McWhirter, Kathy Six, Sara Kay Burrus, Jan Lester, Stephanie Blount, Brenda Canada, Carolyn Culwell, Crip Henard, Johnnie Green, Mary Pettigrew, Frankie Walker, Beth Ann Cain, Mary Jo St. Romain, Paula Cullins, Phyllis House, Willie Mae Engle, Debbie Rushing, Sue Alexander, Sandra Ellison, and Dianne Wilson of Pearsall.



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## School Calendar

May 20-25, 1996

**Monday:** Athletic Banquet, Cafeteria, 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday:** Parents Cookout for Seniors, 6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday:** Middle School & High School Final Exams

**Thursday:** Middle School & High School Final Exams

Middle School Awards Assembly, Auditorium, 2:00 p.m.

**Friday:** High School Final Exams: Early Release, 11: a.m.: Commencement, Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.

**Saturday:** Teacher Preparation Day, Employee Luncheon, Cafeteria, 11:00 a.m.



### Spring Things

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# From The Hack



"Why worry about it?" is the oft quoted question of the eternal optimist. Or is it the pessimist? I happened on some rather disturbing data in an article in the current DISCOVER Magazine. I read some statistics about the probability, or risk, of a slew of many things happening to you, or me, none of them very pleasant.

For instance, did you know our risk of contracting an infection during a stay at a U.S. hospital is 1 in 15? Yes, in a hospital! On the other hand, the risk of being struck by lightning in any given year is 1 in 750,000. OK, doesn't sound too bad, huh? But on the OTHER other hand, the chances of surviving are only 3 in 4!

The risk of being infected with flesh eating bacteria? 1 in 170,000. Risk of dying once infected; 1 in 4. Not too encouraging, that.

I was really disappointed to learn the chances of winning the famed Irish Sweepstakes are 1 in 5,245,786 chances. Not because I play the Irish game, just because the odds on winning our own Texas Lottery are usually three times higher than that! How do you get a ticket from the Emerald Isle?

The risk of a woman dying while giving birth in Ireland is 1 in 50,000, 1 in 12,500 here in the USA. There's something really strange, disturbing about this.

Here's a stat for the times; the risk of someone stealing your wallet or purse is 1 in 1,560; Your car, 1 in 145 (except, of course, while parked at the mall in Lubbock... bound to be much riskier there).

Your risk of dying from snakebite is 1 in 36 million, while only 1 in 11 million dying from earthquake or volcano eruption here in the states. I wonder if the odds are really that good in California?

You, and the rest of the world, were probably not aware of what a momen-

tous occasion this last May 8 was. It marked the 25th Wedding Anniversary of the Bride and I. Comments from the few folks who did know ranged from "My sincere condolences, Holly", to "You're a real glutton for punishment, aren't you girl"? I kept waiting for someone to approach me and tell me she is the luckiest, most fortunate female in Yoakum County. I'm still waiting.

Approaching the important day, the Bride kept slipping into our conversations phrases containing the words "Diamond Anniversary", an obvious hint at what she lusted for on the occasion. I am sorry to relate she had to settle for a Wal Mart Zircon broach and a bottle of her favorite Blackberry wine.

After a quarter century of matrimonial bliss, marred only slightly by an occasional tiny, wee, inconsequential spat or two, you know what really stands out in my mind? Our wedding day, for one; I confess before all... as the binding words were pronounced in Las Cruces, New Mexico May 8, 1971 in the Year Of Our Lord, a tiny tear of happiness dribbled down my cheek. I was sincerely overjoyed.

The other item which impresses me is the number of times, and the sheer tonnage of garbage I have handled for this woman for 25 years. She still has no idea where the dumpster is. She just points at the tied black plastic bag half a dozen times or more a day, and I am once again on my way with the grist which feeds our County Landfill. I once told her I had marked her a trail to the stupid dumpster with M & M's, one of her favorites, but she refused my bait... she said the birds had already eaten them all, and she'd get lost.

I swear this is true; When we retire for the night, after a Senior Citizen version of a semi-torrid good night kiss, soon as I begin to grind my teeth and snore

# Hood's Texas Brigade



In 1861, many Texas communities and counties organized local militia units, following the state's secession from the Union and alignment with the Confederacy. When the Civil war erupted, the outmanned south needed every volunteer it could raise to man its army, and Texans responded admirably. In late summer of 1861, some 32 companies of Texas volunteers from 24 different counties were assembled in Virginia, and organized into the First, Fourth and Fifth Texas Volunteer Infantry Regiment, the at first named Texas Brigade.

It would gain its first fame and glory, and a new name, on June 27, 1862, in the crucial Gaine's Mill battle near Richmond Virginia. Gen. Robert E. Lee watched unit after unit of his assault forces fail to take a heavily fortified and defended Union position, when he saw approaching a rag tag looking column of men led by Brigadier John Bell Hood, in the vanguard of Stonewall Jackson's Army of the Shenandoah Valley. Lee asked Bell if he

..... (so she says), I know she must get up, sneak out and gather up all the neighborhood garbage, bag it, and leave it to greet me next morning when I go out on the deck with my coffee. At least 4 or 5 bags accumulate every night. The dirty, rotten tooth fairy has struck again.

I now know why so many older men are so worn down looking, stoop shouldered, and smell bad.... It's from carrying all that filthy stuff.

Just kidding, dear Bride. I still love you.

could take the position, and Bell curtly replied, "I shall try!"

When darkness finally fell, the Texans were firmly in control, but not without fearsome costs. The Fourth Texas Regiment, led by Hood, had one of every two enlisted men in it's ranks killed or wounded, half it's company grade officers and ALL of the field grade officers were casualties. The Texas Brigade would have 570 less men after it's first major battle. From that point on, it would be known as 'Hood's Brigade'.

John Bell Hood was a West Point graduate in 1853. He served in the U.S. Cavalry on the Texas frontier from 1856 to 1861. He resigned his commission in the U.S. Army, and was commissioned a 1st Lt. in the Confederate Army in early 1861. He was one of those rare officers who earned the admiration and respect of both his superiors, and the men under his command. Hood was badly wounded twice during the war. At Gettysburg, his left arm was shattered by shrapnel and remained useless the rest of his life. At the Battle of Chicamauga, a Minie ball mangled his right leg so badly it had to be amputated. He refused to be sent home, and would have to be strapped to his horse' saddle the rest of the war. He would be promoted to full General in 1864, and given command of a full Division. His Brigade would carry his name until Lee Surrendered his army at Appomatox Court House in 1865.

Estimates show about 4,500 men fought under the battle flags of the three Texas Regiments in Hood's Brigade. At Appomatox, only 476 were left to surrender.

In major battles at Gaine's Mill, Second Manassas, Antietam, Gettysburg, Chicamauga, The Wilder-ness, Knoxville and Suffolk, killed, wounded or missing men totalled 3,470 men. Robert E Lee thought so highly of the Texans he wrote a Texas Senator, after the battle of Antietam, "with regard to the new Texas regiments you promised, I need them very much. I rely on those we have in all the tight places, and feel I have to call on them too often. They have fought grandly and nobly and we must have

more of them. With a few more regiments such as Hood has now, as an example of daring and bravery, I would feel more confident of the coming campaign". Lee, once reviewing his army with a visiting British Army Colonel, had Hood's Brigade tattered appearance questioned by the Colonel, particularly the ragged seats of their trou-sers. "Never mind their raggedness, Colonel, the enemy never sees the backs of my Texans", a term of affection and pride Lee often used in reference to the Brigade.

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Cowboy Country News  
 P.O. Box 179  
 Plains, TX 79355  
 Office 806-456-8451  
 Fax 806-456-2010  
 Published each Wednesday, Plains, Texas  
 by Holly and Gary Dyer. Subscription Rate \$15.00 per year.  
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