

Cowboy Country News



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

Volume V11, Issue 39, June 13, 2001

Summertime Is Wet Fun Time!



The county swimming pool in Stanford Park was a mini-sea of youngsters enjoying the cool water last Thursday, when afternoon temperatures reached 96 degrees. The pool opened June 5. Current hours have the pool closed for cleaning Mondays, then open noon to 6 PM Tuesday thru Saturday, and from 2 to 5 PM Sundays.

Coach Todd Davis is managing the pool this year. He reported a new innovation for this summer's swimmers; The pool can be covered with a solar blanket, which captures the sun's heat and helps warm the water for more comfortable swimming. The showers in the dressing rooms also have hot water this year.

Helping Coach Davis keep an eye on swimmers of all ages are lifeguards Aaron Cain, Lexi Warren, Kelly Bowers, Michaela and Moriah Traweck, Allison Butler, Jarod Newland and Keri Hansen. *Come on in - the water's FINE*



Round Three Of "Weevil War" underway

Early trap count numbers encouraging

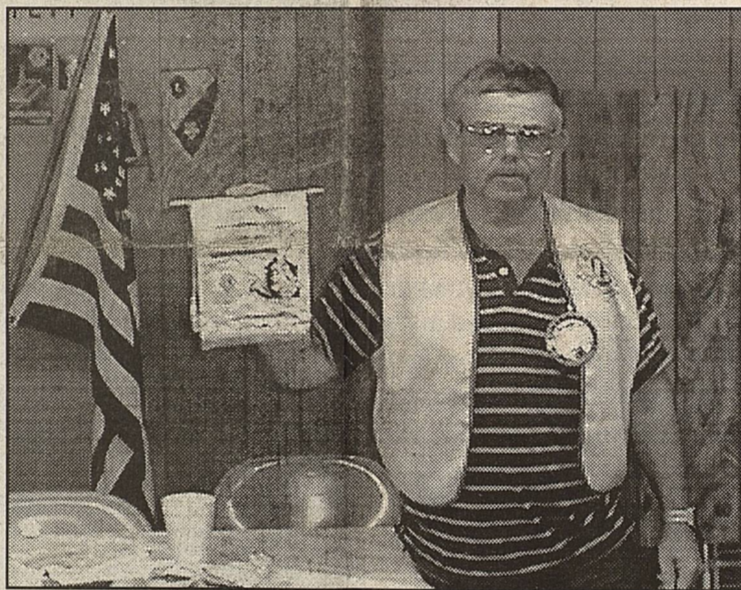
The first aerial application of insecticide on area cotton fields for eradication of the boll weevil pest was launched here June 6. Darrel Dusek, Western High Plains Boll Weevil Eradication Zone Manager, reported 231,715 acres of cotton have been mapped in the Plains district, with a little more than 200,000 acres planted to date. Field personnel have placed some 24,000 weevil monitoring traps around area fields, about 85 percent of the planned trap deployment.

"The initial numbers of trapped weevils are looking good. The average number of weevils per trap so far this season is well below the numbers

at this time last year," Dusek said. (See chart on Page 2.)

Currently ten full-time personnel and 47 seasonal field personnel are employed in the Plains District of the WHP Zone. They will complete placing traps around all planted fields, and daily monitor the number of weevils found in each trap. Dusek said the trap count is a sure indicator the weevil eradication is being successful, and the district is right on schedule for an eventual total eradication of the destructive insect. He urged any cotton producers who have planted fields on which weevil traps have not been deployed to immediately contact his office.

Local Lion wins contest



Butch Mack, First Vice President of Plains Lions Club, displays banner awarded to him at a recent Lions District T2T meeting in Lubbock. Lion Mack competed in a district wide membership drive to expand the ranks of area Lions Clubs. Mack told club members last Thursday he recruited 39 new members in the local club during the drive, and the second place contestant in the drive accounted for 12 new members. For his efforts, Mack received two round-trip tickets from Southwest Airlines for any destination on their routes. Mack will be sworn in as Club President this month when current President Debbie Rushing's term of office expires. There are now over 50 members in the local club

Mediation Services Available To Ag Producers

With recent damage to crops on the South Plains due to severe weather, many area farmers will be filing insurance claims in the coming weeks. After several years of poor growing conditions and low cotton prices, the current situation might place many local farmers in a difficult financial position if any of their claims are denied or if crop adjusters make an unfavorable determination of the damage. The South Plains Association of Governments' Texas Rural Mediation Services may be able to help area farmers by providing arbitration and/or mediation services for any disputes that might arise between producers and their crop insurance providers.

The South Plains Association of Governments in Lubbock was

designated by former Governor Bush to provide USDA media. The statewide program allows individuals involved with selected USDA programs to request mediation or arbitration if they have a dispute with the federal agency, farm creditors, or insurance providers.

Texas Rural Mediation Services provides Texas farmers and ranchers with a confidential way to work out distressed or delinquent loans, insurance disputes, and resolve other USDA disputes. Use of these services can litigation, and bankruptcy.

Any area farmers who need information regarding arbitration or mediation services should contact Texas Rural Mediation Services at 806-762-8721 or 1-800-858-1809.

PHS Cheerleaders ready to whoop it up in 2001-02 school year



PHS Varsity Cheerleaders for 2001-02 pose before the Cowboy monument. This photo will be used in the upcoming issue of Top Of Texas Football magazine. Shown left to right are Jill Gray, Keri Hansen, Jessica Rodriguez, Allison Butler, Jamie Covarrubias and Staci Alldredge.

Planning for future water needs

An initial blueprint outlining how the state plans to provide for an 18 percent increase in water needs by all Texans - including municipalities, manufacturers, agriculture and other users during the next 50 years - is found in 16 draft regional water plans currently under review.

As an ex officio member of each of the 16 planning groups, the Texas Department of Agriculture had input on each of the regional water plans submitted to the Texas Water Development Board. A comprehensive statewide plan will be completed January 5, 2002.

TDA's input ensured agriculture's future water needs were not overlooked, Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs said.

"All Texans must have an ample water supply, but satisfying this demand should not come at the expense of agriculture and the rural communities relying on farm and ranch income," Combs said.

Seven Regional Water Planning Groups, particularly those lo-

cated in the High Plains and other large ag production areas, were very cognizant of agriculture's water needs and addressed these issues in their future plans, Combs said.

For other regional plans, TDA's recommendations to local groups focused on three areas;

- * continuing to help agriculture and urban users conserve water;
- * developing and funding more water-enhancement strategies including brush control, drought tolerant plants, cloud seeding and desalinization;
- * stressing that mitigation be provided for agricultural production where proposed new reservoirs may cover substantial acreage.

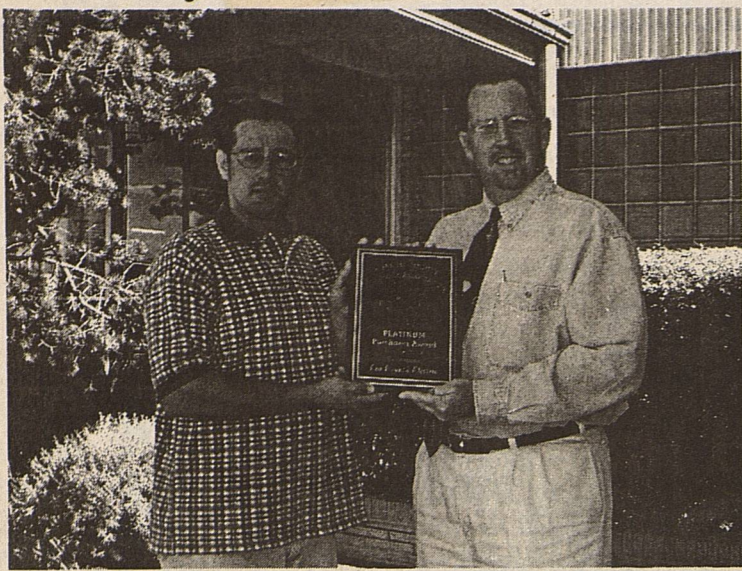
TDA encouraged many regional planning groups to include in their requests for more state funded incentives for improved irrigation efficiency, brush control, conservation tillage and cloud seeding projects. TDA also recommended water planning groups statewide pursue irrigation management strategies such as one imple-

mented by the North Plains Underground Water Conservation District in eight Panhandle counties. The North Plains Potential Evapotranspiration Network is part of the district's plan to meet future water needs of the Northern High Plains.

Currently the network implements conservation tillage methods and cloud seeding, but with continued research and education, the district will work with area producers making recommendations on crop types and varieties, irrigation use schedules, and efficient irrigation methods.

For those water planning groups recommending building seven major and ten minor new reservoirs to meet future water needs, TDA strongly urged mitigation be provided to affected producers. "removing agricultural land to develop reservoirs can severely affect the economies of rural communities," Combs said. "I urge any reservoir construction plan to take into consideration the interests of ag producers." * Courtesy Texas Agriculture Today, TDA newsletter & written by Ramona Nye.

LCEC recognized by Yoakum County Livestock Association



Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc. was recently recognized by the Yoakum County Livestock Association as their top livestock purchaser for 2001. The Cooperative has been the top contributor for two of the last three years. Allan Brown, Manager of Marketing and Member Services accepts the Platinum Purchaser award from Association President Jimmy Bearden.

Grand Jury Selection List For The 121st District Court On June 18, 2001 At 9:00 A.M.

A Grand Jury selection will be held for the 121st District Court of Yoakum County, Texas, on June 18, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. in the Courtroom at the Courthouse in Plains, Texas.

The following citizens have been summoned to appear:

Plains and Tokio Residents

Cruz Torres Avila, Mark Lee Lewis, Linda Kennedy, Juanita Torrez Martinez, Bill V. Matta, John E. Banfield, Faye Nelms, Greg McCravey, Steve J. Brown, Abelardo Loya, H. Dwane Talley, Jo Ann Barron, Vaughn Culwell, Glenda Stewart Hobbs, Donna Lou Bowers, Bridget Calandra Bernal, Diana Flores

Denver City Residents

Raul Santillan, Rudy Joe Silva, Sandra Deleon Roblez, Adolf Vasquez, Doroteo G. Arguijo, Marcia A. Clinton, Nicole Dawn Brewer, Marvin Emory Hobbs, Vicente Torres, Blanca V. Devalenzuela, Gene Hudgins, Freddie Jay Davila, Resa Hanneman, Daune Allison Rodgers, Leslie James Eford, Nanette Faye Mendoza, Janie Lisa Mancha, Patricia Curtis, David Nevarez, Bruce Kirk Patterson, Arlie Gray Jordan, Merlie Robinett Wall, Russell Wayne Dial, Andrea Dawn Johnson, Winnifred G. Huffman, Carlos Ramirez, Shanna Suzanne Cook, Francisco Arturo Yanez, Darriel Craig Berry, David Bruton, Karen Reed, Irinco M. Salazar, Dalton D. Dean, Brandon Shay Gruben, Francisco Escalante, Pedro Solorzano Pereda, Donna McHam Ocheskey, Thelesa Smith, Rogelio Villegas, Sidney C. Reinert, Brenda Dianne Smith, Larry Eugene Williams, Mary Ann Sparks, Cheryl Marie Sonnenberg, Francisco Bravo Perez, Debra Barrientez, Claudia Bettie Ferguson, James R. Dewlen

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

Are you over 55?

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Washington DC (Special) An amazing new report out today reveals thousands of little-known Government give-aways for people over 55. Records show that each year, many of these benefits are NOT given away simply because people don't know they're available... and the government doesn't advertise them. There are details about getting free prescription drugs, dental care, legal help, free money to remodel your home, how to get paid to travel, and much, much more. Many of these fabulous freebies can be yours regardless of your income or assets. You can learn more by simply writing for MORE information. To get your copy, send your name and address today to: Free for Seniors, Dept. FS1604, 718 - 12th St. N.W., Box 24500, Canton, Ohio 44701. To help us cover printing and postage, \$1 would be appreciated, but not necessary.

WHP Trapping Information Avg. Weevils Per Trap

Week ending	2001	2000	1999
25-Mar	0.001		
1-Apr	0.050		
8-Apr	0.074	0.004	
15-Apr	0.021	0.066	
22-Apr	0.066	0.621	
29-Apr	0.025	0.812	
6-May	0.018	0.629	
13-May	0.063	3.439	
20-May	0.071	0.329	
27-May	0.061	0.291	
4-Jun	0.035	0.542	
11-Jun		1.438	
18-Jun		0.612	
25-Jun		0.490	
2-Jul		0.573	
9-Jul		0.399	
16-Jul		0.169	
23-Jul		0.147	1.090
30-Jul		0.252	3.000
Aug. 6		0.134	3.000
Aug. 13		0.223	5.000
Aug. 20		0.268	11.000
Aug. 27		0.535	18.000
Sept. 3		0.320	14.720
Sept. 10		0.780	11.290
Sept. 17		1.070	12.090
Sept. 24		2.830	21.490
Oct. 1		0.522	20.760
Oct. 8		1.410	15.680
Oct. 15		0.902	23.760
Oct. 22		1.350	20.750
Oct. 29		0.961	46.160
Nov. 5		1.090	20.080
Nov. 12		0.402	25.180
Nov. 19		0.159	31.010
Nov. 26		0.047	11.230
Dec. 3		0.069	6.460

Drug, DWI Cases Heard In District Court

Two criminal cases were heard in 121st Judicial District Court June 4, with Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding.

Adolfo Alvarez, aka Adolfo Lujan, pled guilty to a third or more DWI cause. He received a ten year prison sentence, suspended and probated ten years. He was fined \$1500 and must meet \$237 costs with time payments. He will serve 160 hours community service, be confined in a substance abuse felony treatment facility at least 90 days but no more than one year, attend weekly AA meetings, complete the DWI repeat offender program, surrender his license 180 days, and install an interlock device on any driven vehicle. Bill Helwig was his attorney, and Robert Shugart, DPS, was investigating officer.

Michael Lee Stafford pled guilty to a third degree felony (enhanced) charge of possession of methamphetamine in a drug free zone. A ten year prison sentence was suspended and probated ten years. Time payments will meet a fine of \$1500 and \$222 court costs. He will perform 160 hours community service and surrender his license one year, must attend weekly AA (narcotics) meetings, and report to the Managed Care Center in Lubbock. Warren New represented the defendant, and Rick Dickson and Jason Johnson, Llano Estacado Drug Task Force, were investigating officers.

Weevil Airwar Underway



A G & B aerial application aircraft prepares to leave the hangar with a load of malathion to combat bollweevil pests in area cotton fields. This scene will be repeated hundreds of times when the full eradication effort is underway.

Monica Flores receives degree

In services held at the First Baptist Church of Lubbock on June 9, Monica Guzman Flores graduated with honors from the Lubbock Campus of Wayland Baptist College. Miss Flores earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Occupational Education. She is a former graduate of Plains High, and is the daughter of Joe and Stella Flores of Plains.

Watermelon Round Up status Meeting to be held Thursay, June 21, 7:00 PM in the Clubroom of the old Plains Courthouse. All committee members and volunteers are urged to ATTEND!!

Historic Flags On Display At Texas State History Museum

Four historic Texas flags are flying high once again after their preservation two years ago through the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission. One was sewn by a general's daughter, another carried by Mexican troops when the Alamo was stormed. All can be viewed on the second floor of the new Bob Bullock Texas History Museum in exhibits depicting the era in which they originally were flown or carried.

The four flags are part of a group of 23 that have long resided in the Texas State Library and Archives Commission in need of a variety of repairs. Through the support of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in partnership with Friends of the THC, more than \$217,000 was raised from foundations, private individuals and corporations to conserve these treasures.

The flags include: The Guerrero

Battalion flag which was carried at the fall of the Alamo; the Matamoros Battalion flag named for Mariano Matamoros, a Mexican hero who served with Santa Anna in one of the units that stormed the Alamo; the First Texas Infantry, Hood's Brigade Lone Battle flag carried in the 1861 Battle of Anietam where nine Texas standard bearers fell carrying this flag; and the Shield and Star flag which came from an unidentified Texas unit and is believed to be the original flag of the 6th Texas Infantry.

The flags will remain on display in Austin until October. They are scheduled to join nine other restored historic flags in an exhibit at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts January through April 2002. For more information contact Linda Lee with Friends of the Texas Historical Commission at 512-936-2241.



This strange looking cloud formation was spotted one morning last week. An observer quipped, "It looks like a giant cotton candy exploded." The formation produced no unusual weather.

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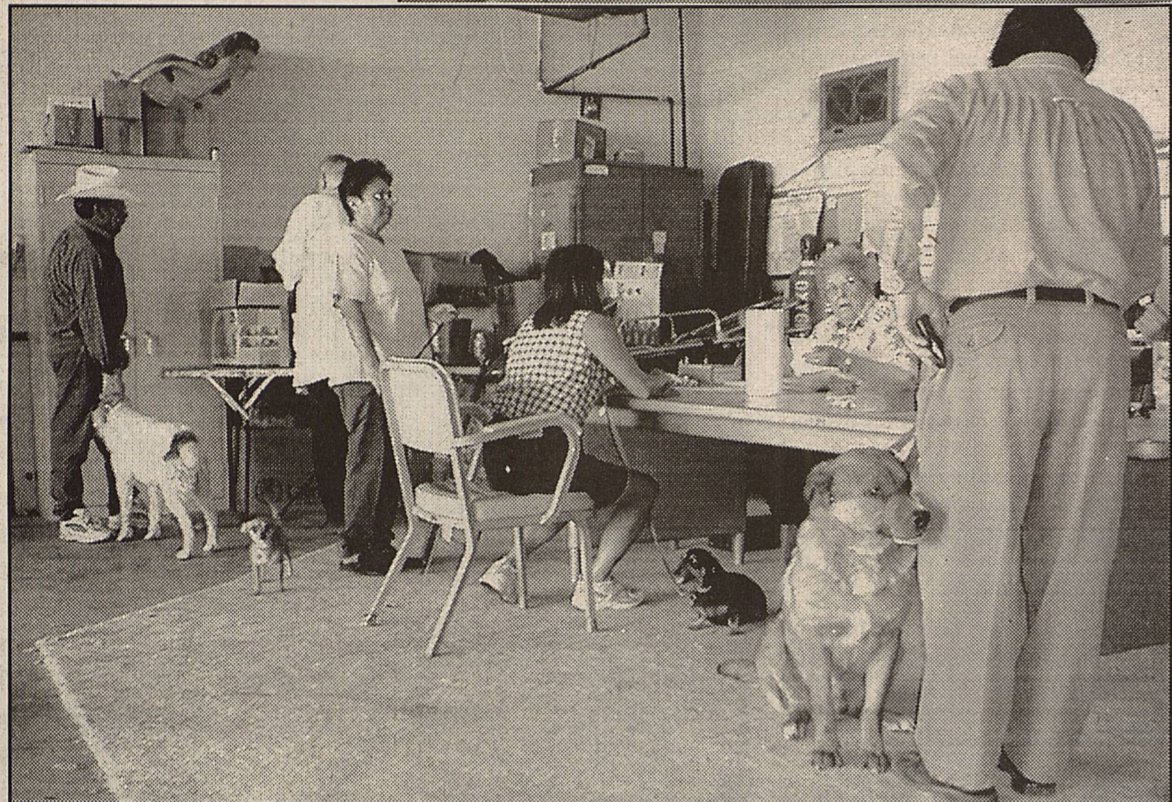
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Growl, bark, hiss & purr time at City Hall

The EMS quarters at City Hall swarmed for five hours Saturday with residents and their animal friends. Pet lovers lined up before the 9 AM start with pedigreed animals, and some with questionable backgrounds for Plains' annual pet vaccination day. During our Photo Op stay, the many dogs and cats were remarkably well behaved, although a few of the felines looked as if they would enjoy jumping on some of the smaller dogs, and the larger dogs appeared relishing a mouthful of cat. Doctor Faulkenberry inoculated a total of 94 animals during the day.



Tired of high paid teachers?

I, for one, am sick and tired of those high paid teachers. Their hefty salaries are driving up taxes, and they only work nine or ten months a year! It's time we put things in perspective and pay them for what they do, baby sit!

We can get that for less than minimum wage. That's right. I would give them \$3.00 dollars an hour and only the hours they worked, not any of that silly planning time. That would be \$15.00

a day. Each parent should pay \$15.00 a day for these teachers to baby sit their children.

Now, how many do they teach in a day, maybe 25. Then that's 15X25=\$375.00 a day. But remember they only work 180 days a year! I'm not going to pay them for any vacations.

Let's see...that's 375X180=\$67,500.00. Hold on, my calculator must need batteries! What about those special teachers or the ones

with masters degrees? Well, we could pay them minimum wage just to be fair. Let's round it off to \$6.00 an hour. That would be \$6.00 times 5 hours times 25 children times 180 days - \$135,000.00 per year. Wait a minute, there is something wrong here!!!

Lea County Electric sends capital credit notices

On June 1, Lea County Electric Cooperative mailed annual Capital Credit Allocation Notices to each of its members. The purpose of the notice is only to inform the Cooperative's members of their allocation or share of capital credits earned in 2000. The notice is NOT a bill, NOR can it be cashed or otherwise redeemed for utility services. The amount represents the member's share of the Cooperative's margins earned over and above expenses for the preceding fiscal year. The credit is held by the Cooperative to ensure its financial stability and reduce the need to finance debt until such time as the Cooperative's board of trustees approves its return to members.

Members are reminded that if they reached the age of sixty-six during 2000, they are eligible to receive these monies allocated to them on their current Capital Credit Allocation Notice by stopping by any one of the Cooperative's offices in Lovington, Tatum or Plains, filling out a request form and providing proof of age. For more information, contact the Cooperative, 800-520-5232 or 505-396-3631.

OFFICE ARITHMETIC

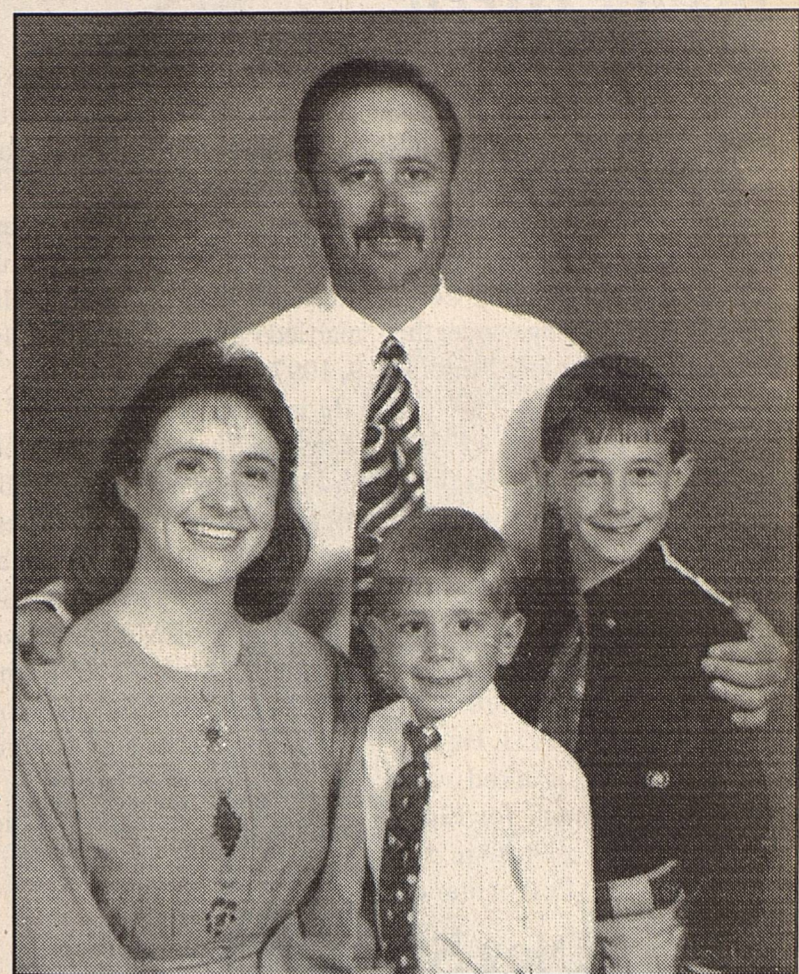
Smart boss + smart employee = profit

Smart boss + dumb employee = production

Dumb boss + smart employee = promotion

Dumb boss + dumb employee = overtime

Former Resident Appointed Principal



Shaun, Keri, Kyle, and Travis Barnett

Shaun Barnett has accepted the position of High School Principal of Mexia, ISD beginning

June 1, 2001. Shaun is the son of former Plains residents Jim and Mae Barnett. He was born in Denver City and attended Plains school, graduating in 1983. Shaun graduated from Angelo State University in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education. He received his Master of Education Degree from Sul Ross University in 1999. Shaun was assistant high school baseball coach in Brownfield, head baseball coach in Olton and also in Gorman before becoming assistant high school prin-

icipal for Mexia High School in 1999.

Shaun married Keri Shults of Brownfield in 1985. They have two children, Travis, 11 and Kyle, 6. Keri is the daughter of Kermit and Janice Shults of Brownfield. She received her Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from Angelo State University in 1987. Keri taught English in Mertzon, Denver City, Brownfield, Olton and Gorman before their move to Mexia in 1999. She received her Librarian certification while living in Gorman and is now head librarian at Mexia High School.

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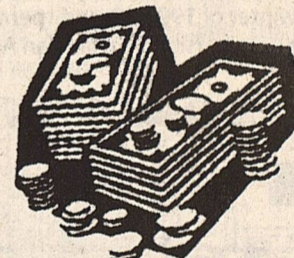
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Obituaries

Bennie Green

Services for Bennie Joe "Ben" Green, 63, of Midland were held at 10:00 am. Tuesday, June 5, at Buelah Primitine Baptist Church with Troy Barrington officiating.

Burial was at Necessity Cemetery in Breckenridge under the direction of Pipkin Funeral Home of Midland.

He died Friday, June 1, 2001 in Midland Memorial Hospital. He was born December 28, 1937 in Brownfield and graduate from Plains High School in 1956. He attended Texas Tech for two years. He lived in Lubbock for 14 years before moving to Midland in 1971. He was a salesman, he worked with Morgan Buildings for eight years, American Music for three years, Performance

Honda for five years and most recently was a broker associate at McDonald's Realtors for four years.

He married Juanelle Clanahan June 19, 1955 in Tokio. She died February 23, 1997. He married Patsy Hawkins on July 9, 1997.

He is survived by his wife, 1 daughter Sherrie Kay Ireland and her husband Lee of Lubbock, two sons, Tommy Green and his wife Felecia of Benecia, California, Ken Green and his wife Robyn of Midland, five granddaughters, Kristin, Courtney and Caitlin Green of California and Kayln and Shelby Green of Midland.

His parents Josie and Bennie Green preceded him in death.

Frank Diaz Sr.

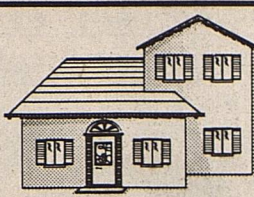
Funeral service for Frank Diaz Sr., 45 years, 9 months, and 19 days, of Levelland, Texas were held Friday, June 8, 2001 at 10:00 am. at Head Family Funeral Chapel with Minister Emilo Saucedo, of Apostolic Church of Wolfforth officiating. Burial followed in the City of Levelland Cemetery.

He died Tuesday, June 5, 2001, at Covenant Medical Center. He was born August 16, 1955, in Idalou to Isidro and Susana Diaz. He has been a life long Texan and native of Levelland. On July 23, 1972 he married Rosa Marta Escobar in Levelland, and moved from Lubbock to Levelland in 1973 where he and his family have

been ever since. Mr. Diaz has worked for Corrosion Control out of Levelland as a shop foreman for 29 years. He has been a member of the Wolfforth Apostolic Church for many years.

Survivors include Parents: Isidro and Susana Diaz, of Levelland.; Wife Rosa Diaz of Levelland Sons; Tony Perez of Plains, Frank Diaz Jr., Eric Diaz, and Aaron Diaz of Levelland; Daughters: Kathy Escobar and Jennifer Diaz both of Levelland, Brothers: Victor Diaz, Isidro Diaz, both of Levelland, and Steven Diaz of Dallas, Sisters: Nina Fuentes of Levelland and Gloria Charles of Smyer and 10 grandchildren.

Real Estate News For Consumers



TEXAS PROPERTY OWNERS COME OUT WINNERS ON HEELS OF 77TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

AUSTIN — Texas was founded on the principle of protecting private property, and property owners are among the big winners now that the 77th Texas Legislature is over.

John Eckstrum, chairman of the Texas Association of Realtors, credits state lawmakers for protecting the rights of consumers during the 2001 session, which ended May 28.

Eckstrum cited these issues as examples from the 77th session:

- **Home warranties.** In Texas and nationwide, it is common practice for a home seller to provide a residential service contract (home warranty) as a benefit to the buyer. However, because of a quirk in Texas law, homebuyers could unknowingly have their coverage rescinded during the first three days after closing. Legislation championed by the Realtors association fixes the problem, ensuring that home warranties become effective immediately when a buyer takes possession of a home.
- **Homeowner associations.** In several highly publicized cases, Texans lost their homes to foreclosure because they fell behind in paying mandatory-membership homeowner association fees, or violated other association rules. Texas Realtors supported legislation to curb abuses by overly aggressive associations, implementing safeguards that take effect before the associations can foreclose.
- **Manufactured housing.** By the late 1990s, one in three housing starts in Texas was a manufactured home, according to the Real Estate Center

at Texas A&M. As manufactured-home owners begin to trade up, move or look for new housing, often they find it difficult to resell partly because of unfavorable financing terms on their original purchase. The Texas Association of Realtors wanted legislation requiring consumer disclosures on financing terms, hook-up fees and other costs related to buying a manufactured home. Legislation with those terms along with other consumer protections passed.

- **Electronic signatures.** Passage of the Texas Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (UETA) paves the way for legally valid electronic signatures. Once the remaining few technological and practical hurdles have been cleared, Texas Realtors and their clients will be able to conduct real estate transactions almost entirely via the Internet, saving consumers time and headaches.
- **Mortgage brokers.** During the previous legislative session in 1999, Realtors, consumers and mortgage brokers worked together to implement a licensing system and regulatory authority over mortgage brokerage businesses in Texas. This session, they improved the existing law by instituting standardized forms for prequalifying and commitment letters, which will help consumers to better understand the loan application process.

All of these new bills will become law Sept. 1, unless vetoed by the governor. For more information, visit the Texas Association of Realtors' Web site at www.texasrealestate.com.

Yoakum County Outlaws Win



Back Row Left: Natalie Franco, Shoni Fuqua, Coach Soli Quintanilla, Regina Morales, and Felictia. Fron Row Left: Alice Curtis, Katie Winn, and Lauren Davis. Not pictured are: Coach Jim Quintanilla, Meghan Garcia, and Randi Warren.

Springs, Co., in July 20-24. The girls will have fund raisers and also take donations so they can travel to Colorado and play in the National Tournament. The team is made up of girls from Plains and Denver City. The Plains girls are: Lauren Davis, Alice Curtis, Meghan Garcia, Regina Morales, and Katie Winn. From Denver City are: Shoni Fuqua, Natalie Franco, and Randi Warren. "The team is working hard," coaches Jim and Soli Quintanilla said.

The Yoakum County Outlaws a girls A.A.U. Division II and under basketball team. The team won back to back tournament the weekend of May 11-12 and won the Denver City Basketball tournament. The weekend of May 18-20 the team traveled to Lubbock and won a tournament there. The weekend of June 1-3 the girls traveled again to Lubbock and placed and also qualified to go to National BCI Tournament which will be held in Colorado

County Agents bring summer safety program to youngsters



Over three dozen youngsters attended a four hour Summer Safety Program in Stanford Park last Saturday. County Extension agents Debbie Pollard, FCF, and Arlan Gentry, Ag, were coordinators of the program. Safety demonstrations included home and weather safety, preparing a first aid kit, and tips to avoid skin cancer. Kenneth McGinty demonstrated tips of farm and ranch safety around machinery.



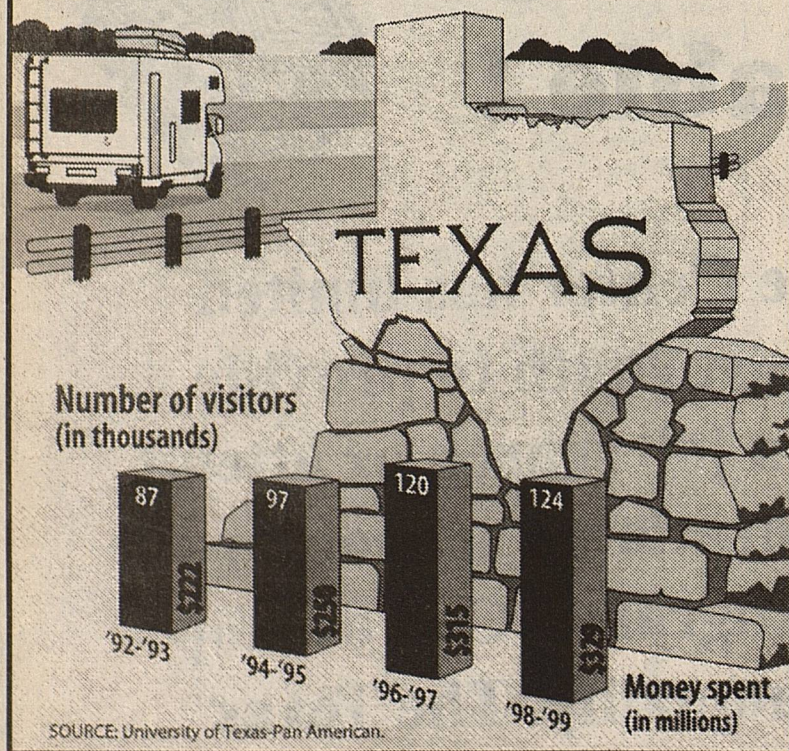
Arlan Gentry and Deputy Larry Murphree demonstrated the importance of seat belts with a roll-over simulator and crash dummies, and Murphree talked on bike safety



Lea County Electric employees Manuel Estrada and Dare Walker used this farm mockup to show the perils of electricity, and demonstrated pole climbing and the Cooperatives' bucket truck.

Flocking to Texas

About 124,000 Winter Texans visited the Rio Grande Valley during the winter of 1998-99, and spent \$329 million, according to a study by the University of Texas-Pan American Tourism Research Center.



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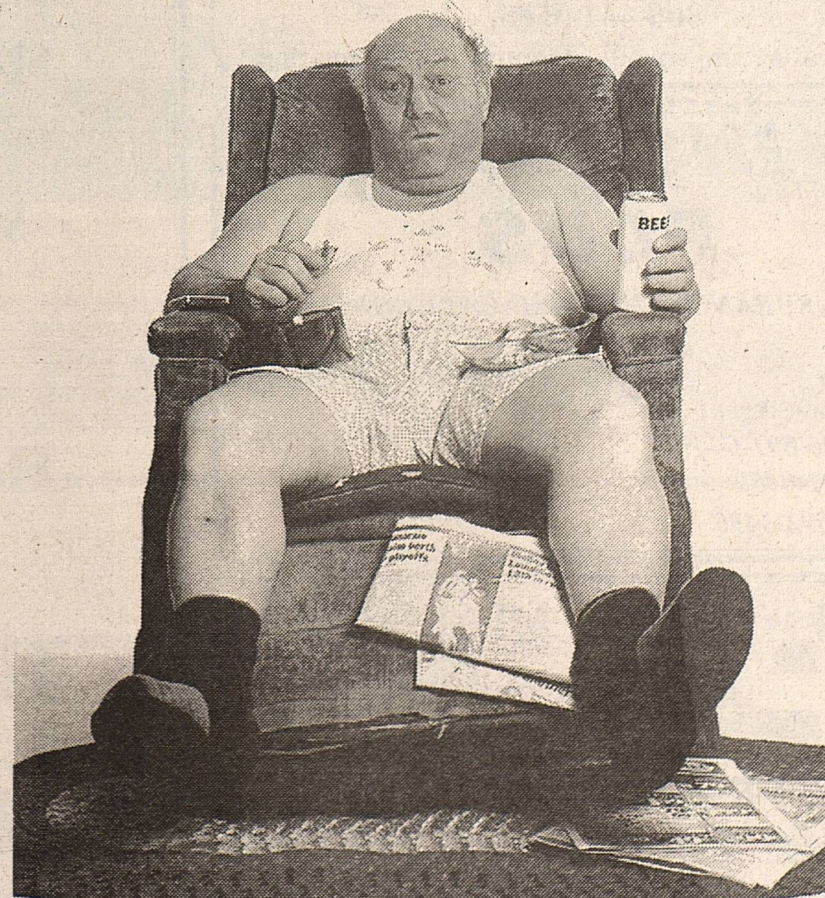
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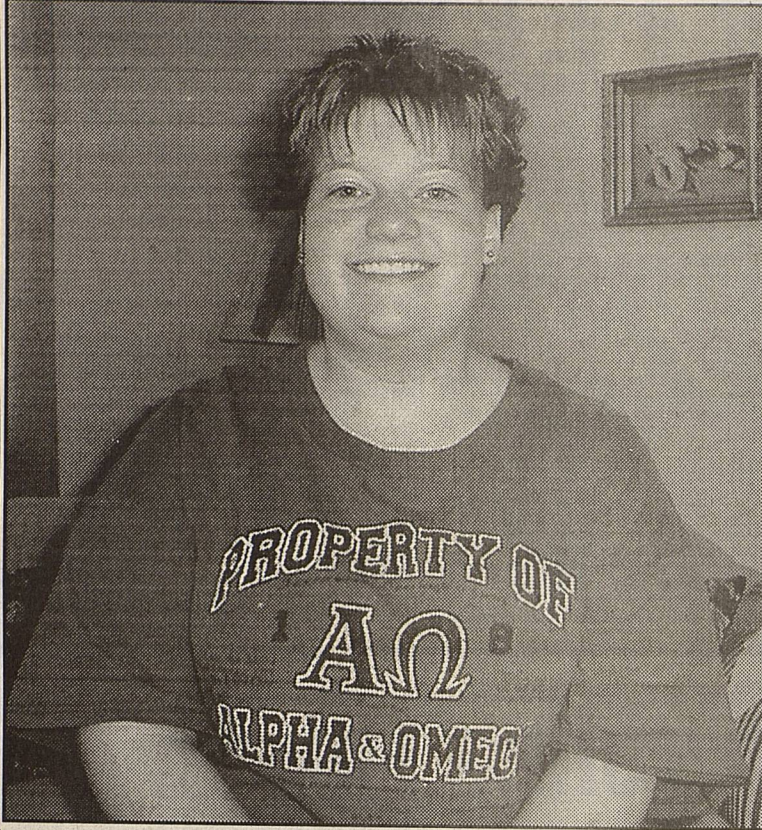
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Lifelines & Styles

Becky Wilmeth Goes To Girls State



Becky Wilmeth, a Junior at PHS has been selected as a candidate to the annual American Legion Auxiliary Bluebonnet Girls State Leadership Meeting, co-sponsored by TSA MOGA Study Club. Becky, daughter of Jet and Gay Wilmeth, Vice President of her Junior Class and a member of the National Honor Society and is involved in extracurricular activities including tennis, UIL current events and accounting and is an active member of Plains 4-H Club. She is a member of the First United Methodist Church and a volunteer for vacation bible school. In the event she is unable to attend Girls State, Arasely Luna will serve as alternate.

The Girls State Leadership Meeting was held June 12-21, 2001 on the campus of Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, Texas. During the meeting 586 citizens, 22 from the South Plains area underwent intense programs to make them aware of the importance of understanding and exercising their duties, rights and privileges associated with citizenship in this nation.

New Books At The Library

Fiction:

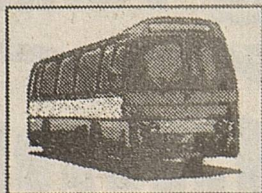
Shape's Trafalgar... Bernard Cornwell, *May There Be A Road...* Louis L'Amour, *Lord Of The Silent...* Elizabeth Peters, *A Mulligan For Bobby Jobe...* Bob Cullen, *Knight Of Knave...* Andre Norton, *Bitter Instinct...* Robert W. Walker, *The Cassandra Compact...* Robert Ludlum, *Paradise...* Larry McMurtry, *The Summerhouse...* Jude Deveraux, *Vineyard Shadows...* Philip Craig, *There Came A Stranger...* Andrew Fenady

Non Fiction:

War Letters (Extraordinary Correspondence From American Wars) edited by Andrew Carroll, *The American Dream...* Dan Rather, *Ghost Soldiers...* the forgotten epic story of World War II's most dramatic mission.

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CASA Seeks Volunteers

CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates, is an organization of caring adult volunteers who speak up for the best interests of abused and neglected children who have been removed from their homes and are in foster care. Volunteers serve, at no cost to taxpayers, as an additional safety net to ensure a child does not get lost in the overburdened court and social service system, and does not return to an unsafe home. It doesn't take a special background or knowledge to be a CASA volunteer. They are everyday people from a variety of backgrounds, who share the desire to care for some of the most vulnerable children in our communities. Each advocate is thoroughly trained so they can work effectively and with confidence.

CASA is hoping to recruit volunteers to serve children in Lubbock, Castro, Hale, Swisher, Terry, and Yoakum counties. Successful completion of a 30 hour training program is required to become a CASA volunteer.

New CASA Volunteer training will begin June 19th in Lubbock. If you are interested in receiving more information about becoming a CASA volunteer, please contact CASA at 763-2272.

*The only people
with whom
you should try
to get even with
are those who have
helped you -
May Maloo*

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Former resident recalls musical visit to Natchez, Mississippi

* Editors note - Amy (Clark) Synatzske, a former resident of Plains as a young girl, and the daughter of Denver City's Richard and Kathy Clark, recently composed this column for *The Democrat*, a Natchez newspaper. She wrote the article following her participation in that city's month long Opera Festival in May. Amy is a talented soprano who performs with Goliard Concerts in Queens, N.Y.

"After a dark cold winter in The City That Never Sleeps, the sweet warm air of Natchez felt like Heaven. I had been looking forward to May in Mississippi, but I had no idea such a wonderful city was waiting. I felt a sense of gratitude toward Dr. and Mrs. David Blackburn for giving me the opportunity to fall in love - fall in love with Natchez.

Meeting people like Brother Reed from Union Missionary Baptist, Cleo Adams from First Baptist and Pastor Dennis Flach at New Covenant Presbyterian Church has made me acutely aware of a unique feeling of home. I grew up in a small West Texas town near Lubbock. Natchez reminds me of home because the people are quick to help a new face. I am staying at the Isle of Capri where Sharon, at the front desk, and Gwen provide service with a smile, keep me comfortable.

Highlights in my memory of Natchez will include the intimate, beautiful Glenburne home. George and Margaret Guido were so generous to open their home for a recital there. The opportunity to sing in such a warm, intimate space was priceless. Having a live crawfish thrown at me dampened my enthusiasm to eat a cooked one, but I will never forget the Cajun music and friendly people at the Opening Gala Party at the Gloucester Plantation. Larry Buckley took an entire Saturday to pick up five pale singers from New York in Baton Rouge. His well stocked van was paradise. Fried catfish from the Malt Shop was my first yummy meal upon arrival.

The gift bags we all received as a welcome to Natchez were full of treats, thanks to Susan Adams. I enjoyed seeing the lovely home of Ed and Mary Jane Gaudet after our performance of Carmen. The Blackburn home was another unique experience. I had to stop eating the entire red velvet cake there made by J.W. Jackson.



Being around Dr. Killelea is proving to be one of my favorite things about this festival. He is so full of life. I look forward to the closing reception at Pleasant Hill, the exquisite antebellum home of Mr and Mrs John Bergeron. I will cherish the memory of sitting on the deck of the Wharfmaster's House, savoring fresh bread with honey butter, as the sun sinks into the Mississippi River.

Incredible meals appear in the kitchen at the performing arts center thanks to a tireless committee, headed by Suzanne Steckler. It is impossible to count the hours Diana Glaze has worked as president of the Opera Guild.

Dr. and Mrs. Blackburn's efforts to make the Natchez Festival memorable and special are evident everywhere. The behind the scenes work of Sara goes unnoticed most of the time. Dr. Blackburn appears to have a sixth sense when it comes to hiring singers, directors and pianists, finding people who love what they do. The experience of making music, working with world class colleagues, eating wonderful food and meeting people from Natchez will stay with me forever. When I cannot imagine why I ever wanted to sing, I will stop and think of my Natchez Festival experience. I will close my eyes, inhale a honeysuckle breeze, see the Mississippi in my mind and then the memory will fill me with joy. Music, Natchez and Joy will forever be linked in my memory."

THANK YOU!!

For all the prayers, cards, gifts and for visiting me at the hospital. May God Bless You.

Love,
Kim Martinez

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From The Hack

I went into official mourning Thursday A.M. The Table of Wisdom is no more. When Eddins-Walcher made the decision to close it's office last Wednesday afternoon (just the office - they will continue their card fuel sales and services to area farm and commercial accounts) Table members no longer had a place to gather for their daily morning sessions.

It is almost too sad to think about. The Table is dead. Long live the table! Thursday morning, I was forced to go to Johnnie's Restaurant for morning coffee. I suffered a bit of shock when I was forced to pay for the coffee, and leaving a dime tip didn't set too well with me, nor the waitress. One reason for the Table's extreme popularity, of course, was free coffee. One veteran member was once heard to proclaim proudly, "I ain't paid for a cup of coffee in 13 years!"

Last Thursday I decided to motor past the Table location, to pay my last respects, so to speak. I saw one of the charter members peering through the glass door at the sacred Table, and I swear he was adorned in sackcloth and his face was covered in ashes. While he was some distance away, I truly believe I spied tears in his eyes when he turned from the door. Closing the doors of E-W could not have come at a worse time for me. I had been planning for some time to campaign for the position of Imperial Potentate of the Table, the title falsely claimed by a number of

pretenders to the throne including George Blount, Randy Forbus and Buster Graham, but now my scheme lies in ruin. I will admit, I had my hopes set to buy my way into office; I was going to bribe members with promises of a picnic featuring free beer and Vienna Sausage.

I cannot confirm this, but I heard Pastors of the local Ministerial Alliance immediately called a hasty special meeting, when they heard of the Table's demise. It's rumored they joined hands and lustily sang "Thank You, Lord, for answering our prayers" for a solid 47 minutes.

First thing Sunday morning I opened the A-J, ignored the front section, and turned to Dave Barry in the Arts section. He is my favorite humor columnist in the universe. If I could write like Dave, I would move to Miami, where he lives and works, and get a job on his publishing paper under a byline reading, "From Dave Barry's Dad - who taught Dave everything he knows, including many things he's forgotten."

This week 53 year old Barry wrote about his 15 month old daughter and her 'Republican Party Barbie Doll'. He and daughter's age indicates to me Dave really bore down earlier in life studying the fine art of journalistic humor, and put aside, at least a number of years, a few more male endeavors. Nevertheless, his humor brought back many memories of daughters, of which I have a multitude, five at last count.

All three have been blessings, some rather bizarre, if almost unbelievable. To date, none have won the Nobel Prize, Woman of the Year, nor to my knowledge even Housekeeper of the Year. They have had a little recognition, however: One was awarded the coveted Miss

Pumpkin prize in Reeves County, the year of a miserable crop failure of that product, and she had to pose with a six pound pumpkin for her photo in the Pecos Enterprise.

Another deservedly gained a bit of fame early in life when she consumed 14 toadstools in a friend's backyard at the age of four. At the emergency room, the attending Doc said, "It's amazing! We've forced twelve glasses of water down her before pumping out her stomach, and all she says is, 'I'm hungry.'"

One female kid, despite her momma's urgings, and warnings, decided to go astray on the night of her high school graduation. I know this is terribly difficult for you Baptist Brethren to even start to believe, she imbibed DEMON RUM that evening. At that time, Bride and I were getting filthy rich operating a small cafe, and this daughter was scheduled to work starting at noon. Bride rousted her bleary eyed body from bed at 6 AM and informed her she would work the morning shift - no if's, and's or but's - and then the afternoon shift. Not too familiar with the dangerous effects of Demon Rum on the body, I could barely understand why daughter flew to the bathroom to rid her belly of the foul stuff.

Another sweet young thing of a daughter, on a dare from friends, posed for a photo op near a U.S. Interstate, "Mooning" the world. I saw the photo. That skinny little hiney I often changed, bathed, and powdered had "Sure changed," I told her, to her mortification.

All the Hell in the media recently about the George W. daughters misfortunes at being caught attempting to do what most young ladies that age have tried, and 100% of ALL Boys have done, reminds me; I had girls like them too - ease up a bit, media- So did you!

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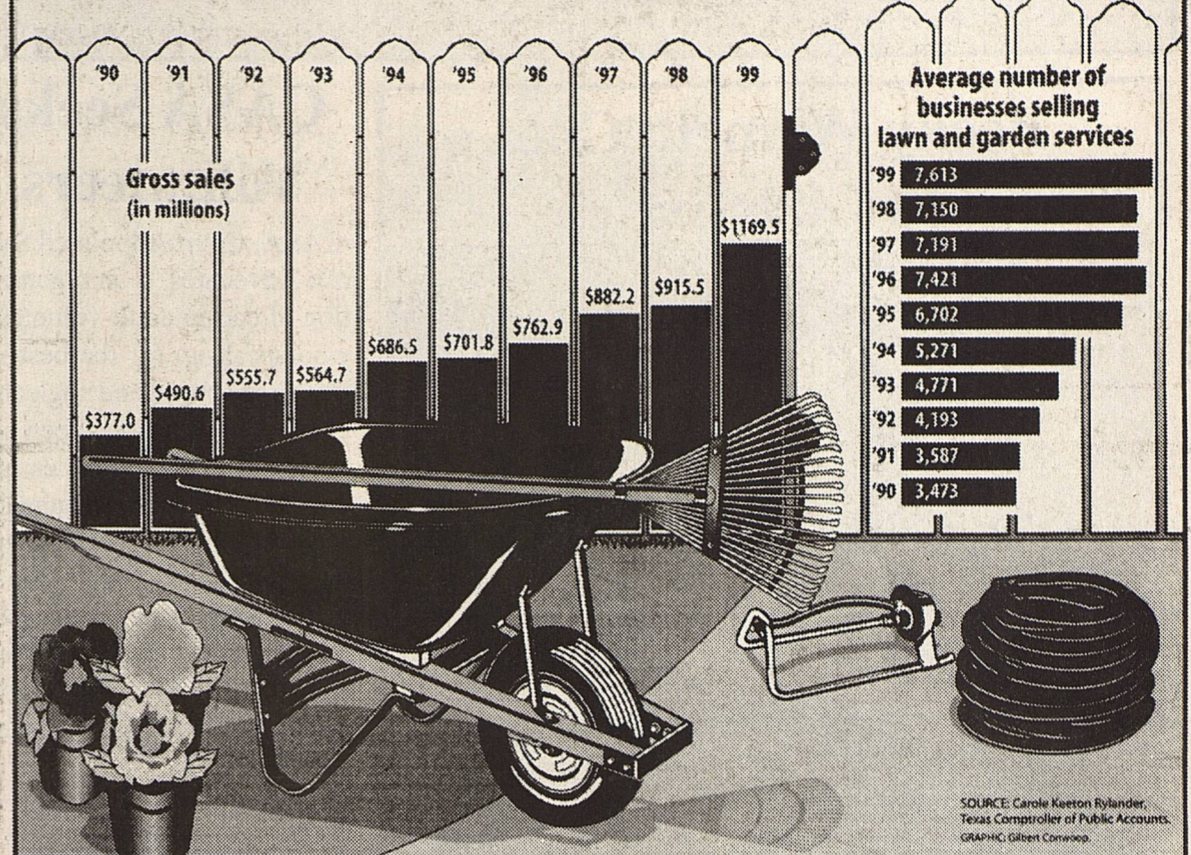
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Texas at a Glance

Lawn brawn

A strong economy and a growing population mean more green for Texas' lawn and garden services. Sales of seeds, fertilizer and other lawn care products and services more than tripled from 1990 to 1999, and the number of businesses selling them more than doubled.

"There is an interest in beautifying the landscape, and there are a lot of new plants and products that can help Texans have a beautiful landscape," says Skip Richter of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.



SOURCE: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.
GRAPHIC: Gilbert Cornejo

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