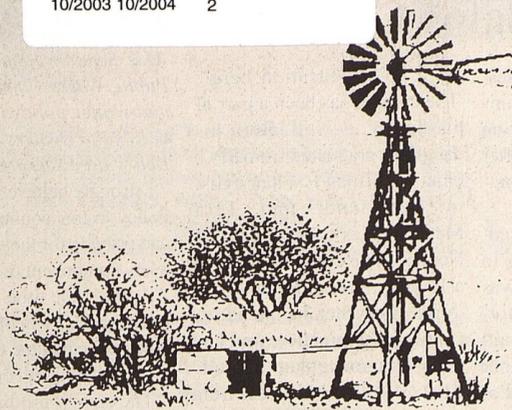


Cowboy Country News

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

Volume X, Issue 20, January 28, 2004



19th Annual Chamber Banquet set for Feb. 20

The Plains Chamber of Commerce has finalized plans for its annual banquet at 7 PM in the school cafeteria, Friday, February 20. Johnnie's Barbecue of Midland will cater the meal. In continuing the Chamber's efforts to honor and recognize former Plains residents and Plains school graduates who have distinguished themselves in later years, the Chamber has commitments from Dr. Steven L. Smith to serve as this year's guest speaker.

Doctor Smith, now in private practice in Lubbock, was born and raised in Yoakum County, the oldest son of Lanny and Sheron Smith.

He is a graduate of Plains High, and was voted by his peers "Mr. PHS" his Senior year. His impressive educational background and professional resume will be featured in future issues of CCN. One of many career achievements was being named Chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock.

His list of local patients from Plains and the county is lengthy, and for many who have known him most or all of his life, he is known as 'Doctor Steve'.

The county business firms are asked to continue their generous donation of door prizes for the event. Last year almost every one attending the banquet won a prize. Ticket prices are again \$7 at the door. Watch CCN for future banquet information, and plan to be with us!

Assault case in District Court

In District Court January 20, Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the state, Johnny Garza Jr. pled to adjudication of guilt deferred in first degree felony cause of aggravated sexual assault. He will be under community supervision ten years. He was fined \$750, must pay \$543 court costs, and \$50 monthly supervision fees in monthly installments. He shall not communicate with nor go near the victim's residence or school, and must register as a sex offender. He must pay necessary costs of psychological counseling for the victim made necessary by the offense, or for counseling relating to AIDS or

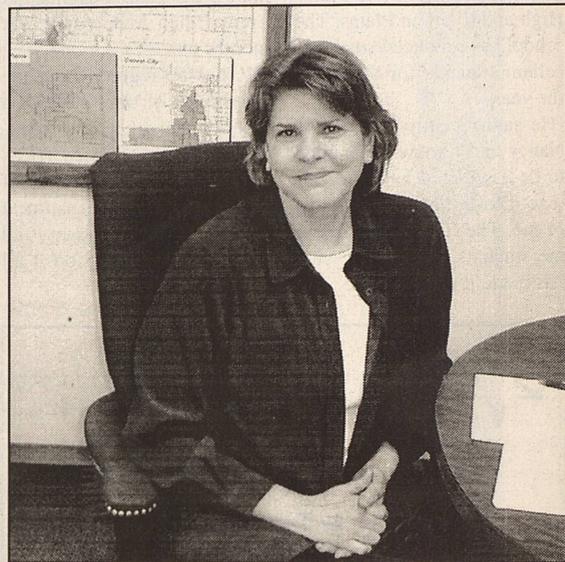
Turn to Pg. 3 'Assault Case'

County Auditor stepping down

In a brief and informal gathering prior to the January 26 session of Commissioners Court, retiring County Auditor Hazel Lowrey was honored by the Court and audience with refreshments and a surprise gift from courthouse employees.

Mrs. Lowrey graduated from Texas Tech in 1982. Following a stint with an accounting firm in Brownfield, she was employed here with Plains State Bank. In May of 1986, District Judge Ray Anderson appointed Lowrey as Yoakum County Auditor. She has been re-appointed by the presiding District Judge every two year since her initial employment. Her retirement will be effective February 1, and she will be replaced by Darinda McWhirter, recently appointed by Judge Kelly G. Moore.

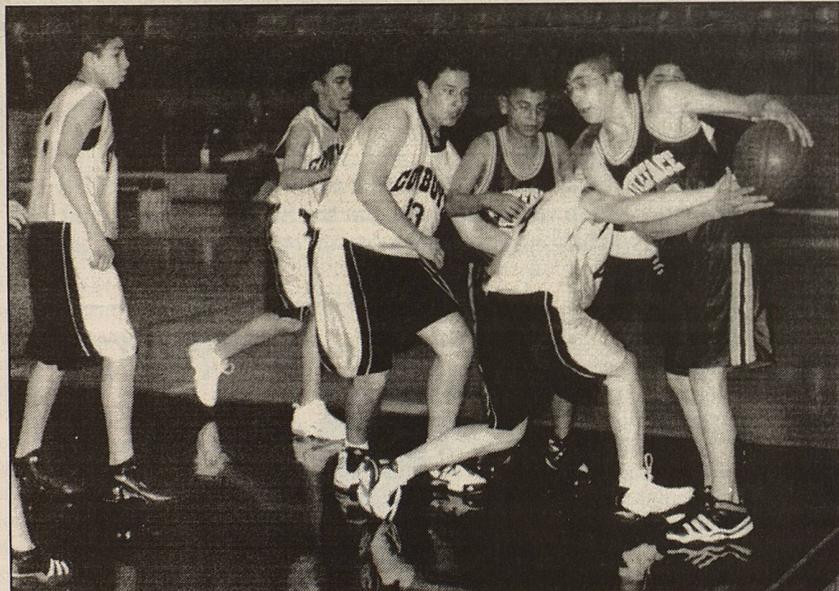
Asked about plans for her retirement days, she told CCN she would probably "kick back and take it easy, rest up a bit for a couple of months or so."



Part of her going away gift from courthouse staffers and presented to Hazel by County Clerk Debbie Rushing was a booklet of "Southwest Air Lines Bucks". Lowrey said she was thrilled with the gift, "They'll help get me to Cali-

fornia and back so I can visit my daughter Toni."

She also said when she was rested and had the traveling behind her, she would probably look for a part time job... but certainly not as demanding as the Auditor's position.



Who says Jr. High guys can't play... these 8th Wranglers mixed it up pretty good with Whiteface

Cotton production woes, now and then

Yoakum County has historically been recognized as an important player in the petroleum industry, and has been one of the state's leading producer of crude oil and natural gas since the first major discovery here in 1939.

Oil and gas production continue to be huge factors in the county economy, accounting for hundreds of million dollars revenue, and the source of good pay checks for many hundreds of county citizens employed by both production and service companies.

Over the last relatively few years, the value of Yoakum County agricultural production has also dramatically grown, and local producers are gaining recognition from their peers in the huge South Plains agricultural community. The South Plains is particularly noted as not only the major cotton production area in the state, but as

a major production area in the nations cotton belt.

Estimates peg the 2003 crop of United States cotton somewhere around 18 to 18.5 million bales. Here on the South Plains, approximately 3.5 million acres of cotton were planted, but weather disasters took out about 1.1 million acres of production. Yoakum County suffered losses, but fortunately not near as severe as areas north of us.

Cotton producers have historically been plagued with fluctuating market prices. While current prices hover around 70 cents per pound, they are expected to drop dramatically in coming months. Supply and demand plays a major role in determining cotton producers financial success... and apparently this is nothing new.

A reader furnished us a three page document printed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture

in 1934, authored by an entity called the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, and titled, "American Cotton Production Problem For 1935". The document featured three major topics, Supply of 1934-35 American cotton, Consumption of American cotton, 1934-35, and Cotton acreage 1934-35. Each section contained a series of questions and answers about the commodity.

Under Supply, some of the Q&A material contained this: Q: What is the carry-over of American cotton for the 34-35 season?

A: On August 1, 1934, the carry-over was 10,634,000 bales.

Q: Is this large or small compared to past supplies?

A: It is the third largest of record, some 4 million bales larger than the average for 14 years ending with 1934-35.

Turn to Pg. 3 'Cotton Woes'

Water Issues Heat Up In Texas

"Water is more like blood than oil. Without it you die."

"What may be cheap and profitable today may be devastating to regions in the near future."

"The hard issues are left, like rule of capture. Now the fun part starts."

These were just a few of the comments made by a panel of state legislators who gathered at a November Texas Water Summit in Austin. The panel included Sen. Kenneth Armbrister, Victoria, Sen. Robert Duncan, Lubbock, Rep. Robert Cook, Eagle Lake, and rep. Robert Puente, San Antonio; and the remarks reflect the upcoming policy issues state

lawmakers face as they seek ways to help urban and rural Texas meet its water needs for the next 50 years.

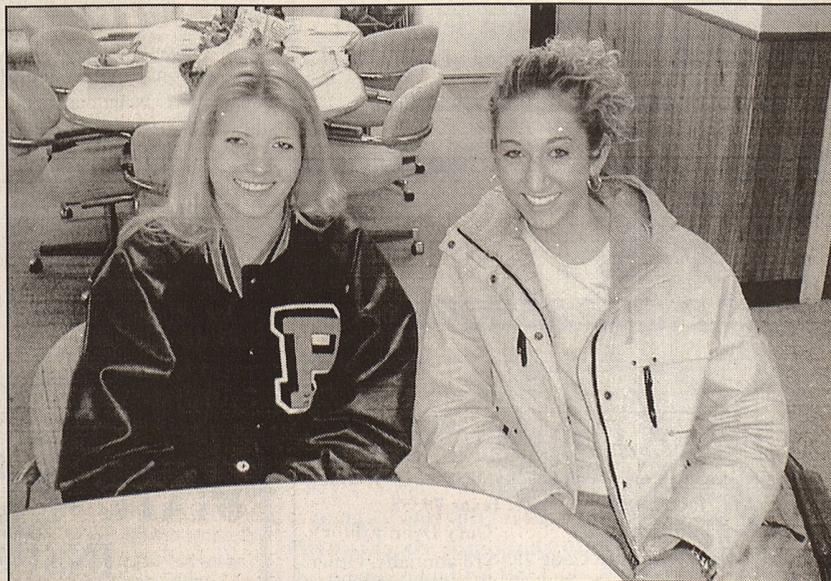
Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs also spoke at the Summit, highlighting the importance of carefully evaluating the impact groundwater transfers may have on local, rural economies, especially if water under state lands is leased.

"Leasing state water should be viewed as a public safety issue because irreplaceable water is a public safety issue," Combs said. "The leasing of state water under state lands that belong to all Texans should be a thoughtful and open process,

with input from all conceivable parties."

As momentum builds to tap into additional groundwater resources, more lawmakers are now calling for a look at re-vamping the rule of capture. The 1904 law allows landowners to withdraw an unlimited amount of groundwater without regard to the withdrawals impact on neighboring wells. Also, a proposal by the General Land Office to allow a private company, Rio Nuevo Ltd. to pump and sell water from underneath state lands in West Texas also has lawmakers questioning the role of the state in

Turn To Page 2, "WATER"



Plains High School will be well represented by Yoakum County Junior Livestock Show Queen Candidates. PHS Sophomore Ashli Hunter, left, is the candidate representing the FFA, while Sophomore Skylar Keesee will represent the Plains 4 - H Club. The Denver City FFA Candidate is Leah Gibson. The livestock show starts this Thursday with animal weigh-ins.

Terry Isaacs retires from South Plains College

Terry Isaacs, associate professor of history at South Plains College Levelland, retired from SPC in December, 2003, after teaching 23 years at the Community College.

"I am not going to miss grading papers, but I am going to miss teaching, because it was fun. I have always looked forward to coming here," said Isaacs. He will be among other college employees honored at a Spring retirement reception.

Isaacs taught history five years at Plains High School. At a social function a few years ago, he told CEN "I really enjoyed my five years at Plains High and living in Plains. The school has produced some excellent students for SPC over the years."

He said recently, "My wife Nancy and I knew we wanted to be associated with the college. I love the place, it's part of me. The faculty care about the students, and this is what has made it a great place. You

get a good education here."

The college has been a part of his family as well. Both his daughters graduated from SPC. Gina Kauffman is a hairstylist in Levelland, and Tera McConnell is a pharmacist in Nocona. The couple also have a 13 year old son, Ryan.

A prolific writer, he intends to continue the practice, and has other retirement plans as well. His wife retired last year from Sundown ISD after a 30 year teaching career in public schools, and they plan to travel more, watch their son Ryan's baseball games, and spend more time with first grandchild Trent Ethan McConnell, six months old.

He has no regrets about the investment of time made as a teacher. He echoes the sentiments of fellow retiree Travis Spears, former chairperson of the Social Sciences Department at SPC. "If I had to do it all over again, I would do it all over again."

Cornyn: America Needs National Energy Policy

U.S. Senator John Cornyn, a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, delivered the keynote address at the mid-winter policy meeting of the Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO) Tuesday in Fort Worth. Below are excerpts from Senator Cornyn's remarks:

"I strongly believe that we need a comprehensive national energy policy in this country. The energy industry creates jobs so people can provide for their families, and it improves our quality of life as a key component of growth in our economy and our prosperity.

"At the same time, we are a country that loves and cherishes our environment, whether it is clean water or clean air. We know that while we consume energy, we need to also take necessary steps to protect our air and our water and our environment at the same time.

"The energy bill brought up last year in the Senate provides an answer to many of the problems that cause us to squander our

strength in terms of our natural resources. For the first time in at least 10 years, it means America has the hope for a national energy policy that not only serves our economic interests but serves our national security and environmental interests as well.

"I believe it is a bill that is good for Texas and good for the entire nation. I urge the Senate to take up this bill again and pass it, so we can get it to the President's desk without further delay.

"A debate like the one we're having over oil and gas exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) clearly shows the problems of a nonexistent energy policy. I also believe that we should end the moratorium on offshore drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. Over the years, as we have consumed more and more energy, we have also become far too dependent on imported energy from other parts of the world.

"The energy bill will encourage innovation and increase productivity here in America so we are less dependent on imported energy. It will encourage energy self sufficiency and create jobs. I will fight for it, because I believe it is the best answer to the problems we face in Texas and throughout America."

Think Texas

by Agriculture Commissioner SUSAN COMBS

Got risk? If you're a business owner, of course you do. With any business venture there is an element of risk; it's one of the first principles taught in Business 101. A new series of risk management workshops is being launched this spring to guide and inform cattle producers—the ultimate agricultural business leaders.

The Texas cattle industry is widely known for its quality and high levels of production, with nearly half of the agricultural cash receipts in the state coming from beef cattle production. While there are a number of strategies to help cattle producers, many producers are in the dark when it comes to the details.

The upcoming workshops, funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency, will highlight some of the many tools available to producers. Sessions will include information on prices, strategic planning, state and federal programs, country-of-origin labeling, drought management and value-added marketing, to name a few.

Providing tools for our cattle producers is more important than ever as the country deals with the aftermath of discovery of a single Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy case in Washington. In the cattle business, risk management involves being proactive and prepared for shifts in the industry, severe weather, price volatility and many other situations that can be challenging.

The workshops will be held between April 5 and May 26, 2004, in eight major beef production areas of the state including Amarillo, Wichita Falls, Hallettsville, Abilene, Sulfur Springs, Waco, Palestine and Alpine. For more information, please call the Texas Department of Agriculture's Rural Economic Development Division at 1-800-TELL-TDA.

Élfida Lazos Winkler



(Pol. adv. paid for by Elfida Lazos Winkler, 309 N. Washington, Denver City, Texas 79323)

for Tax Assessor-Collector

"Your vote & influence are greatly appreciated."

Make experience count! ★
Tome en cuenta la experiencia!

para Asesor-Collector de Impuestos

"Pido y agradezco su voto e influencia."



Jan Parrish

for Tax Assessor-Collector



Prepared To Vote March 9
Work For You Republican Primary

Political Ad Paid For By Jan Parrish, Plains, Texas

Help Elect

Rex Swann

Candidate For
Yoakum Count Commissioner
Precinct 3

"A Vote For Conservative
Common Sense"

Your Vote & Support Appreciated

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Rex Swann, Box 190, Plains TX 79355



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2004

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CAPITOL COMMENT

U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON



Texas: A State Of Science

Texas was born out of a drive for adventure and a desire for independence which compelled our forebears to make the last stand at the Alamo, drill for oil at Spindletop and continues to lead our modern day push for scientific discovery. Our Texas ancestors valued education, even setting aside state land to endow both secondary and higher education for future generations.

This commitment, along with the support for research and technology, has produced an environment that attracts some of the greatest scientists in the world. Two decades ago Dr. Julio C. Palmaz, of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, created a stent, the first to be approved by the FDA to treat diseased blood vessels. Dr. Michael DeBakey, at Baylor Medical School, invented an artificial heart pump for transplant patients. Drs. Robert Curl and Richard Smalley, at Rice University, uncovered new forms of the element carbon, called fullerenes, for which they jointly received the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1996, and became the fathers of nanotechnology.

Knowing the immense depth and breadth of our state's scientific talent and the immeasurable benefits of such expertise, I have made it one of my top priorities in the United State's Senate to elevate the profile of Texas research institutions, and increase federal research and development dollars to our schools. In 1997, I discovered we were sixth in the receipt of these funds, behind Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York and California. Since then we have moved up to fifth place and increased funding from Texas' participation in federal research projects to over \$1.26 billion, through hard work, greater attention to research opportunities, and the convening of annual higher education summits in Washington, D.C.

The summits have focused on bringing Texas schools to the table with government agencies that do the most research, NASA, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Homeland Security and the National Science Foundation, to match federal needs with Texas expertise. At the summits we've encouraged schools to create centers of excellence based on their capabilities and combine their efforts to go after bigger projects. When more research in conducted in our campuses, students gain access to more sophisticated educational tools and world class training. And each dollar spent in this endeavor is a boon to our economy. In fact, research has a \$4.4 billion impact on our state's economy and for every \$1 invested, Texas gets a \$5 return. Our efforts thus far have paid off handsomely.

Earlier this year the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) was awarded one of two National Biocontainment Laboratories, which will discover ways to protect our nation from the threat of biological terrorism. UTMB will receive \$110 million in grants from the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases to established the lab. In addition to this growing expertise in biodefense, Texas is already an internationally recognized powerhouse in nanotechnology, a science measured in Billionths of a meter. The Strategic Partnership of Research in Nanotechnology, or S.P.R.I.N.G., is a consortium of schools including Rice University, UT Austin, UT Dallas and UT Arlington, among others, that have joined forces to explore this promising field stronger, lighter, and more efficient materials that will revolutionize healthcare, transportation and defense.

Now we are taking the next step in elevating Texas' profile as a science state. This January, at the suggestion of several academic research leaders, I launched the Texas Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine. The Academy commenced with a conference in San Antonio, featuring our Nobel Laureates and members of the National Academy of Science, the National Academy of Engineering and the Institute of Medicine. Two of our state's Nobel Laureates, Drs. Michael Brown and Rick Smalley, are co-chairs of the scientific advisory committee.

The Academy will bring greater recognition to the stellas researchers working at our institutions and provide them a forum to discuss their research, exchange ideas, identify potential areas of collaboration, and foster the future generation of scientists. Industry leaders will also be an important component to this effort reminding them of the rich resources they can utilize in their own endeavors. Our industry advisory committee, led by Ernest Cockrell, Chairman of Cockrell Interests; Thomas Engibous, Chairman, President and CEO of Texas Instruments; and Michael Dell, Chairman and CEO of Dell Inc., will help ensure an open dialogue between Texas academic and industry.

By creating the Academy and bringing local and national recognition to our members, we hope to attract and retain researchers, increase the federal resources coming into Texas, and shine a spotlight on the cutting-edge discoveries that are made daily on campuses across the Lone Star State. It is my hope this Academy will help place Texas in the top tier of scientific preeminence and further enhance the depth and quality of life in our great state.

LOST Male & FEMALE Brown Retrievers in Bronco Area Last Weekend. REWARD!!!
505-398-6209

To the Citizens of Yoakum County:

My name is Karen Bearden and I am a candidate for Yoakum County Tax Assessor-Collector. I am a resident of Plains and have lived in Yoakum County for 47 years. I am married to Rickey Bearden and we have been farming for 29 years. Rickey and I have a son, Tracy, and a daughter, Kyley. Tracy is a youth minister in Mineral Wells and Kyley is a teacher and coach at Brownfield ISD. I attend First Baptist Church Plains where I have taught Sunday School and served in various children's programs for the past ten years.

I have seven years of experience working for Yoakum County, six in the District Clerk's office, and the past year I have worked in the County Clerk's office. I have enjoyed serving the people of Yoakum County in my previous county positions. If elected, I look forward to the opportunity of working with the citizens and businesses of the county to administer the duties of the Tax Assessor-Collector.

Some of the duties of the Tax Assessor-Collector include:

- Collecting the taxes assessed by several taxing entities in Yoakum County including: Yoakum County, City of Denver City, City of Plains, Denver City ISD, Plains ISD, and the Sandyland Underground Water District.
- Voter Registration. Voting is a right of every citizen of the United States. Encouraging citizens to register to vote and participate in our system of government is a viable part of the democratic system.
- Motor Vehicle Registration. All vehicles are required to be registered through the Tax Assessor-Collector's office.
- Reporting of delinquent taxes. Our county services rely on the taxes paid by our citizens. In order for the system to be fair for everyone, it is crucial all taxpayers be held accountable for their taxes.
- Acquire certification in mandatory courses in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas.

As a fellow taxpayer I am aware of the value of your tax dollars. If elected Tax Assessor-Collector, I will do my best to make sure the office is run as efficiently as possible without affecting the quality of service.

Early voting for the Republican primary begins Monday, February 23 and ends Friday, March 5. The Republican primary is Tuesday, March 9. I plan to do my best to personally contact as many voters as possible before the voting begins, but if I miss you and you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Your vote and support in the Republican primary would be greatly appreciated.

Karen Bearden

From Pg. 1 'Cotton Woes'

Q: How much will this cotton on hand be increased by this years crop?

A: On October 1, 1934, this years production was estimated at 9,443,000 bales, meaning an approximate total of 20 million bales.

Q: Is this large or small compared with past supplies?

A: The average for the past 14 years has been about 20 million bales, adequate to meet the highest consumption requirements of recent years and leave a carry-over large enough to provide protection against the possibility of succeeding short crops.

Q: Why is the supply large enough to meet all demands for cotton in this country and abroad?

A: The most American cotton ever used in one season was 15,800,000 bales in 1926-27. Only a little over 12million bales was used when the price was down to 5.7 cents in the 1931-32 season Consumption for 1933-34 was 13.5 million bales.

Under theConsumption of American Cotton heading, the following questions and answers were addressed;

Q: What was the U.S. consumption of American cotton for 1933-34?

A: About 5.6 million bales.

Q: What was the foreign consumption of our cotton that season?

A: About 8 million bales.

Q: What is the outlook for foreign consumption of American cotton in the 1934-35 season.

A: With large supplies of foreign cottons, there is a tendency

to substitute them for U.S. cotton due to several factors. Foreign cotton customers are compelled by economic

pressure to purchase their raw cotton from countries that in turn buy the produce of the country buying their cotton. The amount of cotton exported by the United States to the principal cotton consuming countries during the current season depends on a large extent upon the amount of trade these countries have with the United States.

The Cotton Acreages, 1934-35 contained this information;

Q: What is the estimated acreage to be harvested for the 1934-35 season?

A: As given in the October 1934 crop report, slightly above 27 million acres.

Q: How does this compare with the average acreage for the 14 years ending 1934-35?

A: The average acreage harvested for the 14 years was about 38 million.

An interesting historical look at cotton production, with 193's0 producers facing many of the situations today's cotton farmers face. Texas Cooperative Extension Agent (Ag) Arlan Gentry furnished the following information to CCN for this report. His data indicates an estimated 18.22 million bales will be produced from the 2003-04 crop. A total of 13.48 million bales of cotton were planted in the United States this season, with approximately 12.06 million acres harvested. Worldwide, 81.63 million acres of cotton were planted, with production of an estimated 92.2 million bales. The copies of the USDA documents were fur-

nished by reader Steve Jones.

And Finally.....

Q: Are measures other than the voluntary program available to keep the total cotton acreage within the desired amount?

A: Yes. The Bankhead Act can be continued through the 1935 season, if the President finds and proclaims the emergency in cotton production and marketing will continue next year, and if the Secretary of Agriculture determines two-thirds of the producers favor it. Producers will have an opportunity to vote on it so the Secretary may determine whether cotton farmers want the Act continued for 1935.

From Pg. 1 'Assault Case' lated viruses made necessary by the offense for a one year period. He must submit a blood sample for creating a DNA record, and pay for any polygraph testing required by CSCD. He shall not associate in programs whose participants are 17 or younger, or go within 1,000 feet of premises where children commonly gather.

Stephen Hamilton served as his attorney, and Deputy Nancy Baize was investigating Officer.

Plains Middle School Honor Roll 3rd Six Weeks

'A' Honor Roll

5th Grade

Forrest Booth
Hannah Crump
Cody Friesen
Kristen Knight

6th Grade

Brandon Craft
Emilia Gallegos
Natalie Haynes
Nathan McCravey
Troy Parrish

7th Grade

Yesenia Loya

8th Grade

Maria Andazola
Ryan Crump
Amber Friesen
Lauren Hise

'A-B' Honor Roll

5th Grade

Stephanie Addison
Kelbi Bartley
Samantha DeLaRosa
Kevin Gass

6th Grade

Abby Hernandez

7th Grade

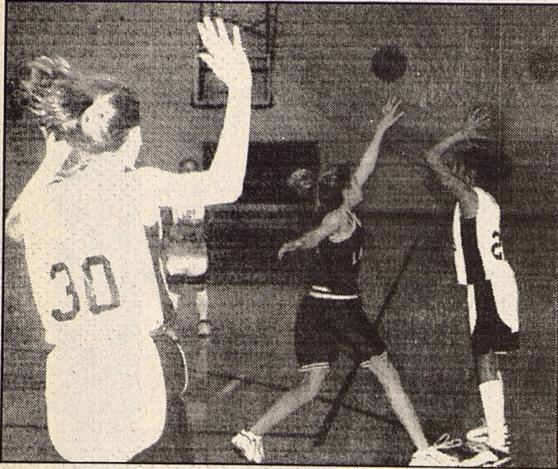
Chris Addison
Reyna Gallegos

8th Grade

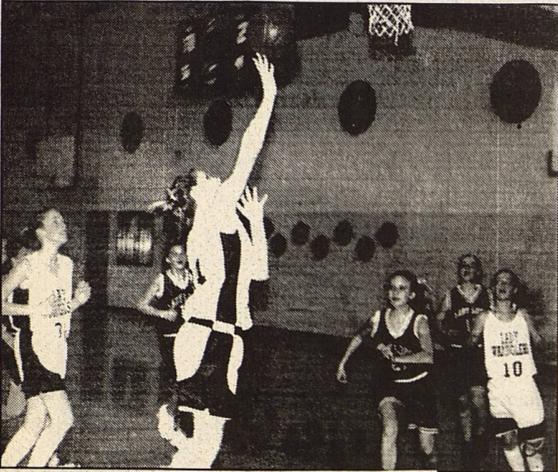
Kurt Alldredge
John Tyson

The last day to pay taxes without penalty and interest is January 31, however since that day falls on a weekend, the due date for 2003 taxes moves to the next business day, Monday, February 2, 2004. The last day to pay taxes without penalty and interest is Monday, February 2. Payments are commonly made by mail and must be postmarked by the United States Postal Service on or before February 2, 2004. On February 3rd, penalty and interest begin to accrue at 7% and increase monthly until taxes are paid in full.

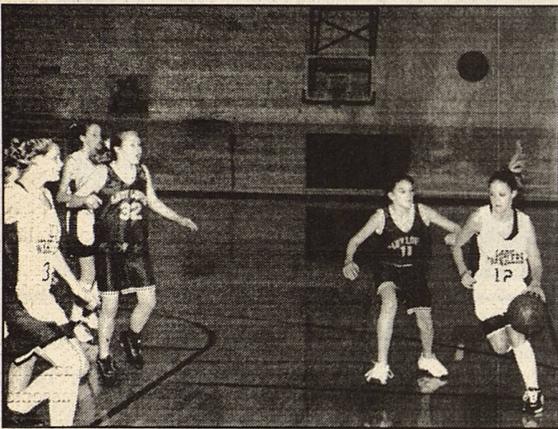
Wrangler, Lady Wrangler Roundball action shots



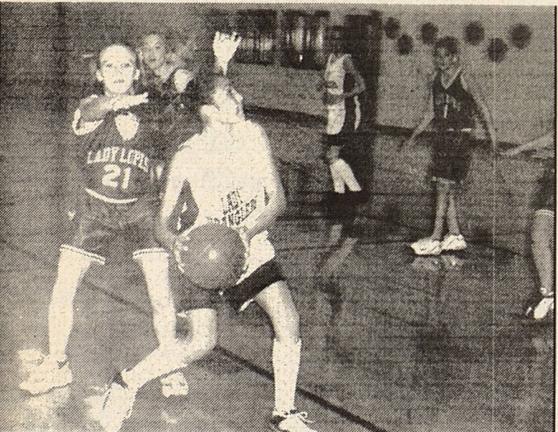
Lauren Hise, 30, tries to get ball from Reyna Gallegos



Joani Bell goes up for two points



Lauren Davis breaks for inside



Reyna Gallegos eyes the basket

Plains ISD Sports Capsule

Jr. High:

7th Lady Wranglers: The 7th girls improved their season record to 7 and 5 and won first in the Jr. High Tournament here last weekend. In their first round 32-22 win over Whiteface. Mari Ruiz and Brianna Conway combined for 16 points, Crystal Tarango had 6, Kimber Williams and Heather Parrot 4 each, Yesenia Loya 2. They next beat Wellman 33-19. Mari Led scoring with 11 points. Briana and Kimber 6 each, Lydia Whitzel and Crystal 2 each. In their final and tourney winning game, they defeated Morton 33-17. Mari, Yesenia and Brianna combined for 27 points. Nanessa Martinez, Kimber and Crystal had 2 each. In Sundown Monday they were downed 38-17. Mari scored 8, Hetaher 4, Yesenia and Crystal 2 each, Brianna 1.

8th Lady Wranglers: The 8th girls won second place honors in the tournament, first downing Whiteface 40-19. Joani Bell topped scoring with 16 points, Lauren Davis had 14, Reyna Gallegos 6, Lauren Hise and Katie Winn 2 each. Wellman squeaked by the girls 32-31 in the second game. Scoring were Lauren Davis 14, Joani 10, Reyna 6, Katie 1. They bounced back to down Morton 55-14. Joani put up 20 points, Lauren D 15, Katie 10, Reyna 8, Amber Friesen 2. They had another good win, beating Sundown 37-30. Joani had 18, Lauren D 13, Katie 4, Reyna 2.

JV Cowgirls: In the Sundown Tourney, the young Cowgirls opened with a 25-13 win over Anton. Cecelia Bonilla topped scoring with 12 points, Skylar Keese had 6, Priscilla Mares 5, LaShonda Diamond 2. Skylar had 10 rebounds, LaShonda 9, Priscilla 8. The girls fell to Sundown 30-12. Priscilla, Kimberly Trent and LaShonda were only scorers. Coach Harris said the girls are playing hard and improving.

JV Cowboys:

The young Cowboys fell to Whiteface 41-37. Scott Addison led scoring with 18 points, T.J. Cordova had 9, Todd Williams 8, Brant Huerta 2. They bounced back to down 52-24. Help from the bench gave the team a good boost. T.J. had 16 points, Scott 11, John Wagnon and Landon Craft 6 each, Abel Ramos 3, B.J. Lester, Breck Hamm and Brant 2 each.

Varsity Cowgirls:

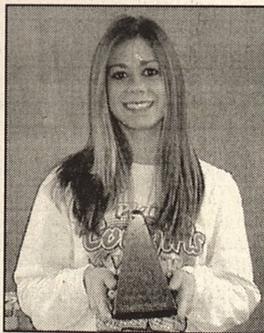
The Cowgirls suffered from a cold shooting night at Whiteface and fell 63-13. Coach Thaggard says they are working hard, trying to improve. Only two Cowgirls made the scoring column, Desiraye Broome, 8, and Sandra Gandara, 5. They fared a bit better against Smyer, but still were downed 57-34. Desiraye and Meghan Garcia both had 10 points, Sandra 8, Micaela Villegas, Jesenia Suarez, and Regina Morales 2 each.

Varsity Cowboys:

The Cowboys fell short to Whiteface 59-49, with turnovers being the major difference in the game. Zach Broome topped scoring with 15 points, Cody Flores had 9, Evan Cain 7, Arnold Cordova 6, Brandon Hise 5, Richard Diaz and Kerry Sisson 3 each, Blake O'Quinn 1. They bounced back and had a big win over Smyer 53-42. They were strong rebounding and had less turnovers. Cain and Diaz each had 14 points, Broome 10, Sisson 6, Flores 4, Payton Bean 3, Hise and O'Quinn 2 each.

Student of the Week

Student of the Week is Moriah Traweck, a Senior and the daughter of Mark and Zanna Traweck. She was nominated by Coach Thaggard, who said, "Moriah is very rich in spirit. She is always in good humor and maintains a positive attitude in the classroom, athletic arena, and in all aspects of her life. She has a beautiful, angelic voice. This young lady is extremely active in many activities at school as well as church. It is an honor for me to nominate her today."



Willie McCool Invitational UIL Academic Meet Coronado High School January 24, 2004

Sweepstakes

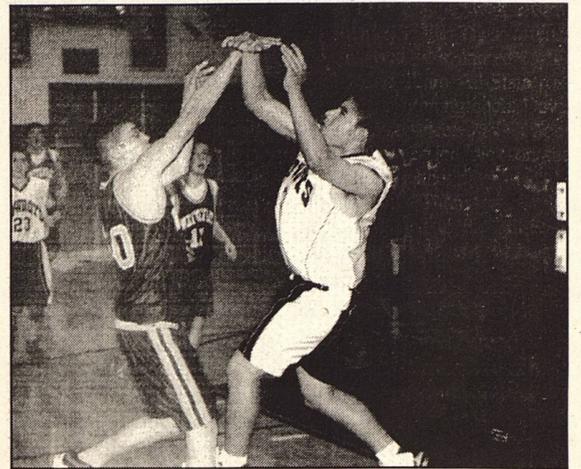
- 1st Plains 212
- 2nd Seminole 163
- 3rd Borden County 126
- 4th Farwell 77
- 5th Slaton 70
- 6th Denver City 63
- 7th Shallowater 51
- 8th Garden City 49
- 9th Lorenzo 47
- 10th Tulia 47
- 11th Van Horn 23
- 12th Sundown 22
- 12th Crosbyton 22
- 14th Brownfield 12
- 15th Hedley 6
- 16th O'Donnell 0
- 16th Idalou 0
- 16th Lockney 0

Number Sense

- Team 1st
- Overall**
- 1st place Brandon Hise
- Seniors**
- 4th place Nolan Newsom
- Juniors**
- 1st place Brandon Hise
- 4th place Kerry Sisson
- 10th place Payton Bean
- Sophomores**
- 2nd place David Alldredge
- 6th place Todd Williams
- 6th place Ramiro Martinez



Cody Mayes goes up for shot



Juan Lara gets shot over Antelope defender



Rudy Gonzales battles a big Antelope

GO! GO! GO! COWBOYS & COWGIRLS

Freshman

- 9th place Angelica Mendoza

Calculator

- Team 1st

Overall

- 1st place Allison Friesen
- 4th place Brandon Hise

Freshman

- 10th place Angelica Mendoza

Sophomores

- 1st place Allison Friesen
- 2nd place BJ Lester

6th place Blake O'Quinn

Juniors

- 1st place Brandon Hise
- 9th place Evan Cain

Mathematics

Team 2nd

Overall

- 1st place Brandon Hise

Juniors

- 1st place Brandon Hise
- 10th place Kerry Sisson

Sophomores

- 2nd place David Alldredge

Freshman

- 8th place Erika Loewen

Science

Team 2nd

Overall

- 3rd place Nolan Newsom

Seniors

- 1st place Nolan Newsom

Juniors

- 4th place Brandon Hise
- 5th place Evan Cain
- 8th place Breck Hamm

Sophomores

- 9th place Todd Williams

Freshman

- 8th place Joe Luis Gallegos

- 9th place Colby Wilmeth

Computer Science

- A Team 1st
- B Team 2nd

Overall

- 1st place Nolan Newsom
- 2nd place Brandon Hise
- 4th place Evan Cain
- 5th place Breck Hamm
- 6th place Allison Friesen

Seniors

- 1st place Nolan Newsom

Juniors

- 1st place Brandon Hise
- 2nd place Evan Cain
- 3rd place Breck Hamm

Sophomores

- 1st place Allison Friesen
- 2nd place BJ Lester
- 3rd place Adam McCravery

Computer Apps

- 2nd place Evan Cain
- 6th place Breck Hamm

Ready Writing

- 6th place Stacie Alldredge

Feature Writing

- 1st place Cody Flores
- 4th place Adam McCravery

Editorial Writing

- 1st place Erika Loewen
- 6th place Grady McNabb

News Writing

- 5th place Allison Friesen

Headline Writing

- 4th place Grady McNabb
- 5th place Blake O'Quinn

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Lifelines & Styles

Senior Citizens Corner

All of our sports fans can appreciate this episode. It seems there was a fellow named Bill who had a free ticket from his company to attend a Chief's game. Upon arriving, he was disappointed to find his seat at the far end of the stadium. About half way through the first quarter, he spied an empty seat ten rows off the field on the fifty yard line. He quickly goes to the spot and says to the fellow in the seat beside it, "Who would have a seat like this and not use it?" The man replies, "Well, actually the seat belongs to me. My wife was supposed to come with me but she just passed away. This is the first Chief's game we haven't watched together since we got married." "That's really sad," says Bill, "but still, couldn't you find a relative to take the seat?" "No," replies the man, "they're all at the funeral."

We continue to have some of our people hospitalized this week. Maggie Powell is having surgery; Paul Sweitzer has returned to the hospital for the second time and Royce Hemmeline is also in the local hospital. We wish each of these folks a very speedy recovery. We miss them at the Center.

A newcomer to our Center this week is Flora Halsey, a sprightly little gray haired lady who hails from Chicago and has moved here to live with her daughter. We hope she likes our West Texas hospitality and will become a daily part of our Center.

Several people were on tap to meet with the Lovington Hearing Aid representative on Monday. This is a much appreciated service these folks have for us. If you are not sure of their monthly schedule in Denver City, stop by the Center and pick up one of our monthly

Activity Sheets. It is always listed there.

As a senior citizen was driving down the freeway, his car phone rang. Answering it, he heard his wife's voice warning him, "Herman, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on Interstate 77. Please be careful." Looking around him, he answered, "It's not just one car. It's hundreds of them."

All of the six new members were present at the monthly board meeting on Monday. We appreciate these folks who not only enjoy our Center but are also willing to accept responsibility in working to keep it functioning properly. The time of the meeting has been delayed for one hour each month to accommodate some of our members who find it difficult to be present at 12:30 pm.

Stella Montez, the efficient lady we encounter each day in the serving line, has lost her brother. Her mother is also very ill in the hospital in Bryan, TX. Stella is there at this time assisting with the family. Our sympathy is extended to Stella. We miss her.

Rene Carrasco, the son of our director, Gloria Carrasco, continues with chemotherapy and radiation treatments as of this writing, but says he is having less pain and is feeling better. He assures his mother that he is trusting God for a miracle. We are all praying for that miracle too, Rene.

Fifteen gathered after lunch on Tuesday to try their luck at Bingo. There were several winners and much laughter as Ben Coston called numbers for us today. Thanks, Ben.

Thought for Today: "Sorrow looks back, worry looks around, and faith looks up."

Tech Announces Student Graduates

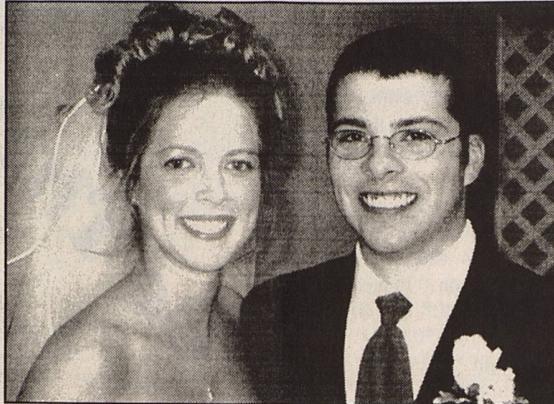
Texas Tech University conferred over 1,500 degrees to students at fall commencement. The ceremonies took place Saturday, December 20 in the United Spirit Arena on campus.

Over 5,000 Texas Tech University students made either the President's List of the Dean's List for the Fall 2003 semester. To be on the President's List or Dean's List, a student must have taken 12 quality hours during the semester and main-

tained either a 4.0 or a 3.5-3.9 grade point average, respectively.

The Texas Tech Honors List for Fall 2003 includes the following students from Plains; Russell Jordon Bean, Freshman, President's List, Computer Science Major. Anne Charie Palmer, Senior, Dean's List, Finance Major. Dustin Kyle Session, Senior, Dean's List, Mathematics Major.

Cullins-Polyniak Exchange Vows



The celebration of marriage uniting Lensey Cullins, of Plains and Brandon Polyniak, of Big Spring, was performed December 20, 2003. The three o'clock ceremony was held at the First Baptist Church Chapel in Brownfield. Officiating for the double ring ceremony was Ray Young of Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Parents of the couple are Richie and Paula Cullins of Plains and Claudia Polyniak of Big Spring and the late Daniel Polyniak.

Katrinka Park was pianist for the occasion. She played various wedding selections as the guests signed the guest book designed by Janie Ramos. The registry table was covered with an antique crochet coverlet, white rose bouquet, and candles. Variegated ivy, white satin bows, and white tulle adorned the center aisle. Stained glass windows were filled with variegated ivy bunches and candles. The alter was covered in cascading variegated ivy and silver candelabras. Centering the church was a white podium adorned with variegated ivy and topped with a large crystal vase of red roses. A table held the unity candle as well as memory candle and a Bible honoring the groom's deceased father.

Gary and Carmella Davis sang "Wedding Song" as guests were seated. They sang "Part of Your World" as Bruce and Nadine Parr, grandparents of the bride, and Paula Cullins and Claudia Polyniak were seated. Nadine Parr gave a blessing for the couple, which consisted of several Bible verses and poems.

As Katrinka Park played "Trumpet Voluntary" on the piano, the wedding party entered. Serving as Brandon's best man was Daniel Higginbotham of Austin. Shane Haynie of Big Spring served as groomsmen. Man of Honor was the bride's brother, Shawn Cullins of San Angelo. Gerry Rivas of Plains was the bride's attendant. All of the attendants wore black tuxedos with black accessories.

Glenda Parr, aunt of the bride, read verses from 1st Corinthians 13. Junior attendants, Jacob and Jared Cullins, nephews of the bride, and Grayson Spence rang silver hand bells to announce the arrival of the bride. As Georgann Weisgerber played "Trumpet Voluntary" on a piccolo trumpet, the bride entered the chapel with her father. The bride chose an off white, strapless floor length gown. The heart shaped neckline was accented with silver beading and pearls. Her jewelry was an heirloom diamond necklace belonging to her maternal grandmother, and diamond stud earrings, a gift from her father.

After the wedding vows Gary and Carmella Davis sang "All I Ask of You" as the couple lit the unity candle. The bride and groom were presented to family and friends while Georgann Weisgerber played "Rondeau" on the piccolo trumpet.

A reception honoring the new couple was held in the upstairs parlor of the church. A long table covered with a white linen cloth held refreshments. Centering the table was a red satin runner and a large crystal vase filled with red roses. On either side of the vase were the wedding cakes. A three tiered red velvet cake topped with white butter cream icing was adorned with cascading red roses. A three tiered chocolate cake topped with chocolate butter cream icing was adorned with chocolate covered strawberries. Assorted sweets, fruits and nuts surrounded the cakes. Two large round tables flanked the desert table and were covered in white linen cloths and ivy. Both centerpieces were white rose bouquets. One table held a silver punch bowl and the other held a silver coffee service. Serving the refreshments were Kari Gutersloh, Chelsi Wagnon, Kelly Boone, and Samantha Wiesman.

The area behind the table was covered by latticework filled with Christmas wreaths, greenery and miniature white lights and a gift table topped with silver candelabras and the bride's portrait. Favors for the guests were pouches of specially blended coffee. The house party consisted of Melisa Dorestt, Sandra Foster, Jonnie Green, and Kimberlee Wilkins. As the couple left for their honeymoon to Ruidoso, New Mexico, guests rang tiny silver bells.

The bride and groom will live in Lubbock where they are both continuing their education. Lensey is a secondary education major emphasizing chemistry and English. Brandon is a senior mechanical engineering major.

Clean Delivery

Sending a package overnight is efficient, but delivering it in an environmentally friendly truck is even better. Eaton Corp., based in Cleveland, Ohio, is developing hybrid electric delivery trucks for FedEx Express, which plans to replace up to 30,000 of its medium-duty trucks with the hybrid technology vehicles.

FedEx Express and Environmental Defense (ED), a New York-based nonprofit organization, approached Eaton with the idea for a delivery vehicle that decreases emissions, improves fuel economy and costs the same as current delivery trucks. ED claims that 10,000 hybrid vehicles, in place of standard vehicles, could reduce smog

emissions by as much as 2,000 tons, or the equivalent of removing cars from the roads of New York City for one month. They also could reduce soot emissions by 60,000 pounds, carbon dioxide emissions by 75,000 tons and save more than 6 million gallons of diesel fuel, which takes 930,000 barrels of crude oil to make.

ED and FedEx Express worked on the project for three years before FedEx Express agreed to purchase prototype vehicles from Eaton in May 2003, according to Jessica Mendelowitz of Environmental Defense.

Mendelowitz said the initial rollout is scheduled for late 2003.

Summer Peace Officer Academy Begins May 5

South Plains College's Basic Peace Officer Summer 2004 Day Academy begins May 5.

Pre-registration is required prior to April 1. A non-refundable \$50 application fee is required for a state and federal background check through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE). Classes will meet 7 am - 6 pm., Monday through Friday May 5 - August 13, 2004, in the Law Enforcement Petroleum Technology Building, Room 115.

The course is open to persons 21 years of age or older who are interested in becoming Texas peace officers. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and high school graduates of have

a GED with 12 hours of college credit from an accredited institution. Applicants also must not have a class B or higher conviction in the last 10 years.

Approximate costs are \$1,396 for in district tuition and fees and \$1,732 for out of district expenses. Tuition and fees are payable on the first day of class. Academy packets are available in the Law Enforcement Petroleum Technology Building, Room 102. Applicants must take an SPC police academy entrance exam and be accepted to South Plains College.

For more information, contact the SPC Law Enforcement Office at 806-894-9611, ext. 2291.



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From The Hack

With partisan politics raging, I stole the following ditty in a very timely manner:

A woman in a hot air balloon realized she was lost and lowered her altitude until she spotted a man in a boat below.

"Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am."

The man consulted his GPS and replied, "You're in a hot air balloon about 30 feet in the air at an elevation of 2,346 feet above sea level."

The woman rolled her eyes and said, "You must be a Republican!"

"I am," he replied. "How did you know?"

"Well, everything you told me is technically correct, but I have no idea what to make of your information, and I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help to me."

The man smiled and said, "You must be a Democrat."

"I am. How did you know," the woman asked.

"Well, you don't know where you're going. You've risen to where you are due to a large amount of hot air. You made a promise you have no idea how

to keep and you expect me to solve your problem. You're in exactly the same place you were before we met, but somehow, now it's my fault."

I read the following in the Texas State Trooper bi-monthly magazine, published in recognition of The Texas Department of Public Safety State Troopers. I carefully, very carefully examined it, and could find nothing indicating any of the material was copyrighted. I hope and Pray To God it isn't, for what I stole and is appearing here is material penned by the Right Honorable Larry Gist, apparently a Magistrate of many years experience in criminal prosecution.

I would really hate to come before him charged with theft of HIS services. He related some of the more amusing occasions he'd experienced in criminal court.

"A disgruntled defense lawyer told me once after I sentenced his client to prison he hoped if he ever needed a heart transplant operation, he would be delighted to get my heart, as he was certain it had never been used.

"We are told as new judges encountering difficult situations we should seek wise advice and counsel of senior judges. I once had to sentence an elderly woman who incidentally worked as a prostitute. I didn't know the right approach to sentencing, and went to our most senior judge for his ad-

vice. When I asked him what he thought I should give a 62 year old prostitute, he told me if I gave her more than \$10 I would be wasting my money!

"I once sentenced a defendant to more than he wanted to receive. (Actually, he didn't want to receive anything.) As the bailiff took him out of the courtroom they engaged in a struggle. The bailiff finally got him settled in a chair, and came to the Bench and told me the defendant told him I was a dirty rotten SOB. Quite offended, I called the defendant back and asked him if he'd told the bailiff I was a dirty rotten SOB. "No sir, I sure didn't tell him, I don't know how he found out."

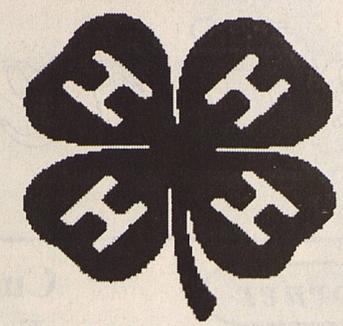
"I know a local judge who had to impose sentence on an elderly man, and gave him 50 years in prison. "Judge," cried the defendant, "I'm 64 years old, I can't do 50 years!" The Judge said, "Well, just do the best you can."

"One day as we were about to begin a hearing involving two defendants, the bailiff told me their mothers were in the back of the courtroom and couldn't hear, and wondered if they could come closer. So I looked up and said loudly, "OK, You two mothers come up here!" and both of the defendants stood up!!

"A young child gave one of the best best answers I've ever heard in cross-examination: "Do you know what happens when you lie in court?" she was asked. "Yes," she replied, "You usually win."

"I arraigned a defendant once and said, "It says here you killed your mother." "Oh, No," he protested, "My father, Judge, I killed my father!" I read the indictment more closely and replied, "Oh, yes, I'm sorry, you're charged with killing your father, how do you plead?" "Not Guilty!"

And finally - The dialogue between a victim and the prosecutor: "Didn't you tell the officer at the scene you never felt better in your life?" "Yes," responded the witness. "Well, explain that answer to the jury," said the DA. The victim-witness replied, "Well, you see, I was knocked unconscious in the accident and when I came to, I saw this officer looking at my horse, and after that shot



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him. Then he went to my dog and looked at him and then shot him. And then he comes over to me and asked me how I felt, and I sure did. I told him I feel just GREAT!"

Sounds like a wise Judge with a great sense of humor. Bet his humor would disappear, however, if I ever appeared before him!

To dispel an oft repeated theme, all golfers are not insane. A very large percentage of them, however, are seriously stupid. As proof, almost four dozen of the more stupid ones were on hand last Saturday to

Notice to all persons having claims against the estate of Agnes Mary Richardson, deceased

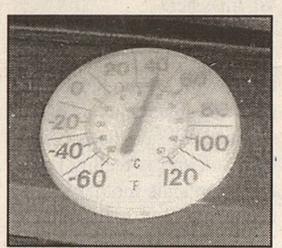
Notice is now given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of **Agnes Mary Richardson** were issued on January 19, 2004, in Cause No. 1446, pending in the County Court of Yoakum County, Texas, to; **Cathy Gene Strother**.

The residence of such Executor and where claims may be presented is as follows;

Cathy Gene Strother
1516 Cascade Range,
Lewisville, Texas 75077

All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within four (4) months after the date of the receipt of this notice and in the manner prescribed by law or the claim will be barred if not barred by the general statutes of limitation.
DATED: January 19, 2004.

Warren New
Warren New, Attorney for the Estate
PO Box 670, Denver City, Texas 79323
Phone: (806) 592-2129 - Fax (806) 592-7733



play in the year's first tournament at the county course. As this photo shows, it was a brisk 40 degrees just

minutes before the 10:30 AM start. As customary, the Club Pro, who's I.Q. I now seriously question, had range balls on hand for the players to 'warm up' with. I heard one nut next to me mutter, as he put his clubs in his bag, "If I'm warmed up now, how come my butt is so cold?"

What made it even better was the format... a one-man scramble, which only lasted five hours and 34 minutes.

Unemployment rate climbs slightly in December

Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point over the month from 6.3 percent in November to 6.4 percent in December, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. Following four consecutive months of growth, nonagricultural wage and salary employment fell by 7,500 jobs over the month.

The December seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 6.4 percent is below the year's high of 6.8 percent in May. The number of unemployed people at 702,900 is also below the year's high of 750,000 in May. Unemployment claims fell over the year by 11.9 percent.

	December 2003			
	C.L.F.	Emp.	Unemp.	Rate
State of Texas	11,013.8	10,371.4	642.4	5.8
Ablene	61.4	59.1	2.3	3.7
Amarillo	117.7	113.9	3.8	3.2
Austin-San Marcos	792.0	756.0	36.0	4.5
Beaumont-Port Arthur	185.3	169.0	16.3	8.8
Brazoria	115.5	106.6	8.9	7.7
Brownsville-Harlingen	148.6	132.9	15.7	10.6
Bryan-College Station	87.1	85.4	1.7	1.9
Corpus Christi	184.4	173.5	10.9	5.9
Dallas	2,051.7	1,929.1	122.6	6.0
El Paso	303.0	278.5	24.5	8.1
Fort Worth-Arlington	970.3	918.7	51.6	5.3
Galveston-Texas City	123.3	113.9	9.4	7.6
Houston	2,347.0	2,207.5	139.5	5.9
Killeen-Temple	124.0	118.3	5.7	4.6
Laredo	84.4	79.0	5.4	6.4
Longview-Marshall	107.2	101.3	5.9	5.5
Lubbock	134.1	130.0	4.1	3.0
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	234.2	202.9	31.3	13.4
Odessa-Midland	127.6	121.5	6.1	4.7
San Angelo	52.2	50.4	1.8	3.4
San Antonio	843.3	803.2	40.1	4.8
Sherman-Denison	52.3	48.7	3.6	6.8
Texarkana	Data Not Available			
Tyler	98.9	94.3	4.6	4.6
Victoria	45.9	43.9	2.0	4.4
Waco	108.4	103.7	4.7	4.3
Wichita Falls	65.8	63.2	2.6	3.9