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Elementary, Jr. High Promotions & Awards, & PHS Athletic Awards This Issue



Cowboy Country

News



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

Volume V, Issue 37, Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Plains I.S.D. Suffers A Triple Whammy

Two Principals, key teacher tender resignations

Plains School Superintendent Jim Haynes pulled no punches last Friday when he described his emotions after being informed of Middle School Principal Ronnie Watkins, Elementary Principal Don Weems and Diagnostician/Special Education teacher Kathy Weems decision to resign their positions immediately.

"It's a real disaster. It's always hard to lose one of your valued staff members, but to lose two top administrators and a teacher who has played a huge role in our special education program just a few days apart, it's devastating, not just to me personally, but for

all our staff, the students, and the Board of Trustees."

Ronnie Watkins, Junior High Principal here since 1994, was the first to tell Haynes of his decision to resign and return to Brownwood, the home of his 81 year old mother. Interviewed Friday, just prior to the Junior High promotion and award assembly, he told CCN, "I feel like I didn't have a choice. Mother first had some serious heart problems earlier, and a few months ago, she suffered a stroke." He explained, "My dad passed away when I was 20, and after all the help she gave me over the years, I feel a real obligation to help see after her now."

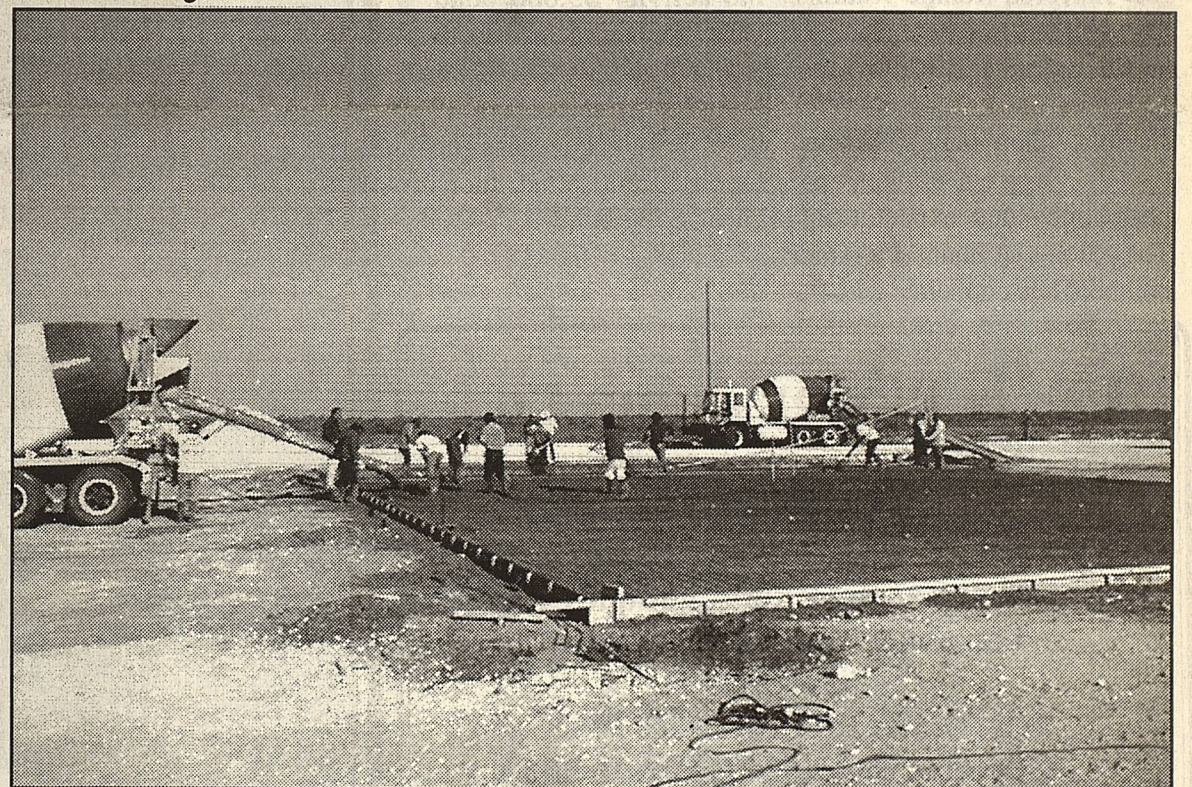
Watkins, with bachelor and master degrees from Sul Ross University, started his teaching career in Coleman in 1970, and served in schools at Alpine, Blanket and May before being hired here. He holds a Superintendents Certificate, and is qualified as a Curriculum Supervisor as well as his Mid-Mangement Certificate.

He has taught a number of subjects, has coached most of the UIL sports, and has served as athletic director.

Asked how he viewed his five years stint as Principal here, Watkins paused a moment, then said very positively,

**Turn to Page 2
'Resignations'**

Construction begins on building for Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, Sandy Land weather enhancement use



Workers are shown pouring one of many truck loads of cement for the foundation of the new, 5,000 square foot building being raised at the county airport. Under an agreement reported earlier in CCN, Sandy Land Underground Conservation District is erecting the building, and will lease some 3,000 square feet of space to the Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation. The Foundation serves the South Plains Weevil Eradication Zone, which Yoakum County is a member of.

Sandy Land Director David Turnbough said the other 2,000 square feet of the building will be used to house an aircraft which will take part in the weather enhancement program, seeding clouds to enhance precipitation over the area. Sandy Land is just one of the area water districts which have helped fund the seeding project, also reported earlier in CCN. Target date for completion of the building is August 1, and Turnbough said the job is currently ahead of schedule.

County Criminal Cases Heard

The following cases were heard in County Court May 19, with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding. Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the State.

Hilario Anthony Holguin, Jr., AKA Tony Holguin, 26, pled true to the states motion to revoke community supervision from a prior marijuana possession. He was sentenced to serve 60 days in jail, with credit for 12 days served.

Able Parra, 39, pled guilty and was sentenced to serve 60 days in jail, suspended and probated 12 months. He must pay court

costs of \$214.25, a fine of \$500, and \$2,517.61 restitution to the Department of Human Services. Special conditions included Community supervision, disqualification of defendant and Aracely Parra from Federal Food Stamp Program for 12 months, and serve 80 hours of community service.

Abraham Hamm, 39, pled guilty to assault causing bodily injury. He was sentenced to serve 180 days in jail, suspended and probated 18 months. He must pay \$184.25 court cost and a \$750.00 fine. Special conditions of community supervision 1 attend Alcoholics (Narcotics) Anonymous weekly, 2 enroll within 30 days and successfully complete a batterer's treatment

program, attend aftercare counseling as directed. He may not commit family violence or an act of harassment or stalking, against Mary Hamm, and he may not directly communicate with Mary Hamm or a member of her household in a threatening or harassing manner. He was defended by attorney Jimmy H a m m o n s .

**Due to Memorial
Day Holiday the
Plains Chamber
will not meet
until
June 8, 1999**

Join us in commemorating Memorial Day

For many Americans, particularly the younger ones, the purpose of observing Memorial Day may be a bit obscure. It is, of course, the time we honor those men and women who wore a uniform of our Armed Forces in times of deadly conflict, and now, rest at peace in thousands of cemeteries across our land, and many more on foreign soils.

Consider these sobering figures;

- * In World War I, 4,744,000 Americans served their country
- * In World War II, 16,535,000 served.
- * In the Korean War, 6,807,000 served.
- * In the Vietnam War, 9,834,000 served.

In other lesser sized but equally dangerous and deadly conflicts, hundreds of thousands more served.

It is not necessary to visit the better known National Cemeteries such as Arlington in Washington, D.C., or the Punch Bowl in Honolulu, or the sprawling site overlooking the deadly beaches of Normandy, France to grasp the enormity of the very personal sacrifices made over the years by so very many who answered their country's call to arms, and paid the ultimate price. Virtually every final resting place in the country will bear witness to these veterans, as does our Plains Cemetery .

Our Lord Jesus Christ eloquently told us centuries ago why we need to pause on Memorial Day to honor the memory of those who answered the call;

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

From Page 1 'Resignations'

"Without a doubt, Plains ISD is the very best school system I have ever been associated with. I have been blessed with an outstanding staff of people helping me, some great kids and fine parents. My boss Jim Haynes is not just a fine man but a super administrator, and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with him and the entire Board of Trustees." He said he had no definite immediate plans after his relocation to Brownwood.

Haynes said just days later, he arrived at his office early, and the Weems' were waiting for him. "I could tell by the look on their faces this was something important, but I didn't expect to be hit again with the news of resignations."

Ironically, and sadly, the couple had the identical reason to announce their resignations, in order for them to return to Ruidoso to better care for Kathy's 85 year old mother.

Don and Kathy Weems received bachelor and master degrees from Eastern New Mexico University. They have a combined total of 58 years educational experience. Don has been an administrator 24 years, his last position before coming here principal at Sierra Vista Primary School in Ruidoso.

Like Watkins, their plans for the immediate future are unclear. Kathy may continue to do school diagnostic work on a part-time, contractual basis.

The couple's views on Plains ISD mirrored Ronnie Watkins. "We feel this is a great place for an educator, and it's a great place for the kids in all three schools," Don said, "This district has a great educational philosophy and expectations. The parents of Plains are rather unique; They cooperate with the

school, they take part in school activities, and this brings back memories of how it was everywhere, years ago. It's a refreshing experience."

Don Weems said when they came to Plains, the Board explained to them what was expected in the scope of district philosophy, then "they let us do it. Jim Haynes has been very supportive to both of us. We could not have had a better boss and board to work with and for." Kathy added, "This is such a great community to work and live in. We have made so many good friends here. The longer we stayed, the harder it was to make the decision to leave. There are plenty of small town values left in Plains, Texas."

Superintendent Haynes and the board have a formidable task in the coming summer months, locating quality people to replace the McAdams', Watkins and the Weems'.

JP Court Summary

May 14, 1999 - The following is a summary of cases heard and bonds set in Justice of the Peace Court, Precinct 1, Judge Melba Crutcher presiding: Cases filed - 49 traffic cases, 1 small claims case, 2 felony cases, 1 case filed by Yoakum County Sanitarian. Bonds set - no drivers license \$95.00 fine, 5 cases burglary of a building \$3,000 bond, 3 cases motion to revoke probation-held until hearing, 2 cases engaging in organized criminal activity \$3,000 bond, 2 cases engaging in organized criminal activity \$1,000 bond, burglary of a building \$750 bond, criminal trespass - habitation \$1,500 bond, theft by check \$500 bond.

The Three Musketeers and the girls track team would like to thank our wonderful coaches, Coach Lusk and Coach Haragan. They have gone above the call of duty this track season in helping improve our track program. Thank you so much for the hard work and dedication you put into our team!!



PHS 'Wall Street Tycoons' make big bucks in stock game

Each year students in Coach Edwin Brink's economics class take part in The Stock Market Game, sponsored by New Mexico State University. Brink said ten teams were formed, given "\$100,000" to invest over a ten week period. All but one team made a profit, and one team, Captained by Anne Palmer, including Kristen Gray, Velvet Canada, Mike Bell and Keith Jackson, finished First in regional competition against 66 other teams.

The teams investments over the ten weeks made a hefty profit of \$29,365. The leading stock they invested in, E-Trade, was purchased at \$46 per share, and ended at \$96. This year the stock market teams utilized classroom computers, and were able to follow the daily market action on the Internet.

The team members were presented with award certificates, T-Shirts, and a plaque for the school.

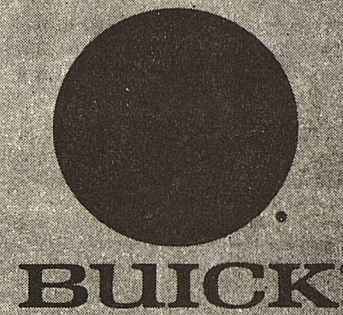
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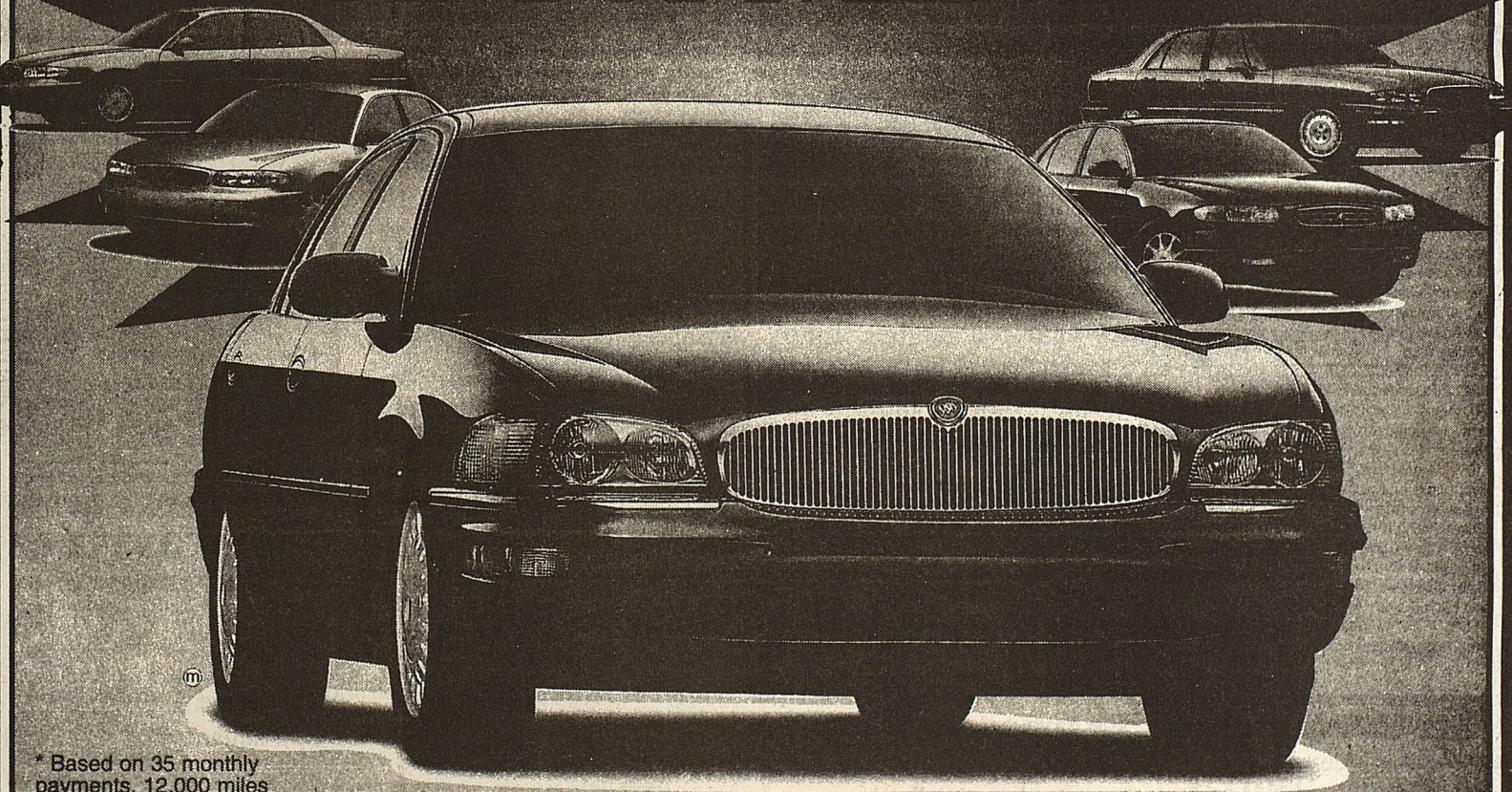
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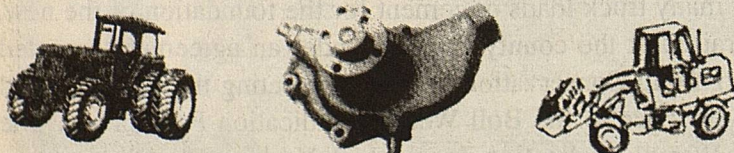
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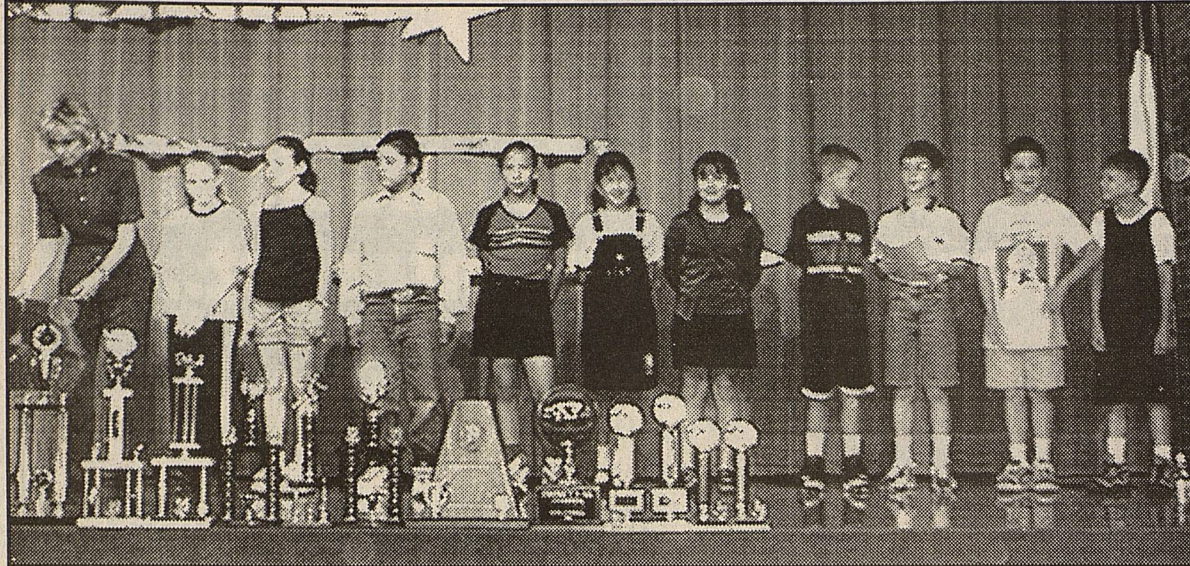
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Elementary awards assembly scenes



Mrs. House's third graders receiving awards from Mr. Weems



Joyce Pierce presents awards to her fourth graders



Third and fourth graders lead pledge of allegiance to U.S. Flag



Third and fourth graders prepare to pledge Texas Flag

Middle School Awards Assembly

Fifth through eighth grade Junior High students reaped dozens of scholastic and sports honors and awards last Friday morning.

The Brownfield VFW Post awarded a savings bond to Grady McNabb for a prize winning essay. Marty Villareal received the Special Friend award for assisting Manuel Mendoza around school the entire year. Industrial technology awards were made, along with band awards from Director Portillo. All UIL participants received recognition, as well as all sports participants.

Abel Ramos, Zachary Broome, Raul Cacias, Cendy Lopez, Trent May, Elda Fierro and Jessica Roodriguez received cash prizes for not missing a day in school the entire year.

Eighth graders entering high school next year include; Megan Allsup, Jordan Bean, Chelsea Blount, Mario Bonilla, Kelly Bowers, Tiffany Canon, Justin Chambliss, Miguel Coronado, Chisum Deaton, Jonathan De La Rosa



Ronnie Watkins presents Special Friend award to Marty Villareal. ** This was the only photo available because of a camera malfunction on awards day **

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Joanna Diaz | Tiffany Mullins |
| Elda Fierro | Bradley Palmer |
| Sandra Gallegos | Jose Ramirez |
| Crystal Garcia | Rachel Ramos |
| Krystal Gonzalez | Manuel Ramoz |
| Jill Gray | Elizabeth Rodriguez |
| Isamari Guzman | Jessica Rodriguez |
| Nicholas Hays | Amanda Rogers |
| Chase Howell | Angel Ruiz |
| Jessica Knight | Shandi Sellers |
| Benny Loewen | Ryan Swann |
| Marckos Luna | Jesus Terrazas |
| Sandra Luna | Bradley Trent |
| Aida Martinez | Kayla Willis |
| Kimberly Martinez | Elizabeth Wilmeth |
| Arturo Molina | Mackenzie Winn |

Booster Club PHS Athletic Awards night



Cowgirl Track team members Lisa Parrish, Cassie Dearing, Anne Palmer, Krystle Blundell, Wendy Hernandez and Kristen Gray received special recognition.

Outstanding Athletes included;
 Girls basketball, Kimberly Newland
 Boys basketball, Tanner Blount
 Football, Adam Garcia & Dustin Brunson
 Girls cross country, Krystle Blundell
 Boys, Felipe Reyna
 Boys track, Jared Bell
 Girls track, Kristen Gray
 Boys tennis, Clint Burrus, Dustin Brunson
 Girls tennis, Velvet Canada
 Powerlift, David Granados
 Volleyball, Kayla Redman
 Baseball, Steven Bunch
 Boys golf, Kelsey Blundell
 Girls golf, Autumn Deaton
 Boys Black & Gold- Steven Bunch
 Girls Black & Gold- Kristen Gray
 (More photos next issue)

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 by Liz
 Lizabeth Clemens

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City Report On Water Quality

The City of Plains is proud of the drinking water it provides. This annual quality report contains information about the results of the test run on our drinking water. It is published today in the paper as a requirement of the 1996 Safe Drinking Water act. The city of Plains will notify you if there is any reason for concern about our water.

THE BOTTOM LINE: IS THE WATER SAFE TO DRINK? ABSOLUTELY

Call us for information about the next opportunity for public participation in decisions about our drinking water. Our water source is the Ogallala Aquifer, water is pumped out of the ground throughout the surrounding area. This water is transmitted to our water treatment facilities through a network of underground pipes. A Source-Water Assessment has been performed for our area to provide baseline data about the quality of water before it is treated and distributed to customers. To complete your understanding of our water supply, you can request a copy of the assessment from TNRC P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711.

WHAT DOES THE TABLE MEAN?

This report is based upon tests conducted in the year 1998 by and for the City of Plains. **MAXIMUM CONTAINMENT LEVEL OR MCL** Is the highest level of a containment that is allowed in drinking water.

The City of Plains did not test for Radon or Cryptosporidium.

KEY TO TABLE:

Pci/l=PicoCuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

PPM=Parts per Million. This corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000

PPB=Parts per Billion. This corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000

ITEMS DETECTED:

SUBSTANCE	UNIT	MCL	DETECTED LEVEL	VIOLA-TION
Alpha Emitters	pCi/L	15	4.5	no
Beta/Photon Emitters	pCi/L	50	7.9	no
Combined Radium 226/228	pCi/l	5	0.3	no
Fluoride	ppm	2	3.6	yes
Mercury	ppb	2	0.28	no
Nitrate	ppm	10	3.61	no
Selenium	ppb	50	23.9	no
Sulfate	ppm	300	448	yes
Arsenic	ppb	50	16.4	no
Barium	ppm	2	0.04	no
Iron	ppm	0.3	0.02	no
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1000	1046	yes

EXPLANATION OF VIOLATIONS:

The Fluoride and the sulfate along with the Total Dissolved Solids occur from the erosion of natural deposits in the aquifer in this region. In common terms we have "Hard Water". Studies have been conducted to search for other approved sources of water, whose delivery could be obtained at an economical price.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)

*More honors
and
award photos
in next
issue of CCN*

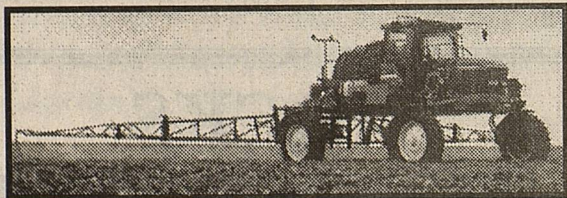
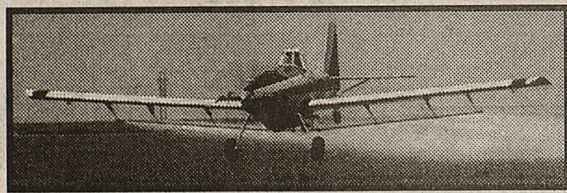
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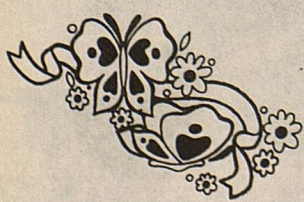
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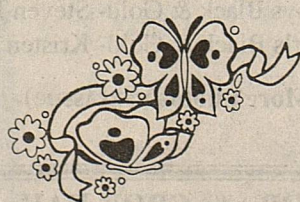
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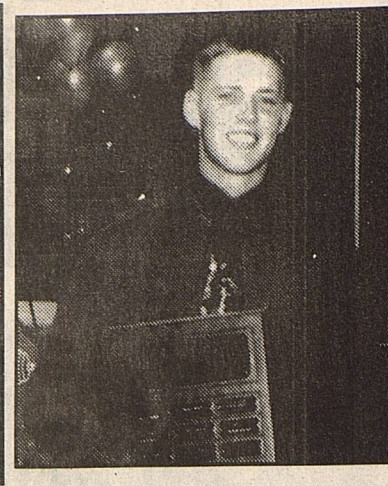
Help us celebrate our

First Year!

Larry Boyd, MD Shirley Watson, RN/AFN, Cindy Parker, LVN,
Hope Coronado, Receptionist

Junior Kristen Gray, and Senior Steven Bunch were named winners of the coveted "Black & Gold Awards" given by the Booster Club each year.

Kristen, daughter of Mr & Mrs John Gray, was outstanding in track, basketball and cross country. Steven, son of Mr & Mrs David Bunch, was top baseballer, and received honors in football and track



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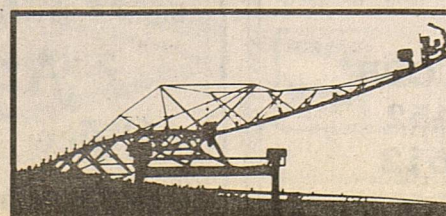
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Piano Recital



A spring recital was held for the piano students of Dana Davis at the First Baptist Church on May 13th. Those performing were; Elizabeth Clanahan, Becky Wilmeth, Allison Friesen, Amber Friesen, Lauren Davis, Kimber Williams, Erika Loewam, April Wilmeth, Colby Wilmeth, Lauren Hise, and guest performance by B.J. Lester. Awards were given to the top three students who scored highest on their achievement skills. These students are-L-R Lauren Hise 177, Lauren Davis 172, and Amber Friesen 161 points.

Senior Citizens Corner

Our visitors this week were Robert Marshall and Pete Lara from SPAG. They were helping with the new computer and auditing.

Layne and Wanda Black had their daughter, Rayceen and nieces Sandra and Vickie as lunch guests one day. Visitors make our day, so come on down and enjoy a good meal anyday. Commissioners Slentz ate lunch one day. He and Bob were discussing some big deal. Maybe Slentz was trying to figure out how to cope with the low tax budget. We all appreciate our county people and all the support they give us.

The pool tournament was well attended. First place winners for the ladies were Joan Poage in 8 ball and Eilene Fillipo in 9 ball. First place winners for the men were Joe Trijillo in 8 ball and V.L. Sparks in 9 ball.

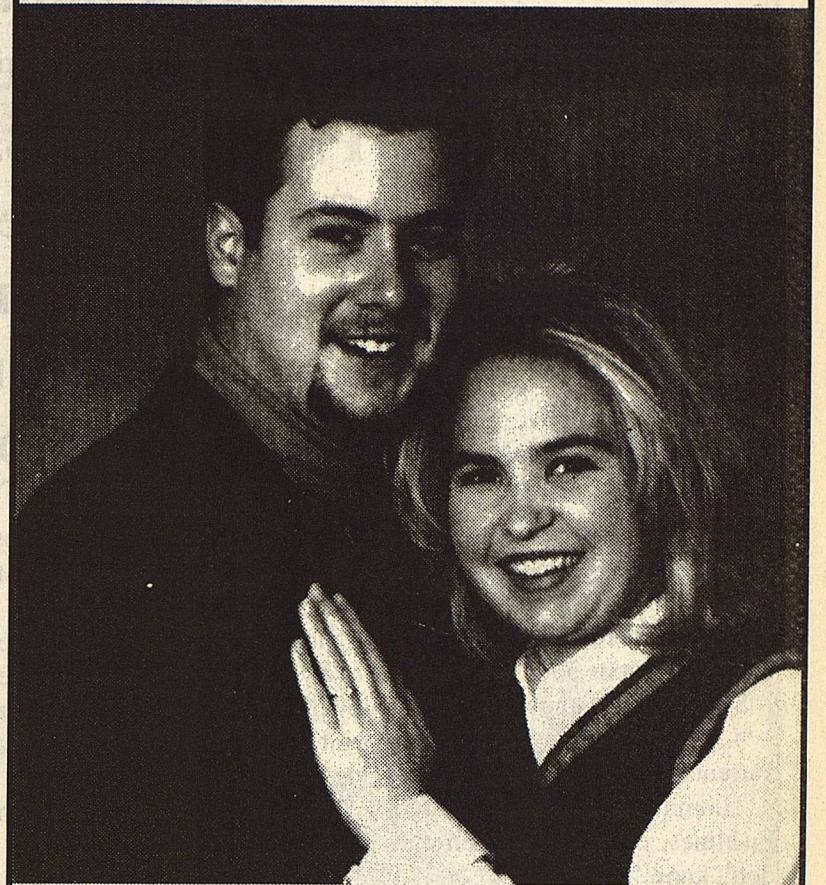
New lunch people from Plains are Weston Powell and Louise Cobb. We are happy to be able to send a nice lunch to these people.

The bridge lessons are trucking right along. Hope Wanda does not give up on us. Maybe we will learn eventually.

Don't forget the Memorial Day Holiday is coming up.

See you next week,
Smitty

Wedding Plans Announced



Mrs. Toni L. Soto of Anthony, New Mexico and Mr. Dallas R. Snyder of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter Kasandra Dawn Snyder to Bruce Allan Bearden, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Dion of Lubbock.

The couple will be married at 3:00 p.m. Saturday June 5th in Melonie Park Baptist Church with Rev. Michael Cox officiating the double ring ceremony.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Anthony High School and attended Wayland Baptist College and South Plains College. She is a Licensed Vocational Nurse and is employed at University Medical Center.

The groom-elect is a graduate of Monterey High School and attended Wayland Baptist College and South Plains College. He is employed at New Horizon Baptist Church as Youth Minister.

The couple will live in Lubbock. Bruce is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Bearden of Tokio, Texas.

Wedding Shower Announcement

Kipp Blount & Heather Fields

Sunday, June 6th, 1999 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

In the Home of Jan Parrish

1402 1st street, Plains, Tx 79355

**Selections: Dillard's-Lubbock,
Nelson's Pharmacy-Brownfield,
Flower Patch, Bayers - Plains**

Thank You!

To all in the Plains Community for the prayers, visits, cards, phone calls, and your concern.
I'm getting a little stronger each day.

Marie Snodgrass

*A very special "THANKS" to the
Sanctuary Choir of First Baptist Church
for the excellent presentation of
"GOD FOR US." I have always been an
advocate for the ministry of music. Thank
you for a job well done!
Billie Blundell*

**It's a Shower for a little boy!
ZANE DANIEL WALL**

son of Ronny and Jalyn

Saturday, June 5

10:00 to 11:30

**in the home of Sonnie Stephens 202 Ave G,
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From The Hack

Tired of getting incessant phone calls from telephone suppliers? I may have stumbled on a way to at least slow them down from the same company.

Recently, while trying to take a nap, the call came. It went like this: "Cowboy Country News," in my cheeriest voice.

"Hello, sir, may I speak to Holly Dyer?"

"No. She is attending a funeral." Pause, "Oh, I'm so sorry. I hope it wasn't a close family member!" "It was. A Rat Terrier, aged 11."

"Sir, a dog?"

"Yes, fine dog, better qualities than her uncle who owned it."

Pause - "Sir, may I ask you a few simple questions to assist us in our communications poll?"

"Simple is all I know."

"I see. What company is your current long distance carrier?"

"Hmmm, it's either Key Largo Fishlines, or Presidio Pacific, I don't know."

"hmmm. I cannot find either on my chart of companies, sir."

"Of course not. They are bankrupt."

"Sir, to change the direction this is going a bit, how many phone lines do you have now?"

"It varies from three to nine, depending on the time of month."

"I don't understand, sir."

"I don't either. It's some sort of deal the wife has worked out with the phone guy. Some days I have three, then I may have none for a while, till he visits again."

"Do you have an E-Mail address?"

"Certainly. BR-129."

"That's not an E-Mail address!"

"Of course not. Regular everyday gossip is lots faster and cheaper in

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this town."

"Sir, I may be wrong, but I sense you may be pulling my leg just a bit."

"Honey, from the sound of your lovely voice, I would probably enjoy pulling your leg more than just a bit. Unfortunately, this call is taking place a few years too late."

"Mr. Dyer, do I detect a bit of humor in your conversation?"

"Absolutely not. I am serious as cancer. Everyone knows I am always serious. I do not even smile or chuckle at small babies, even my grandkids, even when Bill Clinton made all those statements about his purity and that of the blue dress!"

"Oh my. Just one serious question. Please tell me the reason you changed from your last long distance carrier to the present, whoever they are?"

"Sure. I stiffed 'em. Didn't pay the bill. Soon as I got cut off, another one wanted to get my business. I let 'em. When are you people gonna hook me up?"

The line was dead

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Hol	1760 lbs	\$40.25
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Walker, Texas Rep

By State Representative Gary Walker, Dist. 80
Major Legislation

Several pieces of major legislation made their way to the floor last week. On Wednesday, we heard the parental notification bill for abortions performed on minor girls. Several conservative amendments had been added to the bill when there was a point of order called, and the bill was sent back to committee. SB 30 came back to the floor on Friday, and was passed to third reading.

I voted for SB 717, limiting lawsuits against gun or ammunition manufacturers, and against SB 60, requiring seat belts to be worn by children riding in the back seats of vehicles. I also voted for a constitutional amendment to be put before the voters allowing reverse mortgages.

The school bus speed limit bill I authored passed the Senate with amendments added. Students being bused to extracurricular activities will now be able to get there a little faster. Yellow school buses will be able to travel at 60 miles per hour when transporting students for extracurricular purposes, and larger, Greyhound type buses will be able to travel at the posted speed limit. The House concurred with the Senate amendments.

Electric deregulation was on the floor Thursday and Friday. I received many calls from my district supporting this legislation. My main concern was that rural interests would be protected. Choice of electric providers may work really well in the cities, but I didn't foresee a lot of electric companies lining up to offer competition in rural areas. Once the rural co-ops that service our area signed onto the bill, I felt a lot better about it. Thank you to all who contacted my office. The bill passed Thursday evening 142-4, with my vote being one of the 142. Final passage was Friday.

The education bill was tentatively scheduled to be on the floor the afternoon of Sunday, May 23rd. I have had many calls from the district letting me know that the House version of SB 4 is superior to the Senate version, and to vote accordingly. Thank you for the input.

More deadlines approaching: the 21st is the last day for the House to pass a local House bill. A local bill is one that does not have statewide implications. The 22nd is the last day for a House committee to report a Senate bill out of committee. The 25th is the last day for the House to consider Senate bills for debate on the floor.

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