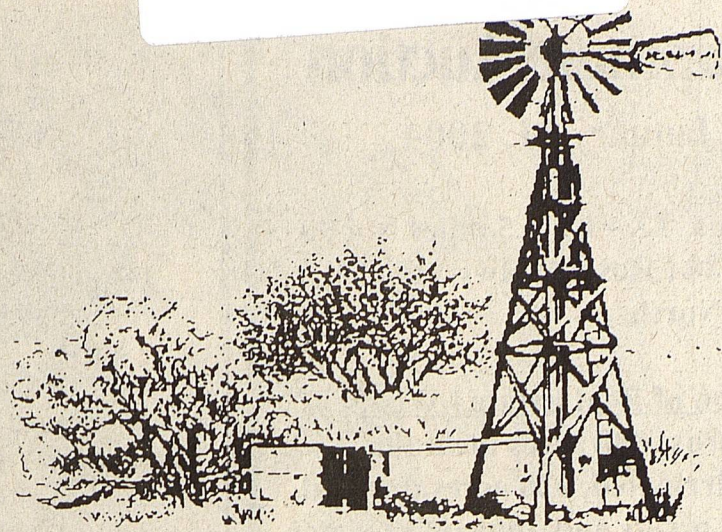


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Cowboy Country News

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

Volume XI, Issue 17, January 5, 2005



Cash only donations suggested for Asia's Tsunami victims

The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Red Cross, Salvation Army, The Governor's Division of Emergency Management and all other well know relief organizations are urging donors to make cash donations to the huge area of tragic devastation following the earthquake and killer Tsunami which produced well over 100,000 deaths, and its toll continues to climb.

Explaining why cash donations to known relief agencies are more efficient and effective than donations of material goods, the Governor's Division of Emergency Management asked all media sources to stress the advantages of money donations over material goods;

* Cash donations provide flexibility to help disaster victims in situations which may change rapidly. * Cash donations minimize problems involved in transportation, delivery and storage of material goods. This is especially important for areas where bridges, roads, warehouses and other infrastructure have been destroyed. * Cash donations keep relief workers focused on their work with survivors, instead of diverting their efforts to sorting, storing, tracking and distributing goods. * People in foreign nations may have cultures very different from ours, and it is important for relief workers to have cash to purchase food, clothing and other materials culturally acceptable.

More information is available at the following web sites - Voluntary Organizations Active In Disaster For Texas can be reached at www.txvoad.org. National VOAD can be reached at www.nvoad.org.

PCG Optimistic On Ag Outlook For 2004-05

The past year has been one of tremendous change for the Texas High Plains and its growers, according to Plains Cotton Growers Inc.

During 2004, cotton farmers accomplished more than many thought possible in the field, and on the legislative and regulatory issues that affect them. Producers, working through PCG, helped secure beneficial disaster assistance legislation, protected the key components of the 2002 Farm Bill and worked to lay the groundwork necessary to protect agriculture's interests.

At the state level, future debates on issues ranging from water to the budget and school finance reform will be shaped by the efforts that PCG put forth in 2004.

At the federal level, budget issues will ultimately shape the debates important to cotton. Federal issues on the horizon include the start of the 2007 Farm Bill development process, preserving and expanding conservation program funding, and dealing with the delivery of farm programs, crop insurance and conservation programs.

Production-wise, the 2004 cotton crop is expected to set records that will likely remain unbroken for decades to come, according to a PCG news release.

For a new generation of cotton growers, the 2004 crop year may be remembered as a once in a life time event.

A significant event in 2004 was the passage of a 2003/2004 Disaster Assistance bill by Congress in the days leading up to the November elections.

Following the summer of 2003, when the area was devastated by multiple hail storms that destroyed nearly one million acres of cotton, efforts were redoubled and resulted in the 2003-2004 disaster assistance program.

The version of the legislation that eventually passed was introduced by Congressman Randy Neugebauer of Lubbock, and it includes both yield and quality loss components based on the crop disaster assistance programs approved for the 2000, 2001 and 2002 crops.

The disaster debate seemed to be a culmination of a gut-wrenching election cycle for the High Plains. That election forced two cotton friendly candidates to square off against one another, leading to the loss of one voice in the halls of Congress.

PCG looks forward to working with new District 11 Representative Mike Conaway of Midland, keeping him mindful of the significant cotton interests that he represents in his area.

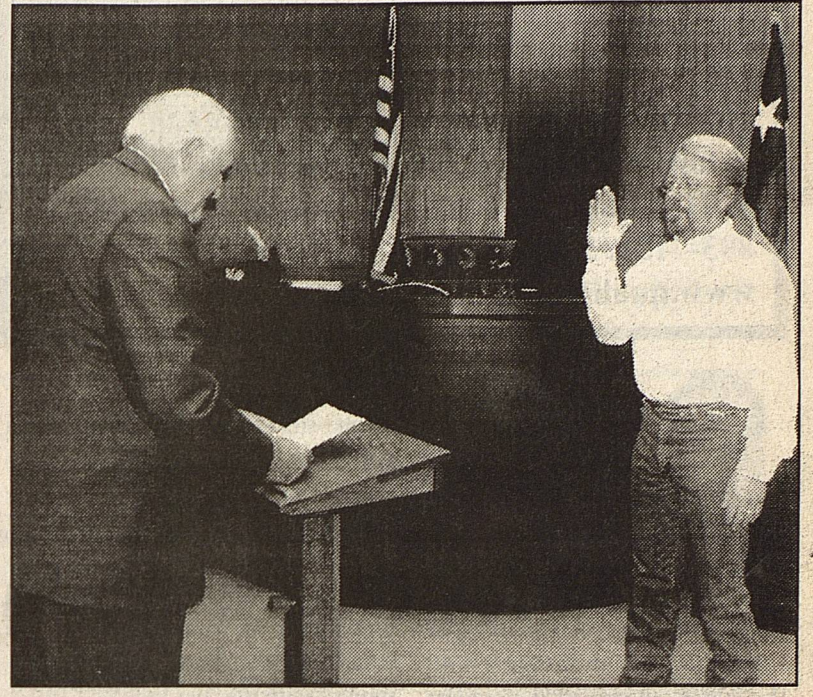
The most visible change that occurred in this region in 2004 was the abundant moisture which may have broken the

Turn to Pg. 4
'Ag Outlook'

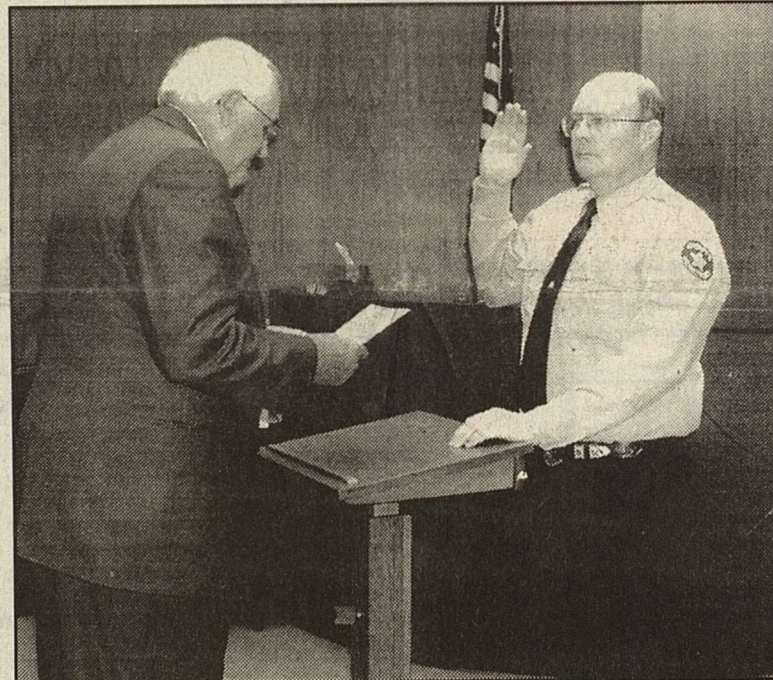
County Elected Officials, Law Officers Sworn In



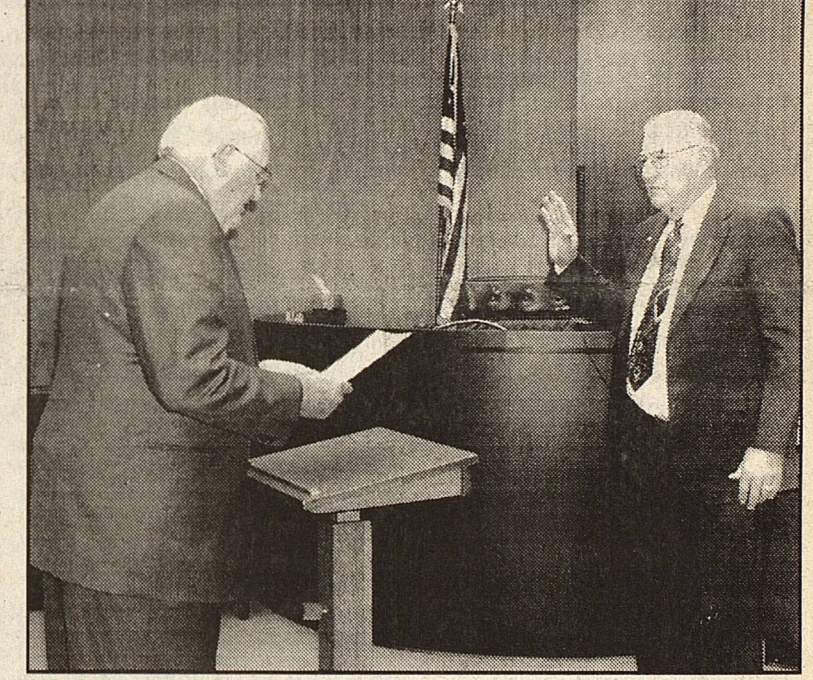
Jan Parrish, newly elected Tax Assessor/Collector, sworn by Judge Brewer



Pct. 1 Commissioner Woody Lindsey returns to office.



Re-Elected Sheriff Don Corzine sworn by Judge Brewer



Re-elected Pct. 3 Commissioner Ty Powell returns for another term

Yoakum County Sheriff, Deputies and Reserve Deputies were sworn-in as a group. Shown left to right are;

- Kenley Powell,
- Becky Carr,
- Tony Wright,
- Sheriff Corzine
- Ron Craft
- Curtis Coffman,
- Peggy Squyres,
- Judge Brewer,
- Darrel Smith,
- Chad Burris,
- John Stephenson,
- Greg Hix,
- David Bryant,
- Lt. Larry Murphree,
- Joe Ramos. Not present,
- Capt. Jerry Howard



Chamber's Memorial Brick Sale Progress Extends Order Deadline

Plains and Yoakum County's notable generosity and willingness to work for a worthy goal is being exemplified by the Chamber's efforts to fund the purchase of an electronic sign board for Pioneer Park. Orders for commemorative and memo-

rial bricks which will form the base and foundation for the new sign have been so encouraging Chamber officials are extending the deadline for purchasing the bricks

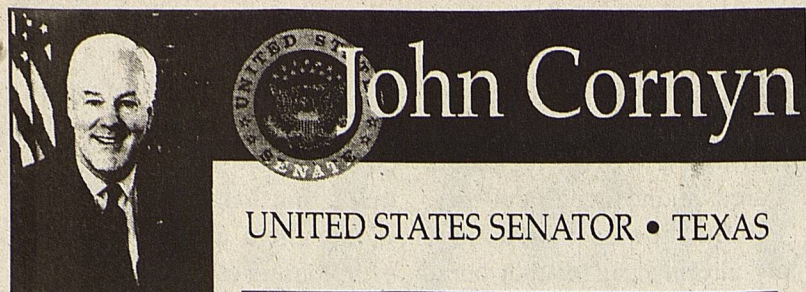
A quick review of the order forms for bricks indicates they

will convey a multitude of messages when in place. Entire family names are recorded. A number of early pioneer settler families will be honored. A number of club and organization orders have been turned in. Several local churches, and a number of local business firms have placed orders. Former PHS teachers and coaches have been remembered. Below one individual's name the message "My Friend" has been ordered. Local traditions, including the

Watermelon Round Up and Operation Christmas Card will be featured. A PHS graduating Class, a former elected county official, the Plains 4-H Club, a former farm supply store, a local cotton gin will all be remembered with a brick.

In addition to brick orders, a number of generous donations have been received. All donors and brick purchasers will be recognized when the fund rais-

Turn to Pg. 4
'Brick's'



John Cornyn

UNITED STATES SENATOR • TEXAS

Cornyn Named Border Texan Of The Year

Recognized for outstanding commitment to issues important to border region.

Sen. John Cornyn, a member of the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship, was named the Border Texan of the Year on Tuesday. Sen. Cornyn will receive the prestigious award for his outstanding commitment to issues and concerns important to the Rio Grande Valley. Members of the Border Texan of the Year Committee, led by Hidalgo Mayor John David Franz, made the announcement in McAllen. The award, given to someone who works to improve the quality of life in the Texas border region, will be officially presented this March at Border Fest, the largest and oldest Heritage Music Festival in South Texas.

"I'm honored to be named Border Texan of the Year," Sen. Cornyn said. "And I'm proud to represent the people of the Rio Grande Valley in the Sen-

ate, and to work on behalf of their needs, concerns and interests."

"There are many important concerns along the border that we must continue to address, but the unprecedented growth in trade and traffic between Texas and Mexico has led to prosperity and a greater quality of life on both sides," Sen. Cornyn added. "As the border population continues to grow, it's more important than ever that we fix our broken immigration system. I hope Congress will take up immigration reform quickly in the new year to enhance our border security and allow those willing to work within the law for a limited time that opportunity."

Sen. Cornyn, Vice Chairman of the Senate Republican Task Force on Hispanic Affairs, has played a key role on various border issues in the past year, including working to secure an extension for laser visa holders, allowing them to stay in the

United States for 30 days instead of three days. He has also been one of the leaders in restarting the dialogue to bring about serious immigration reform that had stalled after the terrorist attacks on September 11. Sen. Cornyn introduced the Border Security and Immigration Reform Act last year, comprehensive legislation allowing temporary workers to come to the U.S., work for a limited time, then return to their home country with the skills and capital they have earned.

Sen. Cornyn has also worked recently to ensure that the US VISIT program, just implemented on Monday, is an entry-exit system that achieves the right balance between enhancing border security while allowing legitimate travel and trade to thrive, growing the economy. Among Sen. Cornyn's other accomplishments for the border region in 2004 were continuing to urge Mexico to repay their water debt owed to South Texas, working with Department of Homeland Security officials to suspend lateral repatriation and ensure greater communication with local officials, and traveling to Central America to discuss various issues, including the Central America Free Trade Agreement.

Sen. Cornyn also serves as a member of the Senate Republican Task Force on Health Care Costs and the Uninsured, the Congressional Oversight Group on Trade, and the President's Export Council. He chairs the subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights, and is the only former judge on the committee. He served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice, and Bexar County District Judge.

Deaf Smith, the Scout who destroyed Vince's Bridge before the battle of San Jacinto, was fond of skunk meat. He claimed the scent of the skunk had high medicinal value and would fight off strong cases of consumption.

Lots of experience going into retirement



These three retirees from the County Tax Office accounted for a combined 70 years experience in the Tax Assessor/Collector office. Betty Rivas, center, retired after four years as Tax Assessor/Collector and 23 years as a Deputy in the office. Sheila Stephens, left, served as a deputy in the office 26 years, and Sheila Ashburn, right, had 23 years experience.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Plains Independent School District intends to destroy records of students who have received special education services. Records to be destroyed are for persons who received Special Education, including speech therapy services, prior to 1996-1997 school year. These records are located at

School	Plains ISD
Phone	(806)456-7498
Address	Box 479 Plains, TX 79155

Legal parent / guardian or adult student with disabilities may request copies of these records at the school.

AVISO

Aviso está dado que La Escuela de Plains tiene intención de destruir documentos de estudiantes que recibieron servicio de Educación Especial. Documentos que deben ser destruidos son para personas que recibieron educación especial, incluyendo servicios de terapia de lenguaje hasta el año escolar 1996-1997. Los únicos documentos que van estar destruidos son los que están localizados en

Escuela	Plains ISD
Teléfono	(806)456-7498
Dirección	Box 479 Plains, TX 79155

Padres / guardián legal o estudiantes adultos con incapacidades física / mentales pueden pedir copias de sus documentos en la escuela.

Congratulations

on your retirement to Betty Rivas, Sheila Stephens and Sheila Ashburn. Best wishes in your new job to Jeannette Serna. With these long time employees goes over 75 years of experience in the Tax Office. I trust the citizens of Yoakum County will show us patience and understanding as the new employees and myself learn our jobs.
Jan Parrish
Yoakum County Tax Assessor Collector

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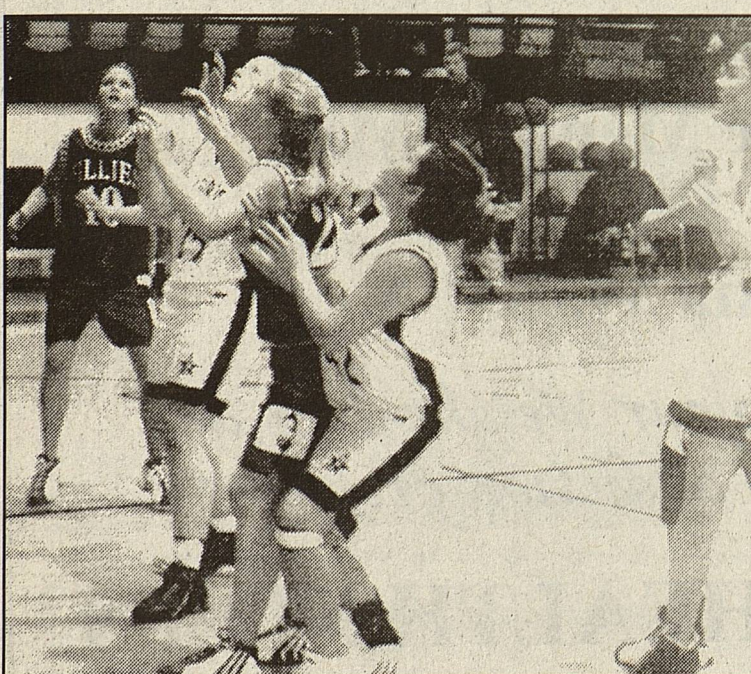
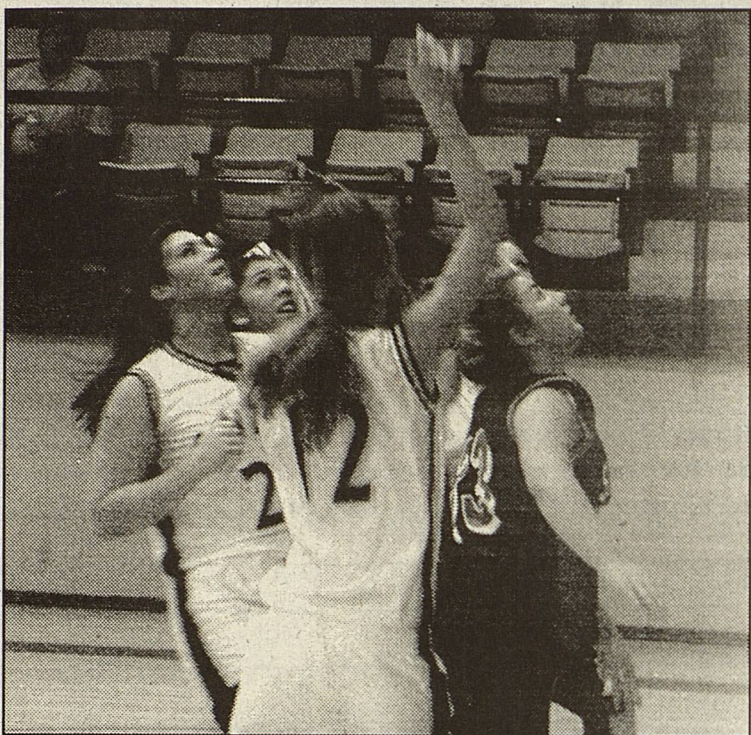
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Recent PHS Basketball Scenes



Obituary

Services Held For James O'Neal

Graveside services for James Albert O'Neal, Sr., 86, of Plains were held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 5, 2005 in Plains Cemetery with Reverend Glenn Harlen officiating. Services were held under the direction of Brownfield Funeral Home.

He was born July 17, 1918 in Plains, Texas. He graduated from Plains High School. He married Nona Marie Hanna, June 11, 1942 in Bartlesville, OK. Mr. O'Neal was employed by Service Pipeline in Denver City for 20 years. He was a rancher working for Circle-7 Ranch at Bronco for over 20 years. Mr. O'Neal was present at Madison Square Garden in the late 30's when the Pro Rodeo Association was founded, and was a member of OddFellows. He was preceded

in death by a brother John 'Buzz' O'Neal in 1982 and a sister Evelyn Carey in 1997.

Survivors include his wife Nona of Plains; a son James Albert O'Neal, Jr., and wife Frances of Midland; a daughter Gail Gladden and husband Alvin of Muleshoe; 3 grandchildren, Shannon Kitchens and husband Jimmy of Stanton, Jayme and Jill Gladden of Herford; 2 great grandchildren Koby and Kanita Kitchens of Stanton; a brother Shelby O'Neal of Midland; two sisters, Minnie Ruth O'Neal of Plains and Norma Lou Hollis of Roswell.

Pallbearers were: Tommy Burrus, Olan Smith, Jeff Smith, Royce Randall, Jim Barron, Ty Earl Powell, George Blount and Dan Field.

Certified Nurse Aide Class Scheduled

A class in Certified Nurse Aide begins February 7 at South Plains College in Levelland.

The class will meet 5:30 - 9:30 PM Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays through March 10 in the Technical Arts Building, Room 112. Clinical instruction will be 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM Saturdays February 19-March 5 at the Levelland Nursing Home. Total tuition and fees are \$416. Instructor is Barbara Brattain, LVN.

The course provides detailed education, training, work-based experience and direct pa-

tient/client care at a clinical site. After completing the 60 hours of classroom instructions and 24 hours clinicals, students will be required to take the State of Texas Certified Nurse Aide Competency Examination.

Students must provide proof of immunization for MMR, Tetanus and have a current negative TB test. Enrollment is limited to 14 students.

For more information contact the SPC Division of Continuing and Distance Education, 806-894-9611, ext 2341.

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From Pg. 1 'Ag Outlook'

cycle of drought.

Because of record-setting moisture levels, the region has a great abundance of cotton to sell. But the area missed a supply-altering trigger that could keep prices up. In fact, the lack of an area sustaining a significant production shortfall is one of the most eye-catching characteristics of the 2004 crop worldwide.

For U.S. cotton producers, the significant drop in worldwide cotton prices isn't something they have to bear alone, thanks to the multi-layered support system provided by the 2002 Farm Bill.

Instead of hoping the extra pounds they produced are enough to offset the lower

price, U.S. growers know they have the full protection of the Commodity Credit Corporation marketing loan program, providing them a price floor on every pound of cotton that they produce.

The marketing loan program also has mechanism, such as Loan Deficiency Payments, that enable American cotton to be price competitive, find a place in the market and not hang around to become a drag on world prices in 2005.

Add in the support provided through the 2002 Farm Bill's Direct and Counter-cyclical support programs, and American cotton farmers have the tools necessary to work through the current situation.

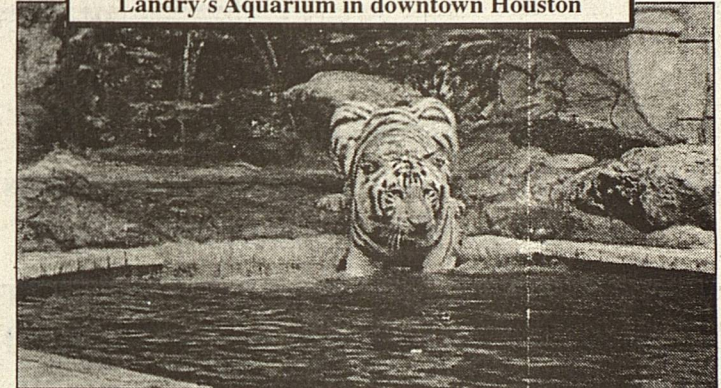
From Pg. 1 'Brick's'

ing drive is complete. Do you recall a favorite local business establishment in years past? They would be worth recalling with a commemorative brick. CCN will continue to include an order form in future issues.

and the forms can also be found at City Hall. If YOU haven't placed an order or made a donation, you still have an opportunity to replace the ancient and inefficient marquee sign in Pioneer Park



Nero and Marina, two of four white tigers at the Landry's Aquarium in downtown Houston

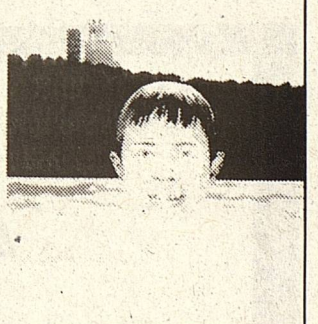


Summer fun shortened

Three of the state's top 10 tourist attractions—Six Flags, Sea World and Schlitterbahn—are subject to seasonal closures which forces them to a weekend or holidays-only schedule when students head back to school in early and mid-August. Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn's office estimates that extending summer break through August could generate an additional \$28 million per day through these businesses.

Top Texas tourist destinations

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| River Walk | San Antonio |
| Alamo | San Antonio |
| San Marcos Outlet Malls | San Marcos |
| State Capitol | Austin |
| Six Flags Over Texas | Arlington |
| Padre Island National Seashore | Padre Island |
| Sea World of Texas | San Antonio |
| Moody Gardens | Galveston |
| Fort Worth Zoo | Fort Worth |
| Schlitterbahn | New Braunfels |



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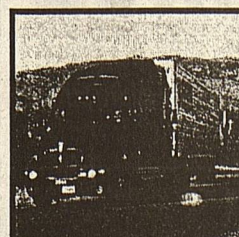
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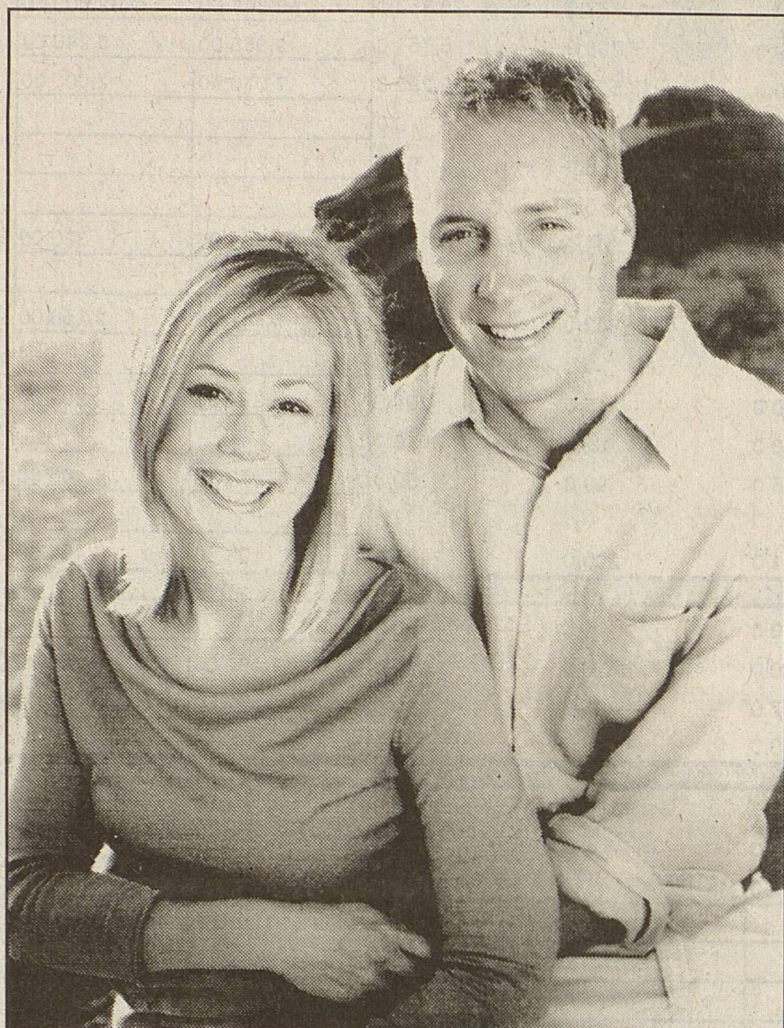
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Engagement Announced



Jerry and Jan Parrish of Plains, Texas, announce the engagement of their daughter Lisa to Chad Bown, son of Tom and Diane Bown of Pierre, SD. The couple will wed March 19, 2005 in Lubbock, TX.

Lisa is a graduate of Texas A&M University and is an assistant buyer for Neiman Marcus in Dallas, TX. Chad is a graduate of Texas A&M University and in the MBA Program at Loyola Marmount University in Los Angeles, CA. Chad is a First Lieutenant, acquisitions officer in the United States Air Force in Manhattan Beach, CA.

Senior Citizens Corner

We have just laid another year behind us. It is a good time to think back for awhile and see where we have come from and what progress we have made. These items are facts about our world a century ago in the year of 1904.

Each of us has spent time during this past week with our families, on different days, in different places, under different circumstances, and yet each of us has come away with the feeling that it is time to detach ourselves, to give up the habit of being control, of deciding what is to be done or not to be done. This is difficult. We have spent the best years of our lives learning the managerial skills that the family life demands, to a point where they have become second nature. How can we possibly lay them down? Although it is difficult, we now must do so, and as gracefully as possible.

We no longer need to know what is going on at every moment. We no longer need to orchestrate the day as they go by.

We are no longer responsible for the quality of life within the family group. Other people are doing that now and it should comfort us that some of them, at least, are the very people we have had a change to influence and guide and in whom was can and should place our confidence. It is not a great relief? We are now free! As I held great-grandbabies in my arms and watched them at play during this vacation time. I realized that the parenting skills of our children and their children are probably better than ours were, and so we move on into another year with confidence in the future of our world as it lies in the capable hands of the younger generations.

Around the Center this week everyone is winding down from the holiday. The meals have been de-

licious and each one has a story to tell of their Christmas adventures. We miss one another after a long holiday and it is good to get back onto routine and be together.

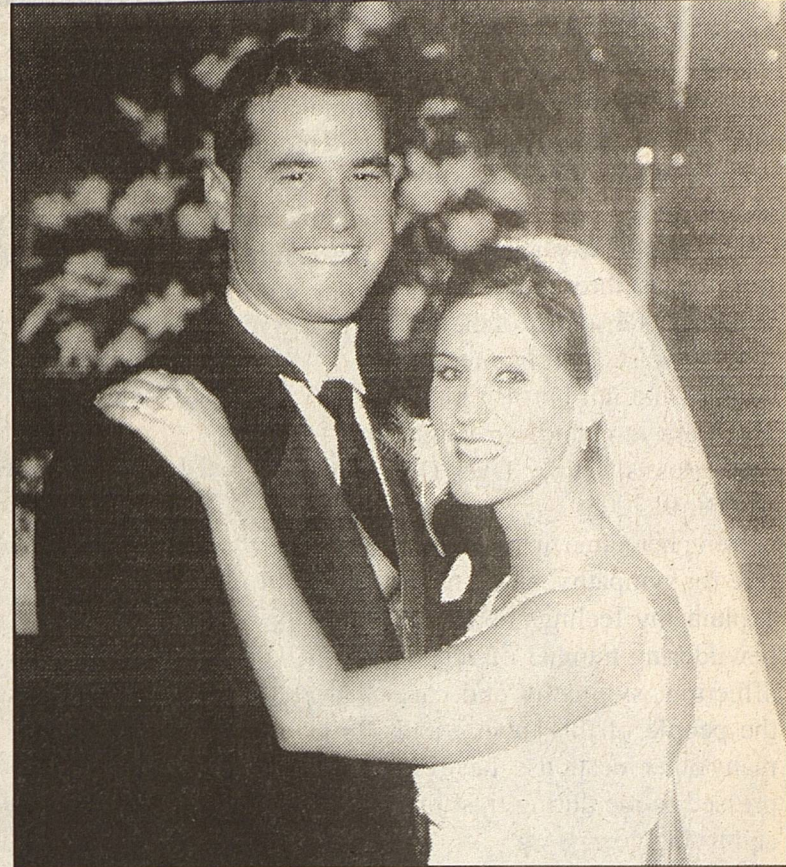
We've had several visitors during this busy time. Loma and Eugene Melcher joined us for lunch one day and Rose Ann Ancell came with her mother, Inez Turner, for lunch and a session of '42'. Inez has moved to Hobbs from Plains to be near some of her family. She has promised to come to the Center frequently and check on us though. She reports that Pep, her husband, is doing well at the VA facility in Big Spring and will probably be there indefinitely. More welcome visitors this week were Emmy Gonzalez and her children, Hector and Hillary. She brought her mother, Maria Rodriguez, who is visiting from California. Maria plans to make an extended visit here and promised to come frequently to the Center for lunch.

Reports have come in that Moray Clark has been transferred to our local hospital from Lubbock. We look forward to the day when she is able to join us again at the Center.

Eight people were out on a cold Monday night for the weekly pool games. These are fun times so come and join us! There were not enough domino players for a tournament on Tuesday, but those present had a great time fellowshiping together and getting in some good practice. This is a good place to be on Tuesday afternoons if you are a domino or '42' player. Everyone is welcome. The games start directly after lunch is finished.

Thought for today: "To err is human, but when the eraser wears out ahead of the pencil you're overdoing it." Jerry Jenkin

Wedding Vows Exchanged



Jima Lynn Jordan and Robert Clinton Montfort exchanged marriage vows on Saturday, November 27, 2004, in a 6:00 p.m. ceremony in the Lutie Watkins Memorial United Methodist Church in Llano with Rev. David Griffin officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Donald and Gayle Jordan of Llano and Hamilton and the granddaughter of James and Betty Epperson of Llano and Willard and Peggy Jordan of Mason. She is a 1998 graduate of Llano High School and a 2002 graduate of Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Development. In May she will be receiving her Masters of Education with an emphasis in Counseling from Tarleton State University. Jima is currently a teacher with the Weatherford Independent School District teaching ninth grade world geography and agriculture.

The groom is the son of Terry Montfort of Corsicana and PJ Testa of Dallas. He is the grandson of Maxine Montfort and the late Robert Earl Montfort of Corsicana and Betty Rushing and the late Eugene "Polly" Rushing of Plains. After graduating from Corsicana High School in 1998, he earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture Economics from Texas A&M University in 2002. He is currently employed by Holt Cat of Fort Worth as a light construction sales representative.

A large arrangement of white flowers provided a silhouette for the alter. The arrangement consisted of white roses, snapdragons, hydrangeas and white Casablanca lilies. Alternating pews were adorned with coordinating arrangements of white roses, snapdragons, evergreen and white tassels.

Larry Leifeste was the organist for the ceremony. He played 'Cannon in D' for the processional and 'Bridal Chorus' for the presentation of the bride. For the recessional, the traditional wedding march was played. Larry accompanied soloist Angela Buttery on 'Parents Prayer for the seating of the mothers,' 'In This Very Room,' and 'Household of Faith.' Kerinne Herber of Fredericksburg gave the scripture readings.

For her wedding, the bride chose a full-length Private Collection gown made of white matte satin. It featured an A-line skirt, empire waist and sweetheart neckline which was embellished with crystals, sequins, and pearls. Her chapel length veil fell from a headband also fashioned from crystals, sequins, and pearls. Jima carried a beautiful teardrop bouquet of white roses and stephanotis adorned with Italian ruscus and plumosus. Julie Jordan of Portland, sister of the bride, served as the maid of honor. Bridesmaids included Paula Braden of Fredericksburg, Claire Schulze of San Antonio, and Casey Rabb of Llano. They wore strapless, black chiffon, two piece floor length dresses. The bodice had an empire waist which featured a narrow white band and bow. They carried kissing balls composed of sweetheart roses, red berries, and evergreen.

Miss Elizabeth Stifford cousin of the bride and daughter of Scott and Evelyn Sifford was the flower girl. She wore a white floor length dress which featured a full skirt and wide black waistband and bow. She carried a smaller version of the bridesmaids' kissing balls.

Terry Montfort of Corsicana was his son's best man. Groomsmen were Jason Gomez of Ada, Oklahoma, Chris Martin of Cypress, and Derek Mayfield of Brownwood. Brian Sifford, cousin of the bride and son of Scott and Evelyn Sifford was the ring bearer. Ushers were Chandler Schuessler of San Antonio, Ryan Foster of Lubbock, Matt Seely of Houston and Logan Wilson of Corsicana.

A reception, dinner, and dance followed at Oestreich's Rose. A holiday theme was created using garland and Christmas trees all adorned with white lights. The guest tables were decorated with silver heirloom trays holding an assortment of white candles and votives accented with greenery and berries.

The brides four tiered confection cake was nestled among Christmas trees and lights and featured prisms suspended from the ceiling over the cake.

The grooms three tiered square chocolate chiffon cake was displayed on a square table elevated with tiers and adorned with holiday greenery.

Following a trip to Rome, Italy, the couple will make their home in Grandbury.

The grooms parents hosted a lovely Italian themed rehearsal dinner at the Valley Spring Community Center the evening before the wedding.

A Huge Thank You!

For the outpouring of generous donations to the annual Christmas Assistance Program which made this year's effort the very finest yet! The efforts of County and City employees, civic organizations, and individuals resulted in a wonderful bounty of food and Christmas gifts. The high school National Honor Society students who volunteered to deliver nineteen gift packages on a cold morning capped off this remarkable community gesture!

Thanks Again Toni Jones

First Friday, Saturday & Sunday of Every Month!

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Morning Worship

10:45 A.M.

Evening Program

6:00 P.M.

From The Hack

2005. Incredible. In all honesty, when considerably younger I could not imagine living this long. Please notice how cleverly I alluded to my age, but did not actually reveal it. Of course some of my even more elderly readers are scoffing, "Bah, what does HE know about age?"

Well, what I assure you of is this; the last three weeks of December, 2003, and all of the year 2004 have seemed like at least an eon, and not all of it pleasant. I am referring, of course, to the loss of Holly Dyer December 9, 2003.

I bring her name up not to gesture for sympathy, but to try to explain my feelings about the bewildering number of acts of affection, sympathy and care the people of this town... and many other locations... have expressed to me during this long and trying year.

Many of those folks told me straight up, "I don't know how you really feel, because I haven't experienced this, but I want you to know I CARE."

When I left Church last Sunday (actually I was sneaking out early) this guy was standing by the door and when I reached him he grabbed me in a bearhug (he's rather large) and quietly said, "I want you to know I prayed for you all this entire past year."

2004 was truly tough, but folks like this, and there have been so very many, have made theyear a bit easier. Thank You All So Much!

I just read where a 94 year old granny in Massachusetts (you know, that east coast state whose name you can't spell and the natives pronounce Mass-ah-toosits, and also home state of Teddy Boy Kennedy and Joyous John Kerry.. but why spoil a good story) who had recently lost her lawsuit against the state over her \$5.6 million lottery winnings. She, and her circling shark attorney, claimed it was unfair for Massatoosits to dole

out the cash to her over a 20 year period, probably sensibly claiming it would be highly unlikely for granny to live so long to collect the full amount.

Even some of my very closest of local attorney buddies (I am trying to think how many that would be, but more than two would be very doubtful) would probably concur with granny's thinking, but I don't know if any would actually sign on for such a windmill jousting lawsuit.

I DO KNOW a good friend pastor who definitely would be all for Granny getting the entire bundle of cash NOW. He has told me and others on more than one occasion, "Go ahead, gamble on the golf course, play the Lottery... just remember, your winnings had better be TITHED!"

A few more first of the year tidbits;

The fanatical Iraqi insurgents recently released a barrage of garbage on their people about the planned free elections, warning "Democracy is a Greek word meaning the rule of the people, which means that the people do what they see fit." How stunning. This led to their conclusion common people seldom know what is good for them, and such foolishness could eventually lead to shunning Islam and even homosexual marriage. Do you suppose they feared democracy could possible lead to stopping the ritual of slicing off the heads of their countrymen?

Just a passing political pondering: There is a possible, no, PROBABLE donneybrook of a political battle brewing here in Tejas over who will be the next claimant to the governor's chair "Nice Hair" Rick Perry will almost assuredly be challenged by that "One mad Grandma" Carole Keaton Strayhorn, current State Comptroller, and veteran Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, all Republican faithful. All the crystal balls are still a bit murky right now, but if some political disaster doesn't strike, my wagering money (subject to TITHING, of course) on the winner would have to be placed on Kay Bailey's nose. She has a reasonably good Washington record, is a better speaker than either of the other two, is certainly better looking than the other two, an ex-UT cheerleader, all pretty strong stuff. The Mad Grandma?

No way, Perry? He has shot himself in the foot so many times both legs may have to come off. It will be interesting to watch him in the upcoming Legislative Session - not fascinating, mind you, just interesting to see which portion of his anatomy he sticks in his mouth this time.

I heard of this guy who takes an anti-histamine pill with his Viagra pill. Says it lets him achieve something not to be sneezed at.

Drivers Wanted

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Tony Lazos, Yard Manager

Notice To All Persons Having Claims Against The Estate Of Veronica Marin Flores, Deceased

Notice is now given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of **Veronica Marin Flores** were issued on December 28th, 2004, in Cause No. 1462, pending in the County Court of Yoakum County, Texas, to **Rosalva Marin**.

The residence of such Independent Administrator and the address of the estate attorney and where claims may be presented are as follows:

Rosalva Marin
PO Box 145
Denver City, Texas 79323

Warren New
Attorney At Law,
PO Box 670
Denver City, Texas 79323

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: December 28th, 2004

WARREN NEW
Attorney for the Estate

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County Extension office annual increment report

Annual Increment Report Date: 17-Dec-04

TAEX DISTRICT: 2 COUNTY: Yoakum

Commodity	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	Projected
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
(\$1,000's)					
Crops					
Rye	283.0	0.0	0.0	84.50	
Wheat	1,551.0	2,190.0	215.0	485.00	600.00
Hay	432.0	826.0	831.0	620.00	600.00
Sorghum	298.0	1,227.0	435.0	1,339.00	800.00
Cotton	12,794.0	40,613.0	28,350.0	45,341.00	32,500.00
Cottonseed	2,369.0	7,798.0	5,750.0	9,088.00	6,240.00
Peanuts	16,839.0	13,509.0	13,293.0	17,070.00	12,000.00
Soybeans	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Sunflowers	22.0	28.0	94.0		
Food Corn	158.0	0.0	0.0		
Melons	788.0	486.0	400.0	642.00	320.00
Vegetables	1,305.0	647.0	251.0	1,012.50	
Watermelon	16,292.0	7,942.0	3,714.0	5,882.00	2,250.00
Pecans	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Alfalfa	0.0	215.0	109.0	392.00	294.00
Cowpeas	408.0	82.0	0.0		
Guar	295.0	99.0	59.0	76.50	45.00
Other Crop	1,051.0	206.0	149.0	198.00	151.00
Livestock					
Milk Total	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other Beef	1,500.0	1,525.0	1,910.0	2,482.00	2,050.00
Goats	7.0	35.0	30.0	52.50	42.00
Hogs	50.0	45.0	0.0		
Other Ag					
Horses	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Hunting	8.0	6.0	5.0	10.00	10.00
Other Ag. Related	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Subtotal	56,444.00	77,459.00	55,595.00	84,755.00	57,902.00
Gov't Payment (CRP)	2558.00	2,567.00	2,559.00	2,304.00	2,304.00
Other Gov't Payment	12321.00	14,231.00	30,095.00	18,236.00	20,000.00
Total w/Government	71,321.00	94,257.00	88,249.00	105,295.00	80,206.00

* Please add additional commodities not listed on this page with receipts over one thousand dollars.
 * Other Crop is the total of Other crop, Sprigs, Legume Seeds, and Grass Seed.
 * Other Poultry is the total of: Pullets, Quail & other Fowl, & Other Poultry
 * Other Beef is the total of: Breeder Cattle-Beef, Calves-Beef & Dairy, Stocker Cattle, & Slaughter Cattle
 * Hogs is the total of: Hogs & Feeder Pigs
 * Timber is the total of: Lumber, Firewood, & other Timber

Compiled By: Arlan Gentry CEA-Ag Phone Number: (806)456-2283

Yoakum County Extension Agent/Ag Arlan Gentry recently furnished CCN his office's annual increment report on the estimated dollar value of agricultural crops grown here.

The most impressive statistic shown on the production chart would have to be the estimated value of the 2004 cotton crop

compared to the value of last years crop, some \$17 million. This dollar increase is not, unfortunately, the result of higher prices this year, but an extremely large increase in production this record breaking year.

A similar but smaller dollar increase of the value of this year's peanut crop compared to

2003 is a reflection of larger production tonnage, as well as generally improved growing conditions in the area.

Some earlier hailed out cotton acreage was converted to production of grain sorghum, with the resulting dollar value of this years crop increasing almost \$1 million.

Cotton Market Weekly News

In a holiday shortened week characterized by thin trading volume, cotton futures on the New York Board of Trade found positive support in USDA's release of better than expected U.S. export sales figures.

Net export sales of 244,500 bales were 57 percent more than the previous week and 7 percent more than the four week average. Primary buyers were Turkey, China and Japan. In addition to a healthy sales figure, some analysts found hope in the fact China continues to be a dominant buyer of U.S. cotton and believe it may be an indication of good things to come in the New Year.

Export shipment of 148,500 bales were 31 percent less than the prior week and 16 percent less than the four week average. Shipping delays due to the Christmas and New Year holidays could account for the lower shipment figure, market observers say. Major destinations were China, Turkey,

South Korea and Mexico. Cotton prices were not markedly higher this week, but spot cotton sales were active as some producers rushed to sell their cotton prior to the end of the year. Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas producers sold 70,892 bales online in the week ended December 30 compared to the prior week when 47,780 bales were traded. Prices received by producers selling their cotton online ranged from 33.77 to 34.61 cents per pound versus the previous week's range of 33.43 to 35.04 cents per pound. Current cotton prices may also affect other countries as well. "In the coming weeks we expect the market to slowly accept that prices below the mid 50 cent level will result in lower cotton acreage in most of the Northern Hemisphere," one analyst said.

U.S. cotton acreage is not expected to fall significantly, but total world cotton production most likely will be lower next

season. In fact news reports say cotton farmers in the Indian province of Gujarat currently are receiving prices for cotton that are well below the cost of production, and many producers there will not plant their acreage to cotton in the upcoming year.

Closer to home, widespread participation in the form of rain and snow fell late last week across broad areas of the Texas High and Rolling Plains. Mild and dry weather, however, prevailed over most of the area this week allowing soft, wet soils to firm and some farmers to return to their fields. Observers say some 85 percent of the crop is off the stalk and if favorable weather holds, the harvest will be completed by the middle of January. Ginning, however, is estimated at only 49 percent complete, and gins may continue to operate into March in some areas as they process record amounts of seed cotton.

Want to purchase minerals and other oil/gas interests. Send details to: P.O. Box 13557, Denver, CO 80201

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