

Cowboy Country News



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

Volume V11, Issue 34, May 9, 2001

USDA, TDA, State Solons work jointly to halt spread of Hoof & Mouth disease

A recent communique from the office of State Representative Gary Walker expressed the State's concern with the ongoing battle to prevent the spread of Hoof and Mouth Disease now plaguing some 41 NATIONS around the world. Walker's release also contained a message from Texas Ag Commissioner Susan Combs explaining the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) affecting cloven footed animals in Europe, Asia, Malaysia, the Far East, Russia, and South America.

Here are some of the pertinent facts of FMD, which could devastate the livestock industry throughout the United States, if allowed to spread here:

FMD is a highly infectious, fast spreading disease of cloven footed animals - humans are UNABLE to contract FMD and have no health risks from the disease. Unfortunately, humans around infected animals can carry the virus in their nasal passages up to 29 hours, easily spreading the disease to animals.

ALL Cloven Footed animals (captive and wild) can contract and spread FMD. Animals such as horses, cats, dogs are not affected, but like humans, can spread the virus.

FMD is spotted by high body temperatures, blisters in the mouth and on tender skin areas of animals. The blisters eventually break, creating raw surfaces making eating painful. Soft tissues under the hoof are inflamed, the animal becomes lame, and may shed its hooves.

FMD is easily spread by many means - contact with other animals, drinking from a contaminated water source, contaminated clothing or footwear, vehicles, equipment, or facilities used to hold infected or exposed animals.

FMD survives best in environments with high humidity. It can only replicate in live animals, and when an animal is infected, it becomes a "virus factory". Most of Texas stays above 55% humidity, and would provide a favorable atmosphere for FMD.

Nearly 100% of animals exposed to FMD become infected. It's not always fatal, but spreads rapidly. Current vaccines only prevent symptoms - they do not cure the disease or stop its spread. In some cases it can remain undetected 30 months, then spread unseen, and drastic measures must be taken, including killing all FMD infected and exposed animals.

Turn to page 2, "FMD"

From 19th century pioneers to 21st century corporations -

Gone To Texas!

Texas has been a hotbed of high-tech activity for decades, and Austin, Houston and Dallas are some of the first names you hear in any conversation about the Texas economy. You might even think Texas traded cow chips for microchips.

But the state's strong economy wasn't built by tech giants and dot.coms alone, and growth hasn't been limited to urban centers. Companies from around the nation and world are choosing Texas for their U.S. and regional operations, and they're going both to Texas' urban centers and its smaller cities.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Texas leads the nation in non-farm job creation. From 1990 to 2001, Texas added 2.5 million jobs, representing nearly all major economic sectors.

Manufacturing, construction, finance, insurance and real estate, wholesale and retail trade, transportation, communications and utilities, and services all grew in Texas, even as some of those sectors declined na-

tionally. Also, the mining sector, including oil and gas production, was relatively stable, and Texas continues to employ far more workers in this sector than does any other state.

"That tells the rest of the story," says Jeff Mosely, executive director of the Texas Department of Economic Development.

"High-tech gets the glamour, but the meat and potatoes is what we've led the nation in job creation."

National and international companies have chosen to expand or establish operations in Texas. In 1998, Seattle based Boeing Corp. expanded its operations in El Paso by selecting it as the location of its ballistic missile guidance replacement program. In 2000, Nebraska based West TeleServices Corp. built a new regional customer contact center in Beaumont, creating 1,000 new jobs. In 1997, Ohio based Nationwide Insurance opened a similar facility in Amarillo, boasting 500 employees and still growing.

From Lubbock to Lufkin, area chambers of commerce have successfully recruited companies, particularly in service and manufacturing. The chambers of many smaller cities have established departments for economic development to lure new businesses.

Why are companies coming to Texas? "The labor force," says Paul Bertrand, general manager of Phoenix Millwork in Beaumont. The company has been in Beaumont 15 years, but will soon get bigger. The Ohio based company plans to relocate some of its distribution activities from other states to Texas because of the work force and lower land costs.

Labor is not the only reason companies come to Texas. A number of factors make the state attractive to businesses including no personal income tax, reformed worker's compensation laws, the fact Texas is a right to work state with low unionization, and low business taxes. It has comparatively low

Turn To Page 2, "Gone To Texas"

'A Time To Plant....' Ecclesiastes 3 -2



This 12 row planter was busy putting cotton seed in the ground last Friday. While soil moisture is ahead of last year at this time, producers are ready for a rain. A number of farmers have already finished planting peanuts, cotton planting will continue for some time.

Yoakum County agriculture production will be highly diversified again this year; watermelons, onions, chili peppers, guar, wheat, alfalfa, cantaloupes, pumpkins, grain sorghum will be some of the crops produced.

The number one question on producers minds again this year is, "I can raise it, but will commodity prices allow me to make any money when I market it?"

Lea County Electric Names Scholarship Recipients

The Lea County Electric Education Foundation has announced scholarship recipients for the Fall 2001 semester according to Mike Dreyspring, General Manager of the Cooperative. Those receiving the \$500 per semester renewable scholarships are: Jenna Hardin, Jaron Graham, Lee Truitt, Heather Maker, Ryan Burkett and Courtney Conner of Lovington; Nicole Haynes, Ashlei Mason, Kimberlee Jones, Alexis Warren, Emily Blair and Leslie Rowe of Plains, Texas; Linda Hernandez of Tatum; and Lindsey Schubert of Hobbs.

The Lea County Electric Education Foundation currently provides scholarships for fifty students. According to Dreyspring, "Fourteen openings for the Fall 2001 semester became available primarily through the graduation prior recipients during this Spring semester. Lea County Electric is able to fund the program through individual donations to the Foundation as well as undeliverable capital credits that would otherwise be absorbed into the treasuries of the state of New Mexico and Texas." Since 1988, the Foundation has provided over \$335,000.00 in scholarships to students whose families are

members of the Cooperative. Recipients may use the scholarships to attend any accredited institution of higher learning in New Mexico or Texas for up to a maximum of eight semesters provided they maintain a cumulative 2.50 grade point average, and are enrolled as a full time student.

In addition, Shawna Read has been named as this year's recipient of the Jackie C. Noack Memorial Scholarship. This award provides \$375 per semester for up to four semesters at the New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs, New Mexico.

Christy Brink wins spot on City Council

Plains residents did not turn out in record numbers for last Saturday's city council election. A total of 105 votes were cast in early voting and the Saturday election day.

Challenger Christy Brink, seeking a seat on the At-Large Council, drew 61 votes, edging out incumbent Rick Ramos. Arlon Alexander was returned to the council with 74 votes, while incumbent Owen

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Walker hosts Plains UIL Team



These Plains High School students and their sponsors attended a reception in the office of State representative Gary Walker in Austin last week. Each year Rep. Walker and his wife Frankie host the reception for students from District 80 who have qualified to compete in the UIL academic events in the state meet. Students shown left to right, back row, are Annaliesa O'Quinn, Jill Gray, Eric Nixon, Chris Hansen, Emily Blair and Amanda Garcia. Front, Lesli Rowe, Rep. Walker and Nicole Haynes. Students also attended from Brownfield, Grady, Ropesvill, Levelland and Sundown High Schools. (Photos of individual medal winners inside)

CCN congratulates the U.I.L. gang!

Incentives Offered For Rare Species Management

Landowners interested in developing habitat for the lesser prairie chicken and other rare Panhandle wildlife now have some new tools at their disposal. According to John Hughes, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in Canadian, private landowners may now take advantage of a voluntary incentive program aimed at rare species conservation. "The High Plains Partnership for Species at Risk is a program designed to assist private landowners with habitat development and enhancement for declining wildlife such as the lesser prairie chicken, swift fox, and burrowing owl. While these species are not listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, the USFWS wishes to provide

technical assistance for landowners interested in developing habitat for these species. We feel that a nonregulatory, incentive based approach is the best way to ensure the continued survival of these species." Incentives come in the form of cost share payments for rangeland habitat. "We want to assist landowners in managing for rare species while eliminating their fears of future restrictions on land use," says Hughes. "Private property rights are of paramount importance to us. We believe we can protect those rights and still keep rare species from becoming threatened or endangered." Interested landowners may contact Hughes at (806) 323-6636 or john-p-hughes@fws.gov.

From Page 1, "FMD"

FMD should be of high concern to every ag livestock producer in the state and nation. In Texas alone livestock is the largest sector of our state's agriculture industry, with cash receipts over \$8 billion, and the total impact of cattle production alone is well more than \$15 billion. A nation wide spread of the virus could spell disaster for the country. For more information of Hoof and Mouth Disease, contact the Texas Department of Agriculture, 800-835-5832, Texas Animal Health Commission, 800-550-8242, USDA 800-602-9327, #2.

From Page 1, "Gone To Texas"

real estate costs, convenient time zones for conducting national and international business and low energy costs. Texas has become a very desirable operation for businesses in California who will not have a reliable power source for the next five years. An amenable climate, water

resources and transportation systems are other reasons companies want to set up shop in the state.

Texas is the second most populous state, and its population is growing. Its civilian work force grows by nearly 100,000 each year. Material for this article courtesy FISCAL NOTES, a publication of the Texas Comptroller office.

World class

Texas offers businesses world-class infrastructure and expanding markets.

- Texas has the largest road network of the 50 U.S. states.
- Texas' international airports are among the busiest in the world: Dallas/Fort Worth ranks third in total passenger traffic; George Bush Intercontinental in Houston is one of the fastest growing.
- Texas has 27 commercial airports in 24 cities. More than 90 percent of the state's population lives within 50 miles of an airport.
- Of the state's 29 coastal and inland water ports, the Port of Houston is the largest and handles more foreign cargo than any other port in the United States.
- Forty-four railroads operate on almost 12,000 miles of mainline track in Texas. More than 280 million tons of freight are shipped by rail throughout the state each year.
- Three of the 10 largest U.S. cities—Houston, Dallas and San Antonio—are in Texas.
- The number of people employed in Texas manufacturing industries surpassed 1 million in 1994. Texas has added more new manufacturing jobs since 1990 than any other state.
- The gross state product of Texas was an estimated \$740.1 billion in 2000, third among the 50 U.S. states.
- Two-thirds of all trade between the United States and Mexico passes through Texas, which shares a 1,248-mile border with Mexico.
- Texas is the nation's second leading exporter. In 1999, Texas exported more than \$91 billion worth of products to foreign markets.

SOURCE: Texas Department of Economic Development.

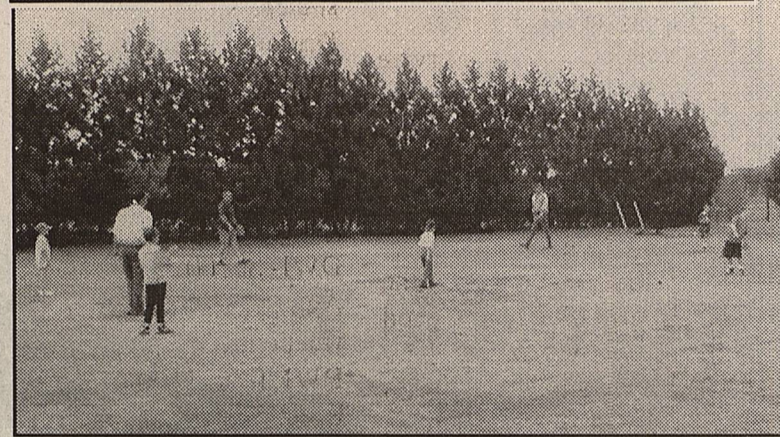
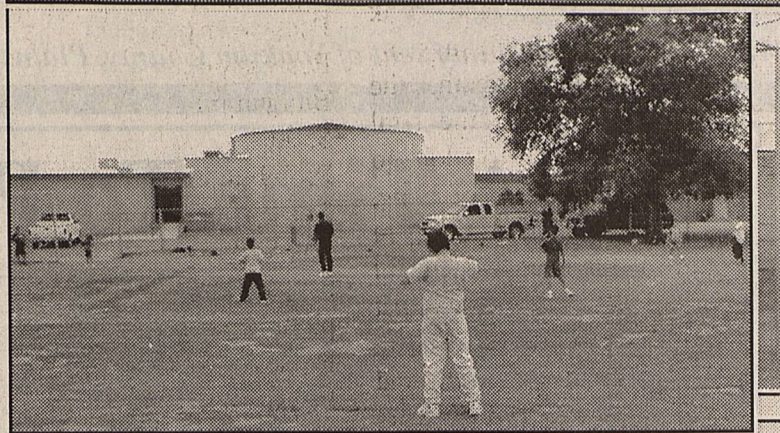
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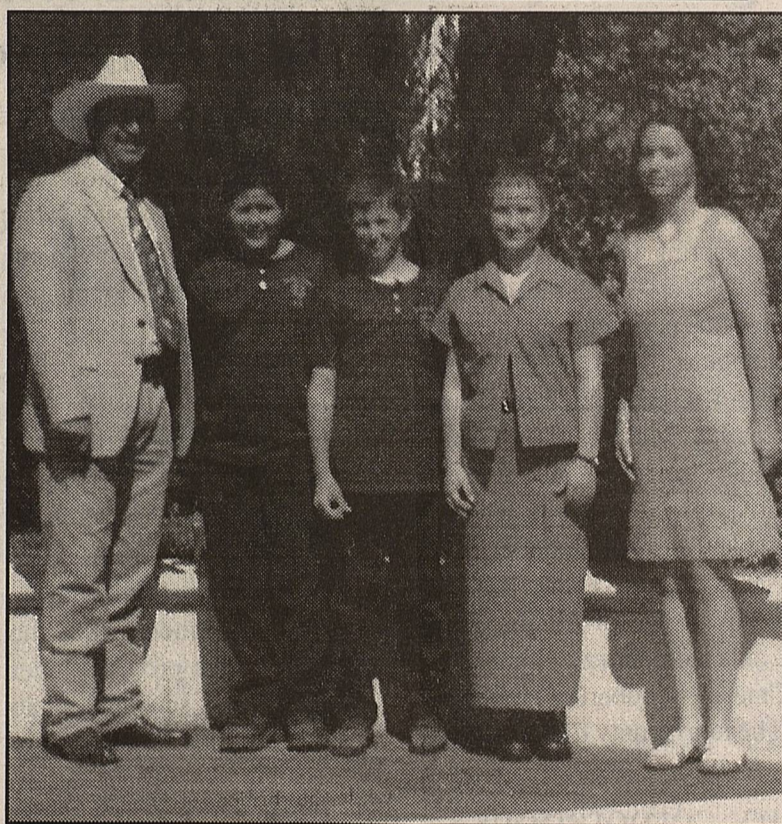
Little League spirits soaring



Last Friday afternoon, every conceivable space for Little League Baseball practice was swarming with young would-be Babe Ruths' and Nolan Ryan's, with lots of dads doing their best to imitate coaches. The first game of the season was played Monday. Teams and coaches this year include: T-Ball, Raiders, Janie Ramos, Lil' Yankees, Lisa Sosa, Athletics, Joe Martinez. Minor League- Tigers, Junior Lira, Cowboys, Don Parrish, Rangers, Todd Davis. Majors-Braves, Joe Rivera, Volcanos, Eddie Carter, Cubs, Jerry Rivas.



4-H'ers Do Well At Roundup



Four Yoakum County 4-H'ers attended the South Plains District 4-H Roundup contest May 5 on the Texas Tech campus in Lubbock.

Ragan McGinty placed 1st with her method demonstration in the Foods and Nutrition category, and will advance to the State Roundup in June. Sara Horn placed 1st in the Junior 2 division of the Clothing and Textiles category. In the Junior 1 division, Elias Carrillo and Cody Mayes placed 2nd in the Sheep & Goat category.

Yoakum County placed 3rd in the Achievement Award in the small county category. Extension Agents Debbie Pollard and Arlon Gentry judged different contests. Also attending were Ken and Ann McGinty, Dottie Mayes and Jonette McConal. Mary Lucy Bearden received the Distinguished Leader Award for Yoakum County at the 4-H Leader Association luncheon.

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Archeologists Confirm Remains Of Third Person Buried At Fort St. Louis

Texas Historical Commission (THC) archeologists, in conjunction with forensic experts, have recently learned the skeletal remains of a third individual were buried in a common grave at the Fort St. Louis archeological site, the first European colony in Texas.

The remains, believed to be those of early settlers, were discovered at the site last November in a small, shallow grave overlooking Garcitas Creek, where several French artifacts have been discovered. University of North Texas forensic experts are conducting tests on the remains which initially were believed to be those of two males. The confirmation of a third individual was made on the basis of identification of a total of five humeri, or upper arm bones, and three patellae, or knee caps, removed from the common grave.

"These findings perfectly match the historical records that tell of Spanish explorers who found the fort site in 1689 and buried three French colonists," said THC Archeology Division Director Dr. Jim Bruseth. "Because the bodies were exposed for a period of time, animals and deterioration left less than complete remains for the Spanish

to bury upon their discovery."

The bones were taken to the Laboratory of Forensic Anthropology and Human Identification at the University of North Texas in Denton, where forensic anthropologist Dr. H. Gill King and Staff hope to determine the sex, age and stature of these people.

French explorer Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle, established Fort St. Louis in 1685. Four years later LaSalle left to seek help for the troubled colony, and Indians attacked and killed most of the settlers. Spanish explorer Alonso de Leon discovered what remained of the fort in 1689, when he burned and buried its cannons.

In 1996, THC archeologists ended centuries of debate about the location of the doomed colony when they confirmed the discovery of the buried cannons on a private ranch outside Victoria. The THC team found remnants of the fort and presidio, along with thousands of French and Spanish artifacts. LaSalle's ship, the Belle, was also excavated from beneath Matagorda Bay.

May 8, 1846 - Resaca de la Palma, 2nd battle of Mexican war, won on Texas soil.

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On The Level

**with Donald Haley
USDA/NRCS**

"HOWDY PARTNERS"
"...metal and paint, white and green....
...they're the 'purtiest' signs you've ever seen....
...the Conservation District hopes and strives...
... to just say 'howdy' as you drive....."

reflection of who and what we are, kind of like our high school team logo, or a policeman's badge, or that big white star on the Texas flag, or the fifty little ones on the banner of the United States of America.
It's not really what it is so much as what it represents.
In the case of these old signs being replaced by new ones, it represents that, while the paint was worn, the

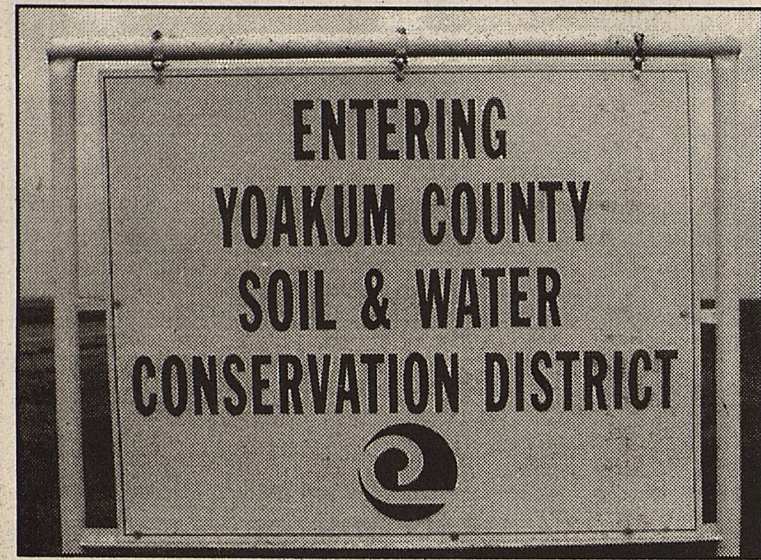
be lost in a minute.
It represents the slow, hot, agonizing day after day of looking to the skies for the rain that will not come.
It represents, too, the beautiful orange and pink sunrises, the brilliant sunsets that take your breath, the warm winter days, the cool spring nights, the freedom to dream, the strength of hope, the power of faith, the bountiful crops, the plentiful yields - all in a place we just call "home".

The Yoakum Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are proud to represent the conservation efforts of generations of producers and citizens of Yoakum County.

As you drive by the refurbished signs, take a good look, think about the long heritage of land stewardship excellence and be proud as well.

For the Yoakum SWCD, it is a comfortable and unassuming way to just say "howdy" on your travels.

But much more than that, it



The new SWCD Sign

But I think it kind of helps say what the sign would say if you could read between the letters and lines - that this is West Texas and that Yoakum County folks are proud of their county, proud of their producers and proud of their place on this earth!

If you haven't already, take notice of the six gleaming new white signs with green lettering as you enter or leave Yoakum County

Here on the South Plains of Texas, we live in one of the most productive agricultural areas, not only in the nation, but in the world.

Local citizens and producers have a right to be proud of

their accomplishments in this unique part of the world, brought about by no lack of hard work, blood, sweat and tears.

As for the new signs, well, it's no major splash in the overall scheme of things, I suppose.

But it is a symbol, a

commitment was not.

And now, that commitment has a fresh face in a new and changing millennium.

It represents that West Texans are survivors and that



The retired and weathered sign

good ole' fashion hard work, commitment to principle and a few bumps and bruises and hard lessons learned don't make us quit.

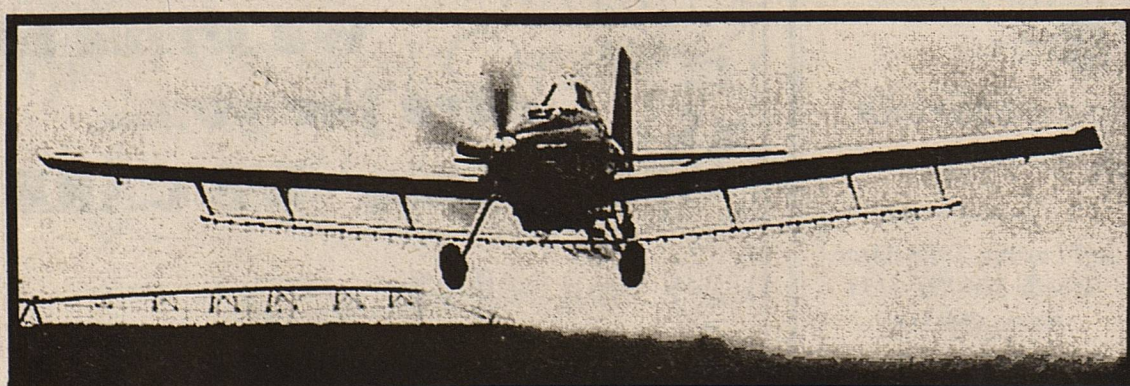
It represents dust storms and freezes and floods and hailstones and watching a year's worth of toil and sweat

is another way of saying to the citizens and producers of Yoakum County as they go down the never ending conservation road - "Thanks for a job well done....."

*Remember
Mother's Day
May 13th*

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JP Court Update

The following is a review of cases heard and fines and bonds set in Precinct 1 Justice of Peace Court, Judge Melba Crutcher presiding.
Cases filed: 89 traffic cases, one felony.
Bonds set;
Driving/suspended license- \$1000 bond.
2 cases assault causing bodily injury- \$1000
Possession of marijuana- \$5000
Possession of cocaine- \$50,000
Bail jumping, failure to appear- \$5000
Prohibited weapons- \$1000
2 cases minor consuming alcohol, \$200
5 cases possession drug paraphernalia, \$200 bond
Possession of marijuana, \$500
Possession controlled substance, \$7500
Driving under influence alcohol, \$200
Theft over \$500, less than \$1500- \$1500 bond
2 cases assault causing bodily injury- \$1500
DWI- \$1500
Aggravated assault with deadly weapon- \$35,000
DWI, first- \$1000 bond
Bond forfeiture- \$2,500 cash bond.
Bail jumping, failure to appear, \$20,000
Assault, injury to family member- \$2500
No Liability insurance- \$500

Walker, Texas Rep
By State Representative Gary Walker, Dist. 80

We have officially entered the final month of the 77th Legislative Session. When I start session in January I look forward to May because at the end of the month I can return home. The last month always ends up being the toughest because I work such long hours.

Two of my bills have been sent to the Governor's office for Governor Perry to review and hopefully sign into law. I have several bills that are going to be considered in the Senate soon, and then they will be sent to the Governor as well. This session I have carried more legislation than in prior years. Most of my bills deal with water issues, and the rest are related to the Land and Resource Management committee, where I serve as Chairman.

This week we passed HB3343 by Sadler (D-Henderson). This is a landmark piece of legislation that will require the Teacher Retirement System of Texas to establish group benefit plans for every public school district, regional education service center, and charter school employee.

On Monday, May 10th, the House will debate the Redistricting plan. Chairman Jones (R-Lubbock) has predicted that the debate will go on for approximately 8 hours. I know that leading up to this session, there was a great deal written about redistricting. I think everyone expected that it would be a very political process. On any given day you can pick up a newspaper and read what the Republicans are saying about the Democrats and vice versa. I think that an important aspect of the issues we are addressing has been overlooked. Beyond the partisan politics, there is a larger concern on my part about maintaining rural representation at the legislature. Certainly the metropolitan areas have a right to fair representation, but in the end, the plan I vote for will be the one that gives rural Texas the best chance for retaining as many rural representatives as possible.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about any legislation or how the session is proceeding, please feel free to contact my capitol office at 512-463-0678.

**PHS Graduation Friday,
June 1, 2001**

INDEPENDENT BANKERS ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

How to Identify and Avoid Investment Fraud

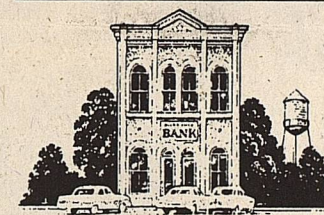
Investment fraud has grown to a \$10 billion a year industry which targets investors of all incomes. Through common sense and a sound approach, the risk of getting swindled can be greatly reduced.

Investment fraud takes many different forms. From trifling internet pyramid schemes to the outright selling of fake securities, investment fraud feeds on eager and optimistic investors.

For example, seven hundred investors lost \$130 million from S & H Exploration, a company that didn't even exist. The young con-artist founder was so persuasive that he even convinced the local bank to loan millions to his phony venture. He took potential investors to actual drilling sites by helicopter and showed them wells that were 'his,' while he bribed oil workers from other oil companies to greet him as 'owner.'

Most investment fraud occurs with less sensationalism. Phone calls, web sites, and often friendly acquaintances are just as capable of soliciting credit card numbers and checks from the eager and unsuspecting.

Investment fraud is not always clearly illegal, however. Sometimes the company or security is



Tips from your Community Banker

from unknown solicitors should also be red flags for the cautious eye. In general, if your gut feeling is that you might be getting solicited, just walk away.

Sometimes it is not so easy to identify fraudulent schemes. Some investment fraud can trick even the most cautious investors. For this reason, follow these five simple steps:

- 1) Invest only with people with whom you are familiar.
- 2) Check the company or security with the Better Business Bureau (www.bbb.com) or the SEC (www.sec.com).
- 3) Ask for a prospectus and current financial statements.
- 4) Don't sign any investment contracts before having a lawyer review them.
- 5) Ask your local banker if the proposed investment seems sound.

Investment fraud costs Americans over \$1 million every minute. Be level headed and use common sense so that your hard earned savings won't become another statistic of fraud.

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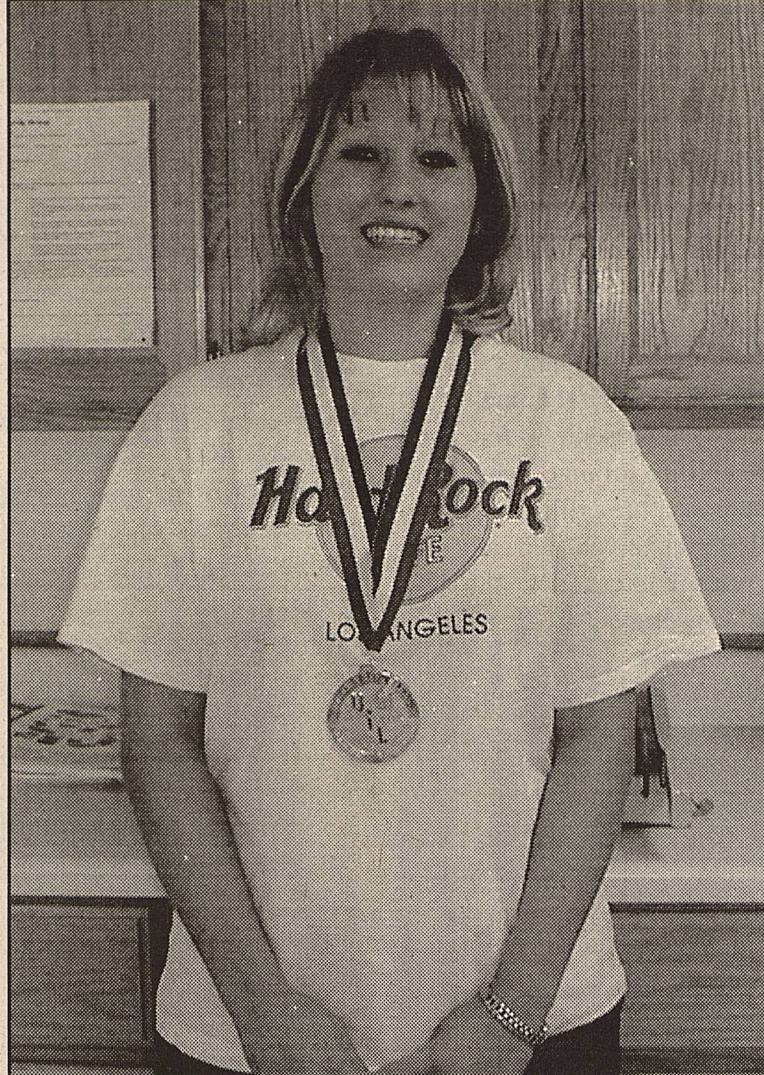
Please call 806-456-6365

They found **GOLD, SILVER & BRONZE** at Austin!



Lesli Rowe & Gold Medal - Conference AA State Champion in Headline writing

Other PHS students competing in the State UIL Academic meet included Eric Nixon, Science (Eric was third in the physics portion of the contest), Chris Hansen, Headline writing, Annaliesa O'Quinn, calculator applications, and



Nicole Haynes, Silver medal in Feature Writing, and 5th place in Headline Writing

Amanda Garcia, Calculator Applications
Sponsors and coaches at the contest were Renetta O'Quinn, Journalism, Michele McCravey, Science, Gary Davis, Poetry Interpretation, and Brad Friesen, Calculator Applica-



Emily Blair and 3rd place Bronze Medal for Poetry Interpretation.

tions.
Unofficial results had Plains High 5th in the state, behind Salado, Valley View, Rosebud-Lott and Comfort. The PHS team scored a total of 53 points.

PHS Student Council "Sweeps"



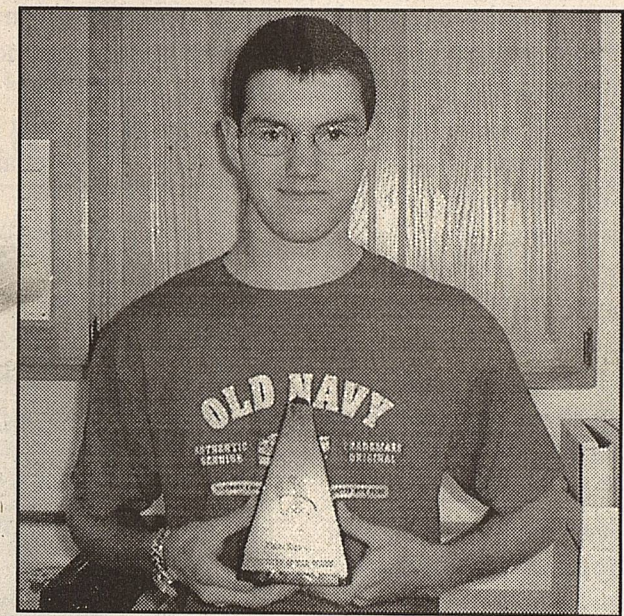
Eight Plains High Student Council members traveled to the state convention in Austin April 26-28 to receive a Sweepstakes rating for 2000-2001. The council earned awards for their Drug Alcohol Safety and Health Committee, the Texas Energy and Environment Development committee, the Pride and Patriotism committee, and Outstanding Student Council. These awards collectively earned the student council a Sweepstakes blue ribbon. Shown left to right are council members Mandi Rogers, Annaliesa O'Quinn, Taylor Gray, Lensey Cullins, Jarod Newland, Nicole Haynes, Lesli Rowe, and Liz Wilmeth.

I.T. students score big in state meet

PHS Industrial Technology students competing in the State Contest at Waco May 4 thru 6 had a very successful meet. In Engineering and communication drafting, the following students placed:
Allison Butler, 1st, 2nd.
Jared Bell, 1st, 2nd
Taylor Gray, 2nd, two 3rd places
Dustin Six, 1st, 2nd, 3rd
In manufacturing systems, woodworking, Frances Cordova placed 1st, and earned Best in State honors.

group will continue to effectively work together," Ms. Brink said, "I ran for a spot on the council because I think Plains is a great place to live and raise our kids. The city government does a great job, and I am looking forward to being part of it. It's important to me to give back to the community. I'm very excited about being elected by our citizens, and I'm looking forward to joining a great team."

Student of the Week



PHS Student of the week is Grady McNabb, a freshman and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Darryl McNabb. He was nominated by both Michele McCravey and Renetta O'Quinn. Ms. McCravey said, "Grady has a good sense of humor, and relates well with his classmates. He has great goals for his next three years in school, and I know great things are going to come from him." Ms. O'Quinn said, "Grady is multi-talented. He is intelligent, athletic, and you know the wheels are constantly turning in his head - probably with some witty outlook on what's going on in class."

Scholarships Available!

The Texas Workforce Center has limited funds available to assist youth to provide specialized assistance in job search or attend approved colleges, vocational schools or short-term training programs. Call or stop by today to see if you qualify. The Texas Workforce Center of Levelland serves Hockley, Terry, Yoakum and Cochran counties

Texas Workforce Center of Levelland
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* Federal eligibility and suitability requirements must be met.

From page 1, "City Council"

Schneider drew 71 votes. Mayor T.J. Miller told CCN, "I appreciate the fact there is enough interest in city government for Plains citizens to express their choices for council members through the election process. We had an excellent council prior to the election, and I feel sure this elected

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Wedding Plans Announced



Jennifer Dugas and Ace Williams, both of Lubbock, wish to announce their engagement. The couple will marry July 7th at The Apple Orchard in Idalou, Texas.

The bride elect is the daughter of Joann Wales and Thomas Dugas of Carlsbad, NM. The future bridegroom is the son of Nita Williams of Lubbock and Don Williams of Hart.

The bride elect, a graduate of Carlsbad High School in Carlsbad, attends Texas Tech University and is employed by Texas Tech Housing. The future bridegroom is a graduate of Plains High School in Plains, Texas and Texas Tech University and is employed by CHR Solutions in Lubbock.

SPC Schedules 43rd

Commencement Exercises

South Plains College will hold its 43rd commencement exercises at 10:00 a.m., Friday, May 11 in Texan Dome.

A total of 726 students have applied for graduation, and 460 will participate in the ceremonies.

"Commencement is a significant event in the life of the college graduate, since it marks a beginning as well as an end," said Dr. Gary McDaniel, SPC president. "After two years of study, these students have successfully completed their work at South Plains College; many will transfer to universities to attain their baccalaureate degrees and beyond, and numerous others will enter the workforce after completing SPC's one and two year technical and health related programs. We wish them well. They have been an important part of the life of South Plains College."

Dr. McDaniel will also present

the Excellence in Teaching Award to two outstanding faculty members. The award is the highest honor bestowed upon SPC faculty members by their peers.

The Thomas M. Spencer Award was established in 1998 in honor of Dr. Thomas Spencer, SPC's first president, who served from 1957-1916. Dr. Spencer had established the Vera Sue Spencer Award in 1971 in memory of his daughter, who died while he was president of SPC.

The Symphonic Band, under direction of academic affairs, will certify the graduates. Mike Box, chairman of the Board of Regents, will present diplomas and certificates.

Ruby Moultrie, assistant professor of music, will sing SPC's alma mater, and Anthony Riley, vice president for finance and administration, will give the dismissal.

Senior Citizens Corner

Gloria and Ann went to a 2 day Workshop and Seminar on Monday and Tuesday.

Monday the 7th is birthday lunch.

Don't forget to come to the Center for good food, fellowship and exercising every day Monday through Friday. We also have domino and bridge games when they can find 4 people to play. We have '42' and domino tournaments the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month; pool is Monday nights and the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

It is always good to see people walking in the halls and using the exercise equipment.

Please keep the sick members in your prayers. Always be kind to the new members and visitors, show them you are glad they are coming to be with us.

Till next week,
Wanda B.

Phi Theta Kappa Initiates



Ashley Aten from Seminole and Kyle Sisson from Plains were among area residents recently inducted into the South Plains College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, international honor society for students in two year colleges. The group's sponsor is Gary Poffenbarger, SPC associate professor of English.

Miss Lubbock



Tyler Willis daughter of Rick and Joetta Willis of Brownfield, has been chosen as Miss Lubbock. Tyler participated in the Miss Texas Pageant in Lubbock, in July. She is the granddaughter of James and Jerry Warren of Plains, the niece of Joe and Joyce Pierce and Jim and Lela Warren, also of Plains.

Library Storytime

Ten boys & girls attended Storytime May 2. The group watched video: 'The Rainbow Fish'. Keith Bayer was special guest. He brought several varieties of fish and explained what kind of fish could live together, the responsibility of caring for fish and answered questions concerning fish. Amanda Dusek, Bailey Rios, Madison Davis, Mesa Davis, Bailey Winn, Clayton Gass, Claire Carpenter, Jentry Wall, Kasidee Taylor and Micah St. Romain enjoyed observing the fish. program ended with the reading of In The Ocean.

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Tsa Mo Ga Meets

Tsa Mo Ga members were treated to creative short stories and poetry written and performed by local students April 23.

As part of the club's program on literature and performing arts, 12 students were recognized for their original entries in youth poetry and short story categories. Students were introduced by Ann McGinty and presented certificates for their work. Stories and poems of first place winners will be submitted to the district competition.

Fourth grade poetry winners were first-Landon Earnest, second-Brianna Conway and third-Kimber Williams.

In the grades 7-9 category, poetry winners were Stacie Alldredge-first, Jeannie Longoria-second, and Sarah Martinez-third. In grades 10-12 poetry division, first place went to Lisa San Filippo, second was Scott Tirrell and Ragan McGinty was third.

Short story winners in the grade 7-9 category were Grady McNabb-first, Brandon Davis-second and April Wilmeth-third.

Club member Carolyn Culwell presided over the meeting following the program. Hostesses were Debbie Rushing and Holly Dyer.

Geoff & Beth Gentry are thrilled to announce the arrival of their son, Ryan Andrew Gentry, born May 4, weighing 8 lbs. 15 ounces, and measuring 22 inches long.

Art Association Meets

The Yoakum County Art Association met May 1st at the Old Courthouse Clubroom in Plains. Jeannette Head presided in the absence of President Marlene Gibson. Linda Powell read the minutes. New Officers for the year were elected: President Marlene Gibson, Vice President Jeannette Head, Secretary/Reporter Thelma Cheatham, Treasurer Betty Estep, Programs Sheila Stephens, Hostess Jimmie Bayer, Education Inetta Teaff, Juried Show Uvonne Morgan, Wadonna Davis, and Thelma Cheatham, Photography Mary Dale Williams, Membership Pat McNabb, Mary Dale Williams, Scrapbook Wilma Powell, Cards/Flowers Susie Powell, Telephone Eileen Fillipp, Jimmie Bayer. The September 1st Watermelon Round Up Brochures were distributed. It was announced due

to Tim Winkler's donation from Denver City, Occidental Permain Ltd. gave us a matching donation of \$100. The club gave them applause for their generosity. Jean Green of Olton presented an oil demonstration on a fruit/flower still life. She stated dark paintings are popular now and everything should pull you into the painting. She told the group to use safflower or sunflower oil instead of linseed oil. She loosens up florals by making dabs of paint here and there. 5 guests were present, Peggy Lay of Olton, Tina, Peyton and Brianna Coffman of Plains and Lisa Gentry of Plains. Artist of the Month Inetta Teaff furnished the door prize, won by Marguerite Barron. Mary Nokes and Thelma Cheatham served refreshments.

by Linda Powell

Wedding Shower for

Rena McElroy

Bride elect of

Ed O'Brien

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Sunday, May 20-Recognize the High School and College Graduates

Wednesday

5:15 - 6:30 pm. Supper

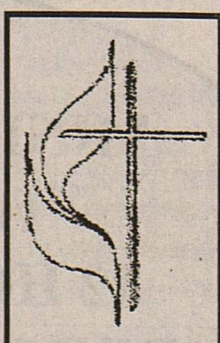
6:00 pm. Zombies

7:00 pm. - RA's, GA's, Mission Friends, Generation X, Sanctuary Choir Practice

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Morning Worship - 10:45 am

Youth Fellowship - 5 - 6:00 pm

Wednesday Connections

Food & Fellowship-5:30-6:30 pm

Eve. Bible Study - 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Other Opportunities

Afternoon Bible Study - 5:15 pm Thursdays

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From The Hack

I continue to be mystified and amazed at politics. The Bride says I am mystified and amazed by other subjects, starting with women.

Nevertheless, the State of California continues to draw my ire. The news continues to be crammed with the state's leaders now desperately pleading for the federal government to toss them a clean towel with which to wipe themselves clean of the terrible debacle their legislature produced, resulting in their serious and continuing electric energy crisis.

Simply put, their lawmakers have screwed themselves and their citizens out of reasonably priced electric energy, and even more ominously, continue to be faced with very serious shortages in the foreseeable future. The problem continues as I write.

California Governor Gary Davis is exploring, via TV, newsprint, radio, internet, "The federal government is just not doing enough to help us out of this temporary crisis, and we deserve help."

HMMM. Best I recall, the Governor signed off on the crazy legislation which led to the current crisis, causing citizens of that state tremendous electric bills, shortages, and rolling blackouts. I do believe he had the option of veto powers which would have at least stalled the catastrophe.

According to a number of fac-

tual reports of events leading up to the doom and gloom scenario, here is what happened:

In the California deregulation process, through a scheme called securitization, investor owned electric utilities were allowed to recover 100% of their investments in generation assets. Securitization is another word for a tax on California taxpayers. The utility companies then SOLD those generation assets for tremendous profits, which unfortunately were only temporary profits. The California legislation allowed a cap to be placed on retail sales rates, but failed to cap wholesale rates. The end result was chaos - power blackouts, and bankrupt investor owned utilities.

Hey, am I missing something here? Why should the FEDERAL government (and that should read Me and Thee) bail the State of California out of this sorry mess?

Another bit of fluff from the Golden State; I heard on a radio talk show broadcast California lawmakers were pressing hard to get taxpayers to foot the bill for Sex Change Operations! Apparently there's quite a bit of that stuff going on out there. If California's tax payers are unwilling or unable to cover these cutting costs, guess who they will then approach for help? This sits about as well with me as their power woes.

While soapboxing, I may as well wind this up. G.Gordon Liddy said on a recent broadcast, "I'm tired of the media's fawning over certain Black Ministers, particularly the ministers who apparently have no church, and their source of income has never been officially determined. I am tired of them advising our government what to do

Plains ISD invites interested parties to make proposals for the purchase of Athletic Supplies for the 2001-2002 school year, until 1:00 p.m., May 18, 2001 at the Administration Office. Proposals should be addressed to James Haynes, Superintendent, School Athletic Supplies Proposal, Plains ISD, 1000 10th Street, Box, 479, Plains, Texas 79355. For questions of other information, please contact Blake McWhirter at 806-456-7445.

Plains I.S.D. reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals, to waive all technicalities, and to contact with the vendor that represents the best value to the district.

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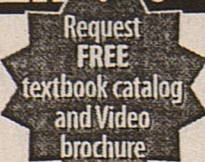
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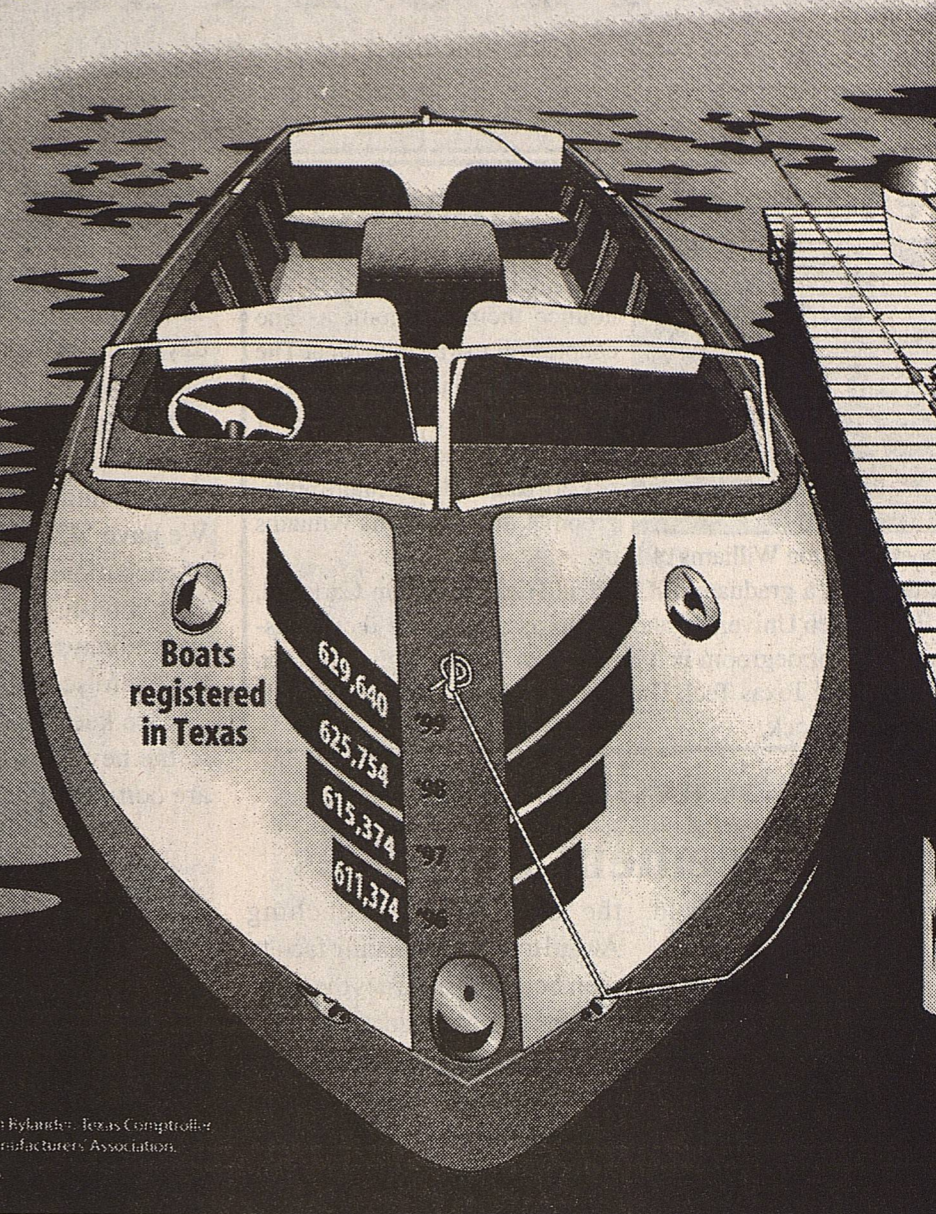
A Beka Home School

A boat under your boots

Texas has a lot of lakes—nearly 5,000 square miles of inland water, according to the Texas Almanac. Only Alaska has more open water. With 6,736 lakes and reservoirs, and the Gulf of Mexico, Texas is big with boaters.

Nearly 630,000 pleasure boats, including personal watercraft, were registered in Texas in 1999, according to the National Marine Manufacturers' Association. That puts Texas in the top 10 boating states. Texans shelled out nearly \$500 million for new boats in 1999. Those purchases brought \$46.4 million into the state's coffers, thanks to a 6.25 percent Boat Sales and Use Tax.

| Number of registered pleasure boats, 1999 | |
|---|---------|
| MI | 985,732 |
| CA | 955,700 |
| FL | 805,079 |
| MN | 793,107 |
| TX | 629,640 |
| WI | 562,788 |
| NY | 524,326 |
| SC | 414,527 |
| VA | 407,347 |
| IL | 372,618 |



SOURCE: Center for Boat Industry, Texas Comptroller and National Marine Manufacturers' Association.
GRAPHIC: Curtis Conzales

when every crisis pops up, and their offering help to mediate the dispute. I say, let them get a church, perhaps we'll listen then." Amen, Brother!

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