

State's economy, cash balance both healthy at end of fiscal year.

A letter dated November 4, 1996, from State Comptroller John Sharp to Governor George W. Bush contained the following:

"Dear Governor Bush;

I am pleased to submit to you the TEXAS ANNUAL CASH Report for the fiscal year ended August 31, 1996.

The state ended the year with a cash balance of \$6.9 billion in the general and special revenue funds, an increase of \$2.8 billion over August 31, 1995. These funds are used to finance general operations, capital projects and debt service for the State of Texas.

Net revenues for general and special funds increased by \$1.8 billion or 4.7% over fiscal 1995. The two largest increases in revenue were \$903.7 million from a 4.8% rise in tax revenues, and \$360.9 million, or 21% increase, in revenues from interest and investment income".

In addition, Sharp reviewed the overall state of the Texas economy with the following summary;

"For the fourth straight year, the Texas economy added more than 200,000 jobs. Yet, despite this gain, a somewhat slower national economy caused the state's rate of job growth to fall below 3 percent for the first time since fiscal 1992. Texas relinquished the top spot in the number of new jobs added

to a resurgent California, the nation's largest state. But despite shifting out of overdrive, the Texas economy remains strong and healthy, having added 220,000 jobs, a 2.7 percent increase, which exceeded the national employment growth rate of 2.1 percent by more than one-half percentage point. Over the last four years, Texas has added 1 million jobs and accounted for 9 percent of the nation's total job growth. Among the fifty states, Texas continues to rank tenth in the rate of employment growth, behind mostly mountain states with relatively small populations.

In one sense, Texas' economic emphasis during fiscal 1996 shifted from job growth to income growth. Based on state income data from the U. S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Texas' total personal income grew faster than might be expected from job growth in fiscal 1996. Total personal income growth (at 7 percent) exceeded the nation's by 2 percentage points in fiscal 1996. Data from the winter of 1996 indicate that the state's total personal income in the durable goods industry advanced by over 12 percent in a year, with strong showings in retail trade (up 10.6 percent), construction (9.8 percent), and service (9.7 percent). The only sector in which total income declined during the fiscal year

was in the military sector, where ongoing defense cuts have reduced total military income in Texas by 3 percent.

In per capita terms, Texas' personal income grew by 5.1 percent, well above the 2.8 percent inflation rate. This is a welcome sign that the Texas economy is now generating a higher standard of living in addition to generating, more jobs.

In Summary: A Healthy State Economy

Stronger real gross state product growth led to statewide job growth of 2.7 percent during the fiscal year, real per capita wages increased, and net migration continued to fuel the economic engine during fiscal 1996. Texas exports, which have more than tripled over the past decade, continued to grow at double-digit rates, posting a 14.8 percent gain in calendar 1995. While overall economic growth moderated a bit from last year due to a cooling of U. S. economic activity, the overall Texas economy was growing and healthy in fiscal 1996.

Final Services Held Here For S.E. Williams

Funeral services were held for S.E. (Teed) Williams in the First Baptist Church on Saturday, November 16. Rev. Bill Wright officiated, and interment followed in the Plains Cemetery under direction of Ratliff Funeral Home of Denver City.

Mr. Williams, 76, passed away Wednesday evening in Yoakum County Hospital.

He was born April 22, 1920. He married Lois Allen on July 28, 1959 in Mexico. He was a retired farmer and a member of the First Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife Lois, a son, Leslie Stapleton of Plains; One brother, Bobby Williams of Archer City; Two sisters, Syble Hamilton of Bryan and Jennie Smith of Knox City; Two grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Extension Service Salutes Commissioner...

COLLEGE STATION -- Yoakum County Commissioner Jim Barron has been named a state "Friend of Extension" by Epsilon Sigma Phi, the national honorary fraternity of Extension Service professionals.

Barron was honored during awards ceremonies October 31, as part of the fall conference of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service on the campus of Texas A&M University. The Extension Service, an arm of the A&M University System, conducts educational programs in every Texas county.

The award is presented annually to deserving individuals who have contributed significantly to the Extension education mission, agricultural and environmental sustainability, family, youth and community development programs, said Tadd Knight, Yoakum County extension agent for agriculture.

Barron, a county commissioner since January 1987, has served since 1991 as president of the Texas County Judges and Commissioners Association. He was cited by the Alpha Zeta chapter of the Extension fraternity for his support of Extension programming and staffing across the state and his leadership in programs making a positive impact on youth in Yoakum County.

A former member of 4-H, the youth development program of Extension, Barron excelled in grass and dairy judging projects. He since has served as an adult volunteer leader for 4-H and taken an active role in county, district and state 4-H work.

He was a catalyst for the first Yoakum County Long Range Extension Program

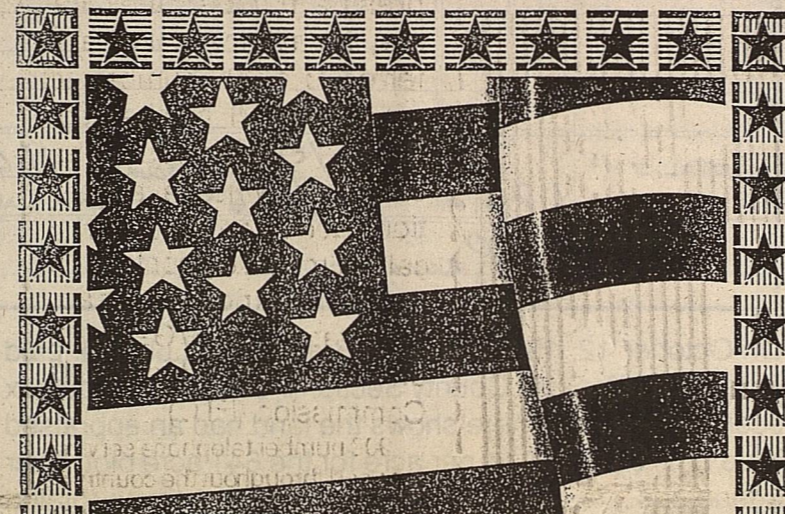
process in which a cross-section of county citizens identify community issues and suggest Extension Service educational programs to address these issues. That led to the establishment of the youth drug and alcohol education program in the county, which has received significant external funding and been hailed for its positive effect.

Recognized as an excellent agricultural producer, Barron conducts Extension Service result demonstrations and hosts Extension educational programs at his farm.

"Jim Barron is untiring in his support for Extension at the state level and has taken of his time and resources to travel and interpret Extension's impact" on the citizens of the state, said Dr. Bob Robinson, district Extension director for agriculture.

Barron is one of three Texas officials on the board of directors of the National Association of Counties. He is a director of Yoakum County Mental Health and Retardation, a director of the South Plains Economic Development Board, served six years on the Yoakum county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee and served as president of the West Texas Judges and Commissioners Association.

He served eight years as a director of the Yoakum County Livestock Association, has been a director of the steering committee of the National Association of Counties, and a director of Community Action Services. Barron is a member of the First Baptist Church of Plains, the Plains Lions Club and the Plains Chamber of Commerce.



We appreciate your serving our country. PLAINS I.S.D.

Plains Elementary students in Mrs. McAdams class recently sent the above graphic to all the community veterans they could identify. The patriotic theme graphic, reduced here, was in full letter size and on a separate sheet each student signed their name. The project was in honor of Veterans' Day on November 11. Speaking for all area veterans, "Thank you -- we appreciate your remembrance."

TO ALL THE VOTERS OF YOAKUM COUNTY

I want to thank you for all the love and prayers expressed to me during my campaign in the General Election.

Your vote and support are deeply appreciated.

I extend my congratulations to Deborah L. Rushing.

Julia Lemley

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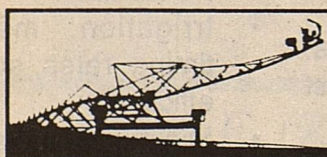
A 1,287 foot, seven tower, all galvanized **REINKE** system, with Durst wheel drive gears, wobbler sprinkler package, concrete pad, all for just \$32,371.34! Come by or call, let's talk it over - we know you'll be glad you did!

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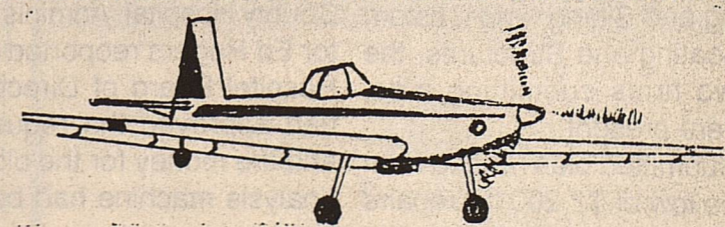
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From page 1,
'Roofing'

Yoakum County Hospital Continues Improvements

ment in the hospital, and last year generated over \$120,000 income from blood tests on patients.

Gary Walker, Yoakum County Landfill Coordinator, reported the facility's track loader is again in the shop for repairs. Estimates indicate over \$14,000 will be necessary to repair the loader. He asked the Court to consider the required repairs, or the possible lease or purchase of another loader. He said a new loader sells for more than \$130,000. No action was taken to enable the Court to further examine the alternatives.

A recent order from District Kelly G. Moore which set the salaries of the County Auditor, Assistant Auditor and Court Reporter was recorded for observation and inclusion in Minutes of Commissioner's Court.

Commissioner Elect Woody Lindsey, Precinct 1, was again an observer at the Court session.

Yoakum County Hospital continues to upgrade its facilities to serve your needs better. In the past few months, the hospital has added diagnostic and patient care equipment for safety and convenience for patients using the hospital. The Lab has upgraded its analyzers to give faster and more accurate clinical tests. An up grade in the lab computer system means your test results will be given to your Doctor sooner, and will allow lab staff to do their job with less waiting for the patient.

Nursing Services has added two high tech, state of the art hospital stretchers to facilitate patient care. One of the stretchers will enable safer and more comfortable patient transfers from the operating room to the recovery room. Another stretcher is to be used in the obstetrics wing. It's unique feature is the stretcher's ability to be used as a patient

transfer bed, or delivery table, if the newest member of Yoakum County decides it's time to make an early appearance.

Patient comfort and safety are the watchwords here. Another improvement is the addition of a backup anesthesia monitor to the monitor to the operating room, giving the capability to have a monitor in reserve, or serve two surgery patients if the needs arise.

Your Yoakum County Hospital constantly strives to give you "Big City" care in a friendly, hometown environment

*Thought for
the week*

Opportunity seldom looks for anyone, but it is always out there waiting for those determined to knock until the door opens.

Facts You Should Know About 900 Services

Pay-per-call 900 telephone services can be a quick, easy way to get information about health, finance and many other subjects. If customers understand exactly what they are getting and how much they will be charged, 900 numbers can be a perfectly good way to do business or receive information. However, they can also be a cause for concern if the consumer is not aware of the associated charges.

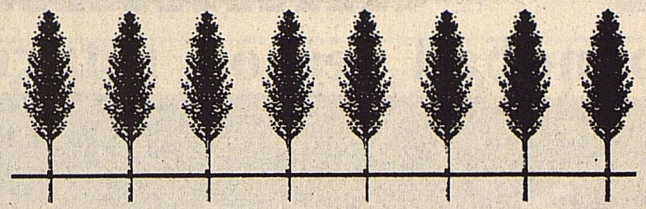
ALLTEL recently learned of a situation in which individuals returning calls to telephone numbers left on pagers/beepers and answering machines were unknowingly forwarded to a 900 number and charged an expensive fee. ALLTEL recommends that customers use caution when returning calls if they do not recognize the telephone number. There have also been situations where a customer might originally dial a toll free number (1-800 or 1-888), however they are then directed to choose from several menu items and press a number, their call may be automatically transferred to a 900 number, for which they will be charged.

ALLTEL suggests that customers who have questions about the legitimacy of calls immediately contact the Better Business Bureau, their state Attorney General's office, and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

900 number telephone services are used throughout the country as a telemarketing tool. It is impor-

tant to note that these calls are not free, and the cost varies depending on the length and type of call.

ALLTEL does not provide any 900 programs or set related charges. These services are established by information providers who contract with long-distance companies to carry their programs.



Goodpasture, Inc.

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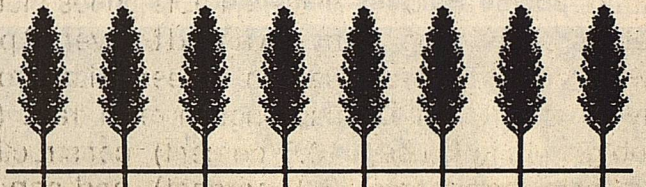
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*Storage space available

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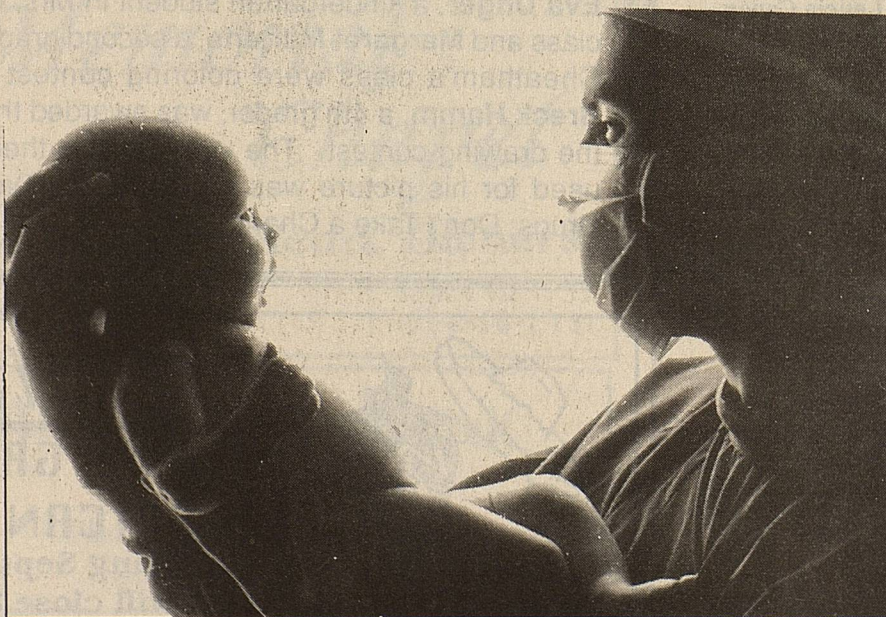


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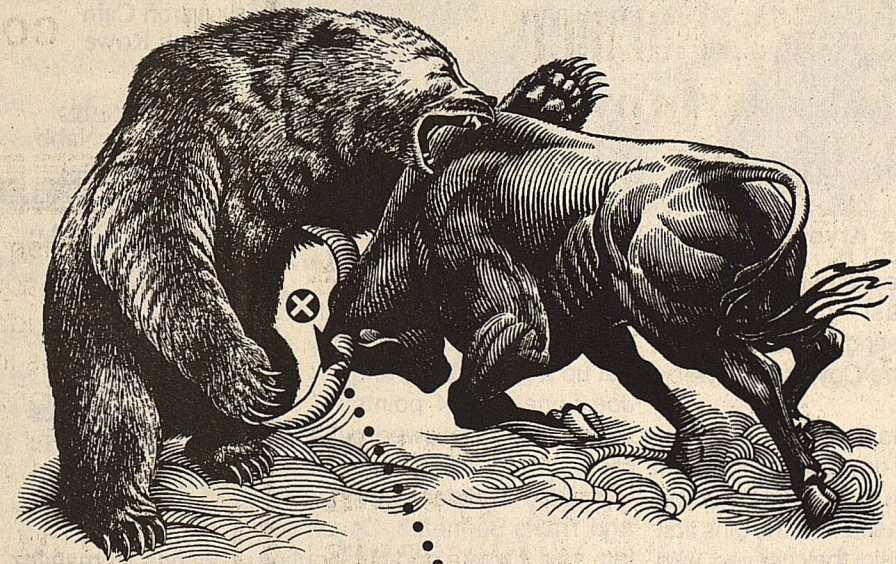
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'PISD ACTIVITY PAGE'

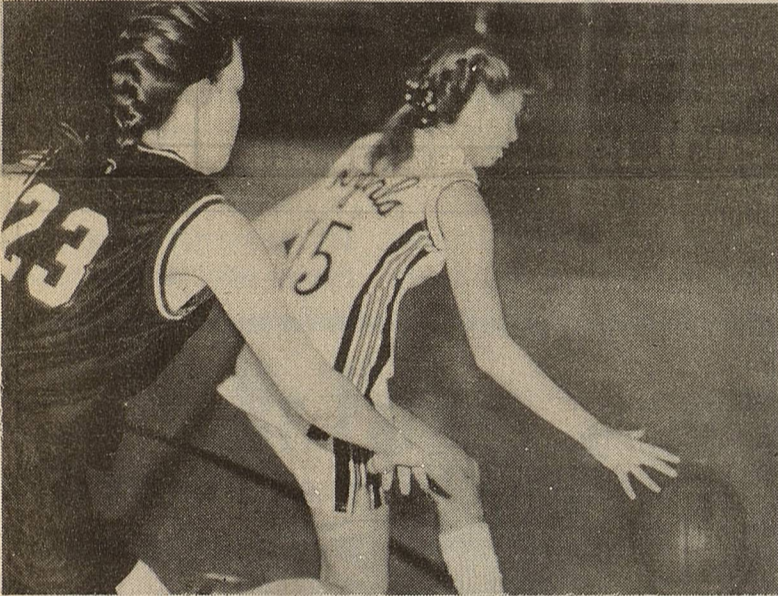
Roundball season returns



Kayla Redman(30)battles under the net



Jolyne Burgess maneuvers for shot



JV's Krystle Blundell is quick with the ball

The PISD basketball season got underway last Friday, with the Cowgirls meeting Lubbock Cooper here, while the Cowboys traveled to Muleshoe.

The Cowgirls faced a good Cooper team and dropped their opener 46-39. Coach Osborn reported he was very pleased with the girls first outing. He said they stayed with Cooper until very late in the game. Robin Squyres led the scoring with 11 points, Tessa St. Romain and Jolyne Burgess had 7 each, Kiley Bearden and Kayla Redman 5 each, and Sandi Warren and Lindsey Six scored 2 each. Kayla led the rebounding stats with 8, and Tessa had 5.

We were unable to obtain stats or a report on the Cowgirl JV game, but do know they lost to Cooper 37-26 in a fast mov-

ing contest.

The Cowboys took on the 3A Mules from Muleshoe Friday, and put up a good 73-87 effort.

Joe Luna got 24 points for high point honors, followed by Tanner Blount 16, Eric Estrada 13, Jamie Caballero 11, Adam Dominguez 7, and Travis Bennett 3. Coach William said it was a good first outing, and expected improvements each week. He cited the rebounding of Chris Willett and Shawn Cullins defense.

The Freshmen Cowboys had a bit rougher start, falling to the Mules 63-22. Alex Luna had 9 points, Justin Bennett 5, Keith Jackson 2, Josh Bell 3, Jeremy Morphis 1, and Paatrick McGinty 2. Others on the team include Kyle Sisson, Colt Winn, Chris Willis and Salvador Granados.

PISD Honor Roll 2nd Six Weeks

All "A" Honor Roll

Elementary

First Grade:

Curtis Arteaga
Chandra Carpenter
Douglas Conway
Lauren Davis
Amber Friesen
Chris Loya
Marissa Melendez
Zachary Ramos
John Tyson

Second Grade:

Scott Addison
Alice Curtis
Meghan Garcia
Kimberly Jackson
Erika Loewen
Angelica Mendoza
Lisa Neufeld
Adrianna Ponce
D. J. Robertson

Third Grade:

T. J. Cordova
Allison Friesen
Rose Henderson
B. J. Lester
Mark Morgan
Katie Oswald
Abel Ramos
Todd Williams

Fourth Grade:

Evan Cain
Marie Diaz
Breck Hamm
Brant Huerta
Kristian Morales

First Grade:

Maria Andazola
Trent Hawthorne

Second Grade:

Callie Howell

Third Grade:

Casson Curtis

Fourth Grade:

Amy Brintle

Junior High

Fifth Grade:

Trent May

Sixth Grade:

Jill Gray

Seventh Grade:

Annaliesa O'Quinn
Becky Wilmeth

Eighth Grade:

Aaron Cain
Lesli Rowe

Fifth Grade:

Grady McNabb

Sixth Grade:

Krystal Gonzales

Seventh Grade:

Clint Hays
Chelsi Wagnon

Eighth Grade:

Emily Blair
Taylor Gray
Kimberlee Jones

High School

9th Grade:

Velvet Canada
Audra Ellis
Wendy Hernandez
Kelton Mason
Anne Palmer
Kyle Sission
Staci Tuggle

10th Grade:

Maranda Box
Cosme Casillas
Tommie McNabb

11th Grade:

Vicki Bayer
Shawna Box
Delia Gonzales
Summer Howard
Sandi Warren

12th Grade:

Sonia Avila
Yancey House
Mary Morales

Joani Bell
Elias Carrillo
Ryan Crump
Britnie Duran
Lauren Hise
M'Leah McKinzie
Colby Ortega
Jacob Rivera
Katie Winn

Landon Craft
Jose Luis Gallegos
Kimberly Gonzales
Challie Johnson
Magaret Martens
Araceli Mendonza
Dennis Penner
Lupita Quintana
Stetson Sellers

Michael Crump
Benjamin Hays
Skylar Keesee
Adam McCravey
Blake O'Quinn
Blake Parrish
Sara Wiebe

Lela Coronado
Cody Flores
Brandon Hise
Daniela Lazos
Kerry Sisson

All A's and 1-B Honor Roll

Rubi Castillo
Cody Mayes

Clarissa Zorrilla

Jamie Covarrubias

All "A" Honor Roll

Moriah Traweek

Elizabeth Wilmeth

Scott Tirrell

Ashlei Mason
Lexi Warren

All A's and 1-B Honor Roll

April Wilmeth

Ky May

Lensey Cullins
Kari Guetersloh
Eric Nixon

All "A" Honor Roll

Leticia Canon
Kristen Gray
Chris Leggett
Laura Morales
Patricia Ruiz
Jason Swann

Clint Burrus
Marcey House
Lisa Parrish

Heath Bowlin
Shawn Cullins
Yvonne Gonzales
Gideon Traweek

Kyle Bearden
Jacob Lester
Robin Squyres

All A's and 1-B Honor Roll

Candace Bowers
Jessica Flores

Cassie Dearing
Tandi Jones

Jamie Caballero

Tessa St. Romain

9th Grade:

Krystle Blundell
Autumn Deaton
Kelli Osborn

10th Grade:

Dustin Brunson
LaCresha Johnson
Matt Morgan

11th Grade:

Derek Brunson
Laura Flores

12th Grade:

Roni Ponce
Allen Ward

Student of the Week



PHS Student of the week is Joe Luna, a Senior and the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Luna. He was nominated by Coach McMinn, who said " Joe is a courageous, self confident and talented young man. He has excelled in athletics. In football, he was leading the area in all school classifications for receiving, with 50 catches. The last game of the year, he was switched to the backfield, and responded with 120 yards of rushing. His dedication, hard work and achievements make him a great Student Of The Week".

Spirit Week

The annual 'Spirit Week' was observed recently in Plains Junior High. Students 'dressed up' each day to show their pride in their school. The last pep rally of the year was held, where the schools athletes, cheerleaders, pep squad, mascots, sponsors and coaches were recognized for their hard work.

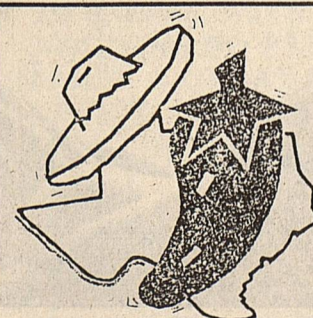
Some of the student honorees recognized included 8th grade 'Football Sweetheart' Kari Guetersloh, 7th grade 'Football Sweetheart' Chelsi Wagnon, 8th grade 'Volleyball Beau' Adam Garcia, 7th grade 'Volleyball Beau' Moises Gonzales, 8th grade 'Most Spirited' Michaela Traweek, and 7th grade 'Most Spirited' Dominga Avila.

Winners of 'Dress Up' week included Donita Richardson & Michaela Traweek, Backward Monday; Mrs. Warren & Mrs. Cullins, and Julie Gonzales & Nancy Koncaba, Twin Tuesday; Sterling Deaton & Dominga Avila, Black Wednesday; and Mrs. Green & Chelsea Blount, Crazy Socks Thursday.

Drug Poster Contest



Elementary students were invited to participate in a drawing and coloring contest during the "Dare To Be Drug Free" week. Winners were announced at the pep rally where they were awarded a prize. The contest was divided into two categories, K-2 which was a coloring contest and 3-4 which was a drawing contest. **Eva Unger**, a kindergarten student in Mrs. Conway's class and **Margaret Martens**, a second grader in Mrs. Cheatham's class were coloring contest winners. **Breck Hamm**, a 4th grader, was awarded the prize in the drawing contest. The very creative theme Breck used for his picture was, "The Deadly Dance With Drugs; Don't Take a Chance."



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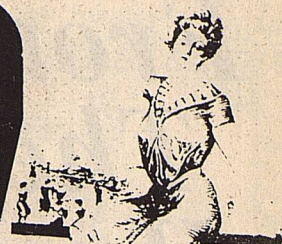
Brownfield Hwy. (456-7112) Plains, TX

Plains Depot

Laundry & Dry Cleaning NOW accepted for Delivery to Brownfield on Monday, returning here each Thursday - PM
Fall Is In The Air.
Check Our Cooler Weather Selections!



Femme Friends



TSA MO GA Observes Veterans Day

Veteran's Day, November 11 was observed by the Tsa Mo Ga study club at it's meeting that Monday.

Rennetta O'Quinn, program coordinator, introduced guest speakers Tessa St. Romain, Marte Pierce and Derek Brunson, all PHS students.

Marte and Tessa, Seniors, related their experiences as Delegates to this summer's sessions of Bluebonnet Girls State and the Boys State conventions, sponsored by the women's American Legion Auxiliary, and the American Legion Post, previously reported in CCN.

Derek, then a Sophomore, told of his experiences as an Ambassador to the annual Hugh O'brien Leadership Seminar held in Amarillo last April. He said it was a great honor to be selected at his age, and he was inspired by the many speakers from the business and political fields who addressed the seminar.

The club's annual project of offering books and gifts to patients in the Veteran's Hospital in Big Spring is underway, and donors are encouraged to bring both books and Christmas gifts to the Library.

The Tsa Mo Ga Clubhouse was decorated in a patriotic theme, and hostesses were Ann McGinty and Mary Jo St. Romain. The American favorite, Apple Pie, was featured.

ASU - SPC Agreement Announced

LEVELLAND — In an effort to attract more South

Plains College students, Angelo State University at San Angelo has established an articulation agreement with SPC officials and offered several prestigious scholarships for SPC graduates.

"The administration of Angelo State University, under the leadership of their new president, Dr. James Hindman, realizes that South Plains College has a lot of good students, and they want to attract more transfer students from area community colleges like South Plains," said Dr. Gary McDaniel, SPC president.

The agreement to accept SPC's basic academic core courses was signed Friday (Nov. 8) by the two presidents during a meeting of administrators from both institutions in the Blue Room of the Student Center on campus.

Angelo State also has agreed to provide three \$1,000 scholarships each year to SPC graduates who are members of Phi Theta Kappa, international honor society for students in two-year colleges. SPC students who have at least a 3.40 cumulative grade point average and a minimum of 30 academic semester credit hours will be eligible to apply for ASU's prestigious Carr Academic Scholarships.

"ASU has accepted basically our academic core courses," said Bobby James, dean of admissions. "I think it will really be helpful for our students transferring to ASU to have these issues clarified up front. This will open up a lot of dialog between the two institutions and should be very beneficial for our students," said James.

Senior Citizens Corner

Last Thursday we had a large group for lunch. Among the many who came were Mr. and Mrs. George Ford (first time visit). This week Howard Webb has his sister, Francis Murrell from Oceanside, California. A big welcome to all.

Home from the hospitals are Buford Dulin and J. T. Mitchell.

Our sympathy to the Walter Gayle family on the death of Betty Lou.

Wednesday's Pool Tournament was well attended. All senior pool players should join in on this.

Center Activities
November 18 thru 22:
Line Dancing -
Mon, Wed, Fri. at 9:30 AM;
Livingston Hearaid -
Mon., 9:30 - 10:30 AM;
Board Meeting -
Mon., 12:30 PM;
Pool/Games -
Mon., 6:30 PM;
Medical Arts B/P -
Wed., 11:00 - 11:30 AM;
Thanksgiving Dinner
(please register) -
Wed, 11:30 AM; and
Miracle Ear -
Thurs., 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Veterans Day is just passed and many memories were brought back. I would like to share a November 11, memory.

My family was living in a tent in Oklahoma, and my Dad cut cord wood for a wild cat oil well. On the 11th Mother went into a small town to buy my little brother a pair of shoes (it was his birthday). My Dad had received his notice to come in for his physical to be inducted into the army. They

were worried for there Mother was, 200 miles from any relative, four kids, two covered wagons and two teams of horses to get back to Texas.

In town that day she heard the news that the war had ended, and all 110 pounds of her was in the air when she came within shouting distance of the family. It was a glad day for us in more ways than the Thankfulness that war had ceased.

See you next week,
Smitty

Community Happenings

The annual community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held this year at First Baptist Church, Sunday evening at 6pm on November 24th. All are invited to attend and enjoy some great food and fellowship.

Plains Lions Club will meet Thursday, 21st. at noon. Lions building.

The Plains Booster Club will host their annual Basketball Tip Off meeting Thursday, Nov. 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the main gym. The Cowboy and Cowgirl team members will be introduced, wearing their uniforms for a photo opportunity night. The Cheerleaders will attend, and possibly the Cowboy Band. The public is urged to attend and meet these hard working athletes.

The club recently announced their plans for a

'Good enough to eat, & come back for more!'

A new, unique cookbook experience, with great recipes, great moments from earlier years, tips, anecdotes about a better life. 334 pages of enjoyment! Just \$25 plus tax. Call Jennola Maple, 806-456-4945 You'll be glad you did!

Darlene's Dress Shop

Starting Now, Our Going Out Of Business Sale. EVERYTHING must go...come in NOW while selections are good!

Use Your Credit Card, We Accept Discover, Master Card And Visa.

Darlene's - BeautiControl Cosmetics
110 N. Main 592-9524 Denver City, TX

Food, Christmas Toy Donors Needed!

The Community's annual Food and Christmas Toy distribution is now underway. The questionnaire below is being distributed around town. If you know of any needy families or children, see that they complete the form, NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 6. Volunteers are needed to sort and distribute donated food and toys. If you have questions, call Teresa Howard, 456-8794. The gifts will be distributed December 21.

Christmas Assistance Questionnaire

Name-----
Address (include directions if necessary)-----
Phone#-----
Number of adults in home who are employed-----
Employer-Name & phone-----
Do the children attend Plains Schools?-----
List Children's name, sex & ages below:
Name-----age-----sex-----

Does your family need; food-----Toys-----
Both-----

** NOTE **

Deadline to receive questionnaire Dec. 6!!

Engagement Party Held

An engagement party announcing the marriage of Lael Suzanne Naylor and Gregory Earl Box was held in the home of James and Jerry Warren, grandparents of the bride-elect. Wedding Nuptials are planned for February 8, 1997, in El Paso.

Hosting the party were Jana and Robert Melvin of Las Cruces. Out of town guests included the groom's parents, Billy and Jackie Box and son Billy Keith of Ira; Ron Naylor, father of the bride-elect, El Paso; Jerry Warren, Phoenix; Lisa Denman, San Marcos; Troy and Darce Fillingim, New Home; Ricky and Jo Wills and daughters Tyler and Kaci, Brownfield; Amy Naylor, sister of bride-elect, and Gary Simms, Lubbock. Guests from Plains included Jim and Lela Warren, aunt and uncle of the bride, and Joe, Joyce and Marte Pierce, aunt, uncle and cousin of the bride.

button campaign, featuring furnishes the photo, the cost a photo of a favorite team is \$3. Bring you camer and member. If your own photo meet the Cowboys and Cow- is used for the button, the girls. Refreshments will be cost is only \$1, and if the club available at the meeting.

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From The Hack



At a recent social gathering honoring Denver City Dentist Emeritus Brad Cochran on his 34th birthday, the Bride and I visited with Dennis and Sue Ann Harrison of D.C.

It seems Dennis and I are near classmates from way back. I told the Harrisons I attended school in D.C. in 1941, best of my knowledge I recalled it was in a white painted frame building somewhere east and south of the present D.C. High School complex. Dennis confirmed this, and said he was in the 5th grade at the time.

This made me rather happy, if for no other reason it confirmed Dennis is at least a year older than me. It also seemed to please Sue Ann, as it made her a generous number of years younger than either of us. I am really happy Brad invited us to something which made me younger than at least one other guest.

I wasn't too happy however, when the DENTIST came out in Brad Cochran. There I was, gnawing away on his birthday spread, complete with all sorts of sweets, when he came by, and almost leaped into my face as I opened wide to bite a chunk of birthday cake - his cake! He shouted, "Whoa, le'mme look in there again, I see some bad black spots!" He said it was just a pre-liminary assessment, of course, but it looked like a Root Canal job to him, and I could probably pay it out in six or nine payments, provided my credit checked out. Sure had a good time, Brad!

Prowling the corridors of Elementary School while stalking Principal Don Weems for the details of the story on page one, I passed what seemed like hundreds of small citizens, first grade and up, hurrying under their Teacher's supervision to the next class. They all beamed

smiles at me, most were or dearly and quiet as they marched along.

I don't recall elementary school this way. I definitely remember my very first day in Kindergarten in dear old Barstow, now swallowed up as a portion of the Barstow-Toyah-Pecos I.S.D.

I remember trembling with fear when my grandmother deposited me in the care of what were probably very nice ladies, but I was terrified. We were assigned seats in those old fashion wood-steel chair desk assemblies, bolted together row after row, then screwed in place on the floor, in case, I guess, the class got really unruly.

I remember Mrs. Jenson warmly greeting us, telling us what tremendous fun she had in store for us, and then, WHAP, something hit me in the back of the head which caused me to bang my head down on the desk, another painful event. When I regained my senses, I turned around to see this grinning little red haired girl, smirking at her achievement. She was new in town, I really didn't know her, but upon the spot I made my mind up I hated her!

Young as I was, I knew if I got up and smacked her in the face, I'd face problems. So, very craftily, I bided my time.

When we got down to the serious stuff, molding clay dough into exotic shapes, I waited till Ms. Jenson was drawing a whale, or maybe it was a water buffalo, on the blackboard, and turned to the little urchin girl whom I'd rapidly learned to hate, and hastily carved a large X across her desktop with the little, no, teeny pen knife I'd gotten from Santa Claus earlier. Bad move. I got a butt busting which today would bring on action from the

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ACLU. Then, it produced another chastisement at home, a lecture from granddad, which was worse than a whipping, and temporary banishment from all fun activities at the dumb school. But it all worked.

Please Join Me... I will be signing copies of my 'memories' cook book, "Good Enough To Eat & Come Back For More", at the Library on Nov. 25th, from 11am to 4pm. Copies are just \$25 plus tax.

Jennola Maple

PISD Legal Notice

Plains Independent School District will accept bids to re-roof a portion of the main campus until 2:00 pm. December 9, 1996, in the Administration Office. The specified roofing system is flood coat. Bids will be opened and read at that time. Information can be obtained by contacting Eric Banfield, Business Manager, Plains I.S.D. Box 479, Plains, Tx. 79355 or by calling 806-456-7483. Plains I.S.D. Board of Trustees reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids and to waive all technicalities.

Baby Sitter Needed. Starting in January, need sitter on Monday & Wednesday. Must have transportation to pickup up kids at school. Approx. 3.5 to 4 hours weekly. Call 456-6494.

Summer Rains Provide Hope for Pheasant Hunters

Most pheasant hunters in the Panhandle and South Plains recall 1992 as the last good hunting season during the 1990's. Three years of lingering drought had seriously limited pheasant production and survival, and the winter and spring of 1996 showed no signs of relief, with most pheasant country receiving rainfall amounts that ranged from little to none.

Fortunately, much of our pheasant country in the Panhandle and South Plains experienced a slight turnaround in late May and early June when something fell from the sky. By the end of July, many areas had received 8 to 10 inches of precipitation, most of it coming in late June and July. The \$100 question is "How will the spring drought, followed by mid-summer rains affect pheasant reproduction and survival?"

The most limiting habitat requirement for pheasants in the High Plains is quality cover for nesting and for avoiding predators and weather extremes. We don't have a lot of cover in the High Plains and much of what we have is low quality cover, at least through the eyes of a pheasant. For example, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage is fair to good for escape cover (depending on the vegetation type) but is only fair cover for nesting, and it is a poor source of food.

The second most limiting habitat requirement is food. Pheasants eat a variety of foods including green grasses and weeds,

insects, and weed seeds, but cereal grains (corn, sorghum, and wheat) comprise the majority of their diet. For the nesting hen, tender green plants (grass, weeds, wheat) are essential in providing carotenes and Vitamin A that are important to the hen in the egg development process. Small grains such as wheat can be an important food source during summer and early fall until the large grains (corn and grain sorghum) mature. These large grains are by far the most important food during fall, winter, and early spring and are excellent sources of energy.

Water is a critical element of the habitat, and pheasants need 1 to 1.2 ounces of water per day (depending on the ambient temperature and humidity). But under good habitat conditions and good weather conditions, pheasants can obtain their water requirements from the food they eat. Pheasants will use surface water if available; but under good habitat conditions, they don't need it.

In a drought situation or under poor habitat conditions, the importance of surface water changes somewhat. There is less green vegetation during a drought and the plants, in general have less moisture in them.

Although a pheasant's requirement for surface water increases during a drought, water is only one of several habitat requirements affected by drought condi-

tions. Dense cover for nesting and escape will be minimal without precipitation. This single factor (quality cover) will impact pheasant numbers more than any amount of food or water that is provided for the birds. When you realize that pheasants can only thrive in areas that have all of their habitat requirements (quality nesting cover, escape cover, abundant insects, small grains, large grains, and the soil moisture to produce these conditions), then it's easy to understand why providing only one of their requirements (drinking water) will do little for the pheasant population.

Any wildlife biologist who has made hunting season forecasts with any regularity has been fooled more than once by the unpredictability of nature and wildlife populations. The best I can provide you concerning a forecast for a season which is still a month away is: "About the same as last year - possibly better."

For those of you making early plans, the 1996 pheasant season is December 14-29.

Calvin L. Richardson
Wildlife Biologist
TX Parks & Wildlife Dept.

Booster Club's "Basketball Tip Off" meeting Thursday, November 21, 7:30 p.m., in the main gym. Bring your camera... "shoot" the Cowboys and Cowgirls!

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