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# Cowboy Country News

50¢

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

Volume V11, Issue 5, October 11, 2000



## HOME COMING 2000



PHS Senior Lexi Warren, escorted by Josh Bell, was named the 2000 Homecoming Queen last Friday prior to the Wink football game



Patti Ruiz, now a student at UT Permian Basin, escorted by Kyle Sisson, passed her 1999 Homecoming Queen crown to Lexi.

### Baptist board proposes \$52 million budget

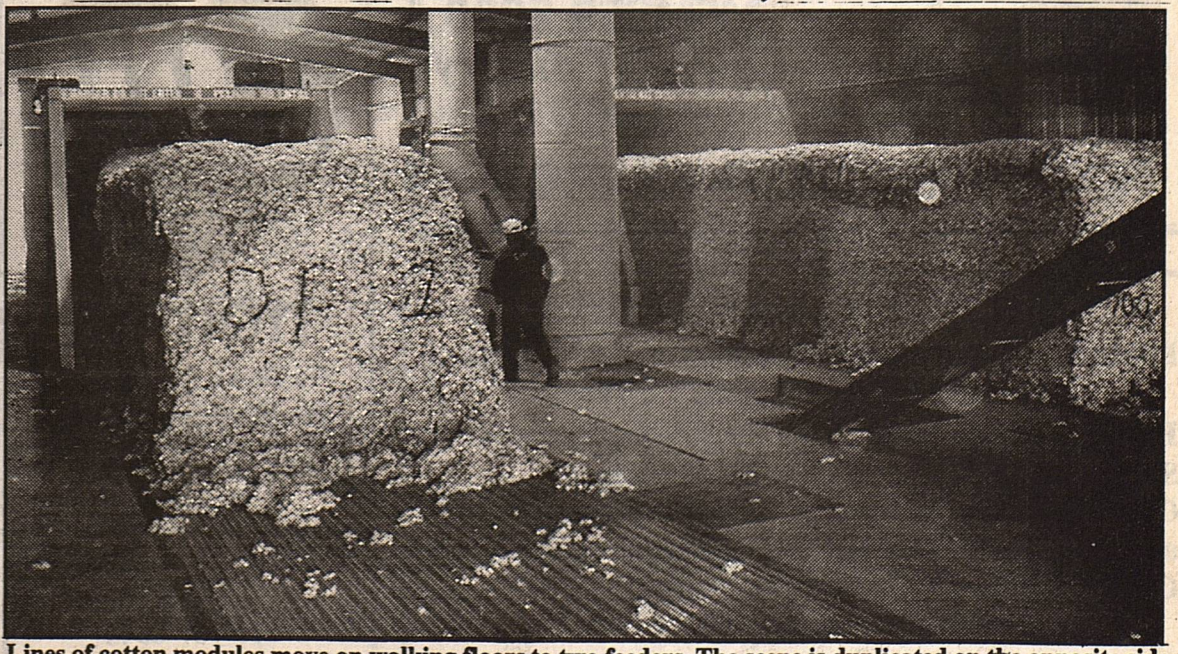
The Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board at it's September 26 meeting recommended a \$52 million budget for 2001 and a proposal redirecting up to \$5 million from some Southern Baptist Convention institutions to meet needs in Texas. The board voted to recommend a budget that redirects to Texas causes a projected \$4 million from Southern Baptist Convention seminaries and close to \$1 million from the SBC Executive Committee and the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, Tenn. The recommendations will be presented to the annual BGCT state convention in Corpus Christi, October 30-31. In addition to the recommended \$52 million Texas budget, the BGCT anticipates channeling an additional \$20 million to worldwide causes. The board accepted the report and approved the recommendation of a special committee studying seminaries supported by either the BGCT or the SBC. Messengers to the 1999 BGCT in El Paso called for the appointment of the study committee to examine the financial resources, theological positions and philosophies of the seminaries, and report its findings to BGCT. The study committee recommended a \$1 million cap be placed on BGCT Cooperative Program money sent through this giving avenue to the six SBC seminaries. They recommended the funds be distributed to the SBC seminaries on a pro-rata basis determined by the number of Texas Baptist students attending each school. Churches will continue to have the opportunity to direct funds as they choose, as in previous years. If church directed funds sent from churches through the BGCT meet or exceed the \$1 million total, then the support for Texas students in SBC seminaries will be considered to have been met. The committee recommended the remaining money - an estimated \$4 million - be dedicated to BGCT supported schools that train ministers; Truett Seminary in Waco, Logsdon School of Theology in Abilene and Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary in San Antonio. The study committee cited theological changes, financial inequities and irregularities, faculty concerns, trustee problems and questions regarding enrollment in graduate level theological education at SBC seminaries. "This study found evidence of theological shifting within the six SBC seminaries," the report stated. "The most notable theological change is found in the content and creedalism of the new 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement. This new document has changed many of our cherished Baptist and

### Criminal Cases In County Court

In County Court October 4, with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding, Crystol Tenniel Bishop pled guilty to a first DWI charge, BT .132/.113 and open container. Her community supervision from a prior offense will be extended one year beginning January 19, 2001. She will be confined in the Victory Christian Growth Center at San Angelo for not more than one year. Her fine and additional appointed attorney fees were waived. She will pay \$40 per month supervision fees when her first employment starts. She must also attend twice weekly AA/Narcotics meetings. An assault causing bodily injury casue was adjudicated. Her attorney was Bill Helwig. Francisco Perez Jr pled guilty to a subsequent DWI, BT .118/.113. An 180 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. \$225 court costs and a \$750 fine will be met with time payments. He must serve 30 days in jail, with credit for 19 days served, serve 80 hours community service, complete the DWI repeat offenders program, and attend weekly AA meetings. Eric Jesse Perez pled guilty to driving while license suspended. He was fined \$200, and must pay \$210 court costs. Richard Clark, CDA, represented the state.

### A new innovation in cotton processing at New Tex Gin

A company from Oregon active in the development and manufacturing of cotton ginning equipment seems an unlikely scenario, but Keith Walking Floors of Madras, Oregon's recent project at New Tex Gin on the stateline is now working flawlessly. Gin manager Ron Craft said negotiations with Keith Co. began months ago. The firm had experience building walking floors to feed cotton modules to gins in the southeastern cotton belt, but none west of the Mississippi River. The walking floors are very similar to those in truck trailers transporting peanuts and other commodities. Keith and New Tex drew up a contract for the construction of a pair of walking floors which would move cotton modules to a stationary feeder. During the planning process, Ron and Gayle Craft developed a brain storm idea and approached Keith with it; Why not two sets of walking floors, moving four modules simultaneously to a pair dual feeders? Four feeders for four rows of modules. Gayle Craft told CCN, "We knew a producer might have several circles of cotton, and at stripping time, some would be from low lying areas, some from dryer areas, some would be greener. We felt if we could blend four modules of cotton simultaneously, after taking samples of the cotton, we could produce a much more uniform run of cotton for that producer, even probably reduce micronaire price penalties, and market the cotton for more money." The two Crafts and Keith officials say the four sets of moving floors to four stationary feeders is the first such type of operation anywhere in the country. Unlike the walking floors built for southeastern cotton gins, the four at New Tex are built flush to the floor, allowing module trucks to deliver their loads right in the mouths of the four feeders. The four feeders have capabilities of processing some 40 to 50 bales each per hour, but the press and other gin equipment now in operation is incapable of handling more than about forty bales per hour. Gayle Craft said, "Our primary reason for installing the floors and feeders was to give us an opportunity to produce uniformity by blending a customer's cotton in our finished product, not to increase our hourly output of bales." The new feeder system is impressive and productive.



Lines of cotton modules move on walking floors to two feeders. The scene is duplicated on the opposite side of this photo

Turn to Page 4, "Baptist Budget" .....

## LCEC observes National Customer Service Week



Lea County Electric Cooperative celebrated National Customer Service Week at its Plains, Tatum and Lovington offices October 2 through 6. Shown here last Thursday, LCEC Customer Service Supervisor Rosa Doporta, on left, pours Plains visitor Corina Estrada a glass of punch. Mary Ward, Local office representative in center of picture.

### Guest Editorial By

Dan Lambe, Executive Director, Texas Watch

The Firestone tire debacle has many Texas families asking hard questions. What did Firestone know and when did they know it? How could it take so many deaths linked to their tires before Firestone faced the facts that their tires could be dangerously defective? How could a corporation take so long to step up to the plate to protect their customers? Finding the answers to these questions poses the first high profile test of Texas's "reformed" civil justice system.

The Texans who lost loved ones in accidents potentially linked to Firestone tires and those wondering if they are driving on ticking time bombs, will probably be surprised to learn the ways in which Firestone will be able to evade full accountability to Texas families. Since 1995, Firestone and other manufacturing, insurance and chemical corporations have used laws passed by the Texas Legislature in the name of "tort reform" to skirt responsibility and delay justice. Firestone will likely use those laws to shield itself from responsibility to drivers such as the Waco teen whose paralyzing accident linked to Firestone tires occurred one year prior to the recall.

This is hardly the time in recent years that a corporation valued profits over lives. Despite history's lessons however, Firestone did not step up to the plate to protect families involved in tire related wrecks, major retailers and the federal government to get action from Firestone.

Unfortunately, due to the lobbying activities of manufacturers, chemical companies and other corporate interests, Texas families have lost many of the consumer legal protections used to hold irresponsible corporations accountable. State laws passed at the behest of these special interests have stripped legal rights of Texas families who must face corporate giants like Firestone. For example, as a result of one 1995 change, defense lawyers were given new leeway to drag other parties into injury lawsuits as part of a strategy to shift financial responsibility for the injury costs from the wrongdoer to the injured person. Under this law,

Firestone could pass expenses on to drivers or independent retailers. \*Texans who find themselves in financial disputes with Firestone over tire replacement costs will find it tougher, or even impossible, to band together with others in similar circumstances in a class action lawsuit thanks to a recent ruling by the Texas Supreme Court. Instead of being able to turn to this efficient avenue to justice, each family may be forced to battle each hurdle of the courts on their own against Firestone's high priced legal defense teams. \*Punitive damages, assessed by citizen jurors to punish and deter the worst examples of corporate misconduct, no longer send a strong enough message to prevent future misconduct. In 1995, the formula for such assessments was severely curtailed, silencing any message by a jury that corporations must not value profits over lives. \*Changes to Texas' main consumer protection law, the Deceptive Trade Practice Act, made in 1995 make it harder for families with run of the mill consumer claims to find justice. In this instance, the new DTPA makes it all but impossible for a family to hold Firestone responsible for costs associated with replacing the dangerously defective tires at their own cost instead of waiting weeks or months for new tires.

The Firestone tragedy serves as an opportunity for Texans to rethink the way our legal system treats Texas families who suffer death and injury from dangerously defective products. The upcoming 2001 Legislative Session offers an opportunity to "just say no" to the continuing clamor of self serving special interests. The time is right to pay more attention to consumer rights and stop allowing corporations to shield themselves from their responsibility to Texas families.

*Texas Watch is a non partisan statewide consumer research and advocacy organization committed to engaging and involving Texas consumers in the public policy process. Texas Watch works to represent and involve its 3000 statewide members in the legislative, regulatory and judicial arenas in Texas.*

## Farm loans for socially disadvantaged available at Farm Service Agency

Richard Young, Farm Loan Manager, reminds people Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes and guarantees loans and provides credit counseling and supervision to farmers and ranchers who are temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit. "Everyone needs financial help sometime," Young stated,

"and perhaps FSA can help with loan programs and services to meet your needs and help you qualify for commercial credit." FSA sets aside funds for loans to eligible members of socially disadvantaged groups who will operate not larger than family farms. A socially disadvantaged group is one whose members have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. These groups are women, Hispanics, Blacks, American Indians or Alaskan Natives, and Asians or Pacific Islanders.

He explained the purpose of the program is to; Make loan

funds more available to these disadvantaged persons, discover and remove obstacles preventing the full participation of those persons in FSA's loan programs, and provide necessary technical assistance to qualified applicants in applying for the loans, and developing sound farm management practices essential for success in their operations.

"I encourage anyone interested in any of our programs to contact our office for more information, and we can provide assistance in Spanish if necessary," Young stressed. The FSA office is located at 109 N.E. 3rd Street in Seminole, and can be reached at 915-758-3236.

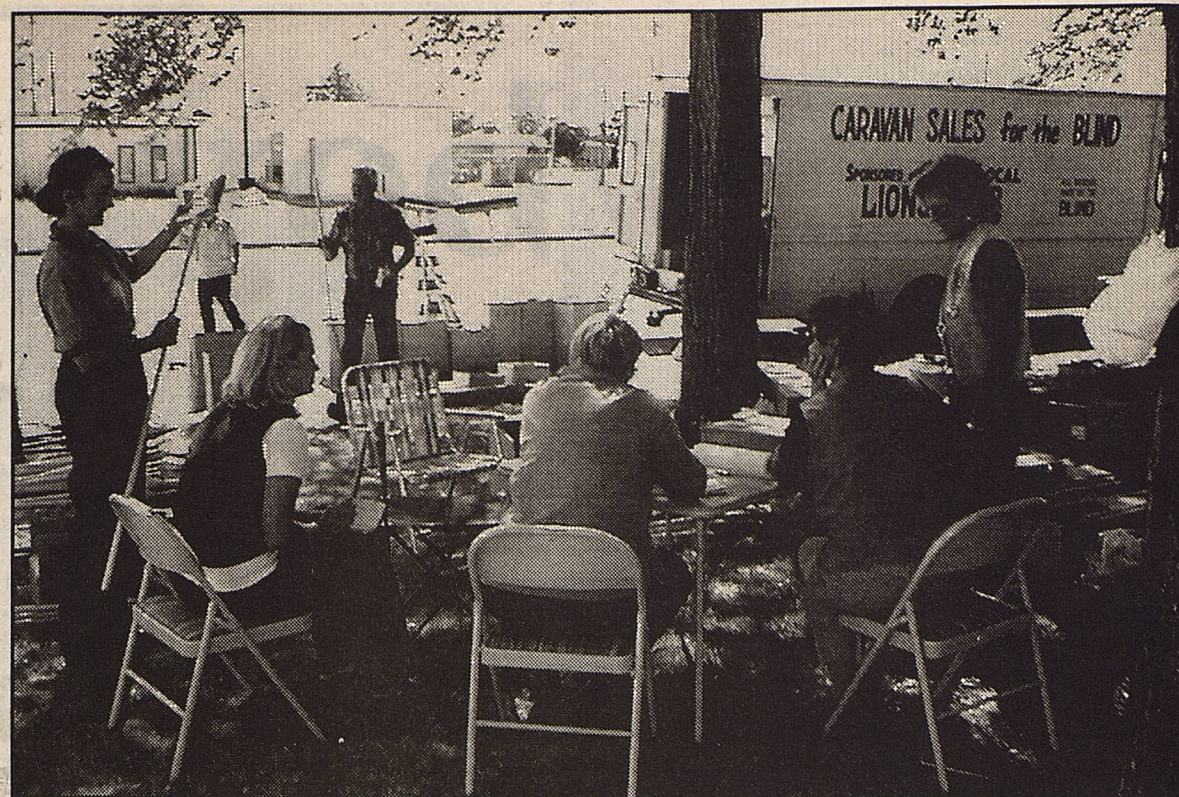
## Two receive prison terms in District Court

In District Court October 2, Judge Kelly G. Moore sentenced two defendants to state prison terms.

John Lynn Dellings, AKA John Lynn Dellings, pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision from a prior criminally negligent homicide cause. He received a sentence of two years, with credit for 250 days time served.

Edward Joe Smyers also pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision from a burglary of a habitation charge. He was ordered to serve five years, with credit for 382 days time served. As a condition of his parole, he must pay restitution totaling \$2,111.28 to eight area business firms and the Criminal District Attorney.

Attorney Bill Helwig represented both defendants, and CDA Richard Clark represented the state.



Plains Lions and shoppers are shown at last Thursday's annual Broom Sale. The event is one of the major activities sponsored by the club as a fund raiser for the many projects the Lions donate to. Club President Debbie Rushing expressed the club's appreciation to the many customers who made this years sale successful

We are taking a few days off, and will NOT print the October 18 issue of CCN. Next issue October 25.

TABLE 2  
U.S. NATURAL GAS CONSUMPTION  
(Trillion Cubic Feet)

	1998	2005	2010	2015
Total Consumption	22.0	26.3	29.0	31.3
Total End-Use	19.4	24.0	26.4	28.7
Residential	4.5	5.6	5.8	6.1
Commercial	3.0	3.7	3.8	4.1
Industrial*	8.6	9.6	10.2	10.8
Electricity Generation	3.3	5.1	6.6	7.8
Lease, Plant, & Pipeline Fuel	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.5
Net Storage Fill/Balancing	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.0

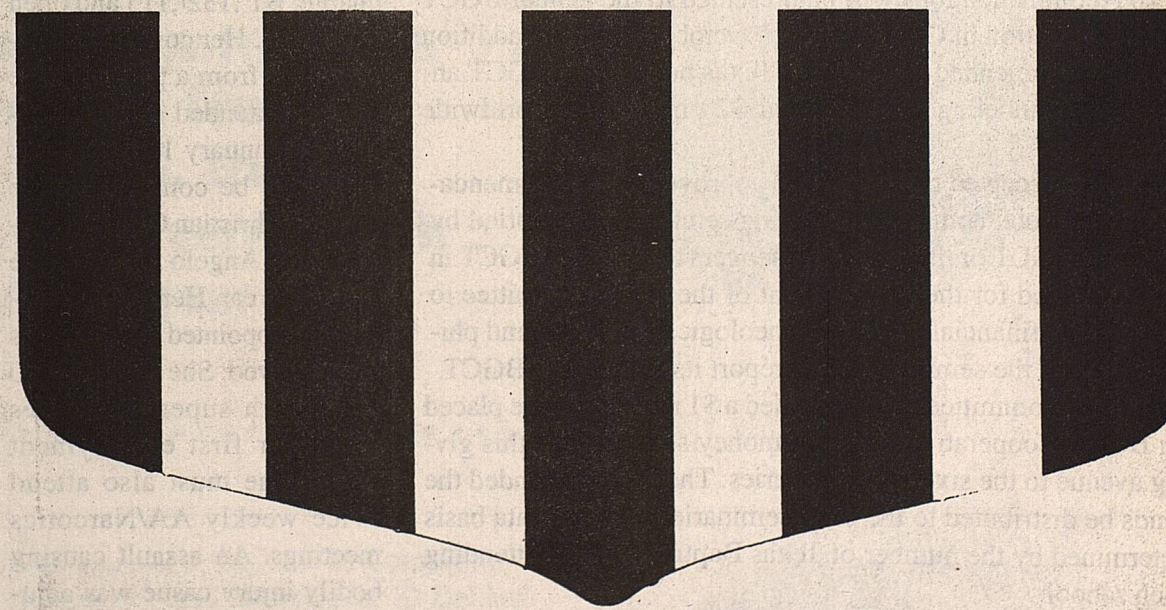
\*Historical data include all gas use for industrial cogeneration and independent power producers; all gas for new power plants except cogeneration is included in the electricity generation sector.

Source of historical data: Energy Information Administration, *Natural Gas Monthly*, September 1999.

★ ★ ★  
**VOTE FOR** ★ ★ ★

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### A shot in the arm

Health care pumps a lot of money through local economies. The estimated 1998 spending in the 11 Comptroller economic regions parallels the populations; generally, the more people, the more spent on health care.

Comptroller economic region	(in billions)			Total
	Private	Public	Charity	
Metroplex	\$10.65	\$5.63	\$0.25	\$16.53
Gulf Coast	9.28	6.00	0.34	15.62
Upper South Texas	3.73	4.15	0.12	8.00
Central Texas	4.37	2.84	0.11	7.32
Lower South Texas	2.75	2.66	0.05	5.47
Upper East Texas	2.08	1.69	0.04	3.81
High Plains	1.56	1.28	0.06	2.90
Southeast Texas	1.49	1.36	0.03	2.88
Northwest Texas	1.14	1.14	0.02	2.30
Upper Rio Grande	1.19	1.04	0.03	2.26
West Texas	1.10	0.82	0.02	1.94
Texas	39.34	28.55	1.08	68.97

SOURCE: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

The estimated \$69 billion spent in the regions differs from the total statewide spending of \$70 billion because more than \$1 billion cannot be directly identified with any specific region.

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## Wildcats down Cowboys 19-14



Cowboy defense, led by Armando Luna, center of photo, gets good surge against Wildcats

Despite a strong defensive effort, the Plains Cowboys sealed their own fate with costly mistakes in last Friday's homecoming game against the Wink Wildcats.

Receiving the opening kickoff, the Cowboy line opened holes in the larger Wildcat defense, enabling Adam Garcia to post a first down, but the drive stalled and forced a punt by Aaron Cain. The Wink offense fumbled a pass, recovered by Jared Bell on Wink's 39. The Cowboys provided blocking for good gains on the ground by Brett Squyres, Moises Gonzales and Garcia, and Bell completed a 7 yard pass to Squyres. From the three yard line, Garcia ran up the middle for the Cowboys first score, and Cain's kick put them up 7-0.

In the second period, the Cowboys held the Wildcats in check, forcing a punt to Plains' 38 yard line. An errant Cowboy pitchout led to a fumble,

promptly scooped up by a Wildcat who raced into the end zone, and the PAT tied the game 7-7.

The Cowboys took the kickoff at the 30, but could not move the ball and punted. The 'Cats offense combined running and pass efforts to move the ball the length of the field in 8 plays, and Wink took the lead 13-7.

In the next possession, Israel Moreno found a large hole off left tackle for a 25 yard gain, and Bell hit Garcia with a pass for another 6 yards, but a 4th down pass failed. The Cowboy defenders held the Wildcats in check until halftime.

With some 7 minutes left in the third period, runs by Squyres, Bell and Garcia pushed the ball downfield to the Wink one yardline, where Bell pounded over right guard for the score, and Cain put Plains back in front 14-13.

In the final period, the Cowboy defense held the 'Cats in

check, and with 7 minutes on the clock, took the Wink punt and Bell found Cain with a pass to the 41 for a first down, but on the next play, another Cowboy fumble was picked up by Wink's Thompson who raced into the end zone and the final 19-14 score.

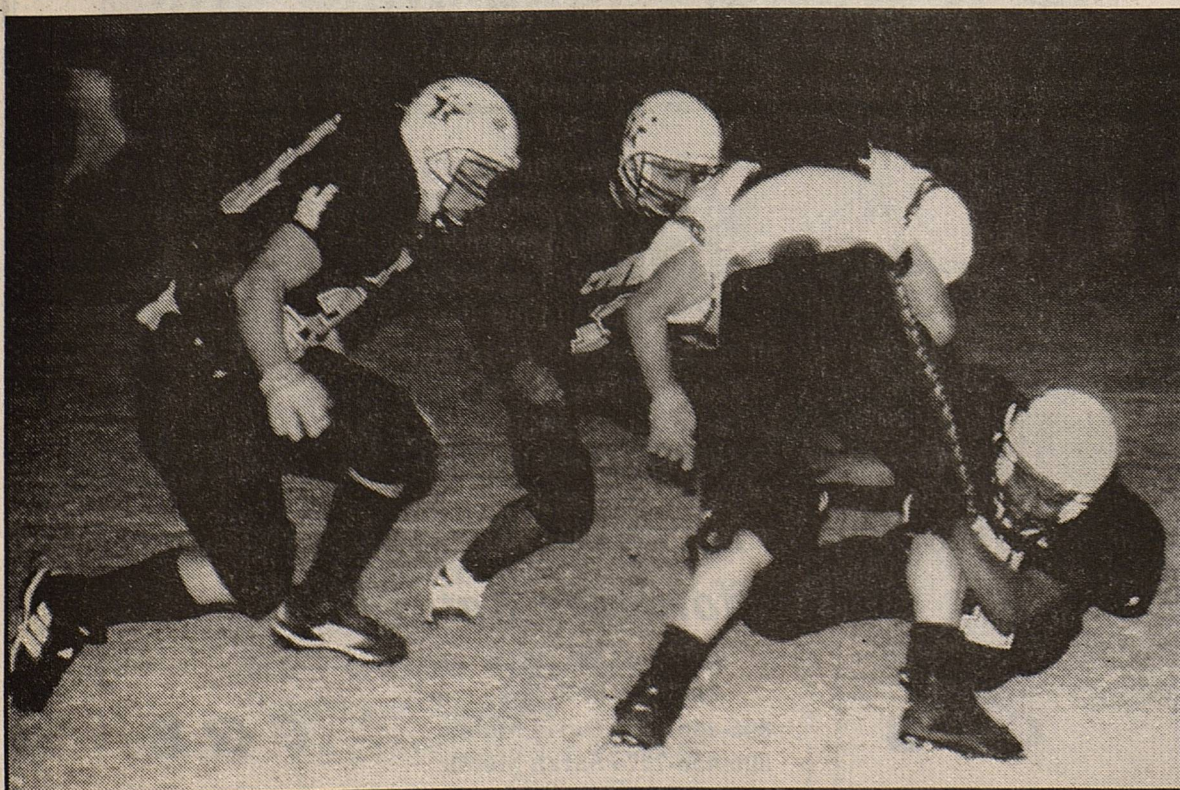
Despite costly fumbles and a pair of questionable penalty calls by the officials, there were some good efforts by the Cowboys. The defense held the Cats to 47 yards on the ground and 79 yards passing, while posting 231 combine yards on offense. They had 14 first downs to Wink's 8. Garcia led the ground attack with 73 yards, followed by Bell, Moreno, Gonzales and Squyres. The computer showed Joseph Rodriguez led individual tackling with 7, one a QB sack, and Joel Gallegos had a 5 yard loss tackle. Rodriguez averaged 40.7 yards on three kick-offs.

The Cowboys face district foe Stanton there Friday at 7:30 PM.

### Cowboy Action Shots



Adam Garcia follows plenty of upfront blocking for good gain



A Wink Wildcat about to go down to Cowboy 'D'

### PHS Cross Country

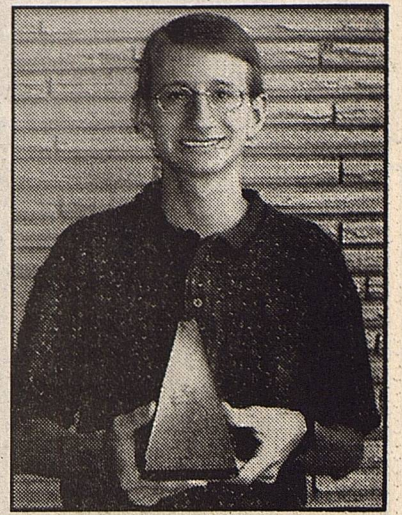
PHS Junior Varsity cross country runners competed at Sundown last Saturday in cold and windy conditions. JV Girl results included Kayla Willis 10th, 16:31, Kenia Molina 25th, 17:43, Keri Hansen 26th, 17:50. Cowboy runners were Jonathan DeLaRosa 1st, 21:21, Chisum Justus 3rd, 22:33, Arnold Cordova 4th, 23:18, Gerry Granados, 8th, 24:55. Runners finishing in the top 25 received medals. The Cowboys would have won the team trophy with one more runner entered.

The teams run their final invitational meet October 14 in Lamesa, and the district cross country meet will be at Yoakum County Park Monday, October 23.

### Student of the Week

PHS student of the week is Eric Nixon a senior and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Nixon. He was nominated by Mrs. Rotunno, who said, "Eric is an attentive, hard working student who has interesting and helpful information to add to class. He is a thoughtful and perceptive reader, with deep insight into many topics. Not only that, he is always ready to help others, and he never quits until the job is done well and completely. Even his free time is often devoted to assisting various organizations with current projects. Your weekly pep ral-

lies would not be the same if we didn't have him to help decorate, set up, clean, and especially fill balloons.



Cowboy teammates help injured Moises Gonzales off the field

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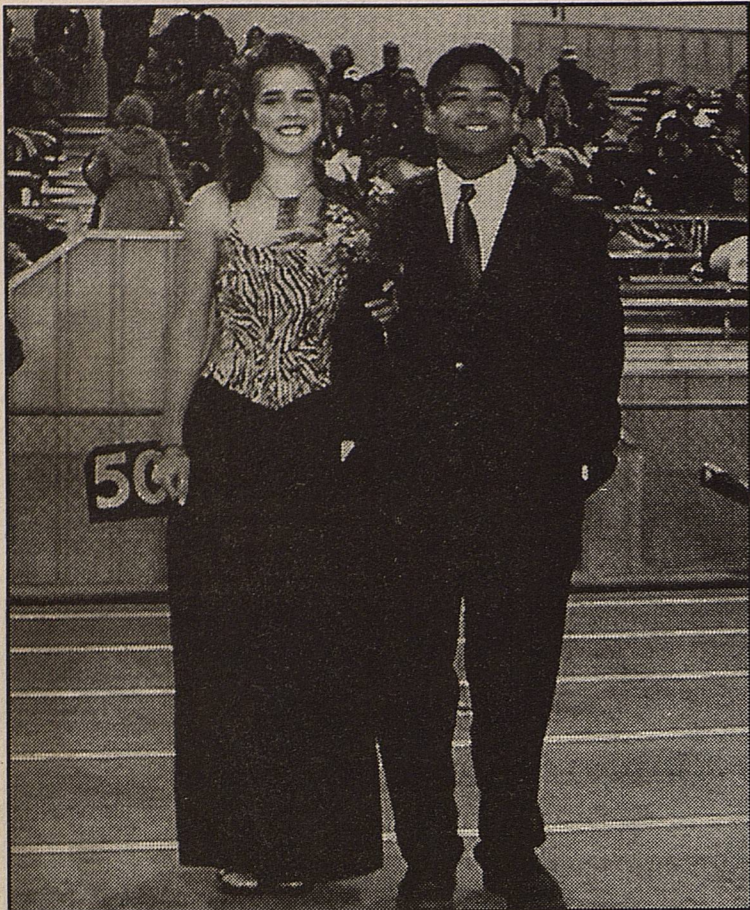
Thursday & Friday 8-5

Will take walk-ins.

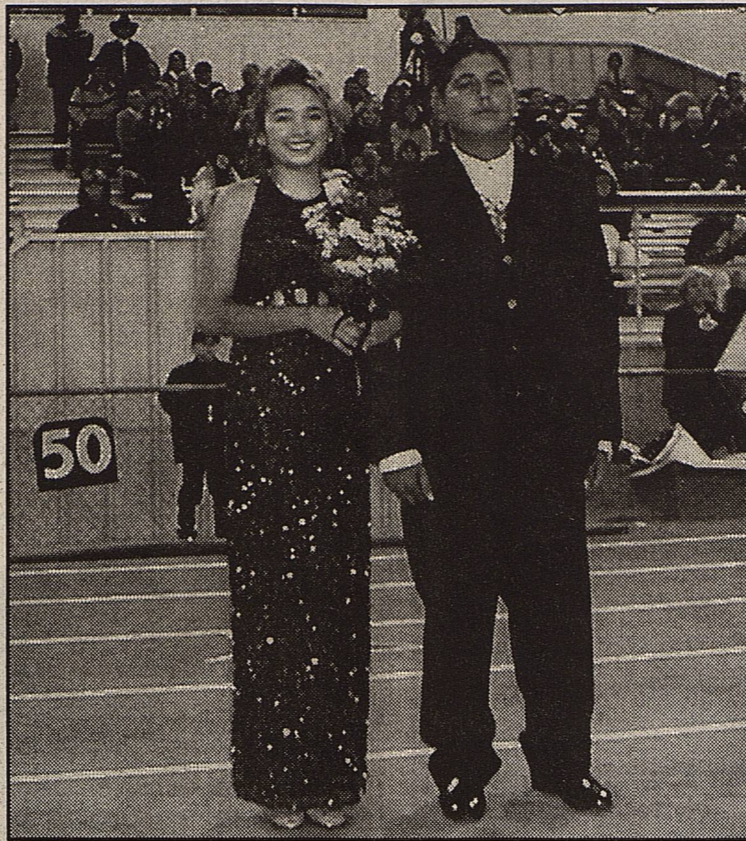
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# More Homecoming Royalty



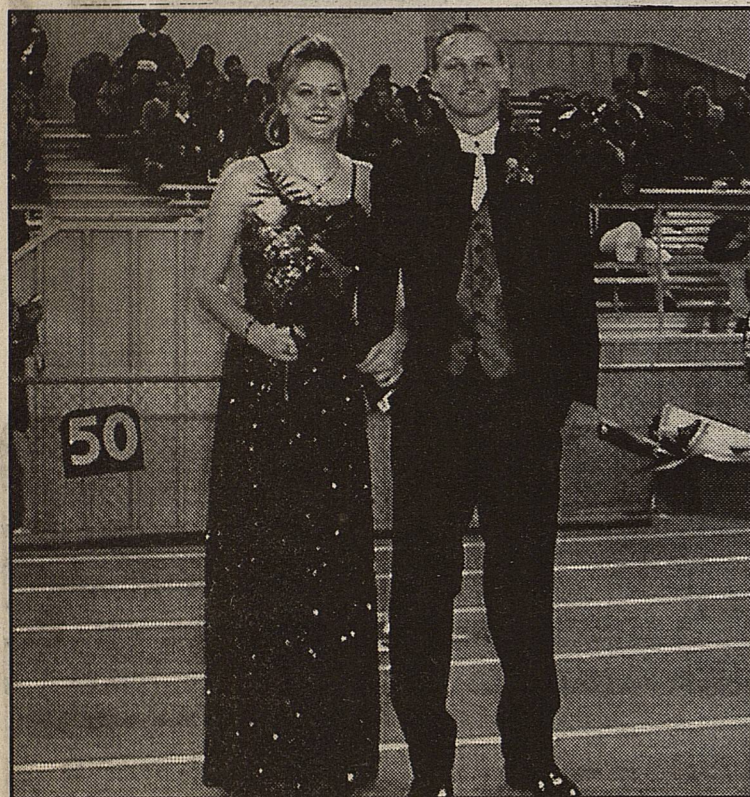
Queen Candidate Lensey Cullins, escorted by Gerry Rivas



Junior Duchess Chelsi Wagnon & Escort David Garza



Freshman Duchess Manuela Villegas & Escort Fabian Garza



Queen Candidate Kari Guetersloh, escorted by Jarod Newland



Sophomore Duchess Jessica Rodriguez & Escort Eddie Ortega

## PISD Volleyball Recap

7th Lady Wranglers : Report unavailable

8th Lady Wranglers:

The 8th girls met a tough Lamesa team last week, and were downed 15-4, 15-4. Their season record was then 6 wins 5 losses.

JV Cowgirls:

The younger Cowgirls improved their season record in action last week. They first downed Midland Christian 15-13, 6-15 and 15-8. They faced district opponent Colorado City next and won 17-15, 15-7. They are 1 and 0 in district play, and stand 16-6 for the season.

Varsity Cowgirls: On October 3 the Cowgirls split games with Midland Christian, 12-8 and 8-15. In their first district action they stopped Colorado City 15-1 and 15-9. Annaliesa O'Quinn had 8 kills, Michaela Traweek 7, Kari Guetersloh 6. Tanya Vasquez had 18 assists, Frances Cordova 9 digs, Annaliesa 2 blocks. They are now 14-7 for the season, and 1-0 in district play.

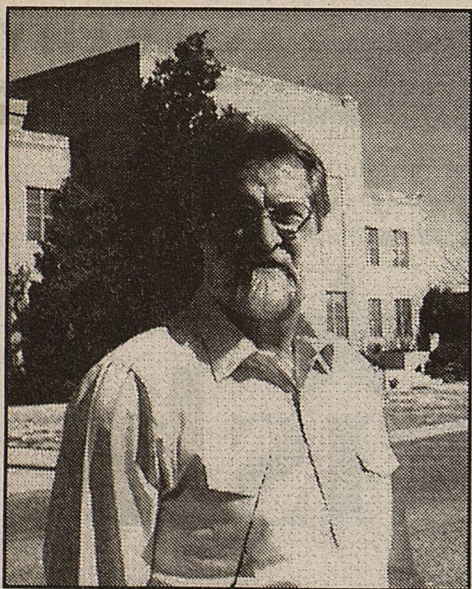
From Page One, "Baptist Budget"

long held Christian beliefs."

In particular, the committee expressed concern seminary administrators and trustees would use the new statement of faith as an "instrument of doctrinal accountability" that would not be subject to any question or criticism.

Pastor Bill Wright, First Baptist Church Plains, attended the 1999 BGCT meeting in El Paso, and told CCN he is in full support of the new budget recommendation. He said FBC here participates in the Church Cooperative Program, organized in 1925. "The Cooperative Program from its inception recommended Baptist churches designate ten percent of their monetary gifts to the program, and that is the amount our church has pledged since that date. This year, our members and friends will contribute some \$45,000 to the Cooperative. We feel it's a great investment in our faith."

## Rex Swann



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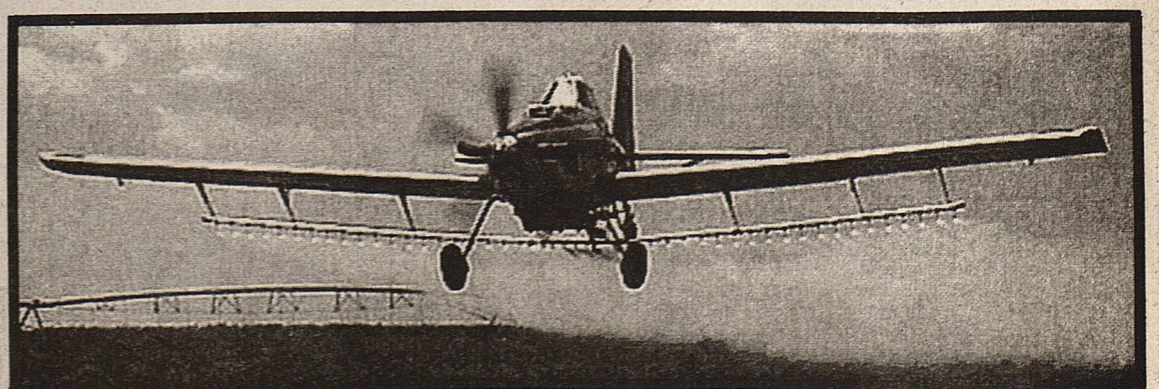
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# Lifelines & Styles

## CSW To Offer Accelerated On Line Criminal Justice Courses

College of the Southwest will offer accelerated lower and upper division criminal justice courses via the Internet, with the next session scheduled for October 9-December 15.

The courses, taught by criminal justice professionals, are being offered at the request of area law enforcement agencies which generally operate on 3 month rotating schedules, making it difficult for personnel to complete regular 4 month semester courses.

CSW's on line courses are set up on 2 1/2 month schedules. College of the Southwest, with campuses in Hobbs and Carlsbad, is one of the few accredited colleges or universities in the United State currently offering both lower and upper division criminal justice courses on line.

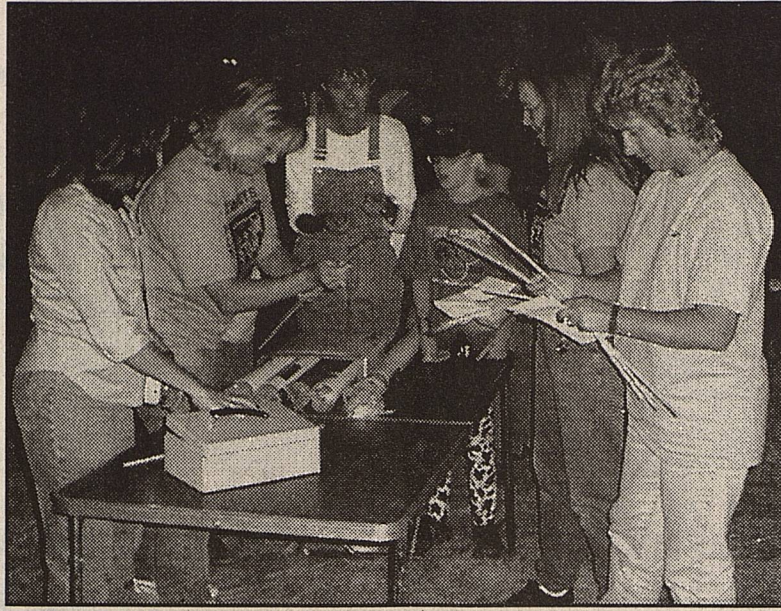
Courses for the October 9 ses-

sion are *Introduction to the Judicial Process (CRJ 2703); Criminal Law I (CRJ 2713); and Issues in Ethics, Law & Justice (CRJ 4203).*

Courses for the first spring 2001 session are *Introduction to Criminal Justice (CRJ 1703); Introduction to the Judicial Process (CRJ 2703); Criminal Law I (CRJ 2713); Criminal Law II (CRJ 2723); Criminal Investigations I (CRJ 2733); Community Corrections (CRJ 3403); Juvenile Justice Systems (CRJ 3503); and Corrections Operations and Management (CRJ 4103).*

For more information about the courses or the program, please contact Randy Spencer at College of the Southwest-Carlsbad at (505) 887-3500 or by email at [rspencer@csw.edu](mailto:rspencer@csw.edu).

## Preparing To Set The Night Aglow



Band and Athletic Booster members preparing "Glow Necklaces" for fund raising sale at Homecoming Bonfire.

## Senior Citizens Corner

Boy this year is really flying, it sure doesn't seem possible that this is the 10th month of 2000.

There were 5 people that showed up for birthdays, and

no anniversaries, but I thought Coy and Faye Black were married in October.

Everything is still going strong at the center. Walking the halls, craft work, garage sale, dominos and bridge and talking and visiting.

Anna Taylor gave a good program on food essentials for a healthy shopping cart. They are fruits, vegetables, whole grains and beans, and that's what I like to eat.

Today is Memorial Home Health day for blood pressure. Everyone quits what they are doing to get checked.

The 14th is Higginbotham night. They really have a good program of Country and Western and religious music.

See you next week,  
Wanda B.

**BEAT STANTON!**

## Library StoryTime

Twelve boys and girls attended the weekly storytime activities at the Library on Wednesday, October 4. The program began with the video, "Richard Scarry's Best Learning Songs" followed by the singing of the ABC Song, If You're Happy and You Know It, I'm a Little Tea Pot, Old Macdonald Had a Farm, and Five Little Monkeys. A discussion followed about pets in the home. Two books were read entitled: Have You Got My Purr? and Five Little Kittens and then the video, "Babies of the Home" was shown. The group said pledges to the United States and Texas Flags. The boys and girls participated in Toddlerobics to complete the program. Those attending were Bailey Winn, Colby Bearden, Lucas Hernandez, Micah St. Romain, Kay'D Lamar, Bailey and Evan Rios, Clayton Gass, Jentry Wall, Claire Carpenter, Iris and Eric Majia.

## Art Association Meets

Yoakum County Art Association met October 3rd at the Old Courthouse Clubroom, with Vice President Helen Hunter presiding. Plains City Manager David Brunson spoke to the group. A building committee of members Susie Powell, Linda Powell, Marlene Gibson, Jeannette Head, and Eileen Fillipp was appointed. Wilma Powell presented the program on China Painting. Most of her projects require 3 firings in the kiln. Her favorite teacher is Kay Houston of Morton, who also does other media. The hand painted door prize was won by Inetta Teaff. Eileen Fillipp, Betty Estep and Susie Powell served refreshments with a fall theme. The next meeting will be

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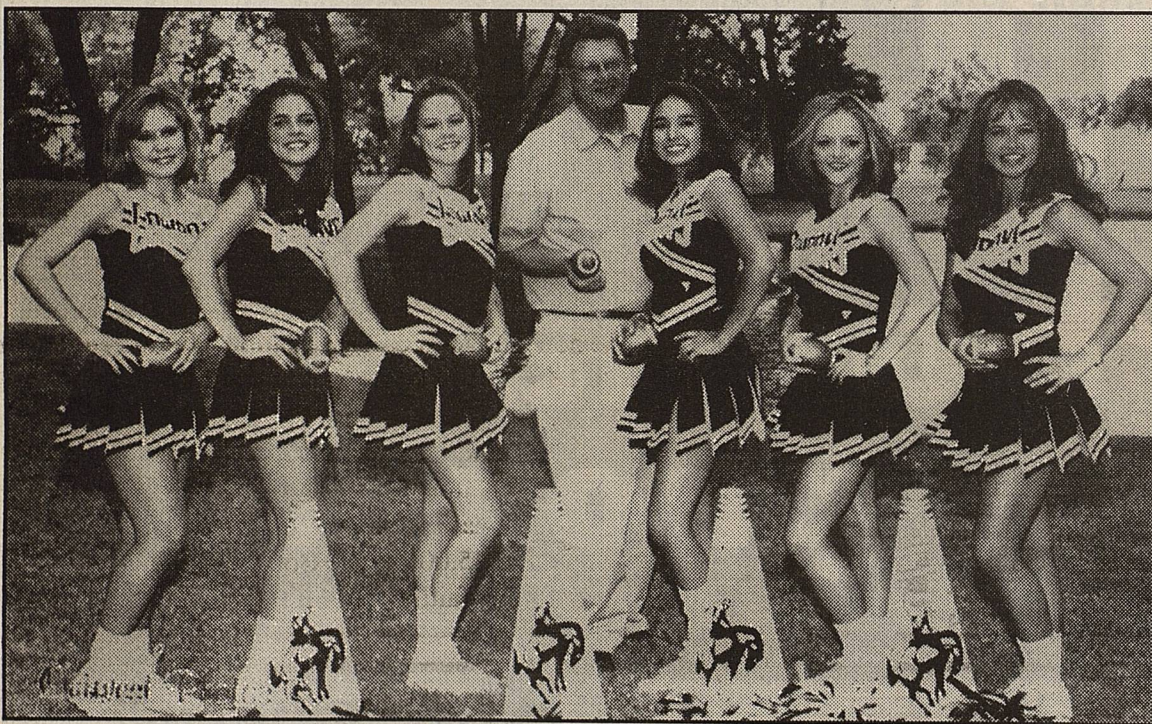
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**TUESDAY OCT. 17**

**PHOTO HOURS 9-1 & 2-6**

## Miniature Footballs Galore!



Recently the Yoakum County Hospital donated 500 mini-football to the Plains High Cheer-

leaders, to be tossed to game fans in the stadium and to the student body at pep rallies. Hospital Administrator Ed Rogers, is shown with Cheerleaders (L-R) Keri Hansen, Lensey Cullins, Kari Guetersloh, Chelsi Wagnon, Kim Trent, and Allison Butler.

**First United Methodist Church of Plains Invites you to Worship!**

**Sunday School 9:45 am**  
**Morning Worship 10:45 am**  
**Evening Worship 6:15 pm**  
**Wednesday Evening Study 6:30 pm**  
**Tuesday Afternoon Study 5:15 pm**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Plains, Texas**

**Sunday School 9:45 am.**  
**Worship Service 10:45 am.**  
**Evening Worship 6:00 pm.**  
**Wednesday**  
**After School - 4:30 pm. DBAB**  
**5:15 - 6:30 pm. Supper**  
**6:00 pm. Zombies**  
**7:00 pm. - RAS, GAS, Mission Friends, Generation X, Sanctuary Choir Practice**

College of the Southwest presents

**Lend Me a Tenor**  
A comedy by Ken Ludwig

Directed by Glynese Floyd

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October 20, 21, 26, 27, 28 at 8:00 p.m.  
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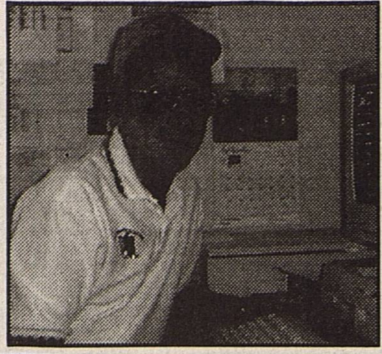
**IV Sedation**  
**Wisdom Teeth**  
**Full Mouth Extractions**  
**Implants**  
**Medically Compromised Patients**

held on November 7 with Peggy Bingham of Meadow giving a Chalk Talk. Visitors are welcome to attend. Artist of the month for October is Pat McNabb. Artist of the month for November is Elfida Winkler of Denver City.

by Linda Powell

**We are taking a few days off and will not print the October 18th issue of CCN**

# From The Hack



Pardon me. I need a bit of sympathy, a commodity in seriously short supply where I bed and board. For a number of weeks now I have been suffering with back pain, which, I, if a gambler, would lay odds are far more excruciating than child birth. Since, however, I have never birthed a baby, I'd best hedge all bets.

The Bride has offered me very little compassion during my agony. She has been, however, extremely liberal in lecturing me about what she perceives as the causes of my problems. "If you wouldn't play golf every week, if you wouldn't go dove hunting every week, your back would be 100% perfect. If you would just take care of yourself you wouldn't have to lay around whining."

Typical feminine logic. If I didn't play golf at least once weekly, I would become stiff and unsupple as a premium quality crowbar. If I didn't shoot birds regularly, I would be unable to lift the 49 sacks of garbage I carry to the dumpster weekly, each the equivalent of carrying a fully loaded shot gun.

Last week, muscle spasms in my back drove me to bed early. The Bride did exhibit a bit of kindness, telling me if I did some of her special back exercises, she would fix me a nice ice pack to place under my back when we retired. I faithfully did, went to sleep on the ice pack about 9:30 PM, and at 10:43 PM screamed, "My God, I'm on the Titanic and I'm drowning!"

Seems the ice pack sprung a leak, and me, the bed were equally cold and wet. The Birde's only response was a yawned, "Oh, hush, you

don't need a life raft. You just mashed the water out of the thing tossing and turning."

I know this. If you don't read this column next week it will be because I died from back pain during the 600 mile drive to her family reunion, or I succumbed to boredom re-meeting all those annually growing older kinfolks.

Politics are going to be the hot topic between now and November 7. I predict Hilary Clinton, now embroiled in her race for the New York Senate job, will further accuse her opponent of dirty fund raising efforts, and he will continue to remind her of White House sleep over contributions. I refuse to comment, or even speculate on local political races. Seems to me no one has a handle on the Precinct 3 Commissioner race, and the Tax Collector/ Assesor and Sheriff race is equally murky.

Gore and 'W' Bush will continue to gnaw on one another, and may the best gnaw win. I do think it will be established, by vote time, Gore did not invent the Internet, wishes he hadn't gonged a few bells at the Bhuddist Temple, W hadn't learned to smirk in Public. Anyone want to give me substantial odds on all these outcomes?

Some real puzzlers:

If a cat falls out a car window, does it become kitty litter?

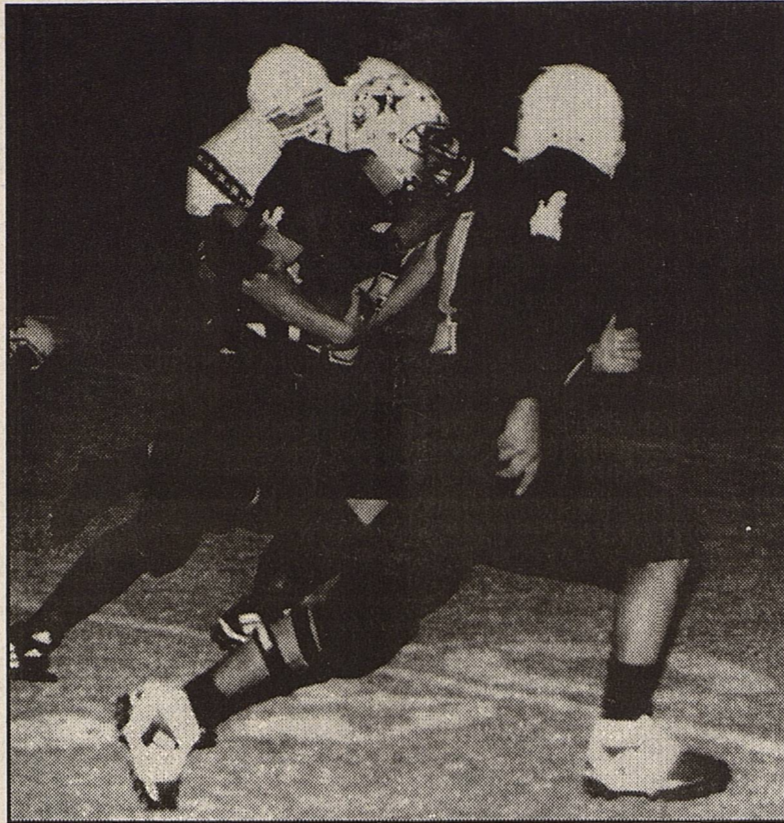
What hair color do they put on a drivers license of a bald man?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquiros?

How does the guy who drives the snowplow get to work?

What do people in China call

their good plates?  
If they squeeze olives to get olive oil, how do they get baby oil?  
Is it OK to use the AM radio after noon?  
Why don't sheep shrink in the rain?  
What do you call a male Lady Bug?



Adam Garcia, #1, tries to get out front to block for Jared Bell

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