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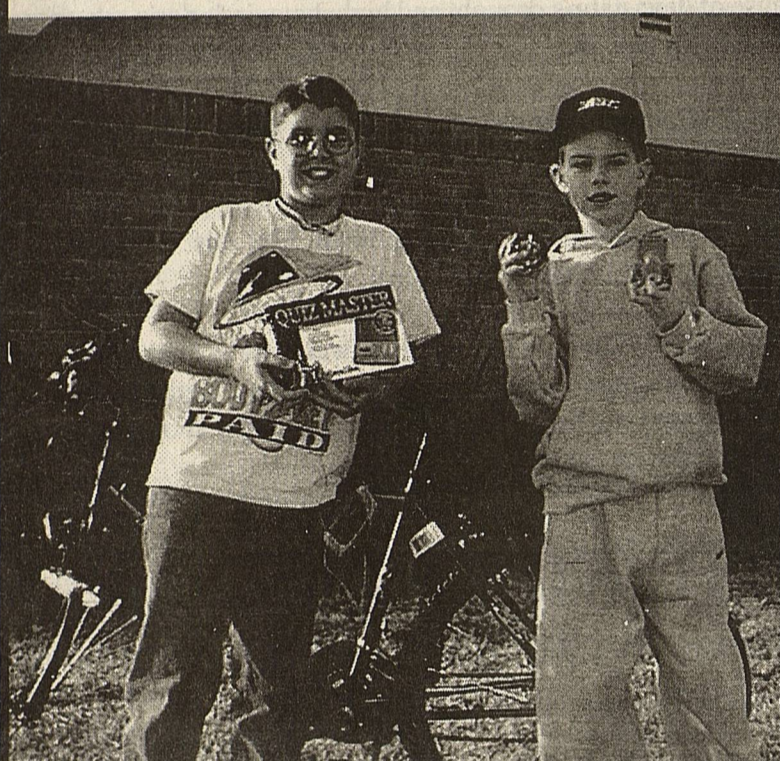
Cowboy Country News

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

Volume V, Issue 16, Wednesday Dec. 30, 1998



A Few Of Many Happy Faces On Christmas Day



B. J. Lester and A. J. Bagwell proudly display some of their loot from the holiday season



Zachary Ramos thought his new bike was really cool!



Ashton Holt, granddaughter and great granddaughter of Jean Patterson and James Williams and her "baby" she said was three years old

Foreign Oil Frets Americans

Another poll has reported American voters feel the United States is still vulnerable to an energy crisis that could be caused by foreign nations shutting off their oil supplies to this country. The survey results coincide with a rash of more layoffs at U. S. oil companies.

According to the poll conducted by the Sustainable Energy Coalition, four out of five Americans rate the efforts of elected officials to reduce U. S. dependence on foreign oil as "only fair" or "poor". The survey also shows that most that energy crisis of the 1970's and are aware the U.S. now imports more than half of its oil, 53%, as compared to one third in 1973.

"Studies have repeatedly demonstrated that Americans are fully aware of the danger of relying on the volatile foreign oil market," says Karyn Grass, executive director of the Independent Petroleum Association of the Mountains States.

"What's puzzling is that, even with this knowledge, nothing is being done to ensure the survival of ailing domestic oil industry during these difficult times."

Layoffs were recently announced by two more U.S. oil companies.

-Pioneer Natural Resources (formerly Mesa) will phase out 150 to 170 jobs and close its

Houston and Oklahoma offices. -Texaco will cut 1,000 jobs from its global exploration operations, 750 of those jobs within the U.S.

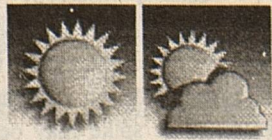
These layoffs follow cutback announcements by Kerr McGee, Atlantic Richfield, Cooper Cameron, BJ Services, Baker, Hughes, EVI Weatherford, Schlumberger Ltd., and Altura.

The International Energy Agency predicts crude oil prices will remain low at least through the end of the year. Crude oil (NYMEX) are now in the \$12 range, and lower at the well-head.

"More layoffs are definitely ahead because of these extremely low prices," predicts Grass. "Americans need to come to grips with the fact that, as U.S. oil producers close up shop, we are increasingly vulnerable to the whims of foreign oil producers."

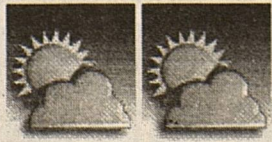
Four day forecast

WEDNESDAY THURSDAY



60s 50s

FRIDAY SATURDAY



60s 40s

Adult probation program benefits area youth

The Yoakum County Supervision and Corrections Department plan bigger and better things for year 1999. We will be expanding this project. Denver City has several programs, Operation Blessing and Toys for Tots that will benefit from the community service probationers provide. We will have a drop off point in Denver City for the general public. In Plains, the probation office will continue to accept cans from the public. It is the desire of the Community Supervision Dept. and the probationers to help all the children and their families in Yoakum County.

This is truly a win-win situation; the probationer wins through credit in community service hours and through the feeling of reward that comes from helping others. The community wins through the clean-up services and financial assistance for community programs to aid children and their families at Christmas time.

This project was the brainchild of a probationer who had community service hours to perform.

A WIN-WIN situation! The Terry and Yoakum County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (Adult Probation) for the past three years have managed a community service project that

benefits everybody, especially the children.

Adult probationers are mandated by the court to do community service. This is accomplished in many different ways; one of the best ways is collecting and crushing aluminum cans. The cans are brought to the probation office and they are then given community service hours based on a standard developed by the probation office. Near Christmas time the cans are sold and the money given to an organization that buys toys, clothes or food for children that need a little extra help to have a merry Christmas.

This year the Plains Adult Probation Office managed the project individually in Plains and they were quite pleased with the results. The probationers and the probation office collected \$175.00 worth of crushed cans. This money was turned over to the Plains Christmas Assistance Program.

Toni Jones, chairman of the program stated it was badly needed this year and was very appreciated. Unfortunately, it seems each year the need grows. Beginning in January 1999, the project will start immediately, not waiting until nearer to Christmas as in the past.

Retiring commissioner feted with breakfast



Macky McWhirter, who will step down as Yoakum County Commissioner of Precinct 4 on December 31, is shown with his wife Connie and County Judge Dallas Brewer. Courthouse employees prepared a "Bon Voyage" breakfast last Monday morning to honor McWhirter's eight years of county service. He will be replaced by Jack Cobb, elected his successor in the recent November general election

Court sets county holidays, OK's bid on motor grader

In Commissioner's court Monday 25 and 26; Christmas, Friday morning, all county holiday dates were approved for 1999. The dates are; Martin Luther King Day, Monday, Jan. 18; Good Friday, Friday, April 2; Memorial Day, Monday, May 31; Independence Day, Monday, July 5; Labor Day, Monday, September 6; Thanksgiving, Thursday and Friday, November 25 and 26; Christmas, Friday and Monday, December 24 and 27; New Year's Day 2000, Friday, December 31. Two bids were received for the sale of a new motor grader for Precinct 1, with trade-in of a 1980 and 1988 grader. Yellowhouse Machinery made

Turn To Page 3, "Commissioners"

Services held for J.W. Moore

Services for J.W. 'Butch' Moore Jr., 89, of Tyler were held at 11 am Tuesday, December 29 in Lloyd James Funeral Home, with Leon Odom officiating.

Graveside services were held at 11:30 am Wednesday, December 30 at the Terry County Memorial Cemetery.

Mr. Moore died Sunday, December 27 in Tyler, where he had lived since 1989.

He was born in Terry County March 23, 1909. He married the former Eunice Elmore in Brownfield in 1931. The couple moved to Plains around 1944.

For a number of years 'Butch' was employed as a butcher, in both Brownfield and here at Plains Frozen Foods. He was also involved in farming here.

In 1951, he bought an interest in the former Hague Dry Goods store here, and for a number of years was a partner in the op-

eration of Moore-Oden Dry Goods. He would later become sole owner of the firm.

He retired in 1971, and later moved to Lake Buchanan a number of years before moving to Tyler. He was a member of Rice Road Church of Christ.

Survivors include his wife Eunice; Three sons, James Hay-

ward Moore of Weston, Luther Wayne Moore of Manvel, and Bobby Lynn Moore of Tyler; a daughter, Betty Ann Rushing of Plains; a brother, Donald Wayne Moore of Brownfield; a sister, Marjorie Estelle Moore Nowell of Midland; eight grandchil-

dren, 15 great grandchildren, and three great-great grandchil-

dren. The family suggests memorials to Hospice Home Place, 4101 University Blvd, Tyler, Tx 75701.

Political Quotes Of The Week

From Governor George W. Bush, on the 'great advantage' of being underestimated by opponents; "People say, 'He's kinda light. He's not that good.' That's a good place to start from."

From Gary Preuss, an economist with the state comptroller's office; "In the 1980's, a significant drop in the price of oil could drop the state into recession. That simply is no longer true."

From Capt. Abdul Al-Jhaimy, a Saudi Arabian police officer who trained with the Dallas Police for 14 weeks, on differences between here and there; "Sometimes I feel you protect the criminal more than the victim. It seems like the criminal has more rights than the victim."

From Charles Land, executive director of the Texas Association of Long Distance Telephone Companies, on the effect of AT&T's public fumbles over the last six months; "When you're an 800 pound gorilla with a whole bunch of zeroes on your balance sheet, you're always going to be a force to be reckoned with, and you're always going to have influence."

From Allan Polunsky, chairman of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, after escaped death row inmate Martin Gurule had been free nearly a week; "I want to

assure the people of Texas that we will bring back this fugitive. We will bring him back dead or alive, and it really doesn't make any difference, in my opinion, which that will be."

From former Governor Bill Clements, on why he'd support Governor Bush for president; "He has a good mind. He physically is a strong person. He has a great background because of his association with his mother and father. He is different than his father; He is a tougher individual than his father. He is stronger minded. He is his mother's son."

From Clemmets also, who often didn't get along with then Lt. Governor Bill Hobby, on Paul Hobby's loss to Carole Keeton Rylander in the comptroller's race; "I thought Hobby would be stronger than he was. Might have been if he had a different father."

From conservative activist Bill Kristol, editor of the Weekly Standard, on his fading hopes Congress will impeach President Bill Clinton; "Some of us are hanging tough in our obdurate blindness to the political reality. I'm like one of those Japanese soldiers after World War II. It's 1949 and I'm on an island not knowing the war is over."

1998 In Review - News and Events Reported In CCN

January 14-Bale count at five area gins show 153,256 bales produced - Two area gins set new ginning records with the 1997 crop. Yoakum County Co-Op had a record run of 35,078 bales, and New Tex Gin also set a new record with 47,300 bales. Sun Cot produced 32,585, Tokio Co-Op ginned 29,293, and Circle 12 produced 9,000.

January 21-"Connection" directors elected. Five new directors were elected to the board of the Yoakum County Connection. They were David Brunson, Dennis Harrison, Kim Whipple, Debbie Rushing and Nancy Dickson. Director Linda Powell was re-elected.

January 28-Livestock Show closer - Grand Champion division winner in the 46th annual livestock show included; Steer-Marcey House. Lamb-Todd Coston. Rabbit-Callie Howell. Swine-Blake O'Quinn. Wether Goat-Chance Kitchens.

March 4-Fitzgerald honored for fifty year service. Johnnie Fitzgerald is the only legionnaire here with fifty years legion service. Fitzgerald served in the U.S. Army in WW11, saw action in the Phillipines, and following V.J. Day, served in occupied Japan.

March 18- Demo primary vote recount requested. The resent primary race for the District Clerk job was so close candidate Sandy Bell requested a vote recount. The final, certified found the same vote count-Sue Holder 295, Pam Redman 250 and Bell 249.

April 22-Risley selected Conservation Farmer of the Year. In annual ceremonies sponsored by the Yoakum County Soil and Water Conservation District (YCSWCD) and the Plains Lions Club, Jim Risley was honored on April 16 when named County Conservation Farmer of the Year.

May 6-1st Mule Deer Hunt produces record. During the recent mule deer hunt here, Pat Beard of Dallas bagged a good deer and a place in the record books. The deer's rack had 25 points, and official measurements made it the new state record non-typical buck.

May 13-PHS teams crowned UIL Champs. Plains High School students competing in the State UIL Academic competition in Austin brought home team championship trophies in calculator and number sense events. Team members included Tommie McNabb, Heath Bowlin, Kristen Gray, Shawn Cullins and Shawn Box.

May 20-Seniors graduate. A very large 38 member Senior Class graduated from PHS.

May 27-Morgans leave PISD. Cowboy Marching Band Director Byron recently announced his decision to resign, after 11 distinguished years of service to the school and community. He and his family are moving to Lubbock, where he will be employed by Gents House of Music.

June 3-U.S. Senator visits here. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, R, addressed a good crowd in the Community Building here May 26, the first time a U.S. Senator had ever visited Plains.

June 7-Water District joins 19 county cloud seeding program. Sandy Land Water District board members voted recently to participate in the High Plains Water District Precipitation Enhancement Program. The cloud seeding operation to encourage rainfall covers the Texas Counties and three in New Mexico.

July 8-Governor requested to declare County a disaster area. County Judge Dallas Brewer recently wrote Governor George W. Bush, requesting the county be declared a disaster area because of devastating drought and high, hot winds during the crop production season.

July 22-Council accepts terms of electric utility sale. The Plains City Council and officials of Lea County Electric Cooperative finally hammered out final figures for the long proposed of the city electric system to the cooperative. The sale was later approved by city voters.

September 2-The first of three new water wells drilled on City owned land was recently completed. The extension project bringing new and badly needed water to the City should be completed in the spring of 1999.

Propane...

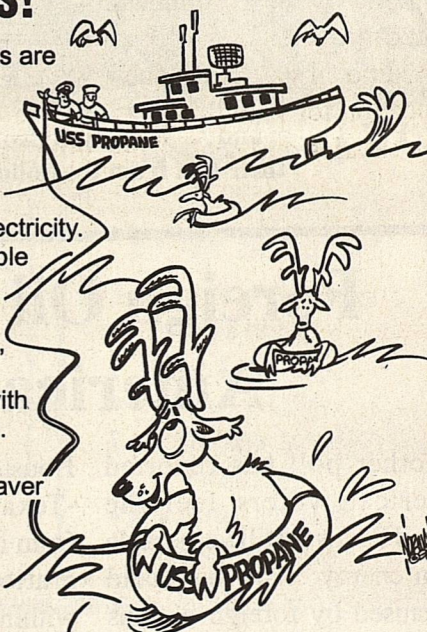
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Cowboys Make All-District Team

Seven members of the 1998 PHS Cowboy football team were honored recently when named to the prestigious 3AA-All District Team. Following is a listing of the players and their selected positions:
First Team Offense - Dustin Brunson, Guard - Senior, 6'2", 210 pounds.
First Team Defense - Armando Luna, Lineman - Soph., 5' 11", 260 pounds. Dustin Brunson, Linebacker. Adam Garcia, Defensive Back - Sophomore, 5'6", 140 pounds.

Second Team Offense - Steven Bunch, Lineman - Senior, 6', 190 pounds. David Luna, Wide Receiver - Junior, 5' 7", 140 pounds. Adam Garcia, Running Back.
Second Team Defense - Steven Bunch, End. David Luna, Secondary.
Honorable Mention - Josh Bell, Def. End, and Cosme Casillas, Outside Linebacker. 3AA Coach of the Year was Jim Hamilton of Seagraves. Kyle Herm of Stanton was voted most Valuable Player on offense.

Senator outlines plans for upcoming session

*The following article was originally featured in the December 1 issue of Clearinghouse Update, a bimonthly publication of the Texas Senate. The issue featured comments about the upcoming 76th Legislative Session from Lt. Gov. elect Rick Perry and thirty State Senators. Our District Senator Robert Duncan, R, Lubbock, is featured here.

Entering his second session as a member of the Texas Senate, Senator Robert Duncan plans to continue working to find a way for the state to lessen the funding burden that local school districts currently bear. "We must continue our efforts to eliminate unfunded mandates, and work to bring additional state aid to public education for such things as teacher salaries and school facilities," he said. Duncan also hopes to create scholarship incentives that will encourage the state's best and brightest to pursue teaching as a profession. Duncan wants to improve the state's higher education system as well. Texas is in desperate need of additional Level 1 research institutions. California and other states are reaping the

Senator Duncan also plans to lead the charge against gangs in Texas this session. "Juvenile street gangs are a growing problem in this state, and we must find ways to help our police officers combat this problem, while also looking to promote programs that encourage our youth to steer clear of gang involvement," Duncan remarked. Duncan also hopes to finally change the way judges are selected in Texas, look for ways to increase the number of value-added industries located in the state, secure funding to assist in the eradication of boll weevils state-wide, and provide a blueprint for the disposition of lawsuits arising from problems associated with the year 2000 computer bug.

benefits from the economic development spin-off created by these types of institutions. "With only two Level 1 research institutions, we are operating at a great disadvantage," Duncan said.

Dusty Hill of Seagraves Most Valuable on defense. Dustin Brunson, Armando Luna and Adam Garcia were all Unanimous Selections of the first team defense unit.

Congratulations, Cowboys!

Curioser and Curioser. This from the internet: It seems when the U.S. purchased Alaska from Russia for the princely sum of \$7.2 million in 1867, we were three months and ten days late making the payment. Interest on the late payment has reached \$58 million. Doubtful if any congressman will push to pay them, after the billions we have dropped on that country since World War I.

From Page 1, "Commissioners"

a net bid of \$73,550 after trade for a John Deere 770 CH grader. West Texas Equipment submitted a net bid of \$54,196 for a Caterpillar 140H grader. The court approved the purchase of the Caterpillar machine. The court also approved advertising for the purchase of a new sports utility vehicle, with trade-in of a 1991 Explorer. The vehicle will be used in investigative work by the criminal district attorney office, and paid for from 1999 budgeted funds and sale of seized vehicles.

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A WEEKLY SUMMARY OF COTTON MARKETING NEWS

Bearish cotton consumption data from the Census Bureau pressured prices this week and facilitated a plunge to new life-of-contract lows at the New York Cotton Exchange while lackluster pre-Christmas holiday trading also resulted in low volume.

U.S. Census Bureau consumption data confused and shocked the market with low domestic mill consumption for the month of November. The figures represented an annualized domestic consumption rate of 10.233 million bales, well below USDA's current forecast of 10.6 million bales. Usage figures were expected to fall only 5 percent below the October level of 10.958 million bales since Step 2 funds still had been available during November. The annualized rate for November also was the lowest for any month since July 1995, according to a market analyst.

One market watcher believes a foregone conclusion for consumption data in upcoming months is that most mills ran as long as they could and postponed Thanksgiving holiday shutdowns to capitalize on the remaining Step 2 funds. Due to anticipated lower demand, mills are expected to shut down for two or three weeks during the Christmas and New

Years Day holidays which could mean a much lower consumption number for December that might carry over into January.

New life-of-contract lows were set during the week indicating a cotton market without full participation and suggesting it has the potential to go even lower, according to an analyst. Cotton futures dropped below the lowest levels on a continuation basis since late 1993, with March futures plunging to 59.46 cents per pound. The decline was attributed to fund selling. Low volumes also were posted, and one daily volume of 3,500 contracts was recorded as the smallest since the middle of August.

The A Index remains unchanged at 56.05 and still posts a nominal quote for Spanish Middling cotton. If the sixth quote, African cotton, which is just outside the range of the Index (the average of the five cheapest world growths) replaces the nominal quote, it could raise the Index by 20 points to 56.25 and narrow the price margin between world and U.S. growths. Inclusion of the African quote also would mean reduced Producer Option Payments and a reduction in revenue for producers already faced with the decline in futures prices. USDA will not release its

Adjusted World Price until 7 a.m. CST on December 28 because of the Christmas holiday.

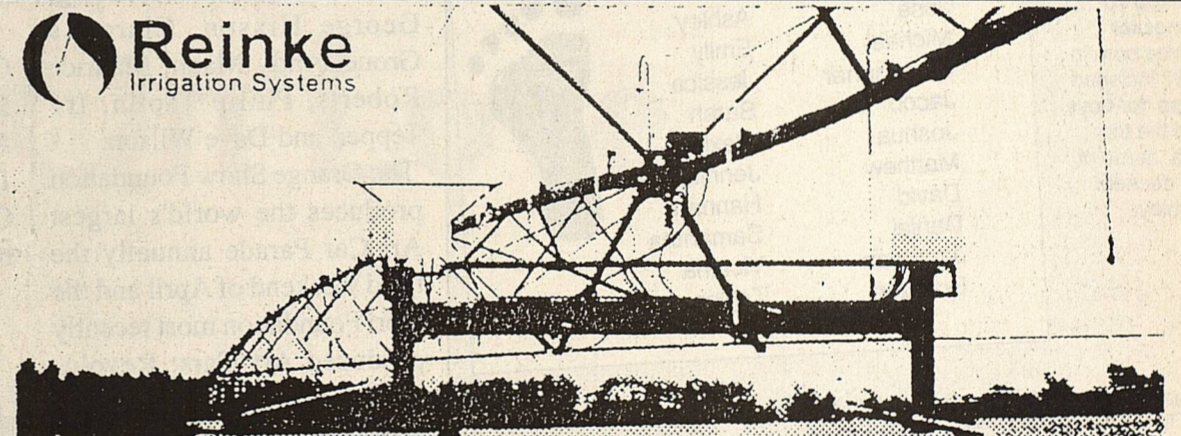
The ten-week period preceding the first Step 3 import quota has begun and cotton imports could begin entering the United States by February 26. The U.S. quote for upland cotton to be delivered in northern Europe must remain more than 125 points above the A Index for 10 consecutive weeks to trigger the first quota. Market conditions indicate that a new quota could be announced each week for many weeks. The USDA Interagency Cotton Estimates Committee has projected imports under the quotas to reach 400,000 bales in 1998-99.

The market this week also was bracing for export cancellations in weekly export sales reports over the next few weeks. USDA reported new U.S. export sales of 30,800 running bales for the week ended December 17. After cancellations and destination changes, net sales for the week only increased by 7,400 bales, more than 10,000 bales lower than the previous week's net sales. Hong Kong was the largest buyer of U.S. cotton with purchases totaling 14,700 bales followed by Taiwan and Mexico.

Historical Tax Rates For The State Of Texas

September 1, 1961	through	October 1, 1968	2.0%
October 2, 1968	through	September 30, 1969	3.0%
October 1, 1969	through	June 30, 1971	3.25%
July 1, 1971	through	October 1, 1984	4.0%
October 2, 1984	through	December 31, 1986	4.125%
January 1, 1987	through	September 30, 1987	5.25%
October 1, 1987	through	June 30, 1990	6.0%
July 1, 1990	through		6.25%

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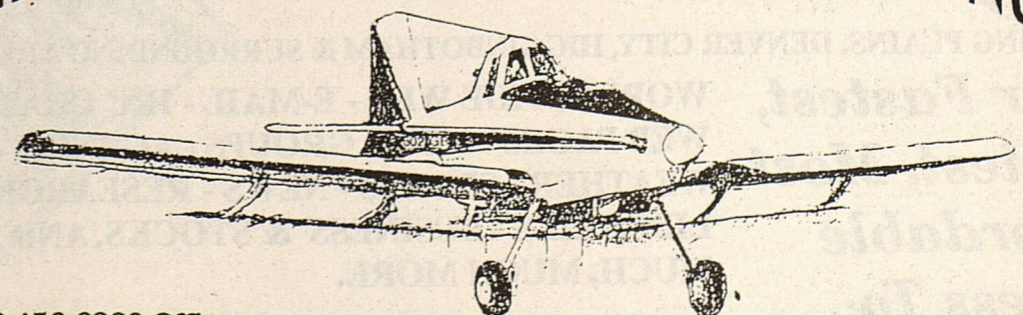
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Wide Range of Internet Classes

A wide range of classes on the Internet, from Agriculture Finance to Texas History, will be offered this spring by South Plains College.

Registration for these and other classes is scheduled January 14 on the SPC Levelland campus and January 13-14 on the SPC Lubbock campus.

"This is an opportunity for people who are self motivated but find it difficult to attend traditional college classes to get some college hours by studying at their own pace at home," said Dr. James Taylor, vice president for academic affairs.

Internet classes offered on the Levelland campus include Agriculture Finance, taught by Ron Presley, assistant professor of agribusiness; General Biology, taught by Phillip Ricker, assistant professor of microbiology; Composition 1, taught by Teresa Trevathan, assistant professor of English; Composition 11 and Technical Writing, Dr. Patricia Cearley, professor of English; World Regional Geography, Daniel Bunye, assistant professor of government; American Government Function; Travis Spears, professor of history

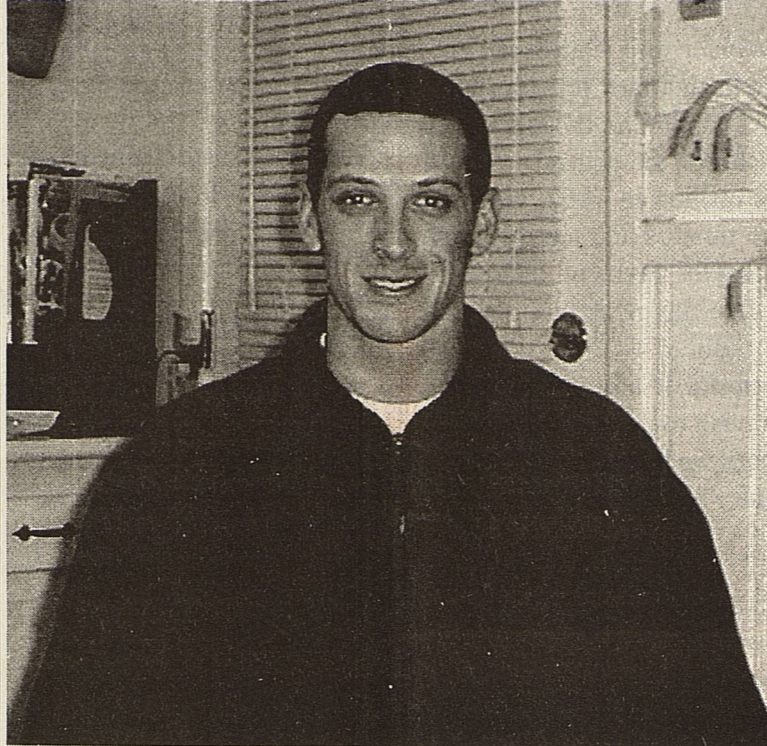
and chairperson of the chairperson of the Social Sciences Department, and Larry Norris, associate professor of government; History of the U.S. Since 1876, Jimmie McGee, assistant professor of government and history, and Dr. Ron Carden, professor of history; and Texas History, Dr. Sharon Bogener, instructor in history and government.

Additional Internet courses on the Levelland campus are Introduction to Criminal Justice and Legal Aspects of Law Enforcement, taught by Jimmy Richey, instructor in law enforcement; ad General Psychology, Dr. Wanda Clark, instructor in psychology and sociology.

Two Internet courses will be offered by the SPC Lubbock campus, Introduction to Computers, taught by Bob Haynes, assistant professor of computer information systems, and Basic Programming, taught by Carol Peterson, program coordinator and assistant professor of computer information systems and mathematics.

For more information, contact SPC beginning January 4, 1999, at 806-894-9611 Or 747-0576.

Texas Tech Graduate



Jay Rushing, son of Debbie and Morris Rushing, received his Bachelor of Science degree from Texas Tech University on December 19, 1998.

Rushing was a double major graduate, in math and history. He is employed by U.S. Ag Insurance Company in Lubbock.

'Art Cars' to be held at Lubbock Fine Arts Center

The Lubbock Fine Arts Center announces the opening of the exhibition Four Wheels, One Eye: Art Cars in the Eyes of the Image Makers. The exhibition will open Monday, January 11 at the center's gallery at 2600 Avenue P.

The exhibition, organized by The Orange Show Foundation and the Ineri Foundation as part of Houston's 1998 FotoFest, includes 50 photographs by Harold Blank, Amelia Blyth, Dick Craig, George Hixson, Clare La Groue, Andy Mann, Maurice Roberts, Philip Taplin, Irv Tepper, and Dave Wilson.

The Orange Show Foundation produces the world's largest Art Car Parade annually the third weekend of April and the Ineri Foundation most recently produced Art Cars: Revolutionary Movement, a book of photographs of art cars. In collaboration, the two Foundations have gathered some of the very best and most impressive images of art cars. "We are really looking forward to presenting the work of so many talented photographers. The subject matter is one of our favorites-art cars- because art cars, like folk art environments, are the extraordinary artistic expressions of 'ordinary people," says the Art Car Coordinator for Orange Show Foundation, Jennifer McKay.

Four Wheels, One Eye: Art Cars in the eyes of the Image Makers will remain at the Fine Arts Center through February 19, 1999. Call the Fine Arts Center at 767-2686 for more information.

Life becomes much easier, once you get through youth, middle age and old age

Is That Scholarship Service a Scam?

If you're thinking of using a scholarship service--check it out first to make sure you're using a reputable one. According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), here are six signs that a scholarship service may be a scam: 1. The scholarship is "guaranteed" or your money back. 2. The scholarship service will do all the work. 3. The scholarship will cost some money. 4. "You can't get this information anywhere else." 5. You are a "finalist" in a competition you never entered. 6. The scholarship service needs your credit card or checking account number in advance. If this sounds like the scholarship service you're thinking of using, here's some advice from the FTC. Every year, thousands of families fall prey to fraudulent scholarship companies that pose as legitimate foundations, scholarship sponsors, and scholarship search services. The scam artists advertise in campus newspapers, distribute flyers, send direct mail with toll-free phone numbers to students, and post home pages on

the World Wide Web that essentially promise "free money for college." These scams target a vulnerable group of consumers: high school and college students and parents worried about paying for a college education.

Many fraudulent companies "guarantee" that they have scholarships or grants for which the students already have qualified. That is, if the student pays an advanced fee, he or she will get a scholarship. In reality, these companies search a database compiled from public information and provide a list of scholarships and grants to which students can apply and for which students may or may not be eligible. If the company offers a "money back guarantee," students usually are required to apply for each of the scholarships or grants listed by the fraudulent company and provide proof that they have been rejected by each one, a contingency not mentioned to students before they pay the fee. As a result, in most cases, the "guarantee" is worthless.

Santa Claus is bound to be a WOMAN!

*A male Santa would become lost in all the clouds and stars, and would refuse to ask directions.

*Males would rather be dead than be caught wearing red velvet.

*Men can't pack a bag.

*Men would fear for their masculinity being seen with a bunch of elves.

*Men would never schedule Christams to conflict with football season.

*Men don't answer their mail.

*Men aren't interested in stockings unless someone is wearing them

Manicurist Program Registration

Registration for the next 12 month manicurist class at South Plains College is scheduled January 4.

Enrollment begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Cosmetology Building adjoining the Student Center.

Classes will meet 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Instructor is Laura Bishop, a licensed cosmetology and nail technician.


Tuition for the 600-your program is \$750. Tuition can be paid in full or in three installments.

Students also need to purchase a kit, textbook and lab coat.

For more information, contact the SPC Continuing and Distance Education Office beginning January 4 at 806-894-9611, ext. 2341.

Keeping an eye on Texas

<p>New Texans</p> <p>The top 10 names for babies born in 1997 included Jose for boys and the top girls name of the decade: Ashley.</p>	<p>Most popular names for Texas babies in '97</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Boys' names</td> <td>Girls' names</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jose</td> <td>Ashley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Michael</td> <td>Emily</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christopher</td> <td>Jessica</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jacob</td> <td>Sarah</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Joshua</td> <td>Alexis</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Matthew</td> <td>Jennifer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>David</td> <td>Hannah</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Daniel</td> <td>Samantha</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jonathan</td> <td>Victoria</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brandon</td> <td>Taylor</td> </tr> </table>	Boys' names	Girls' names	Jose	Ashley	Michael	Emily	Christopher	Jessica	Jacob	Sarah	Joshua	Alexis	Matthew	Jennifer	David	Hannah	Daniel	Samantha	Jonathan	Victoria	Brandon	Taylor
Boys' names	Girls' names																						
Jose	Ashley																						
Michael	Emily																						
Christopher	Jessica																						
Jacob	Sarah																						
Joshua	Alexis																						
Matthew	Jennifer																						
David	Hannah																						
Daniel	Samantha																						
Jonathan	Victoria																						
Brandon	Taylor																						



SOURCES: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and Texas Department of Health.

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Load Up On Love



This Holiday Season at



Plains Junior High Basketball Schedule

Jan. 7	Stanton	5 pm	7 & 8 Girls @ Stanton 7 & 8 Boys here
Jan. 9	Whiteface Tourney	TBA	8 Girls & Boys
Jan. 11	Tahoka	5 pm	7 & 8 Girls Tahoka 7 & 8 Boys here
Jan. 14-16	Plains Tourney	TBA	7 & 8 girls/boys here
Jan. 18	Seagraves	5 pm	7 & 8 Girls here 7 & 8 Boys Seagraves
Jan. 25	Post	5 pm	7 & 8 Girls Post 7 & 8 Boys here
Feb. 1	Coahoma	5 pm	7 & 8 Girls Coahoma 7 & 8 Boys here
Feb. 8	Stanton	5 pm	7 & 8 Girls here 7 & 8 Boys Stanton



In center, Kayla Redman shoots, Kimbe Jones, left, Anne Palmer, right, watch for rebound



Joanna Diaz, left, Liz Wilmeth, back ground, Elva Fierro, 12, and Jessica Rodriguez, 41, wait impatiently for ball to come down.

Plains High School Basketball Schedule

Dec.31-Jan. 2	Sundown Tour.	TBA	Sundown	V
Jan. 5	OPEN			
Jan. 8	F TAHOKA	5:00	Tahoka	JV/V
Jan. 12	T SEAGRAVES	5:00	Plains	JV/V
Jan. 15	F POST	5:00	Post	JV/V
Jan. 15-16	Seagraves Tour.	TBA	Seagraves	JV
Jan. 19	T COAHOMA	5:00	Coahoma	JV/V
Jan. 22	F STANTON	5:00	Plains	JV/V
Jan. 26	T TAHOKA	5:00	Plains	JV/V
Jan. 29	F SEAGRAVES	5:00	Seagraves	JV/V
Feb. 2	T POST	5:00	Plains	JV/V
Feb. 5	F COAHOMA	5:00	Plains	JV/V
Feb. 9	T STANTON	5:00	Stanton	JV/V



Larry Escobar, 10, Mike Lopez, 12, watch Richard Diaz, 33, arch free throw



Fermin Luna shoots, Justin Bennett comes up to help on rebound

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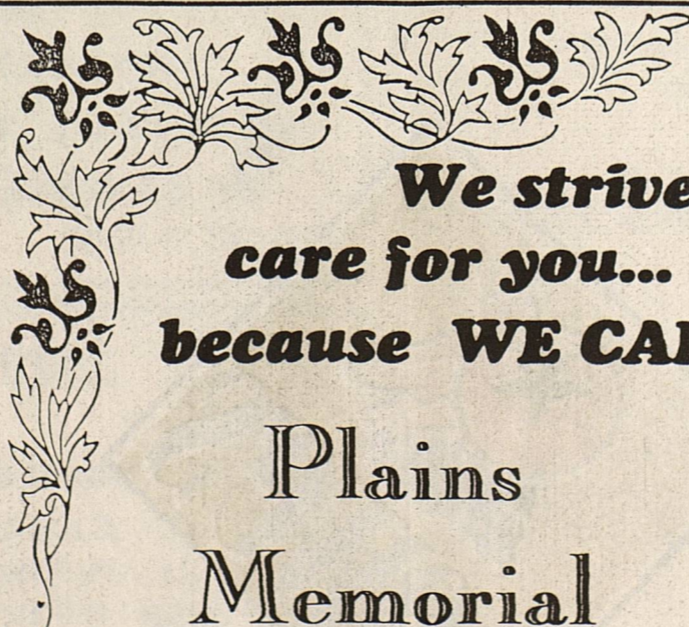
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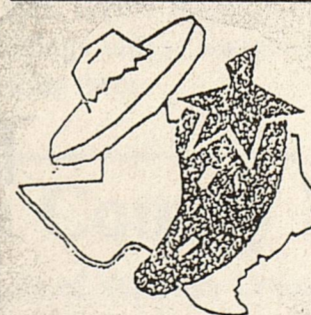
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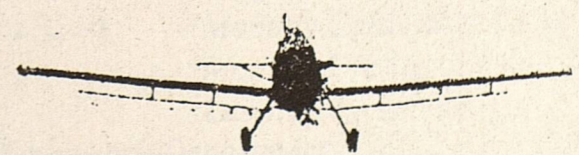
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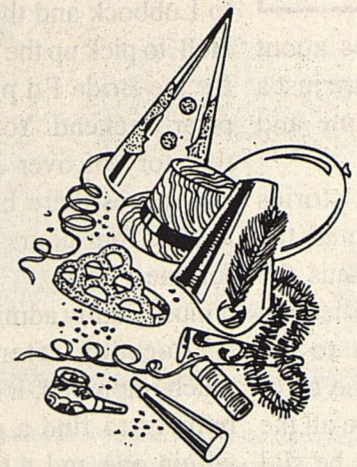
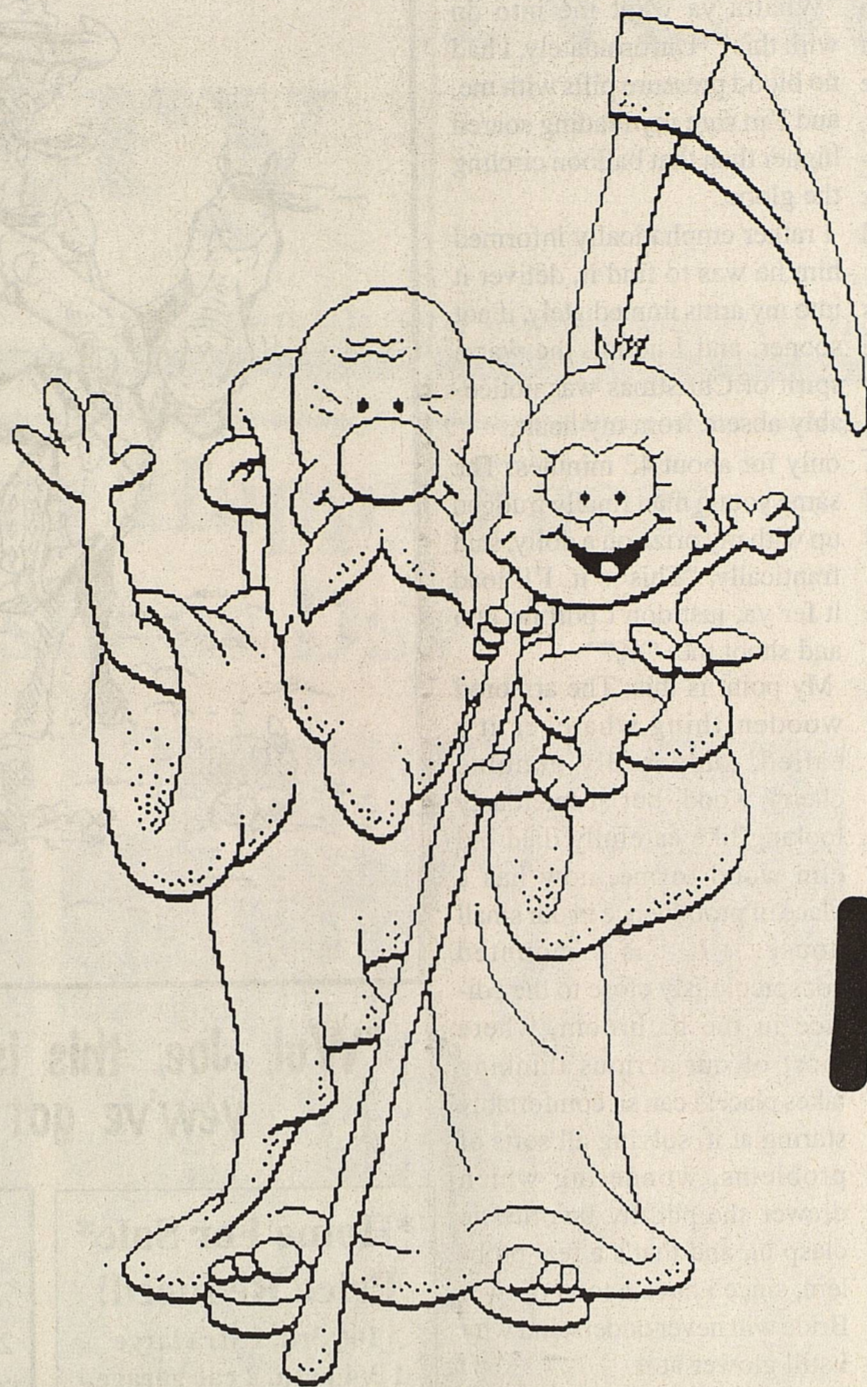
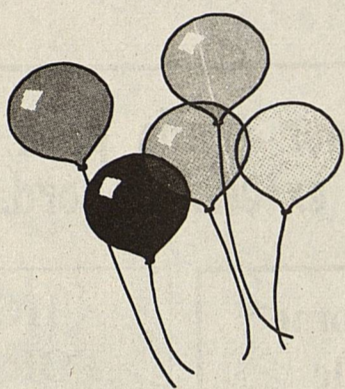
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Yours A Healthy,
Happy and
Prosperous***

New Year !

From The Hack

My likes and dislikes about Christmas - and these are just a few, now that it's come and gone again.

I love the countless stories about kids and Christmas, the anticipation of Santa Claus, the checking out if he fulfilled the many wish lists sent to his North Pole address, the careful checking if Santa ate all the cookies and milk after he slid down the chimney, or under the door, if there was no chimney. And Christmas morning, when miraculously, most of those Christmas wishes are fulfilled. I love the joyous sounds coming from church choirs during the season, for some reason always more splendid than any other time of the year.

I love the fact our preachers of every faith can somehow become more eloquent, their message more Holy, their annual efforts more meaningful, their listeners more attentive and responsive. They're bound to love the season too.

I love the fact we, the people, are probably closer to one another, and God, than we will ever be the coming eleven months of the new year.

I love the idea of just for a few brief moments we can all relax, feel good about one another,

forget most of our worldly problems, and say an earnest, "Thank You, Lord."

Remember, I said likes and DISLIKES at the start of this? Do you think for one minute I'd forget the bad side of the season?

I had to return last Wednesday to Lubbock and the Mall From Hell, to pick up the main present for the Bride I'd purchased the prior weekend. You remember, the story of over 11,000 parking spaces there being full for at least four hours we searched for one.

I must readily admit, conditions Wednesday afternoon were much improved. It only took 39 minutes to find a parking spot within one and a half miles of the north entrance, when I needed to be on the south end of Purgatory.

I confess. When confronted with Satan's spawn (the Mall, dummy), I have bad thoughts. I had paid a tidy sum for a piece of furniture the Bride desperately requested, although admitting our home space limits made it seem like she'd been far too long on the blackberry wine. She just HAD TO HAVE an armor... no, that's not right spelling... an armory... nope, something like an amore... uh huh,, some dumb French thing called an 'ARMOIRE'. Ain't that impressive, her French speaking ability? You know, of course, the upright thing with many shelves, cubicles, etc. for storing personal jewelry.

Last time I took inventory she had some 11,183 pieces of the stuff, 96% of it thoughtfully pur-

chased by yours truly, mainly at special sale times put on by K-Mart, Wal-Mart, and a friend I know in a Hobbs, NM pawnshop.

My bad thoughts proved correct. I approached the store's package pick-up room, paid receipt in hand. The part-time hand looked at it, asked, "Whatta ya want me mto do with this?" Unfortunately, I had no blood pressure pills with me, and I'm sure my reading soared higher than that balloon circling the globe.

I rather emphatically informed him he was to find it, deliver it into my arms immediately, if not sooner, and I admit, the warm spirit of Christmas was noticeably absent from my heart.

only for about 42 minutes. The same young man finally trudged up with my prize on a dolly, said frantically, "This is it, I'll load it fer ya, just don't pull no gun and shoot me. OK?"

My point is this; The armored wooden thing, whatever it's called, supposedly genuine cherry wood, but suspiciously looking like carefully died old elm wood to me, now has a place of prominence in our small house. It is mounted conspicuously close to the edifice in the bathroom, where most of our serious thinking takes place. I can sit comfortably staring at it, solving all sorts of problems, wondering which drawer she put my favorite tie clasp in, and that's a real problem, since i have a total of two. Bride will never understand why I still glower at it.

HOOVES & HORNS

BY A.W. ERWIN



"Wul, Joe, this is where our trails part, unless yew've got another extension cord."

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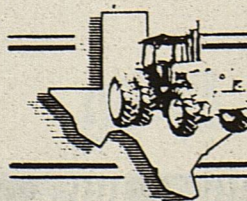


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