

Cowboy Country

News

50¢

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

Volume V11, Issue 10, November 22, 2000



'Connection' makes plans for annual meeting and year 2001

A board of directors meeting for the Yoakum County connection was held in their building in Denver City on November 14. A nominating committee composed of L.J. Sanders, Jeannette Head and Billy Boiles was appointed to consider nominees for 2001 directors. New directors will be elected at the Connection annual meeting January 11 at 6:30 P.M.

Other business items discussed included the Connection's new web site, organized with the help of

Crosswind.net and Russell Jones. The web site currently features pictures of the summer youth program and Watermelon Round Up scenes. The website address is yoakumconnection.com.

Directors also discussed a possible leadership retreat, hopefully attracting 'younger blood' and fresh ideas for future Connection projects and programs.

Directors attending the meeting included Tonya

Turn to Page 2, 'Connection'

Lea County Electric tests waters for new technology offer

Earlier this week, Lea County Electric Cooperative mailed survey forms to Plains and Yoakum County members in a sampling to gauge reaction to a new program the Cooperative is promoting.

LCEC is one of 50 cooperatives across the nation participating in a pilot project designed to close the digital gap in rural areas and promote the use of automated electric meter reading.

A number of randomly selected member-customers in this county will have two de-

vices installed in their homes.



Gateway Meter device

One is a small computer, called a Gateway, installed outside the residence. It will record electric power consumption in the home (or business) throughout the day. As the technology develops, it could tell how much power is used by individual electric appliances. By using radio-frequency controlled sensors, it could also broadcast a warning to a designated phone number warning of a water or gas leak, or if an intruder was in the home or business. Future technology advances could allow the i-Center to provide 'least cost telephone call routing', automatically routing a long distance

call to the least-cost carrier.

With the Cooperative's membership spread over a very large geographical area, the automated meter reading service provided by Gateway would be a real money saver. Allan Brown, LCEC's marketing and member services director, said "The Gateway device provides a win-win situation. We will be able to provide members with accurate, up to date information, and substantially reduce our operating costs with the automated power readings."

The other device the sampling members here will receive is an i-Center, a small electronic appliance allowing customers to send and receive e-mail messages. The i-Center network would provide information packets containing a community bulletin board featuring events going on throughout the coop's service area.

Brown said the cooperative is aware many members do not have personal computers in their homes. "It's important to point out the i-Center will not be a full service internet provider. We are not attempting to compete with full service

internet providers or other information organizations. We do want to provide low-cost, limited access to users who don't want full internet access." Brown said research shows about 65 percent of LCEC's members do not have personal computers.



The i-Center

County residents receiving the initial survey are urged to read the material fully, and spend 10 to 15 minutes completing the brief survey detailing community connection services. Brown continued, "This is a continuation of our policy to ensure our members rates stay low, services remain high, and power quality is outstanding. This survey is an effort to expand our services with a tremendous idea, but we must have our members response to the proposal."

Historical marker dedication at Center Point School site



Judge Dallas Brewer and Mary Jo St. Romain address audience at dedication

About five dozen spectators braved cold, blustery weather last Tuesday morning to witness the dedication of the Texas Historical Marker at the site of the one room Center Point School building on the Allred Road. G. W. Cleveland, who owns the ranch land at the site, pointed out the site which had been marked with yellow flags, and told the audience the well which supplied the school with drinking water was still in place a few yards from the school site.

The marker reads, "Yoakum County was organized in 1907. By the 1920's the area around this site was rural farm and ranch land, without electricity, paved roads or railroads. Building lumber was brought by freight wagons. Several local men erected a one-room frame building near this site in 1924 to serve as a school for the widely scattered rural families. The structure was also used for Sunday School, monthly services and Methodist and Baptist revivals. Designated as Center Point School District 8, it served an area of 64 square miles. "Classes ranged in size from four to more than twenty students. Over the years some walked a mile or more across open prairies to reach school, others rode horses, which were tethered behind the building. Students participated in Interscholastic League events in addition to usual studies. Teachers earned \$80 to \$100 a month to teach all grades, do janitorial work,

and in some cases provide transportation for students. Teachers usually boarded with local families.

"Enrollment increased slightly when oil camps opened in the county in 1935. In the Spring of 1939, voters opted to merge Center Point School Dist. 8 with others to form Plains Rural School District. The one-room school was moved to Plains for use as a music building, later becoming part of the American Legion Hall. Center Point School served the educational, spiritual and social needs of the surrounding communities for 15 years. Although short-lived, its legacy remains a vital part of the history of this part of Yoakum County."

Speaking at the dedication ceremonies were County Judge Dallas Brewer, and Yoakum County Historical Society President Mary Jo St. Romain. Billie Anderson Sullivan, who was instrumental in securing the historical marker, briefly described her memories of attending school at Center Point. Other former students of Center Point attending the dedication were Lefty Spears and Bert Anderson. Local Jerome Head was in attendance, and said his father, the late Odell Head, was a teacher at Center Point in 1927 and 1928. Maxine Bell (Harben) and Brenda Harris (Grissom), the niece and great niece of former teacher Eva Harben, also attended the ceremony.

Texas crop production going down from last month

Austin- Production prospects are going down as harvest progresses, according to the recent forecast released by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service.

The Texas upland cotton crop is expected to total 4.3 million bales, down 15 percent from 1999 and down two percent from last month. "Harvest has been slowed dramatically, with producers waiting for wet fields to dry," according to Robin Roark, State Statistician. Yield this year is expected to average 430 pounds, down from last years 475 pound average.

Texas peanut production is down 13 percent from last year, at 810 million pounds. State-

wide yield, at 2700 pounds, is down 610 pounds from last year and 50 pounds from last month.

Sorghum production is forecast at 84 million hundredweight, 19 percent less than last year and 2 percent less than last month. Yield, 3360 pounds per acre, is down 168 pounds from last year and 56 pounds from last month. Harvested acreage is estimated at 2.5 million acres, down 15 percent from last year.

Corn production is forecast at 236.8 million bushels, up 4 percent from last year, but down 3 percent from last month, and statewide yield is expected to average 128 bushels per acre, down 4 bushels from last month.

New Extension Agent Hired

In Monday's session of Commissioners Court, the court unanimously approved the hiring of Arlan Wesley Gentry as Yoakum County Extension Agent - Ag. The action came after the court heard a recommendation from Jett Major, District Extension Director-Ag.

Gentry, 37, is a native of Dawson County, graduating from Lamesa High in 1980. He received a BS Degree from Tarleton State University in 1983, majoring in Agri-Business. He earned a Master's Degree from Texas Tech in 1990.

Turn To Page 2, AG-Agent



Almost \$5.3 Million in IRS Refunds Still Unclaimed by Texans

Return to sender. That's the message the Internal Revenue Service received when it tried to send more than 8,000 tax refund checks to Texans this year. The post office returned the checks to the tax agency this year because they were undeliverable.

According to the IRS, the 8,046 checks returned to the agency were worth a total of \$5,279,989. There are 50 tax refund checks each totaling \$10,000 or more. The biggest unclaimed check in Texas is \$71,617.74 and the smallest is \$1.00. The average unclaimed refund is \$674.

Nationally, 91,827 federal tax refunds totaling \$67.9 million were returned to the IRS this year. California had the largest number of unclaimed refunds (14,648) in the nation, followed by New York (8,519), Florida (8,208) and Texas (8,046).

The IRS asks Texans who are still waiting for their tax refund to call 1-800-829-1040 to learn how they can claim the money. Refund checks usually go unclaimed because people move

without notifying the IRS. Another reason refund checks go undelivered is because the return address information is wrong. Often, numbers are transposed or information is incomplete. A death or marriage can result in a returned check. The IRS encourages estate executors to check whether a refund check might be involved. Newly married taxpayers are urged to notify the IRS promptly if there is a change of name or address.

Taxpayers can file IRS Form 8822, "Change of Address," to let the IRS know of address or name changes. The form is available by calling 1-800-829-3676 or Texans can download it by going to the IRS' homepage at www.irs.gov.

To reduce the chances of a lost or stolen refund check, the IRS can deposit tax refunds directly into a taxpayer's bank account.

This year, more than 30 million taxpayers chose Direct Deposit by including their required bank account information on their tax return.

Lea County Electric to return over \$972,000 in capital credits

The trustees of Lea County Electric Cooperative last week approved the return of approximately \$972,000 in patronage capital to its members who received service from the Cooperative during 1977. The credit represents 75% of the total capital credits allocated for 1977. The credits are allocated to members based on their energy consumption for the refund year. Checks should be mailed on December 11.

Capital credits for a cooperative represent margins earned over and above expenses for a given fiscal year. These margins are not returned immediately, but are retained by the Cooperative to insure its financial stability, to reduce or eliminate the need to finance debt, and to keep rates

as low as possible. "Our trustees are extremely pleased to be able to return these credits to our members," said Michael Dreyspring, General Manager. "Our board is committed to providing all of our customers with real value through the supply of reliable, high quality power at competitive rates. The ability to return these credits underscores the utility's strength as well as the benefit of membership!"

Members who have reached the age of 66 are reminded they are eligible to receive immediate payment of their capital credits beginning with the year in which they turned 66. For more information, contact the Cooperative at 800-510-5232.

Turkey Shoot Slated

Come out and win a Holiday Turkey at the Terry County 4-H Club Turkey Shoot, to be held Saturday, December 2, beginning at 10:00 am. The location will be at Tokio about 1 1/2 miles west of Brownfield, south on CR 125.

Events will include something for all age groups including (1) Annie Oakley, (2) Doubles, (3) Jackpot, (4) Straight Trap and other contests such as ALL LADIES ROUNDS and all

YOUTH ONLY rounds if there is enough interest.

Shooters need to bring their own gun and shells. A limited supply of shells will be available for purchase on site.

Concession stand will be sponsored by Terry County 4-H Clubs, and all proceeds raised will benefit Terry County 4-H Clubs. For more information contact Terry County Office at 806-637-4060.

From Page 1, 'AG-Agent'

Gentry's first experience with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service came in 1984, when he served as an assistant agent and 4-H coordinator in Hale County. In July of 1987 he would be named extension agent in Mason County. He remained there until January, 1995, when he was promoted to extension agent of Cottle County. He remained there until accepting the assignment here.

Gentry said he is interested in all agricultural related fields, and his hobbies are golf and hunting.

He and his wife are currently looking for housing here and in Denver City. He will start his job duties in Yoakum County on December 4.

JP Court

November 17, 2000-In Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Court with Judge Melba Crutcher presiding, the following cases were heard, and fines and bonds set: 55 traffic cases, 2 possession of drug paraphernalia, 1 minor in possession of alcohol, 1 public intoxication, 1 juvenile warning administered.

Bonds set: 3 cases-Public intoxication-\$250.00 bond. 3 cases-Driving while intoxicated-1st-\$1000.00 bond. Motion to revoke probation-held until hearing. Failure to identify fugitive from justice-\$500.00 bond. 2 cases-Hindering apprehension-\$1000.00 bond. Driving while intoxicated-3rd or more-\$2500.00 bond + interlock device ordered. 3 cases-Possession of controlled substance-Marijuana-\$1000.00 bond. 2 cases-Possession of drug paraphernalia-\$200.00 bond. Driving while license suspended-\$500.00 bond. Display altered or fictitious driver license-\$500.00 bond. 2 cases-Assault causing bodily injury-\$2500.00 bond. Possession of a controlled substance in drug free zone-\$5000.00 bond. Criminal trespass-\$1000.00 bond. Assault causing bodily injury-

Librarians, Staff Updated On Computers



Cub Scouts Kevin John Gass, Chase Ortega and Hunter Welch receive help on laptop computers from Pat McNabb, Kristy Johnson and Dolores Davis. The computers were programmed the same as those recently received from the Gates Foundation.

County and area library staff members attended a Computer Workshop at the County Library here November 16 and 17. Michelle Huber and Kristy Johnson conducted extensive training in the applications on the new Gateway computers the Bill and Melinda Gates

Foundation recently donated to the area libraries. Librarians participating in the training included Opal Roberts, Yoakum County Libraries, Darla Hightower, Cochran County Love Memorial Library, Lube Molinar, Gaines County Library, and Christina Vasquez,

Gaines County/Seagraves Branch. Also attending were Ginger Wilson and Maria Castruita, from Yoakum County/Cecil Bickley Library, and Dolores Davis and Pat McNabb, Yoakum County Library, Plains.

\$1500.00 bond. Driving while intoxicated-2nd-\$1500.00 bond + interlock device ordered. Display suspended item-\$500.00 bond. Driving while license suspended-\$500.00 bond. Minor in possession-\$500.00 bond.

From Page 1, 'Connection'

Patton, Linda Powell, L.J. Sanders, Dennis Harrison, Elva Lozano, Debbie Rushing, Carolyn Culwell, David Brunson and Jeannette Head.



Wishing you the very best Thanksgiving ever!!

Un sincero y agradecido gracias a todos los votantes de Recinto 3 para el apoyo que me dieron en la Eleccion General. Yo estoy esperando trabajar para y con los ciudadanos de Recinto 3 y Condado de Yoakum. Yo tambien quiero expresar mi apreciacion sincera al Rex Swann para una campana limpia y respetuosa. Ty Earl Powell

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(8) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS	NONC	NONC
e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (9) Carriers or other means	12	12
(10) Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e)	30	30
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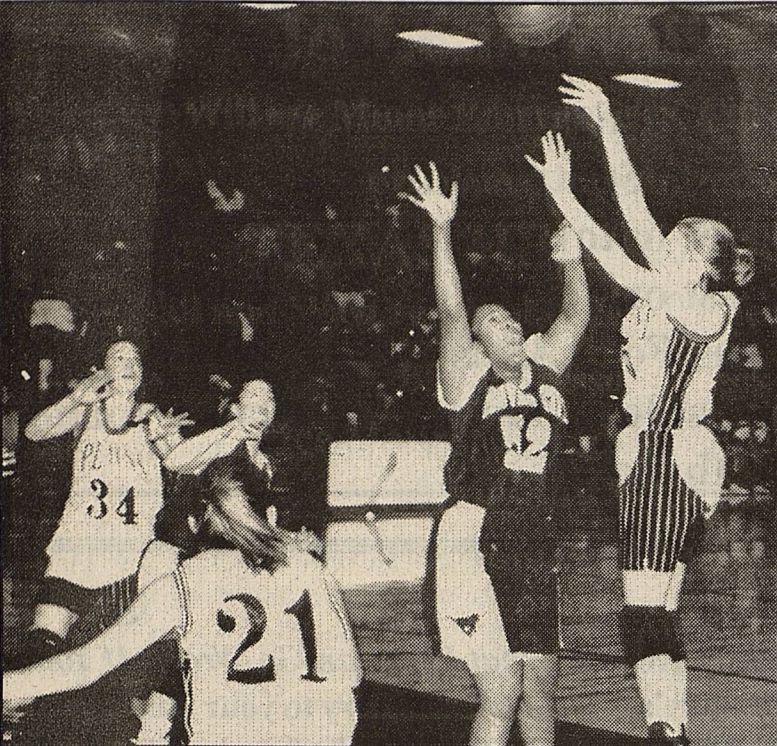
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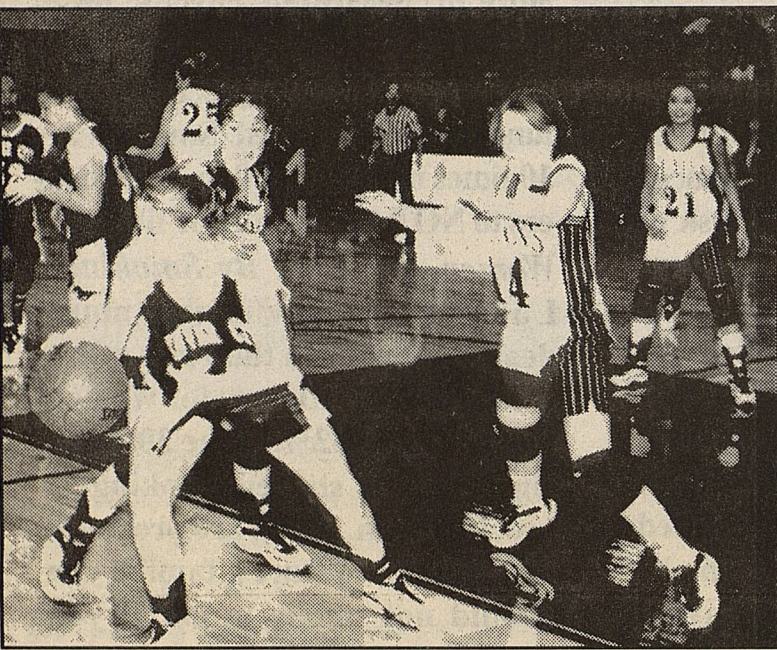
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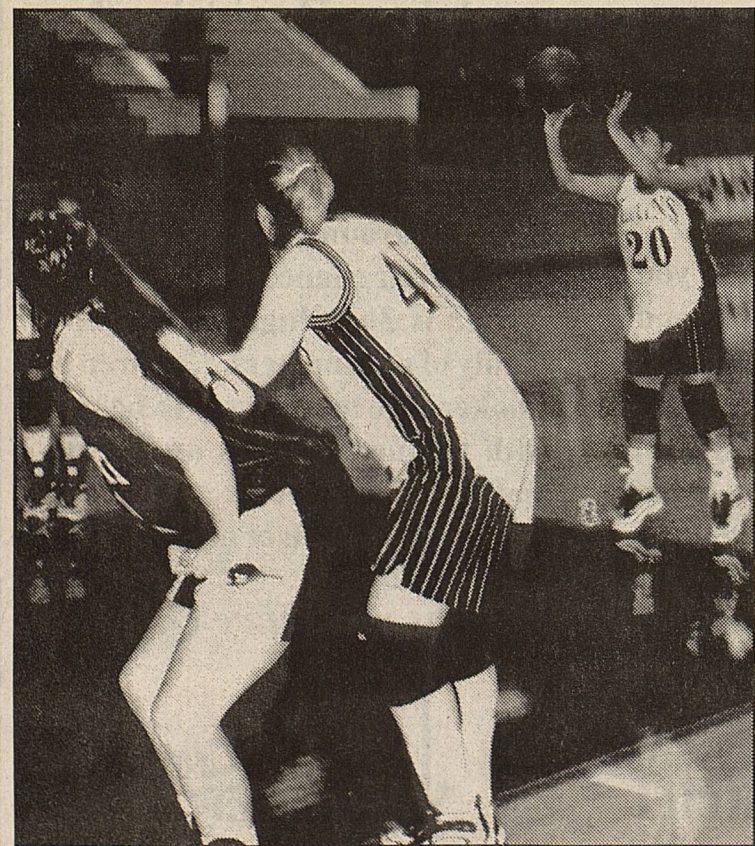
Lexi Warren, Michaela Traweck, Annaliesa O'Quinn in action VS. Denver City



Annaliesa gets shot off over D.C. Fillie



Michaela, Lexi play some defense



Tanya shoots freebie, Annaliesa ready to rebound

P.I.S.D. Basketball

JV Cowgirls: On November 17, the younger Cowgirls had a good 35-31 win over Roosevelt. Jessica Rodriguez led the scoring with 14 points, Kayla Willis had 12, Mandi Rogers 5. Coach Lusk said they are improving on both offense and defense, and are working hard as a team. Jessica, Kayla and Mandi were cited for their defense, and Jill Gray, Keri Hansen and Jessica Knight were recognized for their hustle.

JV Cowboys. The Cowboys were out-manned by a very large team of Roosevelt Eagles, 67-30. Kelly Bowers managed 7 points, Jonathan Peppin and David Garza had 6 each, Zach Broome 4, Chase Howell 3, Jeremy Diamond and Jonathan DeLaRosa 2 each.

Varsity Cowgirls: The Cowgirls fell 52-41 to Denver City in their season opener. Michaela Traweck led scoring with 14 points, Lexi Warren had 10, Annaliesa O'Quinn 6, Chelsi Wagon 4, Chelsea Blount 3, Mackenzie Winn 2, Tanya Vasquez and Kim Willis 1 each. Michaela pulled down 6 rebounds, Chjlsi had 5, Tanya 4. Lexi Warren was credited with 5 steals.

The Cowgirls next faced the Roosevelt Lady Eagles and were downed 62-41. Annaliesa was top scorer with 11 points, Lexi had 9, Mackenzie 8, Chelsea Blount and Chelsi Wagon 4 each, Michaela and Kim 2 each, Tanya 1. Kim was top rebounder with 9, Annaliesa had 8, and Lexi had 3 steals.

Varsity Cowboys: The Cowboys opened their season against a make-up Denver City team and won 59-38. Eddy Gallegos was top scorer with 15 points, Adam Garcia had 13, Brett Squyres 8, Dustin Six and Jared Bell 7 each, Kelsey Blundell 4, Jarod Newland 3, Tanner Hamm 2. Eddy grabbed 17 rebounds, Jared Bell had 12, and Kelsey managed 4 steals.

The Cowboys next took on Roosevelt , and in a good showing dominated the Eagles 78-61. Adam had the hot hand with 21 points, Jarod had 16, Eddy 11, Jared 10, Dustin 7, Kelsey 6, Brett 5, Joseph Rodriguez 1. Eddy had 8 rebounds, Jared 6, and Eddy had 5 steals, Jarod Newland 4.

PHS Math/Science Team second at San Angelo meet

The Plains High math / science team finished second in a meet at San Angelo November 13, competing in a field of 13 teams. They were 3rd in Number Sense, 2nd in Calculator, 3rd in Math, and 4th in Science. Individual performances included; Seniors: Amanda Garcia, 3rd NS, 5th Cal, 6th math, 15th Sci. Eric Nixon 11th NS, 7th Cal, 2nd Math, 3rd Scio.

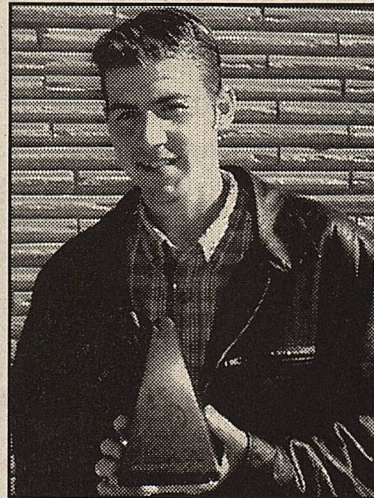
Juniors: Annaliesa O'Quinn 2nd NS, 6th Cal, 5th Math, 12th Sci.

Sophomores: Jordan Bean 8th NS, 4th Cal, 6th Math, 10th Sci. Jill Gray 2nd NS, 1st Cal, 5th Math, 3rd Sci. Liz Wilmeth 12th NS, 2nd Cal, 17th Math, 20th Sci.



Keri Hansen Shoots

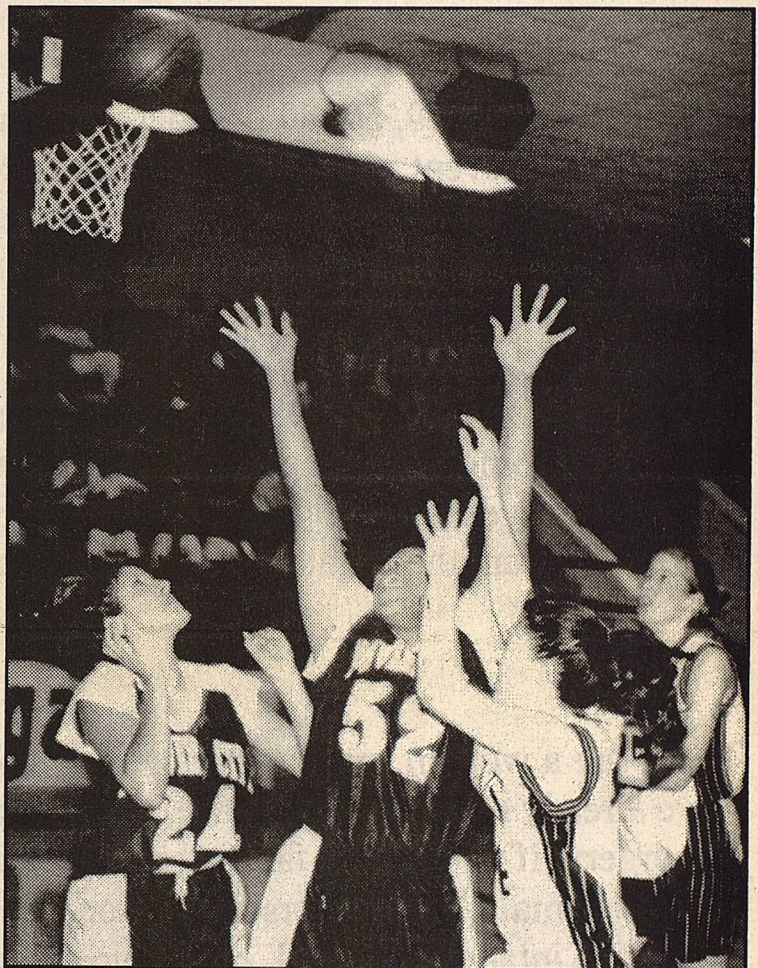
Student of the Week



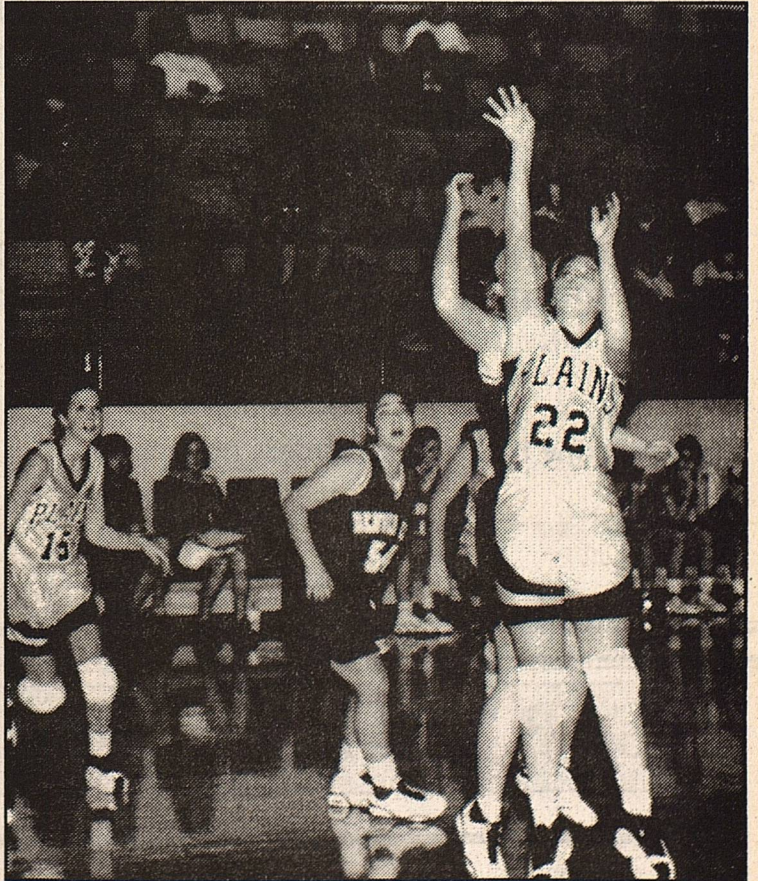
PHS Student of the week is Ross Rogers a senior and the son of Mark and Melisa Dorsett and Randy Rogers. He was nominated by Mrs. O'Quinn who said, "Ross Rogers has made my job easier the last ten weeks. Before football season began, I gave Ross the assignment of interviewing Coach McMinn for broadcast on our school radio station. Every week during tutorials, Ross came to the radio lab, got his questions and the tape recorder, and went off to do his job. Ross accepted this role which demanded a great deal of responsibility. I never had to remind him that it was the day or time to do an interview. I appreciate Ross' attitude and his dependability."

PISD Honor Roll 2nd Six Weeks

Junior High	Maria Andazola	Twelfth Grade
'A' Honor Roll	Anna Harms	Aaron Cain
Fifth Grade	Flor Lara	Martha Casillas
Douglas Conway	Sixth Grade	Lensey Cullins
Ryan Crump	Joe Luis Gallegos	Roxy Fuentes
Lauren Davis	Erika Loewen	Taylor Gray
Amber Friesen	Seventh Grade	Kari Guetersloh
Lauren Hise	David Allredge	Nicole Haynes
Zachary Ramos	Casson Curtis	Skyler Johnson
John Tyson	Reagan Haynes	Kimbe Jones
Sixth Grade	BJ Lester	Armando Luna
Scott Addison	Eighth Grade	Eric Nixon
Caitlin Carter	Mayra Flores	Donita Richardson
Landon Craft	Kelby Johnson	Lesli Rowe
Nicole Culwell	Kristian Morales	Elva Ruiz
Angelica Mendoza	High School	Dustin Six
Araceli Mendoza	'A' Honor Roll	Lexi Warren
Colby Wilmeth	Ninth Grade	'A-1B' Honor roll
Seventh Grade	Helen Neufeld	Ninth Grade
Michael Crump	Tenth Grade	Grady McNabb
Allison Friesen	Jordan Bean	Nolan Newsom
Skyler Keesee	Sandra Gallegos	Moriah Traweck
Adam McCravey	Jill Gray	Tenth Grade
Abel Ramos	Liz Wilmeth	Kelly Bowers
Eighth Grade	Eleventh Grade	Kim Martinez
Payton Bean	Jared Bell	Ashley Gonzalez
Evan Cain	Allison Butler	Chris Hansen
Marlie Diaz	Elizabeth Clanahan	Arasely Luna
Cody Flores	Wendy Fierro	Jarod Newland
Breck Hamm	Tanner Hamm	Twelfth Grade
Brandon Hise	Servando Luna	Amanda Garcia
Kerry Sisson	Annaliesa O'Quinn	Dustin Sellers
Junior High	Scott Tirrell	Michaela Traweck
'A-1B' Honor Roll	Becky Wilmeth	Tyrel Tyson
Fifth Grade		



Lots of hands and arms



Kayla Willis made this shot

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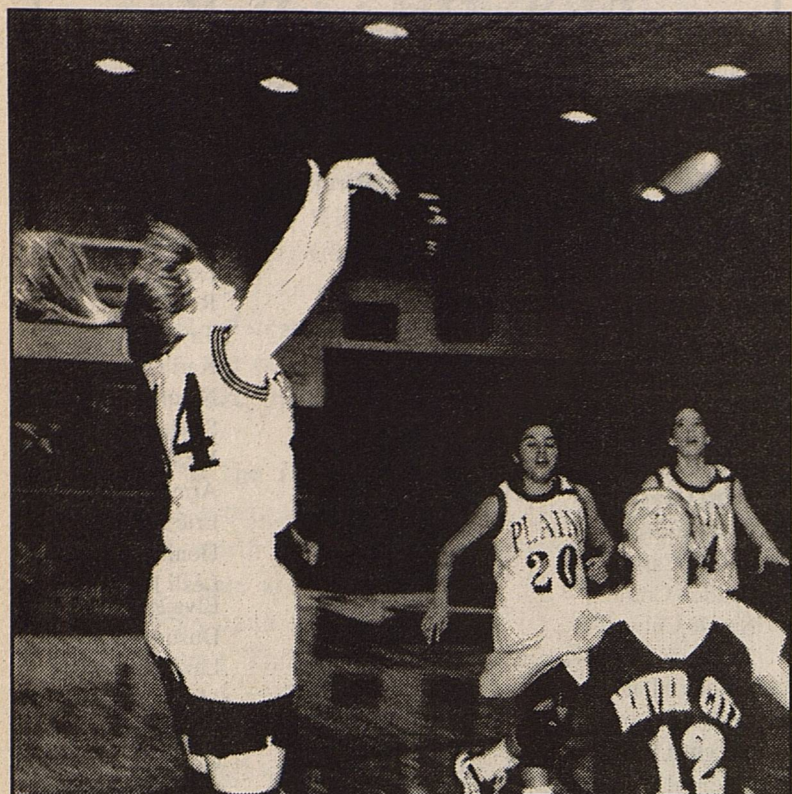
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Lexi shoots, Tanya and Michaela move in

Non-GMO Certification Reassure's Sorghum Customers

Officials with the National Grain Sorghum Producers (NGSP) see a bright future ahead for sorghum, based on the potential for new markets resulting from increased interest in sorghum's unique marketable characteristics and gluten free properties.

Sorghum is a versatile grain that can be used in the cereal, snack food, baking and brewing industries, says Tim Snyder, NGSP marketing director. Additionally, sorghum's unique characteristics make mycotoxins such as aflatoxin a virtually nonexistent problem in sorghum.

The U. S. Federal Grain In-

spection Service (FGIS) will provide upon request to U. S. sorghum customers official statements indicating that there is no genetically modified, or transgenic, sorghum in U. S. trade channels.

According to NGSP, this official non-GMO certification should reassure concerned customers of U.S. grain that U.S. sorghum is free of transgenic enhancements or manipulation. Sorghum's non-GMO status should also reassure grain buyers and food processors that may be hesitant to purchase U.S. grain based on similar concerns.

"U.S. sorghum is a comparable substitute for other carbohydrate sources," said Snyder

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING!!

The Chamber of Commerce sponsored Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Program will take place at 5:45 pm. Wednesday, November 29th in Pioneer Plaza. The PHS Cowboy Band will perform Christmas theme music, and Pastor Bill Wright, FBC, will deliver the Christmas Story. When Santa Claus makes his appearance in town, each child bringing at least one can of food for the Christmas Food Assistance Program, will be able to have their picture made with Santa.

YOUR BONES.....

MAKE 'EM OR BREAK 'EM!!!

Whether you are 40, 50, 60 or older You are never too old to help prevent, slow down, or treat osteoporosis, the most common human bone disease, and the major cause of hip, spine, and wrist fractures in older people.

YOAKUM COUNTY HOSPITAL has recently acquired a bone densitometer machine which can detect bone loss in it's early stages, allowing physicians to start treatment in time to prevent the problems normally associated with osteoporosis.

If you are a woman entering her pre-menopausal years or have already reached menopause, either naturally or because of surgery, if you have a family history of osteoporosis, either male or female, if your personal history includes smoking, excessive intake of alcohol, consuming inadequate amounts of calcium, or getting little or no weight-bearing exercise, you need to contact your doctor to see if he feels a bone density test would be advisable for you.

DO NOT LET OSTEOPOROSIS ROB YOU OF YOUR INDEPENDENCE. GET SMART - GET TESTED!!!

Testing done by Doctor's orders only.

Over 46 million Americans have stopped smoking... because there's proof that smoking causes disease, disability and death.

If You Quit your lungs will quickly begin to repair the damage caused by smoking. After 10 years of not smoking, your risk of lung cancer is reduced by 1/3 and your risk of death is cut by about half. The benefits may be more or less, depending on how heavily you smoked and for how many years. Your risk of lung cancer is reduced 80% to 90% after being smoke free 15 years.

Smokers Die Younger. compared to nonsmokers, people who smoke less than 1/2 pack a day have a death rate 30% higher, 1-2 packs a day, 100% higher, two or more packs a day, 140% higher.. Smoking causes more than 400,000 deaths a year due to cancers (lung, mouth, throat, bladder), heart disease and stroke.

Looking At Lung Cancer. If you begin smoking between ages 15 and 24, you are 10 to 14 times more likely to die of lung cancer, but if you begin smoking before age 15, you are 19 times more likely to die of lung cancer than a nonsmoker.

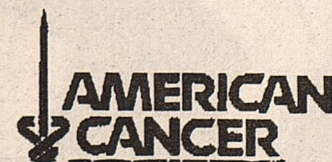
What Else Can Go Wrong If You Smoke? Injury to your lungs from cigarette smoke can lead to difficulty in breathing, chronic bronchitis (cough), emphysema, and an increased risk of dying because your lungs are so damaged. Smokers are 10 times more likely than nonsmokers to NOT feel healthy or fit.

Women Are Hurt By Smoking. Lung cancer now causes more deaths for women than any other cancer. The death rate for women has gone up 452% in the 30 years since women started smoking as much as men. If you are pregnant or planning to start a family, you should not smoke at all. If you smoke, you increase the chances your baby could weigh less than five pounds, be more likely to die in the first month, or even still-born.

What About Smoke Around You? If you're around smokers in your family, your chance of getting lung cancer is 30% higher than in a family of nonsmokers. Children of smokers are more likely to be sick with frequent coughs and colds, and their lungs won't get to be as strong as children of nonsmokers.

Join more than 46 million Americans who have QUIT!

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Lifelines & Styles

Politics, Patriotism themes of Tsa Mo Ga meetings

Tsa Mo Ga club members and guests enjoyed political and patriotic theme programs at recent meetings. In a spoof of the ongoing presidential election, City Administrator David Brunson, AKA 'Al Gore', and Deputy Larry Murphree, AKA 'George W. Bush', hammed it up in a mock presidential debate. Mr. Gore was asked if he would ever consider doing something dumb and stupid, and he replied, "It wouldn't be the first time I've done something dumb or stupid, and probably not the last." Their performances kept the audience laughing, and the club thanks both for being such good sports.

In a more serious matter, State Representative Gary Walker delivered a message on the state re-districting issue which will face legislators when the State Legislature convenes in January.

The club next enjoyed a meeting with the theme, "Concepts of American Patriotism." Lesli Rowe sang the National Anthem and "Texas, Our Texas." Nicole Haynes, 2000 Representative to Girls State and sponsored by Tsa Mo Ga and the American Legion Auxiliary, reported on her experiences at last summers Girls State convention.

Elizabeth Clanahan, 2000 Hoby Leadership Representative also sponsored by Tsa Mo Ga, reported on her experiences in the Hoby Panhandle Leadership meeting. Rennetta O'Quinn, PHS instructor and program director, encouraged students interest in the Hoby program, and continued support by Tsa Mo Ga. Miss Clanahan also described her essay winning youth tour of Washington D.C. this summer, sponsored by Lea County Electric.

Card of Thanks

To all our friends, neighbors, and family, we wish to express our heartfelt thanks for your compassion, prayers, cards, calls, flowers and many other kind deeds during the loss of our loved one.

The spirit of community and fellowship has lifted our hearts and installed in us a sense of peace.

We are deeply grateful to all of you.

May God bless you.

Melba and Johnnie Fitzgerald

Emily Blair Nabs 2nd at NATS



The campus of Southern Methodist University was the site for NATS auditions November 11, 2000. Emily Blair, a senior at Plains High School placed 2nd from a field of 40 high school singers in the Young Women's Division.

Emily is the daughter of Royce and Cynthia Blair and studies voice with Ruby Moultrie of South Plains College in Levelland. Ms. Moultrie, a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, sponsored Emily in the event.

Library Storytime

At Storytime on Wednesday, November 15th at the Yoakum County Library, we talked about what we were thankful for and about the first Thanksgiving. We said the pledges to the United States and Texas flags, sang the 'ABC Song' and 'Five Little Monkeys Jumping On The Bed', read two books, 'The First Thanksgiving' and 'Black and White', and watched two films, 'The Snowy Day' and 'Please Take Care Of This Bear'. Our special reader, Kimberly Gass, read 'Todderobics' to the children. The children attending were: Arista Davis, Micah St. Romain, Clayton Gass, Claire Carpenter, Jentry Wall and Kay'D Lamar.

The 2000 Christmas Assistance Program will accept applications to the following times: November 18 - December 4th, 2:00 pm. - 5:00 pm. The applications will be accepted at the County Treasurer's Office at the Courthouse. Only one adult per household may register.

Applicants must have a driver's license or other identification and a receipt of payment from a gas or electric bill with correct address.

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Senior Citizens Corner

Well here it is the 3rd week of November. We had our Thanksgiving Dinner today. We had a large group of people. The newly elected Commissioner came. We got to meet him here in this end of the county. We wished Mr. Ty Earl Powell good luck in his service, also we wish Mrs. Betty Rivas the very best and Mr. Don Corzine. Helma just told me served 113 people today. There was a lot of visitors and younger people here also. The tables were decorated real nice, even the domino

tables were decorated and some had to sit at them to eat.

I want to say a great big THANK YOU to Mr. Gene Snider and Mr. Gary Dyer for putting the poem in last weeks paper, honoring the Veterans.

The pool tournament went well. The winners are: Men 8 ball, 1st place Joe T., 2nd Pete, Men 9 ball 1st Santos, 2nd Sparky. Womens 8 ball 1st Ireta, 2nd Eileen, 9 ball 1st Rae, 2nd Eileen.

That's all till next week.
Wanda B.

We Get Letters

Dear Editor,

During this time of uncertainty in our presidential election, the nation is seeing a significant lack of cooperation and bickering from the political parties involved. As important and politically divisive as this can become, I would like the citizens of Yoakum County to be aware of the tremendous cooperation, by both parties, in our county (this includes: election judges, election workers, ballot board, party chairs and everyone else involved in the election process). This made for one of the most efficient elections I have ever had the privilege to be involved with.

As head of the counties elections, I am truly impressed with the citizen's knowledge and unwavering responsibility to cast their votes, even under difficult weather conditions on Election Day. The county's voter turnout approached 59%, which far exceeded the national figures.

A special thank you should be extended to all four County Commissioners and their employees and the County Judge and also, the maintenance/grounds keeper at the courthouse, their combined efforts kept the areas around the polling places clear of ice and snow throughout the day. The spirit of bi-partisanship and caring is definitely evident in our great county. HATS OFF TO ALL OF YOU !!

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Rushing
Yoakum County Clerk

P.S. To answer everyone's question, Yes, I am glad I represent Yoakum County, Texas, not Yoakum County, Florida.

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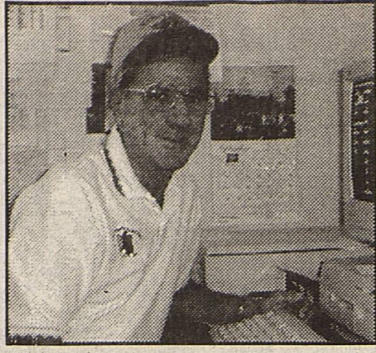
Sunday School 9:45 am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 6:15 pm
Wednesday Evening Study 6:30 pm
Tuesday Afternoon Study 5:15 pm

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Plains, Texas

Sunday School 9:30 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

From The Hatch



Noon last Tuesday, I happened to be watching CNN's news show, and witnessed what I thought was hilarious, and offered more proof the State of Florida should be permanently annexed by the U.S. and absorbed by its surrounding states. A Florida election official referred to the supposedly flawed election ballots as having "all sorts of chad problems." He explained 'chad' is the remnants left on the ballot after a supposed misplaced voters hole punch. They sat up a camera somewhere in New York City, and queried passers-by, "Do you know what chad is?" The first few people shown said they didn't have a clue. Then a black man responded, "Sure, a chad is a fish." When the reporter corrected him and said a SHAD is a fish, the guy said, "Well, I knew it was close to one of those."

A young lady answered the same question, "I'm not sure, but I think it's some sort of fraud."

Another, asked if he knew what a 'hanging chad' was, answered correctly, "a piece of the punch hole hanging by one corner, still on the voting card." "What is a swinging chad," was a question, and the first

man asked said, "I don't know unless it's a chad who really likes to party." The next lady to respond answered, "It's probably one of those teeny bits on the back of the ballot those hand counters try to either blow off, or glue back on, depending on the vote counter."

A young lady came by, was asked, "Do you know what a pregnant chad is?" She paused and said, "I guess a guy named Chad born with a uterus."

The next young lady queried answered, "I guess a couple of chad stuck together."

Only the last two women asked the question even came close - their answer; "A swollen, badly distended chad."

Pretty good summary of the Florida BS.

.....

Further support of my long held belief, "If God intended for man to fly, he would have given him wings." A recent item on a radio news show got my attention: Someplace in Minnesota or Wisconsin, all those frigid states are the same to me, it was reported numerous species of waterfowl fell to the ground during a winter storm, in which conditions were perfect for 'Icing' on their wings. The fowl included ducks, geese and loons. Every-

one knows loons are crazy enough to fly in such conditions, but ducks and geese? The report said the birds, mostly, managed to survive their crash landings, and after de-icing, were released to return south. This strengthens my convictions... If a warm blooded animal can freeze in flight, why do you think a jet liner will not ice-up when it's made of aluminum and steel? It's a no brainer.

Serious, dedicated thinkers might ponder, however, did God really mean for birds to fly in winter?

.....

Thanks to Paul New, fairly honest golf buddy, for some private thoughts sent to me last week. Also for the following bits of church bloopers:

* The pastor would appreciate all the ladies of the congregation lending him their electric girdles for the pancake supper.

* Remember in prayer all those who are sick of our church and community.

* The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Adams.

* Tuesday at 4 PM there will be an ice cream social, All ladies giving milk will please come early.

* A bean supper will be held

Tuesday in the church hall. Music will follow.

* The Association Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last week; 'I've upped my pledge - Now up yours.'

* The choir invites any member who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

* The service will close with 'Little Drops Of Water.' One of the ladies will start quietly and the rest of the congregation will join in.

* Next Sunday a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of new carpet. All those who wish to do something on the new carpet will come forward and do so.

* Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

.....

The Pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing "Break Forth Into Joy."

The next song will be "Angels We Have Heard Get High."

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Ushers will eat latecomers.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind, and they may be seen in the church basement on Friday.

Lest We Forget That Freedom Does Not Come Cheap!

The Plains Methodist Church recently recognized their Veterans for their contribution and courageous efforts in keeping the Peace in our country.

Bud Forbus-For being twice awarded the Purple Heart during World War II.

Johnnie L. Fitzgerald-For service with honor as a member of the Special Forces during World War II.

Bob Blundell-For being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for 55 missions over Korea.

Clarence Koncaba-For serving with Honor During the Korean Conflict.

Dan Sanders-For serving so gallantly as a U-2 Pilot during Operation Desert Storm.

Duane Canada-For serving with distinction during the Vietnam War.

WE OWE ALL VETERANS A DEBT OF GRATITUDE!!
by Billie Blundell
American Legion Auxiliary Member



THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

During this Thanksgiving season, we express our thanks to all the people who together make our rural electric cooperative a special kind of place --

- the consumer-owners to whom the cooperative belongs
- the trustees and board members who offer leadership and advice
- the employees whose daily presence and skills keep everything running smoothly
- the many friends, neighbors and business associates who offer support and concern

A happy Thanksgiving to all!

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NOTICE

The Department of Public Safety-Divers License in Denver City will be closed for Thanksgiving November 23rd and 24th. On November 27 the office will be open from 10:00 am. until 3:30 pm., and will then be closed November 28th through December 1st.

The Yoakum Soil and Water District

is now hiring a part-time secretary; 24.0 hours per week. Starting salary \$6.50 per hour. Responsibilities include Bookkeeping, Typing, Computer, Monthly Board Meeting Preparations, etc. Applications may be picked up at the Yoakum SWCD/NRCS office located at 1303 Cowboy Way (USDA Building).

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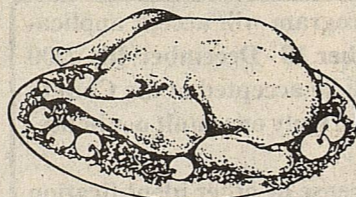
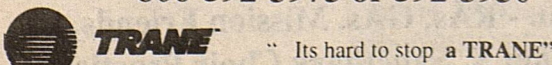
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