

Cowboy Country

News

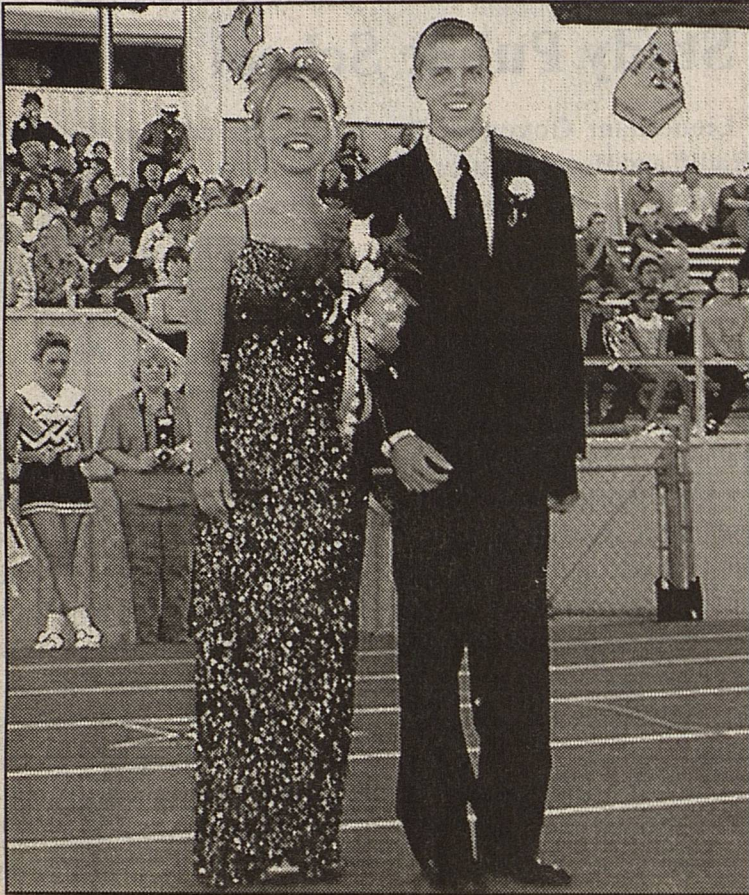
God Bless America!



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

Volume V111, Issue 5 October 3, 2001

PHS HOMECOMING 2001



Queen Candidate Allison Butler, escorted by Evan Cain



Queen Candidate Nancy Koncaba, escorted by Jarod Newland



Queen Candidate Carmen Mendoza, escorted by Nathan Hays

Farm Program Attacks Unjustified, Texas Farm Bureau Claims

A series of stories by the Associated Press recently has caused much commotion about who receives government farm program payments.

The United States had provided its farmers with various forms of assistance for more than 70 years. In some years farm program subsidies are large, totaling over \$20 billion. Assistance levels shrink in other years. In the first half of the 1990's direct payments to farmers averaged slightly over \$9 billion per year.

Farm program payments exist for a number of reasons. Historically, farm programs have been associated with low prices and depressed farm income.

Many question the need for subsidies and fail to realize the basic differences between farming and other businesses.

The first reason is that crop production is completely at the mercy of the weather. Droughts or floods may literally reduce the crops of some individual producers to zero. Yet, several consecutive years of unusually good growing weather can result in large surpluses and low prices.

In recent years there have been two other important factors influencing farm programs and government payments. First the level of subsidies from countries with which our farmers compete.

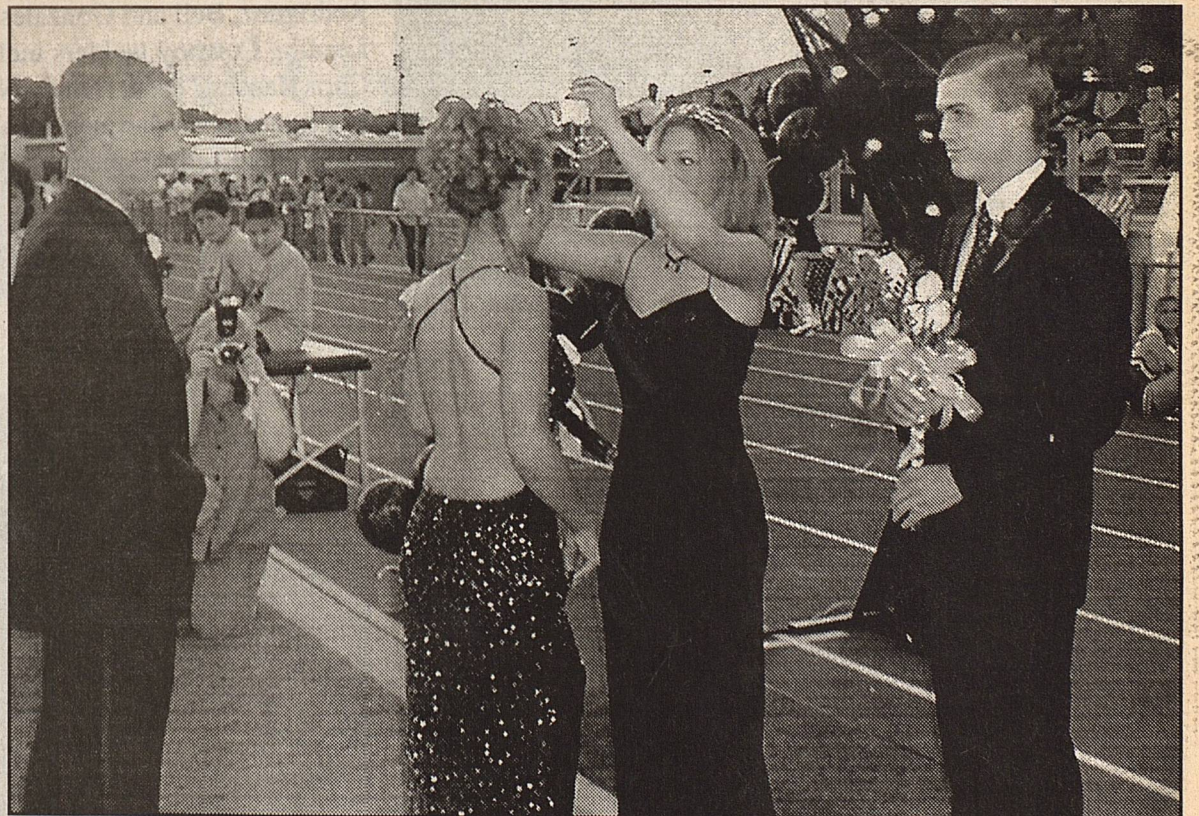
The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), made up of the largest developed countries in the world, has developed a methodology to define and standardize farm program payments, including direct and in-

direct financial support by governments. The measurements is called Producer Support Estimates (PSE).

One measure of PES is the amount of subsidy per acre. Based on data for the year 2000, Japan is the leader with PSE's averaging \$4,605 per acre. The European Union (EU) is second highest with an average PSE of \$308 per acre while the United States (U.S.) comes in at \$49 per acre. No other major countries come close to the level of farm subsidy expended by the EU and Japan. If the farm subsidy playing field is ever going to be leveled, it will have to start with international agreements that

Turn To Page Two, "Farm Bureau"

AND THE WINNERS IS.....



Nancy Koncaba, being crowned by 2000 Queen Lexi Warren, escorted by Aaron Cain. More photos inside.

Cowboys downed by Buffaloes 20-14



After gaining good yardage, Jared Bell's knee goes down out of bounds, but is about to take a pounding from a herd of Petersburg Buffaloes. See game write-up inside.

Court readies for Amendment Election

In Monday's session of Commissioners Court, County Clerk Debbie Rushing reviewed steps being taken preparing for voting on the November 6 State Constitutional Amendment Election. She reported a copy of plans for consolidation of polling places and early voting places is in the process of being furnished to the Department of Justice for their approval. Once the proposed changes are approved, notices of the voting sites would be furnished to both county newspapers.

Turn to Page Two, "Court"

Voters overwhelmingly OK PISD tax rollback

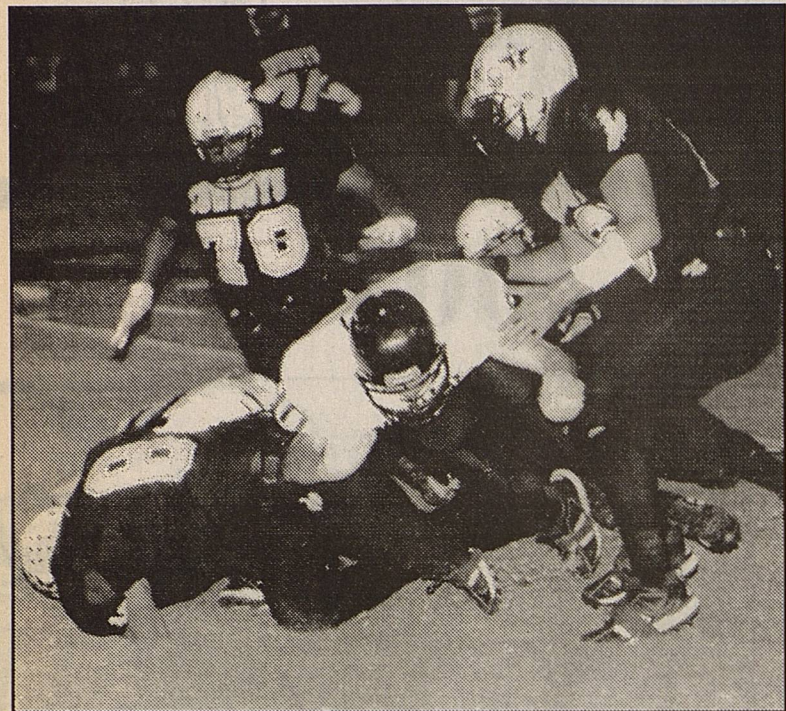
Shortly after the voting poll closed at Plains ISD's business office, election judge Dolores Davis announced the unofficial results of the school tax rollback election. 190 votes were cast FOR the proposed roll back, with only five votes against the roll back. The vote count will be officially tabulated by the school district's Board of Trustees this week.

PISD Superintendent Jim Haynes was elated with the election results, and the relatively large turnout for this type election. He told CCN, "I am very pleased with the results of the election. I felt sure the people of Plains would support a tax rate that would help maintain the excellent school system we currently have. It's unfortunate that any school district in the state should be required to spend local tax money (in the form of recapture) in a way that would not help the district's own students. Once again the people of Plains have proved how important they feel education is to their children, and I would like to personally thank the citizens of Plains for showing that support by approving the \$1.35 tax rate set by the board."

Superintendent Haynes, school board members and other concerned citizens supporting the \$1.35 per hundred valuation rate made great efforts to explain the rate, actually a lower rate than the previous one, would generate more tax money because of the increased valuations of Yoakum County assessed property, the bulk of which would come from petroleum resources, and not on an average tax payers property.



Moises Gonzales gets off good punt



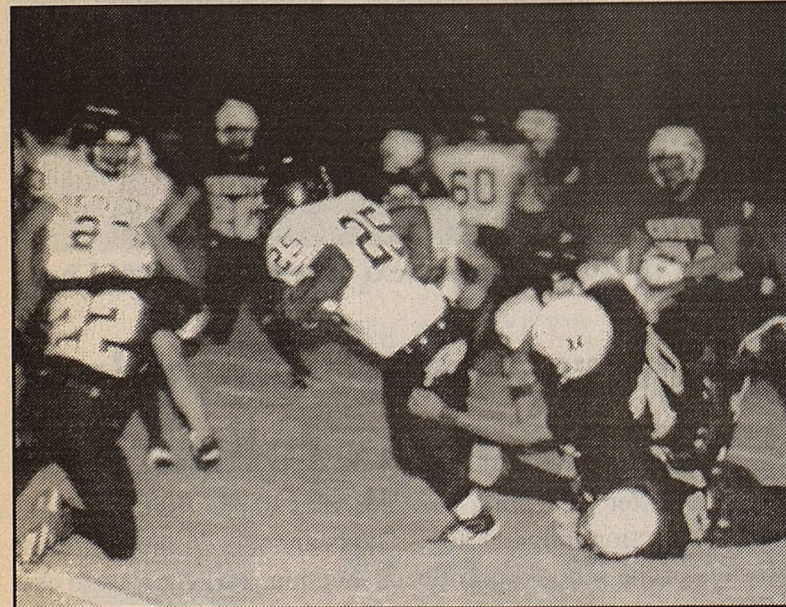
Joseph Rodriguez, 8, Mario Bonilla, 70, other Cowboys stop a Buff



Moises Gonzales goes 25 yards for Cowboys first score



Gonzales tries to turn the corner



A host of Cowboys swarm a Buffalo runner

Cowboys downed by Buffs 20-14 in last 3 minutes

In their second loss of the still young season, the Cowboys again got off to a fast start. Following the kickoff to Petersburg, they held the Buffaloes offense to three yards in three plays. Jared Bell received the Buff punt at the 48, and returned it to the 31 yardline. Three plays later, Moises Gonzales took a quick pitchout, turned the right corner and raced 25 yards for the touchdown, and Joseph Rodriguez's kick put the Cowboys up 7-0.

Neither team could move the ball the remainder of the first period. Early in the second quarter, the Buffs drove the ball, and a 9 yard burst put them on the board 7-6 when the PAT kick failed.

The Cowboys took the kickoff at their 32. Bell found Tanner Hamm open for a five yard pass completion, and the Cowboy line provided blocking for runs by Bell, Gonzales and Rodriguez which moved the ball to the Buff 28 yardline. A very well executed bit of razzle dazzle allowed Bell to pitch the ball to Kevin Bartley, who led wide open Gonzales for a 28 yard touchdown toss. Rodriguez's kick again put the Cowboys up 14-6.

Petersburg again mounted a

Unofficial Game Stats

Cowboys rushed for total of 167 yards. Bell gained 100, Gonzales 52, Rodriguez 15, Moises Gonzales caught two passes, Tanner Hamm and Richard Diaz one each. Jared Bell returned two kicks 37 yards, Moises had a return of 25 yards, Richard Diaz 6 yards. Gonzales punted three times for a 33 yard average, Gonzales kicked off three times for a 47.7 yard average. Rodriguez, Bell and Gonzales each recovered fumbles. Leading Cowboy tacklers included Kevin Bartley, 8, Bell and Chris Hanes 7 each, Hamm, Nick Hayes, Mario Bonilla 6 each, Rodriguez and Martinez 4 each, Justin Chambliss, Gonzales and Louis Escobar one each. Hayes and Bonilla each had two tackles for losses.

drive which moved them deep in Cowboy territory, but Rodriguez recovered a fumble to give the ball to the Cowboys at the 23.

Early in the third quarter, the Cowboys could not move the ball. Gonzales punted to the Buffs 35 yardline. On the first play from scrimmage, a Petersburg runner burst up the middle and went 65 yards for a TD, and a pass PAT produced a 14-14 tie.

The Cowboys took the kickoff at, and the offensive line began opening big holes for Bell and Rodriguez to rush the ball downfield for three first downs, but a costly fumble stopped the drive at the Buff 24 to end the third period. Petersburg faced fourth down and eight, and a big defensive play by Mario Bonilla and Nick Hays gave the Cowboys the ball after a 16 yard loss.

A Cowboy pass from Kevin Bartley went astray, and the Buffs took over at their two yardline. 15 plays and 98 yards later, they crossed the goalline, and their kick gave them the win with 3 minutes 17 seconds on the clock.

The Cowboys journey to Wink Friday for their final non-district game.

Student of the Week



PHS Student of the Week is Jill Gray, a Junior and the daughter of Jim and Cindy Gray. She was nominated by Michele Jones, who said, "Jill is very dedicated to Plains High. Her friendly, up-beat spirit is displayed in the many activities in which she is involved. Aside from the many organizations she is involved in, she maintains a very high average and strives to be the top in her class.

She is willing to assist her peers and teachers whenever a job arises, even if it requires a cheer of encouragement. Her hard work will make her a successful adult, regardless of her endeavors."

Beat Wink!

PISD Sports Recap

Volleyball:

8th Lady Wranglers- The 8th girls won convincingly against Denver City on September 21, 15-11, 15-9. Their next game will be here on October 8 against Tahoka.

Varsity Cowgirls- On September 25, the Cowgirls fell to Brownfield 7-15, 15-11, 81-5. They were also downed by Lamesa 4-15, 6-15. On September 29, they lost to Wink 2-15, 4-15. Despite the losses, Coach Lusk said the Brownfield and Lamesa matches were the best the girls have played all year, and cited Chelsea Blount, Annaliesa O'Quinn and Manuela Villegas for standout performances. Their season record stands at 7-17.

Football:

8th Wranglers; Last Thursday the 8th graders defeated Petersburg 20-6. Late in the first half, following a great goal line stand, they moved the ball 99 yards to score on a pass from Michael Therwhanger to Ramiro Martinez. In the second half, Todd Williams ran for a touchdown, then provided two more points with a conversion run. Michael Crump ran the ball for another TD to make the final 20-6 score. Individual performances included pass receptions by Therwhanger, Martinez and Blake O'Quinn, and fumble recoveries by Ben Hayes and Todd Williams. Coach Brink cited the blocking of Reagan Haynes, T.J. Cordova, Adam McCravey, Ben Hayes, Blake Parrish and Blake O'Quinn in the win. Their record is 2-1, and the face Wink here Thursday evening.

Legislative Leadership Appoints Committee to Study Public School Finance

Lieutenant Governor Bill Ratliff and House Speaker Pete Laney on Wednesday announced they have appointed a joint select committee to study the public school finance system in Texas.

"Once again, the time has come to examine the way Texas pays for public education and look at alternative methods that will meet constitutional muster," Ratliff said. "The dynamics of state funding and local property taxes are changing. We must ask ourselves if there is a better way to pay for our schools."

Ratliff and Laney said they have charged the Joint Select Committee on Public School Finance with conducting a comprehensive review of the structure of the Texas public school finance system, including facilities and transportation issues; the method used to fund public schools; and the criteria used to determine state payments to school districts.

"Texas has been well served by the school finance system in place since 1993, but economic and social changes over the last few years require us to take a new look at how we fund our schools," Laney said.

Ratliff has appointed Sen. Teel Bivins of Amarillo, Sen. Steve Ogden of College Station, Sen. Florence Shapiro of Plano, Sen. Eliot Shapleigh of El Paso, Sen. Leticia Van de Putte of San Antonio, and Sen. Royce West of Dallas to the committee. House members appointed by

Laney include Rep. Paul Sadler of Henderson, Rep. Harold Dutton of Houston, Rep. Kent Grusendorf of Arlington, Rep. Scott Hochberg of Houston, Rep. Rene Oliveira of Brownsville, and Rep. Todd Smith of Bedford.

Public members appointed by Ratliff and Laney include Kent Caperton, former state senator and shareholder in the Austin law firm of Winstead, Sechrest and Minick, P.C.; Will Davis, former member of the State Board of Education; Craig Foster, co founder, special adviser and former executive director of the Equity Center; Lyndon Olson, former chairman of the State Board of Insurance and former U.S. ambassador to Sweden; Mark Stiles, senior vice president of Trinity Industries of Dallas and former member of the Texas House of Representatives; and David Thompson, partner with the Houston law firm of Bracewell and Patterson, L.L.P. specializing in school law.

Sen. Bivins and Rep. Sadler will serve as co-chairs of the committee.

The legislative leaders also have instructed the select committee to carefully consider all of the equity issues that govern public school finance and fully examine all of the revenue resources for funding public schools, including the state's property tax system.



A large crowd of boosters attended the Homecoming bonfire last Wednesday

* 4-H NUT SALE *

Yoakum County 4-H members are beginning their annual Nut Sale fund raiser. Orders will be taken from Sept. 29 through Oct. 19 and products should be delivered in time for Thanksgiving. Items available will be similar to last year; pecans, peanuts, flavored peanuts, walnuts, nut and fruit mixes. If you are missed, please call any 4-H member, or the County Extension office at 456-2263

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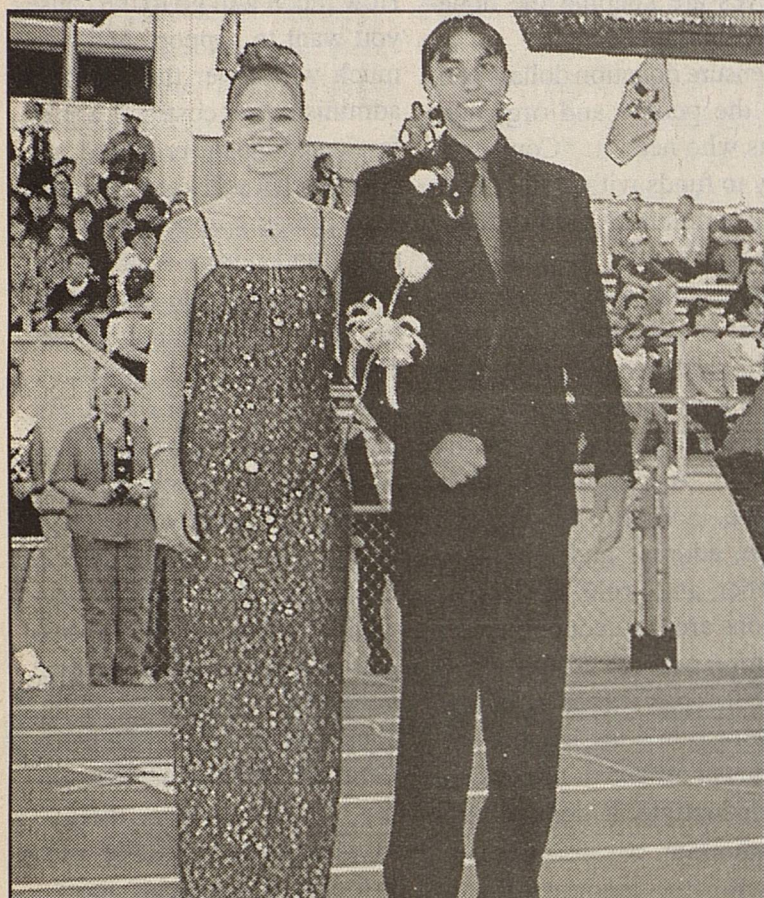
More Homecoming Scenes



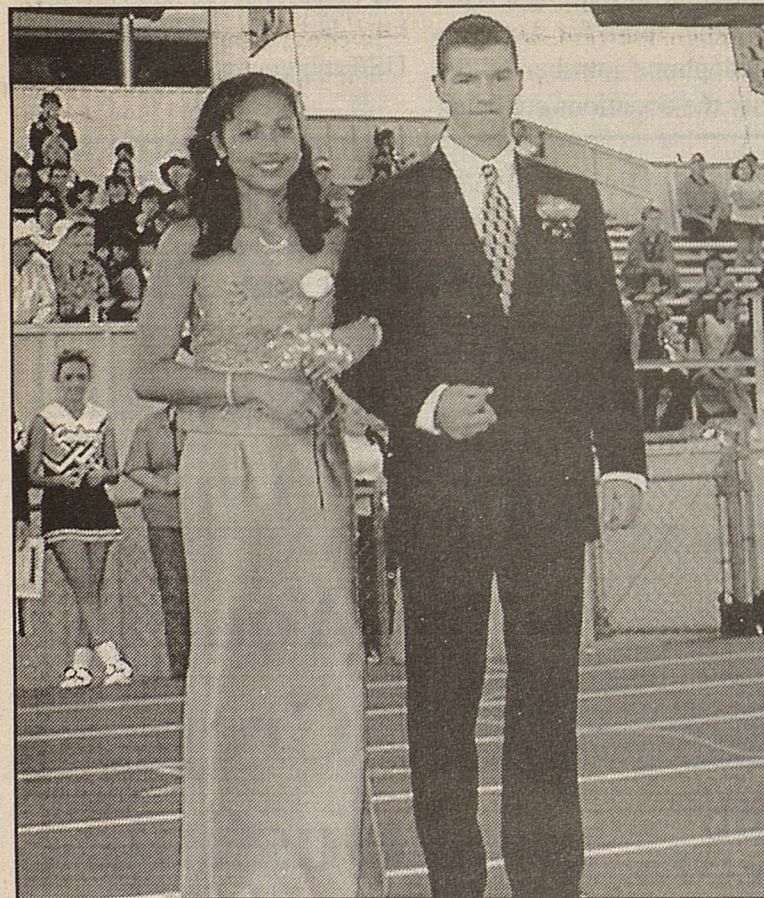
2000 Queen Lexi Warren, escort Aaron Cain



Freshman Duchess Sandra Gandara, escort Kerri Sisson



Junior Duchess Mackenzie Winn, escort Zack Broome



Soph Duchess Manuela Villegas, escort Grady McNabb

Texans for better medicare gets new Internet site

AUSTIN - After opening its doors here in Texas just a short time ago, Texans for Better Medicare is now opening its doors on the World Wide Web. Located at www.bettermedicare.org/tx individuals can learn more about Medicare reform and contact the group without ever leaving their computer.

"Convenience and access are the key to ensuring people will take the initiative to learn more about and become active in the Medicare debate," said Dr. Walter D. Wilkerson, Jr., a retired family physician from Conroe and former chairman of the Texas Department of Health who serves on the Texans for Better Medicare steering committee. "In the era of online shopping - from groceries to cars - an organization doesn't just open its doors to the general public they must also open them to the online community."

Texans for Better Medicare continues to honor its pledge to promote a strengthened and improved Medicare system for all beneficiaries through reaching out to the online community and offering resources not otherwise easily accessible. Such resources include Medicare updates, health care news articles from around Texas and around the country, answers to frequently asked questions, ways to contact the group and get involved as well as ways to contact Congress and more.

"We hope to reach out to as many individuals as possible. We understand that Medicare can be a very complex and confusing subject, but we hope to offer information in terms people can grasp," Wilkerson said. "In addition we hope to see the number of supporters increase as the online community visits our cyber headquarters."

Currently Texans for Better Medicare is over 16,000 supporters strong ranging from senior citizens to business leaders and patients, all who have an interest in the nation's health care plan for the elderly and disabled.

Texans for Better Medicare believes that in order to deliver high quality health care to Medicare beneficiaries, an optional prescription drug benefit, which meets the needs of seniors and disabled Americans should be part of an overall reform plan. Such a plan should strengthen and improve the Medicare program to meet the needs of beneficiaries today and tomorrow, ensure special assistance for low-income seniors, protect the choices seniors have today from being displaced by a one-size-fits-all government-managed program, keep medical decisions between doctors and their patients and guarantee reform that does not threaten research for tomorrow's cures.

The group is a state affiliate of Citizens for Better Medicare, a broad-based, bipartisan group representing the interests of patients, seniors, disabled, pharmaceutical research companies, doctors, caregivers, employers, health care experts and many others concerned with the health of Americans in our Medicare system.

Water woes in the Rio Grande Valley

This summer, for the first time in recorded history, the Rio Grande River stopped flowing 500 feet before it reaches the Gulf of Mexico. "Is it bad? Yes," says Ken Jones, executive director of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council. Jones says the U.S. portion of the regions two reservoirs, Amistad and Falcon, are at about 38 percent of capacity. Predictions are that sedimentation in the reservoirs will decrease storage capacity another 10 percent over the next fifty years.

An eight year drought is the big problem. Lack of rain has exacerbated the effects of a population boom, an overabundance of hydrilla plants in the river, and an unpaid water debt by Mexico. Long term solutions being studied by the planning group include plant eating grass carp, advanced conservation use and possibly a new reservoir.

Recommendations assume Mexico will make good on a water debt it owes the U.S. Under a 1944 agreement, Mexico is supposed to release at least 350,000 acre feet, or 114 billion gallons of water into the Rio Grande every five years from dammed tributaries on its side of the border. In 1992, when drought began to spread across the region, and factories started to blossom along the river thanks to NAFTA, Mexico stopped releasing water into the river.

In May 2000 Mexico paid about 10 percent of the debts, and in March 2001, the White House announced Mexico would deliver 200 billion gallons of water by the end of 2001. A study by Texas A&M and TWDB estimates insufficient water deliveries by Mexico cost the region \$400 million annually.

Future Firefighters ?



Brothers Brennen, 4, twins Bryson and Blake Dominguez, 3, were all eyes while perched on one of the Volunteer Firefighter trucks last Wednesday, waiting for the huge Homecoming Bonfire to be lit.

PHS Class of 1961 Reunion



A number of the graduating class of 1961 held their reunion during last Friday's Homecoming celebration. Show having dinner at Johnnie's Restaurant are, at end of table and clockwise, guest Sandra Stephens, Guest Vaughn Culwell, Carolyn Culwell, Linda Huddleston, Nita Williams, Darrell Barron, Vernon Ethridge, and Butch Sims.

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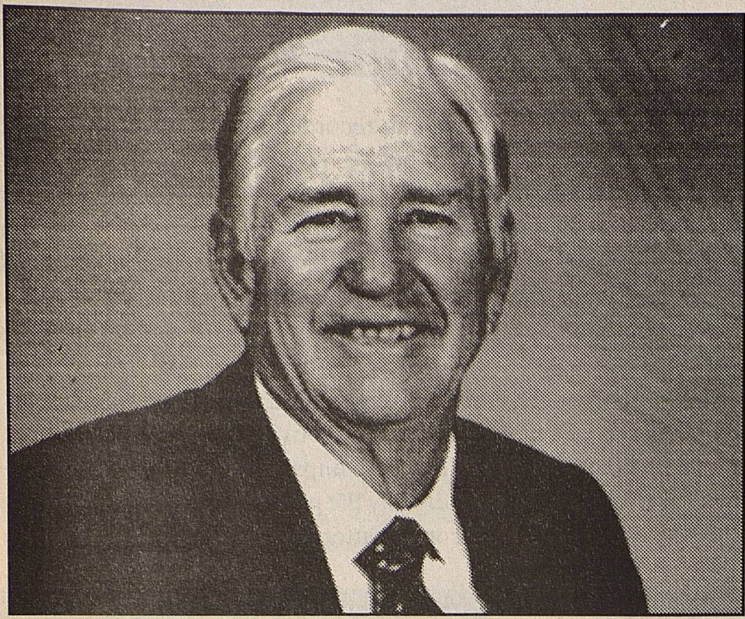
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Plains Mayor elected Pres. of S.P.A.G



On August 14, The South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG) Board of Directors elected officers for the fiscal year starting October 1. Mayor T. J. Miller, a member of the SPAG Board for ten years, was elected President. Miller served as a Plains City Council Member from 1964 to 1974. He was then out of office until 1980, when he returned to the council as Mayor. SPAG is a voluntary association created by the local governments within State Planning Region 2. It is an independent subdivision of the state, one of 24 such organizations in Texas. The associations general assembly meeting was held re-

cently in Lubbock, and adopted a financial plan for fiscal year 2002 calling for expenditures of \$4.2 million to support six major programs of service to local governments, which include service to senior citizens, economic development, law enforcement training, administrative planning services, regional 911 emergency communication systems, and a dispute resolution center. These budget figures do not include some \$18 million for mortgages and down payment help to first time home buyers, or an expected \$5 million in loans to expand local businesses in the region.

From Page One, Farm Bureau "

limit subsidies in Japan and the EU.

In the category of aggregate spending, the EU has the highest PSE's with just over \$90 billion, Japan is second with \$60 billion and the U.S. is third with \$49 billion. There is one measure where the U.S. comes in first, and that is the amount of PSE per farm.

This is only because farms are, on average, far larger in the United States than in other countries.

There is no way an individual farmer can compete with the treasuries of foreign governments. This has become more of an issue over the last 30 years, as the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the EU was developed and increasingly subsidized. Other governments also provide subsidies and/or trade barriers to enhance farm income and protect the commodities they produce from world competition.

U.S. farmers would certainly prefer to get their income from the marketplace as opposed to the government. However, our farmers must survive in a world of high foreign subsidies, costly government regulations and

adverse growing conditions. U.S. consumers have the most healthful, nutritious and reasonably priced food supplies in the history of the world. Farm programs deserve some of the credit for this. These programs are designed to encourage the production of food. Though often taken for granted, this is a vital component of our national security.

In an annual federal budget of more than \$2 trillion, farmers hope that roughly \$20 billion per year on the "high side" and much less at other times, could be recognized for the bargain it is.

If U.S. farmers cannot compete then our food will be grown somewhere else. Is America ready for that? Perhaps the time has come to view federal farm programs for what they really are, national food security programs.

From Page One, "Court "

A high bid for the purchase of a Precinct 3 1991 Chevrolet pickup from Rufus Brian in the amount of \$1250 was accepted.

Rick Dickson, Llano Estacado Drug Task Force, requested the court to approve accepting \$36,900 in surplus funds from the state. Not surprisingly, the approval was unanimous. The court also approved advertising for a new SUV for the Task Force. The state had already approved up to \$29,000 for the purchase of the SUV.

Approval was granted McClure Oil Company to lay and operate an eight inch line under and across county roads.

Avoid Fraud In Times Of Turmoil

With the destruction of the World Trade Center in New York City and the attempted destruction of the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., on September 11, the world changed.

A lesson to learn from these recent events is to never let our guard down, in more ways than one. Although Americans as a whole are pulling together to recover and rebuild from this tragedy, con artists don't let an opportunity to make a quick buck pass them by. Knowing most Americans want to help in any way possible, schemers are using telephone, e-mail and personal contacts to solicit contributions to support victims of these events. Instead of helping the victims of this tragedy, these thieves are keeping the donations for themselves.

To ensure donation dollars benefit the people and organizations who need it: *Contribute only to funds with well-known local community links or funds listed in locally or nationally recognized news sources. Never send money or give credit card numbers to a charity which contacts you by telephone unless you personally know it. *Ask for written information, including the charity's name, address and telephone number, and proof that contributions are tax deductible. Tax exempt organizations don't have to pay taxes, but the organization's tax exempt status doesn't mean donations are tax deductible. If deductibility is important, ask for a receipt showing the amount of your contribution and stating it is tax deductible. *Ask for the name and telephone number of the charity the donations are being

solicited for. If the caller refuses, hang up. Call the charity which was named. Find out if the organization is aware of the solicitation and if they have authorized the use of their name. *Watch out for similar sounding names. Some phony charities use names that closely resemble those of respected, legitimate organizations, such as a police or fire department organization. *Be skeptical if someone thanks you for a pledge you don't remember making, or if you receive an invoice claiming you've made a pledge when you know you haven't. Some unscrupulous solicitors use this approach to get your money. *Ask how your donation will be distributed. How much will go to the cause you want to support, and how much will cover the charity's administrative costs? If a professional fund raiser is used, ask how much it will keep. *Refuse high pressure appeals. Legitimate fund raisers won't push. Be wary of offers to send a courier to collect donations immediately. Avoid cash donations which can be lost or stolen. For security and tax record purposes, pay by check. Use the official full name of the charity, not initials, on your check. *Help find and expose fraudulent fund raisers. If you are suspicious, call the sheriff's office and use the Web page of the Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the State Attorney General <http://www.oag.state.tx.us>. For a list of legitimate agencies accepting donations, visit the Web site <http://dailynews.yahoo.com/fc/US/EmergencyInformation/>.

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Lifelines & Styles

TSA MO GA Club Begins Club Year

Tsa Mo Ga Club began their club year with a "Tex-Mex" Supper for members, husbands and guest, September 24. Wilma Powell, Mary Jo and Elouise St. Romain were hostess for the Texas Heritage Program and Supper. "A Big Texas Welcome" was given by Wilma Powell; Ann McGinty gave the Blessing, and twenty five members and guest enjoyed Beef Fajitas, Beans, Spanish Rice and Fresh Peach Cobbler.

Mary Jo served as program coordinator, and announced the Tsa Mo Ga Club theme for this year will be "Time". A time for reflection, resolutions, and renewal to bask in the glow of accomplishment and remembering a volunteer clubwoman can make a difference in the lives of others. Celebrating our 66th year of service, we of Tsa Mo Ga offer thanks and appreciation to our husbands, children, and friends, for their sup-

port of federation. Tsa Mo Ga's yearbook is dedicated in honor of The Texas Federation of Women's Club President, Mrs. Mary Beth Guy of Kerbyville, Texas.

The "Texas Heritage Program" by Bonnie Earnest entertained the group, reviewing the History of Governor Marian A. Ferguson, First Woman Governor of Texas, "Ma's In The Kitchen; You'll Know When It's Done!" by C.R. McQueary and Mary Nelson Paulissen. The book will be donated to the TFWC Women's Library Headquarters, Austin, Texas.

Mary Jo announced October 8th would be a Women's Health Program, to be presented by Jo Lena Wall, PA-C, Yoakum County Plains Clinic, entitled, "Healthy Lifestyle."

An enjoyable evening was closed with Shannon Dusek leading the Club Collect.

This little boy and his family need your help!



Jo Bray Reed

Jo Bray Reed, two and one half years old, is a tiny young patient of Cook Children Hospital in Fort Worth, suffering from a serious, life threatening kidney disease. The youngster must have a kidney transplant, but has had to undergo surgical procedures and has had problems with infections delaying the transplant operation.

Jo Bray is the son of Scott and Misty (Willett) Reed. Misty is a 1995 graduate of PHS. Grandparents of the little boy are Jerry and the late Paula Willett, and Pam Reed of Lubbock.

The parents are currently having to stay in the hospital with Jo Bray, and when he is well enough will move across the street from the hospital to a Ronald McDonald facility.

The youngster is now undergoing dialysis and receiving blood transfusions. His father Scott will be the kidney donor when Jo Bray's condition allows the operation.

In the meantime, the family is facing a tremendous financial strain with medical bills while having to stay at the hospital with their son. A special account has been opened at Plains State Bank to receive donations from individuals, businesses or civic organizations.

Jo Bray and his parents truly need our help.

Eve Flores Recognized For Child Advocacy Skills

Eve Flores has been affiliated with Harmony Home Children's Advocacy Center for the past eight years, providing quality forensic interviews for child victims and witnesses on behalf of law enforcement and child protective services throughout her tenure.

According to staff and members of the center's multidisciplinary team, Eve's passion for child victims of abuse provides a strong foundation for her highly professional interview style and approach. In addition, she exhibits a unique ability to facilitate a collaborative environment in which the team can collectively address the needs of these children.

Eve has also been active in sharing her professional expertise with other professionals, routinely providing training for other communities throughout west Texas and New Mexico. Enhancing community aware-

ness regarding the effects of child physical and sexual abuse has also been a top priority for Eve.

It is, however, the experience children have when they come to Harmony Home that matters most to Eve. Her ability to protect the integrity of criminal and civil investigations through a highly professional approach to the forensic interview process, while ensuring a comforting and protective environment for the children, has earned her a reputation with her team and colleagues at Harmony Home as a compassionate professional.

At a recent Crimes Against Children Conference in Dallas, Eve Flores received the Staff Member Excellence Award for her work in the Harmony Home Children's Advocacy Center in Odessa. Eve is a graduate of Plains High School, and the daughter of Martin and Mary Helen Flores of Plains.

Senior Citizens Corner

Can you imagine it being the end of September. Soon it will be getting cold and all the Holiday's will be here, ready or not. This Monday the 1st of October is our birthday and anniversary celebration at the Center at 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday was '42' tournament and our winners were Ruby Kennedy and Faye Black, we had a good crowd for this tournament. I would also like to let you all know that we have a 'Memorial Fund' at the Center for donations to help the Center financially. It may not be much but every little cent counts. This works by anyone making a Memorial Donation in memory of our clients, of family members of our clients or anyone that you would like to make a donation to our Center in their memory. We have also put a large Memorial

Board in our dining area with the names of clients daily, daily participants or home delivery clients who have passed away, way back when our Center started. Please feel free to come by and see our board, it is really nice.

Also there is a suggested \$2.00 donation for anyone 60 or over who join us for a meal. Anyone under 60 are asked to pay \$4.00 for their meal. If your spouse is 60 years of age or more you can get your meal for the donation price of \$2.00, but your spouse has to be with you at the time of service.

Our condolences and prayers to the Munsch family, Mark Clark and Mola Moorehead on the loss of Holly, and to Thelma Boone on the loss of her sister. God Bless you All.

Till next week,
Wanda B.

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Storytime At The Library

The weekly Storytime was held at the Yoakum County Library on Wednesday, September 26 at 10:00 a.m. Following the pledges to the United States and Texas flags everyone exercised to Todlerobics. We sang 'Old Macdonald Had a Farm,' 'ABC Song,' 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star,' and 'The Wheels on the Bus.' Special visitor for the day was Danny Steffens who maintains the courthouse grounds. The group enjoyed a short tour around the

courthouses. Danny showed some of the equipment he uses. He explained the various things he does every day and every week. The highlight for Madison Davis, Amanda Dusek, Mesa Davis, Peyton McWhirter and Jentry Wall was watching Danny feed the squirrels. They enjoyed observing the cautious squirrel come down for pecans and hurry back up the tree to eat them. We thanked Danny for his time and for the job he does.

Primary Pulmonary Hypertension (PPH) or Heart Valve Damage?

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Morning Worship - 10:45 am
Youth Fellowship/Study - 4:30 pm
Choir Rehearsal - 6:45 pm

Wednesday Connections
Food, Fellowship & Bible Study
5:30-7:30 pm

Other Opportunities
Fitness/Exercise Class - 5:30-6:30 pm
Tuesdays & Thursdays

God loves you and so do we!
Come grow in Christ with us!

From The Hack

"One"

As the soot and ash rained down, WE became one color.
As we carried each other down the stairs of the burning buildings, WE became one class.
As we lit candles of waiting and hope, WE became one generation.
As firefighters and police fought their way, WE became one generation.
As we fell to our knees in prayer for strength, WE became one faith.
As we whispered or shouted words of encouragement, WE spoke one language.
As we gave our blood in lines a mile long, WE became one body.
As we mourned together the great loss, WE became one family.
As we cried tears of grief and loss, WE became one soul.
As we retell with pride of the sacrifice of heroes, WE became one people.
WE are the power of one. One Nation. Under God. Indivisible. WE are America.

I have no clue who wrote the above Internet piece, but I salute them. I also salute Lance Morrow, for his brilliant editorial on the last page of Time Magazine's special September 11 edition. He titled it "Rage & Retribution" He penned, "A day cannot live in infamy without the nourishment of rage. Let's have rage. What's needed is a unified, unifying, Pearl Harbor sort of purple American fury - a ruthless indignation that doesn't leak away in a week or two, wandering off into Prozac-induced forgetfulness or into the next media sensation (O.J..... Elian..... Chandra...)"
I, like Mr. Morrow, hope and pray our "humane nation with a short attention span" doesn't easily forget our second day of infamy.
I hope and pray our national media will not let us forget that Black Tuesday September 11, but more importantly, I hope they do not convert the tragedy into a political brouha, Democrats versus Republicans, liberal versus conservative type battles our country has endured and been sickened by in the last many years.
We must face reality - we are opposed by Islamic fanatics numbering in the millions who are dedicated enough to DIE to further their beliefs.
That sort of begs the question - are you good Baptists, Catholics, Methodists, Church of

Christ, Assembly of God members willing to kill yourselves to further your religious beliefs?
Of course not, There are far more effective methods.
I agree, Pearl Harbor was different - it thrust the entire nation into war in an instant, but we KNEW who our well defined enemies were. A fervor of lasting patriotism swept our country over night, and lasted from that date until VJ Day, August 14, 1945.
I pray our resolve can last so long - this conflict could last much longer.


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Help Wanted - Administrative Assistant
Sandy Land UWCD is hiring for the position of "Administrative Assistant." Applicants must possess strong banking and/or accounting skills. Resumes will be taken through October 3, 2001. Salary depending on qualifications and skills. Resumes may be mailed to P.O. Box 130, Plains, Texas 79355 or hand delivered to 1012 Avenue F, Plains.

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Plains Independent School District will accept proposals for the purchase and installation of a new hardwood floor for the Middle School Gym. The proposal should include the removal of the old floor down to the sub-floor, repairs to the sub-floor, and installation of the new floor with a floor anchoring system for volleyabl standards and ventilated vinyl/rubber baseboards. Proposals will be accepted until 2:00 PM October 17, 2001 in the Administration Office. Information can be obtained by contacting Eric Banfield, Business Manager, Plains ISD, Box 479, Plains, TX 79355 or calling 806-456-7483.

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We Get Letters

Dear Editor:
Have you ever stopped to wonder why we know exactly what country our T-shirts are from, but we have absolutely no idea what country our T-bones are from? We, as consumers, deserve to know the country of origin of the food we feed our families.
While we buy clothes, cars, toys and many other manufactured goods that bear a country of origin labels there is no requirement for the food we feed to our families. There are several opportunities currently available for food consumers and producers to let our national lawmakers know that we want more honest and complete food labeling.
The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is accepting public comments until October 9 concerning a new proposed ruling to define U.S. cattle and fresh beef products using terms such as "U.S. Beef," and "Fresh American Beef." FSIS interprets these terms to mean that products are derived from cattle born, raised, slaughtered and processed in the United States.
However, there is a movement to change the rule by allowing beef products from imported cattle that are then fed a minimum of 100 days and processed in the United States to be labeled "Beef: Made in the USA." This rule change would be misleading to consumers and damaging to the integrity of our U.S. livestock industry. U.S. beef producers spend significant time, money, resources

and energy in order to produce top quality livestock. Cattle and beef products that were born and partially raised in another country should not be labeled as a product of the United States.
Consumers and producers should write in support of the current definition of U.S. cattle and beef products for labeling purposes as "born, raised, slaughtered and processed in the United States"
One original and two copies of written comments should be sent by October 9 to: FSIS Docket Clerk, Docket #00-036A, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102 Cotton Annex Building, 300 12th St. SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700. A sample letter; available on Texas Farmers Union's website, www.texasfarmersunion.org.
While this rule would take care of voluntary beef labels, there is currently national legislation to require mandatory food labels on all meats as well as fruits and vegetables. All consumers and producers should urge their national legislators to pass S.280, known as the "Consumer Right to Know Act," and H.R. 1121, or the "Country of Origin Meat Labeling Act." Both would make country of origin food labeling mandatory.
Collectively, we can make a difference in getting truthful and meaningful labeling regulations on the food that we choose for our families. Let's all contact our leaders today!
Sincerely,
Yoakum County Farmers Union

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