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Cowboy Country News

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



Volume V Issue 51, September 1, 1999

School district in elite ranking again

The Texas Education Agency recently notified Plains ISD Superintendent Jim Haynes the local district has again been named to the Exemplary ranks, the highest level of academic achievement under current TEA regulations. Plains High School and Plains Middle School TAAS test scores earned Exemplary ratings, and Plains Elementary was named a Recognized campus.

A preliminary review of the TAAS test scores indicated the elementary school almost made the Exemplary ranks, with just two student grades in reading dropping them to the Recognized level. Last school year all three campuses achieved Exemplary status.

Interviewed last Thursday, with Board Trustee Randy Tuggle present, Haynes expressed his elation for the exceptional achievement. "Making the Exemplary District rankings two years running speaks strongly for the work our students, teachers and administrators are doing." Last year, only a few more than 100

Texas school districts were classified exemplary out of more than 1600 districts. Numbers of districts making the top ranking this year are not yet available from TEA.

Trustee Tuggle said, "I've been convinced for years we have an outstanding school district here, and these test scores are further proof of that. I'm proud of all our teachers and administrators, of course, but I'm very pleased and proud of our students. They are the ones who really have to perform."

Haynes said it was a certainty a new TAAS test being developed will have a higher degree of difficulty than the present test, and in all probability certain students now exempt from taking the accountability test will have to take, and eventually pass the test.

"It's possible under the new testing guidelines it will be difficult for the district to stay in the top ranks, but our people and our kids are certainly going to try."

Criminal cases in County Court

Ten criminal cases were heard August 25 in County Court with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding. Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state.

Ray Lopez Cirilo pled guilty in a plea bargain to a first offense DWI cause. His 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. He was fined \$500 and assessed \$214 court costs. He will serve 72 hours in jail with credit for 16 served, must attend the First Offenders program and attend weekly AA meetings.

In another plea bargain guilty plea, Luis Antonio Delgado was fined \$290 and assessed \$184 court costs in a failure to identify/fugitive from justice cause. \$140 in Denver City Municipal Court citations will be paid out in jail at \$50 per day. He was represented by Attorney Paul Mansur.

Ivey Joe Flores pled guilty to assault causing bodily injury. A 60 day jail term was sus-

Turn to Page 2
"Court"

Final countdown to fourth Watermelon Round Up



Winners of the Round Up T-Shirt design contest are shown here with their award and cash winning works. All three youngsters are 8th grade students in Denver City Junior High School. L-R, Mayvi Parra, designer of the Fun Run shirt; Alex Arnelas, Toddler Run shirt, and Jennifer Sturdivant, Round Up shirt. Ales holds 15 month old Maysen Brown, who agreed to model the Toddler Run shirt. She is the grand daughter of Jeannette and Jerome Head of Plains.

Most successful and enduring large community events require prior planning and lots of effort from volunteer workers. The upcoming Yoakum County 4th Annual Watermelon Round Up on Saturday, September 4, has required almost twelve full months of planning, and plain old hard work by scores of dedicated people. Just brief days after last year's successful Round Up, members of the Yoakum County Connection were already meeting to start mapping out strategies for this Weekend's big event. The Round Up is the prime fund raising effort by the "Connection" to sponsor summer youth programs here and in Dever City, and other programs for both young and not so young

throughout the year.

Jeannette Head, Chairperson of this years Round Up, believes Saturday's day long event will be "bigger and better. We have added food booths, it looks like the classic car show will draw more entries, the roping club expects a record number of entrants for their day long team roping, and we will have more live music and entertainment at the stage area." She added, "And thankfully, our theme crop, the county watermelons, are super bountiful and super quality again."

CCN would like to urge all readers to invite friends or family to the premier county event.

'Weevil War' being waged from local airport

O'Hare, DFW and LA International Airports are busier, but there is no lack of furious activity at the county airport here. Before sunrise Monday, ten aerial application planes were being readied for the first full day of boll weevil eradication spraying across the Plains District.

The staging area for the flights was G & B Aerial Application's hangar and office building. The planes were manned by spray pilots from the South Plains area, as well as pilots from Kansas and Minnesota.

Darrell Dusek, Zone Manager for the Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, said the district's

cotton fields have reached the cracked boll stage which triggers the spraying project of the entire district. The district has some 220,000 acres of cotton which has been mapped, plus about 7,000 acres in neighboring Lea County, New Mexico.

Current plans call for the total acreage to be sprayed in 55,000 acre increments Monday through Thursday each week. Some spraying could be done on Friday in case of weather or mechanical problems.

The weekly spraying will continue until a killing freeze, or until cotton harvesting removes the weevil hosting plants.

There are currently ten full time

and 18 seasonal employees working out of the district headquarters in the new Sandy Land Water District office building at the airport. They include work unit supervisors, weevil trappers, aircraft recorders, and ground mist spraying operators.

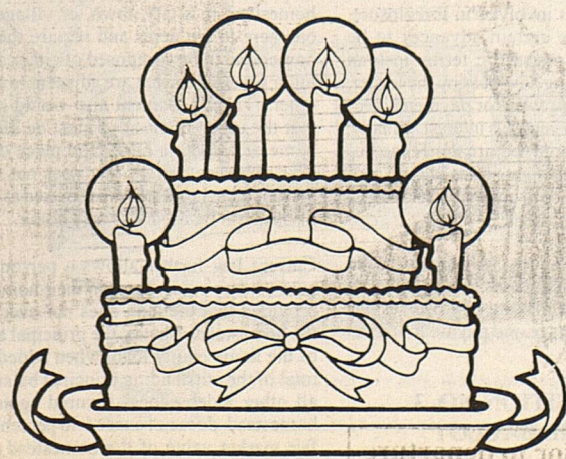
David Guetersloh, owner of G & B Aerial, told CCN he has eight full time employees at the airport facility servicing the aircraft. His company was awarded the contract for the aerial application in the Plains district. More aircraft may soon be joining the present ten in the 'weevil war'.



David Guetersloh checks with pilot prior to departure



47 Plains Kindergarten youngsters enjoyed a pre- Watermelon Round Up tour last week when they visited one of Macky McWhirter's melon patches north of town. The kids saw melons being harvested and loaded, and later toured Anderson Produce here, and enjoyed, what else, free watermelon!



Happy Birthday To Us!

Next week's issue of CCN will mark the start of our sixth year of publishing. We wish to warmly and sincerely thank each and every reader and advertising customer.

Holly and Gary Dyer

From Page 1
"Court?"

pendent and probated 12 months. He was fined \$250 and his court costs were \$184, to be met with time payments. He must attend weekly AA meetings and the Batterers Intervention Program, and serve 24 hours community service.

Charles Dean (Chuck) Gruben pled guilty to assault causing bodily injury. His 90 jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. He must pay \$184 court costs and serve 120 hours community service.

Manuel Ramos Castruita pled guilty to a first DWI offense. A 180 jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. He will pay a \$600 fine and \$184 court costs. He will spend 5 days in jail with credit for two days, must attend weekly AA meetings and obtain an alcohol dependency evaluation.

Leopoldo Ochoa Carmona pled guilty in a plea bargain to a subsequent DWI charge. He was fined \$1000 and must pay \$184 court costs. He will serve 7 days in jail with credit for 3 days. His license will be suspended 180 days, he must serve 80 hours community service, obtain alcohol dependency evaluation and undergo treatment or counseling as recommended. He was represented by Attorney David Martinez.

Roy Don Bohannon pled guilty to driving while license suspended. A 90 jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. He was fined \$500 and will pay \$157 court costs. He must attend weekly AA meetings, and his 27 day jail sentence was already served.

Michael Lynn Dixon pled guilty to a subsequent driving while license suspended charge. He was sentenced to 10 days in jail with credit for three days. He was fined \$600 and must pay \$184 court costs.

Jesus Rodriguez, AKA Jesus Rodriguez, pled guilty to selling alcohol in a dry area. He was fined \$250, must pay \$184 court costs, and forfeited 34 cases of 30 pack beer. His attorney was Warren New.

Michael Levi Davis pled guilty to purchase/furnish alcohol to a minor. A 60 day jail sentence was probated, he was fined \$250, and must pay \$214 court costs.

Entrepreneur's top 20 regions for small business

- 1998
- 1 Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, N.C.
- 2 Jacksonville, Fla.
- 3 Orlando, Fla.
- 4 Atlanta
- 5 Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, N.C. S.C.
- 6 Indianapolis
- 7 Greensboro-Winston-Salem-High Point, N.C.
- 8 Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Fla.
- 9 San Antonio
- 10 Salt Lake City-Ogden, Utah
- 11 Memphis, Tenn.
- 12 Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
- 13 Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News, Va. N.C.
- 14 Austin-San Marcos
- 15 Fort Worth-Arlington
- 16 Phoenix-Mesa, Ariz.
- 17 Nashville, Tenn.
- 18 Las Vegas
- 19 Dallas
- 20 Houston

Cowboy Country News is published weekly each Wednesday at 1205 Copeland, PO Box 179, Plains, TX 79355. Holly Dyer, Publisher Gary Dyer, Editor Subscription price in zip code 793 \$15 year, other zip codes \$18 year. E-Mail us at ccn@hplains.net Phone 806-456-8451 Fax 806-456-2010 I.D.# 017574

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← SATURDAY DURING THE WATERMELON FESTIVAL WE WILL BE SERVING LUNCH AND SUPPER AND SNACKS AT THE ROPING ARENA

PUBLIC NOTICE

BRIEF EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Special Election

NOVEMBER 2, 1999

PROPOSITION NO. 1 ON THE BALLOT

HJR 44 - HJR 44 proposes a constitutional amendment that would ensure a clear succession in event of vacancies in the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Specifically, the amendment would provide that if after qualifying for the office, the Governor is temporarily unable to serve, the Lieutenant Governor shall act as Governor until the Governor is able to serve; but if the Governor is permanently unable to serve, the Lieutenant Governor shall become the Governor for the remainder of the unexpired term. The amendment would require a Lieutenant Governor who becomes Governor to forfeit the office of Lieutenant Governor. The amendment would also provide similar succession procedures when a vacancy occurs in the office of Governor before the newly elected Governor qualifies for office, and when the newly elected Governor is temporarily unable to take office. The amendment also would provide that if there is a temporary vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor, the President pro tempore of the Senate will fill the position; but if there is a permanent vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor, the President pro tempore of the Senate shall serve as Lieutenant Governor only until such time as the whole senate can convene to elect one of its members to perform the duties of Lieutenant Governor. Finally, the amendment would provide that if the Lieutenant Governor, while temporarily exercising the powers of the Governor, becomes temporarily disabled or unable to serve, the President pro tempore of the senate shall exercise the powers and authority of the office of the Governor until such time as the Governor or Lieutenant Governor resumes those powers and duties.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to revise the provisions for the filling of a vacancy in the office of governor or lieutenant governor."

PROPOSITION NO. 2 ON THE BALLOT

SJR 12 - SJR 12 proposes a constitutional amendment that would resolve conflicts between the Texas Constitution and federal law relating to the definition, rules, and procedures of reverse mortgages. The amendment would define "reverse mortgage" in part as an extension of credit made against the homestead of a person who is 62 years or older, or whose spouse is 62 years or older. It would expand the list of circumstances under which payment of principal and interest become due and the procedures involved in foreclosure, and would require certain advances to be made according to specific terms in loan documents, including advances by the lender, on behalf of the borrower for payments necessary to protect the lender's interest. Finally, the amendment would require the Texas Supreme Court to promulgate rules of civil procedure expediting court-ordered foreclosures of reverse mortgage liens.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment relating to the making of advances under a reverse mortgage and payment of a reverse mortgage."

PROPOSITION NO. 3 ON THE BALLOT

HJR 62 - HJR 62 proposes a constitutional

amendment that would simplify and clarify the language of the Texas Constitution. The amendment would make no substantive changes, but would eliminate duplicative, expired, out-of-date, and ineffective terms.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to eliminate duplicative, executed, obsolete, archaic, and ineffective provisions of the Texas Constitution."

PROPOSITION NO. 4 ON THE BALLOT

HJR 4 - HJR 4 proposes a constitutional amendment that would broaden the definition of charitable organizations. The amendment would exempt from ad valorem taxation the property of any organization engaged primarily in public charitable functions, and it would allow such an organization to conduct additional activities to support its charitable functions.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt property owned by institutions engaged primarily in public charitable functions from ad valorem taxation."

PROPOSITION NO. 5 ON THE BALLOT

SJR 26 - SJR 26 proposes an amendment that would remove the restriction prohibiting state employees who receive all or part of their compensation from the state from serving as members of a governing body of a school district, city, town, or other local governmental district unless the state employee receives no salary for such service. The amendment would allow state employees to receive compensation from the governing bodies of which they are members.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment allowing state employees to receive compensation for serving as a member of a governing body of a school district, city, town, or other local governmental district."

PROPOSITION NO. 6 ON THE BALLOT

SJR 22 - SJR 22 proposes a constitutional amendment that would increase the maximum size of an urban homestead, which is a homestead in a city, town, or village, from one acre to ten acres and require the urban homestead to be composed of either a single lot or several lots that are adjacent to one another. The amendment also would provide that the urban homestead must be used as a home or as both a home and place of business, whereas current law does not require that an urban homestead that is used as a place of business be used also as a home.

Current law further allows a person to secure a home equity loan on their homestead, provided that the loan does not overburden the homestead. That is, the principal amount of the home equity loan, when added to the total of the outstanding principal balances of all other indebtedness secured against the homestead, does not exceed 80 percent of the fair market value of the homestead on the date the extension of credit is made. The

proposed amendment would clarify current law by specifically allowing home equity loans on all or part of urban homesteads of up to ten acres and subject such loans to the same requirement that the refinanced or new loan not overburden the homestead.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment increasing the maximum size of an urban homestead to 10 acres, prescribing permissible uses of urban homesteads, and preventing the overburdening of a homestead."

PROPOSITION NO. 7 ON THE BALLOT

HJR 16 - HJR 16 proposes a constitutional amendment that would provide that if an employee is delinquent in paying court-ordered spousal maintenance, a portion of that employee's wages may be withheld to pay the spousal maintenance. Current law allows such withholding, or garnishment, only for payment of delinquent court-ordered child support.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing garnishment of wages for the enforcement of court-ordered spousal maintenance."

PROPOSITION NO. 8 ON THE BALLOT

HJR 95 - HJR 95 proposes a constitutional amendment that would provide that the adjutant general, who is appointed by the Governor and who serves as the governing officer of the state military forces, serves as long as the Governor wishes the appointed person to serve in that capacity rather than serving a specific two-year term set by the legislature.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to provide that the adjutant general serves at the pleasure of the governor."

PROPOSITION NO. 9 ON THE BALLOT

SJR 10 - SJR 10 proposes a constitutional amendment that would authorize the legislature to create a judicial compensation committee to make recommendations for salaries for the justices and judges of the Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, the Courts of Appeals, and the District Courts. The amendment would mandate that the recommendations become law if neither the Senate nor the House of Representatives rejects them by majority vote.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to create a judicial compensation commission."

PROPOSITION NO. 10 ON THE BALLOT

HJR 74 - HJR 74 proposes a constitutional amendment that would provide that the commissioner of health and human services, who is appointed by the Governor, serves as long as the Governor wishes the appointed person to serve in that capacity rather than serving a specific two-year term set by the legislature.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to provide that the commissioner of health and human services serves at the pleasure of the governor."

PROPOSITION NO. 11 ON THE BALLOT

HJR 69 - HJR 69 proposes a constitutional amendment that would authorize a county, city, town, or other political subdivision to

spend public funds or extend credit to purchase nonassessable property or casualty insurance from a mutual insurance company authorized to do business in Texas. Under current law, a political subdivision is generally prohibited from spending public funds or extending credit to become a stockholder in a corporation but is permitted to purchase nonassessable life, health or accident insurance policies from a mutual insurance company authorized to do business in Texas. This amendment would authorize a political subdivision to also obtain non-assessable property and casualty insurance from such a company.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment permitting a political subdivision to purchase nonassessable property and casualty insurance from an authorized mutual insurance company in the same manner that the political subdivision purchases life, health, and accident insurance."

PROPOSITION NO. 12 ON THE BALLOT

SJR 21 - SJR 21 proposes a constitutional amendment that would exempt from ad valorem taxation a leased motor vehicle that is not used by the lessee primarily to produce income. The amendment would provide that the legislature also may limit the ability of a political subdivision to subject such a vehicle to taxation.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation leased motor vehicles not held by the lessee primarily to produce income."

PROPOSITION NO. 13 ON THE BALLOT

SJR 16 - SJR 16 proposes a constitutional amendment that would authorize the legislature to allow the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to issue and sell general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$400 million in order to finance educational loans to students. The amendment also would authorize the Legislature to limit the amount of interest the bonds can bear and establish procedures for the investment of the bond proceeds. The proposed amendment would specify the method of repaying the bonds.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of \$400 million in general obligation bonds to finance educational loans to students."

PROPOSITION NO. 14 ON THE BALLOT

HJR 29 - HJR 29 proposes a constitutional amendment which would authorize the Legislature to require the board of regents of the state university and boards of trustees or managers of the educational, charitable, and penal institutions of the state, whose members serve six year terms, to be composed of an odd number of three or more board members (for example, 5, 7, or 9 members). The proposed amendment would allow approximately one-third of members of boards whose membership is not evenly divisible by three to be elected or appointed every two years. The amendment also would allow the Legislature to set the composition of constitutionally required boards, whose members serve for a term of six years, to a number divisible by three so that exactly one-third of the board members may be elected or appointed every two years.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide that a state board, commission, or other agency shall be governed by a board composed of an odd number of three or more

members."

PROPOSITION NO. 15 ON THE BALLOT

HJR 36 - HJR 36 proposes a constitutional amendment that would allow spouses, by an agreement in writing, to convert all or part of their separate property into community property. Separate property is primarily the property owned or claimed by the spouse before marriage and the property acquired by the spouse during the marriage by gift or inheritance. Community property consists of the property, other than separate property, acquired by either spouse during marriage.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment permitting spouses to agree to convert separate property to community property."

PROPOSITION NO. 16 ON THE BALLOT

HJR 71 - HJR 71 proposes a constitutional amendment that would allow a county with a population of 50,000 or more, rather than 30,000 or more, to be divided into four to eight justice of the peace and constable precincts. The amendment also would allow a county with a population between 18,000 and 50,000 to have two to eight justice of the peace and constable precincts, rather than the current maximum of five precincts. Furthermore, the amendment would limit Randall County to not less than two and not more than six precincts. Finally, the amendment would set a minimum of four precincts for any county that as of November 2, 1999, is divided into four or more precincts.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to provide that certain counties shall be divided into a specific number of precincts."

PROPOSITION NO. 17 ON THE BALLOT

HJR 58 - HJR 58 proposes a constitutional amendment which would require the board of regents of the University of Texas System to manage investments of the permanent university fund (PUF) according to the standards of a prudent investor. Generally, earnings from the PUF are distributed to the available university fund (AUF) and then ultimately distributed to the public university systems of Texas. Under the amendment, the amount distributed to the AUF would consist of distributions, as determined by the University of Texas System board of regents, from the total return on all investment assets of the PUF, instead of consisting only of the dividends, interest, and other income of the PUF minus administrative expenses. The amendment also would provide guidelines for minimum and maximum amounts to be distributed to the AUF, and require that the board of regents manage distributions to the AUF in a manner that will provide the AUF with a stable and predictable stream of annual distributions and maintain the purchasing power of the PUF investments and annual distributions to the AUF.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment relating to the investment of the permanent university fund and the distribution from the permanent university fund to the available university fund."

Published by Secretary of State Elton Bomer

Demand for higher education facilities in Texas calls for new strategies

Sharing talent and resources among community colleges and universities, previously sealed off from each other by tradition, is one way Texas is coping with the increasing demand for higher education that has the state's ivy-covered walls bursting.

Finding places for these students in universities is a top priority for the Comptroller and other Texas officials as the need for higher education becomes more crucial to growth of the state's economy. One in every 10 Texans is employed in high tech, with half those jobs in five core industries: semiconductors and computers; communications manufacturing and services; other electrical and electronics manufacturing; defense technology; and biotechnology. Employment in those industries is expected to grow by almost 80,000 jobs to 531,000 positions by next year.

That means Texans must be better educated and more highly skilled as businesses of all kinds use more information technology. Companies will find workers elsewhere if they can't get what they need in Texas.

While college campuses will remain centers for learning, the state is looking at leveraging technology, cooperation and careful spending to enhance higher education opportunities in other ways.

The number of students in community colleges and universities is expected to rise by about 110,000 by 2010. That's about the number of students enrolled at the University of Texas System's nine campuses in 1998-99. If efforts to bring more minority students into higher education succeed, that number would be even higher.

It's not as if Texas has stopped building new university facilities. In 1998, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved construction projects totaling more than \$1 billion, more than three times the budget five years ago. Three quarters goes for new construction, the rest is for repairs.

The main sources of money for higher education construction are the Permanent University Fund, a \$7.3 billion endowment, and the Higher Education Fund, which will be capped at \$2 billion. Another source of construction funding are tuition revenue bonds.

The rush to Texas' public colleges and universities could be alleviated by spreading students out to the state's private schools. That's what the Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) program, created by the Legislature in 1971, is designed to do.

"For students, the TEG is an absolutely crucial part of a financial aid package," says Carol McDonald, president of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas, an association of private schools. "It can make the difference in whether the student enrolls in the school of their choice."

"The TEG program has been very important to independent colleges since 1971," McDonald said. "I don't believe its importance will ever be diminished."

It won't as long as the demand for higher education in Texas keeps growing. Though combinations of cooperation, technology and other options such as offering incentives to students attending underused institutions and programs, Texas can meet the needs of its growing student population.

Boll Weevil Count

Current - Aug. 23 - 29

Unit	Count
713	2807
714	4024
715	7996
716	11165
717	4696
718	660
TOTALS	31348

Previous - Aug. 16 - 22

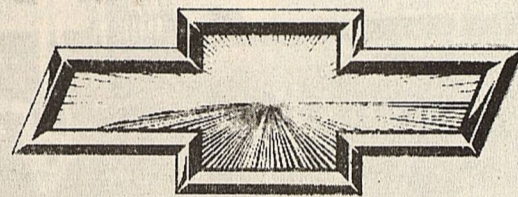
Unit	Count
713	1464
714	4650
715	2155
716	1897
717	2719
718	3915
TOTALS	16800



Earlier in the growing season, heavy rains accompanied by devastating hail destroyed several thousand acres of the county cotton crop, and other fields were wiped out by blowing sand. Producers replanted with a number of alternative crops, including these oil type sunflowers. Several thousand of the plants are currently thriving, with harvest probably starting early this fall.

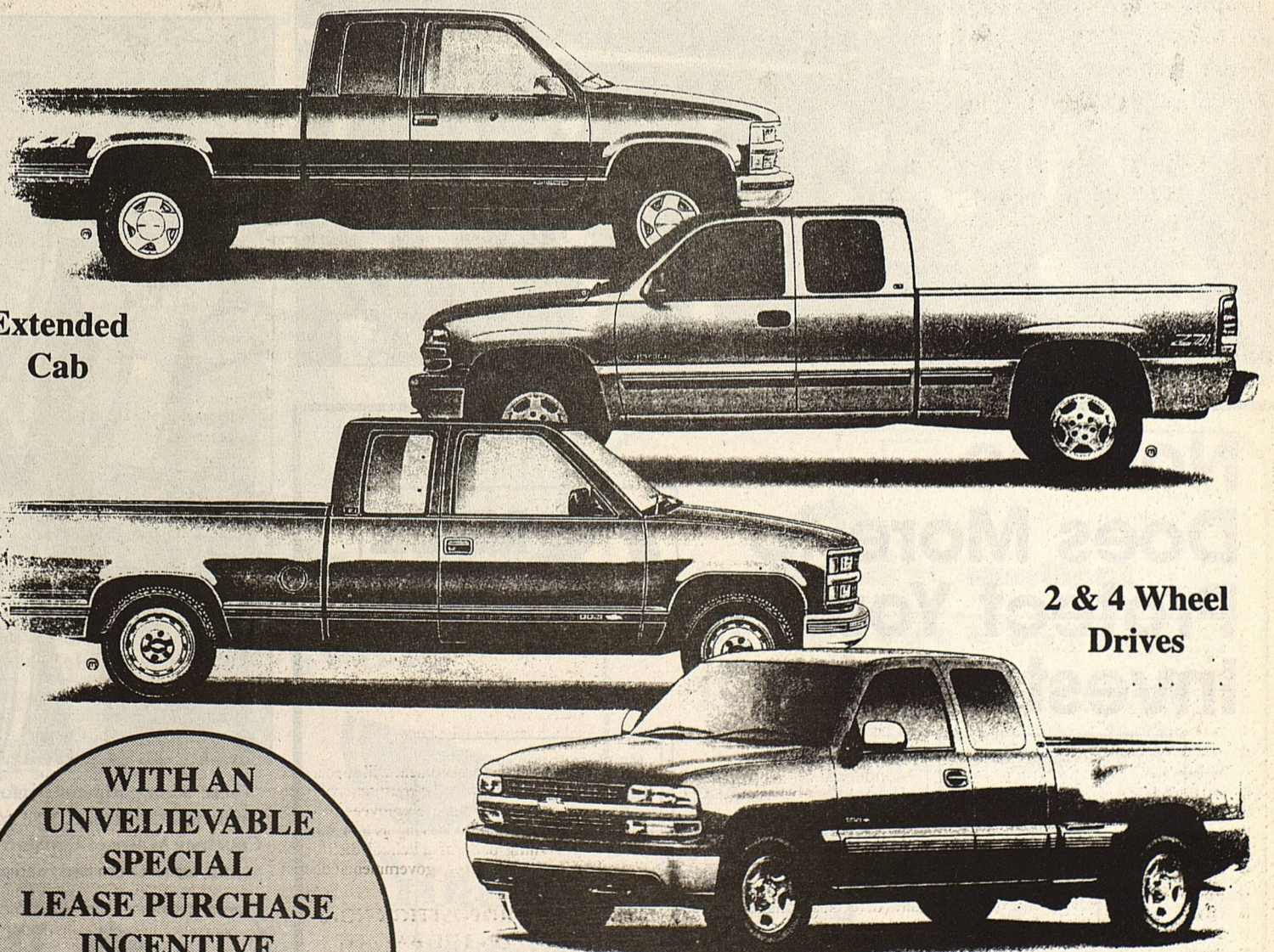
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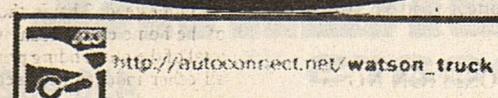


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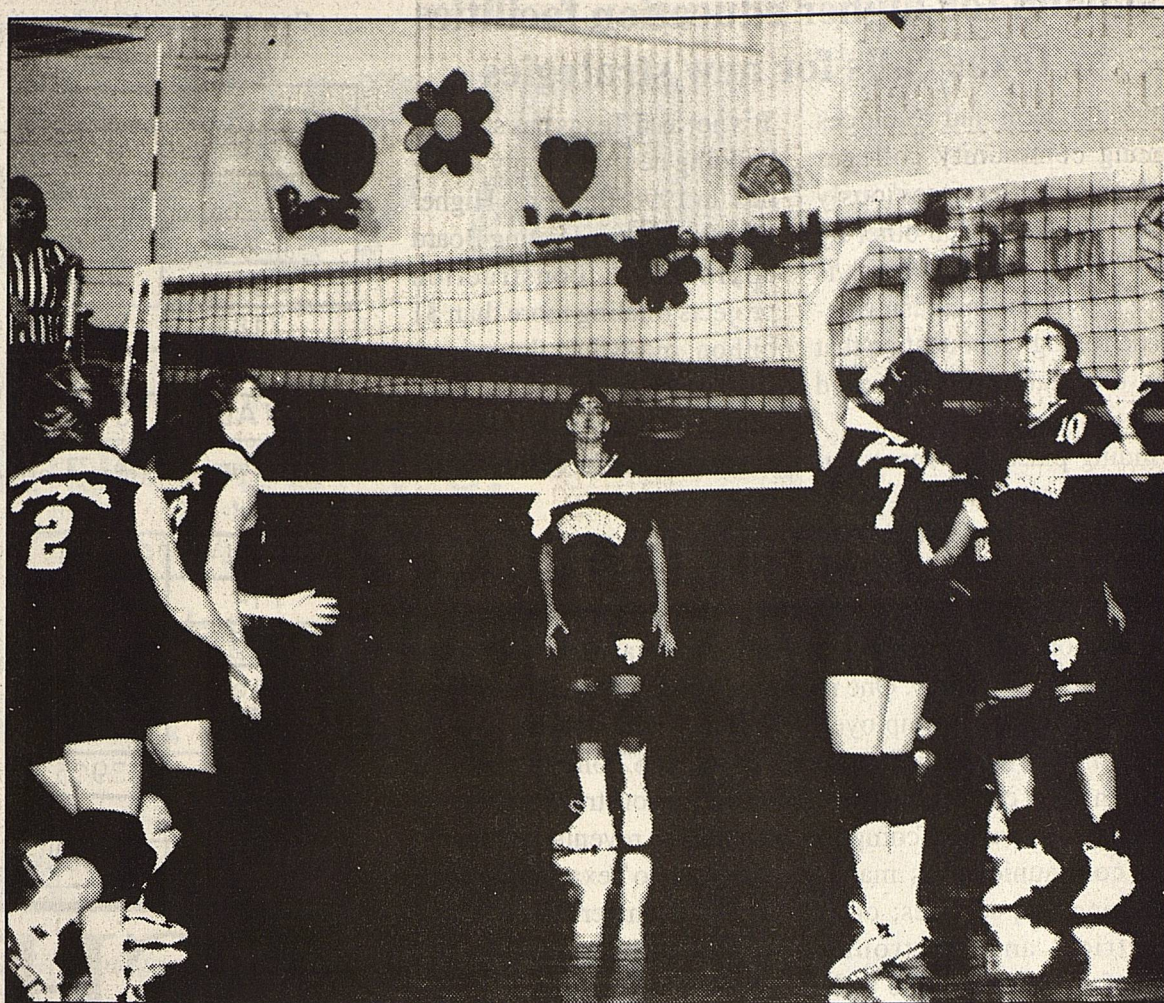
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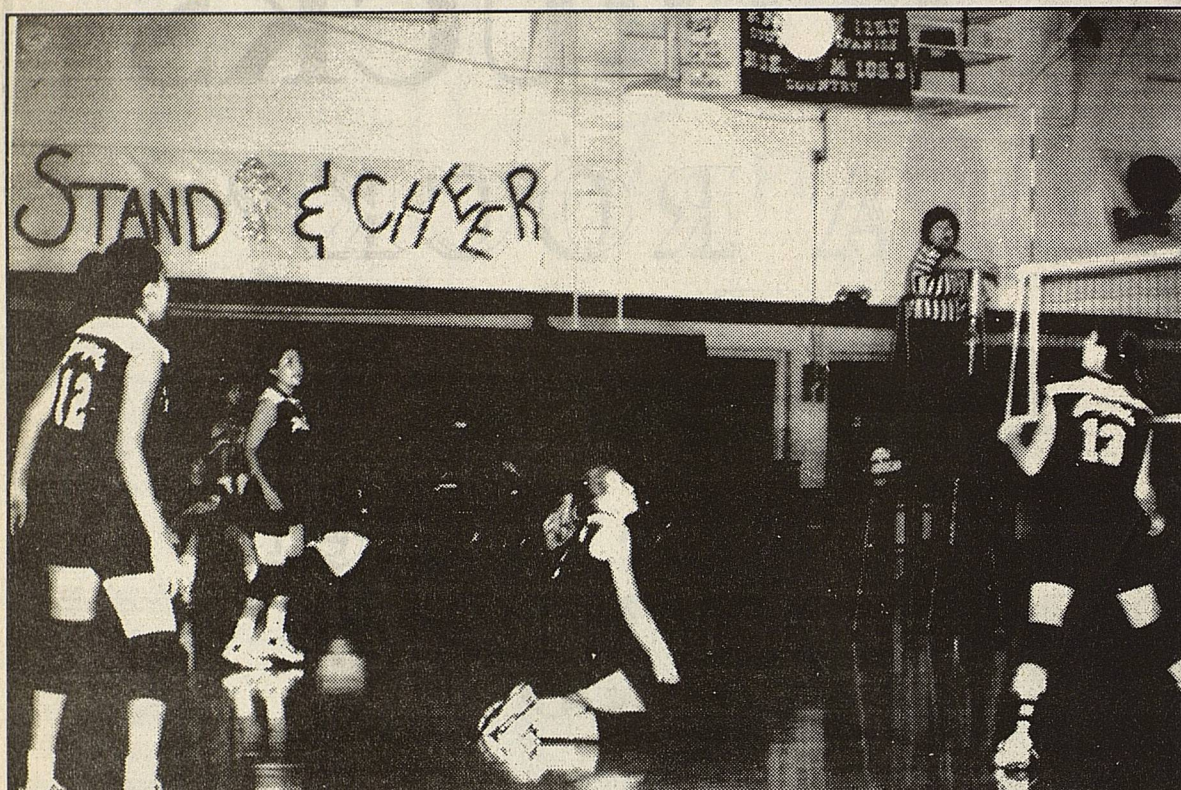
D.C. Volleyball Shots



Cowgirls getting the word from Coach Johnson in tournament



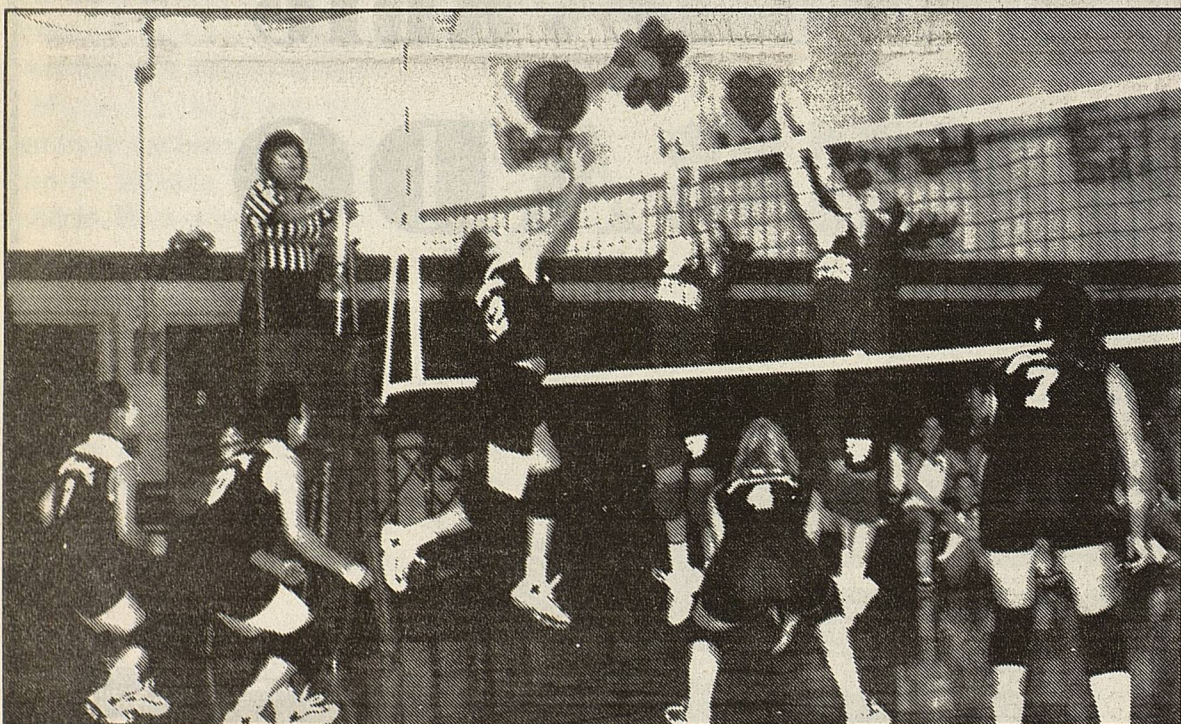
Laura Morales sets one up for Candace Bowers



Lexi Warren had to get low for this ball



Candace smacks one over the net against Plainview



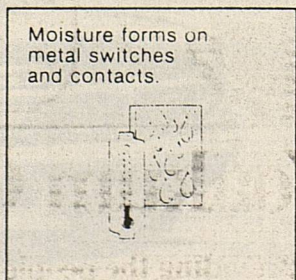
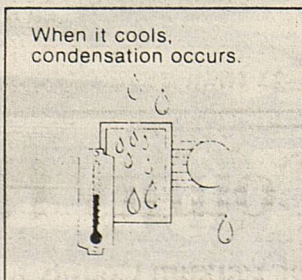
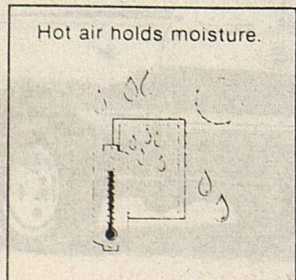
Jessica Flores spikes ball past blockers

Area gymnasts do well at National Meet



These young athletes performed well at the recent U.S.A. Gymnastic Trampoline and Tumbling meet in Anaheim, California. The young ladies on the front row are Dakota Earnest, Plains, Michele Norman and Courtney Miller of Denver City. Back row-Landon Earnest, Plains, and Taylor Miller, Denver City. All the young athletes earned medals in the National Meet.

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PHS Student Of The Week

Student of the week is Anne Palmer, a Senior and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brad Palmer. She was nominated by Mrs. Lusk who said, "Anne is a superb role model for her fellow students. She is an excellent officer for the student council. She is a highly dedicated student in and out of the classroom. She is running cross country this fall, and taking her second year of calculus."



PISD Schedule & Menu

Thursday: Football-Sudan Scrimmage-JH-Here-5:00/6:16 pm.

Football-Sudan-JV-Here-7:30 pm.

Friday: Football-Sudan-V-There-8:00 pm.

Volleyball-Andrews Tournament-V-There-TBA

Volleyball-Lamesa Tournament-JV-There-TBA

Saturday: Cross Country-Seminole-JH/JV/V-9:00 am.

Volleyball-DC Tournament-JH-There-TBA

Volleyball-Andrews Tournament Continues

Volleyball-Lamesa Tournament Continues

Cafeteria

Wednesday: Breakfast: Scrambled eggs w/gravy, hot biscuit, juice/milk. Lunch: Cheeseburgers & fixings, potato rounds, cookies, mixed fruit, milk.

Thursday: Breakfast: Pancakes w/syrup, sausage links, juice/milk. Lunch: Chili/cheese crispy potato cubes, corn, salad, apple cobbler, milk.

Friday: Breakfast: Muffin or power alley bars, juice/milk. Lunch: Fried chicken w/gravy, creamed potatoes, mixed vegetables, hot rolls, jello, milk.

PISD Volleyball Recap

Jr. High:

7th Lady Wranglers - The youngest Lady Wranglers got off to a good start in their opener against Denver City August 23. They came out on top 15-10, 9-15, and 15-12. Team members this year are Micaela Villegas, Jamie Covarrubias, Daniela Lazos, Mayra Flores, Kristian Morales, Sandra Gandara, Prisma Ortiz, Jesenia Suarez, Lela Coronado, Lolli Garza, Marle Diaz, and Jessica Henry.

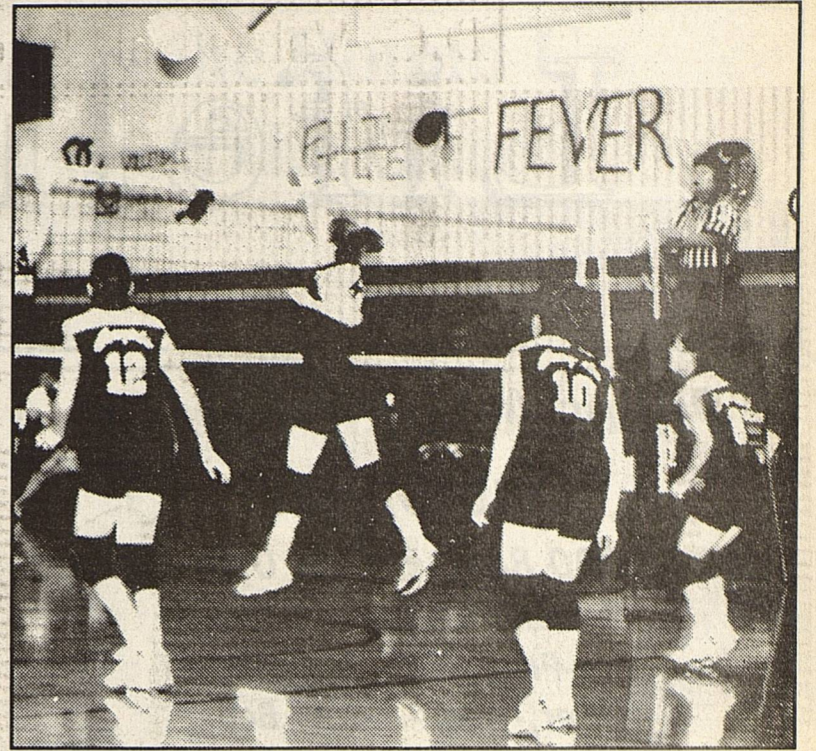
8th Lady Wranglers - The older Lady Wranglers didn't fare so well against Denver City, falling 15-11 and 15-3. Team members are Maria Martinez, Carmen Ponce, Moriah Traweek, Sarah Martinez, Kim Trent, Cendy Lopez, Manuela Villegas, Lashonda Diamond, Helen Neufeld, and April Wilmeth.

High School:

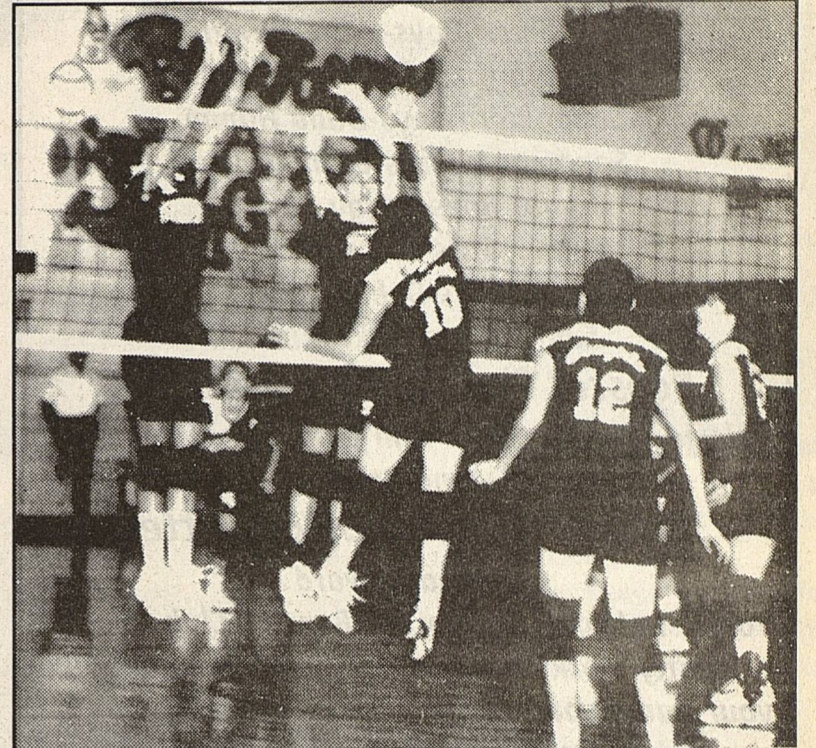
JV Gold - On August 24, the younger Cowgirls started slow against Frenship 10-15, but came back strong, 15-8 and 15-5. On August 28, they fell to Brownfield 6-15, 15-5 and 7-15.

JV - The JV girls opened against Lubbock Christian August 24, and went down 15-13, 11-15 and 11-15. In the Trinity tournament August 28, they beat Brownfield 15-10, 7-15 and 15-8, then were defeated by Trinity 10-15, 14-16 to take 4th place in the tourney.

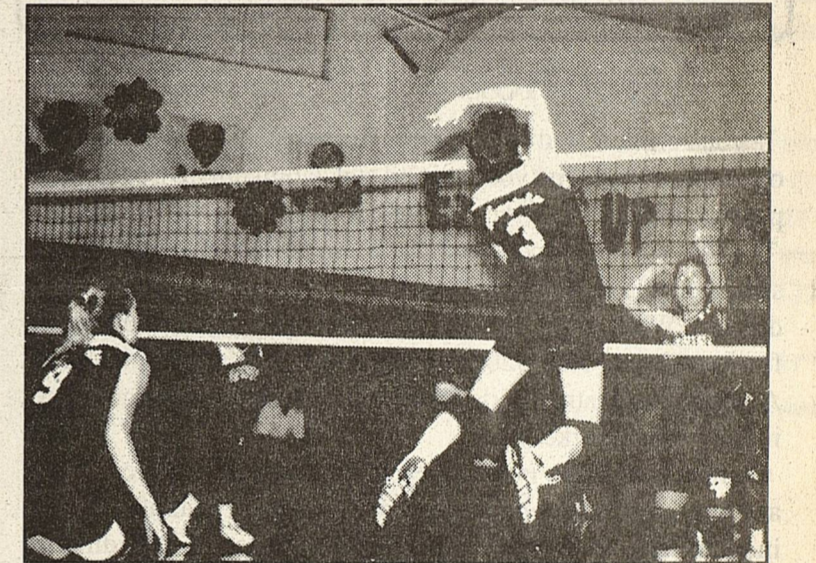
Varsity - The Cowgirls won their opener against Lubbock Christian 15-6 and 15-8. Patty Ruiz had 5 kills, Candace Bowers 4, Annaliesa O'Quinn 3, and Laura Morales had 16 assists. In the big Denver City tourney last weekend, they split their opener against Frenship 15-13 and 14-15. They then defeated Cooper 15-11, 15-8. They made it to the championship bracket, and downed Plainview by identical 16-14 scores. They were stopped by Denver City 10-15 and 5-15. Trying for third place in the tournament they were defeated by Perryton 5-15 and 10-15, and took fourth in the annual event. Laura Morales was the only Cowgirl named to the All Tournament Team.



Michaela Traweek goes high after the ball



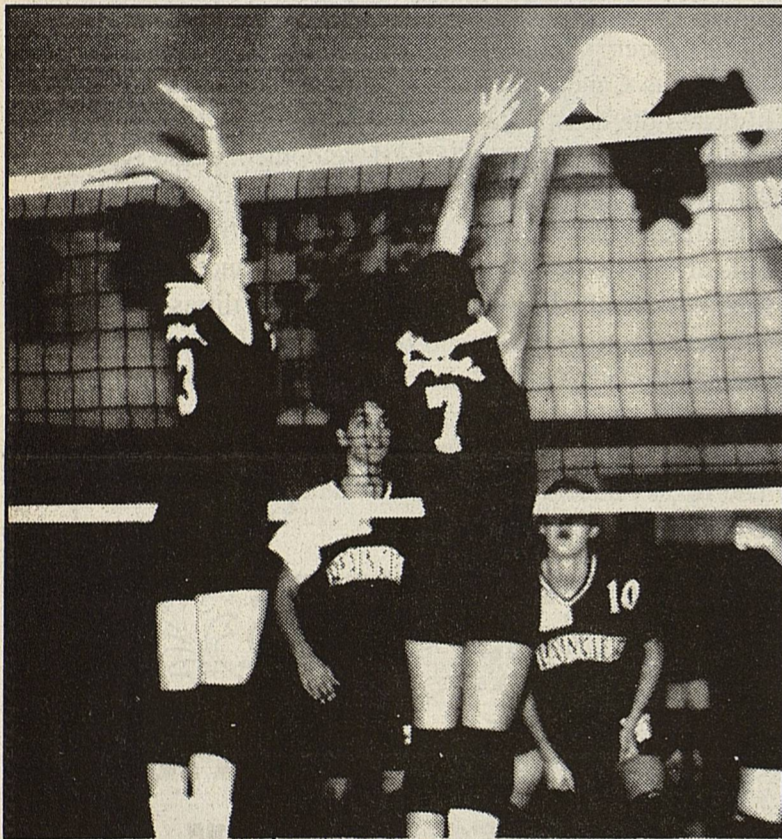
Patty Ruiz up and over blockers at net



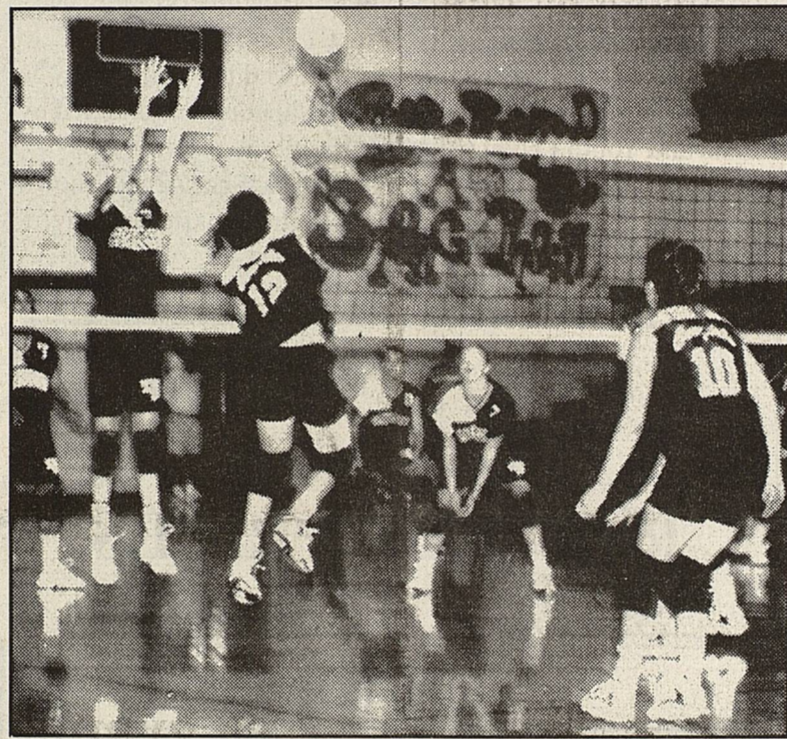
Michaela flies on this spike



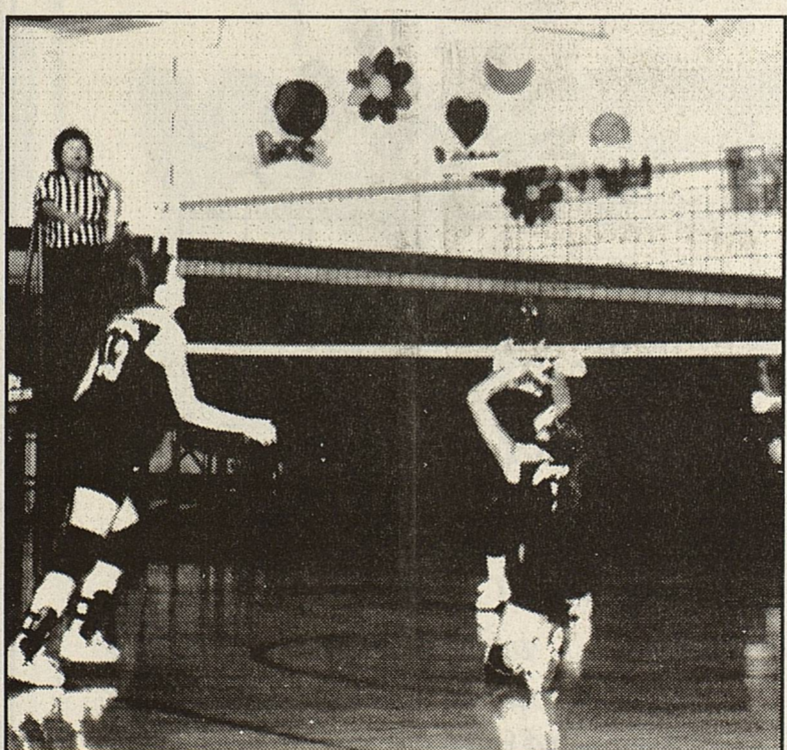
Laura, Jessica and Patty are intent on the ball



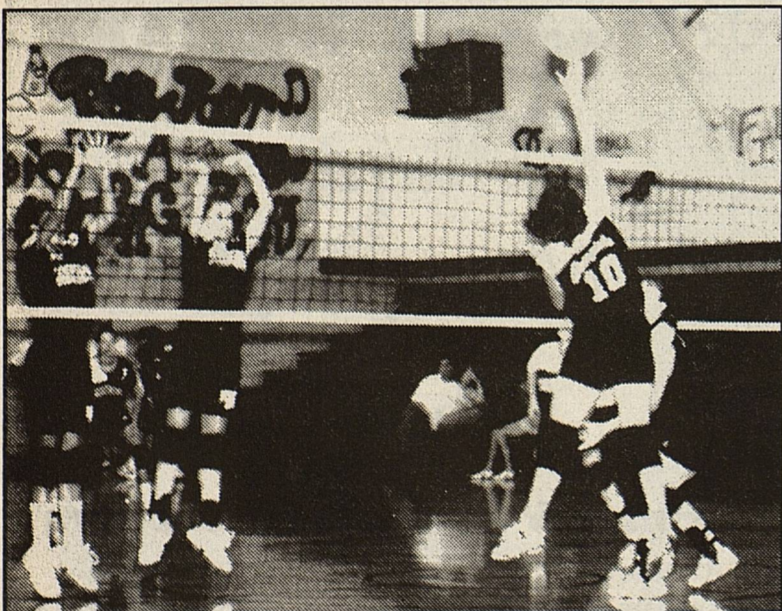
Laura Morales (7) blocked this ball



Jessica Flores pounds ball over the net

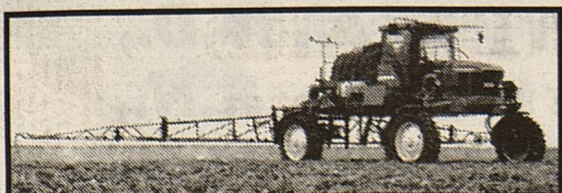


Kari Guetersloh (we think) sets one up for Candace



Patty Ruiz spikes it hard against Plainview

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Plains Athletic Booster Club Update

1999-2000 Booster Club Officers are:

President - Donna Bowers

Vice-President - Judy Sisson

Sec.-Tres. - Kathy Bell

Club Phone Committee

Freshman Boys-Billie Howell

Freshman Girls-Stephenia Blount

Sophomore Boys-Dana Hamm

Sophomore Girls-Daina Butler

Junior Boys-Peggy Squyres

Junior Girls-Teresa Howard

Senior Boys-Debbie Morphis

Senior Girls-Vicki Blundell

Booster Club Spirit Committee

Gloria Vasquez, Beth Ann Cain, Peggy Squyres, Donna Bowers

Booster Club Food Committee

Teresa Howard

You're welcome to join the Booster Club. We are currently working on \$10.00 memberships, and your name goes on the schedule poster. Contact us now! We are looking for a great and successful year in all our sports.

Attention PHS Seniors

If you're interested in a manufacturing, industry or technology related field, and you're good at it, Competitive Edge could pay for \$20,000 of your college education.

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Competitive Edge is designed to ensure that America's best and brightest students become our leaders in manufacturing, industry and technology related fields. Since its founding in 1992, over 1,000 students have received the scholarship. For the 1999-2000 school year, 257 more will be chosen at participating universities nationwide.

In 1997, the first Competitive Edge graduating class entered the work force. many of these scholars have already landed their dream jobs and begun to contribute to American industry, at places like Microsoft and Dell.

To find out how you can get involved in Competitive Edge, contact Arlon Alexander. For more information about Competitive Edge, look us up on the internet at <http://www.walmart.com>.

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A Star Is Born ?



There were thirty "Stars" in last Sunday's musical presentation at First Baptist Church. Twenty-nine members of the Sanctuary Choir performed the hour long "The Family of God" to a jam packed sanctuary audience, followed by "dinner on the ground" in Fellowship Hall. The musical hour was directed by Music and Youth Director Patrick Hamilton.

The choir was assisted by the "30th Star", L'Shae Arnett, shown giving Patrick Hamilton a jubilant high five after her joyful rendition of "I Am A Promise".

Services held for Dick Payne

Funeral services for David P. "Dick" Payne, 78, of Plains were held August 27, 1999 at 2:00 P.M. in First United Methodist Church in Plains under the direction of Head Family Funeral Home. Reverend Rick Doyle and Reverend Tom Carter officiated. Burial was in Plains Cemetery.

Dick had lived in Texas most of his life, and in Plains since 1957, moving here from Hico. He married Bobbie Price June 8, 1956 in Hico. He attended the Methodist Church in Plains and was the last surviving child of his parents Thomas and Rowena Payne.

Survivors include his wife Bobbie of Plains, sons Mike Payne and wife, Jean of Plains and Mark Payne and wife, Becky, of Fort Worth, daughters Cindy Payne of Lubbock. Two grandsons Chris Payne, and wife Andrea of Brownfield, and Brandon Payne of Fort Worth. One great grandson Grant Payne of Brownfield.

Pallbearers were L.J. Sanders, David C. Sanders, David B. Sanders, Phillip Smith, R.E. Bryant and Buster Rich.

Texas Cancer Data Center:

A Valuable Resource

For health professionals and anyone else needing information about cancer, the Texas Data Center provides this information in a convenient format by using the World Wide Web. Information can be found on health professionals, facilities and services, cancer statistics, population, and community resources. The Texas Cancer Council, a state agency whose goal is to improve the availability and quality of cancer services and information in Texas, funds the development of the Texas Cancer Data Center.

The Texas Cancer Data Center provides information on multiple areas: Texas Cancer Council-Texas Cancer Council Publications-Health Professionals-Health Facilities-Community Services-Demographics and Statistics-Childhood Cancer Resources-Links to Other Cancer Information Resources. It is also possible to contact the Texas Cancer Data Center for further information by e-mail. The e-mail address is tcdc@txcancer.org. The Texas Cancer Data Center can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://tcdc.uth.tmc.edu>.

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SRP Zone likely to be decalred

Boll Weevil Free

For many years, Texas has been quarantined by certain other states because of the boll weevil and pink boll worm. This quarantine has limited movement of cotton harvesting equipment, used gin machinery, module trucks etc. from Texas to those states until it has either been treated or cleaned and subsequently inspected. But, since our whole state has been under a quarantine, growers or ginners would probably not know of it unless they moved certain items out of state. In the near future the South-

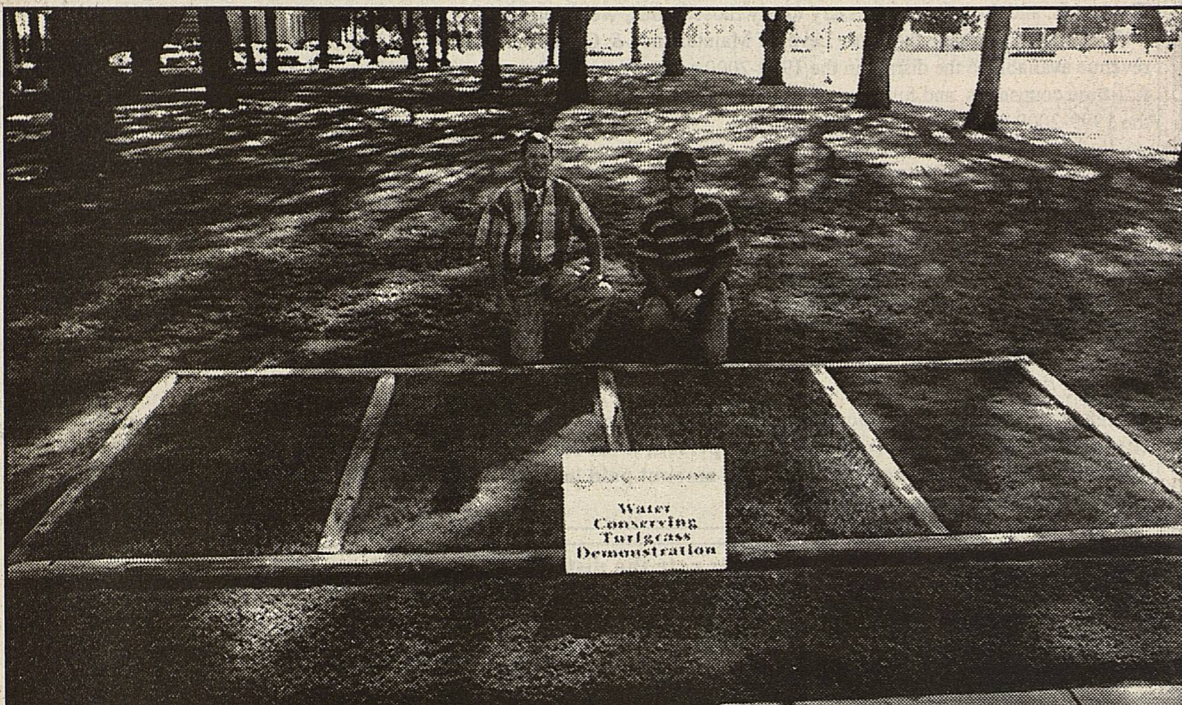
ern Rolling Plains (SRP) boll weevil infestations and the quarantine will be lifted from that zone. Similarly, as eradication activities continue successfully in the South Texas/Winter Garden (STWG) zone and the Rolling Plains Central (RPC) zone, those areas will also be declared weevil-free. At such time the quarantine will be lifted for those areas.

Producers and the State have already committed a lot of money, time and effort working toward a weevil-free Texas. A quarantine helps pro-

tect that investment by ensuring boll weevils don't find their way back into eradicated areas on infested articles or equipment.

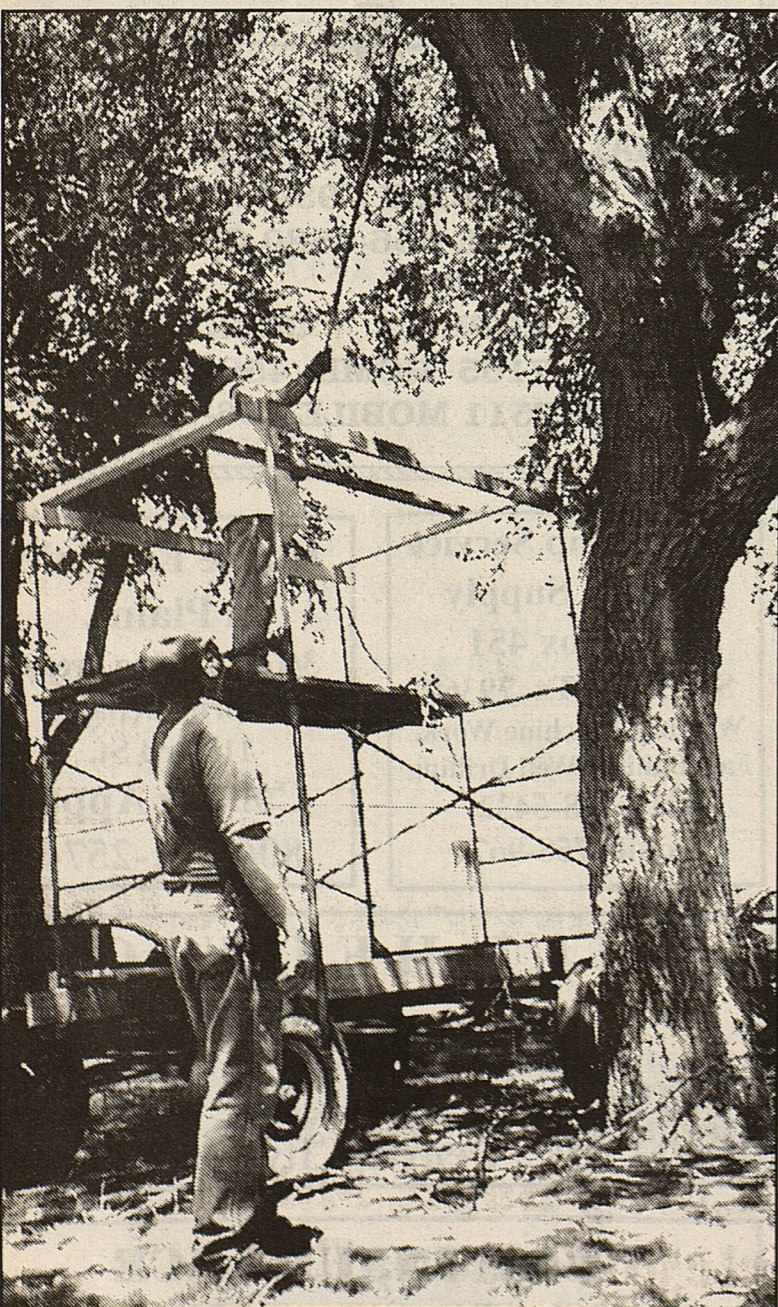
Boll weevil populations are now at almost undetectable levels in SRP zone following five years of intensive trapping and treatment. Ongoing programs in STWG and RPC have dramatically reduced weevil numbers and these zones are only a year or so away from being weevil-free. Eradication efforts get started this fall in the Western High Plains, Permian Basin and Northwest Plains.

Turfgrass Demonstration Ready for Watermelon Round Up Visitors



County Extension Agent Tadd Knight along with Landscape Engineer Danny Steffens shown with four varieties of Zoysiagrass located on the West side of the Old Courthouse lawn. Zoysia is considered to be the turfgrass of the future due to its drought tolerance and excellent texture. Varieties from left to right are: Crown, Cavalier, Palisades, and Royal. For more information on these turfgrasses contact Tadd Knight at the County Extension Office at 456-2263.

Courthouse grounds get full beauty treatment for Watermelon Round Up



Courthouse maintenance foreman Danny Steffens is shown supervising his helper's tree pruning around the old courthouse building last week, the site for next weeks Round Up. The many elm shade trees had large numbers of dead limbs which needed removing for appearance and safety's sake. Steffens and his crews have the grounds around both the old and new building in great shape for the annual event. Unfortunately, by Sunday morning, after several thousand people spend all day Saturday strolling about the courthouse, the area will once more look like a battle ground.

Come to the Round Up and meet the Queen



Nineteen year old Christy Michelle Clark of Bronco, Arkansas, was crowned the 1999 National Watermelon Queen during the National Watermelon Association's Convention in Washington, D.C. Christy is the daughter of Dennis and Aneda Clark of Bronco, Arkansas.

As National Watermelon Queen, Christy travels throughout the United States and Canada, promoting the watermelon industry and making guest appearances. She will give tips on the selection of watermelon in addition to discussing the nutritional and economic value of the product.

Christy will hold the national title for one year, from February, 1999 to year 2000.

Christy Clark says "thank You" to the watermelon produce companies and growers in Yoakum County and the West Texas area for making her visit to the Watermelon Round Up in Plains possible this year.

You will certainly appreciate these sponsors' efforts, too, when you meet Christy.

Deroy Anderson Produce-Macky McWhirter Farms-Eddie Earnest Farms-Bill Warren Produce-Brad Palmer Farms-Jim Jackson Farms-Jack Palmer Farms-Jackson, Berry Produce: Johnny Jackson and Chip Berry-Jerry and Ann Hartmen Farms-Border Melons-Javi Farms; David Seal and Julian Zendejas-Robert Ruiz-Texas West Melon Company; Ted Higginbottom and Tracy Higginbottom-T & S Produce; Ty Wilmeth and Jet Wilmeth.

Family Fun Day Courthouse Square

Yoakum County WATERMELON Round-Up

9:00 am til 6:00 pm

Plains, Texas Courthouse Square

- Art, Crafts & Food
- Live Entertainment
- Team Roping
- Kids Activities
- Classic Car Show
- Brisket/Chili Cook-off
- Volleyball Fun Run

From The Hack

I am so fortunate. Really. It would be very difficult to write this weekly stuff were it not for readers generosity in sharing stupid stuff, politicians and would be politicians dumb transgressions, just generally ridiculous happenings you can make whoopee with. Take politics. A once renowned LA musician, one "Skunk" Baxter, now 50, a former star guitarist with rock and roll groups such as Steely Dan and the Doobie Brothers, has tossed his hat into the ring for a spot in the US Congress as a Republican House member for California.

Now, there's nothing especially wrong with a rock 'n roller going to Congress. It is entirely possible one of those types might actually dress up those hallowed halls. Remember, Sonny Bono, Cher's ex, made it, and from California also. He'd probably still be in D.C. if he hadn't decided a ski trip would be fun and relaxing. But here's the weird bit: "Skunk" is really going to smell up the campaign by telling the truth! He intends to actually admit he is guilty of multi-transgressions involving illicit sex, drugs, and that former taboo, down and dirty rock 'n roll! GASP!

The burning question is, how will California voters react to the truth? You know, the full truth about ones past, coming from a would be politician, is about as rare as a zebra with polka dots instead of stripes. I imagine the smart California money is being laid on the guy not getting in office. You know,

Notice of Public Hearing on the Yoakum County Appraisal District Budget

The Yoakum County Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on the budget for the 2000 fiscal year. The public hearing will be held on September 14, 1999 at 2:00 p.m. in the office of the Yoakum County Appraisal District.

A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:
Total amount of the appraisal budget is \$270,755.00.
2000 is a complete reappraisal year.

The total amount of increase from the current year's appraisal budget is \$14,112.

The total number of employees compensated in the 2000 budget will be 2 full time employees.

The total number of employees under the current budget is 2 full time employees.

The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district.

By final approval by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, the budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts and cities served by the appraisal district.

A copy of the budget is available for inspection in the office of each of the governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the appraisal district office.

Yoakum County Appraisal District
500 Cowboy Way
Plains, Texas 79355
806-456-7101

it's bound to be a formidable task, having "Skunk" for a first name, and having brass fixtures enough to tell the truth about your prior life.

I would like to start a grass roots movement to rename "America's Team". I feel the Dallas Cowboys should be labeled "America's Stupid Team". For many years now we have read and watched story after story involving famed Cowboy players transgressions involving drugs, booze, and sex. The jock stupidity syndrome then spread to the coaching ranks. Remember the coach who tried to board an airliner with a loaded pistol in his bag?

The stupid bug is still running rampant. Big Cheese Cowboy owner Jerry Jones decided to just drive away from a traffic stop he was involved in, even after the officer told him to wait just a minute or so. Jones was

worried he and family members would be late for Sunday church services. I know what the guy who does the preaching where I go would say if I had done the same thing. "I would rather you be a month late than to not only get your name in all the papers, but the church name too. I'd rather the entire world hadn't been made aware we have any members that stupid."

A bit of potpourri: Anything worth fighting for is worth fighting dirty for. Everything should be made as simple as possible, but no simpler. Friends mmay come and go, but enemies accumulate. I have seen the truth, and it makes no sense. Indecision is the key to flexibility. There is absolutely no substitute for a genuine lack of preparation. Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The PLAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT will hold a public meeting at 7:30p.m., September 13, 1999 in the Administration Office.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates					
	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 1.50	\$ *	\$ 1.50	\$ 11,177	\$ 323
Less State-Funded	\$	\$	\$	\$ NA	\$ NA
Tax Relief					
Last Year's Rate Adjusted for Tax Relief	\$ 1.50	\$	\$ 1.50	\$ NA	\$ NA
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service **	\$ 1.619	\$ *	\$ 1.619	\$	\$ 288
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.50	\$ *	\$ 1.50	\$ 8,529	\$

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.
** The Rate to Maintain the Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service does not reflect revenue available to the district in the 1999-2000 school year for the pay raise for classroom teachers, full-time librarians, full-time counselors, and full-time school nurses enacted by the 76th Legislature. The estimated cost of the pay raise for the 1999-2000 school year is 168,000.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence		
	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 33,495	\$ 34,393
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 11,795	\$ 12,493
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.50	\$ 1.50
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 176.92	\$ 187.39
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes	\$ 10.47	

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.59. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.59.

Fund Balances	
Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 1,798,947
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ -0-

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