

THE PLAINS PRIDE

PLAINS, YOAKUM COUNTY, TEXAS

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 11 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 1994 30¢

ARB to hear protests July 11

Property owners in the Yoakum County Appraisal District will have an opportunity the second week of July to protest proposed appraisals of their property. The district's appraisal review board (ARB) will begin hearing taxpayers protests on July 11, 1994.

After the ARB completes its hearings and approves final property appraisals, local governments will use these appraisals to set tax rates for 1994.

The ARB is a group of citizens who live in the appraisal district and are appointed by the district's board of directors. Their responsibilities are outlined in the Texas Constitution.

Property owners may protest to the ARB any of the following appraisal office actions:

- * the appraised or agricultural value of the property;
- * unequal appraisal of the taxpayer's property compared to other property in the district;
- * inclusion of the property on the appraisal records;
- * denial of a partial exemption, such as a homestead exemption;
- * denial of agricultural use, open space, or timber productivity;
- * determination that agricultural or timber land has had a change of use and is subject to a rollback tax;
- * identification of the taxing unit or units in which the property is located;
- * determination that the taxpayer is the owner of the property; or
- * any other action of the appraisal office that adversely affects the property owner.

Sandra Stephens, Chief appraiser for the district, outlines the steps a property owner must take to file a protest. First, the property owner must file a written notice of protest with the ARB. The taxpayer must file this notice by June 20, 1994.

However, if the ARB sends a property owner a notice of any other kind of change in the appraisal records, or if the chief appraiser issues a notice for a property omitted in the prior year, the property owner has 30 days from the mailing day to file a protest.

Official forms for a notice of protest are available at the appraisal district office. "A letter from the tax-

payer is also acceptable," Stephens said, "as long as it identifies the property and the property protested and indicates dissatisfaction with some decision or action of the appraisal office."

Each protesting property owner may offer evidence or argument, either in person or by filing an affidavit with the ARB. Property owners should know that the ARB has no authority over the tax rates or spending and will not hear protests on these topics.

The ARB will schedule hearing as property owners file protests and will tell them the time, date and place of their individual hearings at least 15 days before the hearing date. Property owners will receive a copy of the State Comptroller of Public Account's pamphlet entitled Texas Property Taxes: Taxpayer's Rights, Remedies and Responsibilities and the a copy of the ARB's procedures.

Stephens said that the hearings will be held for three days and the ARB expects to approve the final appraisal roll on July 14, 1994. State law requires the ARB to review and approve the appraisal records by July 20, or when not more than five percent of the total property value in the district remains under protest.

Those protesting their appraisals should not contact ARB members outside the hearing, the chief appraiser stressed. Each ARB member must sign

Tumbling classes to be offered

According to Penny Green, tumbling instructor from Levelland, Plains will be offered tumbling classes on Mondays in the Junior High Gymnasium in Plains. Classes will also be offered in Denver City at the fitness center, across from the school.

Plains students will meet from 2:30 to 3:15 p.m. for the two-three year olds; from 3:15 to 4:00 p.m. for the four to six year olds; and advanced students will meet at 4:00, concluding at 4:45.

"We will work to make-up all classes you miss for vacation," says Ms. Green. "Please call and sign up for these classes." The number to contact Ms. Green is (806) 894-7916.

an affidavit that he or she has had no contact about the protest with a property owner or the appraisal office staff before the hearing.

Texas Property Taxes: Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies and Responsibilities is available at the Yoakum County Appraisal District Office. For a copy, contact the appraisal district staff at 806-456-7101 or come by 500 10th Street, (Box 748) Plains, TX 79355.

Methodists hold 'Celebrate Jesus'

Children in First United Methodist Church's vacation church school last week studied, "Celebrate Jesus: Come To The PARTY (praise and rejoice together, yes!)."

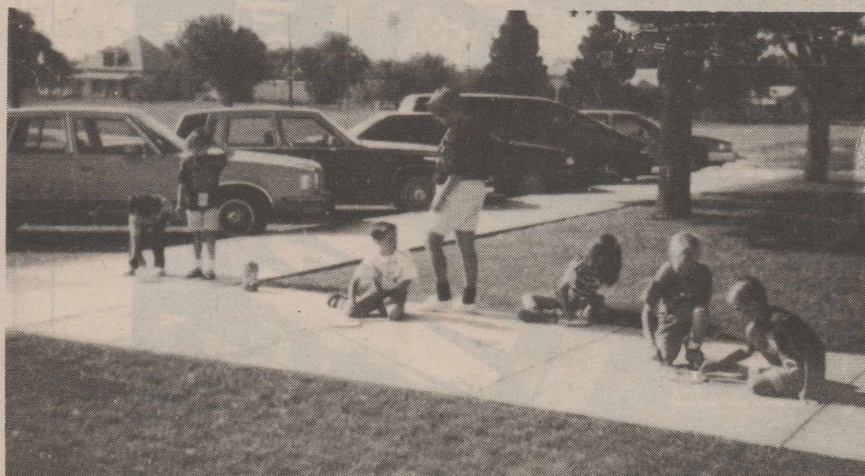
During the week, the children learned about miracles performed by Jesus, concluding the week with the story of the crucifixion and resurrection.



PRESCHOOLERS AT VBS



KINDERGARTEN CLASS AT METHODIST VBS



FIRST GRADE CLASS participating in 'Celebrate Jesus' at Methodist Church.

Julie Hancock competes in show

Julie Hancock recently competed in the District 4-H Senior Fashion Show which was held in Lubbock. She won a blue ribbon in the Buying Division in the Formal Category.

Her black and gold formal was made of satin brocade. It was accented with a gold lame shoulder wrap. She was one of approximately 50 4-H'ers competing.

Julie is the 17-year-old daughter of Joni Hancock of Denver City and Don Hancock of Hobbs, NM. She serves as the Denver City 4-H Club president and was recently elected to serve as the second vice president of the South Plains District 4-H Council which serves a 20 county area.

Art Association has installation of new officers

Yoakum County Art Association met June 6 for a program presented by Delores Williams of Seagraves. She presented a demonstration on the importance of lights, darks and highlights.

New officers for 1994-95 were installed by Jimmie Bayer. Those to serve in the new club year are Ineata Teaff, president; Mae Barnett, vice president; Sheila Stephens, secretary; Debbie Steffens, treasurer; and Wadonna Davis, reporter. Committee chairs are Ann Hartman, program and education; Mary Dale Forbus, membership; Susie Powell, juried show; Barbara Brown, refreshments; Jimmie Bayer, photography and scrapbook; Louise Goehry, Betty Jo Estep and Phyllis Addison, telephone; Wilma McDonnell, cards and flowers and Linda Powell, maintenance.

Announcement was made that several members have placed in recent art

shows including Marguerite Barron, second in Post art show with pastel portrait; Ann Hartman, Best in Show in Carlsbad, first in oils and People's Choice in Roswell and second in pastels in Brownfield. Susie Powell won three seconds in pastels in Post, a second in pastels in Roswell at the New Mexico Miniature Art Society, a second and

honorable mention in pastels and water color miniatures and an honorable mention in watercolor miniatures at Andrews.

Pat Altman and Mary Nokes, hostesses, served pasta, chips, pound cake with toppings and tarts to 21 members and a guest, Lucille Falkenburg of Seagraves.



SECOND GRADE STUDENTS who visited Methodist VBS.

The City of Plains will sponsor a pet vaccination clinic on Saturday, June 18, 1994, at the Plains City Hall.

Dr. Tim Faulkenberry of Brownfield will be conducting the clinic from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon.

The City of Plains requires that all dogs and cats over the age of 4 months be vaccinated with an anti-rabies vaccine.

City personnel will be available to assist and to issue City animal tags.

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Stateline Club has new member

State Line Club met in Plains in the clubroom Saturday, May 21 at 10 a.m. with Margaret Box, president, presiding.

Gale McDonnell, secretary, called the roll and read March and April minutes. Roll call was answered by "What I Know About Hospice".

Sidney Murphey gave March and May council reports; Toni Jones discussed financial business, as there were several bills to pay.

Barbara Bulloch, Hospice of Lea County, Hobbs, NM; which includes Gaines and Yoakum counties of Texas, was guest speaker for the meeting. She did a program on Hospice and told of their support in the caring for terminally ill patients and their families. "They work with doctors, Medicare and Medicaid; and also take donations to help in this endeavor."

A report was given by Margaret Box and Disney Murphey about the visit to the Commissioners Court, Monday, May 9. One of the state recommendations for FCE is to know about County government.

Mrs. Box was on the agenda to bring the suggestion of a smoke free barn and concession stand during the livestock show.

Nora Stewart joined the club as a new member. She is to help give the club and families "A Trip to Mexico" in August, as she has agreed to prepare Mexican food for the International program.

Club voted to send members to

State Family and Community Education meeting in Lubbock Sept. 13-15.

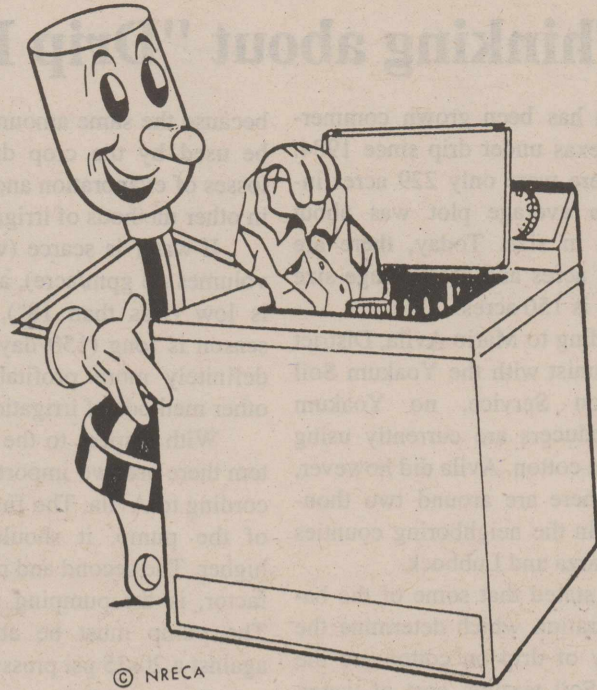
4-H Method Demonstrations will be the next program scheduled for June 25 meeting in the clubroom at 10 a.m. Visitors are welcome.



Look
Who's
New

Doug and Michelle Warren of Littlefield announce the arrival of a daughter born May 9 in Methodist Hospital in Lubbock. The little miss weighed six pounds 14 ounces and measured 19 inches long. She has been named Jordan Michelle. Grandparents are Lela and Jim Warren of Plains and Elaine Furr of Eunice, N.M. Great-grandparents are James and Jerry Warren and Mary Lou Parks.

Kim and Laurie Harrelson of Crane announce the arrival of a daughter born in Odessa. She has been named Sarah Beth. She weighed nine pounds two and a half ounces and measured 21 and a half inches long. She has a brother, Cody Bob, 19 months old. Grandparents are Leon and Thelma Cheatham and Fred and Pat Harrelson of Crane.



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Thinking about "Drip Irrigating Cotton"?

Cotton has been grown commercially in Texas under drip since 1984. In 1984 there were only 229 acres installed; the average plot was about 15.4 acres in size. Today, there are over 3,000 acres and the average size of the plots is 150 acres.

According to Mario Avila, District Conservationist with the Yoakum Soil Conservation Service, no Yoakum County producers are currently using drip to raise cotton. Avila did however, state that there are around two thousand acres in the neighboring counties of Lynn, Garza and Lubbock.

Avila, stated that some of the basic consideration which determine the profitability of drip on cotton are the following. Soil texture, cost of water, availability of water, rainfall, growing season, pumping system available and water quality.

Sandy soils tend to make drip more profitable because these soils make water more readily available to a crop, than soils high in clay content. Therefore, sandy soils require less water to grow a crop.

High water costs (more than \$5.00/acre inch) make drip more economical than other forms of irrigation

because the same amount of water can be used by the crop due to reduced losses of evaporation and drift inherent in other methods of irrigation.

If water is scarce (wells with low volumes - 3 gpm/acre), average rainfall is low (less than 18"), and growing season is long (150 days plus) drip is definitely more profitable than most other methods of irrigation.

With respect to the pumping system there are two important factors according to Avila. The first is efficiency of the pump, it should be 50% or higher. The second and more important factor, is the pumping pressure head. The pump must be able to operate against a 20-25 psi pressure head.

Water quality is the final basic factor to consider. This is extremely important, basically the pH tells the story. If it is greater than 7.0, chemical precipitates will form and must occasionally be dissolved with an acid treatment. Iron and sand are other elements that can cause problems. Obviously, poor water quality does not favor the profitability of drip.

Avila went on to say, that in order for drip to be successful in Yoakum County, it had to be economical. In-

stallation costs of \$475 to \$800 per acre (or more), plus other associated added expenses, must be offset with revenue to make the system profitable.

He continued, saying, that in some states, such as Arizona, cotton producers have found drip irrigation profitable because greater yields were realized with much less water. In West Texas, where our water supply is already stretched, producers generally do not fully meet the water needs of the cotton crop.

Therefore, even with the installation of drip, water pumpage and costs would probably remain the same. Thus all accrued profit generated from drip in West Texas will come mainly from increased yields.

Avila concluded by stating that, "The bottom line in determining whether drip irrigated cotton will be a success to a particular producer, is if it (drip) will enable the grower to grow a pound of cotton with less money than he was previously doing."

For more information on drip irrigation, contact the local office of the Soil Conservation Service by calling 456-3703.

Jack Cobb elected to board

Jack Cobb was recently re-elected chairman of the Texas Grain Sorghum Producers Board.

The 15 member board, based in Abernathy, administers statewide checkoff funds used in research and promotion.

Board members are elected by producers in five districts. Representatives from West Texas include Cobb, Jim Boston of Roscoe and Pat George of Tulia.

Wilbert Vorwerk of Taylor was elected vice chairman and Richard Kotzur of Edinburg was named secretary-treasurer.

Notice

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JOHNNIE D. BROWN

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JOHNNIE D. BROWN, Deceased, were issued in No. 1244, in the County Court of Yoakum County, Texas, to BARBARA ANN BROWN, P.O. Box 515, Plains, Texas, 79355, on June 6, 1994.

All persons having claims against said Estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Richard Clark
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 1508
Denver City, Texas 79323
(806) 592-3039

HELP WANTED

LVNS NEEDED - full and part time; competitive salary, contact Katie Smith, director of nursing, Morton Manor Nursing Home, 211 W. Garfield, Morton, Tx (806) 266-8866.

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NOTICE

BEAUTICONTROL cosmetics. Call Holly Dyer, 456-8451.

Public brands Postal Service as "Super" says Kroll

Those attending the opening session of the Postal Forum this morning will learn how Americans really feel about the United States Postal Service. Alex Kroll, Chairman of Young & Rubicam, Inc., will reveal key findings of a significant new study his advertising agency conducted about brands and how they are perceived by consumers.

The U.S. Postal Service was cited as the nation's second most well-known brand. In terms of esteem, the Postal Service ranked in the top 8% of all brands. And in the category of relevance to the lives of the people surveyed, the Postal Service was ranked number one. "Of all the 1,204 brands we studied, the U.S. Postal Service is the brand that's most relevant to people personally," said Kroll.

"In spite of all the post office jokes and some bad press, most people have very favorable opinions of the Postal Service," said Kroll. "The adjectives used by people show this and the Postal Service's highest ranking was on the word 'trustworthy'. It was in the top 2% of all brands on this adjective, in the top 3% on 'reliable', in the top 4% on 'friendly', and in the top 5% of brands viewed as 'caring about their customer,'" Kroll added.

The full results of the Y&R study will be announced in June.



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SUNDAY, JUNE 19TH

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