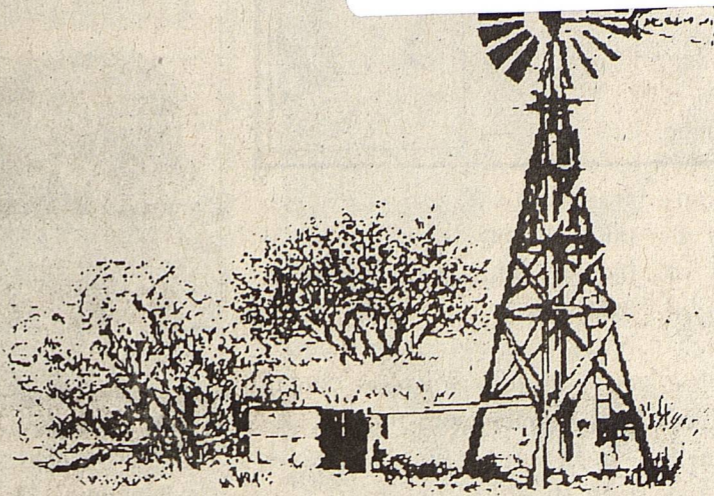


Cowboy Country News

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

Volume XI, Issue 20, January 26, 2005



Lions hear plans for 53rd annual County Livestock Show

Arlan Gentry, Yoakum County Extension Agent - Ag, shown here with Lions Club Pres. Toni Jones, center, and immediate past president Vicki Blundell, was guest speaker at last Thursday meeting of the Plains Lions Club.

He outlined plans and schedule for the three day youth livestock event, starting today, and urged all members to support the young exhibitors with their presence and show sale dollars.



Plains I.S.D. settles roof lawsuit

By James Haynes
PISD Superintendent

Plains ISD has reached a settlement on the lawsuit filed by the school district against Zurich Insurance Company to recover damage costs for the roofs of the district buildings. The lawsuit was filed after Zurich Insurance refused to pay the cost of replacing the roof for the school district buildings because of damage caused by a hailstorm in October, 2002. The insurance company wanted the district to replace the roof with a different roofing system that was less expensive and of a lesser quality.

Plains ISD had purchased coverage from Zurich Insurance for the 2002-2003 school year that pledged to cover the replacement cost for damages that occurred to the district's property. A Zurich representative certified that the roof was a total loss and then provided a contractor from the Dallas area that would replace the roof with one that district officials felt was not a comparable roof. The insurance company also told the district there was no need

to bid the cost of replacing the roof. When confronted with the district's concerns about the cost and quality of the proposed roof, the insurance company refused to pay the additional cost of the comparable roof. It was at that point the Plains ISD hired lawyers Nevill and J, Paul Manning of Lubbock to represent the district in the lawsuit to recover damages in an amount that would pay for the installation of a roof system that met the district's specifications.

The settlement came before the case was set to go to trial June 2005 in Yoakum County District Court. The settlement reached covers the cost of replacing the roof with a system that meets the district's specifications and also covers the cost of the attorney fees. The board acted to approve the settlement at the regular scheduled board meeting on January 10, 2005. Once the insurance company is notified about the board's approval of the settlement, a check will be sent to the district within 30 days.

USDA Rural Development Office Day Here Courthouse to get new phone system

Representatives of USDA Rural Development will be at the Yoakum County Courthouse, Commissioner's Court Room, 600 Cowboy Way, Plains, Texas, on Tuesday, February 1, 2005, from 10:00 am until noon. A representative will assist individuals with applications and provide information about the various housing, community and business and cooperative programs.

USDA Rural Development's housing programs offer loans and grants to very low, low, and moderate income persons in towns and cities meeting certain population requirements.

Programs offered assist qualified persons to buy, build, repair or maintain a home.

USDA Rural Development's community programs enhance the quality of life for rural Texans by providing funds to governmental entities, nonprofit organizations and Indian Tribes to enlarge, improve or construct schools, libraries, medical clinics, assisted living centers, public buildings, community centers and fund new and improved water and wastewater facilities.

USDA Rural Development's business and cooperative programs provide the needed capi-

tal to expand economic opportunities and development in rural areas throughout Texas by working with banks and community lenders. There is no minimum loan size and the maximum loan size is up to \$25 million.

USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 and with a mission to use the resources of USDA to help enhance the quality of life for the nation's rural residents. For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, please contact the Lubbock Local Office at (806) 785-5644, Ext. 4.

The January 24 session featured a presentation by representatives of Lubbock's Venture Communications detailing the advantages of a new ESI telephone system, eliminating many problems with the current and outdated system. The current system uses 28 phone lines for all offices and departments, each with a monthly \$30 service fee, plus all other operating fees. The ESI system would eliminate most of these lines, and the soft-

Turn to Pg. 2 'Phone System'

Sandy Land Has Productive Year

Sandy Land Water District recently released an almost four dozen page annual report detailing month-by-month activities of the ground water district.

The comprehensive report details the history of the district, from the 71st Legislature approving the creation, followed by county voters approval of

the district in a special 1998 election.

All activities of the district are outlined in a four page overview of year 2004. The water district goals, management objectives and performance standards are reviewed. Field practices including irrigation efficiency, well monitoring, the groundwater depletion tax pro-

gram, individual well measurement charts, extensive water quality testing for alkalinity, chloride, fluoride, iron, nitrates, all are part of the Sandy Land agenda.

The district has drawn up water well permitting and registration rules to prevent waste of possibly one of our most important assets.

Sandy Land has been the recipient of 18 Texas Water Development Board loans, totaling \$10 million. These funds are loaned at low interest rates to county producers for equipment ensuring more efficient methods of irrigating area crops.

Sandy Land management and board members are strong believers in education being used to encourage and promote water conservation. Each year students of Plains and Denver City high schools are encouraged to compete in essay writing contests on water issues. Since the program's conception in 1991, almost four dozen students from the two school districts have been awarded \$37,000 in scholarships.

Since 1997 Sandy Land has been involved in precipitation enhancement programs, essentially the seeding of suitable clouds with chemicals to induce rainfall. In 2002 the dis-

Turn to Pg. 2 'Sandy Land'

Trees in alleys not always friendly with utility vehicles



As the photo here illustrates, the larger trees along residential alleyways become, the bigger problems become for city and electric power crews and their usually large vehicles.

In some instances city trash trucks, with their very large and tall compaction bins, have difficulties maneuvering around city dumpsters in the alleys. Many times tall, thick trees, such as those shown here, can severely hamper electric power crews working in the alleys on overhead power distribution lines. Vehicles often have exterior

mirrors and lights damaged or torn off by the tree limbs.

Officials at City Hall are asking residents with trees causing alley problems to take steps to trim the foliage back to eliminate those problems. If residents do not care to perform the tree trimming, city employees will perform the job when requested.

All residents should be aware city ordinances exist to enable the city to remove any and all such problem trees if necessary for safe access to all utilities in alleyways.



Land owner Bob Blundell, left and tenant-producer Sterling Lovelace are seen running tests on recently drilled irrigation well in northwest area of county. The well was producing about 700 gallons per minute during the test.

The 145 foot well was drilled by Panhandle Pump of Levelland. To date, six water well drilling permits have been issued by Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District this year. 156 permits were issued in 2004.



When Andrew Carnegie embarked on his philanthropic effort to improve the quality of life for all Americans, he did not set up clinics or soup kitchens. He invested in libraries, reasoning that we must feed people's minds as well as their bodies. Since books are the stored knowledge, art, and experience of mankind, libraries are a treasury of humanity. The accumulated wealth of human experience is freely available to anyone, rich or poor, who makes the effort to use these facilities.

Following his philosophy, Carnegie provided grants to various Texas communities which helped construct thirty-two library buildings in communities ranging in size from the booming city of Dallas to the small mining town of Pittsburg.

Since that time, public libraries have continued as a unique public service institution in our democracy. In Texas alone, we have 560 libraries. They are free to all citizens, and serve every age group from toddler to senior citizen. They unlock the world for young and old through books, computers, audio-visual resources, and important databases such as TexShare, which is a statewide consortium of academic libraries, public libraries, and libraries of clinical medicine administered by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. It shares staff expertise and library resources while it pursues joint purchasing agreements for information services to lower costs for its members.

I am a proud ally of our state library system because I personally gained so much from libraries. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I supported modernization opportunities for public libraries through the Museum and Library Services Act. This extended authorization of support for library services and technology through FY 2009. These grants help library systems install advanced technology. I also support measures to provide teacher education, library and media specialist training, as well as preschool and teacher aid certification to individuals so they may better use these advances in the classroom or instructional process. Public library funding in the United States is a unique combi-

eral efforts. At the local level, public library service is shaped by the community. Money is allocated by city councils, library districts, or by county commissioners courts. States add supplemental funding designed to foster library cooperation through the sharing of books and materials between libraries.

The federal role is to help extend the access of libraries across the country and the world through unique information technology networks. Through direct grants to state library agencies, federal funds promote, stimulate and support library innovation. Public libraries form a remarkable cooperative system. If you consider that the average price of a hardback book is approximately \$30, and that Texas public libraries circulate over 90 million items per year, that adds up to more than \$2.7 billion in annual transactions. The value of the knowledge exchanged in the course of those transactions is incalculable.

Texas public libraries also serve as cultural havens for their communities. They are places for children to learn and develop reading skills. From preschool reading activities to grade school, children benefit from use of the local public library. Teen-agers use public libraries to help with school work and enrich their lives. Adults use public libraries to enjoy a good book, get books on tape, or to learn "how to" do any number of things, such as fix their car or succeed in business. Senior citizens are the pioneers in the preservation of family histories through study of their family heritage. Public library genealogy collections and TexShare databases aid this important effort. Citizens of all age levels also use their libraries as public meeting places to discuss local issues. The public library is an integral part of community life.

Like you, I have used public libraries to enrich my life, to learn, and to succeed in my work. When I was in elementary school, I read every biography in the library. They gave me inspiration which is with me to this day. We can all support our local public libraries in many ways, through volunteering, contributing to their resources, or using the facilities. It is an effort worth making.

Services For Domingo Ramos



Funeral services for Domingo Trevino Ramos, 77, of Plains were held on Wednesday, January 19, 2005 at 2:00 pm. at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Plains, Texas with Father Joe Chorkavunkal officiating. Burial was in the Plains Yoakum County Cemetery under the direction of Boyer Funeral Chapel of Denver City, Texas.

Mr. Ramos passed away on January 16, 2005 in Andrews. He was born on December 4, 1927. He was

a Catholic, loved farming and traveling.

He was preceded in death by one sister Guadalupe Castro in 1966. A Rosary was held Tuesday, January 18, 2005 at the St. Williams Catholic Church in Denver City, Texas.

Survivors include a son, Victor Ramos of Andrews, Texas; a daughter, Lupita Brown of Denver City, Texas; 6 stepsons, Joe Duran & wife Shelly of Post, Martin Duran & wife Rosa of Victoria, Armondo Duran & wife Tillie of Post, Ruben Duran of Post, Angel Guran of Chimayo, New Mexico and Luis Duran & wife Peggy of North Carolina; 4 stepdaughters, Anna Gonzales & husband Jesse of Plains, Vicky Delgado & husband Vicente of Plains, Mary Lou Ward of Post and Mary Ellen Rodriguez & husband Jesse of Plains; a brother, Manuel Ramos of Plains and many grandchildren.

From Pg. 1 'Phone System'

ware system could be custom programmed to meet virtually every need of all departments. Judge Brewer related his office frequently receives long distance calls which should be directed to another office or department, but the old system lacks capabilities for transferring such calls, requiring the calling party to make another long distance call. The system is capable of recording and strong conversations between all offices and the general public for indefinite periods of time. Sheriff Don Corzine expressed concerns about the system's compatibility with the present 911 program, but was assured the ESI operation could be programmed for that service. The court expressed their opinion the new system would eventually pay for itself, compared to the cost and inefficiency of present phone operations. The installation price of \$20,621 for the new system was approved.

Pct. 3 Commissioner Ty Earl Powell reported insurance officials representing the Texas Association of Counties had contacted his office requesting information about reported flood damage to a residence adjoining the county's Stanford Park in last October's downpour rainfall leading to flooding in the area. The owner of the residence is attempting to sue for damages to his property, and TAC's insurance company requested Commissioner Powell to detail county efforts to prevent flooding in that area. Powell introduced former Commissioner Jim Barron, who listed flood prevention steps taken in the area during his tenure in office including two new 32 inch culverts installed after 1982 flooding, and three more culverts installed in the 90's. Powell also stated new 36 inch culverts were installed after the October event.

Judge Brewer told the court the individual was "bringing suit to collect \$7 to \$8 thousand in damages, and it's my opinion I don't think the county has any liability in the matter." He made motion to deny the claim for damages, which passed unanimously.

Judy London, grant writer for the county, presented an architect's drawing of the proposed recreational park in the southwest area of Denver City. London explained her daughter had produced the drawing as an expression of her gratitude to the county and community. London said she was prepared to formally file her grant request for \$50,000 for the project

Someone lose a 'chopper'?



Last week this two-seat helicopter was discovered in an area farmer's field near the intersection of County Roads 435 and 270. The aircraft was eventually reported to the Sheriff Department, which found the helicopter, rotary blades secured. An investigation indicated the aircraft was not stolen, and was registered to a Torrance, California firm. Two days after it was first discovered, it was gone. A mystery, but apparently no foul play involved.

JP Court Summary

sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife, which also calls for matching funds in kind from individuals, the county and business firms. The court approved the project.

From Pg. 1 'Sandy Land'

tract, in conjunction with South Plains and Llano Estacado, was licensed by the state to conduct its own weather modification program. This program operates under the acronym S.O.A.R., for Southern Ogallala Aquifer Rainfall. Copies of the report are available at the Sandy Land office.

The following is a summary of cases heard and bonds set in Pct. 1 Justice of Peace Court, Judge Melba Crutcher presiding.

- Cases filed:
 One open container alcohol in motor vehicle
 One possession of drug paraphernalia
 One Public intoxication
 86 traffic cases
 Bonds set:
 Possession of drug paraphernalia, \$200
 Two cases Possession of marijuana, \$500
 Burglary of habitation, \$5000
 Three cases DWI, \$1000
 Fictitious Counterfeit Inspection Insurance Documents, \$500
 False report to police officer, \$500
 8 cases motion to revoke probation, bond denied
 Theft, Limestone County warrants, \$1000 and \$1500
 Aggravated assault, serious bodily injury, \$20,000
 Possession alcoholic beverage, open container \$ 500
 Theft, Hockley County warrant, \$1000
 Assault, bodily injury to family member, \$1500.

PLAINS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE P. O. BOX 364 PLAINS, TEXAS 79355

Plains Chamber of Commerce is initiating a fund raiser to replace the marquee sign that is located south of the courthouse. At this time we are taking orders for bricks that will be used at the base of the new sign. The price of a brick will be \$50.00. The brick can have up to three lines with a maximum of 16 letters and spaces per line.

Please complete the form below and return to the address above with your check in the amount of \$50.00 for each brick ordered. This is not a war memorial, but you can honor a veteran if you wish. We would like family names, clubs and businesses (with the date of establishment), events, in memory of, and anything that might be a part of the history of our town.

DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 31, 2004. All monies will be refunded in the event that we do not receive enough money to complete this project. Any donation will also be appreciated.

PLEASE PRINT YOUR INFORMATION IN THE BOXES. REMEMBER ONLY 16 CHARACTERS (INCLUDING SPACES) TO EACH LINE.

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LINE 1 (16 LETTERS OR SPACES)

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LINE 2 (16 LETTERS OR SPACES)

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LINE 3 (16 LETTERS OR SPACES)

ORDERED BY _____ DATE _____

CHECK NUMBER _____ CASH _____



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MEMBER
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PISD Sports Summary

Junior High:

7th Girls - In action against Sundown, the younger Lady Wranglers downed Sundown 44-14. Courtni Asebedo had 17 points, Sydney Caffey 12, Jasmine Mares 7.

8th Girls- The older Lady Wranglers also won over Sundown, 38-30. Reyna Gallegos topped scoring with 18 points, Briana Conway 12, Mari Ruiz 3.

JV Cowgirls - The JV Cowgirls competed in the district basketball tournament at Sundown. On Thursday, they lost to Smyer 20-18. Liz Perez had 6 points, Priscilla Mares 4, Katie Winn 3, Lauren Hise 3, Allison Friesen 2. On Saturday they beat Sundown 27-19. Liz had 4 points, Priscilla 6, Katie 12, Lauren 2, Allison 3. They also beat O'Donnell 32-28 to win the consolation trophy. Liz scored 2 points, Priscilla 8, Katie 6, Lauren 4, Allison 12.

On Tuesday, January 11, the Cowgirls traveled to Sundown and lost 51-40. "I thought the girls played extremely hard, but we made too many turnovers on offence and against their press," Eddleman said. "We played them pretty much even during the first, third, and fourth quarters, but we just made too many costly mistakes in the second quarter." Desiraye Broom had an outstanding game with 15 points, 11 rebounds, 1 assist, 3 blocked shots, and 1 steal. Meghan Garcia had 8 points, 5 rebounds, 2 assists, and 4 steals. Whittany Caffey had 6 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist, and 2 steals. Regina Morales had 4 points, 2 assists, and 2 steals. Joani Bell had 4 points, 6 rebounds, and 1 blocked shot.

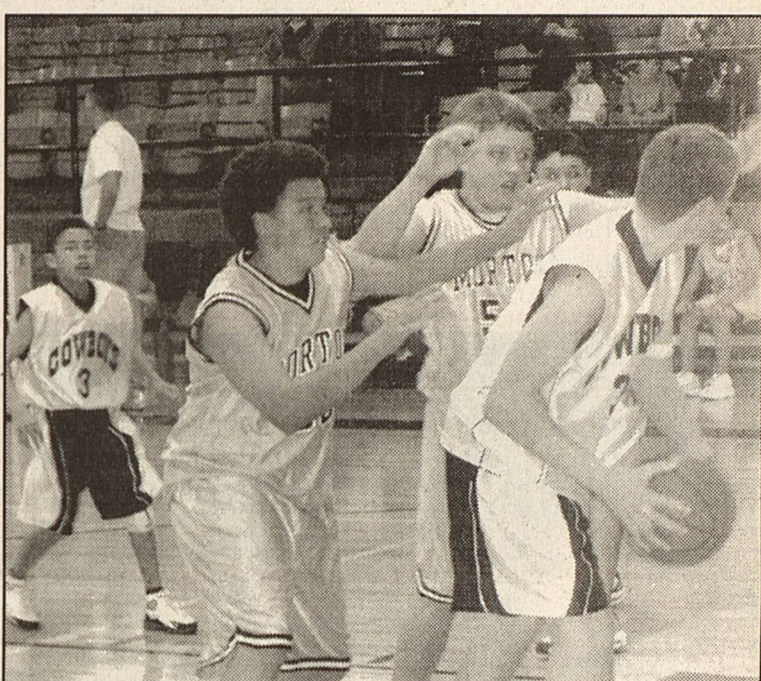
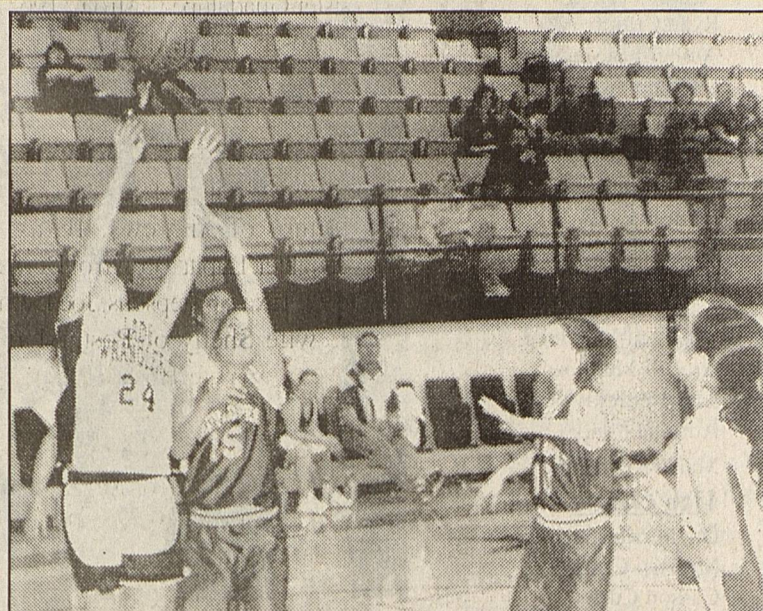
On Friday, January 14, the Cowgirls played 3rd ranked Seagraves and lost 51-38, "I thought the girls played a very good game against a very good basketball team," Eddleman said. "Seagraves had a lot of size, quickness, and experienced players, but the girls stepped up to the challenge and played extremely hard and smart." The team was lead by Whittany Caffey and Desiraye Broom. Whittany had 9 points, 8 rebounds, 2 assists, and 2 blocked shots. Desiraye had 9 points, 6 rebounds, 3 steals, and 1 assist. Joani Bell and Lauren Davis also had very good games. Joani had 6 points and 9 rebounds. Lauren had 6 points and 1 rebound. Meghan Garcia had 4 points, 1 rebound, 12 assist, and 2 steals. Regina Morales 2 points, 3 assists, and 1 rebound. The Cowgirls overall season record is 12-7 and 1-2 in district. The team will be playing Smyer on Friday, January 21, at 6:00 pm.

Varsity Cowgirls - On January 18, the Cowgirls lost at home to Whiteface, 67-33. "It was a disappointing loss, we just didn't execute or make the plays you need to make in a district game against a fundamentally sound basketball team," Eddleman said. "I thought the loss of Desiraye to an ankle injury also hurt us a bit, but the girls played a lot better the second half and I feel we will do a lot better against them in a few weeks." Whitney Caffey had 12 points, 4 rebounds 3 block shots, 4 steals and 1 assist. Lauren Davis had 7 points, 2 rebounds, 1 block shot and 1 steal. Meghan Garcia had 6 points, 7 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals. Regina Morales had 3 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal. Joani Bell led the team in rebounding with 8. Jamie Covarrubias had 3 rebounds. On January 21, the Cowgirls lost to Smyer 43-26. "We got off to a slow start the first quarter but the team picked it up and played them pretty much even the rest of then game," Eddleman said. Meghan Garcia had 6 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists and 1 steal. Lauren Davis had 5 points and 3 rebounds. Whitney Caffey had 5 points, 7 rebounds, Joani Bell 4 points, 13 rebounds, 1 assist and 1 block shot. Regina Morales had 4 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, Jamie Covarrubias had 2 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist and 1 steal. Their overall season record is 12-09 and 1-4 in district.

JV Cowboys - The younger Cowboys downed Whiteface 53-41, overcoming cold shooting and turnovers with a solid 19 point fourth quarter. Scott Addison led scoring with 17 points. Casson Curtis had 13, Landon Craft 11, Blake Parrish 8, and B.J. Lester 4. In the JV District Tourney here the Cowboys pounded Smyer 63-9. Blake Parrish topped scoring with 13, Landon 10, Scott 9, Todd Williams and B.J. 8 each, Casson Curtis 6, J.L. Vasquez 5, Zach Ramos 3. They next fell to Sundown 40-29, with a cold second half netting just ten points. Scott managed 8 points, Blake 7, Zach 5, Landon 4, Casson 4, Todd 1. They bounced back, however, with a 63-45 win over O'Donnell and second place in the tournament. Scott led scoring with 22, Todd 10, Landon and Casson 8 each, B.J. 6, Zach 5, Blake 3, David Alldredge 1.

Varsity Cowboys - At home against Whiteface the Cowboys could only make 18 percent of their shots and fell 39-21. Brandon Hise managed 7 points. Abel Ramos 6, Kerry Sisson 3, T.J. Cordova 3, Blake O'Quinn 2. They next journeyed to Smyer and again fell to poor shooting 52-29 Blake had 12 points, Evan Cain 4, Abel 4, Kerry and Brandon 3, Cody Flores 3.

JR HIGH TOURNAMENT SCENES



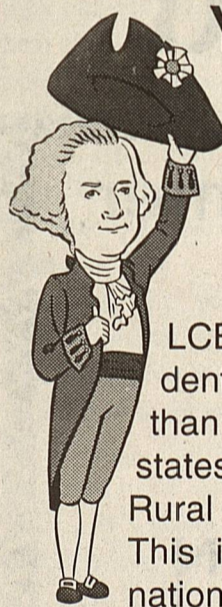
Student of the Week



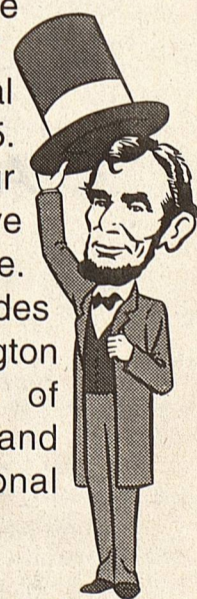
PHS Student of the Week is Michael Crump, a junior and the son of Brad and LeAnn Crump. Michael was nominated by Mrs. Caffey, who said, "Teachers enjoy students who ask questions. It makes you feel like they are actively involved in your class. You never know what kind of question this student might ask, but he's definitely inquisitive, and it usually ends in 'oh, oh, oh', which I'm not sure sometimes of that translates. 'Ok, I understand' or 'please stop talking you're confusing me more.'" Anyway I'm sure he'll invent something wonderful someday because he definitely thinks 'out side the box'. He's a hard worker, very mathematical, and fun to have in class."

Hey High School Students!

Where will you be this summer?
You could be in Washington, D.C.,
Courtesy of
Lea County
Electric Cooperative, Inc.!



LCEC will be sending two local high school students on an all-expense-paid trip to join more than 1,400 high school students from 37 states in Washington, D.C. for the National Rural Electric Youth Tour, June 16-18, 2005. This is the chance of a lifetime to tour our nation's capital, visit personally with legislative leaders, and see where history has been made. The Government-in-Action Youth Tour includes visits to the Smithsonian Institution, Arlington National Cemetery, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Mount Vernon, all the National Monuments and more!



For more information contact Suzie Brown at the Cooperative's Lovington office at 396-3631 or (800) 510-5232.

You can now apply on line at www.leacountyelectric.coop! Applications are also available at your high school or any LCEC office. Applications due by February 15, 2005.

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PISD 1st In UIL Meet

Plains High School UIL Academic Team places first in the 1A Division over area schools at the Willie McCool Invitational Meet at Lubbock Coronado.

Representing Plains High School were the following students: Adam McCravey, Amber Friesen, Antonio Martinez, Blake O'Quinn, Brandon Hise, Breck Hamm, Cody Flores, Evan Cain, Flor Lara, Jesinia Suarez, Joe Luis Gallegos, Kerry Sisson, Kristian Morales, Kurt Alldredge, Lauren Davis, Maria Andazola, Mayra Flores, Ramiro Martinez, and Ryan Crump.

Placing for Plains over 1A to 3A schools were the following:

Feature Writing

Cody Flores - 4th

Headline Writing

Cody Flores - 4th

Calculator

Team - 1st

Overall

Brandon Hise - 1st

9th Grade

Amber Friesen - 3rd

Lauren Davis - 8th

11th Grade

Blake O'Quinn - 10th

12th Grade

Brandon Hise - 1st

Evan Cain - 7th

Number Sense

Team - 1st

Overall

Brandon Hise - 1st

Kerry Sisson - 2nd

Kurt Alldredge - 5th

9th Grade

Kurt Alldredge - 1st

Amber Friesen - 3rd

11th Grade

Blake O'Quinn - 4th

12th Grade

Brandon Hise - 1st

Kerry Sisson - 2nd

Mathematics

Team - 3rd

Overall

Brandon Hise - 1st

9th Grade

Kurt Alldredge - 1st

Lauren Davis - 7th

Amber Friesen - 10th

12th Grade

Brandon Hise - 1st

Science

9th Grade

Kurt Alldredge - 8th

10th Grade

Joe Luis Gallegos - 9th

12th Grade

Brandon Hise - 7th

Computer Science

Team - 2nd

11th Grade

Adam McCravey - 4th

12th Grade

Brandon Hise - 3rd

Kerry Sisson - 5th

Computer Applications

Antonio Martinez - 5th

Spelling

Maria Andazola - 2nd

PISD Honor Roll

1st Semester

'A' Honor Roll

9th Grade

Kurt Alldredge

Maria Anazola

Ryan Crump

Amber Friesen

Lauren Hise

Zachary Ramos

10th Grade

Scott Addison

Landon Craft

Jose Gallegos

Erika Loewen

Nancy Lozano

Angelica Mendoza

Araceli Mendoza

Lisa Neufeld

Adriana Ponce

Mario Ruvalcaba

11th Grade

David Alldredge

Michael Crump

Casson Curtis

Allison Friesen

Reagan Haynes

Skylar Keesece

Ramiro Martinez

Adam McCravey

Blake O'Quinn

Blake Parrish

Abel Ramos

Todd Williams

12th Grade

Patrick Cotton

Mayra Flores

Breck Hamm

Brandon Hise

Daniela Lazos

Kerry Sisson

'A-B Honor Roll

9th Grade

Colby Ortega

Jordan Williams

10th Grade

Colby Wilmeth

11th Grade

B.J. Lester

12th Grade

Payton Bean

Evan Cain

Jamie Covarrubias

Brant Huerta

Prisma Ortiz

Claudia Reyna



ATTENTION

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS!

Lea County Electric Education Foundation is currently accepting applications for scholarships to be awarded for the Fall 2005 semester. The Scholarships are renewable up to 8 consecutive semesters, for a total of \$4,000.00!

Eligibility criteria are as follows:

Available only to active members (and immediate family) receiving service from LCEC.

Applicant must maintain a 2.50 GPA on a 4.00 scale and be considered a full-time student.

Applicant must submit two letters of reference (see application for important details) and demonstrate a coherent degree plan.

Applications must be received no later than February 11, 2005.

For more information contact Suzie Brown at the Cooperative's Lovington office at 396-3631. You can now apply on line at www.leacountyelectric.coop! Applications are also available at your high school or any LCEC office.

West Texas Medical Center

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Connection Annul Meeting Results

Yoakum County Connection held its annual meeting on Thursday, January 20, 2005 at their building on Main Street in Denver City. Denver City High School Choir was unable to perform due to illnesses. However, Linda Powell conducted the business meeting for chair Sue Holder. The invocation and treasurer's report were given by L.J. Sanders. Jeannette Head talked about the upcoming Watermelon Round-Up which is held Every Labor Day weekend on the Courthouse square. Terry and Wadonna Davis represented the successful Car Show held each year at the festival. Terry suggested selling chances on a 1962 Thunderbird car to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Round-Up. Chances will be sold for \$20.00 each by the Connection. After cost is subtracted the profit will go to the Car Show and Yoakum County Watermelon Round-Up. Prissy Summers and Kristy Kostelich, representing Denver City schools, talked about bringing in performers of the arts since 1998, with the help of the Connection, to our county schools. It is hoped there will be a spring performance in the county elementary schools and a fall performance in upper grade levels. Lisa Brown and Barbara Wright were re-elected as directors and Sandra Ramos and Hazel Lowrey of Plains and John (Corky) Black of Denver City were elected to serve three year terms. Returning directors are Melvin Dearing, Anna Gonzales, Ruth Gooch, Linda Harris, Judy London, Elsa Moya, LeAnn Romines, Esmeralda Salas, and Lisa Sosa. Current honorary directors include James Altman, Judge Dallas Brewer, Pam Burgess, Carolyn Culwell, Dennis Harrison, Jeannette Head, Debbie Pollard, Linda Powell, Jamie Ramos, Debbie Rushing, L.J. Sanders, Connie Webb and Bill Helwig. Door prizes were provided by Image N That, Agro Distributors, Uncle's Convenience Store, Lanelle's, Ace Hardware, Higginbotham Bartlet Co., Grand Entry, Vennum Fitzgerald, Totally Unique, Tangerine Tree House, TSA MO GA Club, Ty and Linda Powell, Denver City Art Assn., Mustang Country, Kathy's General Store, Liberty Drug and Total Health Solutions.

by Linda Powell

Legion Honors Four Chaplains

The 19th District will be holding a Four Chaplains Memorial Service on Saturday, February 5, 2005, at 11:00 am. The service will be held at the American Legion Post 575, 6628 W. 66th St., Lubbock. The public is invited.

The American Legion 19th District will celebrate a memorial service in honor of the four Army Chaplains who sacrificed their own lives to save others during World War II. The service is sponsored by The American Legion Post 575 of Lubbock. Officiating will be Post Chaplain, Father Thomas Diebel.

The epic story unfolded on February 3, 1943, when a German U-Boat torpedoed the USAT Dorchester. As it sank, Coast Guard cutters rescued some 230 soldiers and crew. The troops, many of them badly injured, panicked in the rush to get into overcrowded lifeboats and rafts. The four chaplains calmed the frightened men, distributed life jackets to those

who had left their own behind, and blessed the soldiers as they went over the side. When the life jackets were exhausted, they removed their own and gave them to four soldiers who lacked life belts. They were last seen, arms linked, heads bowed in prayer, on the deck of the ship as it sank beneath the freezing waves. Many of the 230 troops who survived owe their lives to the selfless heroism of the four chaplains.

On June 18, 1961, Congress authorized, and the President awarded, a posthumous Special Medal of Honor for Heroism to the four brave clergymen. The nation still honors their gallantry.

An offering will be taken and all proceeds from the collection will be sent to the Chapel of the Four Chaplains in Philadelphia, PA. If you have any questions contact your local American Legion Post or 19th District Commander Eldon Erickson (W) 806-761-4465 or (H) 806-763-5121.

Senior Citizens Corner

When the children asked how to celebrate eighty years with me, I suggested a card shower, but I never anticipated what an enjoyable occasion it was to become. Poetic words from my son-in-law, Ken, invited friends and family to share memories of times we've spent together. For two weeks I have eagerly looked forward to 'mail call' and its cards for that day. I have checked my computer each morning with anticipation and was never disappointed. E-mails came from friends and family everywhere recalling some incident we've shared that I had long forgotten. Gift certificates arrived for various business places. Telephone calls came from friends of long ago as well as from busy grandchildren in other parts of the world. Flower arrangements arrived to brighten my home at this special time. A special 'dinner out' was enjoyed by all local family members. Knowing of my enjoyment of poetry, original verses found their way into the greeting cards of several different friends. Now everything goes into a scrapbook for later sharing and enjoyment, and so the celebration goes on.

The 'remembering' brings back a special time off the shelves of memory that seems worthy of sharing here. The year was 1941, the location was a farm home in central Kansas, the occasion was 'corn canning' time. The men of the family had delivered a truck load of ears from the nearby field ready to be shucked, cleaned, and canned. As the hours passed, the shucks lay on the ground, the silks were in tubs, the ears waited on a table for kernel removal, the 'milk' from the kernels was splattered from ceiling to floor, the pressure cooker was humming, and rows of two-quart jars were appearing on the shelf. This was a state of affairs when a car drove into the yard and a young man exited and came to knock on the door and to ask for a 'first' date to the local movie house. Since he had been approved by the 'live-in' censor board (my older brothers), I accepted, and

and so began the saga of the years with all of their changes and challenges. To this day, I think that LOVE, in its most selfless form, tastes a bit like sweet corn!

Life has a way of accelerating as we grow older. The days get shorter and the list of promises to ourselves gets longer until we awaken in the morning and all we have to show for our lives is a litany of "I'm going to", "I plan on," and "Someday when things are settled down a bit."

This week we bade good bye to another one from our Senior family. Ray Roberts gave up his courageous battle with cancer. Ray was a personal friend of long standing. Our families worshipped together, prayed together, and played together. We shall miss him. We offer our sympathy to Opal and his family.

Patty Hartin and Lupe Zubiate, from the Senior Companion caregivers, met for their monthly meeting and shared lunch with us at the Center this week. Upon leaving, they left a Memorial for Jean Poage, who had served alongside them for many years. We continue to miss Jean, who was part of our Senior Center family for so long.

We are finding that several of our seniors are taking advantage of the opportunity to share their computer skills at the Learning Center. Some are learning basic 'getting started' skills; some say they have learned to 'cut and paste' which they had not tried before; and I hear of others who are learning how to maximize the limitless possibilities of working with photos from their digital cameras. We certainly appreciate this block of time offered daily to our seniors.

Denman Pate was accompanied by his daughter, Karen, at lunchtime one day this week, also Layne and Wanda's daughter, Rojean, shared lunch with her father one day. Welcome, ladies. It's good to see these pretty, young faces among us.

Thought for Today: "All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy."

Texas Obesity Conference

* Approximately 1,000 babies are born every day in Texas, and one-third are projected to develop Type 2 diabetes because of obesity related problems.

* Ten percent of the total healthcare expenditures in Texas are for obesity related health issues.

* More than 60 percent of all adults do not achieve the recommended amount of regular physical activity.

* In 2001, Texas businesses lost \$6.3 billion in indirect costs because of overweight or obesity.

Expanding physical activity in schools and developing ways to better research the obesity issue were just some of the many recommendations proposed at the first ever Governor's Conference on Children's Obesity in Texas.

The conference brought together a broad based group of experts from the health industry, business and industry, schools and state government to bring a Texas perspective and to develop Texas solutions to the growing obesity epidemic.

"Texans have never been known to stand down in a fight. I believe we can win the battle for our children's health, but we have to start now. Real change will take all of us working together with a commitment to taking action today," said Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs, who chaired the conference.

In Texas, more than one third of all school aged children are classified as overweight or obese, far above the national average. Obese children have a

50 percent greater chance of becoming obese adults, which will impact the state for many years.

Gov. Rick Perry was keynote speaker. He called the crisis affecting Texas 'a dark shadow over our future' and said the epidemic of obesity can be prevented with physical activity and dietary changes.

"Today in Texas, millions of our children are on a pathway to serious health problems that will result in shorter lives plagued by poor health because they are overweight or obese," Perry said. "Poor nutrition and poor exercise habits will rob them of a bright future, cause them to suffer from illnesses that are preventable and force Texas taxpayers and Texas employers to pay dire cost."

Panel topics at the daylong conference held at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas included: obesity and health; obesity and the workplace; the school environment; physical education; and communicating the issues for impact.

The theme of the conference was 'Charting a Course for Change,' and participants agreed that everyone in the state needed to commit to changing attitudes to help solve the obesity crisis.

"We need to change the way we think about health, nutrition and exercise, the entire environment of obesity," Combs said. "Once we make that commitment, we can begin to fight and win this battle that is affecting the lives and well being of all Texans, especially our children."

SPC To Offer Phlebotomy Course In Denver City

A Basic Phlebotomy course will begin Jan. 31 in Denver City offers by the South Plains College Division of Workforce Development.

A pre-register and information session is scheduled 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Wed. (Jan. 26) in the meeting room of the Yoakum County Hospital, 412 Mustang Ave., Denver City. Student may purchase textbooks during pre-registration. The class will meet 5:30-8:30 pm, Mondays and Tuesdays Jan. 31-March 8 at the hospital. Clinical sessions will be announced. Tuition is \$390, and cost of textbook is \$68.32.

The course will cover theoretical and practical aspects of specimen collections for clinical laboratories. Topics include professionalism, ethics, medical terminology, related anatomy, physiology, use of lab equipment, quality control and safety.

The course is designed to prepare students to take the American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians (ASPT) certification exams. After finishing the course, students will need to complete extensive additional clinical assignments for ASPT pre-certification requirements.

Students must provide proof of immunization for Hepatitis B series, MMR, Tetanus and have a current TB test and must pre-register.

For more information, contact Audrey Sanzotera, allied health coordinator for the SPC Workforce Development Division, at 806-894-9611, ext. 4038.

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From The Hack

Suddenly I am inundated with jokes via e-mail, this first from a grand daughter; NASA built a gun to fire standard size four pound chickens at windshields of aircraft and the space shuttle, to simulate and evaluate airborne birds hitting windshields in the craft at maximum speed. British engineers learned of the gun and asked NASA to allow them to test one of the guns on their high speed trains. NASA obliged, the Brits fired a chicken at the shatterproof windshield, smashing it to pieces, blasted through the control console, smashed the engineers seat to pieces. Horrified, the Brits reported the terrifying results to NASA. The engineers at NASA sent a one line reply to the British - "Thaw the chicken."

Then there were a small ton of jokes about "Seasoned Citizens". Notice how I refrained from using terms like old geezers, and old fuddy-dufs; now that I am one of them. The first joke for some reason reminds me of the 'really seasoned' bunch I play with: Three retirees, each with a hearing loss, were playing golf one fine afternoon, and one remarked, "Windy, isn't it?" The second guy replied, "No, it's Thursday." The third guy chimed in, "So am I, let's have a beer."

There's a very healthy chance I will get in trouble over the next, but if you are all of a sudden over-puritanized, remember some of the stuff you see on television virtually everyday; This little old lady was running up and down the halls of her retirement home, and as she

did she would flip the hem of her nightgown up and yell. "Supersex!" She approached an elderly man in a wheel chair, flipped her gown and said "Supersex!" The man sat silently several moments, then replied, "I think I'll take the soup."

Why do the following gems make me think of the ongoing Texas Legislative session?

'Have you ever examined the word politics? Poly means many and ticks means blood suckers'.

'Politics is like booze and women - dangerous but incomparably exciting.'

'Politics is the systematic organization of hatreds.'

'A politician is a person who states a minimum of thought with a maximum of words.'

'There are honest journalists like there are honest politicians. When bought, they stay bought.'

'And finally, perhaps CBS' Dan Rather should have memorized these definitions:

Source - the person who hands out press releases.

Reliable Source - the person who types press releases.

Informed Source - the person who ordered the reliable source to type the press release.

Political Observers - the cabbie who drives the reporter from the airport to his hotel, or the reporter's bartender and drinking buddies.

Another "Golden Girls" tale: A little old lady frantically called 911 on her cell phone to report her car had been broken into. She is hysterical as she explains her situation to the dispatcher; "They've stolen the stereo, the steering wheel, the brake pedal, they even took my accelerator", she cried.

The dispatcher told her, "Just stay calm, mam, an officer is on the way." A few minutes later, the investigating officer calls the dispatcher. "Disregard the break-in. She got into the back seat by mistake."

The news release type article on page 5 about the four brave Army Chaplains who gave their lives in WW II so other soldiers could live prompted me to return to a very large, and very impressive coffee table type book loaned to me by PISD Super Jim Haynes. The title of the book is *MEDAL OF HONOR, Portraits Of Valor Beyond The Call Of Duty*. Each school District in the state of Texas was presented with two copies of the fascinating book by Mr. Ross Perot.

The book features the stories of 116 armed forces service men, complete with 'before and after' photos of them in WWII, Korea or Vietnam uniforms, and photos of them today. It is strong stuff. I wish every student in the district would read the book before graduating.

In the preface, Ross Perot wrote: "Abraham Lincoln said, 'Any nation that does not honor its heroes will not long endure.' This book honors our nation's greatest heroes. The members of our armed forces who have earned the Medal Of Honor are our nation's greatest heroes.

These members of our armed forces have lived the words from Isaiah - *WHO SHALL GO? SEND ME!* As you read this book, the significance of this phrase will be apparent to every reader. *FOR THOSE WHO FOUGHT AND ALMOST DIED, FREEDOM HAS A TASTE THE PROTECTED WILL NEVER KNOW.*

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Army Town

Ft. Hood has more of the army's firepower than any other installation

In 2005, 5,000 U.S. Troops and their families will move to a Central Texas community that sports names like Hell On Wheels Ave., and Tank Destroyer Blvd.

The new soldiers and families will call Fort Hood home, and will bring an additional \$500 million to the Greater Killeen area. The base already contributes \$3.9 billion to the area economy each year, according to Eloise Lindgren, a Ft. Hood spokeswoman.

The new troops will form a brigade able to respond more quickly to world needs and can be added to other units based on those needs, said Cecil Green, a Ft. Hood spokesman.

The U.S. Congress scheduled a new round of Base Realignments and Closures (BRAC) for 2005 and will determine if Ft. Hood will be the permanent home for the new unit. Until then Ft. Hood and the City of Killeen are preparing new roads, schools and homes.

Named for Confederate General John Bell Hood, the U.S. military first used the site as Temporary Ft. Hood in 1942 to mobilize and train troops in WWII.

The renamed Ft. Hood became a permanent installation in 1951 and is the only two-division post in the nation, housing both the 1st Cavalry Division and the 4th Infantry Division, which captured former Iraqi Leader Saddam Hussein in December 2003. The Army's 3rd Armored Corps is also housed at Ft. Hood and is the nucleus of the leadership headquarters stationed in Iraq, said Patrick Connelly, a former Army captain who was stationed at Ft. Hood and now works in the Texas Comptroller's Fund Accounting Division.

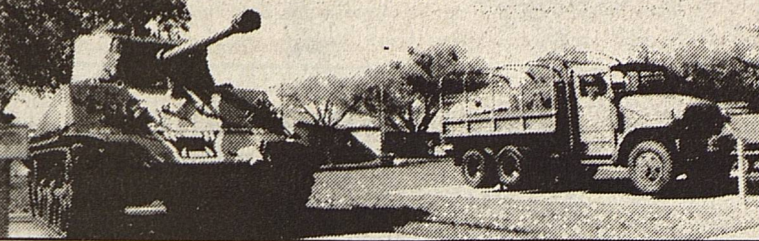
Ft. Hood is home to 12 additional military units and nearly 45,000 soldiers. Its specialty is firepower.

"Ft. Hood has more of the army's firepower than any other installation," Connolly said. "That's because it is a mechanized and armored hub. Basically, if you want to go to a

An army of jobs

From 1990 to 2003, the Killeen-Temple area added about 28,000 jobs, a surge of 33 percent. Fort Hood is the largest single employer in Central Texas and helped keep Killeen's unemployment rate well below the state's average.

Top Killeen employers	Number of employees
Fort Hood	45,000
Killeen I.S.D.	4,300
Central Texas College	2,047
Metropolitan Hospital	2,000
DynCorp	1,805



Mecca for tankers or be a mechanized infantry guy, you go to Fort Hood, Texas."

Since 1942, the base and its personnel have been the backbone for the Killeen economy. "Over 50 percent of the area's jobs are Ft. Hood related," said Fred Latham, a Killeen city councilman. "They are the engine that drives this economy. Ft. Hood is our major industry."

Ft. Hood employs more than 60,000 of Killeen's 101,000 residents through military, civilian and federal contracts, according to the Killeen Chamber of Commerce.

To prepare for the new troops, the base is quickly remodeling older houses to accommodate larger military families, said John Driver, quality manager with the Housing Office.

Military families are larger this year, Driver said. Nearly 75% of today's soldiers are married.

The Housing Office concentrates on accommodating larger four and five bedroom homes for the City of Killeen to provide one and two bedroom apartments in town for single soldiers and smaller families.

Latham estimates nearly 65 percent of the 5,000 new troops will settle in Killeen, providing a tremendous boost for rental apartments, houses and retail. "5,000 troops equates to about 12,500 family members," Latham said.

Using Latham's rule of 65 percent, that's about 8,000 new residents buying cars and clothes and eating in restaurants. They will also benefit from a September 2004 unemployment rate of 4.1 percent, well below the statewide rate of 5.4 percent.

Despite the deployment of both the 4th Infantry and the 1st Cavalry in Iraq in 2003 and 2004, the Killeen economy is booming. Residents remembered the recession brought on by the first Gulf War broke out in Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2002, said Maggie Brewster, the command information officer. "But there's been no letdown in Killeen's economy," she said. "If you go away for a week, something new will be built."

The base also keeps many Central Texas residents employed through various off base jobs. Killeen has expanded its water infrastructure, is widening and building roads and building more schools. In 2004 Texas lawmakers pledged \$20.5 million to Ft. Hood infrastructure if the 5,000 troops were guaranteed to move to the base.

The additional funding marks a proactive stance lawmakers are taking in anticipation of the 2005 BRAC. The U.S. Secretary of Defense must submit a list of potential base closures to the BRAC committee by May, 2005. Under BRAC guidelines, some bases will be closed altogether while others will take units from different bases. Of 17 active duty bases in Texas, Ft. Hood is the largest and one of the most significant army installations in the country.

Since 1942, Killeen has grown from a farming community to a bustling city, mirroring the rise of the Ft. Hood population. The soldiers and their families propelled a 37 percent increase in population to some 87,000 in 2000. Now, the Killeen Chamber estimates the population of more than 100,000, a 15 percent increase in two years.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS YOAKUM COUNTY AIRPORT TxDOT CSJ #0405PLAIN

A "Notice To Bidders" is issued for the construction of airport improvements at the Yoakum County Airport to: Rehab and mark apron, taxiways and runway 17-35; relocate lighted wind cone and segmented circle; construct and mark new runway 3-21; Construct and mark taxiways A, B, C, & D; install MIRLS and PAPI-2 on runway 3-21; scarify and remove existing runway 8-26 and south taxiway. install erosion/sedimentation controls and install perimeter fence. Sealed proposals need to be addressed and delivered to the Honorable Dallas Brewer, Yoakum County Judge, Yoakum County Courthouse, Cowboy Way and Avenue G, Plains, Texas 79355, phone number 806-456-7491. Proposals will be received until 2:00 PM, February 15, 2--5, then publicly opened and read. Any proposal received after closing time will be returned unopened.

You may view and obtain plan sets, free of charge, at our website, www.dot.state.tx.us/business/avncontractorianfo.htm. Or you may buy plan sets from the Reproduction companies that are listed on the Aviation website.

Please call Amy Slaughter at 512-416-4519 for questions concerning the bid document or further information. Technical questions concerning the specifications and plans should be directed to James Tompkins, P.E. with the West Texas Consultants, Inc., at 432-523-2181.

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