

Cowboy Country News

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

Volume XII, Issue 20, January 25, 2006

BAZE BOOKBINDING ADV
514 W 7TH AVE
AMARILLO, TX 79101



Texas FSA supports establishing firebreaks on CRP grounds

In response to the continued threat of grass fires statewide, Texas Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds landowners of a provision in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) procedure allowing for the establishment of fire breaks as a preventive measure. "Although disking CRP ground is not a typically authorized practice, the benefit outweighs the cost in terms of fire protection of life and property," said Gary Six, County Executive Director for the Yoakum County FSA.

Individuals who are interested in disking perimeter firebreaks on ground enrolled in CRP must first visit the USDA Service Center and work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to modify CRP contracts to include firebreaks. NRCS will determine acceptable firebreak widths on a site-specific basis.

With nearly four million acres of CRP in the state, many of those acres bordering communities and residences, Texas FSA supports efforts to reduce combustible vegetation that may cause a fire to spread.

There is no cost-share for establishing firebreaks and rental payment penalties will not be assessed. Six added, "Although fuel prices are high, a little fuel and some sweat equity may prove to be cheap insurance in the long run."

For more information, contact the Yoakum County FSA, 806-456-2132 or NRCS at 806-456-2132.

Looking back - and ahead - on Yoakum County Connection

Most folks who live in Yoakum County enjoy being part of a small community. They like being on a first name basis with neighbors and people they see around town. They feel secure and far removed from the problems that plague larger cities. Life in a small town, however, is sometimes difficult for those who want cultural enrichment. That problem was addressed several years ago by a group of county residents who recognized the need for more cultural awareness here. They resolved to make some changes by forming a non-profit group which could raise money to fund such projects.

With assistance from the Texas Commission on the Arts, Yoakum County Connection was organized in 1996. Its mission: to improve the quality of life in the communities of Plains and Denver City through support of local art programs and the development of opportunities for additional cultural activities.

The first project sponsored by the Connection was the 1996 Watermelon Roundup in Plains. It was a highly successful event which drew thousands of people to the city for entertainment and shopping. Now staged annually on the Saturday before Labor Day, this event grows each year and continues to be a major fund raiser for the Connection.

Linda Harris, President of the YCC Board of Directors, describes the Connection as vital to the cultural growth of our community. "The persons who serve on our



Connection Board officers Linda Harris & Elsa Moya

board of directors are dedicated to see this community grow and develop flourishing young people who will continue to be interested in Yoakum County."

An important accomplishment of the organization was the acquisition and renovation of a building in downtown Denver City. According to Harris, "We are proud of the Connection Building. It provides a comfortable and attractive setting for our meetings and community cultural events, such as the annual art show."

Judy London also serves on the board of directors. According to London, the organization's goal is a better lifestyle for local residents. "We want the people, and especially the youth, of Yoakum County to be aware of the

Plains Chamber of Commerce's long standing motto, "Proud Of The Past, Plans For The Future" fit guest speaker Dallas Powell like a custom made pair of gloves. His message to the large audience at last Thursday's annual banquet showcased his native son pride in the community and county, and his confidence in their future.

Using an over head display, he held the audience attention by showing old, historical photos of the locale and its early pioneers, many of them his family members, who helped establish this town. Citing early ranch families who were some of the first settlers in the county, with a number of descendants of those earliest settlers in attendance, Powell recalled how

Banquet audience hears up-beat message from speaker Powell



Banquet head table with speaker Powell and family members of the Powell (Luna) and St. Romain (Luna) families and descendants.

the town of Plains was first organized, the locating of the County Courthouse here, and the discovery of oil, which led to the founding of Denver City.

Powell spoke of the county's two outstanding school districts, and of community achievements. He recalled meeting a couple in a far away state, and when he told them he grew up in Plains, they excitedly told him they had been passing through when the Watermelon Round Up was underway. They were so impressed with the Round Up they spent the entire day, and told Powell they were

going to come back again.

His entertaining and humorous session followed an impressive barbecue dinner by Randy Beasley's 2-B Ranch Catering service. Plains High senior B.J. Lester furnished dinner music with his piano talent. Area residents were once more generous with the donation of many dozens of impressive door prizes.

Special recognition honored the late Johnnie Fitzgerald for his years of dedication to serving the community and county, and Judge Dallas Brewer presented Johnnie's wife Melba a plaque of appreciation for his service. He also awarded a plaque of honor to Vaughn and Carolyn Culwell, who have served the town and Chamber so faithfully since its inception.

Thanks To The School Board

By PISD Superintendent James Haynes

The Governor of Texas has proclaimed January as School Board Recognition Month. As superintendent of Plains ISD, I would like to thank each member of the Plains Board of Trustees for the support they give the administration, teachers, and most importantly the children of Plains.

You can read in the newspapers or hear on the radio or television about school problems that occur across the state and nation. I am extremely thankful the problems you hear about are not generated at the local level by the people you have chosen to represent you. You and your children are represented by a group of men and women of high integrity and moral values. I truly believe education in Plains is providing our children with the tools they will need to be productive citizens for our town, the state, and the nation and it is because of the support given by these board members making that possible.

These board members are the leaders of our school district. They oversee all we do and support us (meaning the children and the school employees) faithfully. There are times when they have had to make extremely hard decisions and they do so thoughtfully, with great courage, and with a basic set of morals as their guidelines. As members of the Plains community we can ask for no better and should settle for no less. In the nine years I have been associated with the Plains schools we have never had a board member that was not committed to the task of making our schools better and doing whatever was possible to help students.

As a community we should be thankful we have people who are willing to serve and who do not bring personal agendas to the meetings. Serving can be a challenge and one that too many times is laced with controversy. School board members can be accosted at the most inopportune times with concerns by individuals who have a problem and see them as the immediate answer. The Plains School Board members have always been concerned with every student and their success in school. I don't know that we could ask any more of them. If you get the opportunity to speak to a board member in the future be sure and thank them for the job they are doing. They certainly deserve it.

Routine court session

In the January 23 session of Commissioner's Court, County Clerk Debbie Rushing requested approval of a lease agreement allowing other governmental entities in the county to use electronic voting machines belonging to the county in their elections. There would be no fee for the leased machines, but each entity would be responsible for any damage during the voting process. The lease would be with both city governments, Sandy Land Water District, and both school districts. The court approved the request.

Pct 2 Justice of Peace Troy Scott requested funds for the purchase of a Birth and Death recording book, and new state mandated death certificates. The Book would cost \$600, and 500 of the certificates would be \$745. He also asked for funds to purchase a new printer for his office to replace an out of date printer not compatible with required software. The printer would be delivered and installed for \$830. All his requests were approved.

Turn To Page 2,
COURT



Jentry Wall very efficiently helped Gary Walker select door prize winning tickets at the Chamber Banquet. Young sister Trenity also helped, but we weren't able to get a photo

Services For Sharon Thomas

Sharon Thomas, 52, of Lubbock, Texas beloved daughter, mother and grandmother, passed from this life on January 13, 2006.

Sharon was born on September 16, 1953 in Littlefield, Texas to Chester and Ophelia Kerby. She attended Littlefield High and later become the store manager of Lowe's on 26th and Boston in Lubbock. Sharon loved to read, watch movies and spending time outdoors especially camping. Sharon was a member of the Sunset Ave. Baptist Church in Littlefield. She was manager of the Plains Pay N Save store a number of years.

Those left to mourn her passing is her mother, Ophelia Kerby, one son, Jordan Thomas; one daughter, Miranda Hiatt, two sisters, Karen Sue Mullins and Tammy Love; and two grandchildren who will miss

her very much.

Services will be at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 18 at the First Baptist Church in Littlefield with the Rev. Bobby Williams officiating and Rev. Benny Goss assisting. Interment will follow in Littlefield Memorial Park.

Arrangements are under the personal care of White Funeral Home. To register or send condolences online, please visit www.whitefuneralhome.com.

Services for Guadalupe Duran

Services for Guadalupe Duran, 74, of Plans were held at 10 AM Saturday, January 21, 2006 at Templo Bautista Nuevo Vision with Rev. Jose Rodriguez officiating. Burial followed at Plains Cemetery with services under direction Of Boyer Funeral Chapel, Denver City.

Mrs. Duran passed away January 19, 2006 at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock after a lengthy illness. She was born January 26, 1931 in Mexico and was a longtime resident of Plains, moving here in 1955. She was a member of Templo Bautista Nuevo Vision and was a loving mother and grandmother. She loved her children and grandchildren in her own special way.

Survivors include 7 sons; Joe, of Post; Martin Jr. of Washington; Armando and Ruben of Post; Angel of Chimayo, NM; Luis Fernando of North Carolina, and Victor Ramos, Odessa. Five daughters, Anna Marie Gonzalez, Maria Victoria Delgado, Mary Lou Ward, and Mary Ellen Rodriguez, all of Plains, and Lupe Brown, Denver City. A sister, Marta Herrera, Mexico, 35 grandchildren, and 32 great grandchildren.

Services Held For Norma Layman

Nofma Layman, Age 85, passed away on January 17, 2006 at Covenant Hospital in Lubbock.

Mrs. Layman was born on June 4, 1920 in Jerome, Arizona to Hugh and Catherine Follendore. She attended and graduated school in Holtville, California and attended the University of Southern California. She has lived in Gaines and Terry Counties since the early 1950's.

She married the love her life, Earl Layman on October 27, 1952 in Lovington, New Mexico. He preceded her in death in 1988. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Brownfield.

Mrs. Layman was a 50 year member of the Eastern Star. Her greatest accomplishment in life were her two sons.

She is survived by her 2 sons, Mark Layman of Loop and Larry Layman of Valencia, California. She also had 1 Grandchild.

Graveside services will be Friday Morning at 10:00 A.M. at Gaines County Cemetery in

Loop. Rev. Beverly Titus will be officiating.

The family request that in lieu of flowers you give to your favorite charity or send a card.

Services are being provided by Mark A Jones Funeral Directors of Seagraves.

From Pg. One, COURT

Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Estefana Mendoza withdrew her request for bids for the purchase of a four door vehicle. She will re-submit the request for a small SUV type vehicle with or without trade in of a 2001 Chevrolet Impala and 2003 Ford Victoria.

Your Duty - Your Privilege - Answer the call and serve on a jury

Inconvenient. Can't afford it. Too busy. Boss won't give me time off from work. A summons for jury duty -- the invitation to participate in a cornerstone of democracy that people in most countries can only dream about -- too often inspires only excuses.

Studies have found that one of the greatest barriers to serving on a jury is economic. People simply can't afford to take time off work -- in many cases without pay -- for the grand sum of \$6 per day. That doesn't pay for courthouse parking and a sandwich for lunch, much less make a dent in the monthly rent or utility bill.

But Texas lawmakers are offering a helping hand. On Jan. 1, a new law, Senate Bill 1704, increased juror pay from \$6 to a minimum of \$40 per day after the first day of service -- a 500-plus percent increase. The new provision, long recommended by the Texas supreme Court and various legal organizations, should take some of the economic sting out of jury service.

Too busy? Most of us have many demands on our time, and that's showing up in declining jury participation. In Texas' largest counties, almost three-fourths of all those called for jury service simply don't show up. Yet our highest elected leaders have found time to serve.

Recently, President Bush said he intends to answer a jury summons from McLennan County, where his Crawford ranch is located. And Texas Governor Rick Perry reported to the Travis County courthouse in 2002 when called for a municipal trial.

Our founders treasured the jury trial, along with voting, as the two great pillars of citizen control over government. Jefferson described the system as "the only anchor ever yet imagined by man by which a government can be held to the principles of its constitution."

The Texas constitution has two separate guarantees of the right to a jury trial. Texas jurors decide not only guilt or innocence, but assess punishment as well. They decide more types of civil disputes than jurors in most states. If your life and property were at stake, you'd want the best possible jury, not just the best that could be obtained among the one in four citizens who bothered to show up.

At a time when our soldiers are risking their lives in foreign lands, the least we can do for our country is to sacrifice a little and money to keep our justice system strong. Let's each resolve to make answering the call to jury service as New Year's resolutions for 2006.



Tim Addison

Candidate for County Commissioner of Precinct Four

Your vote and support is appreciated !!

Republican Primary

March 7, 2006

Early Voting Feb. 21 thru March 3, 2006

Political advertisement paid for by Tim Addison

Plains Family Health Clinic



The professionally trained and dedicated staff of Plains Family Health Clinic are available and ready to meet the medical needs of the community

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8 am.-5pm.


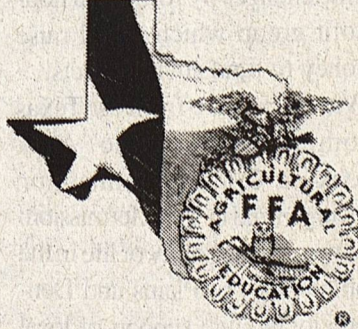
Will take walk-ins Appointments preferred
Please call 806-456-6365

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54th Annual 2006
Yoakum County Junior Livestock Show
January 26, 27 & 28, 2006
Sponsored by Yoakum County Livestock Association

Lions hear informative program on Dialysis Services of West Texas center



Bringing the dialysis program to the Lions were, L-R, Nancy Bernal, DeAnn Weir and Misty Sanchez.

Plains Lions Club members paid rapt attention to the program conducted here January 19 by three staff members of the Dialysis facility in Denver City, a division of Yoakum County Hospital. Misty Sanchez, DeAnn Weir and Nancy Bernal detailed the daily operation of cleansing by filtration of blood from victims of kidney failure, and a report of the successful growth of the state of the art dialysis facility.

Now operating well into the second year, the center now has in operation eight full service patient treatment stations, and two required stand-by stations and dialysis machines. Eventually a total of 12 machines will be in operation for 24 patients. Amir Memon, MD, is the physician in charge of the dialysis center.

The dedicated ladies made no attempt to gloss over the dialysis treatment, and reported it is a difficult process, but the only filtration alterna-

tive available to keep kidney failure patients alive. They said most patients accept this harsh reality in good spirits. Each patient is normally monitored by a staff member every 12 to 15 minutes.

The three attendants said the relatively small treatment facility allows them and the other attendants an opportunity for closeness with the patients not possible in larger, busier centers. Most treatments will take 3 to 4 hours to complete, with three treatments per week the norm. Most patients come from the immediate surrounding area.

The ladies brought Lions and guests 15 page packets of information available on treatment methods for hemodialysis. This report is available to the public at: <http://kidney.nih.gov/kudiseases/pub/hemodialysis>.

County Court Crime Cases

Two cases were heard in the January 18 session of County Court, with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clerk representing the State.

Jack Ross Horton pled guilty to the state's motion to revoke community supervision. Supervision was revoked. He was ordered to serve 30 days in jail with credit for 34 days served, must pay \$328 delinquent CSCD fees, \$126 delinquent fine. Warren New was his attorney.

Anna Marie Aguilar pled guilty to theft by check, more than \$500, less than \$1500. A 180 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. She must pay \$256 court costs, restitution of \$1072 to the Criminal DA office, and \$50 supervision fee while under supervision. Rick Dickson was investigating officer.

JP Court Summary

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

Bonds set:
 Intoxicated manslaughter w/ vehicle- \$10,000
 Failure to appear- \$500
 Motion to revoke \$1500
 3 charges-motion to revoke probation- Denied
 Assault, bodily injury/family violence-\$5000 + protective order issued+ 48 hour extended hold.
 False report to police officer-\$500
 No driver license- Held for Border Patrol
 No driver license- \$500
 Assault causes bodily injury/family violence- \$1500
 Driving, license suspended-\$10,000

A Salty Solution

Anyone who has gulped seawater at the beach can attest salty water is not for drinking. Briny water however, can be made drinkable with the proper processing, and Texas officials are looking to the salty stuff to slake the state's thirst.

By 2050, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) estimates the state's annual demand for water will exceed 20 million acre-feet. An acre-foot is the amount of water that covers one acre to a depth of one foot. If a drought occurs, the board estimates the state's water sources will fall short by 7.5 million million acre-feet.

The answer to a possible water shortage could be desalination, the removal of salt from ocean or brackish water. Brackish water is moderately salty. Salinity is measured by the concentration of total dissolved solids (TDS) in water. Ocean water has about 35,000 milligrams per liter (mg/l) of TDS. Brackish water has from 1,000 to 10,000 mg/l, and fresh water has less than 1,000 mg/l. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's guideline for drinking water is 500 mg/l.

All regional water areas in the state have brackish groundwater. In 2003, TWDB estimated the state's total volume of brackish groundwater at more than 2.7 billion gallons. Of the state's 16 draft regional water plans, part of the state water plan, 10 include desalination strategies, said Jorge Arroyo, leader for TWDB's innovative water technologies group.

"We already have brackish water desalination going on in many parts of the state," said Arroyo. "There are a number of areas that are dependent on desalination for drinking water."

In May 2005, TWDB found 49 facilities in the state desalinating more than 25,000 gallons of brackish water per day.

The Brownsville Public Utilities Board (PUB) opened a large scale desalination plant in April 2004. The Southmost Regional Water Authority plant meets about 40 percent of the water needs for five area utilities, according to John Bruciak, Brownsville PUB's general manager.

The success of groundwater has many looking to the ocean for the future of desalination in Texas. The 2005 Texas Legislature appropriated \$3.3 million for desalination projects, including \$2.5 million for up to three seawater desalination projects. TWDB is pursuing projects in Brownsville, Corpus Christi and Freeport. Seawater is more expensive to desalinate, but the unlimited nature of the resource makes the projects attractive. Desalination is going to play a major role in Texas in the future.

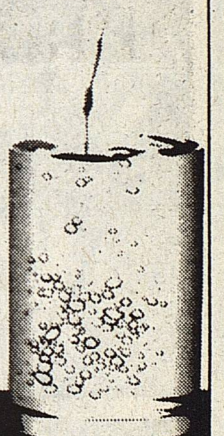
** Courtesy *Fiscal Notes*, a publication of the Texas Comptroller's office.

Wet your whistle

The Southmost Regional Water Authority desalination plant treats 5 million gallons of water per day to meet about 40 percent of the water needs for five Cameron County areas. Brownsville Public Utilities Board General Manager John Bruciak said Rancho Viejo gets all of its water from Southmost.

Areas served by the Southmost plant	Population
Brownsville	139,722
Brownsville Navigation District	n/a*
Indian Lake	541
Los Fresnos	4,512
Rancho Viejo	1,754

*Note: Brownsville Navigation District does not serve a residential population. The district services commercial enterprises at the Brownsville Port of Entry.
 Sources: Brownsville Public Utilities Board, 2000 U.S. Census



ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS!

Lea County Electric Education Foundation is currently accepting applications for scholarships to be awarded for the Fall 2006 semester. The Scholarships are renewable up to 8 consecutive semesters, for a total of \$5,000.00!

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 10, 2006.

For more information contact Suzie Brown at the Cooperative's Lovington office at 396-3631. Applications are also available at your high school or any LCEC office.

Top Ten Texas Stolen vehicles

Pickups are not only popular among Texas drivers, they are also the top targets for Texas vehicle thieves. The Texas Department of Public Safety released its report on the top stolen vehicles during 2005.

and as has been the case for a number of years, the Chevrolet pickup remains the number one position. Coming in at a close no. 2 is the Ford pickup, with the Dodge pickup in third place popularity.

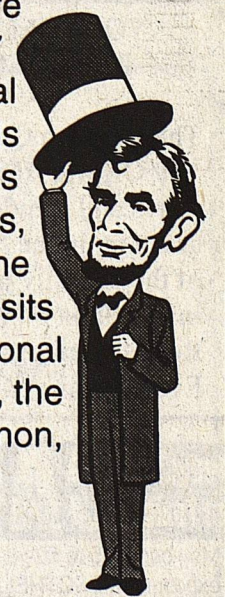
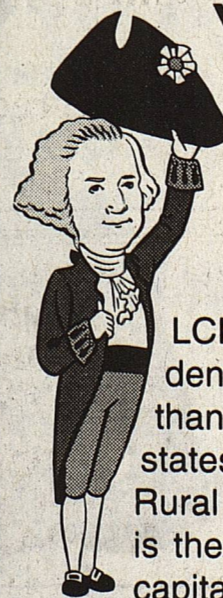
The complete Top Ten list includes: 1. Chevrolet pickup 2. Ford pickup 3. Dodge

pickup 4. Honda Accord 5. Honda Civic 6. GMC pickup 7. Chevrolet Tahoe 8. Ford Taurus 9. Toyota Camry 10. Ford Mustang.

Vehicles are stolen for a variety of reasons, and contrary to popular belief, most stolen vehicles are several years old.

Hey High School Students!

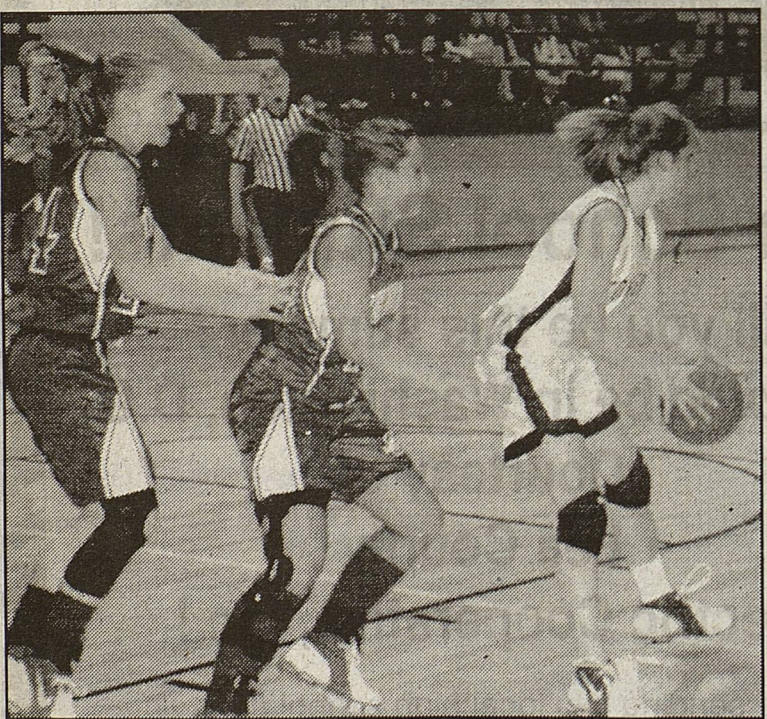
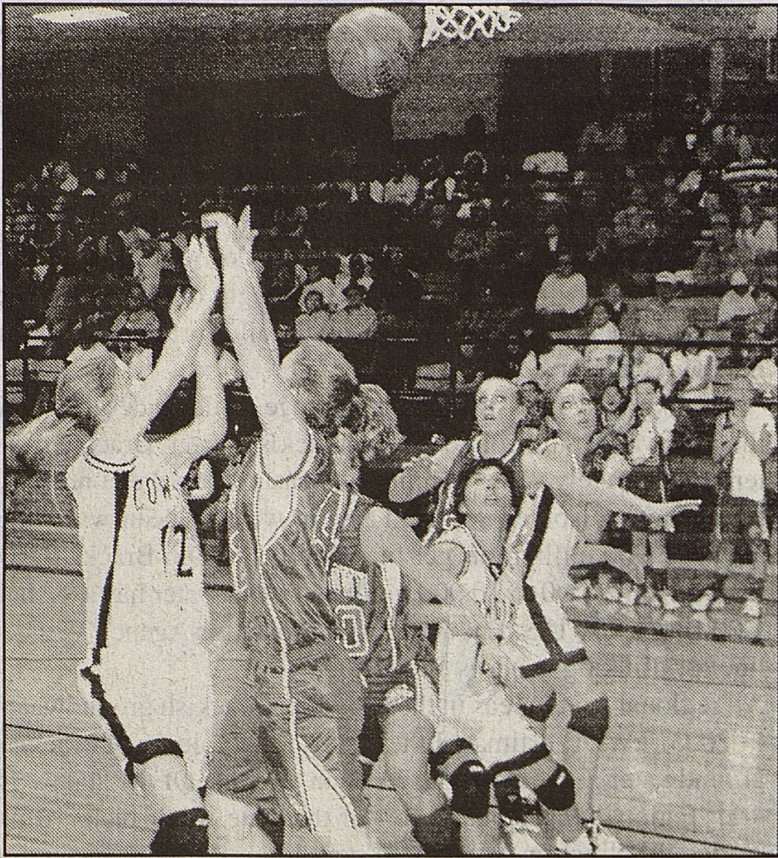
Where will you be this summer?
 You could be in Washington, D.C.,
 Courtesy of
 Lea County
 Electric Cooperative, Inc.!



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 8-15, 2006. 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. Applications are also available at your high school or any LCEC office. Applications due by February 10, 2006.

**** We were unable to take photos of last week's basketball action because of camera problems. The Varsity Girls shots are from prior week's action, and Jr. High photos are courtesy of Coach Davis ****



YOAKUM COUNTY LIBRARY PLANS INFORMATION PLEASE PROGRAM

The Yoakum County Library will present an INFORMATION PLEASE program entitled, "Natural Cures and Gentle Medicines" on Thursday, January 26 at 2 p.m. in the Heritage Room at the library. The goal of the monthly programs is to inform and provide current information on topics of interest to the public. Refreshments will be served following the program. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

PISD Sports Review

Jr. High Basketball:
7th & 8th Lady Wranglers
Sundown Tourney - The 7th Girls defeated Yucca 29-12. Paty Avila led scoring with 14 points. Kelby Bartley had 6. Samantha DeLaRosa 5, and Hannah Crump 4. They fell to Sundown 22-10. Kelby managed 6 points, Hannah and Samantha 2 each. They finished second in the tournament

The 8th Lady Wranglers also took second place in the tournament. They won over Sundown 41-27. Courtni Asebedo topped scoring with 13 points, Paty Avila and Stephanie Addison each had 8, Daenna Ramirez 6, Natalie Butler 4, and Kelbi Bartley 2. They lost to Yucca 19-36. Daenna Ramirez and Paty Avila each had 5 points, Courtni 4, Kelbi 3, Natalie 2.

7th Wranglers
The 7th boys took a 9 game winning streak into the Sudan tournament, and came home with an 11 game winning streak. They downed district rival Sundown 32-21, then blasted Sudan 51-32. Dylan DeBusk led all scorers with 25 for the day. Coach Davis said another coach commented on the team, and he replied, "What we have is a team where all 13 players hustle and give great effort." They had eleven players score in the games.

JV Cowgirls
The younger Cowgirls fell to Whiteface 24-49. Liz had 8 points, Heather 2, Mari 2, Brianna 11, Kimber 1. They also lost to Smyer 18-16. Jennifer had 2 points, Liz 5, Heather 1, Yesenia 3, Brianna 5.

Varsity Cowgirls
On January 17 the Cowgirls lost to Whiteface 53-45. Desiraye Broome had 16 points, 10 rebounds, 1 assist, two blocked shots and 2 steals. Regina Morales had 5 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal. Lauren Davis had 5 points, 5 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal. Reyna Gallegos had 5 points, 1 rebound, 1 steal. Joani Bell had 2 points, 5 rebounds, 5 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 blocked shot, 3 steals. On January 20 they lost to Smyer 45-41. Desiraye had 12 points, 10 rebounds, 4 blocked shots, 4 steals. Meghan Garcia had 8 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist and 3 steals. Regina had 8 points, 2 rebounds, 8 assists and six steals. Lauren had 7 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist. Joani had 4 points, 6 rebounds, 1 blocked shot and 1 steal. Reyna had 2 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists. They have an overall season record of 13-1- and a district record of 1-4.

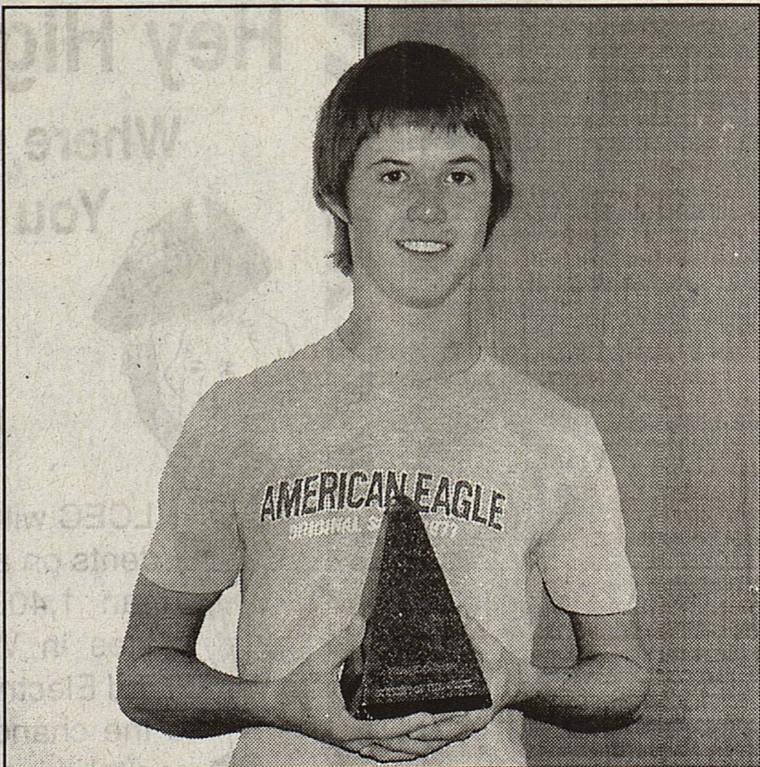
High School UIL at Lubbock Coronado

On January 21 the Plains High UIL team traveled to Lubbock to participate in the Lubbock Coronado Willie McCool UIL Practice Meet. The team walked away with a first place sweepstakes in the A division and had numerous individual awards.

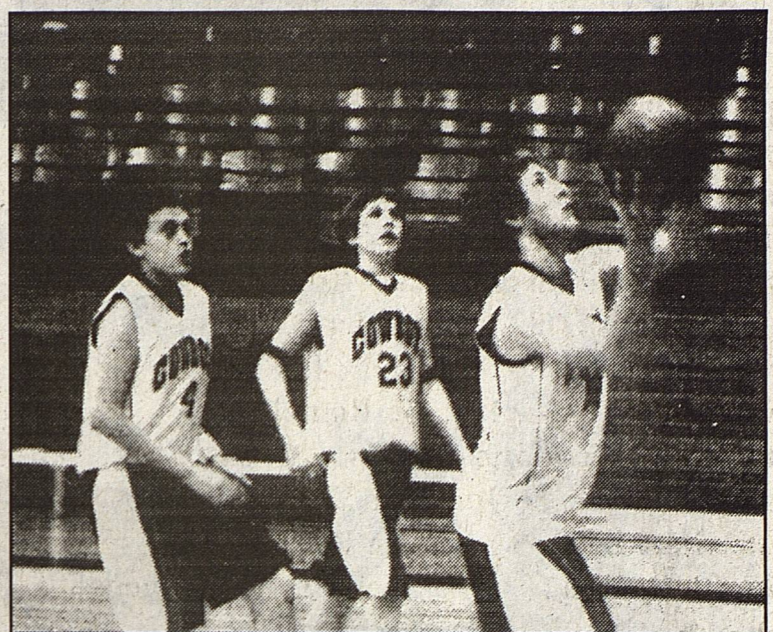
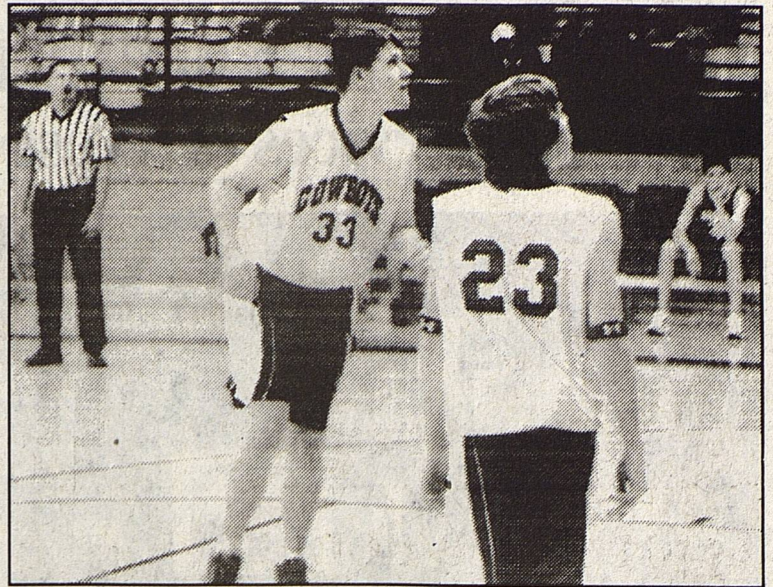
The Journalism team had a successful meet. They placed second as a team and won individual honors in all four tests. Allison Friesen placed second and Lauren Davis placed sixth in Feature Writing. Blake O'Quinn placed fourth in Headline Writing. Joe Luis Gallegos placed second in Editorial Writing. Allison Friesen placed first and Blake O'Quinn placed second in News Writing. Maria Andazola took first place honors in Spelling. Joe Luis Gallegos was fourth in Ready Writing.

Allison Friesen placed fifth in Computer Science. In the math and science part of the meet students competed in their own grade level. In Number Sense, Chris Addison placed 4th, Amber Friesen 6th, Kurt Alldredge 1st, David Alldredge 1st, and was 3rd overall. The Number Sense Team placed second. In Math, Amber Froesen was 3rd, Kurt Alldredge placed 2nd, BJ Lester 7th, David Alldredge 5th. The team placed 3rd. In Calculator, Landon Earnest was 10th, Yesenia Loya placed 3rd, Lauren Davis 6th. Amber Friesen 2nd, BJ Lester 3rd, Allison Friesen 1st, and the team won first

PHS Student of the Week



Student of the Week is David Alldredge, a senior and the son of Steve and the late Pat Alldredge. He was nominated by Richie Cullins, who said, "In the last three UIL practice meets, David has distinguished himself not only in the mathematics contest, but also and especially in the Number Sense contest. In two of the meets he has been the top scorer in the A-AAA division in Number Sense. In the Coronado meet he was the top senior and third overall. In each of these meets he has also raised his personal best competition score. I am proud to name him PHS Student of the Week."



100 days of school & no absences!! Elementary Principal Vernon Hise with elementary kids who have been present each day as of January 19. In no particular order are Jaycee Jowersm Brandon Davis, Avery Garcia, Matthew Garcia, Kinsey Michalson, Israel Chavira, Nicholas Moreno, Jonathan Carrasco, Jaydon Lira, Angelica Villareal and Hagen Lowrey.

Industrial or Toxic CANCER NO FEE FOR FIRST VISIT

May occur 15 to 50 years after exposure. MESOTHELIOMA or LUNG CANCER may be caused by asbestos exposure, ACUTE MYELOID LEUKEMIA by Benzene exposure and MELANOMA, KIDNEY or BLADDER CANCER by coal tar pitch exposure. Family members may also be exposed by dirty clothes. Call us for professional insight.

Ryan A. Krebs, M.D., J.D. Doctor-Lawyer in Full-time Law Practice
Richard A. Dodd, L.C. Craig W. Brown, P.L.L.C. Timothy R. Cappolino, P.C. Board Certified Personal Injury Trial Law and Civil Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization Cameron, TX

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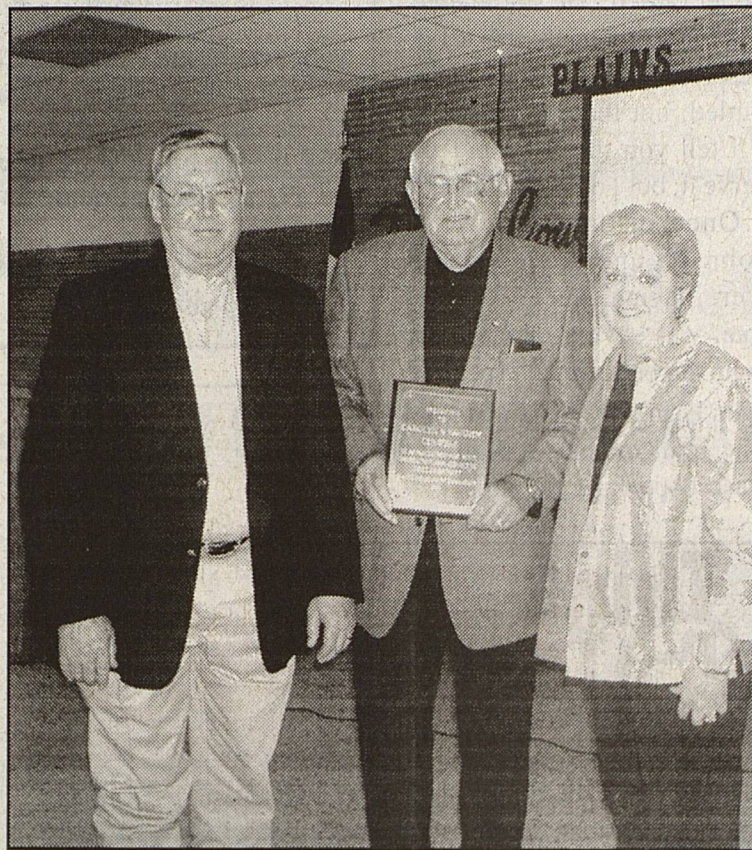
Lifelines & Styles

Door Prize donors for the Chamber Banquet

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Bayer Lumber | Linda & Dan Wall |
| Susie Powell | Dairy Queen |
| Evertt McAdams | Jack Cobb |
| Yoakum Co. Abstract | Ty Earl Powell |
| Frankie, Gary Walker | B.F. Rowe Fabrication |
| Methodist Church | Barbara Wright |
| Jan Parrish | Mary Jo & Pierre |
| New-Tex Gin | St. Romain |
| Watermelon Roundup | G. W. Cleveland |
| Lea Co. Electric CoOp | Van Wilson |
| Plains State Bank | Jim Barron |
| Deborah Rushing | Sheila & Bo Stephens |
| Richardson Insurance | Richard Clark |
| Cowboy Country News | Rose Henson |
| Sarah Jane Field | Gena Wilmeth |
| Wilma Powell | Vennum Fitzgerald |

A NUMBER OF THESE DONORS BROUGHT MORE THAN ONE DOOR PRIZE. WE THANK EACH AND EVERYONE FOR THEIR GENEROSITY

Plains Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet Scenes



Judge Brewer presented Vaughn and Carolyn Culwell a plaque for their many years of community service



Melba Fitzgerald received a plaque from Judge Brewer in memory of the late Johnnie Fitzgerald and his county service

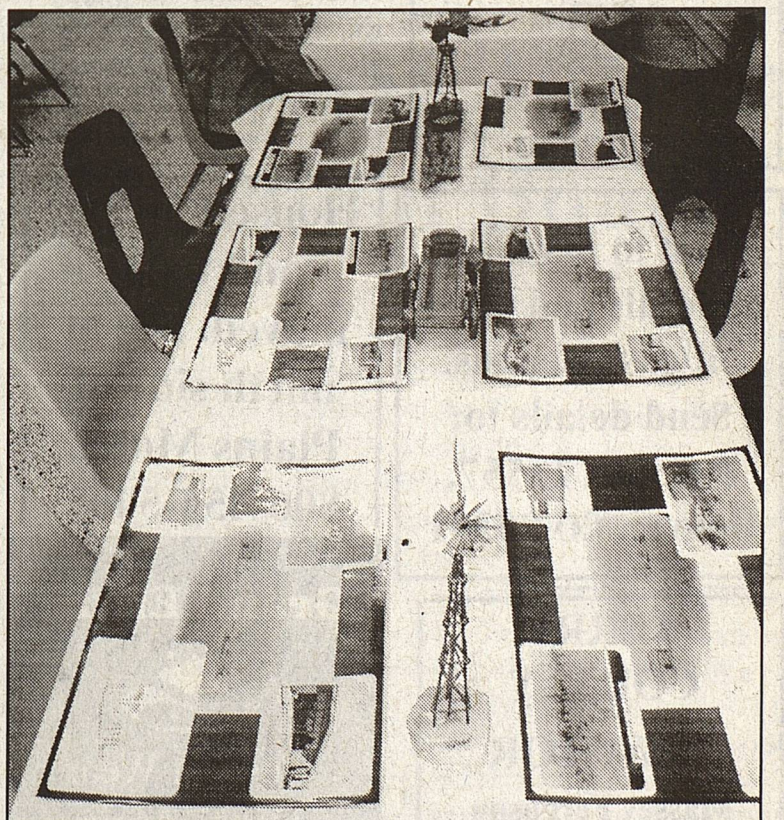
Clerks attend CE Seminar

Deborah L. Rushing, County Clerk and Vicki Blundell, District Clerk joined over 400 clerks for the 34th Annual County and District Clerks' Continuing Education Seminar at the Hilton College Station Hotel and Conference Center on January 9-12, 2006. Clerks who attended all sessions during the seminar received 17.5 hours of credit.


The annual continuing education seminar at College Station is sponsored by the V.G. Young Institute of County Government, which is part of Texas Cooperative Extension. The Institute provides elected county officials with information and technical assistance and helps officials complete their state-mandated, minimum continuing education requirements.



Plains State Bank's table decorating theme was, naturally, money



The City of Plains table was covered with historic scenes from the past and symbolic windmills



Annual Meeting

Thursday, January 26 7 PM
118 N. Main Denver City

REFRESHMENTS ENTERTAINMENT DOOR PRIZES

What is YCC? We are a nonprofit organization which benefits county residents with community-based art and cultural awareness programs and projects. Our mission is to support local art programs and develop opportunities for additional cultural activities within the communities of Plains and Denver City.

What has this organization accomplished? Projects which received YCC support in 2005 included the Watermelon Roundup, the Summer Youth Art Program, the Denver City High School Art Show, the Yoakum County Art Association, the Denver City Art Association, and literary arts programs in the Denver City and Plains schools. We are quite proud of our contributions to these successful programs and hope to develop more community-based projects in 2006.

How can I get involved? You can take part in these efforts by becoming an individual member or by encouraging your club, organization, or business to join. We need your input and ideas!

Class 1	Individual or non-business families	\$ 25.00
Class 2	Business, farm, or ranch with fewer than 5 full-time employees	\$ 50.00
Class 3	Business, farm, or ranch with more than 5 full-time employees	\$100.00

Name _____
(Individual, business, farm, ranch, club, or organization)

Mailing Address _____

City, State, and Zip _____

Voting Representative (for Class 2 or 3 memberships) _____

Suggestions for 2006 projects or activities: _____

Please mail this form with your dues to YCC, PO Box 117, Plains, TX 79355, or bring it to the annual meeting.

Want to fulfill your New Years Resolution? Weight Watchers Organization Meeting

Plains Library, Mondays 5:15 PM We Need 40 Members!!

More Info 456-3711

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Plains, Texas

Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship 10:45 A.M.
Evening Program 6:00 P.M.

From The Hack

Our membership in the Texas Press Association is worth far more than the annual dues we pay. It is truly a Godsend for small, rural publications like CCN. I have had occasions to speak with a number of the staff members, and it's Executive Director Micheal Hodges, and their assistance and cooperation have always been outstanding. The association regularly sends information and materials which make publishing a very small newspaper in a very small town easier.

Now that I have properly buttered them up with adulations, let me give you an example of recent material I received from the association which makes this job easier - a list of upcoming occasions which should make selling advertising much easier;

In January there is National Handwriting Day. I suppose one is to be expected to spend the day trying to improve one's scribbling. There's also a National Catholic School Week, but since there is no such thing in our county the week may be a bit dull. We all could probably benefit from National Get Organized Month, but I doubt a month is long enough for most of us.

Things really pick up in February. There is the Random Acts of Kindness Week. I would truly appreciate some-

one treating me with kindness for a full week. We can also look forward to Snack Food Month - this hardly seems appropriate when every paper you read, every news cast you watch features horror stories about the growing numbers of obesity in our society. Then, every child in the nation should rejoice with the arrival of National Children's Dental Health Month - imagine, a whole month of happily visiting your friendly dentist!

The last mentioned February event is National Wedding Month. I confess to a bit of puzzlement here - If we're not, are we supposed to be by the end of the month?

Again, Micheal and TPA, I sing praises for your help!

With early voting in the Primary just around the corner, I am reminded of a bit of politi-

Texas Department of Transportation NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Construct Concrete Pads
Contract Number
6142-44-001

Sealed proposals for the construction of concrete pads for asphalt tanks at various locations within the Lubbock District will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation located at 135 Slaton Road, Lubbock, Texas.

Proposals will be received until February 15, 2006 @ 10:00 A.M. then publicly opened and read.

Proposals, plans and specifications for this project will be furnished without charge to any Contractor desiring to submit a bid. No pre-qualification is required. Contact Kelly Comer at 135 Slaton Rd., Lubbock, Texas, Telephone (806) 748-4426 for proposals or any questions. Usual rights reserved.

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For Sale or Rent
107 4th St., 3 b.r. 2 ba.
Wood burning stove,
2 shops - Sell for \$42,000, rent for \$400 per month. Call 505-390-9673 505-631-6369

House For Sale and to be moved. See at north side of Plains Motel. 806-456-5402

Grand Entry
Western Wear
110 N. Main
Denver City, TX
Boot & Shoe Repair
806-592-8198

Experienced, full time, dependable farm hand needed. Call 456-9064

cal humor: The late President Lyndon Johnson often responded to warm introductions with a preacher story: "I am fearful that my friend's warm and most generous introduction has me somewhat frustrated. I feel much like the preacher in my country who went to his church one Sunday and learned the congregation had given him a new Ford automobile. He had to get up and express his gratitude on the spur of the moment and he was rather rattled. He stammered. 'I don't appreciate it but I do deserve it'. Well, I'm not that rattled, not that frustrated, so I'll tell you this - I don't deserve it, but I do appreciate it'".

Once in the West Wing, Johnson and some staffers were having lunch. A young man was saying Grace when Johnson bellowed, "Speak up man, I can't hear a damn thing!" The man quietly replied, "I wasn't speaking to you, sir."



About 1,000 babies are born each day in Texas, and one out of every three of them will go on to develop diabetes. This is a staggering statistic.

Obesity is a risk factor for type 2 diabetes, and 35 percent of Texas children are overweight or obese. Obesity in children has doubled in the last 20 years.

Diabetes is a dangerous disease that can cause serious complications later in life. Kidney disease, blindness, limb amputation and heart disease are all diabetes-related complications, and it's scary that children as young as 6 are being diagnosed with this disease.

Diabetes is especially prevalent among African Americans and Hispanics, and it is estimated that roughly one in two Hispanics born in Texas will develop type 2 diabetes unless they take preventative measures. Diabetes among children is also on the rise, with one in three Texas children born since 2000 predicted to develop the disease.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released new statistics in October estimating that nearly 21 million Americans, or 7 percent of the U.S. population, have diabetes. This is an additional 2.6 million since 2002. Another 41 million are estimated to be pre-diabetic.

From a fiscal health standpoint, the cost of treating both type 1 and type 2 diabetes in Texas is a staggering \$9 billion annually.

Our children simply must start eating more nutritious foods and getting more exercise if we want to get a handle on type 2 diabetes. Preventing it before it strikes is much easier than treating it once it is full blown.

Job Opening

Plains Independent School Dist. is looking for a qualified individual to perform the tasks of vehicle maintenance and scheduling for the transportation department at the district. The individual should have a working knowledge of gasoline and diesel engines, air and hydraulic braking systems, and automotive air conditioning systems. The ability to acquire a CDL driver's license with a school bus and passenger endorsement is mandatory. The applicant should be willing to spend some time with the paperwork involved with maintaining a transportation fleet for a school district. The salary will be determined based on the applicants experience and skills. A competitive benefits package is included. For information and an application, any applicant should call 806-456-7401 or come by the Superintendent's office at 1000 10 th Street in Plains, Texas.

Area Ag Conferences offering CEU Credits

The Texas Cooperative Extension has organized a number of regional agricultural conferences slated for January and February. By attending the conferences, producers not only earn continuing education credits (CEU's) for private, non-commercial and commercial applicator licenses, but may also update their crop production, marketing and management skills.

Producers are required to renew their private applicators license every 5 years by obtaining at least 15 CEU's including 2 in Laws and Regulations and 2 in Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Licenses expire the last day of February and the expiration date is listed on your license.

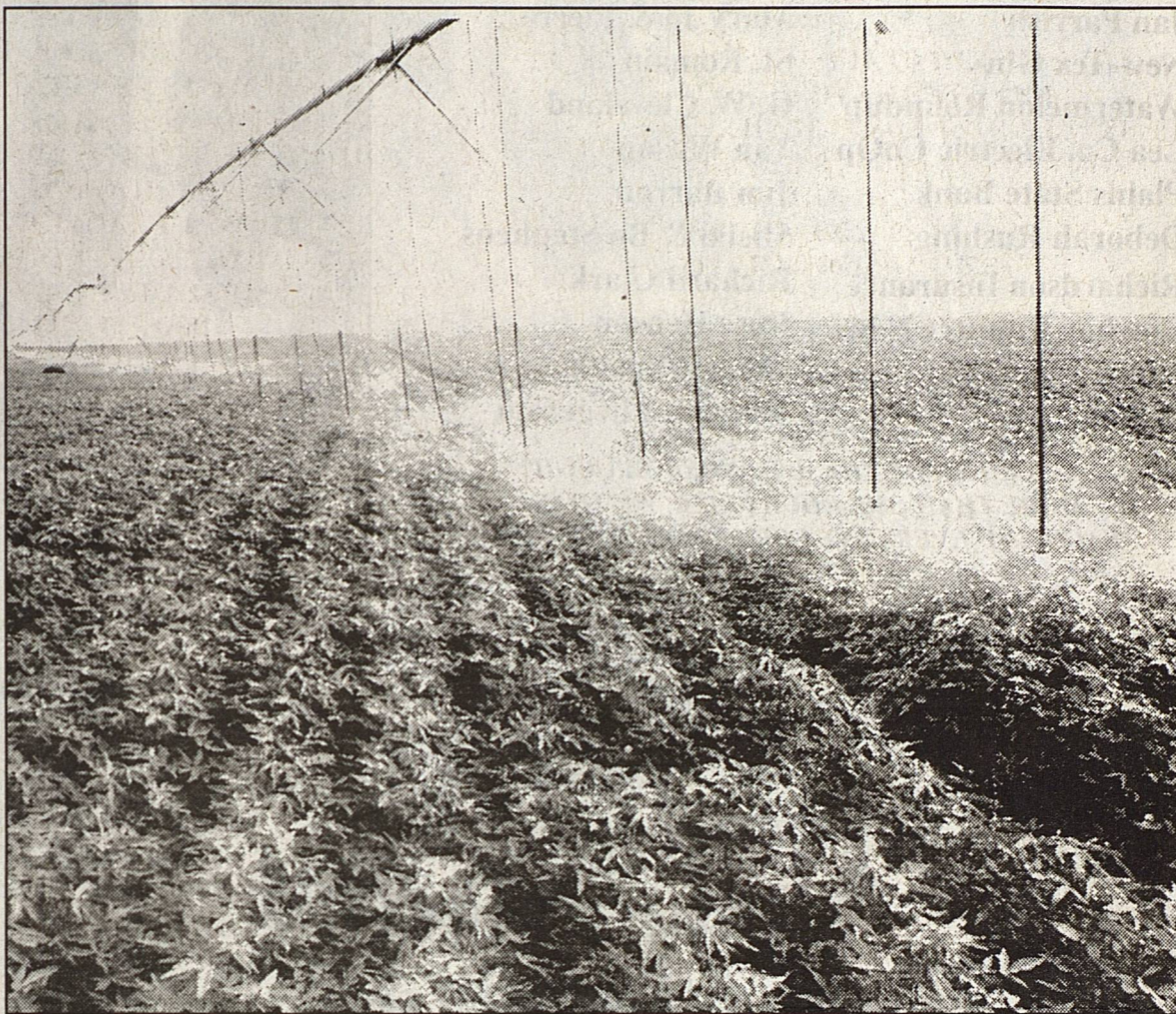
Conference and contact information includes:

Jan. 26 - Southern Mesa Agricultural Conference - Lamesa - Annex Office - 8:00 a.m. - 5 CEU's - Dawson County Extension Office 806-872-3444

Feb. 2-7 - South Plains Ag Conference - Nikki Vinson Youth Center - Brownfield - 8:30 a.m. - 5 CEU's - Terry County Extension Office 806-637-4060

Feb. 9 - Sandyland Ag Conference - Seminole - Gaines County Civic Building - 8:30 a.m. - 5 CEU's - Gaines County Extension Office 432-758-4006

For more information or questions regarding Licenses, contact Arlan Gentry, Yoakum County CEA-Ag at 806-456-2263.



Yoakum County producers should be aware February 17, 2006 is the deadline to sign-up for approved cost shared conservation practices, such as the irrigation sprinkler improvement system shown here, under the 2006 EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program). Interested producers should contact the NRCS in the Farm Service Center, 1305 Cowboy Way for more information, or call 806-456-3703.

PETIT JURY SELECTION FOR THE 121ST DISTRICT COURT ON JANUARY 30, 2006 AT 9:00 A.M.

A Petit Jury will be held for the 121st District Court on January 30, 2006 at 9 AM in the Courtroom of the Yoakum County Courthouse in Plains, Texas. The following citizens are asked to appear:

PLAINS & TOKIO RESIDENTS:

SARA W. MASON
DARREL F. LOWREY
JAMES WRIGHT
RICHARD DEAN WARD
ESMERALDA H. SALAS
TIM BOWERS
DONETTA YOUNG WALKER
KELLY TRENT BOWERS
CINDY LEA DAVIS
DAWN DEARING
ZELMA LOUISE TOWNES
CRISTI RENAE LOCKLIN
LILA KAY DAWSON
VICKI RENEE BUNDY
JEFFREY P. ASHBURN
GILBERT LEE GARCIA
KELLIE S. EARNEST
DOUGLAS SHANNON PATTON
BRUCE WAYNE LESTER
DWAYNE CANADA
STEVE ERNEST JONES
BRADLEY C. ANCINEC
CHARLES LEE CAIN
KATHY LYNN MEUNIER
RANDY A. FORBUS
JIMMY LONGORIA
LOUIS ESCOBAR
JO NELL LAMAR
DAVID BAYNE SANDERS
VERONICA VILLAREAL HERNANDEZ
J C CHAMBLISS
LUCIA MORENO
FELIPA T. VILLARREAL
DON ALLEN YOUNG
DOROTHY ANDERSON
KEVIN CODY GRIFFITHS
JUDY KAY JUSTUS
CHELSEA SHEA BLOUNT
HALLIE RANDALL
LINDA KAY WRIGHT
JIMMIE DELBERT PEVYTOE

BOBBY JOE HUMPHREY
DUSTY HUGH BENNETT
JOSEFA RUIZ
MELISSA A. CRUMP
JESSICA RHEA PARTIN
TERRY DOUGLAS RUSHING
DARLA B. WELCH
MACKY MCWHIRTER
BILLY F. ROWE
JIMMY GOMEZ
ALVARO SALINAS MEDRANO
CATHERINE SUSAN GUETERSLOH
MARLIN DAVE GABBARD
CRYSTAL LIE GARCIA
LUCIA HERNANDEZ
COSME JUNIOR CASILLAS
URSULA RICHARDSON
MARCOS LEOS DOMINGUEZ
DOYLE C. NEWSOM
RUSSELL EDWARD TAYLOR
BOBBY RAY WHITFORD
BERNADETTE HARTMAN
ESTHER CARRILLO GUERRERO
RAYMOND CORONADO, JR.
KATHY HAYNES
LETICIA GUERRA CABALLERO
ANGEL RIVERA RUIZ
ARTHUR JOE COBB
TINA TIRRELL
CLARENCE KONCABA
TINA MICHELLE DAVIS
LIDIA DELOSSANTOS
OMAR HERNANDEZ LOZANO
CHAD LYNN WALL
JEAN CRAFT
HARVEY DELL KNIGHT
MARIO ORION BONILLA
FABIAN RYAN GARZA
MARTHA F. BROOME
HELEN PERKINS
GARY L. SIX