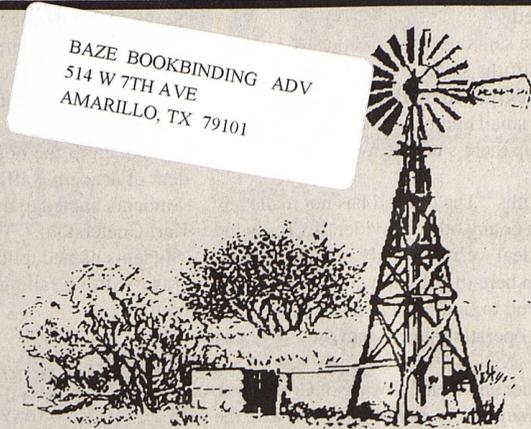


50 Cents

Cowboy Country News

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

Volume XII, Issue 42, July 12 5, 2006



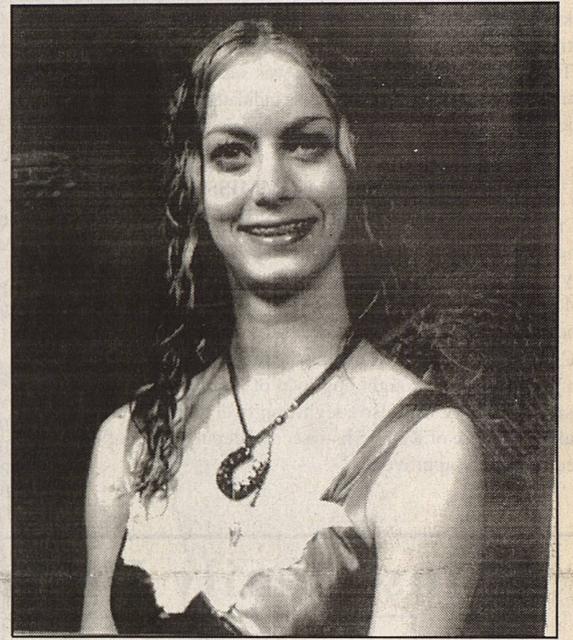
Plans Being Laid For Plains 53rd Annual Rodeo Organization's Queen Candidates Announced



Lauren Davis is representing the Plains Roping Club. She is the 16 year old daughter of Cindy and Wayne Davis. She will be a junior at Plains High School



Jennifer Eccles is representing the Plains Chamber of Commerce. She is the 17 year old daughter of Karen and Cameron Givan. She will be a senior at Plains High School.



Callie Howell is representing the Plains Lions Club. She is the 17 year old daughter of Billie and Carlos Howell. She will be a senior at Plains High School

City; No firm deal with Blue Moon yet

Shayne Griffiths, President and owner of Crosswind Enterprises here, topped the agenda for City Hall's regular meeting July 10. On a previous visit to City Hall, he admitted " I showed my temper and probably said some things I should not have, for which I now apologize." He referred to his reaction to a number of recent visits to the city by personnel representing Blue Moon Solutions, Inc. a multi-communications electronics provider.

Griffiths then read a prepared statement expressing his views on the company and its ' track record'.

Griffiths said he had talked to a number of schools and towns and told the council he had received many poor reports on services of Blue Moon. He said a recent 'survey' here by Blue Moon personnel resulted in portraying the firm as already partnering with the City of Plains as a communications provider. " and other lies."

Griffiths reported Crosswind, now in its ninth year of business, was currently furnishing internet service to 16 West Texas and Eastern New Mexico communities, and said " I expect to be here another nine years at least." He told the council new electronic technology will be brought to Plains as it develops. He ended the prepared statement by saying. " I admit losing



TURN TO PAGE 2, BLUE MOON

Watermelon Round Up #11 On The Way Here At Warp Speed

For readers familiar with Las Vegas, number 11 is a feverishly sought lucky number if you're standing at certain green clothed tables found everywhere in " Sin City."

To the many dozens of volunteer planners, workers and gofers already deep into the planning and organizing of the upcoming Labor Day Saturday 11th annual Yoakum County Watermelon Round Up, the number 11 has equally important significance.

For Round Up Chair Jeannette Head, the number 'eleven' has special meanings. " This will be my ninth year in the job. I think it's time to bring in some new, and younger blood to steer this thing." She told CCN Alicia McCullough of Denver City had been named the new "Chairman in training", and will take the reins of the event following the 2007 Round Up. Head reported Choya Young of Plains had volunteered to furnish, transport and remove the several hundred bales of hay used around the entertainment stage for the Round Up.

a major undertaking.

Agro Distribution of Plains will sponsor the annual Kids Run this year, and will furnish prizes other than T-shirts to the top runners. Denver City's Phyllis Dial has been named chair person for the popular event.

Food and merchandise booths are available on a " reservation and pay up front " system. For more information contact either Debra Pollard or Joanie Hancock, 806-456-2263.

In addition to the hugely popular ' free watermelon slices' all day, the activity list includes a large arts and crafts display area, live music and entertainment all day, multi-food opportunities, inflatable carnival for the kids, a huge classic car show, rock climbing wall, face painting, Cow Patty Bingo, kids games, horseshoe pitching contests, 'Kiss-The-Pig', barbecue cook-off, team roping all day, with a major emphasis on FUN for all the family.

If you have friends or family who enjoy a day of outdoor entertainment, put them on your invitation list now for Saturday, September 2, 9 AM until---

Court learns golf pro shop building in under budget

Members of Commissioners Court learned good news in the Monday, July 10 session. Pct. 1 Commissioner Woody Lindsey reported the renovation of the old County Golf Course Pro Shop has been completed. " I'm pleased to tell you the construction job is complete. The court originally approved demolishing a portion of the old building, and a complete refurbishing of the remaining structure. I want to congratulate the owners and crew of Tejas Partners for completing the job, roughly \$5000 under the total \$250,000 allocated for the construction project."

Lindsey told the court furniture and fixtures to be installed in the building should be in place in the near future. The golf course is one of the most heavily used recreation facilities in the county.

Tax Assessor/Collector Jan Parrish reported collection of \$22,524 taxes in the month of June.

Susie Vincent, representing the Adult Probation Departments of Yoakum and Terry County, requested approval of the expenditure of approximately \$9,000 on the CSCD office here, which would include office equipment, painting and the purchase of a storage building. After discussion, Judge Brewer suggested Ms. Vincent return to the court with additional cost estimates.

Sheriff Don Corzine discussed a possible group cell phone program for law enforcement officers in his department. He asked the county to purchase specially priced cell phone for he and 8 deputies. He cited the fact cell phone use is often mandated during investigative work by law officers, and asked the court to agree to contribute \$50 monthly on the charges for the phones. Each officer would be responsible for paying any portion of the monthly bill over the \$50. The proposal was approved.

District Clerk Vicki Blundell requested \$385 for the purchase of an internal print server for her office laser printer. The request was granted.

TURN TO PAGE 2, COMMISSIONERS

FROM PAGE 1, BLUE MOON

customers will hurt Crosswind, but does the City really want to be in competition with Crosswind rather than in partnership?"

Council member Brink said she and other customers had experienced trouble with internet services, and Griffiths admitted the company had experienced recent personnel problems which he hoped were now remedied.

Council member Alldredge said one issue of concern to residents here is cable TV. Griffiths said Crosswind could access TV here with the same prices quoted by Blue Moon. "A major problem here is the relative small number of customers to share, and when problems come up there's no one available to satisfy customers."

Mayor Redman told Griffiths "The council has not made any final plans with Blue Moon or any other provider. If Crosswind can offer the city a better deal we're certainly going to listen."

Griffiths responded "I am here to tell you what Crosswind is willing to do. I challenge you to find one town in Texas where Blue Moon is successfully operating the system they're trying to promote here."

Jim Barron, original founder and former owner of Crosswind, was invited to make a statement. He stated he had been with the business since 1994, and agreed competition drives successful operations. He referred to a recent event here in which a Blue Moon female employee performing a survey had called at his door. "She did not know of my association with Crosswind, and when she was through with her questions made the statement to me Crosswind would soon be out of business. That is a slanderous, unfounded statement which I strongly resent."

Craig Knox, a Blue Moon representative, was at this point invited to make a statement. He indicated he had no personal knowledge of the interviewers remarks, which he would investigate. He was challenged by Griffiths to identify any of the Texas towns where Blue Moon was successfully operating the three communication systems. He indicated the only one he could identify was the operation at Floydada's school system.

FROM PAGE 1, COMMISSIONERS

Clay Taylor, Administrator of Yoakum County Hospital, sought the courts approval of a 27 item bid list of new equipment needed by the hospital. Three firms submitted bids, with the lowest from McKesson, Inc., a bid of \$50,575. That bid was approved by the court.

County Clerk Debbie Ruishing the resignation of Judy Addison in her office, and sought approval of employing Karen Givan as a third deputy. She also sought approval of the promotion and salary increase of Kathy Six to second deputy in her office. Both requests were approved.

Locals named to Dean's Honor List

South Plains College recognized Plains students achieving excellence by naming them to the Dean's Honor List for the Spring 2006 semester.

"Achieving a high grade point average is a great accomplishment and it is exciting to see so many students accomplish being named to the honor list," said Darrel Grimes, vice-president of academic affairs.

Students named to the Dean's Honor List are Marlie Diaz and Kari Guetersloh.

Students named to the list earned at least 3.25 grade point average with no failing grades while carrying at least 12 credit hours.

PLAINS I.S.D. GIRLS VOLLEYBALL/BASKETBALL CAMP FOR ALL GIRLS ENTERING 3RD - 9TH GRADES MONDAY, JULY 24TH - SATURDAY, JULY 29TH

Volleyball Fundamentals: Monday-Wednesday

Basketball Fundamentals: Thursday-Saturday

Camp Instructor: Blake Eddleman will direct the camp.

Camp Activities: The camp will consist of volleyball/basketball fundamentals, drills, contests, and game situations that will help each girl improve their volleyball/basketball skills.

Cost of Camp: Cost of camp will be \$6.00 for each camper. Camp includes:

- Camp instructions
- Contests
- Awards
- Certificates for each camp participant
- Drink and candy during the break
- Have fun

General Information: Campers need to wear proper workout clothing: shorts, t-shirt, socks, and athletic shoes.

Daily Camp Schedule:
9:00-12:00 3rd - 5th Grades will practice
1:00-4:00 6th - 9th Grades will practice

For More Information: For more information about the Plains I.S.D. Volleyball/Basketball Camp, contact:
Blake Eddleman
Head Girls Basketball/Volleyball Coach
Plains I.S.D.
Plains, Texas
Home: (806) 456-4127



Capitol Comments

By Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison
R., Texas

Time to bury the Death Tax

America is the land of opportunity. Since the formation of our republic, hard-working men and women in search of a better life have arrived on our shores, inspired by the hope they would one day pass the fruits of their labor on to their children and grandchildren. This is the American dream.

The death tax walks away from the American dream. Instead of rewarding hard work and saving, it interferes with freedom and enterprise. Many of the members in Congress know this is true, and we are making progress in eliminating the un-American death tax permanently. Unfortunately, the wheels of progress turn slowly, and in the Senate a majority of my colleagues and I were recently prevented by a minority of senators from moving forward.

Under the Tax Relief Act of 2001, the death tax has been gradually phased out, with a full repeal scheduled for 2010. However, the death tax is slated to return in 2011, when the government will once again seize up to 55 percent of savings that should rightfully be passed on to children and grandchildren. This is wrong on both moral and economic grounds.

The rules of the senate allow for unlimited debate on a topic. This tactic, known as a filibuster, can prevent bills from ever

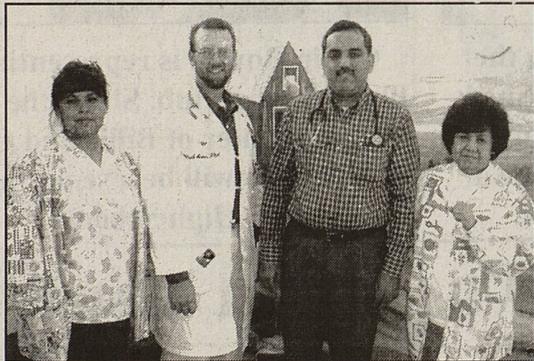
being put to a final vote. The only way to stop a filibuster is to have 60 votes in favor of ending debate or being put to a final vote. This is what happened in the Senate June 8 regarding the death tax. I was joined by 56 senators in voting for cloture, but we fell three votes short. We intend to try again.

Death tax proponents contend it affects only a small percentage of the population - the super wealthy. In reality, the most affluent people are able to afford teams of attorneys and accountants to carefully navigate estate tax laws to minimize the exposure of their assets and estates. Those most affected by the death tax are the ranchers, farmers and small business owners whose primary assets are land, property and inventory.

Often the only way for families to pay the death tax is to sell the land or business. Only thirty percent of all family owned businesses are passed to a second generation. The owners have paid taxes on this property every year. To double or triple tax them upon their death is a final insult to a life of hard work.

Texans know the difference between right and wrong, and the death tax is wrong. I will not give up this fight until the true American dream is restored and the death tax is dead once and for all.

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

Prescription Assistance Friday, 1:00 - 4:00 PM
For more information call 592-2121, EXT 521 or 592-2121, EXT 506, or the Plains Clinic
Please call 806-456-6365

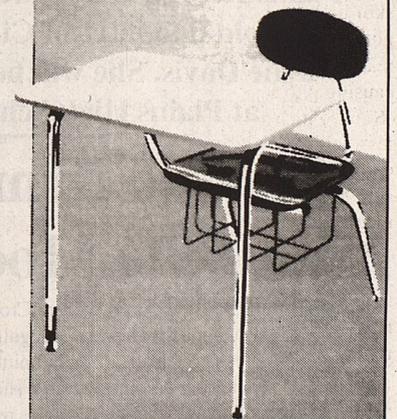
Marked "F" for attendance

When students skip school, they're not just missing lesson plans. Both students and parents can be charged with Class C misdemeanors, punishable by fines of up to \$600.

When a student is absent from school 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year, the school district is required to file charges against the student. The school district can file charges against students who miss three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period.

Students can be prosecuted under Texas Education Code 25.094 for "failure to attend school." Parents or guardians can be prosecuted under Texas Education Code 25.093 for "parent contributing to nonattendance."

Source: Texas Education Agency.



Watermelon Poetry Contest Winners

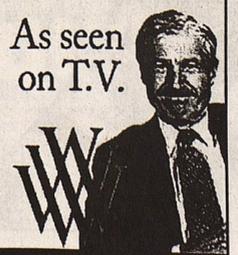
Adult Free Verse;
\$25 - Amie Draper, Denver City
Elementary, grades 5-8; Eric Esquivel, Denver City, \$25
High School Free Verse- Holden Welch, Plains, \$25
Grades 1-4; Jacob Garcia, Denver City, \$25
Rhymed, grades 1-4; Brandi Nelson, Denver City- \$25
Chairman's Choice- High school rhymed; Lauren Hise, Plains- \$25.
Honorable mention won no money but their poems will be featured in the Round Up tabloid; Meagan Marti, Reagan Young, Chris Addison, Amber Friesen, John Tyson, Jordan Williams.

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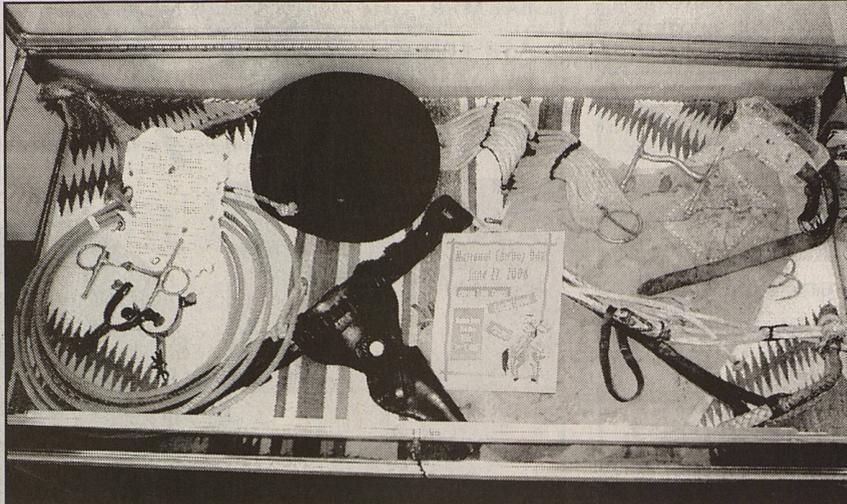
Lifelines & Styles

National Cowboy Day July 21, to be featured at Libraries all month

Ranching, cattle, cowboys have played a very large and important role in the history of Yoakum County - Ranch families were the first Anglo settlers, cattle were their product, and horses were the early means of travel. Staff at both county libraries are saluting this heritage by extending the July 21 National Cowboy Day to an all-month salute.

On Friday, July 14, representatives of the Texas Tech Archival Department will display many interesting artifacts signifying the role the American cowboy played here and in many other western states. The display will be at the local library until July 19 when it will be moved to Denver City for library patrons there.

Both libraries are currently honoring the National Cowboy Day with cowboy theme



This collection of cowboy gear featured in library display case

activities including western movies, games, and contests. A movie marathon is planned for July 21, with candy treats after each movie, and a draw-

ing for a DVD at the end of the day.

The remainder of the month of July will be full of entertainment in saluting our cowboy

heritage. For a complete schedule of Cowboy Day activities at the two county libraries check with the staff members.

What's Best Way To Avoid Wrinkles?

By Debra Pollard, CEA-FCS
Yoakum County

As we grow older, we see and feel certain changes in our skin, the body's largest and most visible organ. The skin becomes dryer, more wrinkled, spots and growths appear. As skin ages, collagen and elastin, fibers that keep the skin firm, weaken. The skin looks loose, becomes thinner and loses fat, looking less plump and smooth. To top it off, while all these changes are taking place, gravity is also at work, pulling at the skin and causing it to sag.

Some of these skin changes are natural, unavoidable and harmless; others are itchy or painful, and some changes, such as skin cancers, are serious and require medical attention. Many of these skin problems can be prevented whether a danger to health or merely cosmetically unattractive.

The sun is the major cause of unwanted changes in the skin with aging. Skin damage done by the sun is referred to as "photo-aging." How wrinkled your skin becomes depends largely on how much sun you have been exposed to in your lifetime. Cigarette smoking can also contribute to wrinkles.

Sociologically, we're seeing wrinkling at earlier and earlier ages. Sun exposure leads to pigmentation disorders, wrinkling, and loss of reflectant quality. We're seeing all that in people in their 20's.

Sun exposure is at the root of skin changes throughout life - the ultraviolet light from the sun damages the skin's DNA - or building blocks. There is some cellular mechanism that exists which can repair that damage, but it becomes less efficient with time. Over the years, some of that DNA damage is not repaired

and the cells begin to mutate and grow in an abnormal way. Eventually, they may become cancerous.

Thus, when pondering the question of what topical products to select, there is one answer that is definite - use sunscreen. Protect your skin and that of your family members every day with a 'broad-spectrum' (protects from UVA and UVB radiation) sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher, preferably water resistant, and re-apply every two hours or as needed. Apply liberally to cover all exposed areas of skin.

*Love must be learned, and learned again
and again; there is no end to it. Hate needs
no instruction, only to be provoked.*
Katherine Ann Porter

Band Calendars Are Here!

Please
Pick
Yours
Up At
The
Library!



Reservations for the Club Room in the old courthouse can be made with Diana Flores, 456-2203. The Gazebo in Stanford Park is available on a first-come-first-served basis. To move equipment or supplies to the Gazebo a key for the fence lock is available with a \$20 deposit given to Mrs. Flores.

Nelson Prescription Pharmacy



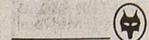
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Senior Corner.. By Claudia Sue Ferguson

Welcome from the Senior Center. The July 4th festivities at the park were well represented by our Denver City seniors. Ted and I sat with Imogene Deaton under the tent. Reta Peeler and Sandra wells sat with us as we watched the musicians, dog show and the talent. Alice Lehnert's dachshund was entered in the show and he certainly looked well fed and was decked out in red, white and blue. Another senior couple attending was Bud and Leta Brian, although Bud was busy serving wonderful food from the Mason's food booth. It was good to see Delores and Billy Ray Moore at the festivities. He had gotten out of the hospital a day or so earlier and it was a surprise to see him so soon.

It's a good time to remember our country and the rights we are so blessed to have. I hope we never forget how fortunate we are to have the life we do in this country. Without the courage and bravery of our young men and women, both now and those serving in the past, we would not have the wonderful bounty we now have. We owe them our heartfelt gratitude and should always keep the service men and women in our prayers.

The numbers at the Center are down now. Many regulars are traveling or have household company. Ray Baker sits at our table and has been in Ruidoso all week. I hope he doesn't lose too much on those horses! Harley Evans is getting ready to make a long trip to Washington, and Lloyd and Jimmie Steele have had their daughters and son visiting.

We need to remind the senior adults our center is open five days a week to provide wonderful meals. You need to call in by 8 AM if you plan to eat that day. Our cooks can only cook for the number of people there and they need to know ahead of time. Carry out meals for seniors are available to early callers and must be picked up by 11 AM. Delivery of meals is available for seniors unable to drive and meet the qualifications. All meals are by donation, and recommended prices are \$3 for those 60 and older and \$4 for guests under 60. The meals are great but fellowship is the attraction for most people. We enjoy each others company and catch up on everything going on among the seniors.



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From The Hack

For my good friend Renetta O'Quinn, an astute, number one fan of the English language, whom no doubt will be mortified and in near shock at this neologism; Coffee - the person upon whom one coughs. Negligent - a condition in which one answers the doorbell in a nightgown. Abdicate - to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach. Esplanade - to attempt an explanation while drunk. Lymph - to walk with a lisp. Gargoyle - Olive flavored mouthwash. Flatulence - An emergency vehicle which picks you up after being run over by a steamroller. Balderdash - A rapidly receding hairline. Testicle - A humorous question on an exam. Oyster - A person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddishisms. Frisbeetarianism - The belief when you die your Soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there. I will safely bet Renetta never uses one of these in her advanced English classes.

You can consider the following a Plea Of Desperation. Summer months, with only an occasional exception, are similar to being stranded at sea in a sailing ship when there is no wind - there ain't much going on! If you have anything news worthy (semi-news worthy might even work) please let us know about it. I am actually on the verge of considering reporting the results of a ladies bridge party. That is true desperation.

Wounds from the last time I tried to get by with a few 'dumb blonde' jokes in this space have healed fairly well, so I'm going to risk it again, but only after telling you. **THEY WERE SENT TO ME BY A BLONDE FEMALE, AND NOT NECESSARILY DUMB!**

She was so blonde..... She thought a quarterback was a refund. She thought Meow Mix was a CD for cats. At the bottom of an application where it says 'Sign Here' she wrote 'Sagittarius.' She sent a fax with a postal stamp on it. She spent twenty minutes staring at an orange juice can because it read 'Concentrate.' When she got to the airport and saw a sign saying 'Airport Left' she turned around and went home. Hearing that 90% of all crimes occur around the home, she moved. She had a shirt saying 'TGIF' which she thought meant 'This Goes In Front.' She thought Taco Bell was the Mexican phone company. A preacher prepared his sermon, but dropped his notes, and his dog tore them up. He

had to hurry to church, where he told his Sunday flock. "I'm very sorry, I have no sermon. I'll just have to speak as the Lord directs. But I promise to do better next Sunday!"

Home For Sale

3 BR, 2 BA, large fenced yard w/dog run, storage/workshop, great neighborhood. Just under 1800 sq. ft. Call Coach Bartley, 456-5709, or come by 805 3rd St. Garage Sale Saturday, July 15, 8-11 AM.

Estate Sale

Mens Day Wed. July 12, noon till ?? Thurs. 13th, 9 am-6 pm. Friday, 14th, 9 am-6 pm. Sat. 15th, 9am-?? Household goods, some 50's furniture, everything must go! In Denver City, 1015 Ave. E

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Think Texas

by Agriculture Commissioner SUSAN COMBS

Sales of potted orchids around the world have surged in recent years. As more commercial growers jump on the orchid bandwagon, this exotic bloom has become the second most popular flowering plant, after the poinsettia, sold in the United States. This comes as good news for the agriculture industry since orchids can often provide 10 times more profits for growers, pot for pot, than the poinsettia.

Texas orchid growers in Austin, Boerne, Dallas, Corpus Christi, Fort Worth, Harlingen, Houston, Galveston, Port Lavaca, Pasadena, Richardson and San Antonio produced close to half a million potted orchids in 2005.

Growers have a unique opportunity to produce more orchids in the state, where the climate is perfect for growing many types of the exotic plant. The Texas Department of Agriculture funded a research project in 2002 to improve the post-production quality of potted orchids and continued research is vital to having a sustainable and profitable orchid industry in Texas.

More than 80 percent of the potted orchids on the market today belong to the Phalaenopsis group (the moth orchids), and although the natural flowering season occurs in the spring, area growers use air-conditioned greenhouses and a new technology developed in Texas to produce flowers year-round.

Texas-grown moth orchids develop quickly, accept low-light conditions post harvest and produce beautiful flowers that are larger and more abundant than the species native to the jungles of Southeast Asia. At commercial nurseries in the Rio Grande Valley, moth orchids can continue blooming for as long as nine or ten months.

Researchers, horticulturists and producers have worked together to perfect commercial orchid growing techniques in Texas over the years. In the process, moth orchids have earned greater popularity with consumers because of their beauty and ease of care.

WHERE YOU NEED IT.

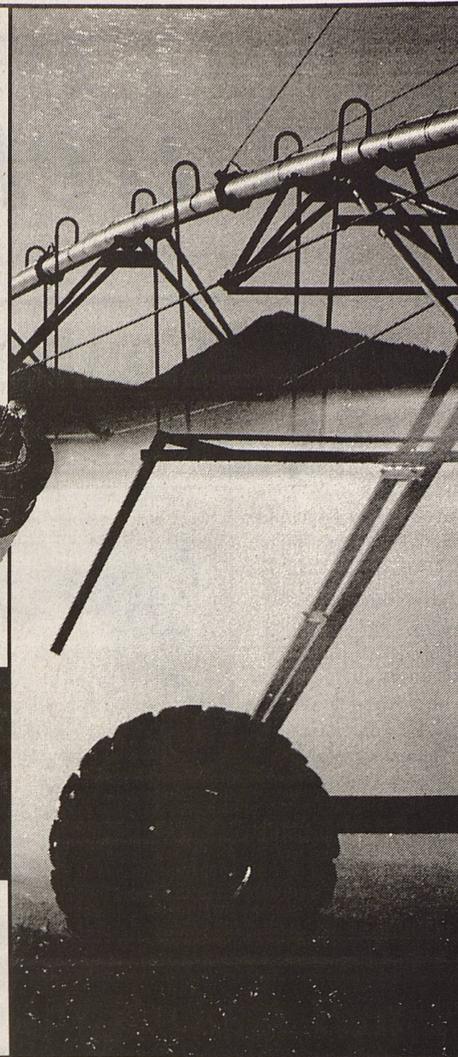
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Job Description: Serve as primary contact in the provision of services, connections/disconnects, problem resolution, payment arrangements, cash handling, general inquiries and account maintenance. Strong customer service skills required.

Qualifications: High school or equivalent. Prior experience in a public contact job required preferably in a cashiering or cash balancing capacity. Computer skills required.

For information concerning the job or for an application, please contact the Administrative/Member Services Department, 1300 W. Avenue D, Lovington, New Mexico, (505) 396-3631, 800-510-5232 or apply on-line at leacountyelectric.coop. In Plains, contact our office located at 507 9th Street, 806-456-3322.

The Cooperative offers a strong wage and benefits package. Job closes on July 14 at 5:00 p.m. MST.

Texas Ag Industry Packs A Punch

- Texas is the second-largest agricultural state in the United States, accounting for about 7 percent of the total U.S. agricultural income.
- The food, horticulture and fiber industry is the second-largest industry in the state and generates \$73 billion a year for the economy, or approximately 9.5 percent of the state's total gross state product.
- Eighty percent of the land in Texas is in some form of agricultural production.
- Ninety-two percent of Texas' agricultural operations are still run by individuals or families.
- Although agriculture employs one out of every seven working Texans, less than 2 percent of the population is involved in day-to-day farming or ranching.
- Texas ranks first in the nation in the number of cattle and calves, accounting for 15 percent of the U.S. total. Texas also ranks first in the number of cattle operations and the value of all cattle and calves.
- Texas is the top producer of cotton, hay, sheep, wool, goats, mohair and horses. The state's top crops also include vegetables, citrus, corn, wheat, peanuts, pecans, sorghum and rice.
- Texas is one of the leading exporters of agricultural commodities. Texas' top agricultural exports are live animals and meat, cotton and cottonseed, feed grains and products, hides and skins, wheat and products, and feeds and fodder.
- Each Texas farmer grows enough food and fiber for 129 people in the United States and abroad.
- Texas' 1 million horses, representing approximately 11 percent of all horses nationwide, make the state a leader in the United States.
- The Texas Department of Agriculture's Family Land Heritage Program has recognized more than 4,100 farms and ranches in 229 counties for being maintained in continuous agricultural operation by the same family for 100 years or more.

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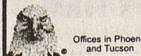
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