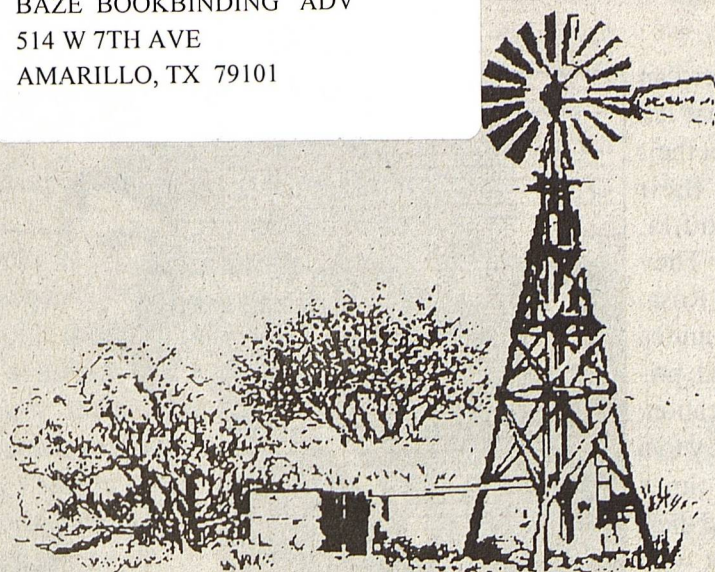


# Cowboy Country News

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

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Volume XI, Issue 39, June 15, 2005

## City asks for towns help in mosquito control

City of Plains personnel last week started their annual campaign against pesky and sometimes dangerous infestations of mosquitos. Recent and frequent rains have created excellent environments for the winged pests. City crews started spraying alleys and other areas of the city limits on June 7. The schedule calls for nightly spraying between 9 PM and midnight for several weeks, and if positive results are found, spraying will then occur every other night.

Water plays a vital role in the life of all mosquitos. The insects eggs are deposited in standing water, and turn into larva within 48 hours. City officials urge residents to avoid letting water stand in drain puddles and ditches, and disposal of all old tin cans, buckets or other containers that collect and hold water.

Scientific journals report mosquitos cause more human suffering than any other organism - over a million people die from mosquito borne diseases every year, and they take a severe toll on animal life as well. More common maladies include malaria, dog heartworm, dengue, yellow fever, and recently West Nile Virus has caused misery and death for both humans and animals in virtually every area of the country.

A number of commercial products are available to control mosquitos both in the larva and adult stages. Other effective products are readily available to prevent mosquito bites. Using either type of chemical control should be done only after carefully reading instructions on labels.

## Home On Furlough From Afghanistan



M. Sgt. Enrique Ramoz was deployed to Afghanistan in January, 2005, for an 18 month tour of duty. He is a member of the U.S. Army Reserve. He graduated from Plains High in 1979 and is the son of Manuel and Juana Ramos, and the father of Monica Hoecker, Adrienne Mena and Manuel Ramoz. His grandchildren are Karina Hoecker, Joshua Hoecker, Savannah Mena, Malachi Ramoz and Ethan Mena. Sgt. Ramoz is on a 15 day leave, and will be visiting family and friends before returning to duty in Afghanistan to finish his deployment. He sent his oldest granddaughter Karina a certificate accompanied by a U.S. flag that had flown in Afghanistan. Karina enjoyed showing the flag and certificate in Mrs. Friesen's kindergarten class the last week of school.

The certificate reads, "This is to certify the accompanying American flag was flown in the face of the enemy over the American compound, Camp Blakckhorse, Pol-e-Charkfi, Afghanistan by the Officers, NCO's and soldiers of the 76th Brigade during " Operation Enduring Freedom" on April 7, 2005, in Plains Elementary School and Karina Hoecker - presented by Sgt. Enrique Ramoz."

Please See  
**Memorial Bricks**  
Page Four

## County seeks honors, recognition from TAC

Innovative, bargain priced Mobile Command Unit ready for emergency use

Some five years ago, the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) created the Counties Leadership Foundation County Best Practice Awards Program, and county officials and employees have been striving hard to earn the honor with their entry for 2005 - a Mobile Command Unit, formally referred to as S-35.

Creation of the communication center on wheels didn't occur overnight. Law enforcement agencies, emergency responder groups, fire departments in the county's two towns, hospitals, and companies operating in the area's huge and often dangerous oil field were long aware of the need for a better method of communication in emergency situations. The multi-frequencies used by responders was a constant impediment to coordinated efforts.

The Yoakum County Sheriff Department personnel and Sheriff Don Corzine, along with oil production companies, formed a Communications Task Force, with the Sheriff's Office serving as the primary operator of the force, given their response to all emergency calls.

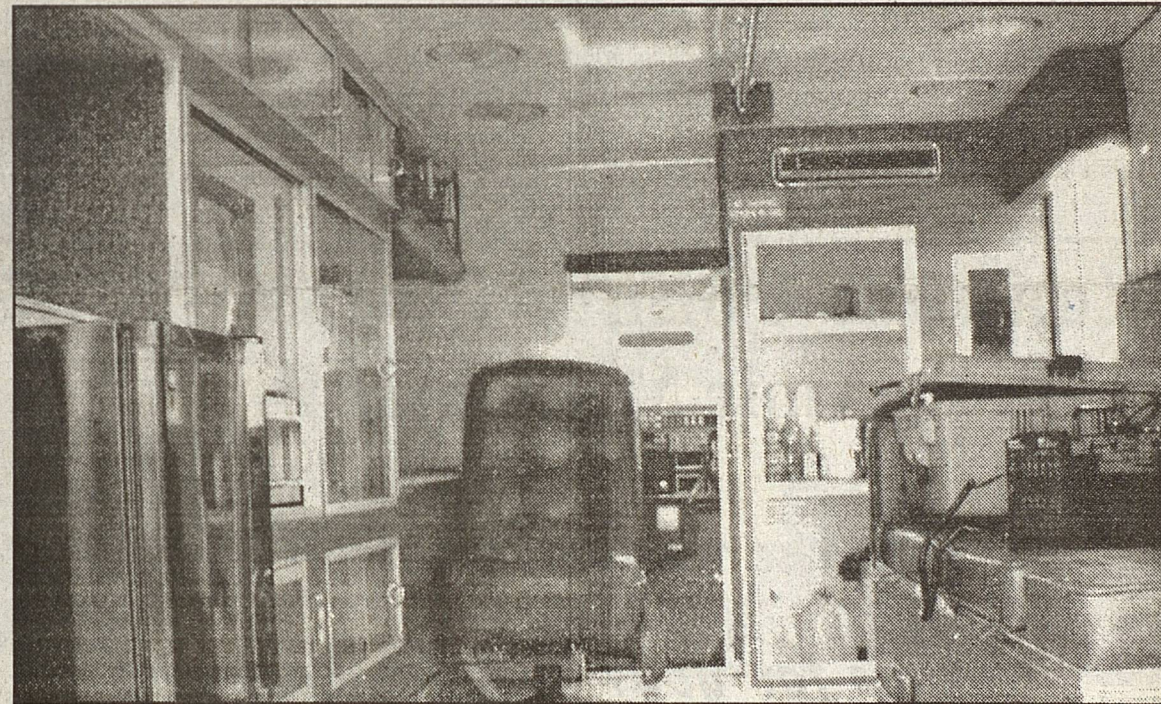
Sheriff Deputy Curtis Coffman, also the Plains EMS Coordinator, suggested the Task Force consider Plains Fire Department and EMS Services 1987 Ford ambulance which was no longer in use, but had reasonably low mileage, as a communication Center vehicle. Commissioners Court agreed to transfer title to the vehicle for the command vehicle.

The old ambulance already had emergency lights and radios. Sheriff Corzine sought and received funding from grants, received financial assistance from other government entities and oil companies. The vehicle was re-painted in the sheriff department scheme, detachable and weather proof cameras were mounted to provide 365 degree viewing, one with a telephoto lens for extreme distance shots, a VCR was installed, virtually all with grant money and contributions. The renovating work and installation of equipment was performed mainly by the Denver City Fire Chief and members of his department, and personnel of the Sheriff Department.

The S-35 has an AC/DC generator, and the vehicle can operate traveling, while stationary using power from the generator, or stationary and connected to a 110 volt electric supply. Communication connections with other agencies can be done quickly, with the use of a laptop



The S - 35 ready to roll. Sheriff Deputy Curtis Coffman shown in background.



A view inside the impressive command unit

computer

The S-35 can serve as headquarters for leaders of various agencies, seating six, and is equipped with a small refrigerator, microwave and coffee pot. It has spotlights on all sides, and external speakers for radio traffic. Modification work continues on the unit, but it is ready to roll now in the event of an

emergency. The county was recently authorized to have a disaster and decontamination trailer. The trailer was provided by a grant from Homeland Security, and will be towed by S-35 when a donated hitch is installed.

Sheriff Corzine wrote in the application to TAC for the outstanding innovation recognition

award, "The purchase of a power unit was the sole cost to our county for the Mobile Communications Command Unit. It is not something that will be used daily, but will most assuredly prove invaluable in emergencies for many years to come. If only one life is saved through use of this unit, it will have served its purpose."



Lea County Electric Cooperative line crew members Manuel Estrada, foreground, and Gary Jones, background are shown on trucks used to remove the old marquee sign, to be replaced with a new electronic sign. Bill Rowe, who will install the new sign, anticipates finishing the job around July 1. Hundreds of commemorative bricks will be permanently installed around the new sign. The Cooperative will also help raise the new sign.



## Proud Morales Parents Are Grateful

Angel and Maria Morales can remember the poverty that led to their decision to uproot their three children from their humble home in Coahuila, Mexico, to Plains, TX. They were searching to afford Rosa, Martha, and Juan opportunities they themselves never had, primarily an education. Education, in their minds, was the key to a better life. There were times people did not understand their decision. They were met with snickers when they couldn't speak the language or when they couldn't clothe their children with name brands. One constant in the children's lives was the immense love and unconditional support they had at home. Later, additions to the family included Mary, Laura, and surprisingly Kristian! Through it all, Mr. and Mrs. Morales would remind their children how education opened doors. Mrs. Morales would often attend sporting or academic events and beam with pride as teachers or coaches would inform her how they enjoyed working with the Morales kids. Mr. Morales would enjoy hearing these things at home following a hard day at work in his attempts to instill in his six children, with his actions, a strong work ethic. The Morales kids continued on to receive education in the Plains school systems each striving to make his/her parents proud. They enjoyed not only the academic aspect of school, but also the extracurricular aspect such as band and athletics. One by one,



The Morales children - Rosa, Martha, Juan, Mary, Laura, and Kristian

they graduated from Plains High School. Mr. Cullins, who taught all six, would often question how many Morales kids were left! Most recently, it was Kristian's turn to highlight the sacrifices made by her parents. They looked on with pride and, perhaps, with a few tears in their eyes as their efforts culminated with Kristian's five siblings visiting their alma mater to watch Kristian walk triumphantly across the stage to receive her diploma. This same stage laid the foundation for her siblings' higher education efforts. Kristian's five siblings all attended college and each acquired a degree, be it an associate's or a bachelor's degree. Each can attest to the difference an education can make and they expect no less from their baby sister.

Mr. and Mrs. Morales would

like to take this opportunity to thank those who helped them make a real dream of providing their children with a education. First and foremost, they thank God for blessing them with six children. A spiritual education was an imperative component of their lives as well. They thank the faculty of Plains ISD for taking the time and patience to teach and get to know their children. They wish to thank those who provided employment for both parents. This was a blessing as well in caring for the children economically. Mr. Dwayne Canada stands out in Mrs. Morales' mind as a person who provided support throughout the most trying times upon initial arrival. Mr. Canada offered summer employment for both Mrs. Morales and her children year after year. All six had the oppor-

tunity to work in his fields. Pate Trucking continues to offer Mr. Morales' a loyal place of employment. A heartfelt thanks to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Arlon Alexander Memorial Scholarship, Tsa Mo Ga Study Club, and Yoakum County Federal Credit Union for assisting in providing Kristian an education in the form of scholarships. Thanks to friends and family who touched in their unique ways the hearts of the Morales family in various endeavors. As Eleanor Roosevelt stated, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

Once again, a million thanks! God bless you and your families.

The Family of Angel and Maria Morales

### Routine Commissioner Court Session

In the June 13 session of Commissioners Court, Tax assessor/Collector Jan Parrish reported \$29,793 taxes collected in May.

Kathy Clark, representing the County Literacy Center in Denver City said considerable interest has been expressed for computer software to assist with learning to speak and read Spanish. Furnishing ten computer sites in the Learning Center would cost \$3000, 15 sites \$4050, and 20 sites \$5000. The software would assist clients with Ppanish I and Spanish II. The matter was tabled for further study.

Troy Scott, Justice of Peace Pct. 2, requested approval promoting Eva Perez from 2nd deputy to 1st deputy effective May 25. The request was approved.



CAPITOL  
COMMENT

SENATOR

KAY VALLEY HITCHCOCKSON



When I heard the announcement by University of Houston researchers have made solar cells out of lunar dust, I was reminded why it is important for the United States to develop a coherent energy policy and to invest in our space program.

This year my colleagues and I have set as one of our top goals the passage of a national energy plan. This is crucial for many reasons, including our security. We depend on foreign supplies for 60 percent of our petroleum and gas, a higher percentage than in 1973 when our nation reeled from the Arab Oil Embargo of 1973. Continued dependence upon foreign energy supplies puts us at the mercy of other nations, some of which have proven themselves unstable or unfriendly. Their decisions can do huge damage to our economy and the livelihoods of people living and working in our country. We cannot continue to sit back and allow that to happen.

This is particularly true because we now have a general consensus on what needs to be done. In the previous Congress, we drafted a bill to improve our energy security, but obstructionist tactics were used to block its passage.

The first step toward greater energy independence is boosting domestic production. This includes environmentally-responsible drilling in barren arctic wastelands. Oil exploration in a section of Alaska referred to as the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve could create hundreds of thousands of US jobs and generate more than 10 billion barrels of oil - the equivalent of more than two decades of imports from Saudi Arabia.

In a similar vein, I worked last year to improve the tax treatment of low production oil wells, called marginal oil and gas wells. These older wells, which dot much of Texas, have only a modest output, but because there are so many in our nation, they collectively produce almost 1.2 million barrels a day.

The Independent Petroleum Association of America says they account for nearly 20 percent of total oil production in the United States, or the amount equal to our imports from Saudi Arabia. Until we restored beneficial tax treatment of these wells, many were being shut down to the detriment of Texas and our national energy security.

It is a mistake to assume the energy bill is devoted solely to fossil fuels. The bill promotes renewable fuel sources, such as ethanol, which is mixed with gasoline to create clean-burning gasohol which can be used in some of today's cars. Texas, with its growing corn and sorghum production, is well positioned to tap into the growing ethanol production market.

The energy plan includes incentives for other renewable energy, such as wind and solar power. Texas, as we all know, has plenty of sunshine, but its winds are also a remarkable energy resource. Scientists estimate Texas winds alone have the potential to provide one-tenth of America's electricity energy needs. Texas Tech University is a major research center for generating energy from the wind.

The energy bill will emphasize clean burning coal technology as well as nuclear energy. The United States and many other nations currently operate nuclear power plants, which produce no carbon dioxide and are exceptionally clean. Despite these advantages, we haven't built a new nuclear power plant in this country in the last 25 years.

The discovery of techniques for building solar cells on the moon out of lunar surface material is also exciting because of the possibility of beaming electricity to Earth from space. With no atmosphere to cut down on sunlight, the moon offers almost unlimited amounts of energy.

Dr. Alex Freundlich and his colleagues at the University of Houston came up with the idea of building small wheeled lunar robots to rove the surface of the moon, making solar cells out of the combination of silicon, carbon, oxygen, aluminum and iron that compose the surface dust. Their experiments showed it is possible to make the cells out of these materials. The lower efficiency of the experimental cells compared to standard solar cells is compensated by the fact they can be made on-site and save millions of dollars in transportation.

This technique could help provide energy for the moon base envisaged by President George W. Bush. It could even, possibly, provide low cost electricity to Earth. It already proves the power of Texas ingenuity. We need to tap these kinds of ideas and pass a comprehensive energy plan to reduce our dependence on foreign energy supplies, cut pollution, and improve our energy security.

## Plains students earn degrees from LCU

Two students from Plains were among 254 graduates who participated in commencement exercises for Lubbock Christian University May 7.

Chase Clanahan, son of Mr. and Mrs. N.C. Clanahan, graduated with a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary studies in Secondary Education.

Brad Seaton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Seaton, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Missions.

Lubbock Christian University is a liberal arts institution of higher learning dedicated to providing a quality education in a Christian environment. LCU was among only six Texas schools to be named in the John Templeton Foundation Honor Roll of Character Building Universities. LCU offers 34 bachelor's degree programs and ten master's degrees, with an enrollment of almost 2,000 students.

## Yoakum County Plains Clinic Amir Memon, MD

*Serving the medical needs of Plains*

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

Will take walk-ins

Appointments preferred

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TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

MEMBER  
2005

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A Great Big

## Thank You!

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# Randy's Roundup

Randy Neugebauer, U.S. Congressman, Texas 19th District

## Congress succeeded in "not messing" things up last week.

There are many people who subscribe to the line of thinking the less Congress is in session, then the less opportunity it has to mess things up. For those folks, they will be glad to hear members of Congress were not in Washington last week, but rather back in their districts attending Memorial Day events and meeting with constituents. That does not mean, however, there are not any interesting nuggets of information to report.

## Economy improves as jobs added and projected size of budget deficit decreases.

Recent news reports show the economy continues to ADD jobs, and the projected size of the federal deficit for this year continues to DECREASE. These bits of good economic news demonstrate the policy of letting working Americans keep more of their money - instead of sending large portions of their weekly wages to Washington - helps reduce the deficit. A recession and the response to terrorist attacks led the federal government to spend more than I would normally support. However, President Bush has pledged to cut that deficit in half by 2009, and we are well ahead of schedule in meeting that goal. The U.S. Department of Labor also reported the unemployment rate has dropped 5.1% - far below recent historical averages, and the lowest it has been since September 11, 2001. As government has eased the tax burden on individuals and small business owners, more workers are being added to payrolls. For the past 24 months, each month has seen an increase in jobs to the U.S. economy, and more Americans are working than ever before.

With the economy on the right track, it is imperative the Congress respond by reducing spending. In recent weeks, while the Senate was plagued by filibusteritis, the House was moving along to set next year's budget. The House voted to hold the line on spending or even reduce spending in areas of government that are inefficient, redundant or wasteful. At the same time, we have shifted those savings to new priorities, such as border security and medical services for our veterans. If we can continue to show fiscal restraint, and if the Senate follows suit, it will mean good news for those who support deficit reduction.

## On this week's agenda.....

With 4 of the 11 appropriation bills taken care of in the House, next up is agriculture. The House will likely vote on the Ag Appropriations bill this week. Several agricultural programs and research initiatives important to District 19 are included in the bill. Stay tuned to next week's Roundup where I will detail how the final House version turns out

.....RANDY

# A Father's Day Word From Nolan Ryan

When you think of how fathers, grandfathers and other male figures fit into family life, what comes to mind? As we celebrate Father's Day, it's natural to focus on simple pleasures such as summer vacations, barbecues, and of course, friendly games of backyard baseball.

In addition to thinking about these memories, I encourage Texas fathers to remember a crucial contribution they make to families: creating an atmosphere of safety and respect for others. It's important we don't take this contribution for granted because, unfortunately, there are many homes in our state that are not safe havens due to domestic violence.

Research shows 74 percent of Texans either have been abused or know someone who has suffered abuse, and the problem knows no age, ethnic or economic boundaries. A friend or family member is usually the first person a victim speaks to about domestic violence, but studies also show 35 percent of Texans who learn of abusive situations do nothing because they're unsure of where to turn or don't want to get involved.

Keeping quiet can lead to dangerous situations for victims because abuse is, rarely, a one time occurrence and usually escalates in frequency and severity over time. What starts as name calling is often followed by a threat the next day, which is often followed by serious physical abuse and even, poten-

tially, life threatening situations, down the line.

With a majority of our state's population affected by domestic violence and three Texas women dying at the hands of an abuser each week, the problem is not just a women's issue, but a man's issue, a family issue, a community issue that none of us can afford to ignore.

Texas fathers can help by following the Texas Council of Family Violence's advice to "Break the silence. Make the call!" This title of the Council's campaign focused on victims' loved one says it all - those who suspect a friend, family member or co-worker is being abused should call the National Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE, or TTY 1-800-787-3224 to get advice on safely recognizing the signs of violence and being prepared to help is especially critical for the fathers of teenage girls because one in five high school females report physical or sexual abuse from a dating partner. This violence is strongly associated with other serious health risks including substance abuse, teen pregnancy and attempted suicide.

Fathers are in an influential position to stop this cycle of violence by being a strong, male role model for their sons and the other men in their lives. The

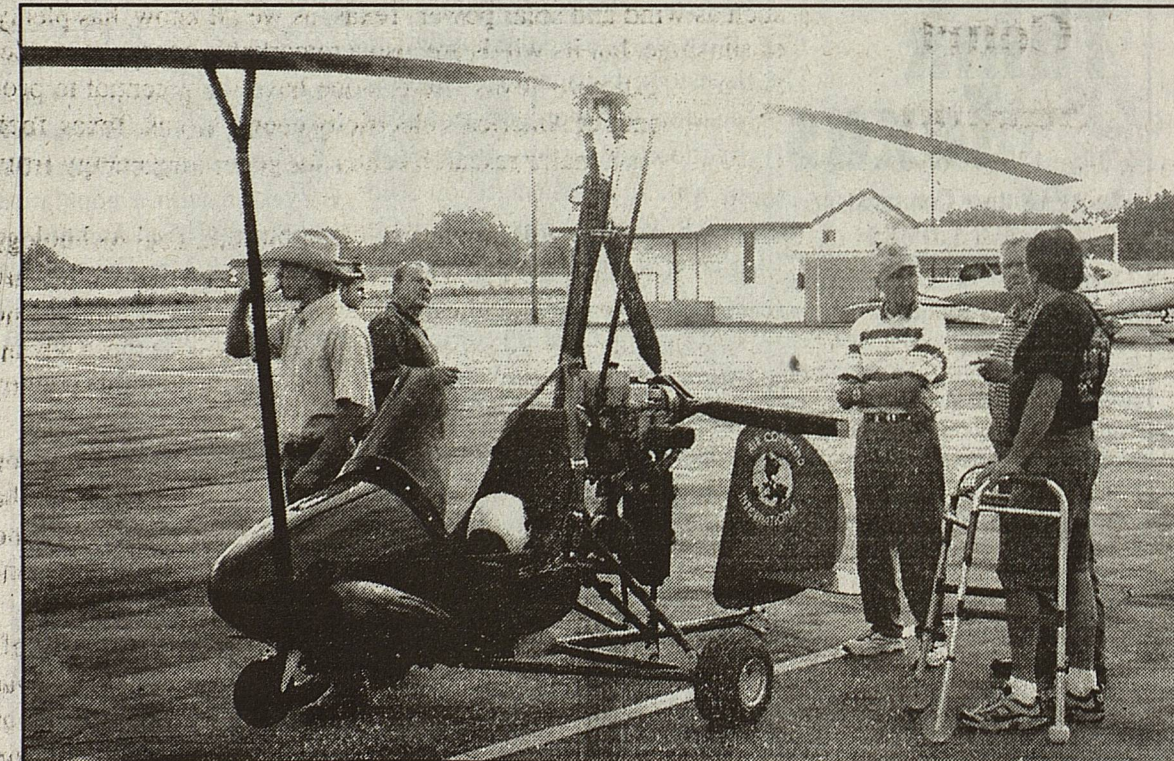
best way to do this is to lead by example, honoring our wives, mothers and sisters and daughters by treating them with the utmost in respect so future generations will follow suit.

This Father's Day I hope you'll count your blessings if your home is a safe one and make a plan to help those you suspect aren't so fortunate. If both men and women continue to shed light on this issue, hopefully on future Fathers' Days all Texans will enjoy celebrations full of barbecues and baseball in safe, happy households.

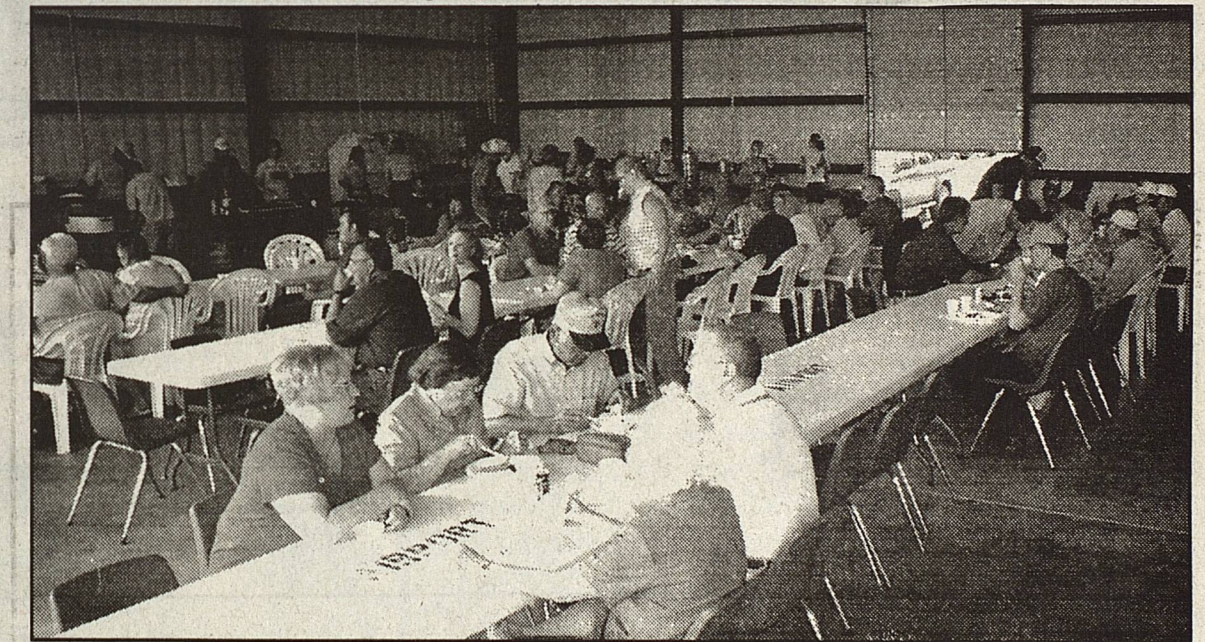
# Why Does Golf Continue To Grow In Popularity?

From friend Ron Andrews

Golf is an honorable game, with the majority of players being honorable people who don't need referees \* Golf doesn't have some of their players in jail every week \* Golfers don't kick dirt on or throw bottles at people, and are paid in direct proportion to how well they play \* Golfers don't hold out for more money or demand new contracts because of another player's deal \* Golfers don't demand taxpayers pay for the courses where they play \* The PGA raises more money for charity in one year than the NFL does in two \* In golf you cannot fail seventy percent of the time and make \$9 million in a season, like the better players with .299 batting averages do. \* Golf doesn't change its rules to attract fans \* Golfers have to adapt to an entirely new playing area each week \* Golfers keep their clothes on when interviewed each week \* Golfers don't have free agency \* In their prime, Palmer, Nicklaus, Norman and other stars would shake your hand and say they were happy to meet you - in his prime, Jose Canseco wore T-shirts that read, "Leave Me Alone!" \* You can hear birds chirping at a golf tournament \* At a golf tournament (unlike at taxpayer funded sports stadiums and arenas) you won't hear a steady stream of four letter words and a nasty name calling while you're hoping no one spills a beer on you \* Tiger hits a golf ball as far or further than Barry Bonds hits a baseball \* Golf courses don't ruin the neighborhood \* Andrews added a historic footnote offering interesting insight: Why do golf courses have 18 holes? During a discussion at historic St. Andrews in 1858, a senior member pointed out it takes exactly 18 shots to polish off a fifth of Scotch. By limiting himself to one shot per hole, the Scot figured the game was finished when the Scotch ran out.



Neal Newsom's 'mini-copter' drew its usual attention last Saturday at Denver City's annual fly-in breakfast



The Denver City annual Fly - In featured a fine breakfast for a hungry crowd

## RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 8A Rule 37/38 Case No. 0242910  
DATE OF ISSUANCE: May 16, 2004

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TEXLAND PETROLEUM, L.P., (RRC Operator No. 849735) has made application for a spacing and density exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 and 38 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37 and 3.38). Applicant seeks exception to the LEASE LINE and DISTANCE BETWEEN WELLS requirements of Rule 37, and the DENSITY requirement of Rule 38, for the NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 486, BK. D, GIBSON, J H/ CARLISLE, MRS T C Survey, A-1302, OWNBY, WEST (SAN ANDRES) Field, YOAKUM County, being 7 miles E direction from PLAINS, Texas. The location and identity of the well is as follows:

FIELD: OWNBY, WEST (SAN ANDRES)

Lease/Unit Name	: SHELL-MORE
Lease/Unit Well No.	: 7
Lease/Unit Acres	: 160.0
Nearest Lease Line (ft)	: 160.0
Nearest Well on Lease (ft)	: 523.0

Lease Lines : 1477.0 F NORTH L, 1840.0 F WEST L  
Survey Lines : 1477.0 F NORTH L, 1840.0 F WEST L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:  
OWNBY, WEST (SAN ANDRES) : OIL Statewide rules 467/1200, 40.0 acres.  
This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 5500 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, JERRI HARBER MS., at (817)9001226.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted without a hearing if no protest to the application is received. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protest must be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission at (512)463-6848. If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission at (512)463-6848.

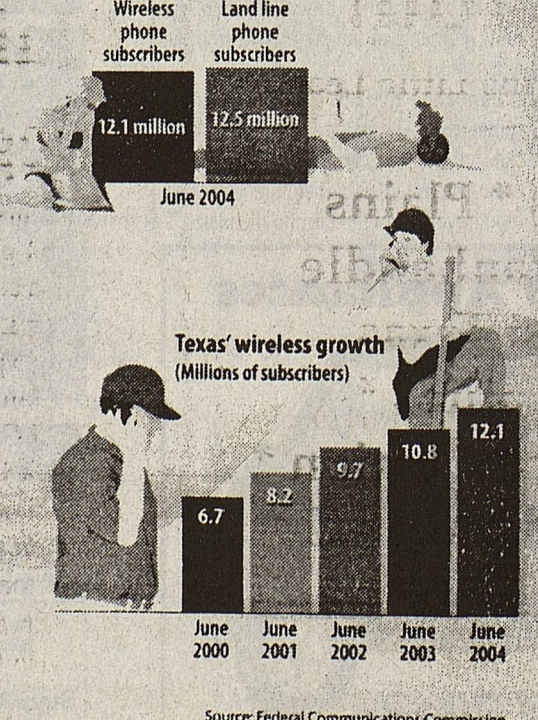
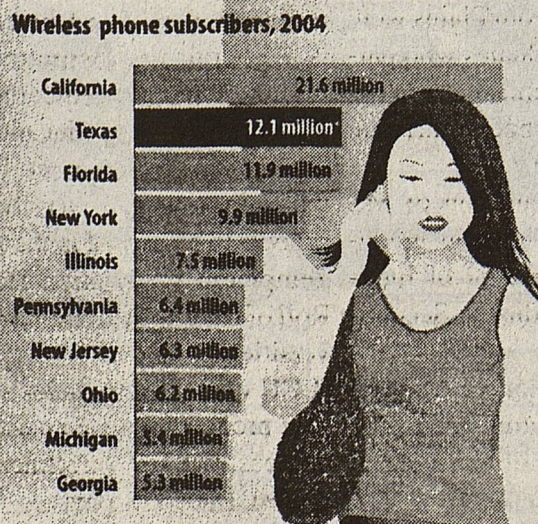
IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE BY JUN 28, 2004 at 5:00 P.M.. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

# A Wireless World

Cellular phones are found in hands, pockets and cars across the United States, with more than 167 million subscriptions in the nation, according to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Texans account for more than 12 million of those and that number is growing by about 600,000 subscribers annually, according to the FCC.

number of traditional land-line phone connections for the first time, possibly by the end of 2005. "Wireless will (probably) pass it this year," he said. "At some point, there's going to be a leveling off point, but I don't think we've hit it yet."

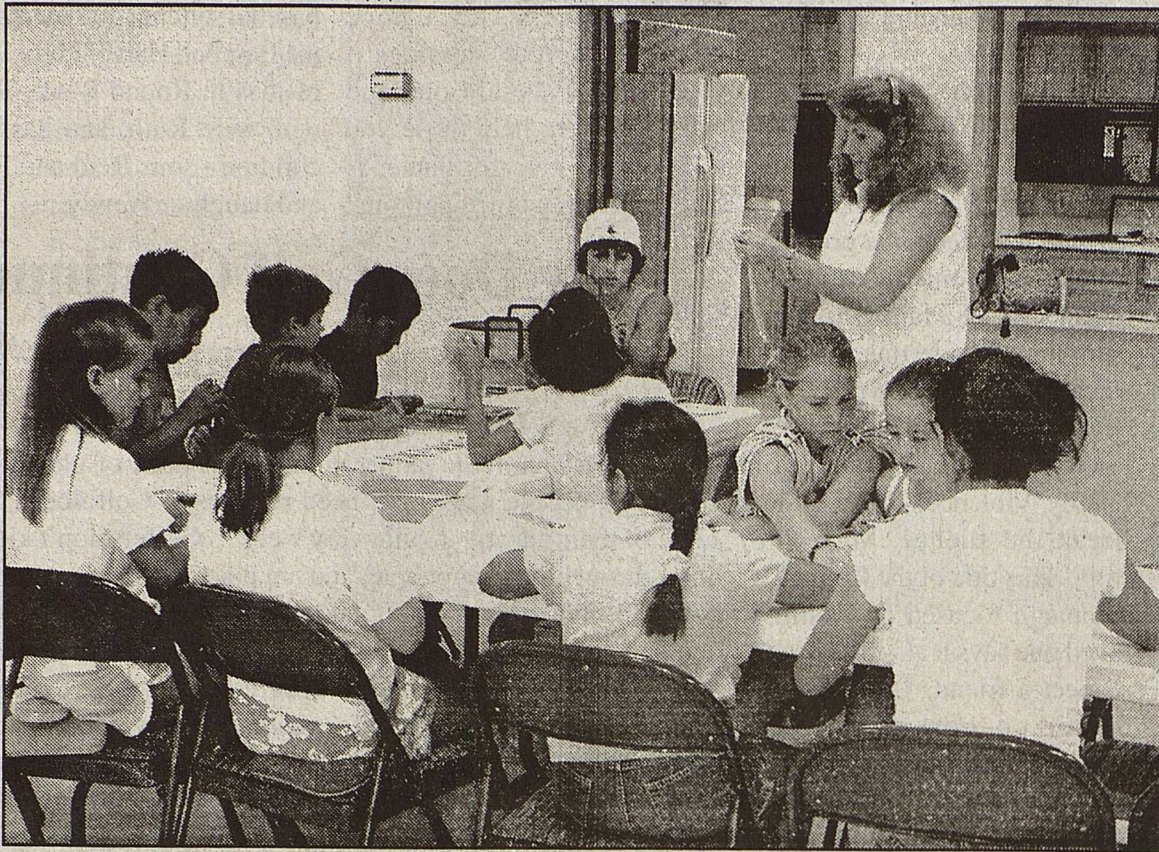
If that growth rate continues—and there's not much reason to think it won't, according to Paul Hudson, chairman of the Texas Public Utility Commission—the number of cell phone subscribers in Texas will pass the



Source: Federal Communications Commission.



## Connection's Summer Art Program Proving Another Success



Last week Plains youngsters were paying attention and carefully following instructions from Deborah Brown in one of the Connection's many and varied art programs. Here is the schedule for the remainder of June, all held in the Plains Community Building- Friday, June 17 -Singing..Rain 10:30 - 12 noon. Monday, June 20 - Mosaic Cross, 1030 12 noon, Rubberband jump 1 to 2 PM. Tuesday, June 21 - Art & Doodles, Robot Designs 10 to 12 noon. Wednesday, June 22 - Crystal Suncatchers 10 to 11 AM. Thursday, June 23- Finger paint 11 to 12 noon. Monday, June 27- Goof-Proof Painting- 11 to 12 noon. Tuesday June 28- Art & Doodles, Zebra Desk Design- 10 to 12 noon. Shoe Print Art 1 to 2 PM. Wednesday, June 29- Bateek-O 11 to 12 noon. Thursday, June 30- Be... Designer 11 to 12 noon.

## More summer fun for kids



### The Pool Is Always COOL!

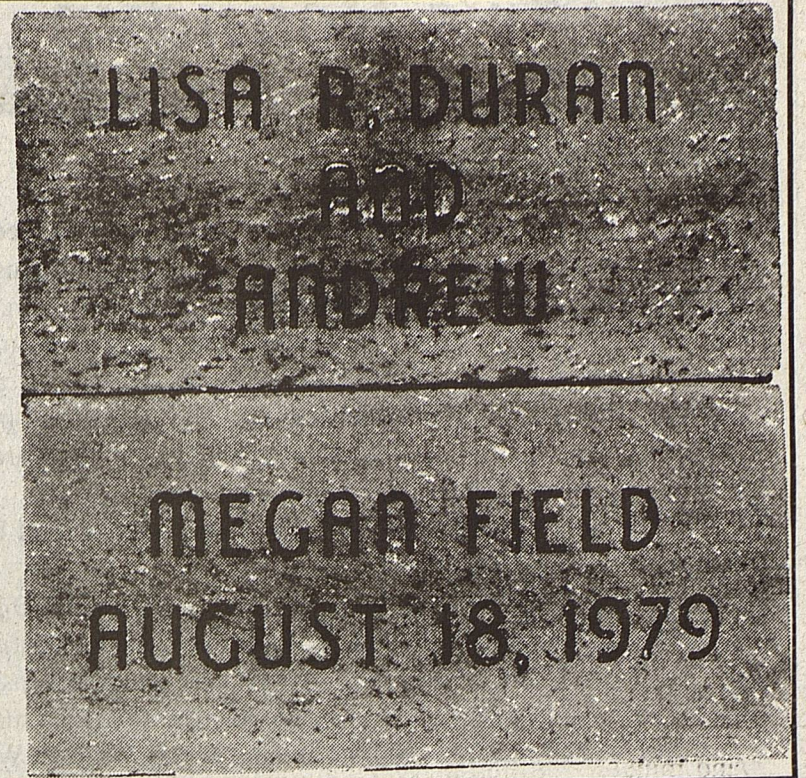
HEY, DADS!

WE HOPE EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU HAVE THE GREATEST FATHERS DAY EVER!

MAY EACH OF YOUR FAMILY HONOR YOU THIS SPECIAL DAY!



This pair of Memorial bricks have been brought here to illustrate what they will look like when finished. One brick is displayed at City Hall, the other is at the County Library. For a brief time, until all the sold bricks are engraved, they will remain on sale for the original \$50 per brick. When the engraving is finished, all bricks will be brought here for laying around the new sign at Pioneer Park. Sales after that date will be much more expensive, because of the out of town engraving expense. BUY NOW!



## FSA accepts applications for 2005 Livestock Assistance Program

According to CED Gary Six, Executive Director for the Yoakum County Farm Service Agency (FSA), Yoakum County is one of 95 counties in Texas approved for 2005 livestock assistance program (LAP) benefits. LAP provides relief to livestock producers who suffered grazing losses in 2003 or 2004 due to drought, severe weather and related causes. Producers of dairy and beef cattle; bison and beefalo; goats; swine; sheep; and certain equine, elk and reindeer are now eligible to participate in LAP.

To qualify for LAP, grazing land must be located in a county designated as a primary disaster county under a presidential or secretarial disaster declara-

tion. The declaration must have been approved on or after Jan. 1, 2003, for a disaster occurring through December 31, 2004. LAP benefits are not available for contiguous counties.

"A county may meet eligibility requirements for both 2003 and 2004; however, producers may receive benefits for only one of the two calendar years," explains CED Six.

Eligible applicants must have control of adequate grazing land to support the eligible livestock and possess beneficial interest in eligible livestock that have been owned or leased for at least three months. During 2003 or 2004, livestock producers must have suffered a 40 percent or greater loss of grazing production for three or more consecutive months due to natural disasters.

"If you reduced the number of livestock because of a natural disaster, you won't be penalized by those reductions. If, because of a natural disaster, you sold eligible livestock that were placed on grazing land on or after Jan. 31, 2003, you will receive compensation for the entire payment period or to the date when livestock are nor-

mally sold," said Six. LAP payments will be based on the number of livestock a producer would have owned if the disaster had not occurred. For livestock that were sold in the course of normal business, eligible applicants will receive benefits or those animals only up to the date of sale. A payment limitation of \$40,000 per person applies, and individuals whose gross revenue exceeds \$2.5 million are ineligible for program benefits.

For more information on LAP including eligibility criteria and application process, please contact the Yoakum County FSA at 806-456-2132 or visit the national FSA web site, <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

According to the 1870 census, Texas has a population of 818,579, a 35% increase since the 1860 census. Texas now ranks 19th in population among the states. The largest Texas city is Galveston with a population of 13,818, while San Antonio is second with 12,258. The new census shows 93.3% of the people live in rural areas while only 6.7% live in urban areas.

**Think Texas**  
by Agriculture Commissioner  
**SUSAN COMBS**

Summers in Texas aren't so bad; we just need to make the best of them and find some diversions from the heat. Family vacations, water hole adventures, picnics in the shade and trips to the local farmers market for fresh produce are excellent ways to have fun in spite of the heat.

Kids may be dreaming about vacations now that school is out, but one trip that should not be missed this summer is to the local farmers market. The time is ripe for fresh produce, which is a great way to celebrate summer. Texas has more than 60 certified farmers markets sprinkled across the state, offering an enormous variety of fruits and vegetables.

Local growers sell fruit, vegetables, pecans, cheese, honey, flowers and other products, and some markets encourage families to make a day of it by offering lunch vendors and live music. To find a farmers market near you, visit TDA's Web site at [www.agr.state.tx.us](http://www.agr.state.tx.us).

The benefits of certified farmers markets are three-fold. Farmers benefit because the markets are especially suited to smaller volumes of produce, and they eliminate the middleman. Consumers benefit because they get fresh, quality produce at a lower cost. Communities benefit because they unite the urban and rural segments of the population in a fun and healthy way.

Farmers markets are a great summertime destination for families and can serve as a learning experience for those interested in agriculture and how food travels from the farm to the plate.

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# Lifelines & Styles

## Art Association Meeting

The Yoakum County Art Association met June 7 in the Clubroom of the old courthouse. The meeting was called to order by President Lisa Gentry, and minutes and treasurers report were approved. The next meeting will be held July 12 at 7 PM at Sellers Steak House in Denver City - Dutch Treat. Plans for the August 4 to

6 Art Show and Sale will be discussed. The association was fortunate to have artist Carol Peterson of Lubbock demonstrate her techniques in acrylics. She also works with watercolors and oils. Thirteen members and three guests attended the meeting, and Julia Lemley and Faye Nelms served as hostesses.

## County residents named to S.P.C. Honor Lists

Yoakum County residents were among those named to the President and Dean's Honor Lists for the spring 2005 semester at South Plains College. Students named to the President's list must maintain a 4.0 straight A grade point average while enrolled in a minimum 12 semester hours of college level work. The Dean's list requires a minimum 3.25 GPA while enrolled in at least 12 semester hours. Named to the President's Honor List are Moises Gonzales and Joseph Rodriguez of Plains. Named to the Dean's Honor List are Aaron Conde, Sonia DeLaRosa and Abigail Droogsmas from Denver City, and Sarah and Kim Martines, both of Plains.

## Pool time for tiny people, too



You Are Invited To

**Circle G Ranch  
Vacation Bible School**  
First United Methodist Church

Friday, June 17, 6 pm - 8:30 pm  
Saturday, June 18, 9 am - 2 pm  
Children ages Pre K - 4th grade

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## To the wonderful people of Plains;

*Please forgive me for taking so long to respond. I want to sincerely thank all of you for your prayers and financial support.*

*It has always been hard for me to express my feelings, but I want you to know it brings tears to my eyes and joy to my heart to know so many of you care. You are such a wonderful group of people who have always been supportive when someone is in need.*

*I am still struggling with this disease, and still in need of your prayers. It is just by the Grace Of God I am still here, and I praise him for that*

**May God Bless You All  
Steve McGinty**

.....  
Shortly after I received Steve's request to publish this message of thanks, we spoke on the phone. I don't think he will mind if I say it was a bit emotional for both of us. He had not heard of my losing 'The Bride' to the C disease he continues to battle against, so we share common emotions. I asked if he would mind if I added a few words to his thank you, and he assured me he would not mind at all.

*I extend a big thank you to Jerry and Anne Hartman for hosting my retirement party. Thanks, too, to all who helped with the arrangements and food for the reception, and to all who attended. The cards and gifts were a bonus! I appreciate the support from my late wife, Jean, son Brad, and the current and former employees of the companies. I especially thank Pierre St. Romain for hiring me back in 1970. I have enjoyed serving the wonderful telephone customers in the Plains and Higginbotham areas for the past 35 years.*

**Thanks Again!  
Travis Jones**

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Plains, Texas

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

## Senior Citizens Corner

By time you read this you have probably been awakened by or at least been made aware of the sound of airplanes circling overhead as they came in to land and join in the annual Fly-In celebration at our local airport. For many years this has been a much anticipated and enjoyed annual holiday in the aviation community. Different weather conditions, different aircraft from different communities, and different old friends flying in from around our area always conspire to make each fly-in special. Some years there has been planned air activities for entertainment; other years it is just a reunion of old friends with the usual flying yarns to share; but always there is the delicious breakfast served by the 'airport men.' What a delightful interlude in our lives! I hope you took time to enjoy it this year. Our thanks, as always, to those who planned, prepared and cleaned up after our special day!

Monday was birthday and anniversary time once more. The dining room was filled with folks who came to share the celebration and enjoy the delicious chicken fried steak our cooks prepared. There were colorful balloons flying from many of the chairs indicating who was celebrating this time. The Site Council Ladies made sure each one who needed assistance was served and Ann Holland was on hand with her camera to capture the moment for each honoree. These photos are available in the office for reproduction in any size desired.

Visitors names appearing on our sign-in sheet were Earnest and Euna Tipton, Betty and Vernon Wright, Lavoie Davis, Lois Aulds, and Robert Garrett

It was a pleasant surprise to see Hoot and Many Gibson come in for lunch. They were accompanied by Shag Grasset, a cousin of Hoot's from O'Donnell. They assured me there is nothing left of the two of them didn't try while growing up there. Mary wore her usual smile and says she is finished with her treatments now. We hope to see more of them in days ahead. We have missed them during their time away from the center.

Our sympathy goes to Gene Moore and his family in the death of Margie. We've enjoyed having Margie come in for lunch as she felt like it and we encourage Gene to walk across the street and make the Center his noonday rendezvous where he can enjoy a good meal and visit with friends.

If you have a hearing problem with which you need assistance, be sure to jot down this information. Patrick McCarty, with Livingston Hearing Center, will be at the Center Monday, June 20 from 9:30 to 11:30 AM in a mobile unit parked outside the building. There will be an 'On-Site Soundproof Booth' for testing hearing and a full service laboratory. If you would like to talk to Patrick or make an appointment for that morning you may reach him at 1-800-828-0722.

Wednesday, June 15 is the date for our annual SPAG Medication Management Health Fair in our gym. There will be booths with information and testing for blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol, hearing, bone density, home safety and basic medicare information. The hours are from 10AM to 2PM. Come for lunch and make this a part of your day.

This is also the date for the monthly invitational pool tournament, so you will want to be sure to call by 10AM to let our cooks know of your plans to come for lunch if you haven't signed up in advance. The chicken strip meal is always a favorite.

This was the week of remembering as we listened to the review and reenactment of D-Day on TV's. Sometimes those memories from "Our War" seem as fragile as cobwebs, yet on such a day as we celebrated this week, we recall vividly the feelings we felt, and the prayers we whispered on that long ago day.

Thought for Today: Did you know if you are an average American during your lifetime you will spend an average of six months waiting at red lights?

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# From The Hack

Boy, do we ever get some good stuff in our e-mail! Too bad most of it we can't put in print. After a bit of cleaning up, we enjoyed the following insight about our trade:

"An eight year old boy was riding his bicycle in Austin, Texas, when he saw his pal being attacked by a large, fierce pit bulldog. The boy jumped off his bike, ran and jumped on the dog's back. After prying the vicious animals teeth from his friends body, he put the dog in a choke hold and held on until the dog was dead. The local newspaper editor happened to witness the entire event and after calling for an ambulance on his cell phone, ran to the young hero and said, "Son, that's one of the bravest things I have ever seen! You're going to make tomorrow's headline. It will read, 'Texas Longhorn Fan A Hero, Saves Young Friend From Vicious Pit Bull Attack'. The boy said "That's nice but I'm not a Texas Longhorn fan." The editor said, "OK, it will read 'University of Texas fan saves young friends life in pit bull attack.' The boy replied, "But I'm not a University of Texas fan." The editor said, "Alright, it will read, U.T. fan saves friends life." The boy persisted and said, "I'm not a U.T. fan either." The editor by now was a bit irritated and asked, "OK, then what is your favorite team?" The kid beamed and said, "It's LSU."

The next morning the local newspaper headline said, "Beloved family pet viciously murdered by crawdad sucking swamp bred snot nose kid!"

I'm not sure, but I think the D.C. Fly-In Breakfast I attended last Saturday morn was my ninth. Far be it for me to miss a FREE breakfast, and a good one. I recently rated all three meals I detest cooking the most: Lunch was easiest with only 87 points detestation, followed by supper (yes, I know, it's called DINNER by you with incomes over \$150 grand), and the winner of the truly detestable award was Breakfast. Therefore, I go to the DC Fly-In, and wish it was a monthly affair. -I am sick and tired of cracking an egg and watching it fall on my foot!

I shared a table spot with some true D.C. dignitaries (again, that's those with over \$150 grand coming in), including J.R. Slentz, Kathy and Ricardo Clark, and the oil patch workover rig King, now retired, friend Dennis Harrison. My first question to Dennis was,

"Where is your much, much more lovely wife than you, \*\*\*\*\*?"

He said the lady would be along shortly, then started smoothing on some of his usual snake oil flattery; "We love your paper. She just has a fit waiting for it to arrive, and she really gets miffed if I read it first. I don't like making her upset --- what can you do for that?"

I promptly replied, "Borrow the money from her and subscribe to TWO PAPERS----- That's the easiest question you ever asked me!"

He just glared a bit, and finally muttered, "I hope you have to leave before she gets here!"

Following the last, dying quiver of the collapsed legislative session, I understand there is a groundswell movement afoot in Austin (organized by

Guess Which Party? ) to rename the famed black and white movie heroic Three Stooges - their Larry, Curly and Moe monikers would more appropriately become Rick, David and Tom, as in Perry, Dewhurst and Craddick. Sounds plenty reasonable to me. What a farce.

Yet it's certainly not the only farcial session. In 1989 the legislature faced another serious financial crisis. Then State Senator Carl Parker, asked to explain the mess said, "The first thing that comes to my mind is it's like trying to feed 5,000 folks with two loaves and five fish. But I'm afraid we don't have that kind of leadership available today. And furthermore, let's not forget what happened to the fellow who did that before!"

Another thought expressed by an unknown - If the American revolutionaries thought taxation with no representation was bad, they should try it WITH representation.

### Position Open

**One Person Office Administrator for peanut buying point in Plains, TX. Needs to have excellent skills in customer service, office organization, computer operation, office equipment use, and typing ability ( 50 WPM min.). Must be able to multitask, understand written/oral communications and maintain files and accounts. During harvest will be expected to work long hours, 7 days per week. Send full resume to; Attebury-Williams, LLC, PO Box 157, Plains TX 79355. Best applicants will be contacted for personal interview. E.O.E.**

**Need Person to stay with elderly lady Sundays, 7-8 AM to 7-8 PM. Call E.O. Winkles 456-3835**

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**Help Wanted Yoakum County Hospital is seeking responsible person to fill the Prescription Assistance position. Send application to PO Box 1130, Denver City, Texas, 79323, ATTN: Human Resources**

**Bus Driver Needed Plains ISD is seeking additional bus drivers to be used as substitutes and to drive for field trips. These same drivers would be used to replace route drivers as the need occurs. Drivers must have a current CDL license with both passenger and school bus endorsements or be willing to acquire the above licenses. To apply contact: Superintendent's Office 1000 10th Street, P.O. Box 479 Plains, Texas 79355 Or Call: 806-456-7401 Plains ISD is an equal opportunity employer.**

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## Property owners receive 2005 value notices

State law requires county appraisal districts to notify property owners about changes in their property's value. On May 26, Yoakum County Appraisal District mailed 8,862 property owners letters showing their 2005 proposed value. Sandra Stephens, Chief Appraiser of the District, reminds property owners the letter of appraised value is not a tax bill. "Please, do not pay... this is not a tax bill," Stephens said.

Stephens emphasized the importance of the letter and key information it contains. "A property owner has the right to appeal to the Yoakum County Appraisal Review Board on any disagreement with the property's value, exemptions, ownership and other areas," she said.

The appraisal review board, more commonly called the ARB, is an independent panel of citizens responsible for hearing and settling protests from property owners who disagree with some action by the appraisal district. The notice includes instructions on how and when to file a protest, and a protest form.

What should a property owner look for on the notice? "look at the proposed value for 2005," Stephens said. "The letter states the land's value and any improvement value for the property for the current year." An improvement is a building, structure, or any other type of fixture to the land.

The appraisal letter also includes current year exemptions granted on the property. It provides last years value too.

Homeowners that qualify for property tax exemptions have a limitation on their home's appraisal value, beginning with the second year

they qualify their their home for homestead exemptions. The appraisal district may not increase their home value by more than ten percent for each year since the last reappraisal year. A homeowners letter shows both the market value for the home and the limited home value. Letters to property owners whose values increased more than \$1000 also will include "estimated" taxes. These "estimated" taxes are based on the new taxable value and last year's tax rate. Generally, taxing units will set final 2005 tax rates in August or September. Final tax amounts may vary from these "estimated" amounts.

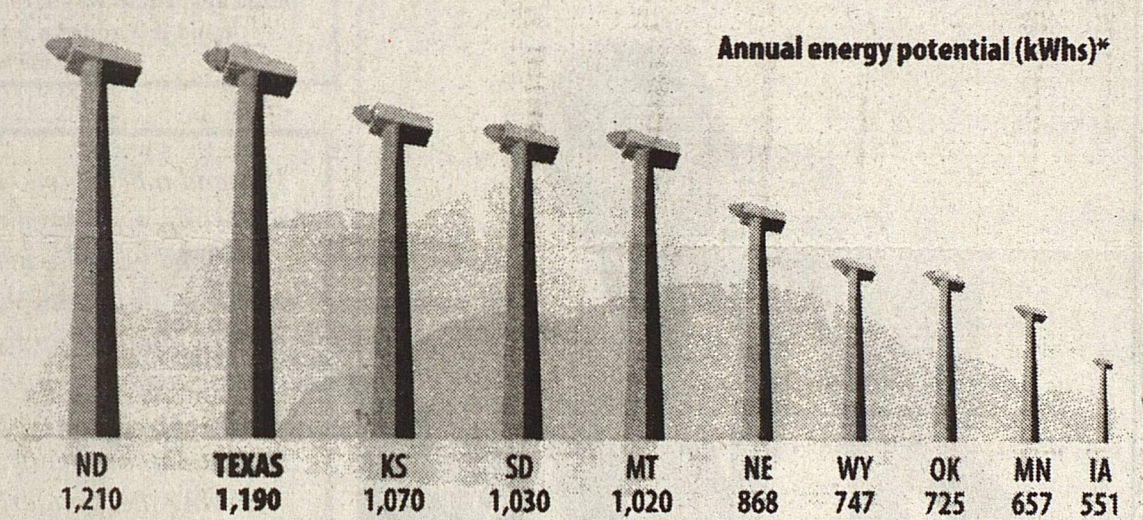
Stephens asks property owners to look carefully at the legal description and mailing address to be sure there are no mistakes. "If the letter contains an old address, please let the appraisal district know. The post office forwards mail to a new address for a short time only, and tax bills do not go out until October," Stephens said. A property owner is responsible for informing the appraisal district of the correct address. A property owner is liable for additional penalties and interest on a tax bill not paid on time.

Mobile homes are a special problem for the appraisal district. "Please check all the information very carefully on all mobile home notices. If we have a mistake on ownership or value, now is the time to inform the district, not when the taxes are due. After the values are certified, there is very little we can do about an account," Stephens said. Not everyone will receive a notice. If you did not get a notice and have any questions, please call the appraisal district, 806-456-7101. The deadline for protesting to the ARB is June 24 for this year.

## Wind Power Rising

### Tops in wind potential

In a 1991 federal study, Texas ranked second in the nation in its potential for the development of wind energy.



\* Measured as watts of energy generated over time, or kilowatts per hour (kWh). Sources: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and the U.S. Department of Energy.

The oceans of oil that contributed so much to 20th Century Texas are mostly gone. But, an energy product with unlimited economic potential sweeps across our farms and field every day. In the last 20 years, wind power technique has improved enormously while plunging in price, making the commercial generation of electricity both practical and cost-effective.

Texas has an important stake in this industry, both in its number of wind facilities and its potential for more. The 1999 Texas Legislature set an ambitious goal for the adoption of wind power by Texas utilities, and legislation before the 2005 Legislature would increase the state's commitments.

The flat terrain and steady breezes of the Texas plains offer a near-perfect setting for wind power. A 1991 study by the US Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest Laboratory concluded that Texas is second only to North Dakota in its wind energy potential.

According to the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), and industry trade group, US wind facilities were capable of producing a total of 6,374 megawatts (MW) of

power at the beginning of 2004. Texas wind farms accounted for 1,293 MW or about 20 percent of the national total - enough energy to power nearly 388,000 average American homes year-round. Only California had more installed wind power capacity, with 2,043 MW.

The growth in Texas wind energy has been both rapid and recent. The National Wind Coordinating Committee, a public-private advocacy organization, reports Texas' wind projects is the nations second largest, the King Mountain Wind Ranch, a 214 turbine project in Upton County capable of producing 278 MW.

Wind power has surged while the price of natural gas, a common fuel for power generation, has risen sharply. "With natural gas prices high, investing in wind makes a lot of sense," said Christine Real de Azua, AWEA's assistant director of Communications. "It's like locking in a low-interest rate mortgage."

The 1999 Texas Legislature took a dramatic step to encourage the growth of wind energy by adopting a goal for renewable energy use by the state's power companies. This goal requires electricity suppliers to install at

least 2,880 MW renewable energy capacity by 2009. Renewable energies can include hydroelectric, biomass and solar power as well as wind.

The 1999 legislation also created a credits trading program so utilities can either create, buy or trade for additional renewable energy capacity. Only 11 other states have similar standards. Russel Smith, executive director of the Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association, said the portfolio standard is important to keep the momentum going on the projects and to give some market assurance so the projects can get financing.

Regardless of the fate of all the legislation, however, windpower's advantages guarantee it an increasing role in the state and national economies. "It's a domestic source and its inexhaustible," said Real de Azua. "Our association believes its very do able for wind to provide six percent of the nations power by the year 2020."

Article and graphic courtesy Fiscal Notes, a publication by the Texas Comptroller Office