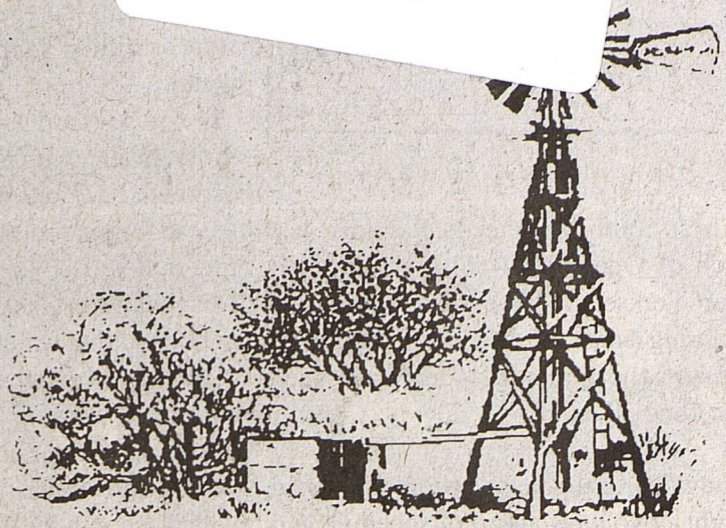


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# Cowboy Country News

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



## 51st Annual Old Settlers Reunion, Rodeo Coming Up August 5,6,7 Introducing The 2004 Rodeo Queen Contestants



Skylar Keesee is the 15 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kreg Keesee, and is a PHS junior. She represents the Roping Club.



Daniela Lazos is the 17 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs Tony Lazos, and is a PHS Senior. She represents the Lions Club.



Priscilla Mares is the 16 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ricky Mares, and is a PHS Junior. She represents the Plains Chamber of Commerce

### Highway sign vandalism hurts more than just the pocketbook

Stop and think before you remove that traffic sign. Someone - maybe someone in your family - might die.

Sound harsh? It is. Missing stop signs and other traffic advisory signs mean some motorist is going to miss a cue to stop, detour, turn or slow down on a particularly sharp curve. When that driver misses a cue, bad things can happen.

Those bad things can be avoided. Just stop and think before removing that traffic sign. It's not cool to take down traffic signs. Those lonely stretches of highway can be especially dangerous late at night. But, take down a traffic sign on a rural road, and you've just turned that highway into a death trap.

Carlos Howell, Yoakum County maintenance supervisor, said recently TxDOT has spent about \$2,500 to replace 15 stolen or vandalized signs in the county. But it's not just the money, Howell added.

"They may not realize the risk they are taking," he said. "There can be some serious circumstances to taking a stop sign, and it's not just a fine or jail sentence. People could be seriously injured or killed. The signs are not just designations. They provide important information to travelers - especially those unfamiliar with the area."

Vandalism of highway signs cost Texas taxpayers \$2.5 million annually, according to TxDOT officials. "We're always concerned with vandalism of our roadway signs. Not just because of monetary costs, but more because of the safety hazard it can create for the traveling public," said Carlos Lopez, TxDOT's director of traffic operations.

Each sign is valued from \$75 to \$100, making each theft a Class B misdemeanor. According to state law, tampering with a warning device, such as a highway construction sign, carries a penalty of not less than \$25 or more than \$1000, or up to a two year jail sentence, or both and jail time. However, much stiffer penalties have been handed down in cases where sign vandalism has resulted in serious injury or death. It happened several years ago when a group of teenagers removed a stop sign on a state highway in Florida. Three people lost their lives because

Turn To Page 4, HIGHWAY SIGNS

### Sandy Land expects grant funds, studies programs for coming year

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is expected to make grant monies available for 2005. It is expected TWDB will issue Requests for Proposals (RFP's) as early as September, with the likelihood of awards coming before the end of the calendar year.

Almost any project could qualify, but the competition will be very strong for the limited dollars (approximately \$200,000) and therefore a very thorough and complete application must be submitted by Sandy Land.

If producers have a particular project in mind, or one they would like to consider, it should be submitted with as much information as possible to Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District by August 10, 2004. The Board of Directors will score and select one (1) project for cotton acres and one (1) project for peanut acres for submittal to the TWDB at the appropriate time.

For more information on these projects producers are encouraged to contact the Sandy Land office.

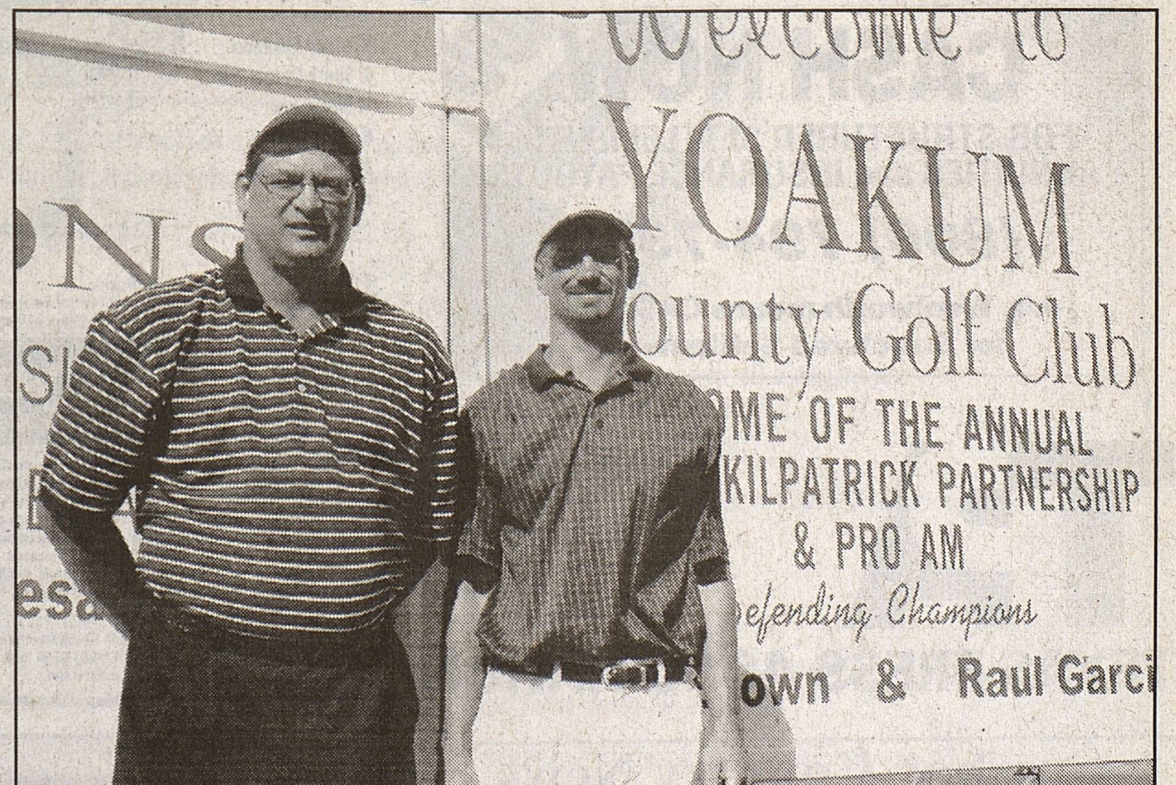
Sandy Land annually reviews and sets an operating budget for the upcoming year. This July and August the Board of Directors will review the current budget and evaluate programs the district is currently providing. Current programs include Agriculture Water Conserva-

tion Loans, Water Quality Evaluation Observations, Winter Water Level Observations, Water Depletion, Scholarships, Precipitation Enhancement, Legislative Review and statewide participation with various associated water groups.

The district is interested in any

and all programs as they relate to the citizens of Yoakum County. If residents have an interest in additional programs, or comments or questions about any current programs, they are encouraged to call or come by the Sandy Land office to help prepare for the year 2005.

### Local, D.C. partner win Kilpatrick



Competing in the most prestigious mens tournament event held by the Yoakum County Golf Club, the Cotton Kilpatrick Mens Partnership was won this weekend by local Danny Bell, and his Denver City partner, Kenny Dierschke. The two day tournament found the partners in the Championship flight, and when smokje cleared at the end of the Saturday round, they trailed last years Kilpatrick winners, Doug Brown and Raul Garcia, by one stroke. Bell and Dierschke would survive Sunday's day of pressure from Brown and Gracia, hotly pursued by the team of Ryan Sanders and Amory Droogsma of Denver, City. The young Sanders-Droogsma team tied with last years champs, and in the final play off won second place in the big event. Following posting of the results, CCN heard Dierschke tell his partner Bell, "Man, I am glad you called me for this thing!" Bell had earlier arranged for an out of town player for his partner, but who called at the last minute to say he was unavailable. After Bell's call to Kenny and the toumey was over, both partners were elated with the twist of fate.



## CAPITOL COMMENT

U.S. SENATOR  
**KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**



### A Sovereign Iraq

From the moment the first bomb dropped in Baghdad last March, marking the launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom, our nation's dialogue has centered on seeing the mission through to a successful end. Since declaring a date for the transfer of power, American and Iraqi diplomatic and military leaders have been preparing the nation for the June 30 handover.

### Late Night Surprise

However, on June 28, we awoke to the news sovereignty had traded hands during the night - two days ahead of schedule and under a cloak of secrecy. The early transfer was an inspired step and testament to how far the budding government has come under the newly minted leadership of President Ghazi Al-Yawer and Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

Officials cited security concerns and the threat of attacks by insurgents as the principal reason for the change and, in addition, the new Iraqi government said they were ready to take the reins of their nation's future. Iraqis had already been in control of all ministries, from defense to electricity, and this official transfer was the final symbolic act, dissolving the Coalition Provisional Authority, and solidifying Iraqi control. The swiftness and ease with which the handover took place was an early, hopeful sign the interim government was prepared to run the country.

The U.S. goal in Iraq was never one of occupation. The goal was the removal of Saddam Hussein and the threat he posed to the U.S. and the entire free world. Within hours of the departure of Iraq's acting administrator, Paul Bremer, the new U.S. Ambassador, John Negroponte, landed in Baghdad and took his seat as our nation's envoy to the fledgling Republic.

### A New Beginning

In a Washington Post column that ran hours before the handover, Prime Minister Ayad Allawi clearly captured the vision for the nation's future when he wrote, "We want a free, democratic Iraq that will be a source of peace and stability for the region and entire world." Yet within that same breath of optimism, he also recognized the enormity of the task that lies ahead. "The challenges are great, and the stakes are high, both for Iraq and the world. We must not underestimate the magnitude of the task lying ahead. Despite the hardships, we Iraqis are determined to work together and assume responsibility for our country... With these efforts, God willing, Iraq will take its rightful place among the free and prosperous nations of the world."

To move forward the interim government has outlined the following goals:

1. Establish security
2. Address the dire economic situation
3. Develop a strong and independent judicial system
4. Accelerate the political process and march toward democracy.

These four goals will not be met over night and they won't occur without international support. U.S. troops will remain in Iraq in an effort to achieve the first goal and assure the remaining can take root. It is our hope other nations who have stood on the sidelines will see the progress in Iraq and will step up to the plate. We did receive welcome news that NATO has agreed to help train Iraq's security forces, but it is also time for NATO to send troops to support the critical mission of stopping the terrorists.

It is clear we have more work to do, most notably to stamp out the treacherous attacks against innocent Iraqis and U.S. soldiers. But, with this important transfer of power, we are closer to establishing a fully democratic Iraq and sending an unequivocal message to the terrorists... their tactics will fail and their time is up.

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## Texas Explores Water Supply Alternatives

The Texas population will climb beyond the 27 million mark by 2025, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, taxing the state's limited supply of fresh water.

Texas is rich in brackish groundwater, with more than an estimated 2.7 billion acre-feet spread throughout the state's 16 regional water planning areas. Desalination makes millions of gallons of that water drinkable.

One way to meet demand for drinkable water is taking salt out of or desalinating ocean water and 'brackish' water, which account for 97 percent of the world's water. Brackish water is water with a high saline (salt) content.

More than 100 desalination projects are scattered across Texas, producing about 40 million gallons of desalinated water every day, according to the Texas Water Development Board. (TWDB).

The salinity of water is measured in terms of its total dissolved solids content in milligrams per liter. Treated drinking water, for example, contains less than 1,000 milligrams (mg) per liter. Brackish water generally contains between 1,000 and 10,000 mg and seawater in excess of 30,000 mg.

Texas' coastline, at more than 360 miles, offers plenty of access to seawater for desalination, but it is either surface reservoirs or underground formations throughout the state, that may be the leader for desalination, said Jorge Arroyo of TWDB.

"With brackish water, we'll more than likely see that develop in Texas, they have access to brackish water and have more depleted (traditional) water sources. There are several brackish water reservoirs around the state."

Brackish water often is found below ground, brought to the surface and pumped to a desali-

nation facility. The largest desalination project in operation in the state is in Brownsville, operated by the Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB). It pumps out 7.5 million gallons of treated brackish water per day and employs eight full-time personnel.

"We do 7.5 million gallons per day right now, but our facilities are built to be expanded to 20 million per day," said John Bruciak, BPUB general manager.

BPUB's 20 wells pump brackish ground water up from about 300 feet deep, which may be just the edge of a vast and deep supply of underground water, Bruciak said.

"We're drilling at about 300 feet, which is pretty shallow," he said "We're also doing some exploratory work at about 1,000 feet. It's been in there probably thousands of years and never been tapped."

The Brownsville desalination project came to life when water scarcity due to drought and lower water conditions in the Rio Grande prompted the search for alternative water solutions.

"I'd say what we've done would get us another five years," he said. "And if we had problems with the river, another 5 million gallons a day could be reached in as little as a year."

El Paso, which produces around 101 million gallons of treated water per day, is another area constructing a large desalination project. The city, in cooperation with Fort Bliss, plans to open a 25 well facility capable of producing 27.5 million gallons a day in June 2006, according to John Ballieu, the water system division manager for the city of El Paso.

Corpus Christi is looking to the sea to add to its water supply. The engineering firm Turner, Collier and Braden are conducting tests for the

city to determine the feasibility of constructing a plant to desalinate up to 25 million gallons of seawater per day.

The two most widely used methods to remove salt from water are distillation - essentially boiling - and a process where water is forced through specially designed filters. The latter is also known as reverse osmosis, RO. Desalination technology has progressed to where treatment plants take up considerably less space than conventional water storage and treatment facilities.

Brackish groundwater desalination can cost anywhere from 71 cents to \$2.37 per 1,000 gallons according to TWDB's reports. The Brownsville project falls in the middle of that range, Bruciak said. "Our cost per 1000 gallons is about \$1.60, and the next phase could take that down to \$1.20," he said. "Now it's cheaper than regular groundwater, about \$1.73 to produce."

Desalinating seawater, on the other hand, can cost between \$3 and \$4 per gallon because of its higher salinity. "It takes lots of energy," Bruciak said. "The saltier it is, the more energy needed to get it out."

Once the salts are removed, the water is, ironically, too pure for humans, livestock and wildlife

to drink, since some salts are essential for good health.

"The desalinated water is blended back in with brackish water at the plant to get the pH - an indicator of the acidity in the water - right before it is released," Arroyo said.

In Brownsville's case, about 6 million gallons of RO water is blended into some 1.5 million gallons of brackish water, well within federal drinking standards.

Desalination means having leftover material, in this case a concentrated stream of brine high in salt content. Along the ocean, it would likely be put back into the ocean. Another option is mixing it with effluent water from a power generation station, substantially diluting it. Effluent water is often used for turf irrigation. Injecting the brine waste deep within the earth is another alternative.

Whether seawater or brackish water, using it makes sense. "From TWDB's standpoint, the resource is there; we just have to use it. Because we suffer from drought so often in Texas, you want to develop water sources going to be there in the event of drought."

By Clint Shields, June Issue of FISCAL NOTES, a publication of the Texas Comptroller office, with their permission.

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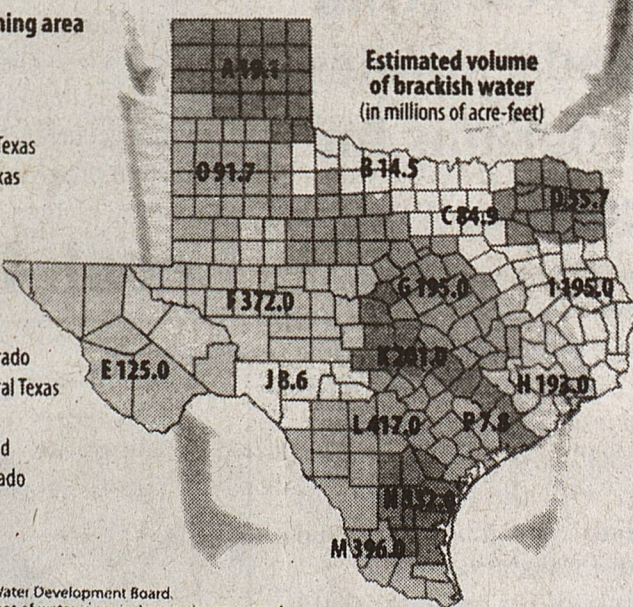
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### All wet

Texas is rich in brackish groundwater, with more than an estimated 2.7 billion acre-feet spread throughout the state's 16 regional water planning areas. Desalination makes millions of gallons of that water drinkable.

- Water planning area**
- A Panhandle
  - B Region B
  - C Region C
  - D North East Texas
  - E Far West Texas
  - F Region F
  - G Brazos
  - H Region H
  - I East Texas
  - J Plateau
  - K Lower Colorado
  - L South Central Texas
  - M Rio Grande
  - N Coastal Bend
  - O Llano Estacado
  - P Lavaca



SOURCE: Texas Water Development Board. NOTE: An acre-foot of water is equivalent to the amount of water needed to cover an acre of land with a foot of water.

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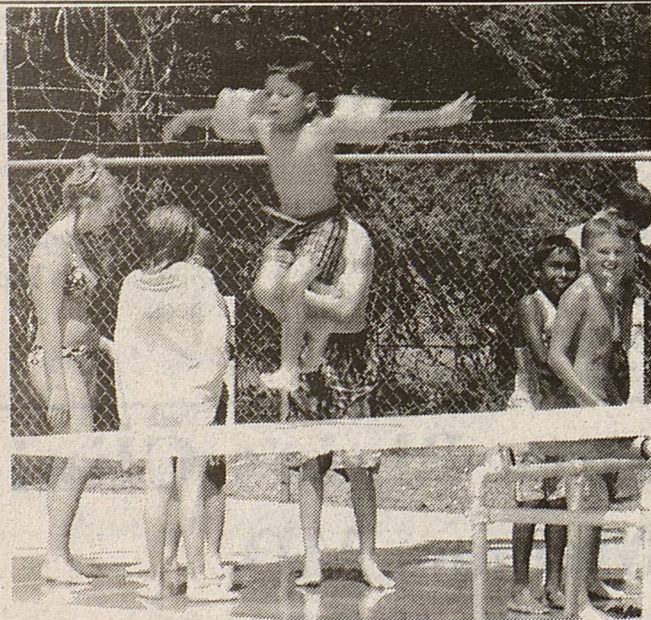
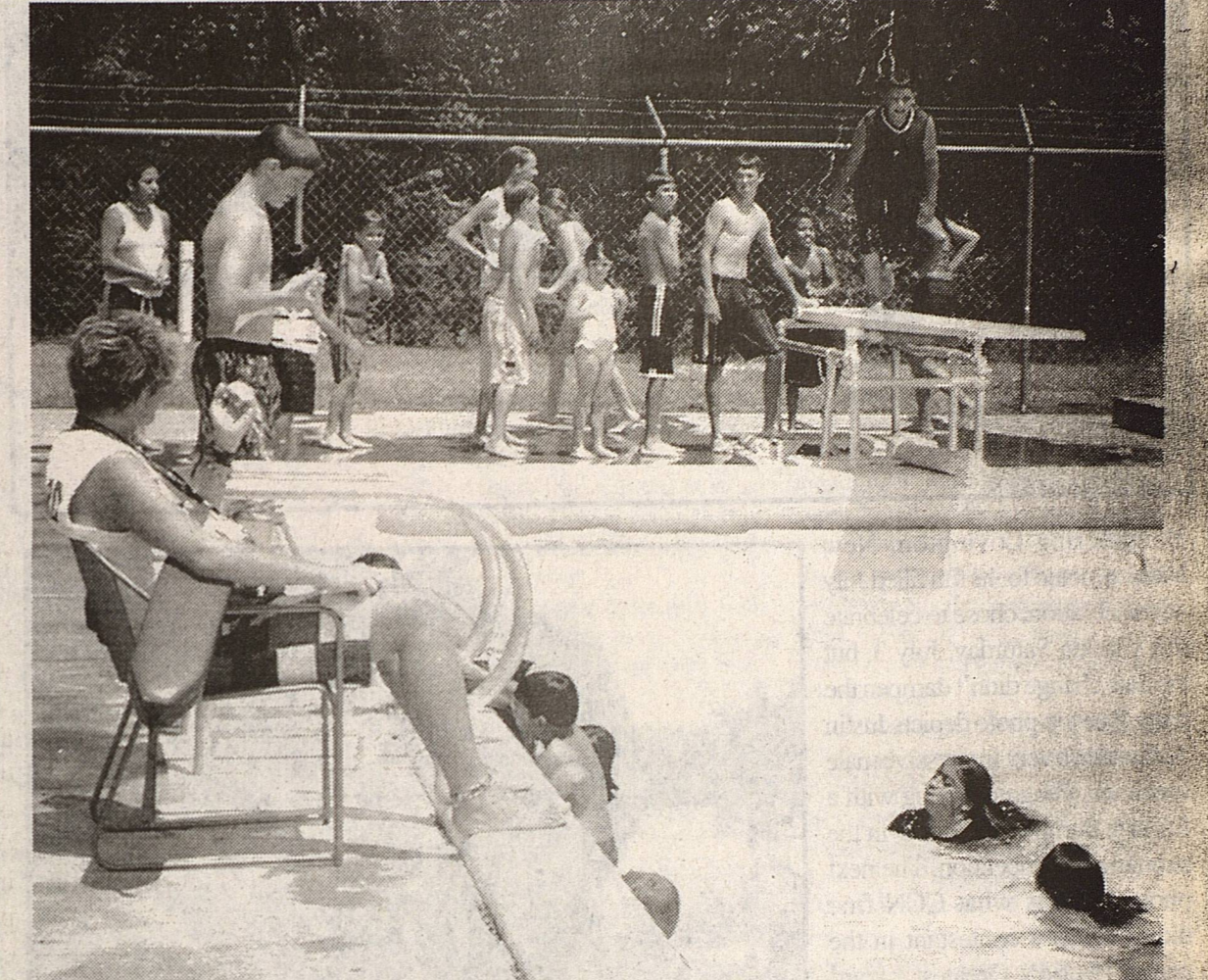
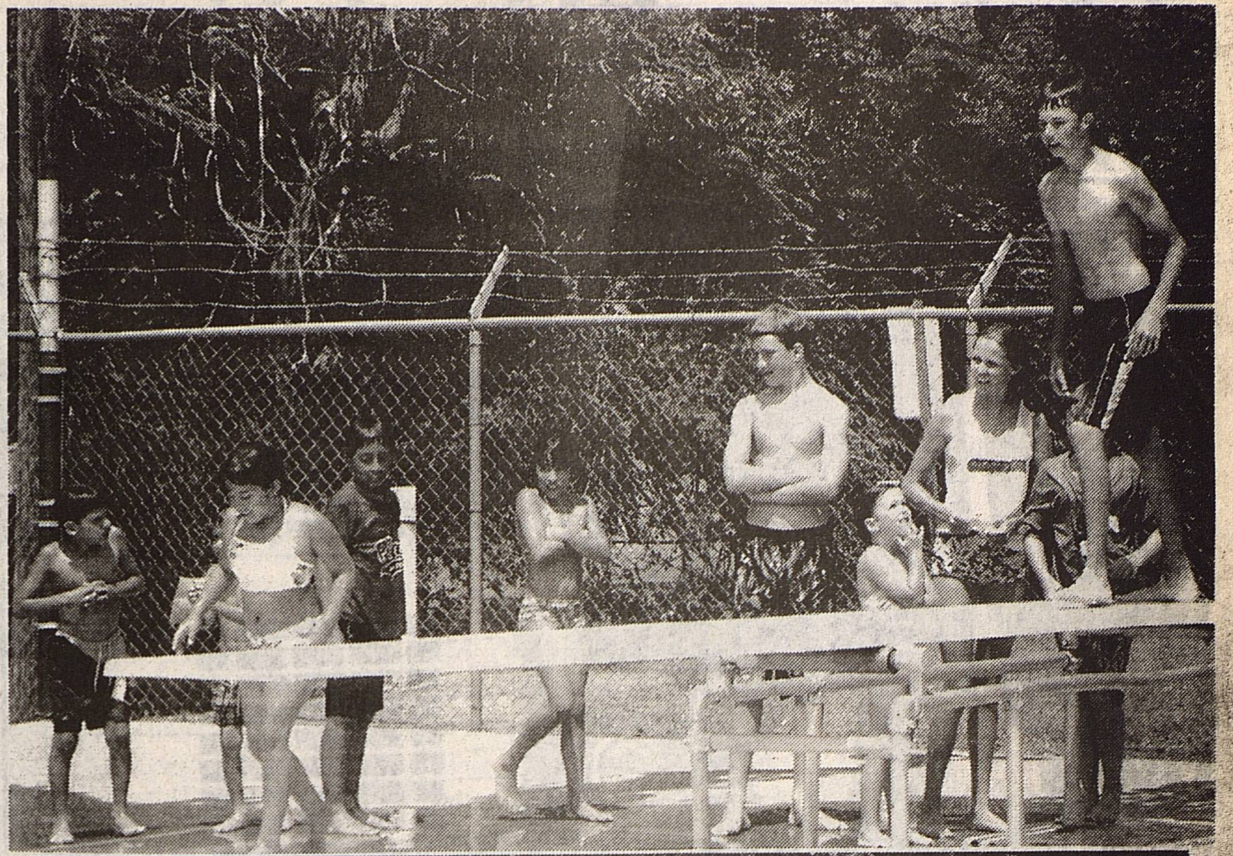
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## YOAKUM COUNTY ART ASSOCIATION 2004 SHOW & SALE

**AUGUST 3 - AUGUST 7, 2004.....Community Building, Plains, TX**

Entry Date: Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Fees: Per entry: \$3.00/Members and \$5.00/non-members for both Fine Art and Crafts.  
 \* Yoakum County Art Association gets 15% commission on all sales.

Eligibility: Limited to those works not previously entered in YCAA competition. Crafts must be made by person entering them.

Judge: Michelle Craft, Lubbock, Texas

Judging: Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. This is restricted to appointed personnel.

Critique: Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Open to the Public: Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.  
 Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Awards: Best of Show - \$100.00  
Best of Photography - \$50.00  
Best of Crafts - \$50.00

Purchase Awards: Will be selected by businesses and private patrons Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Only authorized members are allowed at this time.

Cash Awards and Ribbons: In each category: 1<sup>st</sup> place - \$25.00  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$15.00  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$10.00

- # Cash awards will be given only in originals and photography.
- # Ribbons awarded in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Honorable Mention places in all categories.
- # No cash prizes will be awarded in divisions with less than 10 entries.
- # **Ribbons and awards presented at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Categories: Originals / Photography / Copies / Graphics / Class Work / Students (Adult / Junior and Senior Youth divisions). No fee for students. CRAFTS: Wood / Fiber / and Other.

Divisions: Landscape / Still Life / Portraits / Wildlife / and Miniatures.

- Miniatures can be no larger than 5X7.
- No entry larger than 30" X 40" (inside dimensions not including the frame).
- Divisions will be established, combined and/or eliminated as necessary.

Entry Standards: All paintings must be securely wired and ready for hanging at time of arrival. No saw tooth hangers and no wet paint. YCAA "reserves the right" to reject any entry. Each entry must have a form on the back stating artist name, title of entry, and a price. The long form should have each entry listed. YCAA will not be responsible for any loss or damage. All work submitted will signify an agreement by the artist to the above stated conditions.

Saleroom: Club members only, and they must have at least one entry in competition. Each entry must have an entry form attached to each item, with a price, name and number, and be listed on the long entry form.

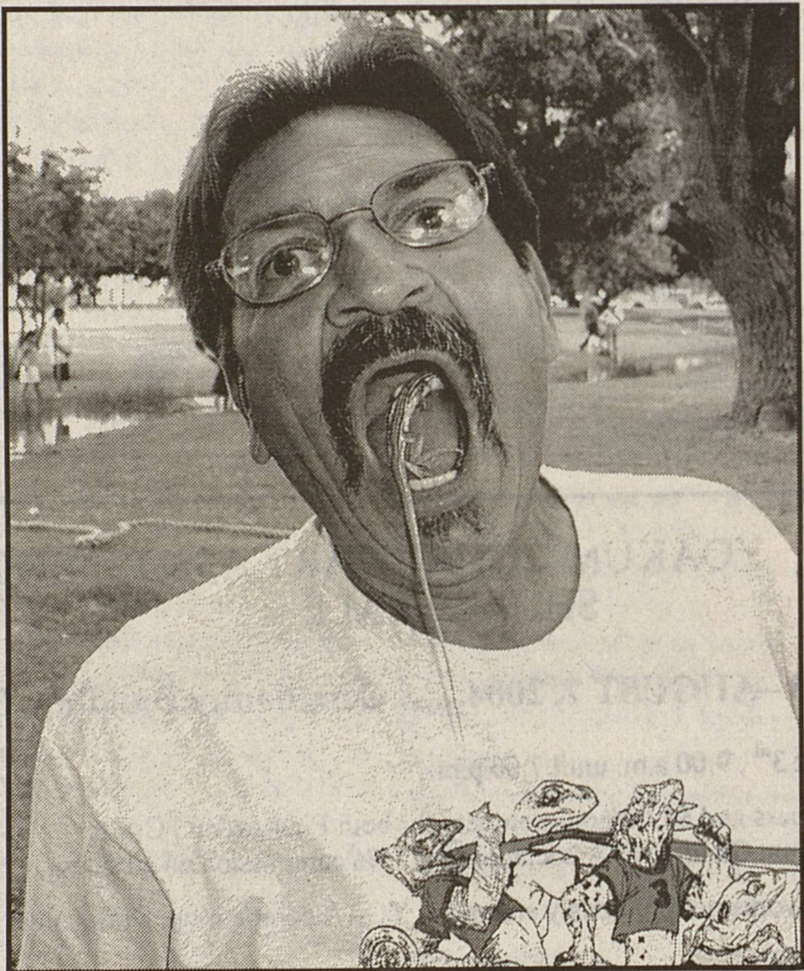
Door Prizes: Drawn at 3:30 p.m., Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. These will be paintings by club members only, and cannot be sold before the drawing. \$75.00 will be paid to the artist whose paintings are selected.

Pick-Up: Works may NOT be picked up before 5:00 p.m., Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. Anything left after that time will not be the responsibility of the Yoakum County Art Association.\*

# Lovington, NM neighbors had funtime 4th on 3rd!



Neighboring Lovington, New Mexico, noted for its fun filled July 4th celebration, chose to celebrate this year on Saturday, July 3, but the date change didn't dampen the party. The top photo depicts Justin Alexander, a very impressive male specimen, chugging along with a full size dump truck in tow in the strongman competition. The next photo features what CCN first thought was a contestant in the annual World's Greatest Lizard Race a bit put out with his losing lizard, but it was Parks and Recreation Director Jimmy Ortega clowning with a live lizard found while cleaning up 'Lizard Downs' following the race. Other events included male/female tug of war teams competing over water, an egg toss and hula hoop race. In years past they had a homemade outhouse race. Did OSHA shut that excitement down? Photos courtesy Lovington Leader.



## Neugebauer on court ruling

Recently the Supreme Court avoided a ruling to decide the constitutionality of using the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. The court dismissed the suit by atheist Newdow because he lacked standing to bring the suit on behalf of his daughter. "I'm

pleased the court has left the Pledge untouched. The court did not reach the merits of the case but it's clear students can continue to recite the words "under God" in the pledge. We should be allowed to acknowledge our freedoms come from God, not government," Congressman Neugebauer said. "We must resist pushing God out of the pub-

lic square. The Constitution calls for freedom of religion, not freedom from religion. Our nation was founded on Christian principals. The faith of our forefathers carried them through the challenges of their day. We should continue to put our trust in God to carry our nation through today's trials."

## From Page One, HIGHWAY SIGNS

they didn't stop at the intersection. The vandals were convicted on three counts of manslaughter and one count of grand theft for their criminal act.

The most commonly vandalized sign is the stop sign. Signs in remote locations and those near schools and recreation areas are the most frequently targeted. Stolen signs sometimes find their way to bedroom, apartment or dormitory walls. Such decorations, however, can make a deadly fashion statement, according to transportation officials.

"A sign on a wall is a sign missing from a roadway where it is essential to safety. Although sometimes viewed as a harmless prank, tampering with or removing any roadway sign can have tragic and deadly results," said Lopez.

Each year, TxDOT replaces more than 50,000 stolen or vandalized signs in its inventory of 8 to 10 million signs.

Among signs taken statewide are stop signs, speed limit signs, guide signs, and signs depicting a curve ahead. TxDOT is asking for information leading to return of the signs or leading to the conviction of persons responsible for the thefts. Howell can be reached at the Plains maintenance office, 806-456-7125

## eGov takes USDA programs to the web

"Expanding electronic government" is a key element in the President's Management Agenda. USDA is making program delivery more convenient and accessible for its agencies and customers with "eGov". Now, Farm Service Agency (FSA) customers with internet access can complete and submit electronic program applications and eligibility forms 24 hours a day, seven days a week from their homes or offices.

"better service to our customers is what eGov is about," said Eddie Trevino, District Director for the Texas State Farm Service Agency (FSA) and coordinator for FSA's eGov initiative in the state. Trevino said, "eGov provides a simple and

less redundant method for delivering FSA programs. Eventually, FSA customers will benefit from a one time data entry process that can be shared among all programs."

"eGov capabilities expand daily," he continued. Individuals soon will be able to complete pre-screening profiles to determine their potential program eligibility before submitting applications on line or in person. This technology will allow farmers, rural planners, conservationists, researchers and other land management specialists to use digitally created maps and Geographical Systems Information (GIS) to view cropland, range and pastureland, wetlands, building

sites, neighborhoods and roads and highways.

USDA eGov services include the USDA Customer Statement which combines a wide range of information on programs and services activity in a single, confidential and secured report. Personal information displayed includes a summary of CRP contracts, a year to date summary of FSA payments received and the status of FSA direct loan requests.

Gary Six, County Executive Director for Yoakum County Farm Service Agency, said "Many of our farmers and ranchers are using computers for business purposes. I believe our producers can see the advantages and convenience to doing business online. Our producers are not the only ones benefiting from eGov. Our program technicians in our service center offices will be able to process applications in a more efficient manner allowing them more time for other customer service and program related tasks."

For more information regarding eGov, e-forms and e-filing, or the USDA customer statement, contact the Yoakum County FSA office, 806-456-2132 or visit the USDA web sites at [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).

Richard Millhouse Nixon was the first U.S. President whose name contains all the letters in the word 'criminal'.

The second was William Jefferson Clinton.

## Routine agenda items in court session

In the July 12 session of Commissioners Court, Yoakum County Hospital Administrator Clay Taylor requested approval of an amendment to the operating budget of the Home Health Department. He reported the original budget had been written with Home Health as an intended entity of the hospital itself, not as a free-standing department. It was later learned in the process of obtaining Medicare approval of the department that Medicare had approved the department as a free-standing department, which actually resulted in a \$30,000 savings for the hospital. Taylor requested court approval to move existing operating funds from the hospital account to a separate Home

Health Department budget to maintain those savings. The request was approved.

Tax Assessor Betty Rivas reported \$42,208 tax collections in the month of June.

The court approved promoting Jolene Welch from jail dispatcher to jailer effective July 25, and appointing Maria Reyna of Plains in the dispatcher position. Deputation of Vicki Lamar as office deputy in the Sheriff Department was also approved.

Recently appointed County Grant Writer Judy London reported possible plans to submit a grant request for funding construction and playground equipment for the park in Denver City's Newman addition. The \$50,000 matching fund

grant would require the county to participate with the same amount of funds which could be county labor and equipment use. Because of operating oil wells in the vicinity of the park, a number of environmental tests would have to be completed before approval. London suggested the grant request not be submitted until January, 2005, for funding in February 2005 because of the environmental issues. The Court will set a public hearing on the project prior to approval of the grant request. The proposed park is in Denver City's Precinct 3. Commissioner Ty Earl Powell expressed his support of the project.

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# Lifelines & Styles



Jessica Flores is the daughter of Joe and Estella Flores. She is a 2000 graduate of Plains High School. On May 14, 2004, she graduated with Honors from the Radiography Program in Midland, Texas. She is presently a member and Vice President of the Alpha Beta Gamma National Honor Society. Jessica plans to continue her education while working as a radiologic technologist. She recently received news she has been accepted in the Radiation Therapy Program in Amarillo which begins this fall.



Atkins says peanut butter and jelly on bread is bad for you, so now mom puts it on my bacon.

## Senior Citizens Corner

Birthday/Anniversary day rolled around again this week and we had twelve who stood to be recognized and photographed for the month of July. They were Mary Gibson, Vera Brown, Moray Clark, Lois Aulds, Dortha Futch, Rita Jackson, Hoot Gibson, Coy Black, Ted Feguson, Arnold Vogt, Whit Sides and Lee Kidd. The two couples who were celebrating wedding anniversaries this month were Vera and Harold Brown along with Wanda and Lane Black. As they walked back to be seated after the anniversary photo, Layne was heard to say, "Well, it's just we colored folks having anniversaries this month."

There were several who signed the visitor list this week. Among them were Nell and Judon Rickles and Minnie and Tony Kucera. Hoot and Mary Gibson brought their sons Danny and Mark along with daughter in law Carrie and grandson Ty. It appeared Ty was prepared to beat grandma Mary in a game of pool after lunch, I didn't get a report on the results of this competition. Lee and Edith Kidd were accompanied by their daughter Mary Robertson from Oklahoma City. We welcome each of these folks.

I'm sure no one missed the fantastic fireworks presented for our pleasure on Saturday night. I heard many say they thought it was the best show yet. It was especially enjoyable for the members of our family who had come for the holidays. We gathered at one of the airport hangars to enjoy a barbecue meal prepared by our son Robert's family, after which everyone moved a chair outside to relax and enjoy the fireworks. Although not all of them were present, there's nothing nicer than to sit back and enjoy the intermingling and interaction between the generations of your offsprings. On this holiday celebrating our freedom, I remember again how fortunate we Americans are.

Another highlight of this holiday weekend was to accompany my other son, Mike, on a cloud seeding mission. Mike pilots a Cessna 340 for SOAR (Southern Ogalala Aquifer Rainfall) which is sponsored by Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District with offices in Plains. The plane was based here over the holiday, so only a few moments elapsed after the call came before we were in the air and climbing toward a line of building thunderstorms.

We were to seed from the top of the storm clouds at just above the freezing level, from zero to -10 degrees centigrade, from 14,800 ft. up to 19,000 ft. where we were to begin seeding operations. We were flying through the tops of the storms and when various specialized instruments and probes indicated, we would release flares giving off chemicals which would help develop the storm much greater and faster than normal, and thus hopefully produce rain, when otherwise the storms usually dissipate before being able to produce precipitation.

The success of the trip and seeding is monitored by ground radar based at the Plains airport. Compared to the storms not seeded, most missions enjoy a good measure of success. At other times the clouds are seeded from their bases, and the flares ignited into large updrafts carrying the materials upward into the cloud where it rides on the updrafts, sometimes measuring several hundreds, even thousands of feet per minute, until it arrives at the freezing levels where it does the same job of augmenting the development of the storm and rainfall. Our ride was pleasant with an awesome 'close-up' view of the thunderstorm development. Sometimes the rides are much less enjoyable. For more information about this weather enhancement program you can visit [www/sandylandwater.com](http://www/sandylandwater.com) on your computer.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY - "When you think of having a woman for president, there's no problem. What's worrisome is having a man for First Lady!"

*For Cheryl.... What a very nice card, and such warm thoughts. Only loving people can express loving thoughts. I am in your debt - G.D.*

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**A Study From The Psalms**  
**Every Wednesday Evening**  
**At 7:00 pm.**

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 Jeff Procter July 7  
 Charles Robertson July 14  
 Mike McDonald July 21  
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## Art Association Plans For Annual Show And Sale

Thirteen members of the Yoakum County Art Association met at Rosa's Restaurant in Denver City on July 6, with President Lisa Gentry presiding. Plans were made for the upcoming annual art show in conjunction with the Old Settlers Reunion and Rodeo. The show will be open to the public August 6 and 7. Further information about the art show will be featured in future editions of CCN and the Denver City Press. The Club Treasurer's report was given by Julia Lemley.



**What About.....**  
 Haven't the rains been wonderful? It is so good to see how God is blessing the area with nice rains.

The farmers are happy if there was no hail, the merchants are happy because the farmers will spend more money in hopes of good crops. And the kids are happy because mom and dad might spend more on vacation this year!

Well, I know for us, it has been so very tempting to curl up around a fireplace, wrapped in a blanket with someone you love.

Just to spend some quiet time with each other and not have to worry about things. Not having to be busy with business.

Just sitting there, enjoying a nice romantic or peaceful movie on the TV. Seeing a beautiful fire in the fireplace and hearing the crackling of wood burning.

You're a thousand miles away in your mind and it happens.

The phone rings and brings you back to reality.

And then you realize the kids are screaming "Mom!", or in our situation "Grandma!"

Reality tells us that business goes on regardless of what is around us and what we are feeling at the time.

The grandkid screams it is time to change a diaper, feed the older one, or better yet, go and do something with him to solve the boredom of life.

With the phone ringing you realize that business continues, people need you at all times, not just when the mood strikes, and of course, you are more than willing to help anyone in need.

And most of all, we realize we have no fireplace, no wood, and the grandkids had the blankets for tents, capes, or what ever their imagination needs them for.

In our materialistic society, we feel we have to buy the coolest, most awesome, wonderful (whatever the 'cool' word is) toys and games to keep the kids occupied.

I think Beth and I marvel that it takes so little time and money to satisfy and pacify a child.

Very little ones just need bright colors and flashing screens to keep their attention in the jumper or swing.

The older ones need a few games, a wrestling video, or the blankets for tents and a very good imagination.

Someone once said, "The only difference men and boys is the price of their toys." I wonder if that is still true?

Until next time.....

Mark A. Jones



**First Baptist Church**  
**Children's Vacation**  
**Bible School**

**July 25 - 29, 6 - 8:30 PM**  
**4 years thru completed 5th Grade**  
**Everyone Welcome !!**

**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

I have experienced a miracle. Truly a miracle. My shower stall walls are no longer covered in that mysterious grey, fuzzy looking stuff, and green barnacles no longer dangle from the handles and spout. The bottom of the tub is no longer slimy to the point of being difficult and dangerous to stand on.

The clothing in my closet is now so well sorted I no longer have mackinaws hanging with golf shirts, Wranglers covering up dress slacks, and the dirty stuff formerly stuffed in the corner because the dirty clothes hamper was overflowing is now virgin clean and hung with care. Somehow, my missing left dress shoe was discovered behind the couch, and I no longer have to attend church wearing one brown and one black Nunn Bush.

The arms of my favorite recliner chair are no longer slick, slimy or up-chuck colored, but have returned to their original burgundy tint, and I am once again able to dare letting my head rest upon the back pillow,

no longer deeply covered in what I thought was burnt axle grease and has returned to its original hue.

The biggest miracle, however, is the kitchen. If you have visited my humble hut the last few months, I'm certain you will be shocked to know the floor has now mysteriously returned to its original gleaming white vinyl state, and bears no resemblance to the former grape, mustard, flour, brown rice, butter ( actually, it was margerine ), poached egg, blueberry, sardine, quiche and goat cheese chunks, slivers and colors you witnessed on your visit. Did you know floors, actual floors, can smell good??

You guessed it. I hired an expert cleaning lady. So accomplished and experienced she discovered the source of the mysterious odor which has been belching forth from the refrigerator for over two months now. When she showed me the source, I choked back a gag and asked her, " Do you have any idea why I would save a miniature cannibalized head in the fridge?" She grimaced and said, " It's just a rotten pork roast chunk."

She accomplished all these miracles in just one day, admittedly a long one. Yes, she appeared a bit haggard and drawn as I wrote what I secretly thought was an extravagant check for her services, but I grudgingly told her, " Pretty big job, huh?" She grabbed the check like it might flutter away, and said " Yes sir it was. That toilet almost got me. I threw up in it three times before I finished. And Daddy, don't you DARE wait so long to call me next time! If you do, you may have to get an EMS person to stay with me, just in case, you know?"

That's True Grit, you know?

Following all the hoopla about Bill Clinton's book, which most serious reviews likened to a modern Alice in Wonderland, it was refreshing to come across this tidbit; Clinton and his driver were cruising along at night when they hit a pig, killing it instantly. Bill told the driver to go to a close-by farm house and explain what happened. About an hour later Bill sees the driver staggering back with a jug of whiskey in one hand, one cigar in his mouth another in his hand, and his clothes ripped and torn. "What happened to you" Clinton demands. The driver says, " The farmer gave me the whiskey, his wife gave me the cigars, and their 19 year old daughter made passionate love to me." " My God, what did you tell them?" Bill demands. The driver says, " I told them I was Bill Clinton's driver and I just killed the pig."

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### \*FOR SALE\*

**Bass Cat Pantera II DC  
19 ft. bass boat, w/200hp  
Johnson Motor, tandem  
axle trailer, Troll Motor, 2  
new trolling  
batteries, 2 steel props, 3  
fish finders, hydraulic  
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and trim, and more.  
Stored indoors. Very  
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low hours. 806-456-7121  
or 806-456-9001**

### Notice To All Persons Having Claims Against The Estate Of Jimmie Catherine Bayer, Deceased

Notice is now given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **Jimmie Catherine Bayer** were issued on June 28, 2004, in Cause No. 1455, pending in the County Court of Yoakum County, Texas to:

#### Keith Bayer

The residence of such Executor and where claims may be presented is as follows:

#### Keith Bayer

P.O. Box 777

Plains, Texas 79355

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within four (4) months after the date of the receipt of this notice and in the manner prescribed by law or the claim will be barred by the general statutes of limitation.

Dated: June 28, 2004.

#### Warren New

Warren New, Attorney for the Estate  
P.O. Box 670, Denver City, Texas 79323  
Phone: (806) 592-2129  
Fax: (806) 592-7733

## Yoakum County In - Trust Property Sale

The following properties have been acquired by the Yoakum County Taxing Entities thru foreclosure of an ad valorem tax lien.

Each of the properties will be subject to a minimum bid required as indicated below. These properties will be sold subject to any existing redemption rights.

If interested in purchasing this property, you may submit a written bid to County Judge Dallas Brewer's office, Ave G & Cowboy Way, P.O. Box 456, Plains, Texas 79355.

Bids are due by 4:00 pm, Friday, July 16th. Bids will be approved in Commissioner's Court, Monday, July 19th.

Previous Owner	Legal Description
Ignacio Alvarez Minimum Bid-\$1771.81	E82' of S93.4'E/2 Blk 152, OT Plains
Howard Anderson Minimum Bid-\$350.00	Lt 1-2, Blk 2, OT-Allred
Howard Anderson Minimum Bid-\$180.00	Lt 19, Blk 3, OT-Allred
Howard Anderson Minimum Bid-\$700.00	Lt 11-12, Blk 9, OT-Allred
Roy Bennett Minimum Bid-\$2,140.00	Lt 40, Blk 26, South Addn-D. City
Trina Connell Minimum Bid-\$12,932.17	Lt 16-17, Blk 42, OT-D. City
Jack Cummings Minimum Bid-\$6,619.17	Lt 25, Blk 20, South Addn-D. City
James C. Johnson Minimum Bid-\$5,650.86	E 50' Lt 20-24, Blk 44, North Addn-D. City
Carl E Joiner, Jr Minimum Bid-\$3,788.47	Lt 13-16, Blk 42, South Addn-D. City
Carl E Joiner, Jr Minimum Bid-\$8,121.31	Lt 12-16, Blk 30, South Addn-D. City
James R Long Minimum Bid-\$3,030.04	.42AC Tr 14, Mead Tr, Sec 894
Jose-Maria Mireles Minimum Bid-\$8,441.00	Lt 35, E/2 Lt 34, Newman, D. City
W.R. McInturff Minimum Bid-\$8,761.20	Lt 14-18, Blk 26, OT-D. City
Cleo Newman Minimum Bid-\$250.00	Lt 118, Newman, D. City
John Martin Power Minimum Bid-\$15,497.83	Lt 13-16, Blk 25, South Addn, D. City
T. R. Ratler Minimum Bid-\$650.00	Lt 7, Blk 66, OT-Plains
Johnny Richardson Minimum Bid-\$5295.04	NE 10AC SE/4, Sec 696
Jeanie Savage Minimum Bid-\$4,363.88	LT 1-5, E2' Lt 6, Blk 16 South Addn-D. City
Harry D Spencer Minimum Bid-\$3050.00	S 5' Lt 4, Lt 5, Blk 38, OT D. City
Paul S. Wehrly ET AL Minimum Bid-\$6,258.83	S16' Lt 6. Lt 7-9. Blk 29, OT D. City

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Silverado 1/2 ton,  
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Road 165 - Two  
Circle Systems -  
Six Wells -  
SW Yoakum County.  
HUNT REALTY  
806-592-3556**

### Plains Motel For Sale

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quarter, a land  
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Realty  
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Fax: 806-592-8489**

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