

Cowboy Country News

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Law Firm details PISD successful suit over roof hail damages

*** Editors Note:** Recently CCN published a letter from Plains ISD Superintendent James Haynes explaining the administration and board of trustees actions in successfully reaching a financial settlement with Zurich Insurance Co. resulting from hail damages to the district's building roofs occurring in 2002. The administration and board retained the Lubbock law firm of Field, Manning, Stone, Hawthorne and Aycock, P.C. to bring suit against Zurich. The firm last week sent CCN the following article explaining the outcome of the suit.

Plains ISD received good news Friday in the form of \$1,600,000 additional monies from its settlement with Zurich Insurance Co. and its subsidiary Maryland Casualty. Such funds represent full recovery and reimbursement to the District for the insurance coverage contracted for to replace and repair exterior and roof damage to its buildings arising out of a severe hailstorm occurring in October 2002. Additionally, the District recovered all of its other damages which included staff time reimbursement, engineering fees and attorney fees.

A lawsuit filed against Maryland Casualty Co., Zurich Insurance Co., Hicks-Burden, Inc. and Scott Morris Engineering by Plains ISD sought to recover damages for roofs and property that protects students and staff of Plains Independent School District. The lawsuit was filed after Maryland Casualty refused to pay the competitive bid price for replacing the roofs. The insurance company wanted the district to replace the roof with a different type of roofing system that was less expensive and of lesser quality.

Initially, a third party adjuster certified the roof was a total loss, the insurance company insisted the damage to the buildings was limited to \$1,200,000 and required the roof be replaced with a different type roof than what was already on the buildings. The district believed the insurance company's proposal was of an inferior quality. Specifically, Zurich recommended a contractor, Hicks-Burden, Inc., based in Waxahachie, Texas, who gave this initial estimate and specifications for a different type roofing system. Superintendent James Haynes and Business Manager Bill Butler were encouraged by the insurance company to circumvent the state competitive bidding laws, claiming the roof replacement was an emergency situation, and thus competitive bidding could be avoided. When confronted with the district's concerns about compliance with competitive bidding laws and the quality and compatibility of the proposed roof, Zurich still refused to pay the additional cost of the comparable roof as competitively bid by the district and would only pay the bid made by the contractor from the Dallas/Ft. Worth area.

In August, 2003, Plains ISD Administration and Board of Trustees, which included Wayne Sisson, Dwayne Canada, Randy Tuggle, Danny Bell, Brad Palmer, Ramon Diaz and Keith Earnest, determined it would be necessary to sue Zurich and others to recover its loss. In that regard, the district retained the law firm of Field, Manning, Stone, Hawthorne and Aycock P.C. of Lubbock, and in particular the father-son litigation team of Nevill and J. Paul Manning, who had been recommended to the district as having successfully prosecuted similar hail damage claims.

The lawsuit filed by the district included claims for breach of contract, fraud, unfair claim practices, deceptive trade practices and insurance code violations, all in an attempt to recover the district's damages and coverage for which it believed it had contracted. After the insurance companies attempt to remove the lawsuit from the District Court of Yoakum County to Federal District Court in Lubbock, the case was set to go to trial in Yoakum County District Court in June 2005. A mediation of the case occurred and was successful on January 7, 2005, which resulted in a settlement that according to Superintendent Haynes, was an outright victory for the district as the settlement and recovery reimburses and or pays the district for all its costs for roof replacement and building repairs plus all costs of litigation, including expert witness fees, attorney fees and staff time. The only concession at mediation by Plains ISD was the claim for punitive damages, which the Board of Trustees would have liked to have pursued; however, the district did not want to risk an out of court settlement for the full recovery of the damages and risk additional costs associated with pursuing claims only for punitive damages against the defendants for their conduct.

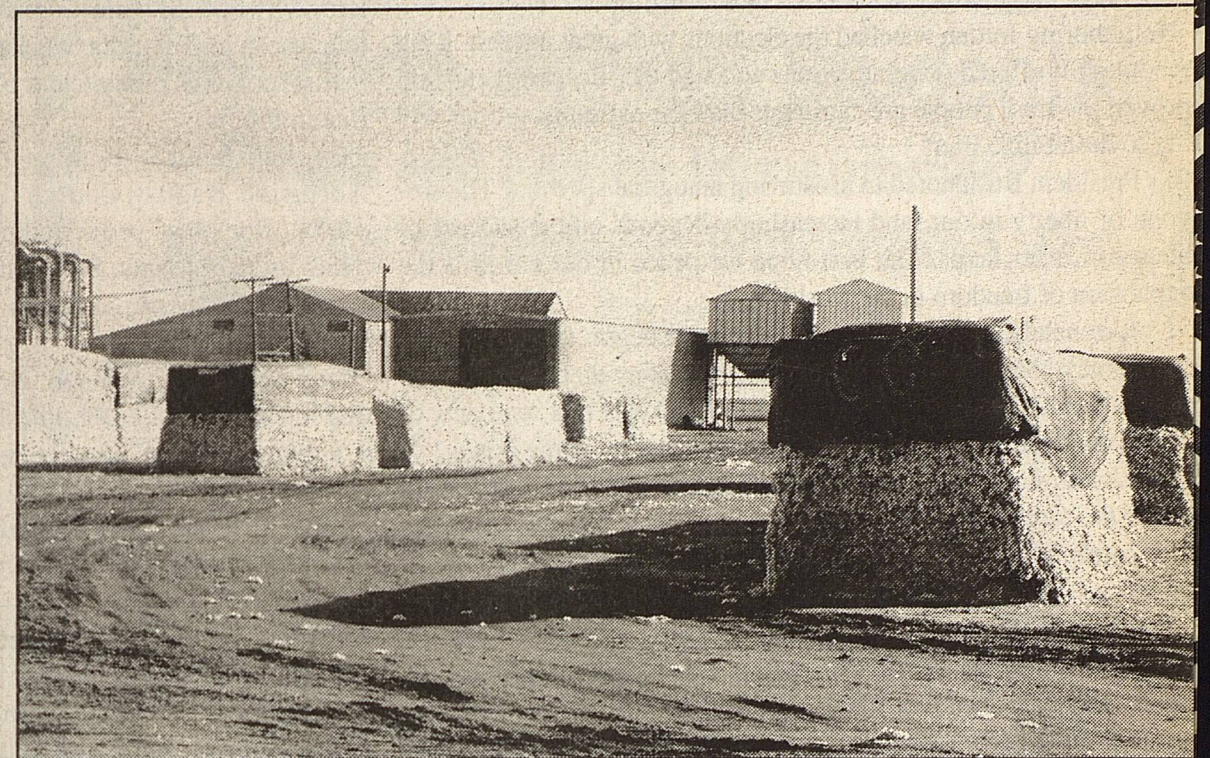
The total recovery for the district with the additional funds paid amounted to \$2,365,380. The Board of Trustees, including Wayne Sisson, Keith Earnest, Chris Winn, Danny Bell, Anna Gonzalez, Brad Palmer and Alex Barrientes, approved the settlement at the regularly scheduled board meeting January 10, 2005.

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According to Chris Chambliss, manager of the local Yoakum County CoOp Gin, the first bale of 2004 cotton emerged from the gin's press October 19, 2004, and the press doors swung open the last time on February 1 with the final bale, which established a new ginning record for the cooperative gin - 36,632 bales, compared to the previous record run in 1997 when 35,101 bales were produced.

Chambliss, like other area gins contacted by CCN, said wet weather throughout the harvesting season hampered ginning, and in some instances lowered the quality of the ginned cotton.

Tokio CoOp Gin manager Marc Traweek echoed Chambliss' thoughts about the crop. His plant is still picking up customers modules of cotton for ginning, when the module trucks can enter wet fields from earlier and recent rains. Traweek said wet weather had caused problems with coloring of the lint, but in most cases when the open bolls dried the desired whiteness returned. At



press time the Tokio gin had processed some 30,000 bales, and Traweek expected the final count would be around 31,000 bales.

New Tex Gin manager Ron Craft reported Monday of this week he had one customer with cotton in the field, but expected to produce his last bale by the end of the week. "I don't think we can set a new ginning record, but I'm 'guesstimating'

we will finish with a little over 46,000 bales. Our best run was in 1997 when we ginned 46,749 bales."

The local gin officials, and numerous other producers report the cotton harvest north of Yoakum County continues to have weather related woes. One farmer reported he had driven from Levelland to near Amarillo, and saw "thousands of modules of cotton in fields,

most of them too wet to allow a truck to move the modules. And possibly even worse, there are thousands of acres of cotton which has not been stripped because of the weather."

One producer north of here reportedly said, "I've already told the hands I'll use next year to hoe my cotton I darn sure don't want any of them smoking around this years modules still in the fields!"

Routine session of Commissioners Court



In the February 7 session of Commissioners Court, Sheriff Don Corzine requested funds to purchase a computer monitor for his Denver City office, and two NADY units used by department deputies. The NADY devices are worn by officers on patrol who must leave their vehicle while investigating a suspected traffic violator. The device transmits conversations between the officer and subject for recording on the vehicle's video camera. A total of \$606 was approved for the purchases.

The promotion and salary for Chandra Dominguez from second deputy to first deputy in the

Criminal District Attorney office was approved.

County Auditor Darinda McWhirter requested approval of a part time salary increase for Lori Michaelson in the auditor office to \$10 per hour. McWhirter told the court Michaelson has an accounting degree, and will take her CPA exam next year. The request was approved.

Clay Taylor, Yoakum County Hospital Administrator, requested an advance transfer of funds already budgeted. He said the hospital board had approved the transfer, and Commissioner Cobb said it was hoped future Medicare and

Medicaid payment schedules would soon be more prompt.

Human Resources Director Teresa Howard distributed a three page chart illustrating the number of new hires in 2004 and 2005 to date and the department they were assigned to, a chart showing employment terminations in each county department, and all employee retirements from each department in 2004. The county itself currently has 130 employees, down from 137 in 2004. The hospital has 125 employees, up from 109 in 2004, primarily due to the opening of the dialysis center.

EQIP funding signup ends March 18

The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in Texas announced farmers and ranchers wishing to be considered for 2005 funding in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program should make sure they sign up by the close of business Friday, March 18, 2005.

EQIP was reauthorized in the 2002 Farm Bill to provide a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and/or management practices on eligible agricultural land.

In 2005 Texas will receive approximately \$64 million in EQIP financial assistance funds, and approximately \$5.5 million in Ground and Surface Water EQIP funds.

"The funds will help farmers and ranchers improve the natural resources on private working lands in Texas," said Dr. Larry Butler, Texas NRCS State Conservationist. "They will be used to serve locally identified

Turn To Page 3,
"EQIP"



CAPITOL COMMENT

U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON



There is little people living in Iraq have not seen in the 5,500 years elapsed since the world's first literate society. Sumeria arose on the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. But recently, the long suffering people experienced something new - they voted in free elections.

" Now I feel Saddam is really gone," Fatima Ibrahim told MSNBC after casting her ballot in Irbil, in the Kurdish northern region. She was a young bride of 14 and only married three months when her husband, father and brother were rounded up by Saddam's police and have never been seen again.

These two men and millions of their fellow Iraqi refused to be intimidated by terrorist threats and went to the polls. In an election widely hailed as fair and free, over 60 percent of the Iraqi people turned out. Even Sunni Iraqis ignored calls by their religious leaders to boycott the election and voted in higher than expected numbers. The election is for 13 provincial councils and the new 275 seat National Assembly, which will draft a new constitution.

Neighboring Jordan watched the elections with great interest. King Abdullah II offered congratulations and said the successful election proved the Iraqi people are "stronger than the extremist groups trying to destabilize Iraq"

As President Bush noted in his stirring inaugural speech, " The survival of liberty in our land increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands. The best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of freedom in the world."

Unfortunately, while the Iraqi people have begun their pursuit of democracy, they still face thugs who desperately want to deny this new nation freedom. Jihadists allied to Al Qaeda and remnants of the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein are trying to regain power.

We should not let the horror of these tactics obscure an important point; the terrorists fear what an Iraqi democracy would mean for their cause. The Jihadists and Baathists fear history will sweep them aside, and they are doing all they can to block the spread of freedom.

Abu Musab Al Zarqawi the Jordanian who has publicly declared allegiance to Osama Bin Laden, and is considered the architect of attacks on U.S. and Iraqi forces, has said as much. " We have declared a fierce war on this evil principle of democracy and those who follow this wrong ideology. Anyone who tries to help set up this system is part of it."

Further, Osama Bin Laden himself, in a recent Al-Jazeera distributed tape, urged Iraqis not to participate in the elections.

The important thing to keep in mind is the Iraqi people demonstrated impressive numbers, however difficult the path may be, this election was a key step toward complete self rule and the establishment of a democratic system of government

We should remember our own past, when after the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, our nation was torn by, first, Shay's Rebellion and later, the Whiskey Rebellion. These challenges to the new republic led some to doubt the survival of the American experiment. The path has occasionally been rocky since then. Women marched, suffered ridicule, and were sometimes jailed as they sought the right to vote in the early part of the 20th Century. Only 40 years ago, African American leaders risked their lives to secure the same liberties others already enjoyed during the struggle for civil rights.

While our progress has been difficult at times, our democratic republic has not only survived; it has prospered. Today we are a beacon of hope and freedom for the world, proving democracy is not achieved overnight. Although it sometimes seems fractious and divisive, it still provides the best form of government yet devised.

We must bear those lesson in mind as we support the democratic process in Iraq. It may not be perfect, but it is an important step in the right direction. Recently, our nation saw a touching demonstration of the Iraqi's appreciation of our sacrifices during President Bush's State of the Union Address. Safia Taleb al-Suhail, leader of the Iraqi Women's Political Council, hugged and comforted Janet Norwood of Pflugerville, Texas, whose son was killed in Iraq while serving with the Marines.

By seeing this struggle through, we will deliver a devastating blow to the terrorists and a resounding victory for freedom. I want our friends in Iraq who value liberty to know we Texans do not abandon our friends when things get difficult. Our country must remain a reliable friend of freedom.

Services for Glennis Spencer

Services for Glennis Whesenant Spencer, 74, were held at 10 AM Tuesday, February 1, 2005 at Branon Funeral Home Chapel in Lamesa with Dr. Stacy Conner officiating. Interment followed at Lamesa Memorial Park.

She died January 29 at Covenant Mediacal Center. She was born November 1, 1930 at Lamesa.

She married Charles Frank Spencer December 23, 1946 in Lamesa. He died September 13, 1993. She and her husband lived in Lamesa, Lake Thomas, Bronco and Plains before retiring to Lake Brownwood. She moved back to Lamesa in 1994. She worked in the Yoakum County Clerk office in Plains.

She had been a member of Northside Baptist Church 11 years. She was preceded in death by her parents, Steve and Lena Sue Whisenant, and a brother, Floyd.

She is survived by a son, Bill and his wife Wanda of Lamesa; a daughter, Sue Claunch and husband Jim Pat of Bula; a brother, Bill Whisenant and wife Freda of Lamesa; a sister Mickie Roper and husnamd Norman of Lubbock; three grandchildren, Corie Langford, Amarillo, Sterling Spencer, Granbury, and Jacen Claunch, Bula, and three great grandchildren.

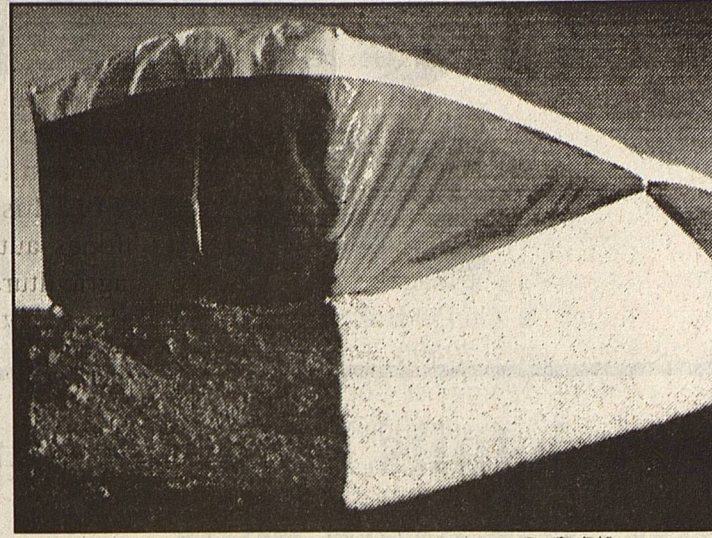
The family suggests memorials to the Muleshoe 1st Baptist Church and Northside Baptist Church.

JP Court Summary

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

- Cases Filed:
- Criminal -
- 46 traffic cases
- 1 open container in auto
- 2 issuance of bad checks
- Civil -
- 1 forcible detainer eviction case
- 24 delinquent tax cases
- Bonds set:
- Motion to revoke probation-bond denied
- Assault causing bodily injury - Collin County, held until transported
- Failure to identify- giving false information - held for Border Patrol
- Theft by check - \$1000 bond each
- Bond forfeiture/theft- \$25,000 cash bond
- Bail jumping, failure to appear- \$100,000 bond
- Consuming alcohol, minor - \$500 bond
- Public intoxication - \$500
- Failure to appear- \$500
- Resist arrest - \$500
- Accident involving damage to vehicle- \$500
- Failure to maintain financial responsibility- \$500
- Possession of marijuana- \$500
- DWI - \$1000
- Assault causing bodily injury to family member- \$2000
- Motion to proceed with adjudication of guilt- \$50,000
- Motion to revoke probation- \$500
- Deadly conduct- \$2000
- Forgery of government instrument- \$3500

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Obituary

Services held for Jean Jones

Jean Jones, 57, of Lubbock and formerly of Bronco, Texas, passed away at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock Friday, February 4, 2005.

Jean was born October 9, 1947 to Millard and Betty Martin in Canyon, Texas. She married the love of her life, Travis Jones, December 18, 1965 in Plains. She moved to Lubbock in 1993. She was a Baptist and a homemaker. She was a member of the State Line Home Demonstration Club.

Those left to cherish her memories are her step-father and mother, Ira and Betty Peach of Lubbock, her husband Travis of Lubbock and a son, Brad; Three sisters, Sharon Hansen of Amherst, N.H., Pat Lowrey of

Lubbock, and Janice Armacost of Idalou. Also special friends and angels Heather and Gabriel White of Lubbock, Tyler of Woodrow and Bryce of Stephenville. She was preceded in death by her father.

The family requests memorials be made to Hospice of Lubbock, PO Box 16800, Lubbock TX 79490; First Baptist and Methodist Churches of Plains in lieu of flowers.

Funeral services for Mrs. Jones were held at 11 AM Monday, February 7, 2005 at First Baptist Church in Plains. Burial followed at Plains Cemetery. Rev. Weldon McCormick officiated. Personal services were provided by Mark A. Jones Funeral Directors of Brownfield

From Page One, "Lawsuit"

According to Manning a turning point in the case occurred during depositions and discovery when it was learned for the first time Hicks-Burden Inc, the contractor recommended and relied upon by Zurich, was to be paid \$25,000 by Zurich only if it did not get the roof replacement job from Plains ISD, as well as the fact this particular contractor did not have the bonding capacity to perform the job under the competitive bidding statutes of the State of Texas, all of which was unknown by Plains ISD officials until after the filing of the lawsuit.

Quoting Plains ISD counsel J. Paul Manning, "It has been our experience some insurance carriers, especially in the public school arena, will try to persuade their insured to accept less than the coverage contracted by the use of various unfair claim practices, which often times includes a quick cash settlement and replacement and repair with inferior products, such as was alleged in the Plains ISD suit. Plains Board of Trustees, Superintendent James Haynes and Business Manager Bill Butler should be congratulated for their sticking to their guns, given the financial constraints of small districts like Plains ISD. It would have been very easy to have been fooled by the tactics of the insurance company and settled for the original sums offered by Zurich."

Jones Introduces Ag Module Bill

State Rep. Delwin Jones, (R-Lubbock, District 83), introduced a bill in the Texas House of Representatives Tuesday (2/1/05) which would permit the expanded use of module builders for hauling agricultural products.

Known as House Bill (H.B.) 749, this legislation which Jones authored allows other agricultural products in addition to cotton to be transported in module builders. The changes would affect parts of the Transportation Code.

Jones represents District 83 which includes a portion of Lubbock County and all of Cochran, Hockley, Gaines and Yoakum counties.

From Page One,
"EQIP"

resource problems in each county and will also fund special statewide concerns recommended by the Texas State Technical Committee such as water quantity, water and treatment of invasive species. This program offers cost share and incentive payments to producers applying approved conservation measures."

Butler explained, "Using national and state EQIP priorities, counties working through a local work group chaired by the local Soil and Water Conservation District recommended local resource concerns to be addressed, eligible practices and cost share rates and/or incentive payments. In 2005, producers

who meet the criteria as a Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher can receive 90 percent cost share for eligible practices".

Beginning immediately after March 19, all applications will be ranked and those selected for funding will be approved. A conservation planner will develop a contract and conservation plan for each contract approved. Producers who have been awarded contracts can then begin implementing the approved practices. Local NRCS field offices have complete details for the county.



College of Southwest offers course on Western Literature

College of the Southwest will be offering a special internet course entitled "Western Literature". The course will explore the Western genre and the regional writing of the American West.

Students may register for this self-paced, on-line course at anytime from February 7 through March 31, 2005. Coursework, which includes several short papers, must be

completed by March 31.

The one-credit hour course taught by Michele Clingman will be offered as an English course (ENG 3601). Cost of the course is \$250 per person for undergraduates and \$200 per person for graduate students.

For more information or to register, please contact College of the Southwest at 505-396-6561.

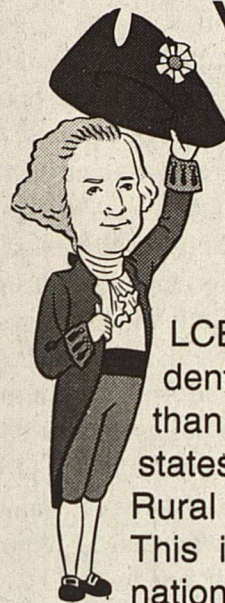
Hey High School Students!

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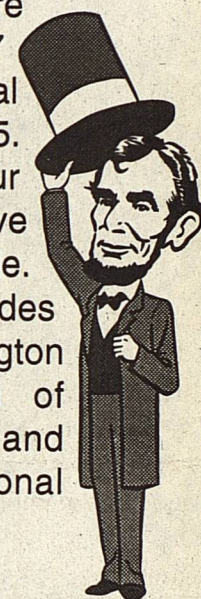
You could be in Washington, D.C.,

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Lea County

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



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

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

ATTENTION

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS!

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

Eligibility criteria are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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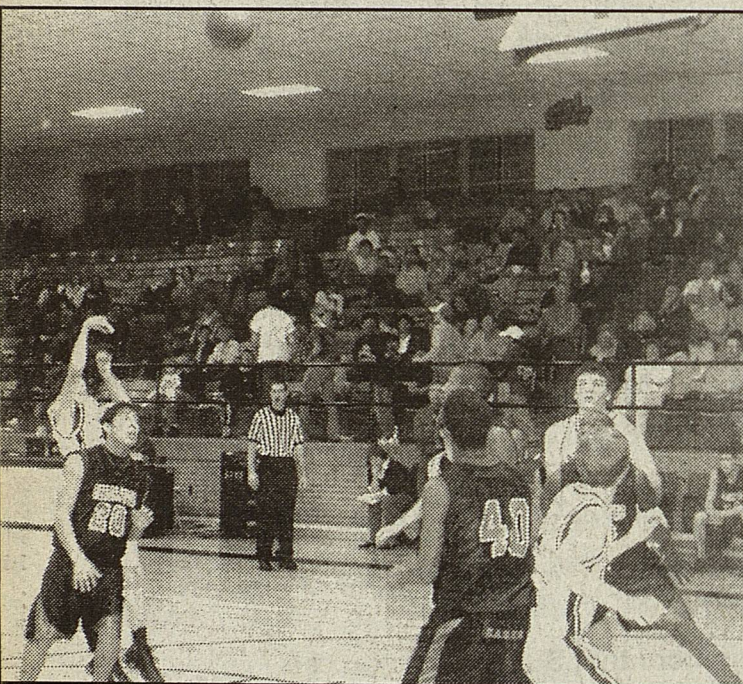
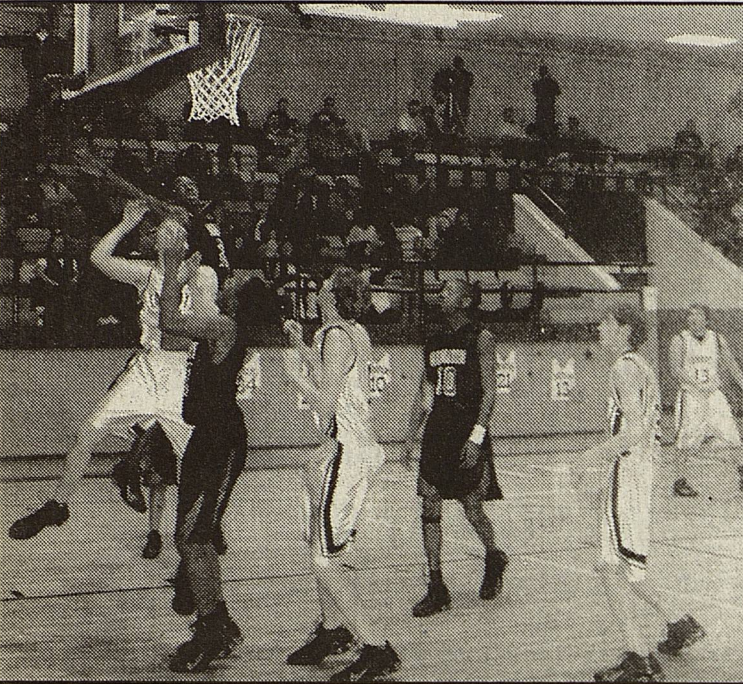
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File Photos Of Cowboy Action



Levelland Math Science Contest

January 8, 2005

Sweepstakes Plains 1st

	Seniors	N.S.	Cal	Math	Sci
	Brandon Hise	1st	2nd	2nd	6th
	Evan Cain		8th	6th	7th
	Breck Hamm			5th	10th
	Juniors				
	Allison Friesen	11th	1st	5th	16th
	David Alldredge	1st		3rd	12th
	Blake O'Quinn	4th	5th	11th	18th
	BJ Lester	13th	3rd	10th	14th
	Adam McCravey	14th	13th	7th	10th
	Sophomores				
	oe Luis Gallegoes			6th	4th
	Freshmen				
	Kurt Alldredge	4th		1st	6th
	Amber Friesen	7th	2nd	5th	8th
	Lauren Davis		4th	4th	3rd

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PISD Sports Recap

Jr. High:

7th Girls- In the Plains Tournament, the 7th girls defeated Whiteface 43-22. Sydney Caffey led scoring with 20 points, Jasmine Mares had 16, Courtney Asebedo 4. They next shutout Morton 43-0 to take first place in the tourney. Abby Hernandez had 16 points, Jasmine 9, Courtney and Sydney 8 each. On Jan. 24 the girls edged Seagraves 37-34. Sydney had 19 points, Courtni 9, Jasmine 7. On Jan 31 they dropped Whiteface 41-25, and Jasmine had 22 points, Abby 8, Courtni 5.

8th Girls- The older Lady Wranglers fell to Seagraves 39-27 Jan. 24. Reyna Gallegos managed 7 points, Brianna Conway 6, Heather Parrott 5. They won 36-26 over Seagraves, with Mari having 10 points, Heather 9, Reyna 8.

8th Wranglers - The 8th Wranglers edged Wellman-Union 36-34 in the tournament here. Chris Gonzales led scoring with 17 points, Chris Addison 6, Derek Garza 5, AJ Martinez and Zach Ramon 2 each. They next topped Whiteface 40-19, with Chris again leading the way with 21 points, Addison 9, Derek 3, Zach, Dylan Hunter and Danny Contreras 2 each, AJ 1. In the final tourney game they settled for second place, falling to Morton 36-23. Chris G had 8, Derek 6, Chris A 5, AJ and Dylan 1, Skylar Sainz 2. Their season record is 10 and 5.

JV Cowboys - The young Cowboys had a good road game by beating O'Donnell 39-27, with Coach Brink crediting tough defense for the win. Landon Craft topped scoring with 11 points, Scott Addison 9, Blake Parrish 8, Casson Curtis 6, JL Vasquez and Zach Ramos 2 each, BJ Lester 1. They next had a big district 42-30 win over Sundown. Blake Parrish had an assist and 3 pointer at the half buzzer for a big lead. Scoring were Addison 18, Craft 9, Lester 6, Parrish 5, and Curtis 4. The Cowboys stumbled against Whiteface to fall 43-41. Coach Brink noted sloppy play and poor shooting led to the loss. Parrish five 3 pointers in scoring 22 points, Addison 16, Lester 3.

They are now 5 and 1 in district, 17-6 overall.

Varsity Cowboys - On January 25 the Cowboys lost at O'Donnell 65-36. Scoring in the loss were Brandon Hise 12, TJ Cordova 8, Kerry Sisson 7, Evan Cain 4, Breck Hamm 3 and Cody Flores 2. On the 28th, the Cowboys had a 26-16 lead at the half after what Coach Davis called "the best half of basketball they played all year". Unfortunately, it turned cold and the Cowboys only managed 16 points the last half and fell 54-42. Daniel Parker managed 12 points, Blake O'Quinn 9, Cain 9, Sisson 7, Cordova 3, Flores 2. In two road games last week, they fell to Seagraves 62-42. Parker managed 13 points, O'Quinn 6, Abel Ramos 6, Flores 6, Sisson 5, Cain 2, TJ 2, Hise 2.

They traveled to Whiteface, and had a good first half, down by only two points, 31-29. The second half was a different story, with the Cowboys managing only 12 points for the final 58-41 loss. Sisson had 11, O'Quinn 6, Cain 6, Parker 6, Flores 4, Hise 3 and Ramos 2.

PHS Varsity Cowgirls

On Tuesday, January 25, the Cowgirls traveled to O'Donnell and lost 45-22. "It was a disappointing loss and hopefully we will learn from and grow from it," Eddleman said. Desiraye Broom lead the team with 8 points, 6 rebounds, 4 blocks, and 4 steals. Joani Bell had a very good game with 7 points, 6 rebounds, and 1 steal. Meghan Garcia had 4 points, 1 rebound, and 1 steal. Regina Morales had 2 points, 1 rebound, and 1 steal. Lauren Davis had 1 point and 1 rebound. Katie Winn had 1 assist and 3 steals. On Friday, January 28, the Cowgirls played Sundown at home and lost by one point 47-46. "It was definitely the most painful loss of the year," Eddleman said. "We did a great job of executing our offense, defense, and press breaker. The girls played with a lot of heart and determination. They gave it everything they had and you just hate to see them get beat after that kind of effort." Meghan Garcia lead the team with 14 points, 8 rebounds, 4 steals, and 1 assist. Lauren Davis also had a very good game with 10 points, 2 rebounds, and 1 assist. Desiraye Broom had a great all around game with 8 points, 11 rebounds, 5 steals, and 1 assist. Joani Bell had a solid game with 7 points, 7 rebounds, 2 assists, and 2 block shots. Regina Morales had a good game with 5 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, and 1 steal. Katie Winn had 2 points, 3 rebounds, and 1 assist. The team will be playing at Whiteface on Friday, February 4, at 6:30 pm.

On Tuesday, February 1, the Cowgirls traveled to Seagraves and lost 60-51. "We did a great job building and keeping the lead during the first three quarters, but we just didn't make the plays down the stretch that you need to make against a good team," Eddleman said. Desiraye Broom lead the team with 16 points, 12 rebounds, 4 steals, and 1 block shot. Joani Bell had a great game with 12 points, 6 rebounds, and 2 steals. Lauren Davis had a very good game with 10 points, 3 assists, 1 rebound, 1 block shot, and 1 steal. Meghan Garcia had a good game with 8 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, and 2 steals. Regina Morales had 5 points and 4 rebounds, Katie Winn had 6 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, and 1 steal. Regina Morales had 6 points, 2 rebounds, and 1 steal. Desiraye Broom had 5 points, 8 rebounds, and 1 steal. Joani Bell had 4 points, 13 rebounds, and block shot. Meghan Garcia had 3 points, 3 rebounds, and 3 steals. Lauren Davis had 3 points, 2 block shots, and 1 assist. Priscilla Mares had 2 points, 2 steals, and 1 assist. Jamie Covarrubias had 1 rebound and 1 steal.

Math/Science Team wins

Sweepstakes - Hise wins \$1400

The PHS Math & Science Team competed January 8 in a practice meet at Midland High School. Plains competed in the A - AAA division and walked away with the first place sweepstakes trophy. The Numebr Sense Team, Calculator Team, Mathematics Team, and Computer Science Team all placed first, and the Science Team was 7th place. Competing were Amber Friesen, Lauren Davis, David Alldredge, Allison Friesen, Adam McCravey, Blake O'Quinn, Evan Cain, Breck Hamm, Brandon Hise and Kerry Sisson.

Individual performances:

Freshmen- Amber Friesen 9th NS, 4th Calc 10th Math. Lauren Davis 8th Math.

Juniors- David Alldredge 2nd NS. Allison Friesen 7th NS, 1st Calc, 5th Math, 1st Comp Sci. Adam McCravey 10th Calc, 7th Math, 4th Comp Sci. Blake O'Quinn 10th NS, 8th Calc, 3rd Math

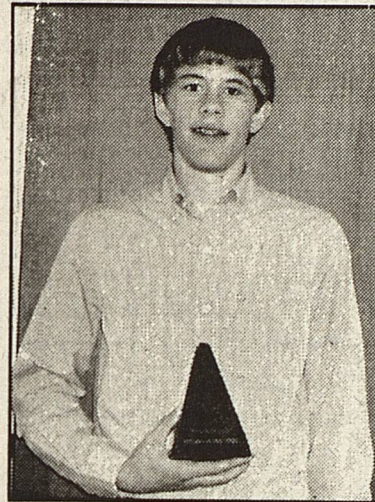
Seniors: Evan Cain 3rd Calc. Brandon Hise 1st NS, 1st Calc, 1st Math, 7th Sci, 1st Comp Sci.. Kerry Sisson 2nd NS, 6th Math, 7th Comp Sc.

Brandon Hise had the highest score in four of the contests. In this meet, the senior with highest score earned \$350 per contest, and Hise was given \$1400 in scholarship funds for the college of his choice. Allison tied with Brandon as top calculator scores at the meet. Sisson had the 3rd highest number sense score. All of the PHS students performed exceptionally well.

Student of the Week

PHS Student of the Week for January 31st is Landon Craft, a sophomore and the son of

PHS Student of the Week for Feb. 7th is Adriana Ponce a sophomore and the daughter of Isidro and Nancy Ponce. Adriana was nominated by Mrs. Everitt, who said, "I was searching for the right word to describe this week's student of the week. I was looking for something big and impressive, but what I found was very simple and something we should all strive to be. The definition of the word kind is friendly, generous, warm-hearted, agreeable, and beneficial. I can't think of a better description of this young lady. She is a friend to everyone. She always has a smile and a kind word. She is always willing to help. I have recently learned that she also had quite a sense of humor, and loves to laugh."



Ron and Sandy Craft. Landon was nominated by Mrs. O'Quinn, who said, "It is easier to do a job right than to explain why you didn't." Martin Van Buren. This week's student of the week doesn't make excuses. This student meets every task head-on, whether it is class work, a test, or in athletics. He tackles every assignment with the knowledge that there is something to learn. Landon is also polite and sincere, every day and a pleasure to have in class."



The Cowboy Band would like to thank all who donated for our recent drawing! The winner of the \$150.00 Wal-Mart gift card was Pam Rowe. The \$50.00 Wal-Mart gift card was won by Amy Baeza and the Movie money went to Daina Butler. Thank you for your continued support of the Cowboy Band!

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Lifelines & Styles

Senior Citizens Corner

This a jacket feels good, doesn't it? For tens of thousands of years, nobody knew how cold it was. The thermometer was invented in the sixteenth century but it wasn't until the eighteenth century that Fahrenheit and Celsius came up with their numerical scales. The twentieth century brought about the wind chill factor, complicating how to describe the weather, so no one seems to know how cold it really is. The thermometer outside your window may read 20 degrees but a voice on the TV states that because of the wind, humidity, and a fast moving front, it really is much colder, causing us to believe the whole universe may grind to a halt because of the windchill. Now, I understand someone has developed the 'real feel' temperature guide which takes into account things like wind chill, precipitation, cloudiness, and density of air. I think their patent is still pending. In the meantime, maybe we should keep that nice, warm jacket handy these days.

News has arrives that Becky Cryer is with her daughter in Midland these days and has a brand new pace maker. Hurry back, Becky, we miss your laughter and stories. Becky is our gal who has learned to laugh at herself and makes the rest of us laugh with her.

A 'turkey dinner with all the trimmings' is being planned for the public on a Sunday during the month of March. We will be giving you more definite information as the time draws nearer, so keep your calendar clear during the lunch hour (11:00 am. - 2:00 pm.), on the date indicated. This is a fund raiser for the Center and your participation will be greatly appreciated.

Due to a lack of adequate funding, the Board of Directors has voted to raise the price of our daily lunches to \$3.00 for everyone over the age of sixty. This will apply to our clients who receive home delivered meals as well as those who participate in the congregate setting. Dinner tickets will be sold each day and a drawing for one free lunch will be held. Guests under the age of sixty will continue to pay \$4.00 at the desk upon arrival. We appreciate the cooperation of everyone as we make this necessary change.

If you would like photos made for someone special for Valentine Day, see Anne Holland. She can do them for you at a

very reasonable price at the Center where a setting will be convenient for you. You may order one sheet (8 1/2 x 11 inches) of photos for \$4.00. You may choose from one large photo down to nine wallet size photos to fill your page and you may order as many pages as you wish. This is a real bargain, folks. Go ahead and surprise those special people in your life!

Have you ever stopped to consider the little word 'Up'? It probably has more meanings than any other word we use. We understand that Up means toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake Up? We use the little two letter word repeatedly. We brighten Up a room, polish Up the silver, warm Up the leftovers, and clean Up the kitchen. We lock Up the house and guys fix Up the old car. Some folks stir Up trouble, line Up for tickets, work Up an appetite, and think Up Excuses. Sometimes we get dressed Up. Then there is the drain that must be opened Up because it is stopped Up. We open Up a store in the morning then close it Up at night.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding Up. When the sun comes out, we say it clearing Up. When it doesn't rain for awhile, things dry Up.

If you look Up the word 'Up' in the dictionary, you'll find it takes Up nearly 1/4 of the page and can add Up to about thirty definitions. If you are Up to it you may want to try building Up a list of the many ways Up is used. It will take Up a lot of your time, but if you don't give Up, you may wind Up with a hundred or more. I could go on and on with this but it is probably time I shut Up!

Visitors this week have been Gloria Garcia, who works for Human Services here in our building, Esther Robles, Josephene Sotz, Lynn Ribble, Eddie Pillow, and Asa Coston who is Ben's grandson. Denman Pate was accompanied by his granddaughter, "Lynn one day when she was out of school. It was good to see Imogene and Joe Deaton as well as Dortha Faye and J.C. Futch and Red Berry one day. These folks have not been with us for awhile.

Thought for Today: "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less" ...Rick Warren (The Purpose Driven Life)



Brad Crump, Yoakum SWCD Director, leads a 'Learning Station' on How Cotton Grows at the Conservation Jamboree, sponsored by the Yoakum Soil & Water Conservation District. The yearly event is for Denver, City and Plains 5th graders. Other 'Learning Station' topics were peanuts, wildlife, soil science, computers, water conservation, trees and insects.

Sandy Land Annual Scholarship Contest Announced

The Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District is again sponsoring an essay-writing contest for senior students at Plains and Denver City High Schools. All senior students are eligible to enter the essay contest. The contest winner from each school will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for 1st place and a \$500 scholarship for 2nd place to the college(s) of their choice. (A minimum of ten (10) essays must be submitted before a second place scholarship is awarded.)

The topic of the essay should relate to an evaluation of the water situation in our area at the present time and contain proposals for future conservation of that water. The criteria for the contest is: 1. The essay should be a minimum of 1000 words. 2. The essay should be typed and double-spaced with footnotes or endnotes. 3. Reference must accompany paper in the form of a bibliography page. 4. The essay should have a cover sheet containing: student's name, essay title, local high school, and date. 5. The essays are due no later than March 30, 2005.

For further information, please contact the district office at 806/456-2155.


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Attention All Females ! Be careful what you 'sniff'

The CCN e-mail address drew the attention of a number of out of town readers calling our attention to a truly chilling scam apparently taking place, involving female would-be victims. Here is a copy of one e-mail we received last week: It is very similar to a number of other reportings we have seen.

"Dear female friends, I know not all of you are women I am sending this to, but I'm hoping you males will share this with your wives, daughters, mothers, sisters, etc.

"Our world seems to get crazier everyday. Pipe bombs in mailboxes, snipers, now sickos in parking lots with perfume! I was approached yesterday in the Walmart parking lot by two males who asked what kind of perfume I was wearing, and then they asked if I would like to smell some fabulous and well known perfume they were willing to sell me at a very reasonable price. I might have agreed to the sampling had I not just recently received an e-mail warning about "a perfume scam, maybe a dangerous one." Instead I hurried on to my car.

"The men continued to stand between parked cars. I guess to wait for someone else to hit on. I stopped a lady going towards the men, pointing them out to her, and told her about my e-mail telling about someone meeting you and asking you to sniff the perfume they are selling at a very low price. THIS IS NOT PERFUME - IT IS ETHER! Thanks to an e-mailing friend, I didn't fall for it. You can only imagine what might have happened had I sniffed, then passed out! I hope you will pass this along to all your femme friends, and if any males receive it, ask them to send it to the females they know!"

The e-mail was signed by a lady clerical employee in the Lewisville School District.

The office of the United States Postal Service at Plains invites you to attend our customer appreciation day on Monday, February 14 from 9 am until 12 noon. A special Valentine cancellation will be available all day.

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From The Hack

We all have been told for years of the marvelous benefits of regular exercise. The following e-mail I received last week makes one wonder....

Walking can add minutes, hours to your life. This enables you when you're 85 to spend an additional five months in a nursing home at \$5000 per month.

My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60. Now, she's 97, and we don't have a clue where she is!

Lots of men take up exercising just to hear heavy breathing again.

I have to exercise early in the morning before my brain figures out what I'm doing.

A woman I know said she "has flabby thighs, but fortunately my stomach hides them."

The first advantage to come to mind is, you're bound to die healthier.

If you are going to try cross-country running or skiing, start with a very small country.

And the clencher.... "I don't exercise because it makes the ice jump right out of my glass."

.....

Also, this collection of brain food from friend Jo. Yes, Joe spelled with no E is a girl, my good friend Jo, who has been married 86 years to the same tiresome guy who is much older than yours truly:

"25 Sure Signs You've Grown Up":

* Your house plants are alive and you can't smoke any of them.

* Having sex in a twin bed is out of the question.

* You keep more food than beer in the fridge.

* You hear your favorite song on an elevator.

* You're fascinated by the Weather Channel.

* It is YOU calling the cops because the damn kids next door won't turn down the stereo.

* Older relatives now feel comfortable telling sex jokes around you.

* You have no idea what time Taco Bell closes anymore.

* You no longer take naps from noon to 6 PM.

* Dinner and a movie is now the whole date instead of the start of one.

* A four dollar bottle of wine is no longer "pretty good stuff!"

* You actually eat breakfast food at breakfast.

* "I just can't drink the way I used to," replaces "I'm never gonna drink that much again!"

Lots of truisms expressed here.

The following courtesy of the Right Honorable Paul New, Barrister Emeritus:

Women and cats will do just as they please, and men and dogs should get used to the idea.

A man goes to a psychiatrist and says, "Doc, my wife is unfaithful to me. Every evening she goes to Larry's Bar and picks up men. She sleeps with anyone who asks her! I'm going crazy! What shall I do?"

The Doc says, "Relax, take it easy, I'll write you a prescription. Now, tell me, exactly where is Larry's Bar?"

A pipe burst in a doctor's home. He called a plumber. The plumber came, unpacked his tools, did mysterious plumber things a few minutes and then handed the doctor a bill for \$600. The stunned doctor exclaimed, "This is ridiculous! I don't even make this much as a doctor!" The plumber nodded and quietly said, "Neither did I when I was a doctor."

I was scanning through a loaner book the other day and came across a few tidbits about a pretty famous Texas pair,

Maury Maverick Sr. and Maury Jr. both flaming, yellow dog democrats. Mr. Sr. was once mayor of San Antonio and also a U.S. Congressman. He defined democracy as "liberty, plus groceries". He would often send his fellow liberals an inscription, "Illigitimi non carborundum", which translated "Don't let the bastards grind you down!" And at a time when racism in Texas was quite common, he joked, "I'm so liberal I say 'chigra' instead of chigger." His son Maury Jr. was hewn from the same plank. As a Texas House member, he was asked to introduce notorious U.S. Senator Joe McCarthy who was scheduled to address the Texas legislature. He said he would do it, but only provided he could substitute Mickey Mouse for McCarthy.

"If we have to get a rat to talk to us, let's at least get a good rat!" It is said his proposal drew 55 votes.

Texas Yes!

Texas Department of Agriculture

Bootstrap Bucks Boost Rural Tourism

By Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs


From Dublin to Yoakum, small town festivals celebrating Texas blues to Texas blooms are getting a boost with Bootstrap Bucks, a new Texas Department of Agriculture program supporting rural tourism promotions.

Applications from seven rural Texas communities including Dublin, Grand Saline, Liberty, Livingston, Marlin, Sulphur Springs and Yoakum were recently approved in the first round of funding. The application deadline for the second round of Bootstrap Bucks was Friday, Jan. 14.

Funded by a grant from Gov. Rick Perry, the competitive Bootstrap Bucks program awarded \$500 in reimbursable funds in the first round and will award \$1,000 in the second round to Texas Yes! community members for rural festival and event promotional items, including banners, posters, newspaper advertisements, and radio and television spots. It is designed to give rural events that extra exposure that can make the difference.

Texas Yes! is a member-based program sponsored by the Texas Department of Agriculture for rural communities, businesses and organizations to promote business development, job growth and tourism in rural Texas.

Details are available online at www.TexasYes.org or by calling (866) 4TEX-YES ((866) 483-9937).



On The Level

with Donald Haley
USDA/NRCS

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Heard of any good deals lately?

How about this one – reimbursement of 75 cents on the dollar for a properly installed and needed conservation practice!

This program is offered through the Yoakum Soil and Water Conservation District and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB).

The Yoakum SWCD has received funds for approved conservation practices, under the direction of the Yoakum SWCD Board of Directors, for Water Quality Planning in 2005.

Technical assistance is provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the TSSWCB.

Approved practices are eligible for a 75 percent cost-share following successful completion and certification by NRCS / TSSWCB.

Maximum cost-share limit set by the Yoakum SWCD is \$10,000.

The amount of funds each producer may receive is based upon the total number of eligible producers who apply and the type of practice

approved by the Yoakum SWCD.

Recent practices have included brush control (shiner and mesquite), sprinkler conversion packages, such as LEPA (Low Energy Precision Application) and LPIC (Low Pressure in Canopy) and livestock fencing.

Selected producers will work under the guidance of a certified Water Quality Plan and be subject to the practice guidelines and requirements of that approved plan.

What's that mean?

In a nut shell, it means that the producer will be required to follow a rotation (high residue crops, such as wheat/grain sorghum in rotation with cotton, peanuts, etc.) and manage those residues through at least April 1 to control soil erosion and maintain and improve soil quality.

It means a soil test in each field at the beginning of the contract in order to arrive at some common sense yield goals and subsequent fertilizer recommendations for that year's crop through a Nutrient Management Plan written by a Certified

Nutrient Management Specialist.

After the initial soil test, soil testing will be required every three years on irrigated acres and every 5 years on dryland for the length of the contract.

The TSSWCB recommends that the contract

be in effect for one full crop rotation plus two years, which would mean six years at one-quarter high residue rotation or three years in the case of min-tillage acres.

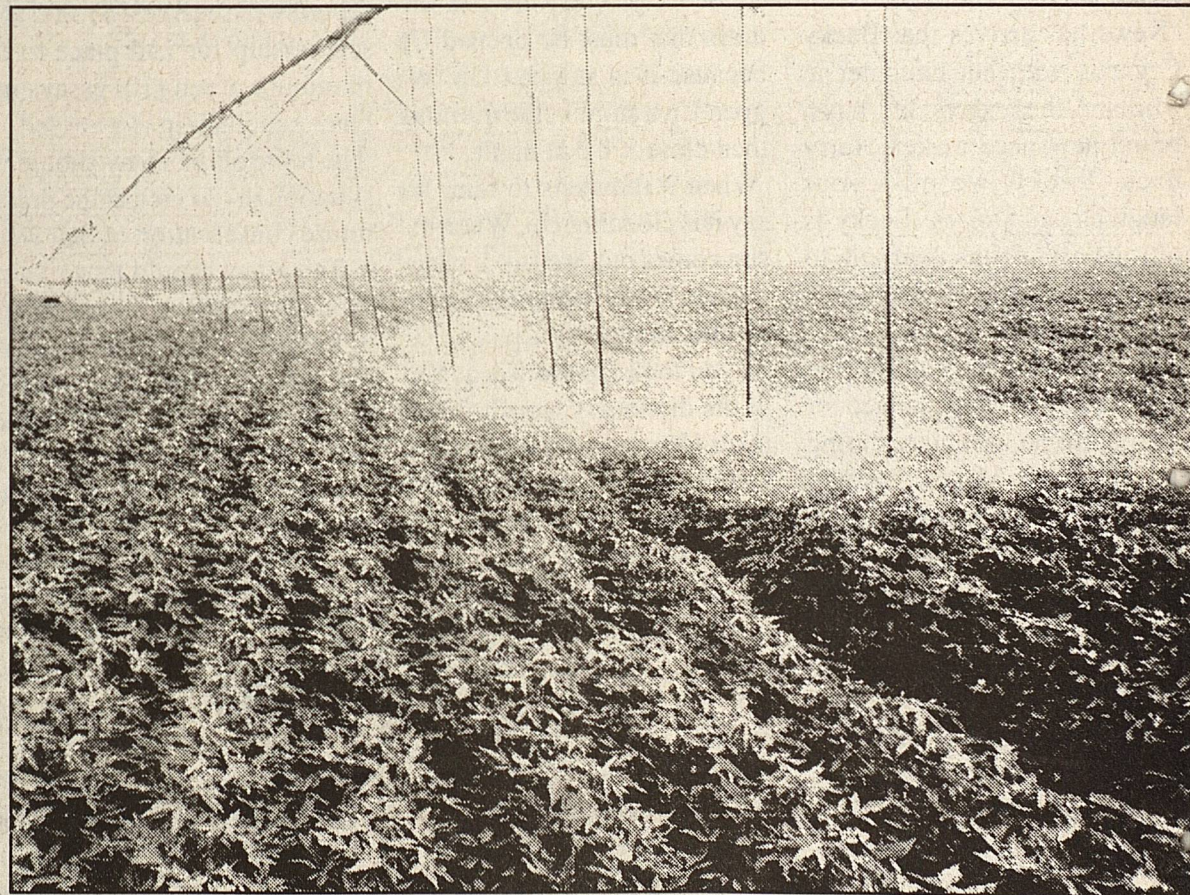
These required contract items are common sense elements that most Yoakum producers are already doing anyway.

This is a broad-based explanation of the Water Quality Management Planning assistance offered through the Yoakum SWCD.

If you're interested, please stop by or call the office for more details.

Deadline for having your contract dollars obligated for cost-share assistance through this program is April 29, 2005.

And like my Granddaddy used to say....good deals are like high cotton prices...they don't hang around long!



Yoakum County producers are eligible to receive 75 % cost-share assistance on approved conservation practices through the Yoakum SWCD, such as this LPIC (Low Pressure In Canopy) sprinkler conversion.

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'Red Hot' Ice

Cool customers

Hockey, both minor and major league, kept fans across Texas skating back for more in the 2003-04 season.

NHL Teams	Average Game Attendance	League rank (out of 30)
Dallas	18,350	8th

AHL Teams	Average Game Attendance	League rank (out of 28)
Houston	5,362	12th
San Antonio	4,947	15th

CHL Teams	Average Game Attendance	League rank (out of 17)
Laredo	6,354	2nd
Rio Grande Valley	5,114	4th
Lubbock	4,626	7th
Austin	4,191	10th
Fort Worth	4,036	11th
Amarillo	3,302	14th
Odessa	3,271	15th
Corpus Christi	2,990	16th
San Angelo	2,401	17th

SOURCES: espn.com; American Hockey League; and Central Hockey League.

