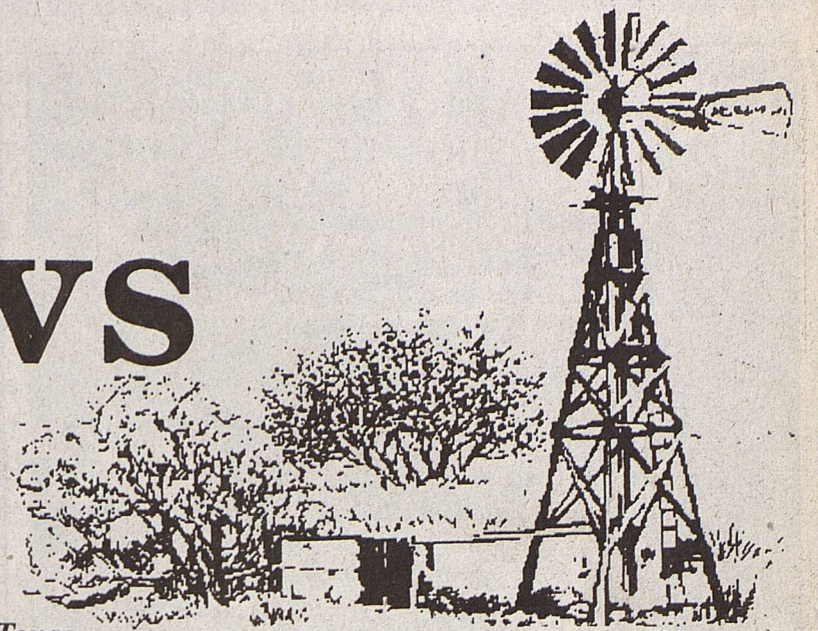


Cowboy Country News

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

Volume V1111, Issue 17, January 8, 2003



Mystery surrounds identity of deceased area woman

Yoakum County Sheriff Don Corzine, guest speaker at the January 2 meeting of the Plains Lions Club, described the difficulties his department is experiencing trying to identify a Hispanic woman who died in the county the evening of December 28.

Around 10:30 PM that Saturday, a 911 call resulted in Denver City EMS staff members Karen Tovar and Greg Durham being dispatched to a rural home, accompanied by Sheriff Deputy Kenley Powell and later joined by Deputy Nancy Baize. An unconscious Hispanic woman was found, and CPR was administered but was unsuccessful in restoring consciousness. She was transported to the County Hospital emergency room, where more efforts failed to bring her around.

Justice of the Peace Kenny Smith was summoned, and later officially declared her deceased. Sheriff Corzine said the elderly couple in the home where she was found had made the 911 call. Apparently they had been having a small birthday party for the deceased. She had gone to her room, and shortly later called the couple and told them she was having problems breathing. They said she then moaned loudly,

grabbed her chest, and fell off the bed where EMS found her.

Sheriff Corzine said the couple told the officers they were celebrating the woman's 21st birthday, and reported her name was Yvette Valenzuela Olivas. "There was no sign of any violence or suspicion of any type of foul play," Corzine told CCN. He did say those at the scene thought she looked somewhat older than 21. She had no identification of any kind on her person or in her possessions.

Judge Smith ordered an autopsy to be performed, and on December 30 the Lubbock County Medical Examiner at University Medical Center performed the examination. Results from the autopsy won't be available for several weeks. The Sheriff said the deceased woman's fingerprints were taken and sent to the national Automated Fingerprint Investigation System. "If she has ever been fingerprinted in this country we should have some idea about her identity in about a week. If she hasn't been, we may still have a mystery on our hands."

The Sheriff said his office had discussed the case with the Mexican Consulate office in Dallas, and had also contacted the Border Patrol division of

the Immigration and Naturalization service for their assistance.

Corzine added, "If anyone in our area knows anything at all about the identity of this woman, we're asking them to contact us. My department is hoping we can get enough information to at least let her family members know what has happened to her."

Later in the Lions Club program, Corzine reviewed some of the experiences he's had during his first three years in office.

Overcrowding at the county jail remains a difficult and expensive problem. The 13 bed facility stays full virtually all the time, resulting in the leasing of five spaces in the Terry County Detention Center at \$30 per day, whether they are used or not.

In a positive note, the Sheriff reported county arrests fell from 733 in 2001 to 539 in 2002. He attributes the lower numbers to all patrol units being equipped with radar and camera units, and the public's awareness of the equipment. He thinks the local economy has played a significant role in less arrests. "When a small county like ours loses well over 1000 people, the criminal population is bound to drop some also."

Chamber of Commerce annual banquet on tap

The Plains Chamber of Commerce 18th annual banquet is set for Thursday, January 16, at seven PM in the school auditorium. Plains City Hall personnel will accept door prizes to be awarded at the banquet until noon on that Thursday. Final details of the banquet will be featured in the January 15 issue of CCN. We urge all residents to make plans to attend for the program and a great meal... And remember, if you donate a door prize, your chances of WINNING one are greatly enhanced!



Guest Speaker Ronny Wall, PHS Grad and Associate General Counsel at Texas Tech University.

Criminal cases in District Court

Five criminal cases were heard in 121st District Court on December 31, with Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding. Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state,

Devan Lloyd Williams pled guilty to unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. A two year State Jail sentence was suspended and probated five years. He was fined \$1500, must pay \$3,848 restitution to Tommy Fryar, \$303 court costs and \$25 time payment fee. He must pay \$250 court appointed attorney fees. A charge of theft was adjudicated. He will serve 120 hours community service, and complete the Trinity Baptist Home for men program. Warren New was his attorney, and Sheriff Deputy Nancy Baize was investigating officer.

Turn To Page 2, "District Court"

Swearing in ceremonies held for recently elected county officials



At 10:30 AM New Year's Day, District Judge Kelly G. Moore conducted the swearing in of county officials elected in the November general election. Nine officials took the official oath of office. Re-elected Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark was out of town and will be sworn in later. Shown here left to right are Jack Cobb, County Commissioner of Precinct 4, District Clerk Vicki Blundell, County Judge Dallas Brewer, District Judge Moore, County Clerk Debbie Rushing, newly elected Ben Coston, Precinct 2, newly elected County Treasurer Barbara Wright, Precinct 1 Justice of Peace Judge Melba Crutcher, and newly elected Precinct 2 Justice of Peace Judge Troy Scott. Individual photos of the officials being sworn in may be found inside.

Yoakum County Hospital seeks voter approval to provide superior care

Area residents will soon have the opportunity to vote for the latest in healthcare technology and facilities. Whether it's routine or life saving medical care you need, Yoakum County Hospital's new expansion project will provide the finest care available. In response to the survey returned in 2002 by the residents of Yoakum County, new additions and remodeling projects are planned. A dialysis center highlights the list of projects that includes a Physical Therapy Center, Emergency Room Expansion and the most up to date birthing facilities along with technological updates throughout the hospital. Residents are being asked to approve a 2.2 cent tax increase that will fund the \$2.95 million healthcare expansion project. While individual impact is minimal, only \$1.38 a month for owners of a \$75,000 home, the hospitalments will ensure the finest medical care is available when you need it.

According to the Needs Assessment Survey conducted in 2002, the dialysis center was named as being the #1 priority as a need to be fulfilled. Currently there are approximately 50 patients in the surrounding area undergoing dialysis treatment.

Dialysis centers around Denver City are operating at maximum capacity, forcing some patients to drive farther distances to seek treatment. The dialysis facility in Denver City is a need for an estimated 50 local families currently requiring dialysis.

The National Kidney Foundation of West Texas statistics show in excess of 1,200 persons in West Texas need machine dialysis to live. They are a part of 217,000 Americans on dialysis and 1,000 Texans waiting for a life saving kidney transplant. Machine dialysis is a life giving service to hold the gap between the 27,000 awaiting kidney transplants and a limited number of donors.



Jack Cobb, Hospital Board President

Still, you might ask, why would this benefit Yoakum County? A typical dialysis patient visit requires someone to escort the patient to the dialysis center for the 4 - 5 hour treatment process. Often times, they will eat a meal, gas up their car or perhaps go shopping. It not only serves a need for dialysis patients and their family, it also brings a boost to the local economy. Benefits of a local treatment center extend far beyond medical services provided.

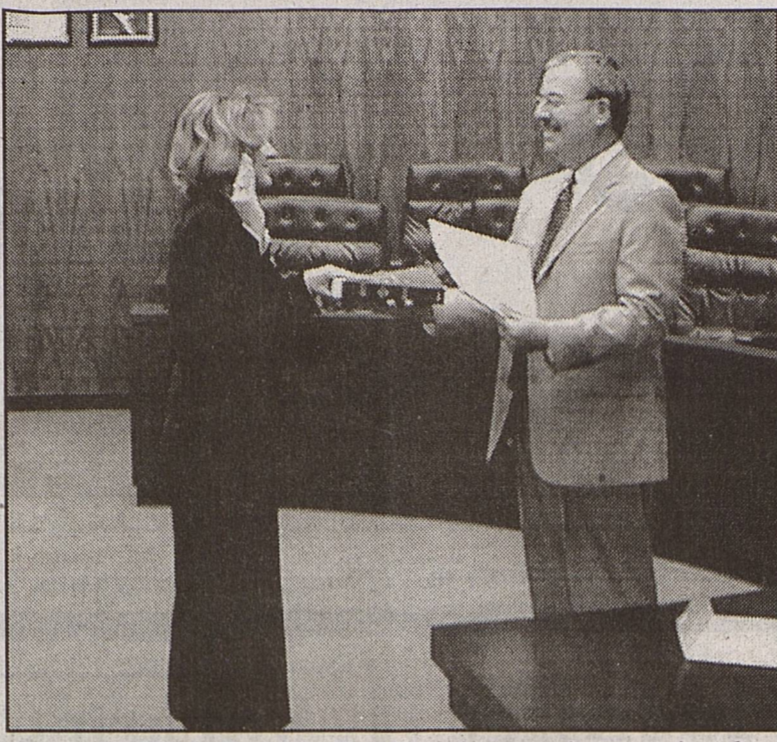
"Dialysis is very personal to me as I have a family member on dialysis," quoted a local resident. "A lot of people in this county do not realize what being on dialysis entails. My mother in law must drive my father in law to Midland every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. It is not just a simple drop off and go; she must assist him into the facility, make sure he uses the restroom, and

Turn To Page Two, "Hospital Election"

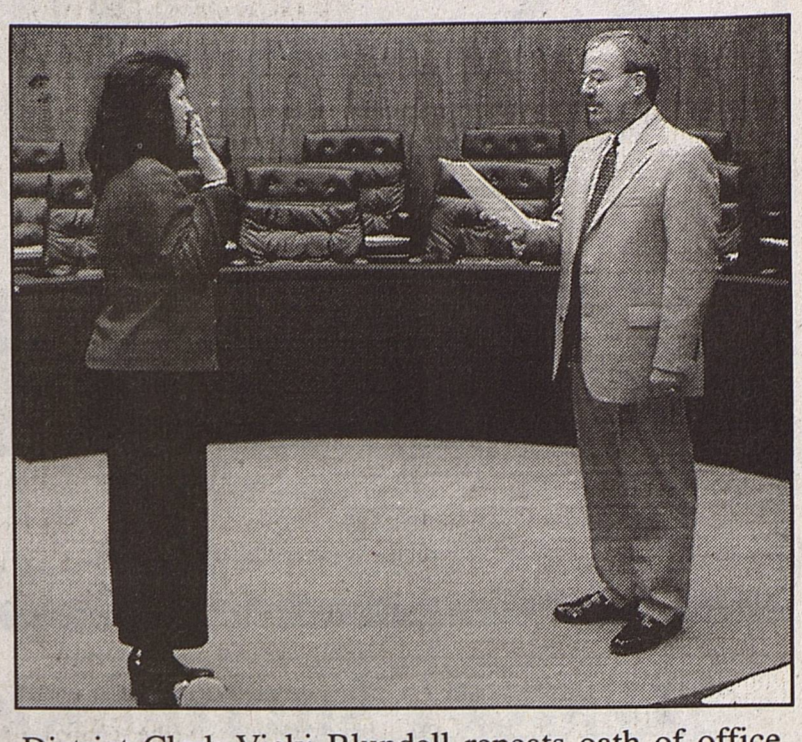
Swearing in returning county officials and some new faces



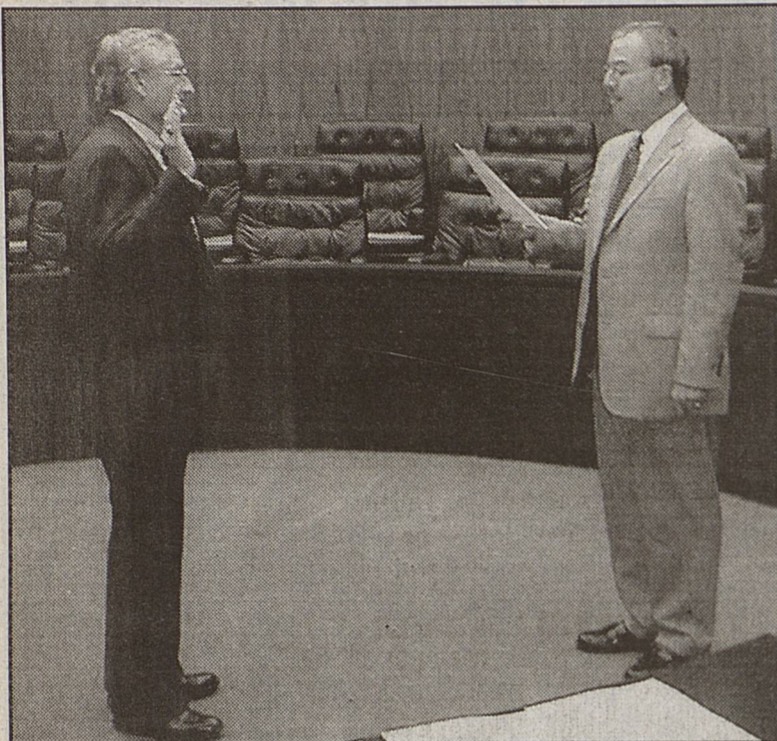
Judge Kelly G. Moore swears in Judge Dallas Brewer, starting his 5th term of office



County Clerk Debbie Rushing sworn in, starting her seventh year of service.



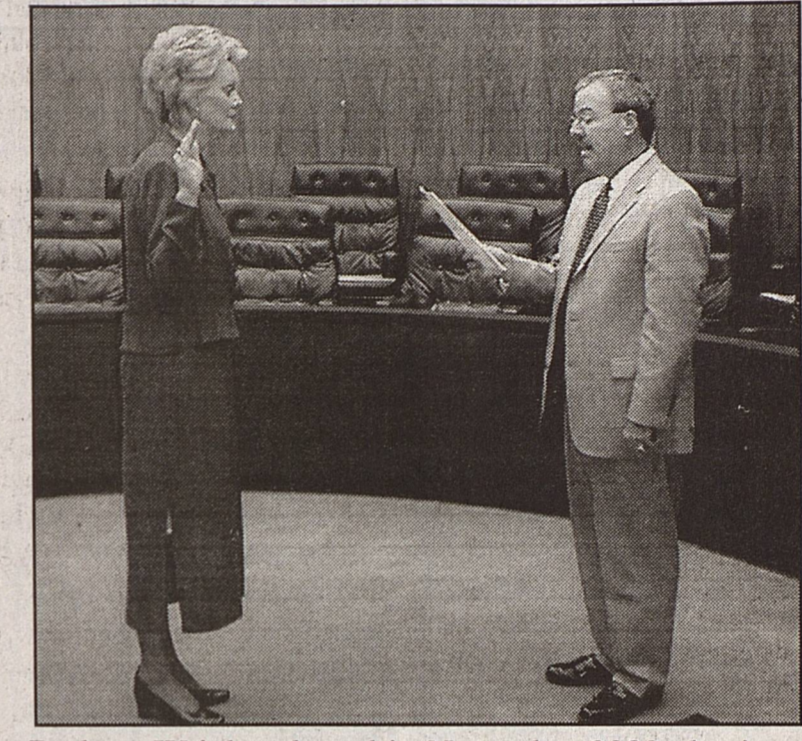
District Clerk Vicki Blundell repeats oath of office, starting her second term in office



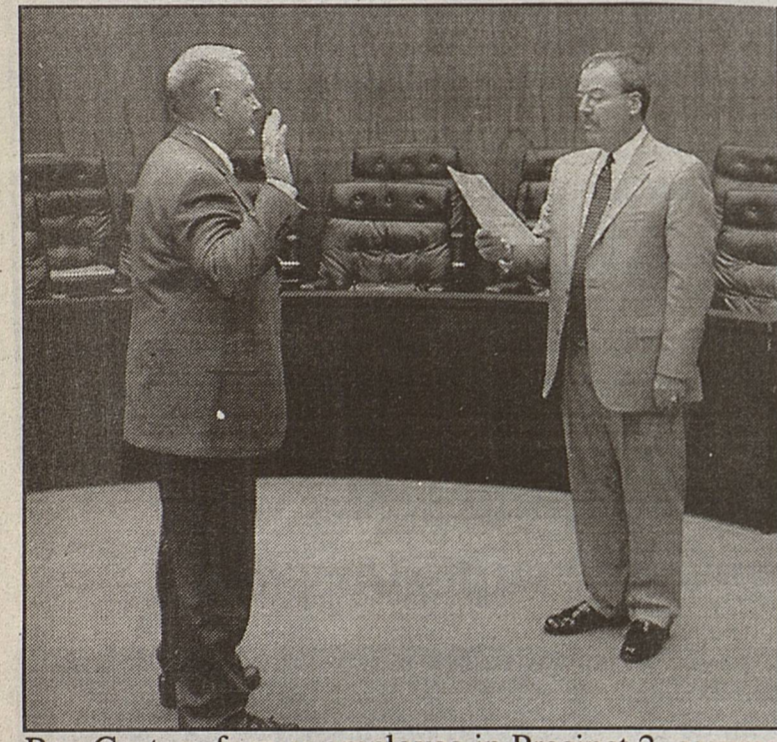
Jack Cobb returns to office to start second term as Precinct 4 Commissioner



Justice of Peace Judge Melba Crutcher sworn in, starts her fourth term in office



Barbara Wright, elected in November 2002 election, sworn in as new County Treasurer.



Ben Coston, former employee in Precinct 2, assumes new job of Commissioner.



Troy Scott, new Precinct 2 Justice of Peace Judge, accepts oath of office.

From Page One, "Hospital Election"

get his chair ready as he must sit there four hours. After the dialysis, he must sit there about 15 minutes to make sure his arm stops bleeding, he must be weighed and assisted back in the car. My mother in law does this all while maintaining a full time job. We assist them as much as possible but by having a dialysis center here in Denver City, it would make such a difference to my family. Not only would it be easier but think of the money going out to other counties, when it could be coming into Yoakum County (i.e gasoline, food, motel rooms, etc.) We are just one family; there are approximately 45 in the surrounding area that could utilize this facility."

The Needs Assessment Survey's second most requested service was the Physical Therapy Center. The new Physical Therapy Center will provide a broader spectrum of rehabilitation services than is now available in Yoakum County. Expanded services in the planned center will include cardiac and aquatic rehabilitation along with stress testing and other therapy services. In addition to therapy, the unit will emphasize wellness with cardiovascular fitness programs, an indoor walking track, free weights and fitness machines.

Cardiac rehabilitation often restores a heart patient to a better quality of life than they enjoyed prior to the heart surgery. The cardiologist requires the cardiac pa-

tient start rehab soon after the procedure. Most times, the rehab is required even before the patient is 'allowed' to drive home. Having to drive 30 or more miles every day for cardiac rehab becomes too much of a burden for the patient and the driver. Often, the patient that has to travel too far will drop out of rehab and will not improve. In comparison, the cardiac patient with a local therapy center will continue to exercise everyday and their health will be restored quicker.

The planned aquatic therapy service will benefit orthopedic patients needing limited weight bearing or added resistance exercise and cardio-pulmonary patients who need to increase their strength and endurance. Neurological involved patients, such as stroke victims, will be able to use the hydrotherapy to increase muscle tone, while letting the water relax their muscles. Exercise programs for those who want to stay fit will also be offered.

One feature of the Physical Therapy Center Complex will be a public meeting room for health related venues like Weight Watchers, diabetic counseling, parenting classes and staff-in-service training.

One service you hope you never need is the emergency room, but if you do it had better be the best. And that is what Yoakum County Hospital

strives for as they seek to provide the best care possible. Statistics show an increase in emergency room patients from 4,826 in 2000 to 6,588 in 2002. For that reason Yoakum County Hospital plans to expand the emergency room and install the most up to date equipment. This additional space will also provide for increased pre-operative and post-operative care.

Certainly not the least, but perhaps the most memorable will be improvements in birthing rooms. By remodeling existing space in the hospital, Obstetric patients will be able to enjoy comfortable surroundings and confidence in the state of the art medical equipment.

** Material for this article furnished CCN by Yoakum County Hospital staff.

From Page 1, "District Court"

Francisco Perez Jr. pled guilty to lesser included charge of evading arrest. He will spend 72 hours in jail with credit for 35.5 hours served. He was fined \$750, must pay \$196 court costs, and a cause of driving with suspended license was adjudicated. William Gardner, D.C. Police was investigating officer, and Warren New was his attorney.

Ellis Morales Jr. pled guilty to delivery of controlled sub-

stance, cocaine. A ten year prison sentence was suspended and probated ten years. He was fined \$2500, must pay \$223 court costs, \$508 court appointed attorney fees and \$25 time payment fee, plus \$840 restitution to DPS. He will serve 240 hours community service, remain in Yoakum County jail up to 180 days or until space is available in a TDCJ operated substance abuse treatment facility, attend weekly AA(Narcotics) meetings, surrender his license 180 days, and complete the Drug Offender Education Program. Llano Estacado Drug Task Force was investigating agency, and Warren New was his attorney.

Guadalupe Martinez Jr. pled guilty to assault with a deadly weapon, adjudication of guilt deferred. He will serve five years community supervision, was fined \$1000, must pay \$223 court costs, and \$462 court appointed attorney fees. He must serve 120 hours community service, and complete anger management counseling provided by Womens Protective Service. His attorney was Jimmy Hammons, and Sgt. William Gardner, Denver City Police, was investigating officer.

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**** The U.S. Department of Justice requires the following format of certificate of obligation election notices for the upcoming February 1 election ****

NOTICE OF ELECTION

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 COUNTY OF YOAKUM §
 §
 §
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TO THE RESIDENT, QUALIFIED VOTERS OF
 YOAKUM COUNTY, TEXAS
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TAKE NOTICE that an election will be held in Yoakum County, Texas on February 1, 2003, in obedience to an order duly entered by the Commissioners Court of the County on December 23, 2002, which order reads substantially as follows:

AN ORDER CALLING A CERTIFICATE OF OBLIGATION ELECTION TO BE HELD IN YOAKUM COUNTY, TEXAS; MAKING PROVISION FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE ELECTION; RESOLVING OTHER MATTERS INCIDENT AND RELATED TO SUCH ELECTION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court (the Court) of Yoakum County, Texas (the County) previously adopted a resolution on November 25, 2002 authorizing notice to be given of its intention to issue certificates of obligation in the maximum principal amount of \$2,950,000 for the purpose of providing funds for the payment of contractual obligations of the County to be incurred for (1) constructing, renovating, and equipping the County hospital, (2) the purchase of materials, supplies, equipment, machinery, land, rights-of-way for authorized needs and purposes relating to the County hospital, (3) payment for professional services relating to the construction and financing of the aforementioned project; and

WHEREAS, this notice was duly published in a newspaper hereby found and determined to be of general circulation in the County, once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks, the date of the first publication of such notice being not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the tentative date stated therein for the passage of the order authorizing the issuance of such certificates of obligation; and

WHEREAS, a petition protesting the issuance of the certificates of obligation described in the notice and requesting an election to be held on the proposed issuance of the certificates of obligation, which was signed by at least 5% of the qualified voters of the County, was presented to or filed with the County Clerk prior to the date set in such notice for the passage of the order authorizing the certificates of obligation as provided by the provisions of the Certificate of Obligation Act of 1971, as amended, Texas Local Government Code Sections 271.041 through 271.063 (the Act); and

WHEREAS, the Court hereby finds and determines that an election should be held to determine whether the Court shall be authorized to issue certificates of obligation of the County in the amount and for the purposes hereinafter identified; and

WHEREAS, the Court hereby finds and determines that the holding of this election on the date set forth below, a uniform election date, is in the public interest; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDERED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF YOAKUM COUNTY, TEXAS THAT:

SECTION 1. An election shall be held on the 1st day of February, 2003, a uniform election date, in YOAKUM COUNTY, TEXAS, which date is not less than fifteen (15) nor more than ninety (90) days from the date of the adoption of this order (the Order), for the purposes of submitting the following proposition to the qualified voters of the County:

PROPOSITION

"Shall the Commissioners Court of the Yoakum County, Texas be authorized to issue and sell certificates of obligation of the County in the principal amount of not to exceed \$2,950,000 for the purpose of providing funds for the payment of contractual obligations of the County to be incurred for (1) constructing, renovating, and equipping the County hospital, (2) the purchase of materials, supplies, equipment, machinery, land, rights-of-way for authorized needs and purposes relating to the County hospital, (3) payment for professional services relating to the construction and financing of the aforementioned project; such certificates of obligation to mature serially or otherwise not more than forty (40) years from their date; and any issue or series of said bonds to bear interest at such rate or rates (fixed, floating, variable or otherwise) as may be determined within the discretion of the Commissioners Court, provided that such rate of interest shall not exceed the maximum rate per annum authorized by law at the time of the issuance of any issue or series of said certificates of obligation; and shall the Commissioners Court of the County be authorized to levy and pledge, and cause to be assessed and collected, annual ad valorem taxes, within the limitations prescribed by law, on all taxable property in said County sufficient to pay the annual interest and provide a sinking fund to pay the bonds at maturity?"

SECTION 2. The County election precincts, polling places designated for holding the election, and the Presiding Judges and the Alternate Presiding Judges hereby appointed for holding the election are identified in Exhibit A to this Order, and this exhibit is incorporated by reference for all purposes.

The Presiding Judge shall appoint not less than two (2) resident qualified voters of the County to act as clerks to properly conduct the election. However, if the Presiding Judge appointed actually serves, the Alternate Presiding Judge shall serve as one of the clerks. The appointment of such clerks must include a person fluent in the Spanish language to serve as a clerk to render oral aid in the Spanish language to any voter desiring such aid at the polls on the day of the election. In the absence of the Presiding Judge named above, the Alternate Presiding Judge shall perform the duties of the Presiding Judge.

The election shall be held in the County as prescribed by any applicable law and on the day of the election, the polls shall be open from 7:00 o'clock a.m. to 7:00 o'clock p.m.

Early voting shall be conducted at the Main Early Voting Location, located at the Yoakum County Clerk's Office, Avenue G and Cowboy Way, Plains, Texas 79355 and at the Branch Early Voting Location located at the Yoakum County Branch Tax Office, 122 West 4th Street, Denver City, Texas 79355. With the exception of Saturdays, Sundays, and official State holidays, these offices or places shall remain open from 8:00 o'clock a.m. to 5:00 o'clock p.m. for early voting. Deborah Rushing, the County Clerk (whose mailing address is the Post Office Box 309, Plains, Texas 79355) is hereby appointed as the Early Voting Clerk. Donna Givens is hereby appointed as a Deputy Early Voting Clerk. The County Clerk will appoint any other Deputy Early Voting Clerks. Early voting shall commence on the 17th day before the election and continue through the 4th preceding the date of the election all as provided by the provisions of the Texas Election Code.

An Early Voting Ballot Board is hereby established for the purpose of processing early voting results. Hazel Lowrey is appointed the Presiding Judge of the Early Voting Ballot Board. The Presiding Judge shall appoint not less than two (2) resident qualified voters of the County to serve as members of the Early Voting Ballot Board. In addition, the Commissioners Court establishes the rate of pay for judges and clerks to be \$6.00 per hour as established in the Texas Election Code. The presiding judge or alternate presiding judge shall be compensated an additional \$25.00.

SECTION 3. Voting machines may be used in holding and conducting the election on election day; provided, however, that if the use of voting machines is not practicable, then in that event, electronic voting devices may be used in conducting the election on election day; provided, however, in the event the use of such electronic voting devices is not practicable, the election may be conducted on election day by the use of paper ballots. Paper ballots may be used for early voting by personal appearance and by mail.

SECTION 4. The official ballots shall be prepared in accordance with the Texas Election Code, as amended, so as to permit electors to vote "FOR" or "AGAINST" the aforesaid propositions which shall appear on the ballot substantially as follows:

PROPOSITION

"THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$2,950,000 OF YOAKUM COUNTY, TEXAS CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION AND THE LEVYING OF A TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF."

SECTION 5. All resident qualified voters of the County shall be permitted to vote at the election and on the day of the election, such electors shall vote at the designated polling place. The election shall be held and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Election Code, as amended, and the provisions of Chapter 1251, as amended, Texas Government Code and the Act, and as may be required by any other law. All election materials and proceedings shall be printed in both English and Spanish.

SECTION 6. A substantial copy of this Order shall serve as a proper notice of the election. This notice, including a Spanish translation thereof, shall be posted at three (3) public places within the County and at the County Courthouse not less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the date the election is to be held, and be published on the same day in each of two (2) successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the County, the first of these publications to appear in such newspaper not more than thirty (30) days, and not less than fifteen (15) full days prior to the day of the election.

SECTION 7. The recitals contained in the preamble hereof are hereby found to be true, and such recitals are hereby made a part of this Order for all purposes and are adopted as a part of the judgment and findings of the Commissioners Court.

SECTION 8. All orders and resolutions, or parts thereof, which are in conflict or inconsistent with any provision of this Order are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, and the provisions of this Order shall be and remain controlling as to the matters ordered herein.

SECTION 9. This Order shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and the United States of America.

SECTION 10. If any provision of this Order or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall be held to be invalid, the remainder of this Order and the application of such provision to other persons and circumstances shall nevertheless be valid, and this Commissioners Court hereby declares that this Order would have been enacted without such invalid provision.

SECTION 11. It is officially found, determined, and declared that the meeting at which this Order is adopted was open to the public and public notice of the time, place, and subject matter of the public business to be considered at such meeting, including this Order, was given, all as required by Chapter 551, as amended, Texas Government Code.

SECTION 12. This Order shall be in force and effect from and after its final passage and it is so ordered.

PASSED AND APPROVED, this the 23rd day of December, 2002.

YOAKUM COUNTY, TEXAS

Deborah Rushing
 County Judge

ATTEST:
Deborah Rushing
 County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk
 of the Commissioners Court of
 Yoakum County, Texas

EXHIBIT A

Election Precincts	County Election Precincts	Presiding Judges	Alternate Judges	Polling Places
No. 1	No. 101	Dalphine Benson	Kathy Smiley	Precinct #1 Building 139 East Broadway Denver City, Texas 79323
No. 2	No. 202	Donna Givens	Earlene Freeman	Community Building 311 West 15th Street Denver City, Texas 79323
No. 3	No. 303	Charlotte Palmer	Edith Tuggle	Yoakum County Library 901 Avenue E Plains, Texas 79355
No. 4	No. 404	Martha Palmer	Faye Nelms	Corral Youth Center 911 Avenue G Plains, Texas 79355
No. 5	No. 305	Flora Quintanillo	Angel Perez	Yoakum County Library 204 West 4th Street Denver City, Texas 79323
No. 6	No. 406	David Bruton	Bruce Greer	Yoakum County Branch Tax Office 122 West 4th Street Denver City, Texas 79323

YOU WILL, THEREFORE, take notice of all the matters and facts set out in the foregoing Notice of Election.

Deborah Rushing
 s/ Deborah Rushing
 County Clerk
 Yoakum County, Texas

JP Court Summary

The following is a summary of cases heard and fines and bonds set in Justice of Peace Court, Precinct One, Judge Melba Crutcher presiding.
 Case filed:
 69 traffic cases
 1 minor in possession alcohol
 1 public intoxication

1 open container of alcohol in motor vehicle.
 Bonds set:
 5 cases- motion to revoke probation- held until hearing
 DWI Terry County- \$2000 cash bond
 Issuance of bad check, Dawson County- \$500 bond
 2 cases driving while license suspended- \$500 bond
 Motion of Surety/DWI- \$10,000 bond
 Bond forfeiture/DWI- \$1000 cash bond
 5 cases possession of marijuana- \$500 bond
 DWI, 1st- \$1000 bond
 Evading arrest/detention- held for Border Patrol
 Parole Violation- held for parole board.
 Failure to appear- \$2500 cash bond
 Burglary of a building- \$5500 bond
 Criminal mischief- \$2500 bond

AVISO DE ELECCION

EL ESTADO DE TEXAS)

)

CONDADO DE YOAKUM)

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A LOS VOTANTES HABILITADOS QUE RESIDEN EN

EL CONDADO DE YOAKUM, TEXAS

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NOTIFIQUESE que se celebrará una elección en el Condado de Yoakum, Texas, el 1 de febrero de 2003, en cumplimiento de una orden que fue debidamente iniciada por la Corte de Comisionados del Condado el 23 de diciembre de 2002, y la orden lee substancialmente de este modo:

UNA ORDEN LLAMANDO UNA ELECCION SOBRE UN CERTIFICADO DE OBLIGACION QUE SE LLEVARA A CABO EN EL CONDADO DE YOAKUM, TEXAS; DISPONIENDO EL MANEJO DE LA ELECCION; RESOLVIENDO OTROS ASUNTOS QUE SEAN INCIDENTES Y PERTINENTES A DICHA ELECCION; Y DISPONIENDO UNA FECHA DE VALOR

VISTO QUE, la Corte de Comisionados (la "Corte") del Condado de Yoakum, Texas (el "Condado") anteriormente aprobó una resolución el 25 de noviembre de 2002 autorizando que se dé aviso del intento de emitir certificados de obligación en la cantidad máxima de \$2,950,000, con el propósito de suministrar fondos para el pago de obligaciones contractuales del Condado que se incurrirán para (1) construir, renovar, y equipar al hospital del Condado, (2) adquirir los materiales, útiles, equipo, maquinaria, terreno, y derechos de paso para las necesidades y propósitos autorizados que pertenezcan al hospital del Condado, (3) pagar los honorarios para servicios profesionales perteneciendo a la construcción y financiamiento del antemencionado proyecto; y

VISTO QUE, este aviso estuvo debidamente publicado en un periódico que por la presente se halla y determina ser de circulación general en el Condado, una vez por semana por dos (2) semanas consecutivas, y la fecha de la primera publicación de dicho aviso será a lo menos quince (15) días antes de la fecha tentativa mencionada allí dentro para la aprobación de la orden autorizando la emisión de tales certificados de obligación; y

VISTO QUE, una petición protestando la emisión de certificados de obligación descrita en el aviso y pidiendo que se lleve a cabo una elección sobre la propuesta emisión de los certificados de obligación, la cual fue firmada por a lo menos 5% de los votantes habilitados del Condado, se le presentó a o fue archivada con el Secretario del Condado antes de la fecha designada en tal aviso para la aprobación de la orden autorizando a los certificados de obligación según provisto por las disposiciones del Acto Sobre Certificados de Obligación de 1971, como enmendado, y la Sección 271.041 a 271.063 del Código de Gobiernos Locales de Texas (el "Acto"); y

VISTO QUE, por la presente la Corte halla y determina que se deberá celebrar una elección de bonos para determinar si la Corte estará autorizada para emitir certificados de obligación del Condado en la cantidad y con los propósitos identificados más abajo aquí dentro; y

VISTO QUE, por la presente la Corte halla y determina que será provechoso al público celebrar esta elección en la fecha designada más abajo, y esta fecha es fecha de elección uniforme; ahora, por lo tanto,

ORDENESE POR LA CORTE DE COMISIONADOS DEL CONDADO DE YOAKUM, TEXAS, QUE:

SECCION 1. Se celebre una elección el 1 de febrero de 2003, ésta siendo fecha de elección uniforme, en el CONDADO DE YOAKUM, TEXAS, y esta fecha cae entre quince (15) y noventa (90) días después de la fecha en que se adoptó esta orden (la "Orden") con el propósito de presentar la siguiente proposición a los votantes habilitados del Condado:

PROPOSICION

"¿Deberá de estar autorizada la Corte de Comisionados del Condado de Yoakum, Texas, para emitir y vender los certificados de obligación del Condado en la cantidad principal a no exceder \$2,950,000 con el propósito de suministrar fondos para el pago de las obligaciones contractuales del Condado que se incurrirán para (1) construir, renovar, y equipar al hospital del Condado, (2) adquirir los materiales, útiles, equipo, maquinaria, terreno, y derechos de paso para las necesidades y propósitos autorizados perteneciendo al hospital del Condado, (3) pagar los honorarios para servicios profesionales perteneciendo a la construcción y el financiamiento del antemencionado proyecto; tales certificados de obligación se vencerán en serie o de otro modo dentro de cuarenta (40) años después de su fecha; cualquier emisión o serie de dichos bonos llevará interés por año a tal tipo o tipos (sean fijos, flotantes, variables o de otro modo) según pueda determinarse dentro del miramiento de la Corte de Comisionados, con tal de que tal tipo o tipos de interés no excedan el tipo máximo por año que fue autorizado por ley durante el tiempo en que fue emitida cualquier emisión o serie de dichos certificados de obligación; y deberá de esta autorizada la Corte de Comisionados del Condado para imponer y empeñar, y hacer que se tasen y recauden cada año los impuestos ad valorem sobre todos los bienes imponibles en el Condado que sean suficientes para pagar el interés por año y para establecer un fondo de amortización para pagar los bonos cuando se venzan?"

SECCION 2. Por la presente los precintos escolares del Condado, los sitios de votación que están señalados para manejar la elección, y los Jueces Presidentes y los Jueces Presidentes Alternos que están nombrados para manejar la elección están identificados en el Documento de Prueba "A" que está adjunto a esta Orden, y este documento está incorporado por referencia en todos sentidos.

El Juez Presidente nombrará a lo menos dos (2) votantes habilitados que residen en dicho Condado para servir como escribanos para manejar la elección apropiadamente. Sin embargo, si el Juez Presidente que está nombrado sirve actualmente, el Juez Presidente Alterno servirá como uno de los escribanos. El nombramiento de tales escribanos deberá incluir una persona que sepa bien el español para servir como escribano para prestar ayuda oral en español a cualquier votante que desea tal ayuda en los sitios de votación el día de las elecciones. Si el arribanombado Juez Presidente está ausente, el Juez Presidente Alterno cumplirá con las obligaciones del Juez Presidente.

La elección se llevará a cabo en el Condado según prescriban cualesquier leyes, y, en el día de las elecciones, los sitios de votación estarán abiertos de las 7 de la mañana a las 7 de la noche.

La votación anticipada se manejará en la ubicación principal para la votación anticipada, la cual queda en las oficinas del Secretario del Condado de Yoakum, la cual se encuentra por la Avenida "G" y Cowboy Way, en Plains, Texas 79355, y en la ubicación auxiliar para la votación anticipada que queda en las Oficinas de Impuesto Auxiliares del Condado de Yoakum, las cuales quedan a 122 West 4th Street, Denver City, Texas 79323. Con la excepción de sábados, domingos, y días de fiesta oficiales del Estado, estas oficinas o lugares estarán abiertos de las 8 de la mañana a las 5 de la tarde para la votación anticipada. Por la presente Deborah Rushing, Secretaria del Condado (cuya dirección postal es Post Office Box 309, Plains, Texas 79355) esta nombrada Secretaria de la Votación Anticipada. Por la presente Donna Givens esta nombrada Subsecretaria de la Votación Anticipada. La Secretaria del Condado nombrará a cualesquier otros Subsecretarios para la Votación Anticipada. La votación anticipada empezará 17 días antes de la elección y continuará hasta el cuarto día antes de la fecha de la elección, todo como provisto por las disposiciones del Código de Elecciones de Texas.

Por la presente se establece la Junta Sobre la Votación Anticipada con el propósito de procesar los resultados para la votación anticipada. Por la presente Hazel Lowrey esta nombrada Jueza Presidente de la Junta Sobre la Votación Anticipada. La Jueza Presidente nombrará a lo menos dos (2) votantes habilitados que residen en el Condado para servir como miembros de la Junta Sobre la Votación Anticipada. Además, la Corte de Comisionados establece que el honorario para jueces y escribanos será \$6.00 por hora según establezca el Código de Elecciones de Texas. La jueza presidente o la jueza presidente alterna recibirán unos otros \$25.00.

SECCION 3. Se podrán usar máquinas de votar para celebrar y manejar la elección el día de las elecciones; con tal de que, sin embargo, si el uso de máquinas de votar no sea practicable, luego se podrán usar tarjetas electrónicas para manejar la elección el día de las elecciones; con tal de que, sin embargo, en caso de que el uso de dichas boletas electrónicas no sea practicable, la elección se podrá manejar por usar boletas de papel. Las boletas de papel podrán usarse para la votación anticipada en persona y por correo.

SECCION 4. Las boletas oficiales se prepararán de acuerdo con las disposiciones del Código de Elecciones de Texas, como enmendado, de manera que permitan que los votantes voten o "A FAVOR DE" o "EN CONTRA DE" la antemencionada proposición que aparecerá en la boleta substancialmente de este modo:

PROPOSICION

"LA EMISION DE A NO EXCEDER \$2,950,000 DE CERTIFICADOS DE OBLIGACION DE TEXAS PARA EL CONDADO DE YOAKUM, Y LA IMPOSICION DE UN IMPUESTO EN PAGO DE ESOS."

SECCION 5. Todos los votantes habilitados que residen en el Condado estarán permitidos votar en la elección, y, en el día de las elecciones, dichos votantes votarán en el designado sitio de votación. La elección se celebrará y se manejará de acuerdo con las disposiciones del Código de Elecciones de Texas, como enmendado, y las disposiciones del Capítulo 1251, como enmendado, el Código de Gobiernos de Texas y el Acto, según puedan requerir las leyes. Todos los materiales y procedimientos electorales estarán impresos en inglés tanto como en español.

SECCION 6. Una copia substancial de esta Orden servirá como aviso propio de la elección. Este aviso, incluyendo una traducción al español, se fijará en tres (3) lugares públicos dentro del Condado y en la Casa de Corte del Condado dentro de veintidós (22) días antes de la fecha en que se llevará a cabo la elección, y se publicará el mismo día de cada de dos (2) semanas sucesivas en un periódico de circulación general en el Condado, y la primera de estas publicaciones aparecerá en dicho periódico entre quince (15) y treinta (30) días completos antes del día de la elección.

SECCION 7. Las declaraciones que están contenidas en el preámbulo de esta por la presente se hallan ser verdaderas, y por la presente dichas declaraciones se hacen parte de esta Orden en todos sentidos y están adoptadas como parte de la decisión y las determinaciones de la Corte de Comisionados.

SECCION 8. Todas las ordenes y resoluciones, o partes de éstas, que están opuestas o contradictorias a cualquier disposición de esta Orden por la presente están revocadas hasta el punto de dicho conflicto, y las disposiciones de esta Orden predominarán y seguirán predominando en cuanto a los asuntos ordenados aquí dentro.

SECCION 9. Esta Orden se interpretará y tendrá vigor según las leyes del Estado de Texas y los Estados Unidos de América.

SECCION 10. Si alguna disposición de esta Orden o la aplicación de esta a alguna persona o circunstancia se declara inválida, el resto de esta Orden y la aplicación de dicha disposición a otras personas y circunstancias de todos modos se declarará válida, y por la presente esta corte de Comisionados declara que esta Orden se hubiera legislado sin dicha disposición inválida.

SECCION 11. Se halla, determina, y declara oficialmente que la junta en que se adoptó esta Orden estuvo abierta al público y que se dio aviso público de la hora, lugar, y tema del negocio público que se considerará durante dicha junta, incluyendo esta Orden, todo según requiere el Capítulo 551, como enmendado, del Código de Gobierno de Texas.

SECCION 12. Esta Orden tendrá vigor y estará vigente desde y después de su aprobación final, y así se ordena.

ACORDADA Y APROBADA este día 23 de diciembre de 2002.

CONDADO DE YOAKUM, TEXAS

Dallas Brown
Juez del Condado

CERTIFICO:

Deborah L. Rushing
Secretario del Condado y
Secretario Ex Officio de la
Corte de Comisionados del
Condado de Yoakum, Texas

Spanish Version Continued From Page 4

Documento de Prueba "A"

Pctos. del Elect. Condado	Pctos. del Condado	Jueces Presidentes	Jueces Alternos	Sitios de Votación
Núm. 1	Núm. 101	Dalphone Benson	Kathy Smiley	Edificio del Precinto #1 139 East Broadway Denver City, Texas 79323
Núm. 2	Núm. 202	Donna Givens	Earlene Freeman	Edificio Comunitario 311 West 15th Street Denver City, Texas 79323
Núm. 3	Núm. 303	Charlotte Palmer	Edith Tuggle	Biblioteca del Condado de Yoakum 901 Avenida "E" Plains, Texas 79355
Núm. 4	Núm. 404	Martha Palmer	Faye Nelms	Corral Youth Center 911 Avenida "G" Plains, Texas 79355
Núm. 5	Núm. 305	Flora Quintanillo	Angel Perez	Biblioteca del Condado de Yoakum 204 West 4th Street Denver City, Texas 79323
Núm. 6	Núm. 406	David Bruton	Bruce Greer	Oficina de Impuestos Auxiliar del Condado de Yoakum 122 West 4th Street Denver City, Texas 79323

USTED, POR LO TANTO, notará todos los asuntos y hechos manifestados en el precedente Aviso de Elección.

Deborah L. Rushing
Secretaria del Condado
Condado de Yoakum, Texas

NOTICE

EARLY VOTING BY PERSONAL APPEARANCE

FOR THE FEBRUARY 1ST, 2003 **CERTIFICATE OF OBLIGATION ELECTION** WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE, IN THE COURTHOUSE AT PLAINS AND

THE DENVER CITY BRANCH TAX OFFICE, AT 122 W. 4TH ST.

Beginning: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2003

Ending: TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2003

VOTING WILL BE CONDUCTED WEEKDAYS ONLY, 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Any qualified voter is eligible to vote early by personal appearance.

EARLY VOTING BY MAIL

Under certain conditions (see below) qualified voter is eligible to vote early by mail. Application forms for ballot by mail, may be picked up at the Denver City Branch Tax Office, or at the County Clerk's Office, Courthouse, Plains. An application for ballot by mail must be received in the County Clerk's Office on or before Monday, January 27, 2003 to be eligible to vote in the Certificate of Obligation Election/Saturday, February 1, 2003.

Conditions for voting by mail:

1. Voter is or expects to be ABSENT FROM THE COUNTY of the voter's residence on election day.
2. Voter has a SICKNESS OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY that prevents him/her from appearing at the polling place on election day.
3. Voter is 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER on election day.
4. Voter is *CONFINED IN JAIL.

* For more information on the above conditions for voting by mail, call the County Clerk's Office at 806/456-2721.

Filed: January 6, 2003 at 10:00 o'clock P.M.

Deborah L. Rushing
Deborah L. Rushing, Yoakum County Clerk

Yoakum County Plains Clinic
Amir Memon, MD

and

Jo Lena Wall, PA - C

Will take Medicaid, Medicare, Major Insurance and now CHIPS

Will see Minor Emergencies, Chronic Medical Problems, Immunizations

TEXAS HEALTH STEPS

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 8-5

Wednesday 8-12

Thursday & Friday 8-5

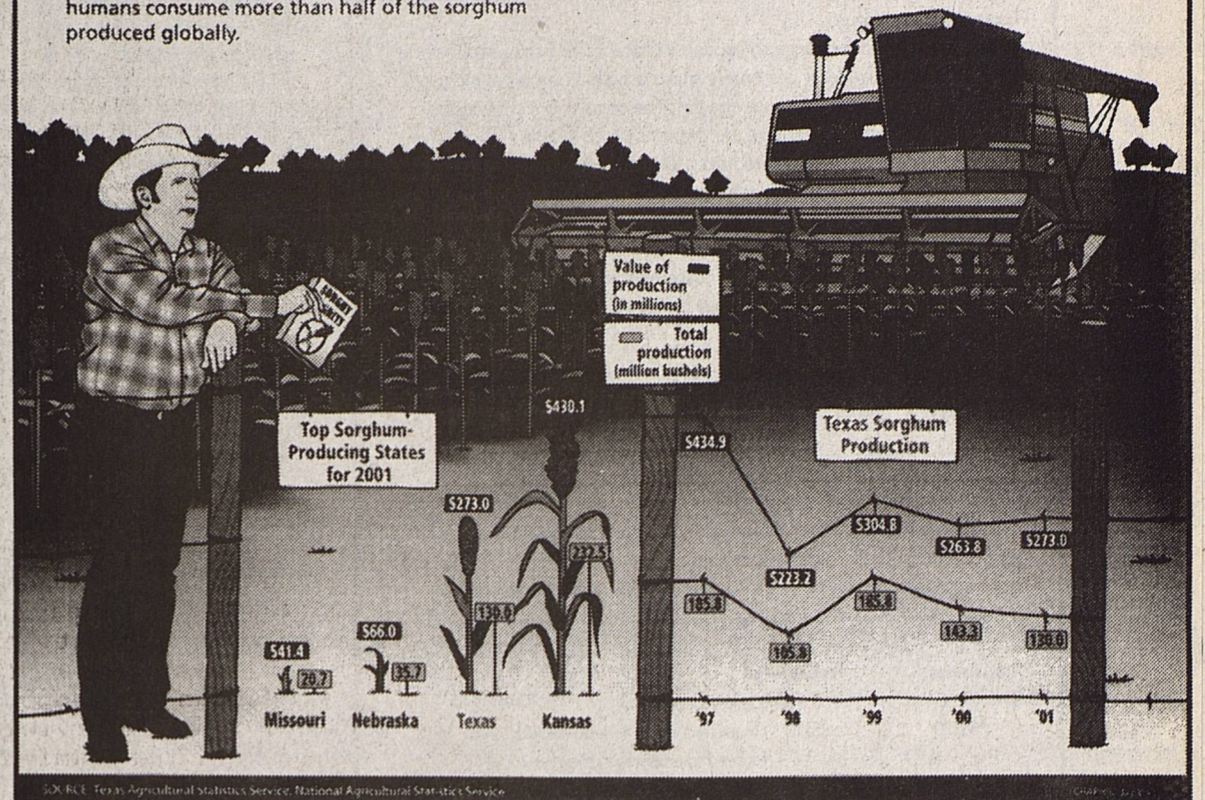
Flu shots available Monday through Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM

Please call 806-456-6365

Sweet Sorghum

Many people may not know exactly what sorghum is, yet the grain is grown on nearly 10,000 farms in Texas. Texas' 2001 crop was valued at more than \$270 million, about a quarter of the U.S. total. Grain sorghum is a major feed grain crop though humans consume more than half of the sorghum produced globally.

Texans can find sorghum in everything from tortilla chips to breakfast grits, and from cereal to beer. Sorghum is also used in livestock and fish feed, molasses and even sheetrock.



State employee turnover cost taxpayers \$227 million last year

Workers leaving for more lucrative pay

(Austin) December 20, 2002 - Employees continue to leave state employment at alarming rates, costing the state more than \$227 million dollars this past year, according to the 2002 Texas State Auditor's turnover report.

Employees under age 30 account for 15 percent of the State's workforce, but more than 30 percent of its turnover. At the same time, retirements are increasing as Baby Boomers reach retirement age.

"The state is unable to retain emerging leaders to replace retirees. This high turnover rate is driven by inadequate compensation," said Gary Anderson, executive director of Texas Public Employees Association, "and it threatens the state's ability to deliver vital public

EXIT SURVEY RESULTS

Top three reasons employees age 25-29 left state jobs:

- Better/pay benefits
- Enter/return to school
- Poor working conditions/environment

Source: State Auditor's Office
Report No. 03-704

services effectively."

Opportunity for better pay and benefits was the number one reason employees in 2002 cited for leaving state government, according to an on-line exit survey available to agencies for the first time in 2002.

"Even with the downturn in the economy, employees are leaving in droves for better opportunities. This exodus costs the taxpayers money and depletes a valuable state asset - our human capital," Anderson said. The state auditor's report noted

that even though the economy is uncertain, demographic trends are not. The report cites a Watson Wyatt study predicting a labor shortage continuing into the next decade.

According to the state auditor's report:

There are not enough GenXers and GenYers to replace the Baby Boomers who are retiring. Even in the economic slowdown, the competition for talent is not going away.

"In the past, the state was able to compensate for lower pay with very attractive health care benefits. That is no longer a reality for a variety of reasons. Namely, it is more expensive to buy health care insurance today and the state now insures more and more of its citizens," said Anderson.

State employee turnover for FY 2002 was 14.8 percent, almost 50 percent higher than the national rate for state governments.

Announcing A NEW Program !

Yoakum County Hospital
Home Health

It is our goal to help you return to your level of functioning before your illness or injury, provide you with the knowledge to care for yourself or loved one, and provide you these necessary resources;

- ⊕ **Services provided in the home**
- ⊕ **Skilled Nursing**
- ⊕ **Physical Therapy**
- ⊕ **Occupational Therapy**
- ⊕ **Speech Therapy**

For more information about this exciting and vital program, call 592-3676

Yoakum County Hospital

NOTICE OF PETITION

Texas ALLTEL, Inc. (Texas ALLTEL) has filed a petition with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to establish a surcharge to recover lost revenues and increased costs associated with Expanded Local Calling Service (ELCS) petitions for several Texas ALLTEL exchanges. The submission of this petition is based on the Commission's Substantive Rule 26.221, a measure established in Senate Bill 632 in the 73rd session of the Texas State Legislature.

ELCS permits an exchange to expand its local calling scope to include one or more exchanges if customers approve by ballot the payment of an ELCS fee in lieu of long distance charges. The costs and lost revenues recoverable through a surcharge are those not recoverable through the ELCS fee, and are to be recovered from all access lines within the company. Because the ELCS surcharge that Texas ALLTEL customers are currently paying on the ELCS routes implemented prior to September 1, 1996 and in the year 2000 was only approved by the Commission for two years, that portion of the surcharge customers are currently paying will expire in February 2003. The breakout of the surcharge customers are currently paying is:

Business	Residential
\$1.60	\$.80 (Expires October 2005)
\$1.22	\$.61 (Expires February 2003)
\$2.82	\$1.41 Total customers are currently paying

The costs and lost revenues for which recovery is sought in this petition are for ELCS routes implemented prior to September 1, 1996 and those implemented in the years 2000 and 2002. If the Texas ALLTEL petition is approved, the surcharge that customers will pay will be:

Business	Residential
\$1.60	\$.80 (Expires October 2005)
\$2.20	\$1.10 (Requested in this Petition--includes add'l routes implemented in the year 2002)
\$3.80	\$1.90 Total customers would pay, if petition is approved

Customers will see no change in their monthly bill until and unless the Commission approves a surcharge different from the surcharge currently being charged. When a final rate is approved by the Commission, customer bills will be changed to reflect the new approved monthly surcharge with an effective date of February 20, 2003, with appropriate retroactive adjustments made as needed.

The net annual effect on the revenues of Texas ALLTEL will be zero since the requested surcharge replaces lost revenues and reimburses Texas ALLTEL for the increased direct cost of service associated with all ELCS petitions placed in service prior to September 1, 1996 and after January 1, 2000. The estimated total lost revenues and increased costs Texas ALLTEL seeks to recover through this proceeding is \$41,250 monthly.

If you have questions about this charge or would like further information, please call Texas ALLTEL at 1-800-452-5354.

The Public Utility Commission has assigned Project No. 27033 to this proceeding. Persons who wish to intervene or comment in these proceedings should notify the Commission by February 10, 2003. All requests to intervene should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326. For information on intervening, please call the Commission at (512) 936-7120. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136.

AVISO DESOLICITUD

Texas ALLTEL, Inc. (Texas ALLTEL) ha presentado una solicitud ante la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas (Public Utility Commission of Texas) (Comisión) para establecer un recargo para recuperar ingresos perdidos y el aumento de los costos asociados con la solicitud del Servicio de Expansión de Llamadas Locales (Expanded Local Calling Service) (ELCS) para varias áreas de Texas ALLTEL. La presentación de esta solicitud se basa en la Regla Legislativa 26.221 de la Comisión, una medida establecida en el Proyecto de Ley 632 del Senado en la 73a sesión de la Legislatura del Estado de Texas.

El ELCS permite que un área amplíe los límites del área de llamadas locales para incluir a una o más áreas si los clientes dan su aprobación por medio de una votación para el pago de una tarifa por el ELCS en lugar de cargos por llamadas de larga distancia. Los costos e ingresos perdidos recuperables a través del recargo son aquellos que no son recuperables a través de la tarifa por el ELCS, y serán recuperados de todas las líneas de acceso dentro de la compañía. Debido a que el recargo por el ELCS que los clientes de Texas ALLTEL están pagando actualmente en las rutas del ELCS implementadas antes del 1 de septiembre de 1996 y en el año 2000 fue aprobado por la Comisión solamente por dos años, esa porción del recargo que los clientes están pagando en la actualidad caducará en febrero de 2003. El detalle del recargo que los clientes están pagando en la actualidad es:

Comercial	Residencial
\$1.60	\$.80 (Caduca en octubre de 2005)
\$1.22	\$.61 (Caduca en febrero de 2003)
\$2.82	\$1.41 Total que los clientes están pagando en la actualidad

Los costos e ingresos perdidos para los cuales se desea obtener la recuperación en esta solicitud son para las rutas del ELCS implementadas antes del 1 de septiembre de 1996 y aquellas implementadas en los años 2000 y 2002. Si se aprueba la solicitud de Texas ALLTEL, el recargo que los clientes pagarán será:

Comercial	Residencial
\$1.60	\$.80 (Caduca en octubre de 2005)
\$2.20	\$1.10 (Solicitado en esta petición--incluye rutas adicionales implementadas en el año 2002)
\$3.80	\$1.90 Total que los clientes pagarán, si se aprueba la solicitud

Los clientes no observarán ningún cambio en su factura mensual hasta que la Comisión apruebe un recargo distinto al recargo que se está cobrando en la actualidad. Cuando la Comisión apruebe una tarifa final, se cambiarán las facturas de los clientes para reflejar el nuevo recargo mensual aprobado con una fecha de entrada en vigor del 20 de febrero de 2003, con ajustes retroactivos aproximados según sea necesario.

El efecto anual neto sobre los ingresos de Texas ALLTEL será "cero" ya que el recargo solicitado reemplaza ingresos perdidos y reembolsa a Texas ALLTEL por el costo directo creciente del servicio asociado con todas las solicitudes del ELCS puestas en servicio antes del 1 de septiembre de 1996 y después del 1 de enero de 2000. El total calculado de los ingresos perdidos y el aumento de los costos que Texas ALLTEL desea recuperar a través de este proceso es de \$41,250 mensuales.

Si tiene preguntas acerca de este cargo o desea más información, por favor llame a Texas ALLTEL al 1-800-452-5354.

La Public Utility Commission ha asignado el número de proyecto 27033 a este proceso. Las personas que deseen intervenir o hacer comentarios sobre este proceso deben avisar a la Comisión antes del 10 de febrero de 2003. Todas las solicitudes para intervenir deben ser enviadas por correo a la Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326. Para obtener información para intervenir, llamen a la Comisión al (512) 936-7120. Las personas con problemas auditivos o del habla que tengan un teléfono de texto (TTY) pueden llamar a la Comisión al (512) 936-7136.



Lengthy agenda for Commissioners Court

In the January 6 session of Commissioners Court, the court approved a motion to re-advertise for Hot & Cold Mix for all four precincts during calendar year 2003. No bids were received in a recent bid notice.

The promotion and salary for Lola Elam from second deputy to first deputy in the County Clerk office was approved. She replaces Gerald Baker, recently appointed County Veterans Service Officer. Approval was also granted promoting Judi from third deputy to second deputy in the Clerk's office.

Approval was granted to move Rodolfo Holguin from part time to full time employee at the County Golf Course.

The employment and salary for Hershel Smith as a road hand for Precinct 2 was approved, effective January 1, 2003.

The court examined Tax Assessor/Collector Betty Rivas monthly report indicating collection of \$1,275,298 in taxes during the month of December, 2002. The court also approved repayment of \$3,844 over paid taxes to loan companies.

County Auditor Hazel Lowrey explained the requirement of reporting of all county roads constructed or significantly improved since December 31, 1980, including years of the improvements or construction.

Troy Scott, recently elected Judge in Precinct 2 Justice of Peace Court, requested approval to purchase bookshelves for his Denver City Office. He was granted up to \$600 for the purchase.

The Court also approved repairs to hail damaged roofs at the Plains Youth Center and Plains Clinic.

Interactive TV classes set for area

Interactive TV television college classes being offered for the Spring by South Plains College in Brownfield, Seagraves and Morton could easily take to the airwaves in other cities on the South Plains.

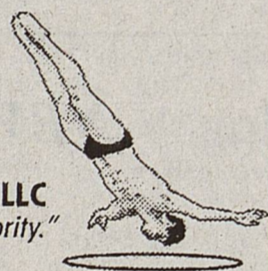
That's the belief of Jim Walker, Dean of continuing and distance education at SPC, who would like to expand SPC's distance learning initiatives to other South Plains cities. We have more than 60 classrooms in the area we could deliver an interactive television course through ongoing partnerships with high schools. Many potential students can't drive where classes are offered to help them work on a possible degree. The classes could also help teachers aides achieve their now required associate degrees." SPC offers ITV classes in history, college algebra, government and introduction to sociology. For more information, contact SPC continuing education, 806/894-9611, ext. 2341.

DIABETICS

Tired of jumping through hoops to get your diabetic supplies?

Have your diabetic supplies delivered to your door for little or no cost! Medicare and private insurance welcome (sorry, HMO's not accepted).

Call Priority Medical Supply, LLC "Your complete satisfaction is our Priority." Toll Free: 1-866-660-1718



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456-2788

Jim Brown, Agent
Mobile 806-891-0449
or 891-0450
Home 592-3490

Jeff Lowery, Sales Assoc.
Mobile 806-592-1319
Home 456-3195

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS!

Lea County Electric Education Foundation is currently accepting applications for scholarships to be awarded for the Fall 2003 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 14, 2003.

For more information contact Allan Brown or Annette Neyman 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.

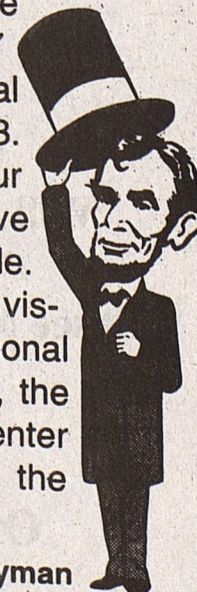
Hey High School Students!

Where will you be this summer? You could be in Washington, D.C.,

Courtesy of Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc.!



LCEC will be sending two local high school students on an all-expense-paid trip to join more than 1,400 high school students from 37 states in Washington, D.C. for the National Rural Electric Youth Tour, June 12-24, 2003. This is the chance of a lifetime to tour our nation's capitol, 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 Minting & Engraving, the Kennedy Center of Performing Arts, Mount Vernon, and all the National Monuments.



For more information contact Allan Brown or Annette Neyman 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 14, 2003.

Connection Annual Meeting

Yoakum County Connection will have its annual meeting on Thursday, January 9 at 6:30 PM at the Connection Building on North Main in Denver City. Directors will be elected, door prizes will be awarded by local merchants and refreshments will be served. Entertainment will be by the Denver City Methodist Youth Praise Band. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Jeannette Head is in charge of door prizes. Debbie Rushing will take care of refreshments while Sue Holder will handle registration. L.J. Sanders sent the membership letter out in November requesting dues be sent to Box 117 in Plains, Texas 79355. Dues range from \$25.00 for individuals to \$100.00 for corporate sponsorship and help pay for the county summer youth art programs, county school art programs and the Watermelon Round-Up. More information may be obtained by calling Sanders at 456-7458. Retiring directors include Bill Helwig, Carolyn Culwell and Jeannette Head.

by Linda Powell

SPC Spring Registration Scheduled

South Plains College's spring 2003 registration kicks off January 15 at the SPC Levelland campus.

Sign up at SPC Levelland will be 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 - 6:00 p.m. in the Administration Building.

Registration permits are required.

Classes at all campuses begin January 21. Late registration is January 21-24 and January 27.

A select number of Internet classes as well as on site classes will be offered.

SPC's application for admission, spring class schedule, 2002-2003 catalog and other information for prospective students can be found on-line at www.southplainscollege.edu.

To obtain a registration permit, contact the SPC Admissions Office beginning January 2, at 806-894-9611, ext. 2750 or 2375 or the Reese Center at 806-885-3048, ext. 4660 or 2902.

Catching Cancer Early

A new test under development at the University of Texas could one day replace the Pap test for cervical cancer that millions of women take each year.

Dr. Rebecca Richards-Kortum, a biomedical engineering professor, has developed an optical test that shows precancerous cells on the surface of the cervix.

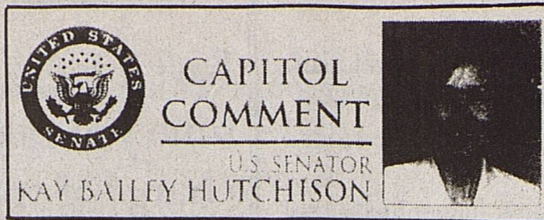
The device measures tissue's fluorescence, or the extent to which it emits light, by shining a small amount of light onto the cervix, Richards-Kortum says. The cervical tissue absorbs this light and produces some fluorescent light in response. The amount and color of the fluorescence indicates how rapidly the cells are proliferating and if they are beginning to invade the supporting tissue beneath.

"It could eventually be used to replace the Pap smear, but we are first carrying out clinical trials to explore whether it could replace colposcopy, the test which is performed following an abnormal Pap," Richards-Kortum says.

Some of the technology has been licensed to LifeSpex, a medical device company based in Bothell, Wash., that uses technology to detect early stage cancers. Richards-Kortum says newer technology is available for licensing and that she and other researchers are working with the University of Texas Office of Technology Licensing to license the technology.

A number of companies are developing similar tests and carrying out clinical trials to obtain FDA approval, Richards-Kortum says. The test could be applied to other types of cancer, including lung, bladder and ovary.

Advice is what we ask for when we already know the answer and wish we didn't.... Erica Jong



The Department of Homeland Security, On November 25, 2002, President Bush signed legislation to launch the largest government reorganization in five decades, creating the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Not since President Truman penned the Department of Defense into existence in 1947 has the federal government encountered such dramatic change. The new department will combine 22 government agencies and nearly 170,000 federal employees into a single Department. Agencies with diverse missions and roles, from the Coast Guard to the Secret Service, have been charged with the task of working together to achieve three critical objectives: 1. Prevent terrorist attacks within the United States; 2. Reduce Americans vulnerability to terrorism; and 3. Minimize the damage from potential attacks and natural disasters.

The goal is to better secure our nations transportation infrastructure and borders; more adequately assess terrorist threats; focus more research into nuclear, chemical and biological threats; and streamline communication between federal, state and local authorities.

Texan Opinions: In my annual survey I asked Texans their opinions on the most crucial elements of a Homeland Security Agency. More than one third of you placed uniting all agencies which are present at our nations border, including the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Customs, and Border Patrol, as a top priority. Forty percent of respondents approved of the idea of developing a central intelligence database to help the U.S. track and monitor suspected and known terrorists.

The reorganization will also elevate Governor Tom Ridge from his current role as the Presidents Homeland Security Advisor to Secretary of the

Navy, Gordon England, from Ft. Worth, Texas, who President Bush nominated to become the new agencies Deputy Secretary.

I have long advocated the need for increased security along our borders. It has been one of my top priorities, and I'm pleased that the Administration and my colleagues in Congress recognized the need to bring border security into the fold. Texas shares 1,200 miles of the total 2,000 mile border our country shares with Mexico, and while we should promote commerce, free trade and travel along the border, our primary goal must be to keep our country safe.

The new Department will have an Under Secretary dedicated to both border and transportation security two vital concerns for Texas. Drug Enforcement Agency chief, Asa Hutchinson, has been nominated to oversee the Customs Service, INS, Coast Guard, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and Animal and Plant Inspection. The DHS will also take charge of issuing visas, while the State Department maintains the authority to deny visas. Border Patrol, which has previously been housed as part of INS at the Department of Justice, will now be separate from immigration services.

The overriding goal of the DHS is to protect American citizens, and the decision to create this Department was not made lightly. It was thoroughly debated in Congress and passed overwhelmingly in a bipartisan vote.

The single most important role of the United States government is the protection of its citizens. This Department will better enable the government to fulfill that duty and ensure the preservation of the liberties and freedoms we enjoy as Americans.

Obituary

Rosary Held For Baldemar "Chubby" Juarez

Baldemar "Chubby" Juarez, 69, of Plains died January 1, 2003 at Lubbock.

A Rosary for Mr. Juarez was held at 7:00 PM., Friday, January 3rd at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Plains. Funeral Mass was held at 2:00 PM. in the Church, and burial followed at Plains Cemetery under the direction of Ratliff Funeral Home.

Mr. Juarez was born on March 17, 1933 in Nixon, Texas. He

was a farm laborer and a member of the Catholic Church. He was preceded in death by his wife Edith on January 22, 1999, and by his parents.

Survivors include 7 sisters: Josie Toscano of Muleshoe, Jovita Sandoval of Plains, Maria Ortiz of Plains, Lucia Gonzales of Hobbs, Carolina Rivas of Plains, Gloria Reyes of Denver City & Eva Mendez of Amarillo; numerous nieces & nephews.

Senior Citizens Corner

With everyone still catching their breath from all of the year end activities, and with the Center being closed part of the week, the news is scarce, but it is probably safe to say that everyone has been busy entertaining or being entertained and enjoying family.

That is the story at our house. Each child and grandchild came at different times, as their schedules allowed, so it has been an on going time of pleasure. And so it is with a bit of nostalgia we watched all of the holiday decorations being removed from the dining room this week after nearly two months of festive items reminding us of the three recent holidays. Thanks to Pat Altman and the Site Council for all of the planning and work in this area.

John Groves, from Big Spring, was a luncheon guest this week when he accompanied his grandparents, Bill and Eunice Groves, to the Center. These young people are always a welcome site among our group of seniors.

The monthly Board Meeting was held on Thursday this

week after two postponements because of the holiday.

Lacking news items from the Center, I would like to share with you a real educational article provided by some family member regarding the human anatomy. I quote: "Your head is kind of round and hard and your brains are in it and your hair is on it. Your face is the front of your head where you eat and make faces. Your neck is what keeps your head out of your collar. It's hard to keep clean. Your stomach is something that if you do not eat often it hurts, and spinach don't help none. Your spine is a long bone in your back that keeps you from folding up. Your back is always behind you no matter how fast you turn around. Your arms you got to have to pitch with and so you can reach the butter. Your fingers stick out of your hand so you can throw a curve and add arithmetic. Your legs are what if you have not two of, you cannot get to first base. Your feet are what you run on. Your toes are what always get stubbed. That's all there is of you except what's inside and I ain't never seen that!"

Donations continue to be accepted at City Hall for the purchase of new radios for Plains EMS ambulances. A number of generous contributions have been received, for which EMS is very grateful, but additional funds are needed. Please remember, these volunteers are always ready to come to our aid when we need them.... Now we can assist THEM!!

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Morning Worship
10:45 am.
Evening Program
6:00 pm.

First United Methodist Church
1202 Avenue G - Plains, Tx.
456-3727

Sunday Schedule
Sunday School - 9:45 am
Morning Worship - 10:45 am
Wednesday Connections
Food, Fellowship & Study
5:30 - 7:30 pm

Experiencing God's Love
Transforming Lives

From The Hack

The following has been on the bulletin board in the courthouse for some time, and deserves greater reader attention:

Everything I Know About Life I Learned From Noah's Ark.

1. Don't miss the boat
2. Remember, we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics; Just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float awhile.
10. Always remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
11. No matter the storm, when you're with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

When New Year's Eve and New Year's Day rolled by, and after viewing several TV news specials about 2002 happenings and possible happenings in 2003, one would have to be an eternal, dedicated optimist to feel cheerful about either past or present. A possible war with Iraq to remove that country's tyrannical, madman ruler, continued suicide bombings in Israel, radi-

cal Islamic attacks around the globe, the continuing war on terrorism here, threats from North Korea to go nuclear, a shaky national economy, rising unemployment and shrinking unemployment benefits are not exactly comforting scenarios to ponder, but they don't necessarily spell doom and gloom for our nation.

In January of 1942, the United States and its military was reeling from Japan's attacks on Pearl Harbor and other US Pacific Ocean military assets, Adolf Hitler's armies were devastating the bulk of Europe and much of North Africa, German U-Boats were terrorizing our maritime forces in the Atlantic, and their Luftwaffe threatened to bomb London into rubble. Yet we and our Allies rallied, and in less than four years the Nazi forces were destroyed or in prison camps, and the Japanese signed unconditional surrender documents on August 14, 1945.

These are scary times, but so was January 1, 1942. We can and will prevail, this I am certain of, and a word or two with God from all of us just might make the task a bit easier.

Things I would love to see in 2003, but probably won't:

Al Sharpton switching parties to the Whigs or Tory's in his announced presidential race.

The Lubbock AJ announce all prairie dogs are an endangered specie, and will be shipped to Alaska, where the rodents will survive the first shipment, then arrange their own transport to Argentina.

The Supreme Court pronounces the recent cloned baby girl is a naturally born baby girl, and is fully qualified for welfare funds, since she has no natural father.

Ted Kennedy is convicted of voting NAY on a Republican sponsored bill supporting

motherhood. The permanent cancellation of the movie, SOUND OF MUSIC during any scheduled football game. Rucker Mick Jaeger having to instruct local FBC youth in preparing a presentation under Patrick's and the Grizzly's scrutiny.

NOTICE FOR BIDS

The State of Texas County of Yoakum The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 10 AM Friday, January 24, 2003, for the purchase of Hot and Cold Mix for all four (4) precincts and Yoakum County Parks for calendar year 2003. Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, January 27, 2003. Bid price will be paid from 2003 budgeted funds. For bid forms and specifications please contact the Yoakum County Auditor, 806/456-2422, PO Box 516 Plains, Texas 79355.

Sealed bids should be marked "BID- HOT & COLD MIX" on the envelope and mailed or delivered to County Judge, Dallas Brewer, PO Box 456/Cowboy Way and Avenue G, Plains Texas 79355. NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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Notice is hereby given that Plains Independent School District intends to destroy records of students who have received special education services. **Records to be destroyed are for persons who received Special Education, including speech therapy services, prior to 1994 - 1995 school year.** These records are located at Plains ISD, (806) 456-7498, Box 479, Plains, Texas 79355. Legal parent / guardian or adult student with disabilities may request copies of these records at the school.

AVISO

Aviso esta dado que La Escuela de Plains tiene intencion de destruir documentos de estudiantes que recibieron servicio de Educacion Especial. **Documentos que deben ser destruidos son para personas que recibieron educacion especial, incluyendo servicios de terapia de lenguaje hasta el ano escolar 1994 - 1995.** Los unicos documentos que van estar destruidos son los que estan localizados en Plains ISD, (806) 456-7498, Box 479, Plains, Texas 79355.

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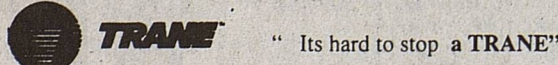
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