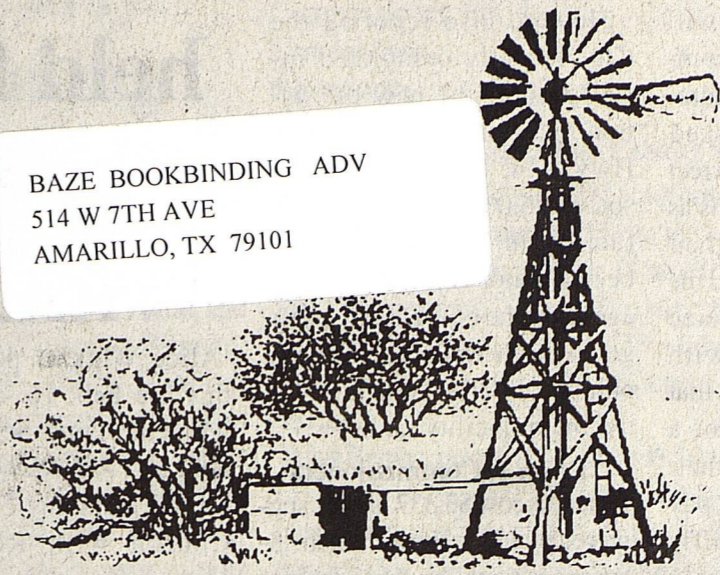


Cowboy Country News

Published each Wednesday in the county seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas Volume XII, Issue 24, February 22, 2006

BAZE BOOKBINDING ADV
514 W 7TH AVE
AMARILLO, TX 79101



It's now official - 2005 cotton crop sets county record

The highly touted 2005 South Plains cotton crop, earlier labeled a new production record by most experts, is earning new kudos from county gins and producers. Three county gins, Tokio CoOp, Yoakum County CoOp and New Tex have finished the long ginning run, and two of those plants have announced new ginning records.

Tokio CoOp reported last week they had a few remnant bales to process, but the official count at that time was 37,618 bales. They produced 36,643 last year.

Yoakum County CoOp established a new production record, turning out 51,598 bales, compared to the 2004 run of 37,618 bales of cotton.

New Tex Gin also set a new record, 66,768 bales, easily besting their 8 year average of 35,078 bales.

These numbers do not reflect ginned cotton produced at Sun Cot gin because so many of their customers grow cotton in neighboring Gaines County.

Criminal cases held in County Court

Five criminal cases were heard in the February 15 session of County Court. Judge Dallas Brewer was presiding officer, and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state.

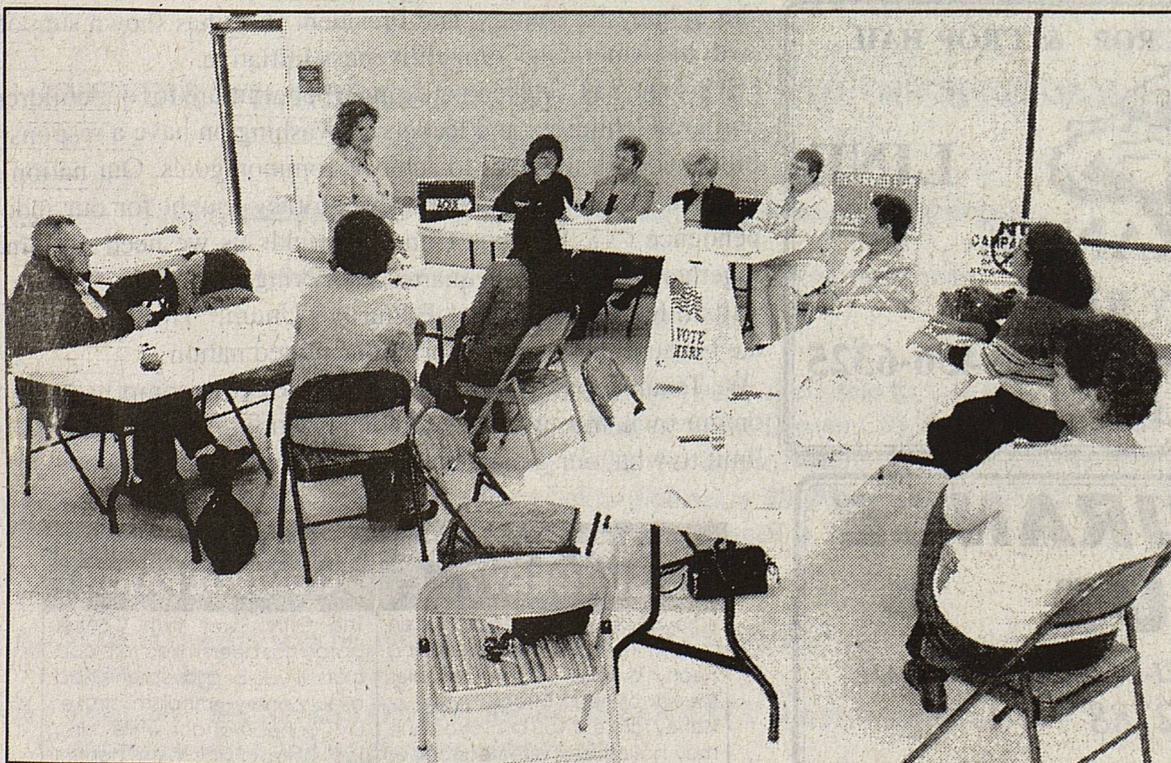
Abigail Manzano pled true to a motion to revoke community supervision from a prior cause of DWI. The defendant's community supervision was not revoked but modified and extended six months, and defendant must serve an additional 25 hours community service. The defendant pled guilty to the charge of driving while license was invalid, and was fined \$100, and must pay \$250 court costs on plea day.

Nancy Ann Whitzel pled guilty to deadly conduct, class A misdemeanor. A 120 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 24 months. She was fined \$500, must pay \$256 court costs and \$25 time payment fee. A charge of assault causes bodily injury/family violence was dismissed. She must complete the batterers treatment program, and serve 80 hours community service. Her attorney was Richard Wardroup, and Sheriff Deputy Curtis Coffman was investigating officer.

Keith Gene Whitzel pled guilty to first DWI, breath test refusal. A 120 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 24 months. He

Turn To Page Three, County Court Cases

Primary early voting underway



County Clerk Debbie Rushing, standing, briefed Primary Election officials who will be manning the polls for the upcoming Democrat and Republican contests. The group shown here

will carry out the March Plains vote in the Community Building, while Denver City Precinct voters will cast ballots at the branch County Tax Office there.

Plains Lions get City Hall update Multi-projects on weekly agendas

City Administrator Terry Howard was guest speaker at the February 16 meeting of the Lions Club, and he made an upbeat report on a number of ongoing projects.

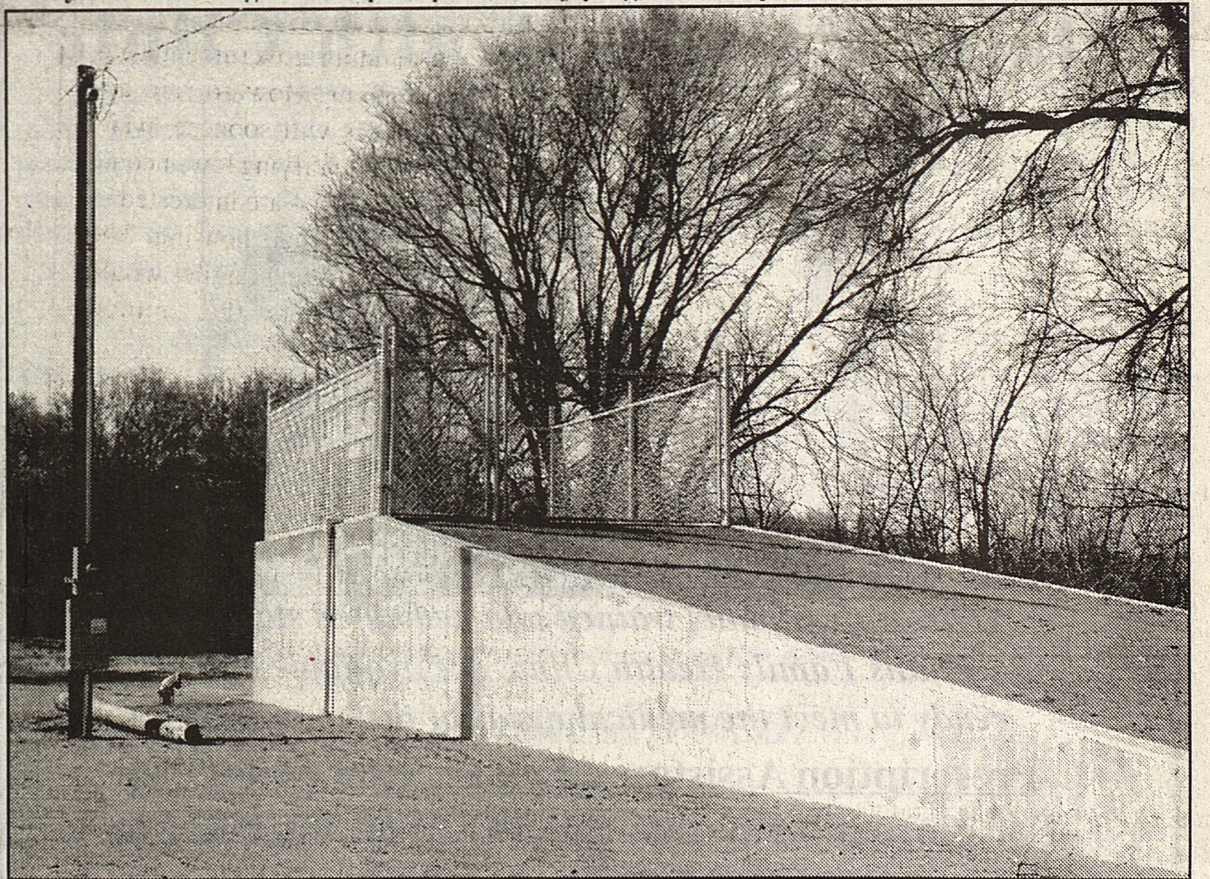
Howard reported the City has advanced another step toward economic development progress with a new housing grant. Applications will soon be accepted from interested residents who wish to improve their existing housing on owned property in the city limits. The grant would allow three new 1,300 square foot houses to be constructed on applicant owned sites. The old, sub-standard houses would be destroyed and removed before construction would begin. The new homes would be valued at \$55,000 each, and would meet all standing governmental requirements. Howard said applications will soon be available for qualifying low-income residents who are interested in improving their housing. The three qualifying families would be selected by the Council members.

Howard told Lions and guests a serious effort is being made to bring a new business firm to Plains. The Dollar General Corporation has for some time now been trying to select suitable highway frontage property for construction of a new store here. They are in the process of building a new Dollar General store in Denver City. The City Administrator said a property owning citizen is in

Turn To Page Two, City Hall



Terry Howard brings Lions up to speed on city programs and plans



Flood water forced major changes to the city's vital lift station

Brief agenda in court session

A special Commissioners Court session was called Friday, February 17 because of Monday's Presidents Day holiday.

Sheriff Don Corzine reported a mandated inspection of the county jail elevator was recently held. The inspection resulted in identifying a number of routine needs to keep the jail in compliance, including proper lighting certain areas, and a speaker system for emergency use. The compliance project was esti-

Turn To 2, Commissioners

McWhirter to step down as coach, A.D.

Blake McWhirter, a Plains ISD alumnus, will be leaving the school system when the current semester ends. In a conversation with the CCN editor shortly after he contracted with the district, he mentioned how pleased he was to be able to return to his hometown of Plains and the school's athletic programs. "I have always had good feelings about Plains and the people here, and I'm looking forward to working here," he said at the time.

His first assignment here in 1999 was to serve as head track coach, power lifting coach and assistant football coach.

In the 2000-01 school year he was named Athletic Director, football Defensive Coordinator and retained the power lifting and track assignments.

In the 2003-04 school year McWhirter replaced retiring Coach Larry McMinn as Head Football Coach, and retained that positions along with track and power lifting assignments until his decision to step down.

Superintendent Jim Haynes told CCN, "He has been an asset to our program. He loves every student and student athlete. His goal has been to get as many students possible involved in athletics. He treats students with dignity and fairness, and I will miss what he brings to our program."

From One, City Hall negotiations with Dollar General on the price of the property, which, hopefully, will lead to the new business coming to town in the near future.

A Lions Club member asked Howard if rumors were correct about Sonic studying Plains as a possible site for one of their drive-in operations. He said the rumor had been going for some time, but discussions with Sonic executives indicated that probably won't happen for a long time, if ever. "In their site-selection process they pay no attention to daily traffic number surveys, they rely strictly on population figures of a town, then the particular groundsite. We just don't have enough people to interest them."

Howard reported work should start sometime this Spring on the new City watertower. Final approval of the \$250,000 grant for the project has cleared, with the city expected to fund some \$150 to \$200 thousand of the total cost. The new tower will

replace the old, condemned tower because of interior coating with lead-based paint.

Howard also reported the City recently completed installation of the new lift station in Sulphur Draw just off Hwy. 214, a project costing some \$96,000. Flooding of the facility in recent years has been a major concern, as sewage from the entire town must go through the station to be pumped uphill several miles to treatment facility tanks.



From 1, Commissioners mated to cost \$3,337. It was suggested by Judge Brewer future inspections could be scheduled for the jail and courthouse elevator during one trip.

Judge Brewer read a letter to the court from Teresa Howard, the County Human Resource Director. Howard announced her resignation from the position, allowing her to accept the same position with Yoakum County Hospital. She expressed her appreciation for the cooperation shown by the court and all department members. She has been employed by the county 15 years.

Services held for Alice Winkles

Alice Winkles passed from this life Feb. 16, 2006 at her home in Plains. Services were held at 2 PM Monday, February 20 at Plains First Baptist Church with Rev. Glenn Harlan officiating and Rev. Bill Wright assisting. Interment followed at Plains Cemetery under direction of Mark A. Jones Funeral Directors.

She was born in Clarke County Mississippi in 1912 to Charley and Tressie Tucker. She married Edgar (E.O.) Winkles in Terry County in 1941. They moved from Brownfield to Plains in 1957. They farmed and operated Winkles Grain and Fertilizer a

ELECT

Kreg Keesee

Candidate for County Commissioner, Precinct Four

I would appreciate your vote and support in the Republican Primary,

March 7, 2006

Early voting February 21-March 3, 2006

Political Advertisement Paid For By Kreg Keesee



Capitol Comments
by U.S. Senator
Kay Bailey Hutchison

Sometimes people who hold different opinions claim a problem cannot be solved when really, they simply disagree on the best way to solve it. A free exchange of ideas and beliefs help keep our country strong, but many people have forgotten the spirit of unity that is also a part of our country's identity. There are times when I am handed a quarter and it reminds me of our need to work together to solve problems.

Most people know George Washington is depicted on the front of the quarter, but you may not have noticed the motto on the back; "E Pluribus Unum." This official motto of the United States is on all of our coins. The motto is Latin for "out of many, one," and was adopted as our country's official motto in 1776. It refers to the formation of one nation from 13 colonies.

The phrase was made popular by Roman poet Virgil, author of the epic poem, *The Aeneid*. He used E Pluribus Unum in the poem *Moretum* when describing the blending of many colors into one. E Pluribus Unum has taken on additional meaning over the years as America has welcomed people from all over the world and added states to our union. In many other countries, national identity has everything to do with who your parents are or the particular piece of land on which you grew up. Being a true American has more to do with what you believe than where you are from.

When immigrants earn citizenship, they are given the same rights and freedoms as every other American. It does not matter their parents were not Americans. It does not matter they cannot trace their family's lineage back in time to find an ancestor who shed blood in the Revolutionary War. The key to being American is sharing certain fundamental beliefs, such as the value of self-governance and the right to free speech and to worship as you choose.


We are a nation rich in diversity. We have people from disparate backgrounds, who practice different religions and who have a variety of native tongues. To preserve the unity of our nation, those who are seeking citizenship must be willing to put the interests of America ahead of the loyalty they have for their former countries.

Unfortunately, today the climate in Washington DC is frequently one of division. Too often people vote or make decisions based on politics or party affiliation instead of first carefully examining the issues and then backing solutions in the best interests of the country. Political partnership often divides our country, but we are strongest when we move past it and work together across party lines.

One area where the nation needs its legislators to unite is in strengthening America's competitive edge in science and technology. For years I have worked with educators to strengthen science and technology programs at the state level. Recently I introduced legislation to strengthen math and science education throughout the country, and President Bush has shown support with his American Competitiveness Initiative.

Everyone has a stake in creating a better future for our children and grandchildren, and leaders in Washington have a responsibility to work together to achieve common goals. Our nation's framers supported this notion when they fought for our independence. "E Pluribus Unum" reminds us we need to come together now. The new quarters, honoring each of the 50 states, will all feature the motto "E Pluribus Unum." This is appropriate because all states comprise one united nation.

We Texans know better than anyone we can accomplish much on our own. Yet, when all Americans work together, there is no limit to what our great country can achieve.



Tim Addison

Candidate for County Commissioner
of Precinct Four

.....

Your vote and support is appreciated !!

Republican Primary

March 7, 2006

Early Voting Feb. 21 thru March 3, 2006

Political advertisement paid for by Tim Addison

Plains Family Health Clinic



The professionally trained and dedicated staff of Plains Family Health Clinic are available and ready to meet the medical needs of the community

Prescription Assistance Friday, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

For more information call 592-2121, EXT 521 or 592-2121, EXT 506, or the Plains Clinic

Please call 806-456-6365



MEMBER 2006

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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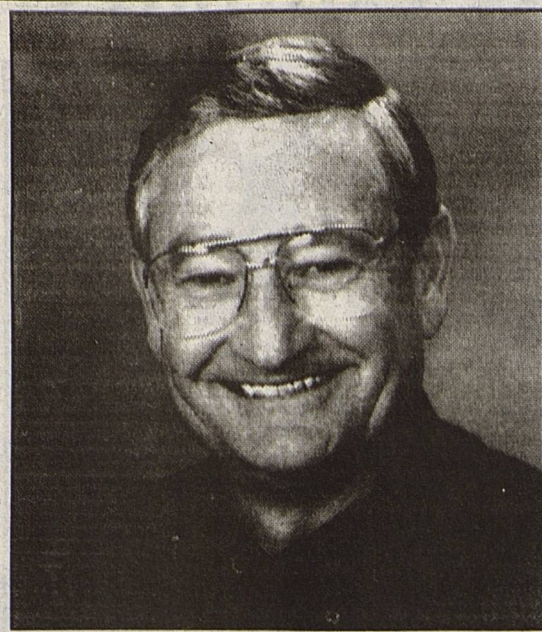
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456-2788

Jim Brown, Agent
CELL - 896-215-1054
Home - 806-592-3490

Jeff Lowrey Assoc.
CELL 806-592-1319
Home 806-456-3195

<p style="margin: 0;">HEART BYPASS SURGERY?</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">A new study shows that a drug often used in the operating room during heart bypass surgery doubles the risk of heart attack, stroke, or kidney failure. If you or a loved one may have been affected, call us now for more information.</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">ORTHO-EVRA® BIRTH CONTROL PATCH</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">The Ortho-Evra® Birth Control patch has been linked to blood clots. If you or a loved one had a pulmonary embolism, stroke, DVT or heart-attack while using the Ortho Evra® birth control patch, call us now.</p>
<p style="margin: 0;">Hollis Law Firm, P.A.</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">Attorney Lee Hollis is licensed in KS, but associates with experienced attorneys throughout the United States.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">800-701-3672</p>	



Your support in returning me to office will be sincerely appreciated

Jack Cobb

Pct. 4 Commissioner
Subject to the Democratic
Primary March 7, 2006

Political advertisement paid by Jack Cobb



Gregory S. Reinhart

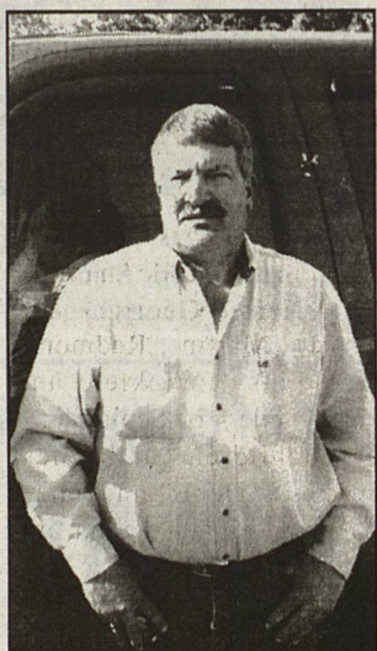
Your Candidate for
Mayor of Plains
May 13th
Your Vote and Support
are Greatly Appreciated!
Early Voting March 14
thru May 9

Political advertisement Paid For By Gregory S. Reinhart

Elect Steve Jones, candidate for a
Full Time
Commissioner in Precinct Four

I will make every effort to be unselfish in dedicated service to the needs of this county in coming years. Your vote and support will be greatly appreciated. Early voting February 21 thru March 3, 2006

Subject To The Republican Primary
Polticaql ad paid for by Steve Jones



NOTICE

EARLY VOTING BY PERSONAL APPEARANCE

FOR THE MARCH 7, 2006
DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PRIMARY ELECTION
WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE

La votacion adelantada en persona se llevara a cabo de lunes aviernes en:

**COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE, IN THE COURTHOUSE AT PLAINS
AND
THE DENVER CITY BRANCH TAX OFFICE, AT 122 W. 4TH ST.**

Beginning: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2006
Martes, Febrero 21, 2006
Ending: FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2006
Viernes, Marcha 3, 2006

**VOTING WILL BE CONDUCTED MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY,
8:00 A.M. TILL 5:00 P.M.**

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

EARLY VOTING BY MAIL

Under certain conditions (see below) a 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 February 28, 2006 to be eligible to vote in the Democratic and Republican Primary Election on March 7, 2006.

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 806/456-7491 Ext. 294.

Early Voting Underway

Early voting in the Democrat and Republican Primary election got underway in Plains and Denver City Tuesday, February 21. County Clerk Deborah Rushing expects a decent turnout of voters because of interest in the hotly contested race for District 83 State Representative between incumbent Delwin Jones and a host of challengers, and contested races for County Commissioners in both Precinct 2 and 4. All other county offices are uncontested.

The following is a list of county candidates for these offices;

Democrat Ballots:

Pct. 2 Justice of Peace - Troy Scott
Commissioner, Pct 2 - Ben Coston
Commissioner, Pct. 4 - Jack Cobb

Republican Ballots:

Criminal District Attorney - Richard Clark
County Judge - Jim Barron
District Clerk - Vicki Blundell
County Clerk - Deborah Rushing
County Treasurer - Barbara Wright
Commissioner Pct. 2 - Greg Droogsma and Jim Brown

Justice of Peace, Pct. 1- Melba Shane McKinzie
Crutcher Kreg Keese
Commissioner, Pct. 4 - Early voting will end March 3, and the Primary Election is scheduled March 7, 2006.
Tim Addison
Steve Jones

From Page One, County Court Cases

was fined \$600, must pay \$331 court costs and \$25 time payment fee. A charge of assault causes bodily injury was adjudicated. He will spend 72 hours in jail with credit for 23 hours, must attend weekly AA meetings, complete the DWI first offender program and complete the batterers treatment program, and serve 24 hours community service. Richard Wardroup was his attorney and Deputy Inoe Valdez was investigating officer.

Jesus Bentancourt Jr. pled guilty to first DWI, open container, b.t. .233/.223. A 180 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 24 months. He was fined \$600, must pay \$326 court costs and \$25 time payment fee. He will spend six days in jail with credit for one day, must attend AA meetings, complete the DWI first offender program and serve 24 hours community service. His attorney was Jimmy Hammons and Trooper Robert Munsell was investigating officer.

Labor Department reports lowest level of new claims in last five years

AUSTIN-U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, a member of the Small Business, Joint Economic and Budget Committees, made the following statement Thursday regarding the new figures released on jobless claims and continuing optimism and growth in the American economy: "Despite critics' efforts to discredit the current expansion, it is clear that the American economy is strong. This is a testament not only to the millions of dedicated Americans across the country, but also to the sound pro-growth and tax-reduction policies of the Congress and the Bush administration.

"The American workforce is stronger than ever. And for those who continue to preach economic doom and gloom, well, it's hard to argue with 4.5 million new jobs, increased productivity, growing consumer confidence, and record homeownership."

According to a Labor Department report Thursday, weekly jobless claims have plunged to their lowest levels since September of 2000. Initial claims dropped 35,000 to 291,000 in the last week.

Public Notice

Pursuant to Article 258.002(c) of the Texas Transportation Code, the Commissioners Court of Yoakum County, Texas provides this notice to the public of its intention to convene a public meeting to receive comment upon the adoption of a County Road Map including each road in which the County claims the continued existence of a public interest and a right of access and egress for maintenance of an existing County Road. The roads in which the County claims a public interest have been maintained for many years, beginning some time prior to 1981, have previously been listed in a notice included in the 2005-06 Ad Valorem Tax statement. A proposed County Road Map depicting each road in which the County claims a public interest is available for inspection by the public at the office of the County Judge in the County Courthouse, during business hours, commencing December 1, 2005.

The Commissioners Court will conduct a public hearing on February 27, 2006, at 10:00 a.m., in the Commissioners Courtroom in the Yoakum County Courthouse. At this time, pursuant to Article 258.002(b), Texas Transportation Code, any person asserting a private right, title or interest in a road may appear before the Commissioners Court to object or protest the County's claim of its right to continue maintenance of the public roads depicted on the County Road Map. Any person asserting a private right, title or interest in a road may also file a written protest with the County Judge at any time before the time and date of the scheduled public hearing. By way of this procedure, the County makes no claim affecting title, acreage, or ownership of the land, but seeks merely to establish and document the right of the County to continue maintenance of the existing county road in its present location and dimension.

YOAKUM SWCD NEWS

ATTENTION FARMERS/ PRODUCERS 2006 WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Yoakum Soil Water Conservation District has received funds for approved conservation practices. The LWG recommended that Beginning Farmer/ Ranchers received 75% cost-share. The limited Resource Farmer/Ranchers will receive 90% cost-share. The non-beginning Farmer/Ranchers are eligible for a 50% cost-share.

LIST OF PRACTICES ON PRIORITY RANKING

1. Chemigation valve and /or Flowmeter
2. Range Seeding
3. Livestock Watering Facility, Livestock Fencing, Livestock piping, livestock Well.
4. Brush Management
5. No-tillage Incentive- 3 year payment .
6. Irrigation System, Sprinklers, Conversions, to LEPA, LPIC, MESA, or LESA
7. Irrigation Pipeline, Irrigation Regulating Reservoir.
8. Irrigation Systems, Micro-irrigation, conversion from surface, solid set, hand move, big gun, sideroll, or water drive irrigation systems to a micro-irrigation systems-30,40,60, or 80 inch.
9. Windbreak or Shelterbelt
10. Wildlife Habitat Incentive- \$2.00 per acre/3 year payment
11. Terraces

All Base Allocation funded practices to follow current NRCS Standards and Specifications.

Visit or call YOAKUM SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 1305 Cowboy Way, Plains Texas or call 806-456-3703 ext.3

Student Council presents Shattered Dreams at Youth Summit

PHS student council held a breakout session to share the community's "Shattered Dreams" experience at The SUMMIT (Students Uniting to Make Meaningful Influences Together). The SUMMIT committee- Clarissa Zorilla, BJ Lester, Chris Addison, Holden Welch, Elias Carrillo- showed the video Shattered Dreams, a program PHS student Council and community members put together last spring. They also made a pamphlet telling others how to get needed help to put together their own Shattered Dreams program. The presentation went extremely well and had an overflow room of listening students.

21 students attended the SUMMIT February 1 at the Lubbock Civic Center. Our student council assisted in plan-

ning the event along with several other Region 17 schools. This is a conference for high school students, to give them information about issues they face including alcohol and drug use, teenage pregnancy, violence, safe driving, suicide, peer pressure and others. This year's highlights included Dr. Victor DeNoble, a scientist who discussed his research on brain chemistry and resulting changes from nicotine addiction, speakers from the Medical Examiner's office, Mothers Against Drunk Drivers and their trailer involved in the horrific Seminole, Texas accident, and Real Life Communications, teens who use music and drama to bring messages of hope to teens in distress.

This event, student led and

planned, arms students with tools to avoid pitfalls of adolescence. Plains students attending were those listed above, along with Landon Earnest, Heather Parrott, Nancy Lozano, Yesica Calderon, Steven Dominguez, Wyatt Dearing, AJ Martinez, Kimber Williams, Flor Lara, Nick Curtis, Jacob Rivera, Araceli Mendoza, Josey Diamond, Maria Andazola and Colby Ortega.

By Treon Ortega

Highway Cleanup Day

PHS Student Council really "cleaned up" February 12, with ten students attending the Highway Cleanup Day. They gathered trash on their two miles of highway that starts at the city limit sign on Brownfield highway. The student council participates in the Adopt-A-Highway program through the Texas Department of Transportation. "Now I tell my family and friends, 'don't throw that trash out, I'll have to pick it up,'" said one of the students. It has definitely increased students awareness of the damage we do to our environment. The council plans to participate in the April 1 Trash Off as well. Students involved were Araceli Mendoza, BJ Lester, Steven Dominguez, Holden Welch, Chris Addison, Heather Parrott, Nick Curtis, Nancy Lozano, Kimber Williams and Colby Ortega.

Two Students of the Week in next issue

JV Cowgirls & Cowboys



JV COWGIRLS: Heather Parrott, Jennifer Eccles, Brianna Conway, Angelica Gomez, Yesenia Loya, Liz Perez, Lydia Whitzel, Kimber Williams. PISD Photo



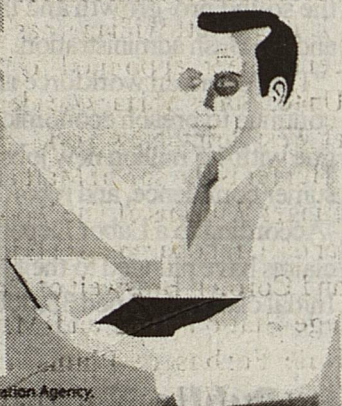
JV Cowboys: Front, L-R: A.J. Martinez, Jacob Rivera, Chris Addison, Zach Ramos, Kurt Alldredge, Derek Garza, Skylar Sainz. Back, Holden Welch, Rudy Gonzales, Elias Carrillo, Chris Gonzales, Dylan Hunter, Chase Guetersloh, J.L. Vasquez

The most important factor

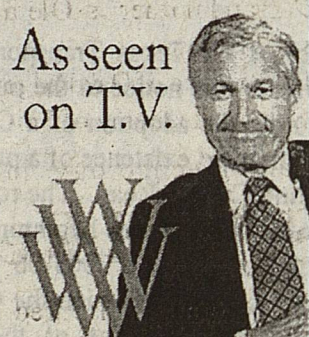
Texas public schools that retain experienced teachers also produce better students. In the 2002-03 school year, schools with the lowest teacher turnover rates had the best passing rates on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills.

Texas teacher turnover and student performance, 2002-03

Percentage of teachers leaving the campus (turnover rate)	Percentage of students passing all sections of the TAKS
0 - 10%	53.6%
11 - 20	48.9
21 - 30	46.0
More than 30%	44.3
Statewide average	47.9



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for Structured Settlements!



As seen on T.V.

Yoakum County Credit Union
Annual Meeting
Saturday, Feb. 25, 7 PM,
School Cafeteria.
Dinner (please bring side dish),
Door Prizes, Election
of Board Members.
**Support Your Credit Union
With Your Presence!**

* AUCTION *

February 24, 10 AM,

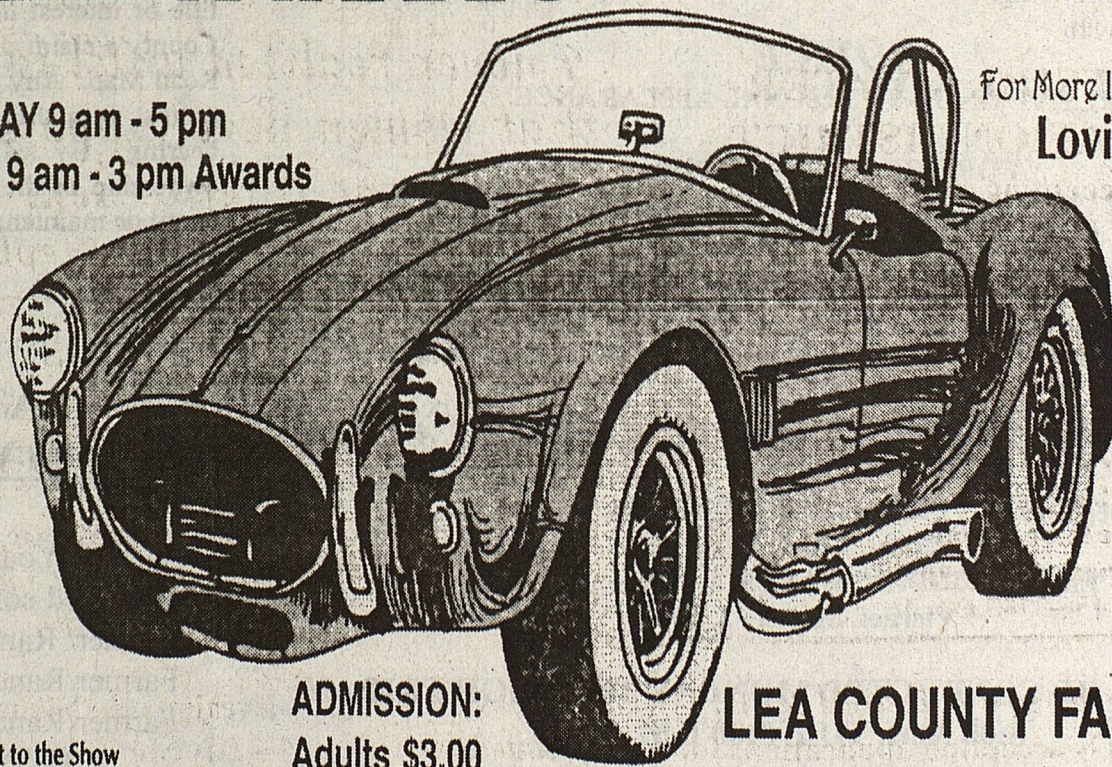
Jack's Car Wash

Plains, Texas, will be sold to the highest bidder. For more information, please call Gary at 806 - 637 - 3589

lovington chamber of commerce

9th ANNUAL SHOW OF WHEELS

OPEN
SATURDAY 9 am - 5 pm
SUNDAY 9 am - 3 pm Awards



Buy a Ticket to the Show
SATURDAY or SUNDAY
and place in the box
in the office for a drawing for
\$250 CASH
to be drawn 4:30 pm Saturday
& 3:00 pm Sunday

ADMISSION:
Adults \$3.00
under 12 FREE

LEA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Lovington, New Mexico

February 25th & 26th, 2006

Drawing for
Two (2) 2006 Season Passes
to the Texas Motor Speedway
during awards ceremony Sunday

Tickets Available from
Lovington Chamber of Commerce
or Other Chamber Members

For More Info:
Lovington Chamber
of Commerce
(505) 396-5311

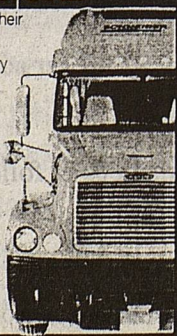
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FREEDOM OF THE OPEN ROAD

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SCHNEIDER
NATIONAL

BENZENE ALERT

Benzene is a known carcinogen linked to **LEUKEMIA** and various other forms of **CANCER**. If you or a loved one has suffered serious injury, such as **AML, MDS, NHL** or even death after exposure to benzene, especially prior to 1986, you may be entitled to a **CASH SETTLEMENT**. Call James Rolshouse & Associates toll free at 1-888-625-2460 for more information.

James Rolshouse is licensed in MN with principal offices in Burnsville MN, but associates with experienced lawyers throughout the U.S.

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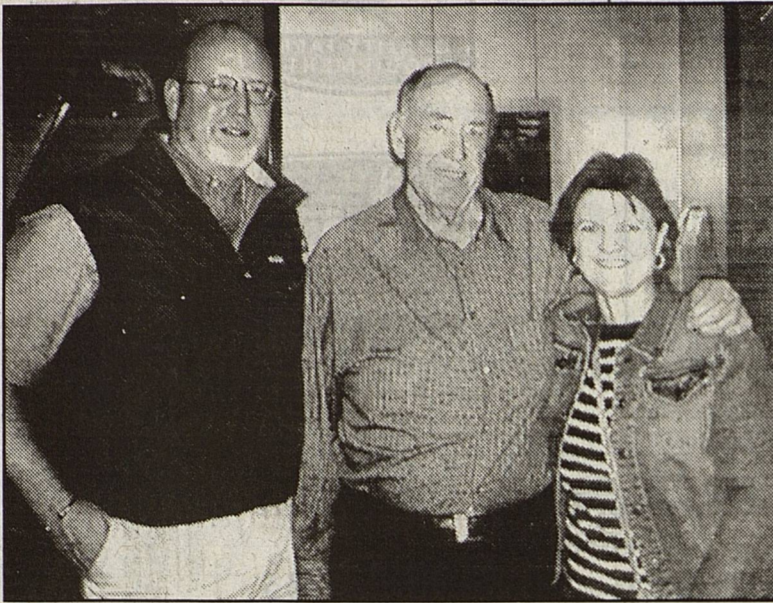
Stevens Transport

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www.stevenstransport.com

Lifelines & Styles

Family Cousins Reunited



Doyle Brunson, center, with Bruce and Jan Lester

On a recent trip to Las Vegas, Nevada Jan and Bruce Lester of Plains had the opportunity to visit with Jan's famous cousin, poker champion Doyle Brunson. He has twice won the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas, and continues to be regularly seen in poker tournaments on national network television. His current favorite game is the very popular Texas Hold'em. He is also the author of several popular books of poker instruction. On a number of past occasions Brunson has been a visitor in Plains, visiting his cousin the late Buddy Hanna and family, and an old college friend and basketball team mate who was a Plains resident then, Glenn Harlin.

Film Time At The Library

Film-time at the Yoakum County Library February 15, 2006 was filled with happy and delightful children. We played Duck, Duck, Goose and said the pledge of allegiance to the United States and Texas flags. The children then joined in doing some exercises and singing songs. We talked about balloons and how they get bigger as you blow them up and what happens when the air goes out! Everyone then got a real blown-up balloon and we all tried to keep them in the air with their nose, elbows and knees to music. We all had a good time with

our balloons and then sat down to watch a Franklin Valentine Film and enjoyed cake and drinks. Those that attended were: Austin Ward, Kaitlyn Ward, Kendall Dusek, Jadon Chambliss, Bret'lei Dominguez, Allie Williams; Ethan Harris, Kiersen Harris, Yairah Garcia, Taryn Willis, Courtney Hix, Devon Walker, Ivey Davis and Ezekiel and Evan Rodriguez.

Everyone then checked out books and movies in the library and was given coloring pages and valentine candy before leaving.

YOKUM SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Is currently accepting applications for scholarships to be awarded for the Fall of 2006

Eligible applicants to include

- 1) A Yoakum County high school graduating senior.
- 2) A Home schooled resident of Yoakum County
- 3) A Yoakum County resident returning from active duty in the Armed Services is eligible.

Applicant does not have to be majoring in agriculture to be eligible.

For more information or an application call 806 456-3703 ext. 3

Dairy Queen Jobs are a Real Treat !!

Plains Dairy Queen is accepting applications for part-time employees. Benefits include flexible scheduling, free stock ownership, paid time off, and career opportunities. Please stop by the DQ at 1105 Cowboy Way to apply in person.

Hicks Air & Appliances



'Feed my sheep....'

John 21 - 17

Four point four million man hours, 505,460 meals, 184 days of work for 1,005 people equals a great deal of hard work and labor of love for those who volunteered for disaster relief with First Baptist Church of Plains this past year.

As part of Tsa Mo Ga's international affairs program on Global Volunteers February 13, Connie McWhirter presented the amazing statistics of the work locals have been a part of in the Texas Baptist Men's Disaster Relief program. Local lay men and women assisted in relief for almost six months this year in areas of the United States hit with hurricane, tornado, and flood destruction. Last year several groups worked in Sri Lanka to help victims following the tsunami. McWhirter was also on one of those trips and gave members information about the work that volunteers do to assist those in need.

This past year, teams have spread from Orange, Texas; Alexandria, La.; to Florida to cook meals and provide assistance for those affected by storms. McWhirter, who says she is "proficient in water and green beans" arrived home early one Friday morning from one town to receive a call to leave for another destination within the next day. She included stories of meeting other volunteers from other denominations and volunteers from neighborhoods who came just wanting to be of help.

The First Baptist Church offers training sessions several times a year for those who want to be a part of the work. Not limited to Plains, the teams have members from Sundown, Loop, Leveland, and Brownfield residents attended a recent training.

McWhirter colored her presentation with several stories and asides of people the group meets along their journeys. She spoke of two young men who were working to help clear the area after a storm, and they asked if they could pay to eat. "We told them they could eat, but not pay." After sharing Bible verses with one of the young men, he told her later, "those verses work." She said, "Yes, that whole book will work, too."

In club business the nominating committee presented names for the slate of officers for 2006-2008. The officers were elected unanimously.

February 27 the club will host a Fiesta dinner honoring the Class of 2006 and will feature Miss Texas 2005 Morgan Matlock, a Lamesa native, as the speaker. The dinner will be held at the Fellowship Hall of the Methodist Church at 7 p.m. All members who did not attend the meeting are urged to contact another member to find out what they will need to bring.

Hostesses for the meeting were Martha Palmer and Betty Rushing who helped the club celebrate with a Valentine theme.

I never realized until lately that women were supposed to be the inferior sex.

Katherine Hepburn

Yoakum County Hospital

Is searching for dynamic, professional people to join our healthcare team.

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Certified MT/MLT - Evening and Night Shift, Immediate Opening - Day Shift Opening in May - Generalist - Must be certified by AMT, ASCP or equivalent. Relocation preferred, but not required.

For more information, contact Kim Shipman- 806-592-2121 ext. 411, or fax resume, to 806-592-2891

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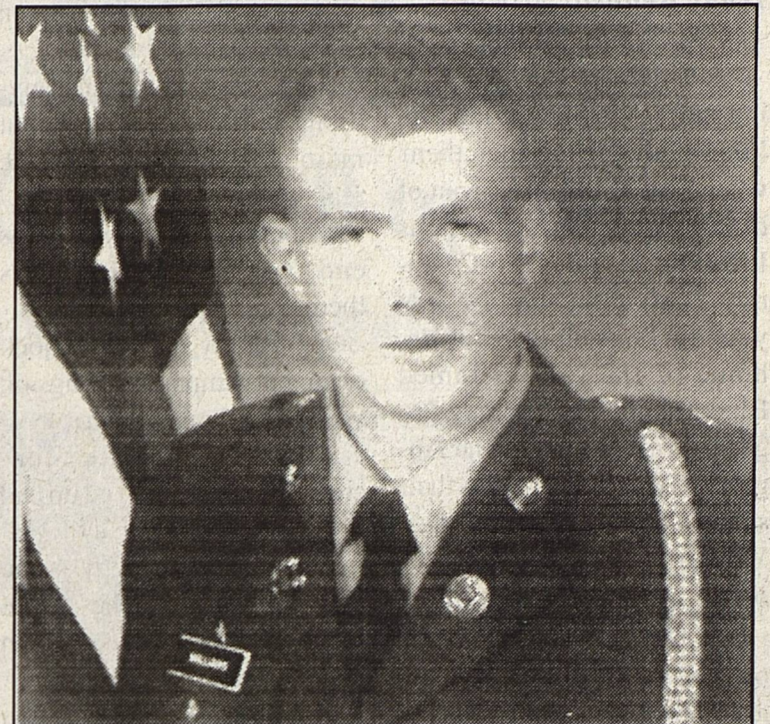
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West Point Appointee



Hunter Matt Williams has recently been appointed to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Hunter is the son of Matt and Ginger Williams of The Woodlands. Grandparents are Eddie and Corolyn Braswell of College Station, Bud and Mary Dale Forbus of Plains and Charles Williams of Tokio. Great Grandmother is Oleta Braswell of Bronte.

A 2005 graduate of Oak Ridge High School Academy of Science and Technology in

Conroe, Hunter was a National Merit Finalist and graduated Magna Cum Laude. He is currently at New Mexico Military Institute, Roswell, New Mexico, in the West Point Preparatory Scholarship Program sponsored by the director of Admissions at West Point and the Association of West Point Graduates.

Hunter was nominated by Congressman Kevin Brady, 8th district, The Woodlands for the appointment. He will report on June 26, 2006.

School Retirees Meet

The Yoakum County Retired School Personnel Association met on Tuesday, February 14, at Lalito's. President Brenda Canada called the meeting to order. She welcomed visitors, Richard and Linda Roberts of Brownfield. Thelma Cheatham read the minutes. Pam Smith gave the treasurer's report. It was reported that 22 local members had a total of 4,477 hours of volunteer work. Members were invited to the convention that will take place in Amarillo in March.

Richard Roberts, district president and state board member, spoke to the members about some of the problems facing retired school personnel. He also stressed the importance of all retired school personnel joining together to maintain and improve benefits.

All retired school personnel are encouraged to come join us at our next meeting which will be held at 11:00 am on Tuesday, April 11, 2006, at Lalito's Cafe in Plains.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Plains, Texas

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

Please
Vote

From The Hack

FROM A SERIOUS THINKER:
I'd rather be quail hunting in Texas with Dick Cheney than riding in old Massachusetts with Teddy Kennedy driving!

I recently read some interesting stuff in Golf magazine. No, I don't buy them, I filch them when I see Bill Butler is out of his business office at Plains ISD. I read about a Pro-Celebrity Tournament held every year in Pensacola, Florida, home of the Navy's famed Blue Angels. The winning Pro gets to ride in one of the Angels F-18 hot jets during their show at the end of the tourney. What a Prize!! Forty minutes of barfing your toenails up!

If you ever, ever watch golf on the tube, the Senior golfers, at least, you might be familiar with jolly Craig Stadler, affectionately referred to as The Walrus because of his mustache and waistline. Only playing with the oldies about two years, he's close to \$4 million in winnings. A recent article declares he's tossed his putter in disgust several hundred times, uttered some 900 cuss words (some on camera), and credits his success to his training routine: "I lift little 12 ounce liquid weights,

sometimes with both hands." That's strange. Sounds like at 88 percent of all the golfers I know.

To keep me in good graces..... OK, to GET me in good graces with my Pastor, the following: The best thing to do behind a person's back is to pat it.

Some people are kind, polite and sweet spirited, until you try to sit in their pew.

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers.

It's much easier to preach ten sermons than to live one.

The Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes and chiggers come real close.

When you get to your wits end, you'll find God lives there.

Opportunity may just knock once, but temptation hangs on your front door forever.

Some minds are like concrete; thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

No one knows why some people change churches. What difference does it make which one you stay home from?

If God is your co-pilot, you might better change seats.

Don't ever put a question mark where God puts a period.

In praying, don't give God instructions. Just report for duty.

Not everyone can be a shining example, but at least they can twinkle just a tiny bit.

Probably my favorite is, Don't wait for six strong men to carry you to church.

My preachers favorite will probably be, Be ye fishers of men. You catch them. He will clean them.

The platoon of you guys running for the job of Pct. 4 commissioner... well, may be it's just a squad of you-- you might want to remember this story, should you be called on to deliver a few political words: A very young preacher

boy was dispatched to a very small West Texas cattle country town to get his feet wet delivering the gospel. He put up signs all over announcing he would deliver his first sermon the following Sunday morning. His excitement soared that morning, but only one crusty old rancher showed up. He put his message off until he realized no one else was coming, and he launched into his sermon. In his youthful inexperience, his unbridled zeal, he thundered on and on and on. Finally, almost exhausted, he finished with an eloquent prayer. Still excited, he asked the old rancher, "Well, how'd I do?"

The old timer drawled, "Well, when I take a load of hay out to feed my herd, and when only one cow shows up, I still go ahead and feed her. Course, with just one cow there, I don't give her the whole load."

Some male's health tips;

Q. Should I cut down on meat and eat more fruits and Vegetables? A. Of course not. A cow eats hay and corn, and what are these? Veggies. So, a steak is nothing more than an efficient mechanism for delivering vegetables to your system. If you need grain, eat chicken. Lots of it. And remember a pork chop gives you 100% of daily vegetable products.

Q. Should I reduce my alcohol intake? A. Of course not. Wine is made from fruit. Brandy is distilled wine. That means they take water out of the fruity bit so you get even more goodness.

And remember, beer is made from grain. What does that tell you?

NOTICE FOR BIDS THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF YOAKUM

The Commissioner's Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 4:00 PM, Thursday, March 2, 2006, for the PURCHASE of Communication Equipment Upgrades- VHF Project 25 Repeater System

Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court Monday, March 6, 2006.

For more information and specifications, please contact Darinda McWhirter, Yoakum County Auditor, 806/456-7491 Ext. 292, PO Box 516, Plains, Texas 79355 or you may also contact Don Corzine, Yoakum County Sheriff, 806/592-2747, 1010 N. Main, Denver City, Texas 79323.

Sealed bids should be marked "COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT" 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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Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Used Vehicle Sale

1985 Chevrolet Beige Van	5.7 liter V-8	3-speed auto transmission	2-wheel drive	100,542 miles
1996 Chevrolet White Pick-up	4.3 liter V-6	4-speed auto transmission	4-wheel drive	171,305 miles
2001 Chevrolet White Pick-up	4.3 liter V-6	4-speed auto transmission	4-wheel drive	85,105 miles
1999 GMC White Suburban	5.7 liter V-8	4-speed auto transmission	4-wheel drive	121,695 miles
1999 Chevrolet White Pick-up	4.3 liter V-6	4-speed auto transmission	4-wheel drive	126,674 miles
1993 Chevrolet White Pick-up	5.7 liter V-8	3-speed auto transmission	2-wheel drive	122,386 miles

- Bid forms are available at the main Lovington office and district offices in Tatum and Plains, or may be requested by phone.
- Sealed bids will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on February 27, 2006. Sealed bids may be hand-delivered to any of the Cooperative's offices or returned by mail. Bids delivered by mail must be postmarked no later than the deadline for bid submission.
- The Cooperative shall have the right to reject any and all bids for any reason.
- Vehicles are available for inspection at the Cooperative's Lovington yard (intersection of Tatum & Plains highways) weekdays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. MST.
- All vehicles are sold in as-is condition with no express or implied warranty by the Cooperative as regarding condition, suitability or serviceability.

Sealed bids must be accompanied by a deposit (check or money order - not cash) in the amount of 10% of the bid price in order to be considered as legitimate offers for purchase. All deposits accompanying unsuccessful bids shall be returned. In the event of a tie, a drawing will be held to determine the successful bid.

Main Office
Lea County Electric
1300 W. Ave D
P.O. Drawer 1447
Lovington, N.M. 88260
(505) 396-3631

Tatum District Office
Lea County Electric
102 South Main
P.O. Box 737
Tatum, N.M. 88267
(505) 398-2233

Plains District Office
Lea County Electric
507 9th Street
P.O. Box 305
Plains, TX 79355
(806) 456-3322

CITY OF PLAINS, TEXAS INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR 100,000 GALLON ELEVATED STORAGE TANK

The City of Plains is soliciting sealed bid proposals for a 100,000 gallon elevated storage tank. Bid opening will be at the Plains City Hall at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2006. Bid security in the amount of five percent of the bid submitted is required. Bidders are expected to inspect the site of the work and to inform themselves of all local conditions. Payment and performance bonds will be required in accordance with Article 5160, V.A.T.C.S., as amended by House Bill 344 passed by the 56th Legislature, Regular Session 1959 and Experience Record. Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, as issued by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age or national origin. Information for bidders, proposal forms, specifications, and plans are on file at City Hall, City of Plains, 1015 Ave F, Plains, Texas. Copies of the plans, specifications and contract documents may be obtained from Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., 4222 85th Street, Lubbock, Texas 79423 upon a refundable deposit of \$30.00 for each set of documents.

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