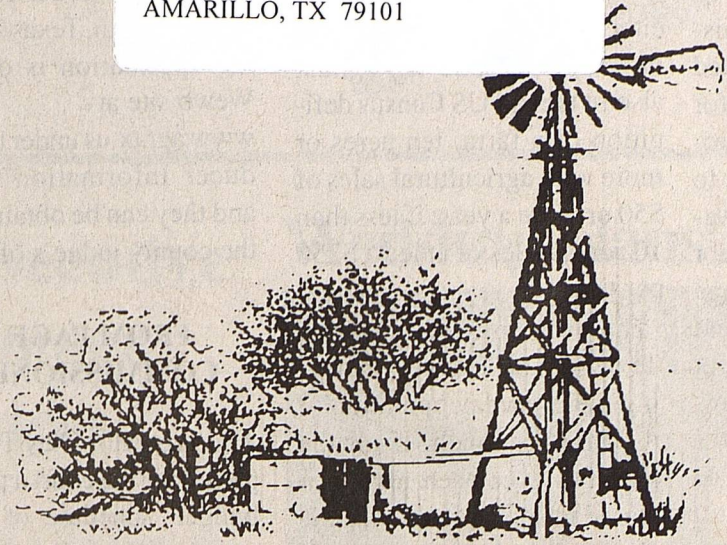


50 Cents

Cowboy Country News

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

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Volume XII, Issue 39, June 21, 2006

Next Step Of City Planned Housing Project Set June 26

Terry Howard, City of Plains Administrator, announced recently the initial interview and sign-up of citizens interested in possibly qualifying for a new residence to be constructed in Plains will be held at City Hall June 26. The Lubbock firm, Grant Works, will conduct the interview.

Howard said 24 resident families had expressed interest in the project. A requirement for qualifying is the agreement of the owners to allow their existing sub-standard residences to be demolished, replaced by the construction of a new 1,300 square feet, three bedroom, one bath home on the property. Qualifying, interested applicants for the program must be deeded owners and currently living in the existing homes.

During the initial announcement of the housing grant pro-

gram 24 Plains residents expressed their interest in qualifying for the program. The next step is the completion of a qualifying application for the grant funding in City Hall Monday, June 26. When the applications are received, Grant Works personnel will review all applications, and then determine their choice of the final three applicants.

Howard said it could take two weeks to receive names of the final three selected families. When announced, the three existing homes will be demolished, and the construction phase of the new home will begin. The project could take some six months to complete. When completed, a deed will be issued to the owners. A stipulation of the contract requires owners of the property to keep all taxes paid and current.

American Ingenuity G.I. Style

This e-mail photo was forwarded to the editor by his sister, Dana Strawn of Lubbock, who had it sent to her by a friend, Bennie. He said, "This picture touched my heart and brought tears to my eyes. This is an army soldier in Iraq with his tiny plot of grass in front of his tent, stationed in the big sandbox of a country. He asked his wife to send him some U.S. soil, fertilizer and some grass seed so he could have the sweet aroma of the grass and feel the grass growing beneath his feet. When the fellow soldiers in his squad have a mission they are ordered out on, it has now become a ritual for them to take turns walking in the grass growing in American soil - to bring them good luck."

The soldier is shown "mowing" his yard with a pair of scissors.



Message To Lions Repeated - Take It Easy On City Water Consumption

The June 14 issue of CCN featured a brief plea from City Administrator Terry Howard for city residents to cut back on water use on yards and plants by alternating days of outdoor watering - residents with even number street addresses were asked to cooperate by watering only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, while people with odd street numbers were urged to do their outdoor watering only on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Texas Extension Agent-Ag Arlan Gentry was guest speaker at the June 15 meeting of the local Lions Club, and his subject matter was identical to City Hall's - the strain placed on our local water supply, which is being duplicated in a huge portion of our world.

Gentry set a sobering attitude by telling the Lions water use in the state can be divided into six major categories: Irrigation, Municipal, Manufacturing, Steam-Electrica power generation and Mining, with the first three accounting for 94 percent of all water used in the state. Major Texas ag crops raised with irrigation use about 60 percent of all the state's ground water.

Gentry outlined for the Lions a few reasons we all should be con-

cerned about adequate water in our everyday lives. Our body weight is about 90 percent water, and an average person in this region uses about 165 gallons of water in and around their homes daily.

The world's water supply is under tremendous strain and pressure - world population has zoomed past 4 billion, is on its way to five, adding 90 million people each year. Our U.S. population has tripled since 1900 while the average household use of water has increased more than TEN times.

Other somber facts about the crucial nature of water include ironies: It takes 2,300 gallons of water to grow and transport one pound of beef for three or four hamburgers; each produced gallon of gasoline takes from seven to ten gallons of water; manufacturing your family automobile can take 100,000 gallons - all other uses of water can total some 1,500 gallons per person, per day!

Material Gentry used preparing his address contained another sobering thought about our particular geographical location. " Interstate

Highway 35 (IH-35) runs roughly parallel to the county lines that serve as a convenient divider for describing the distribution of water use in Texas. The region east of IH-35 accounts for nearly 80 percent of all Texas residents and 56 percent of the state's water use. The more arid and agricultural region west of IH 35 contains 20 percent of the state's population and consumes nearly 44 percent of the water Texans use each year (Texas Water Facts, Texas Water Development Board)



High Plains Junior Rodeo coming here

The Plains Roping Club will take on a new venue this weekend as sponsor of a two day performance of the High Plains Junior Rodeo Association, touted as "The Rodeo Of Future World Champions". Both Saturday and Sunday performances start at 10 AM. The Roping Club will be assisted by volunteer local Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce members who will work shifts manning the concession stand both days.

HPHRA contestants must be 19 or under and never married, and membership includes youngsters from both the 'high plains areas of New Mexico and Texas'. The HPHRA has rules and regulations as stringent as those enforced by the PRCA, ensuring the younger cowboys and cowgirls will compete on level grounds. Plains Roping Club invites you to enjoy performances of the "future rodeo world champis"

Both ISD's contribute to improvement fund

In the June 19 session of commissioners court, Judge Brewer reported both the Plains and Denver City Independent School Districts had approved \$5,000 each in contributions to the county permanent improvement fund for the ongoing construction of the new Pro Shop at Yoakum County Golf Course. The donation represented both school's appreciation for assistance to their boys and girls golf programs. Pct. 1 Commissioner Woody Lindsey told the court contract personnel be-

lieve the new building will be finished by the first week of July.

A bid of \$400 was accepted for a portion of lot 4, all of lot 5, block 38 old town Denver City, now owned by Yoakum County Property in Trust for back taxes.

A petition from Larry Nelson for the construction of an underground waterline across certain county roads was approved.

Yoakum County Hospital

TURN TO PAGE 2, COMMISSIONERS

Applications for Family Farm-Ranch Program due Sept. 15

Austin- Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs reminded families who are applying for the Family Land Heritage Program applications are due to the Texas Department of Agriculture by Friday, September 15. The Family Land Heritage Program recognizes farms and ranches which have been kept in continuous agricultural production by the same family for 100, 150 and 200 years or more. Since the program started in 1974, more than 4,120 farms and ranches in 229 counties have been honored. "This unique program honors the agricultural contributions of countless generations of Texans," said Combs. "These men and women have held onto their ancestors land over the decades, enduring some challenging times." Applications are being accepted for farms or ranches established in 1906 and earlier that are still being operated by the descendants of the founder,

either through blood, marriage or adoption. The land must also fit the old US Census definition of a farm; ten acres or more with agricultural sales of \$50 or more a year; if less than 10 acres, sales of at least \$250 per year.

The owners must reside in Texas and be actively managing the everyday operation of the farm or ranch. If all the land has ever been rented or leased to someone outside the family, it will not qualify. If only a portion was leased, and as much as ten acres were retained in the family for agricultural production with sales of at least \$50 annually, the property will still qualify. There is no cost to apply for the recognition.

Fayette County has the most Family Land Heritage honorees with 124 properties, Houston County is next with 85 properties, Austin and Gillespie Counties are tied with 82 properties each, Me-

dina County has 81 properties and DeWitt County has 80 properties.

For an application or more information, contact Melissa Blair, 512-463-2631, PO Box 12847 Austin, Texas 78711, or the application is on TFA's Web site at www.agr.tx.us under the "Producer Information" section and they can be obtained from the county judge's office.

FROM PAGE 1, COMMISSIONERS

Administrator Clay Taylor reported for the court a proposed budget schedule of contract proposals for a two person respiratory team for 2006 to July 2007 and August 2007 to July 2008. The first year employment cost would be \$138,540, and the second would total \$149,256. Both Taylor and County Auditor Darinda McWhirter agreed contract labor for the positions would be less expensive than full time hospital employees with all benefits. The approved contract was awarded to the Lubbock firm, Respiratory Care.



Continuing Our Energy Leadership

By U.S. Sen. John Cornyn

For more than 100 years, starting with the legendary Spindletop oil field near Beaumont, Texas has been a leading energy producer in the U.S. and the world. Now, a page is turning – and Texas is again in the forefront of global energy developments.

Two Texas cities – Odessa and Jewett – are among the 12 national finalists to host the design, construction and operation of "FutureGen," the world's first near-zero-emissions coal-powered generation plant.

FutureGen is a demonstration project launched by President Bush in 2003 to test new technology in refining coal and generating electricity. If successful, FutureGen technologies could help lower energy costs, increase domestic energy resources and eliminate sources of harmful air pollutants.

Last month, the U.S. Department of Energy selected Odessa and Jewett to compete with cities from our nation's leading coal-producing states, including West Virginia, Illinois and Wyoming. The winning site will be announced next summer.

FutureGen may sound complex, but its concept is fairly simple. It uses a chemical process to release the energy from coal – known as gasification – rather than burning the coal to achieve the same result.

More specifically, coal gasification is an innovative way to chemically break down coal using heat and pressure. The chemical reactions produce clean-burning gases that are used to generate electricity as well as other valuable by-products that can be sold for industrial use.

The FutureGen plant will also use technology to capture and safely store harmful carbon dioxide emissions before their release into the atmosphere. The carbon dioxide can be piped to oil fields, where it can then be used to help extract valuable fossil fuels.

FutureGen, and projects like it, represent a scientific attempt to meet our energy needs. By contrast, Texas' previous success in energy often relied on big dreams and a large dollop of good fortune.

The Tyler Morning Telegraph newspaper described how one major East Texas oil field was discovered:

"Columbus Marion 'Dad' Joiner, a man in his 60s, was broke and depressed when he went to sleep along a seawall in Galveston one night in 1926 and had a vision that he would find the biggest oil field in the world in East Texas."

"When he awoke, he sketched the topography of the place he saw in his dream. He later walked and hitchhiked his way to Rusk County and believed he had found that visionary place on Daisy Bradford's land."

"She leased him the land and he drilled three wells and the third one finally came in – and it was the biggest oil field in the world." The field ultimately supplied vast amounts of energy to the Allies in World War II.

Another great believer, Rupert Ricker, a lawyer in Big Lake, picked a spot to drill in Reagan County

where local folks just knew that no oil existed. Well, it did, after all.

Santa Rita Number 1 came in on May 28, 1923, giving birth to another Texas behemoth, the Big Lake oilfield, and launching production in the legendary Permian Basin. The state has benefited greatly. Over the years, Santa Rita Number 1 has provided about \$1 billion to the state's Permanent University Fund.

Now a new generation of visionaries, which includes local and state leaders and scientists at the University of Texas at Austin, are turning their eyes toward another abundant Texas resource: our coal. Either Odessa or Jewett is a perfect fit for FutureGen. The Odessa site boasts a strong West Texas expertise in the storage and transportation of carbon dioxide and its use in enhanced oil recovery. The Jewett site, in east-central Texas, offers an abundant supply of coal.

Many people would be surprised to learn that Texas is the nation's fifth-largest producer of coal, the top consumer of coal in the U.S. and has a 200-year reserve of lignite coal. A carbon dioxide storage facility in Texas would help unearth more of our oil and gas reserves, which in turn could boost much-needed domestic production.

Texas is no stranger to alternative fuel technology. Earlier this month, Abilene hosted the nation's largest-ever conference on wind power. With our turbine fields in West Texas, our state runs a close second only to California in generating wind-produced megawatts of electricity.

We're also poised to tap solar power as a serious source of energy. With our vast acreage and sunny climate, Texas solar-resource potential ranks first in the nation. The energy from sunshine falling on a single acre of land in West Texas is capable of producing the energy equivalent of 800 barrels of oil each year.

Texas has long provided America with valuable energy resources. Even as oil and gas reserves in major Texas fields have gradually declined over the years, Texas remains the headquarters of the world's energy industry. It would be entirely fitting if the technology that fuels future generations of our global energy supply is developed in Texas as well – in Jewett, Odessa or elsewhere.

Sen. Cornyn is a member of the following Senate Committees: Armed Services, Judiciary, Budget, Small Business and Entrepreneurship, and Joint Economic. He is the chairman of the subcommittees on Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship and Emerging Threats and Capabilities. Cornyn served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice and Bexar County District Judge.

For Sen. Cornyn's previous Texas Times columns: www.cornyn.senate.gov/column

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ISSUE CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commissioners Court of Yoakum County, Texas, will convene at 10:00 a.m. on the 17th day of July, 2006, at its regular meeting place thereof in the Yoakum County Courthouse, Cowboy Way and Avenue G, Plains, Texas, and, during such meeting, the Commissioners Court will consider passage of orders and take such other actions as may be deemed necessary to authorize the issuance of the following: certificates of obligation in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$6,500,000 for the purpose of paying contractual obligations to be incurred for (1) construction and equipping of a new County Law Enforcement Center (County Jail), including the acquisition of a site therefor in the City of Plains, and (2) the payment of professional services and costs of issuance related thereto. The certificates of obligation will be payable from the levy of an annual ad valorem tax, within the limitations prescribed by law, upon all taxable property within the County.

The certificates of obligation are to be issued, and this notice is given, under and pursuant to the provisions of the Certificate of Obligation Act of 1971, as amended, Local Government Code Section 271.041, et. seq.

/s/ Dallas Brewer
County Judge
Yoakum County, Texas

APPLICATION NOTICE

HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

The City of Plains HOME Program Fund provides help to eligible homeowners within the city limits for home reconstruction. A program information sheet is available from Plains City Hall. Applications will be taken June 26, at 9:00 AM at Plains City Hall, 1015 Ave. F. Applications will only be taken this one-day unless there is further notice. Please bring the following.

1) Proof of 6 months income or SS letter

INCOME LIMITS BY FAMILY SIZE

1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
\$15,300	\$17,500	\$19,650	\$21,850	\$23,600	\$25,350	\$27,100	\$28,850

2) Homeownership: Warranty deed or other proof. NO CONTRACT FOR DEED.
3) Tax receipts verifying ALL property taxes paid 4) Proof of Occupancy: driver's license or photo I.D. 5) Verification of disability if applicable. 6) Social Security Card for all household members.

Disabled persons access assistance available
An affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Program

A REMINDER!

Our Print Day
Is Tuesday morning.
Our DEADLINE
for accepting
ads, photos, articles,
etc., is
NOON FRIDAY.
Material later
than this may not
make the
Wednesday issue!

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FOR
FIRST VISIT

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Home 806-456-3195

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Lifelines & Styles

August Wedding Planned



Ashley Branch and Jared Bell, along with their parents, are pleased to announce their engagement. The couple will be married August 19, 2006 at Calvary Baptist Church of Lubbock. Ashley is the daughter of Robert and Janet Branch of Aspermont, Texas. Jared is the son of Danny and Kathy Bell of Plains, Texas. The bride-elect is a graduate of Aspermont High School and is currently attending Physical Therapy Graduate School at Texas Tech. The groom is a graduate of Plains High School and Western Texas College and is employed by Texas Tech Rawls Golf Course in Lubbock, Texas.

San Diego based inventor Michael Thomas is developing a new computer storage drive capable of holding a whopping 1.2 petabytes of information - just over a billion megabytes. His company expects to see commercial sales beginning within 4 to 5 years at an expected initial price of some \$750. The technology involved may also lead to ever-smaller electronic devices.

A letter from the Executive Director of the Womens Protective Services

Dear Friends,
Summer is here and Women's Protective Services is busy preparing activities for the 75+ children who are in the shelter each day. Our staff and volunteers work hard to prepare on-site activities and field trips for our children throughout the summer, as our children come to us overwhelmed, frightened, and without a strong sense of safety.

To help our children heal emotionally, and socially, the children's program staff and volunteers use a wide range of therapeutic activities to address their trauma, including art therapy, play therapy, and family therapy, as well as connecting our children to a host of outside activities helping them interact with other children and increase their social skills as they address their issues of abuse. Our children will visit the Science Spectrum, attend performances of Ballet Lubbock, and the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra, and participate in the YWCA swimming classes.

WPS staff and volunteers will also organize a series of enhancement programs to events throughout Lubbock including visits to the Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts, the Texas Tech Museum, the Budy Holly Center, the National Ranching Heritage Center, the Silent Wings Museum, and the South Plains Food Bank & Breedlove Dehydration Plant.

All these experiences are designed to reinforce positive behavior, while at the same time, exposing them to constructive activities enriching their learning. These activities assist children in expressive simulation helping them explore their feelings and perceptions of the world around them.

On behalf of our women and children, I'd like to thank each of you for your generosity and kindness in providing gifts and financial assistance for our women and children helping them to realize a safe and healthy life!

In Peace, Fritzi Cates

Wedding plans announced



Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Valdivia of Victoria proudly announce the engagement of their daughter Irene of Lubbock, to Abraham Garcia of Kress, son and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Clark Sr. of Plains. The couple will marry at 3:00 PM at Our Lady of Sorrow Catholic Church in Victoria on July 8, 2006.

Irene is a 2005 cum laude graduate of Texas Tech University with a bachelor degree in Spanish. She is employed at Lakeside Rehab and Care Facility in Lubbock.

Abraham is a 1998 graduate of Texas Tech University with a bachelor degree in Exercise and Sports Science. He is a high school history teacher and the boy's varsity basketball coach at Kress High School.

.....
We each set our own expectations in life, but it's not what we expect out of life that's important. It's what we are willing to work for. We are the artists of our lives. What we create with the tools and talents we're given is entirely up to us. Will you create something ordinary, or a masterpiece. The choice is yours

Bridal Shower
honoring
Kyley Bearden
bride elect of
Greg Martin
Saturday, June 24, 2006
in the home of
Mrs. Lynne Winn
802 First Street, Plains
Selections: Lubbock; Linens & Things, Bed, Bath & Beyond; Plains; Image'n That

Plains Little League
Says Thanks!
Your generosity made our season a great success.
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New Tex Gin * Agriliance * Plains State Bank * Two Daughters Property Maintenance * Reed Rentals
DONORS
Lowe's Pay n Save * West Texas Agriplex * Bayer Lumber * Tsa Mo Ga Club * Lea County Electric Cooperative - Lights
All the young players, coaches, volunteers appreciate your support

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Plains, Texas
Sunday School
9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship
10:45 A.M.
Evening Program
6:00 P.M.

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Our Toll-Free Number Is For Your Convenience Call 1-800-658-9604 For all your Pharmacy Needs!!
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If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with **Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML)** or **Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS)**, please call us today toll free at 1-866-369-3476 to discuss your legal rights.
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From The Hack

What's this? Am I reading correctly? Congress actually doing something sensibly right? Texas Senator John Cornyn recently reported, "I may be overly optimistic, but I'm seeing a new willingness in Congress to face up to our more egregious over spending. Under the threat of the President's first veto, Congress last week reduced an emergency spending supplemental bill - additional funding for Iraq and hurricane relief - from a previously approved \$ 108.9 billion to a more acceptable \$ 94.5 billion."

The key word here is BIL-LION. A billion is one thousand millions. The fact Congress OK's whacking off ANY bill to the tune of some 14 billion is almost unbelievable. Before I turn absolutely giddy with joy over this action, I do recall recent announcements from the General Accounting Office reporting \$1.4 billion, maybe even more, OVERpaid for aid to Katrina and Rita victims by FEMA geniuses. You know what things displaced hurricane victims need the very most, like a vacation in Hawaii, porn movies and other adult goodies, booze and football tickets, even one sex change procedure.

Strange world, isn't it?

There are a few things I just don't understand. No... make that LOTS of things I don't understand. I just read a quote from a noted Hollywood actor who, incredibly, actually supports the right of gun ownership. He said it plainly and sensibly: "The world is filled with

violence. Because criminals carry guns, we decent, law-abiding citizens should also have guns. Otherwise they will win and the decent people will lose." Plain and simple enough for me.

But guess what. The mighty and illustrious United Nations this summer will be hard at work in New York drafting something called a "Treaty on Small Arms". Important ideas I am sure will pour forth from countries like communist Cuba, and Sudan, the only country in the world I am aware of which continues to allow human slavery.

It has been reported hundreds, probably thousands of times, so one more reporting won't bring the roof crashing down: Long before World War II started in Europe, Adolf Hitler told his admirers, "The most foolish mistake we could possibly make would be to allow the subject races to possess arms. History shows that all conquerors who have allowed their subject races to carry arms have prepared their own downfall by doing so".

I only have two guns. I plan on keeping them, UN be damned.

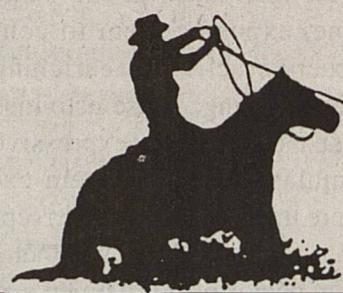
For any of you readers running for election in November, remember this truism: "It is said that if you find a starving dog, feed him and make him prosperous, he will not bite you, whereas a voter will." Encouraging, isn't it?

You same candidates should remember the following if you're confronted with obvious hecklers who yell at you. "I wouldn't vote for you if you were Saint Peter!" Just yell back. "Feller, if I were Saint Peter you wouldn't be in my precinct!"

And if a supporter tells you, "Every thinking voter in the county is gonna vote for you", you might reply, "Oh, that won't be enough, to win I gotta have a majority."

High Plains Junior

RODEO



Saturday, June 24,
Sunday, June 25
Starting Time 10:00 AM Daily



- * Admission \$4 adults, \$2 students, six and under free *
- * Brought to you by Plains Roping Club *
- * Concession Stand by Plains Lions & Chamber of Commerce *
- * All contestants are 19 and under *



Please Come Support The Future World Champions!



RESIDENTIAL CONTRACTORS

The City of Plains will implement the HOME Program, single-family Rehabilitation/New Construction. Contractors require good references, financials, workers compensation, and general liability insurance. HUBs are encouraged to participate. Pre-qualification Application is available by calling Marge, 512-420-0303. Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Program

NOTICE FOR BIDS THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF YOAKUM

The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 4 PM Thursday, July 6, 2006, for the PURCHASE of Medical Furniture & Equipment for the Yoakum County Hospital. Bids will be reviewed and contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, July 10, 2006.

For a list or more information, please contact Darinda McWhirter, Yoakum County Auditor, 806/456-7491 Ext. 292. PO Box 516, Plains, Texas 79355 or Clay Taylor, Hospital Administrator, 806/592-2121, PO Box 1130, Denver City, Texas.

Sealed bids should be marked "HOSPITAL FURNITURE & 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.

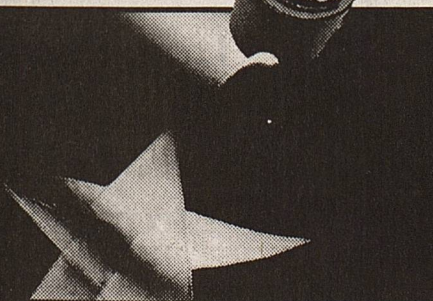
Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

WHERE YOU NEED IT.

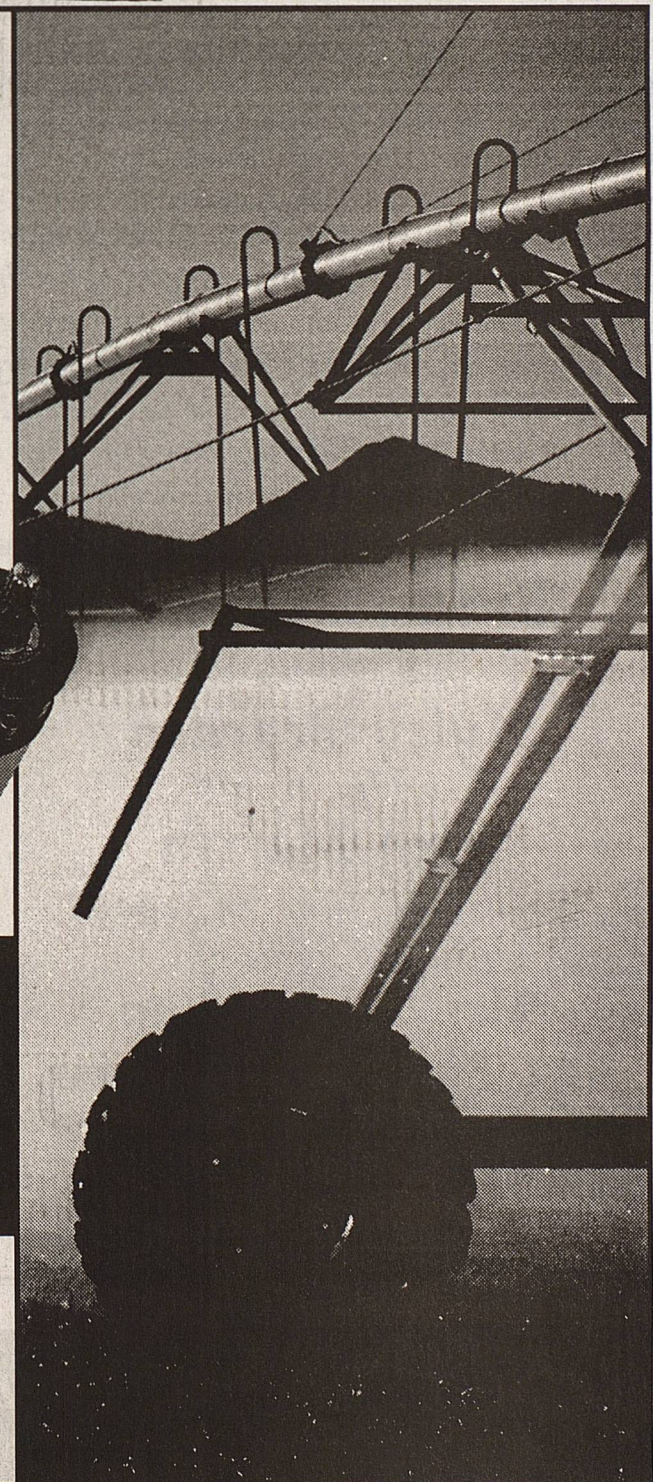
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PETIT JURY SELECTION FOR YOAKUM COUNTY

Petit Jury Service will be held on Monday, June 26, 2006, at 1:30 PM in the Courtroom on the 2nd floor of the courthouse in Plains, Texas. For any questions or further instructions, please call the County Judge's office at 806/456-7491, ext. 290. THE FOLLOWING PERSONS HAVE BEEN SUMMONED TO APPEAR:

Plains Area Residents:
Elizabeth Garza
Adam Guerrero
Judy Sisson
Miguel Guerra
Craig A. Ward
Kristian Alexandra Morales
Lori Carolyn Michaleson
Diana Zorrilla
Ginger Wilson
Sheila Stephens
Laura Leigh Flores

Esperanza Maria Matta
Gloria Gonzales
Valentin Luna
Sharon Kerby Thomas
Amber Raye Ellis
Tamra Diane Mullins
Victoria Leann Lamar
Maria Alcorta
Helen Carrillo
Forrest Michael Earnest
Jerry Lynn Parrish
Kimberly Nicole Martinez

Jonna Sue Powell
Mark Lee Lewis
Jorge Moreno
Prisma Villegas Ortiz
Roger Alan Bennett
Owen Schneider
Zareta Winn
Lela Summer Lovelace
Kari Dyan Guetersloh
Reynaldo O. Garza

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Cell 806-638-7384

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& Buffalo Cultivators,
Baker Disc & Switch
Plows, Spray Coupe,
Wilmar Sprayer
Brownfield, Tx.
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Pep Turner's General
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40' x 60' Barn. Call
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for more information