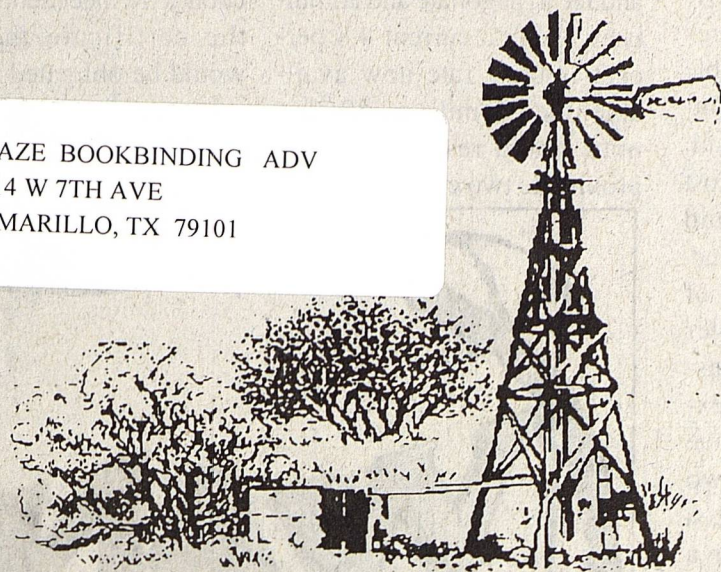


Cowboy Country News

Published each Wednesday in the county seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas Volume XII, Issue 19, January 18, 2006

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Yoakum County 2006 Jr. Livestock Show Just Days Aaway

Information from Extension Agent - Ag Arlan Gentry indicates the 2006 version of the Livestock Show for the county's two FFA and 4-H school chapter exhibitors is about ready to roll.

Gentry furnished data indicating this year a total of 110 young exhibitors will be on hand during the three day event which kicks off Thursday, January 26. A total of 192 swine have been entered this year, 22 lambs, 47 goats, 37 rabbits and two steers.

Thursday is weigh-in day, with swine scheduled from 9 to 12 noon, lambs 1 - 1:30, goats 1:30 - 2:30, Steers 2:30 - 3 pm.

Friday has Rabbit check-ins

at 8 am, Steer show 9am, Rabbit show 9:30, Goat show 10:30, Lamb show 11:30, Swine gilt show 12 noon, Barrow show following Gilts.

On Saturday, January 28, a special Buyer's Luncheon will be served in the school cafeteria from 11 AM until 12 Noon. Back in the show areana the Invocation will be given at 1 PM, followed by presentation of the Queen Contestants, and Awards Ceremony.

The Premium Sale will begin at 1:30 PM, and the Cowpatty Bingo winner will be announced.

2006 Queen Candidates are Kinsey Beard, Denver City FFA, Macy Roberts, Denver City 4-H, Joani Bell, Plains FFA, and Sara

Hom, Plains 4 H

Officers include Danny Williams, Pres., Casey Clark, Vice Pres., Angie Brumley, Secretary, and directors are Chris Chambliss, Brady McConal, Kevin Gibson, Mike Roberts, Rick Gibson, Bill Rowe, Carlos Howell, and Lanny Wood.

Serving on the Advisory Committee are Joe Pierce, Plains Ag Science, Eric Harrel, Denevr City Ag Science, and Arlan Gentry, County Extension Agent-Ag. Lesa Wood is Show Secretary/Treasurer

Auctioneer will be Reggie Trout, announcer is Woody Lindsey, Emcee for awards ceremony is Bill Helwig, and Carlos Howell is in charge of the Buyers Luncheon.

Yoakum County Hospital celebrates 50 years of service



Hospital officials shown L-R include Directors Dennis Harrison and Edith Kidd, CEO Clay Taylor, Directors J.R. Slentz and Stanley Ashburn, Board President Jack Cobb, Director Neal Newsom, and Della Vallejo, representing the Texas Hospital Association.

Last week Yoakum County Hospital in Denver City celebrated fifty years of serving patients of the county and surrounding areas. Staff, board members and officers were honored with the presence of U.S. Senator John Cornyn's representative Jessica Adams, who presented a Certificate of Appreciation during the celebration. Also present for the ceremony was Della

Vallejo, representing the Texas Hospital Association, and who presented a plaque honoring the hospital.

Yoakum County Hospital is a rural, 24 bed facility, and includes a new twelve station dialysis center, two health clinics, fitness center and a home health agency.

Billy Royce Medlin elected as New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Board President

Billy Royce Medlin, Lea County Electric Cooperative (LCEC) Board President, was elected as President of the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative (NMREC) Board at their regular December meeting held in Santa Fe, NM. The 17 member Board is comprised of a representative from each of the New Mexico Cooperatives. Billy Royce previously served two years as Treasurer

followed by a one year term as Vice President. He will be up for re-election at NMREC's Annual Meeting held each year in June.

Representing District 5, Billy Royce was elected to LCES's Board 29 years ago and has served as president for the past 12 years. He and his wife Donna reside on their family ranch located at Maljamar, NM. Billy Royce is an alum-

nus of New Mexico State University, holding a degree in Agriculture Economics. As a lifelong resident of Lea County, he understands the power needs of the community and works tirelessly to ensure our members are served well by the Cooperative. Billy Royce has a proven reputation as a committed, powerful and dedicated advocate for Lea County Electric Cooperative and the communities it serves." said LCEC General Manager Gary Hurse. The NMREC Board will accomplish much under the direction of Billy Royce"

"I am privileged to serve NMREC as its President. I'm eager to continue working with my fellow board members to provide the best energy solutions to Cooperative members throughout the state," said Billy Royce. NMREC held their first meeting January 5 in Santa Fe.

Established in 1949, Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a member-owned co-op headquartered in Lovington, New Mexico. Branch offices are located in Tatum, New Mexico and Plains, Texas. Lea County Electric provides service to approximately 6,327 customers.

Court OK's two major bids, hears briefing on funding for new jail

In the January 16 session of Commissioners Court, Pct. 3 Commissioner Ty Earl Powell reported two bids were received on recoating the County Water Tower on the south side of the town. A bid from Professional Sand Blasting & Coating, Amarillo for \$47,892 was accepted over a bid from a Minnesota firm for \$61,700. Plains ISD will participate in paying half the project when it can be placed in the next budget period.

Only one bid was received for renovating the Pro Shop at Yoakum County Golf Course. Tejas Partners, Denver City, submitted the bid of \$250,060. The court approved Pct. 1 Commissioner Woody Lindsey's motion to accept.

County Clerk Deborah Rushing's request to approve purchasing two office comput-

Sandy Land accepting applications for loans

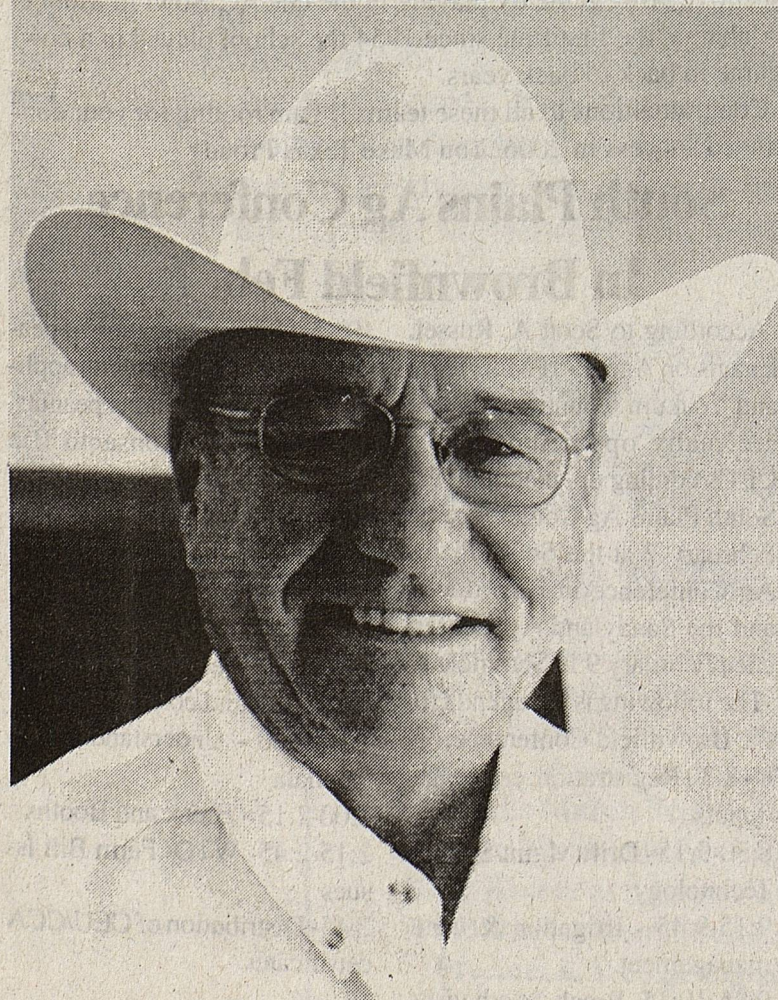
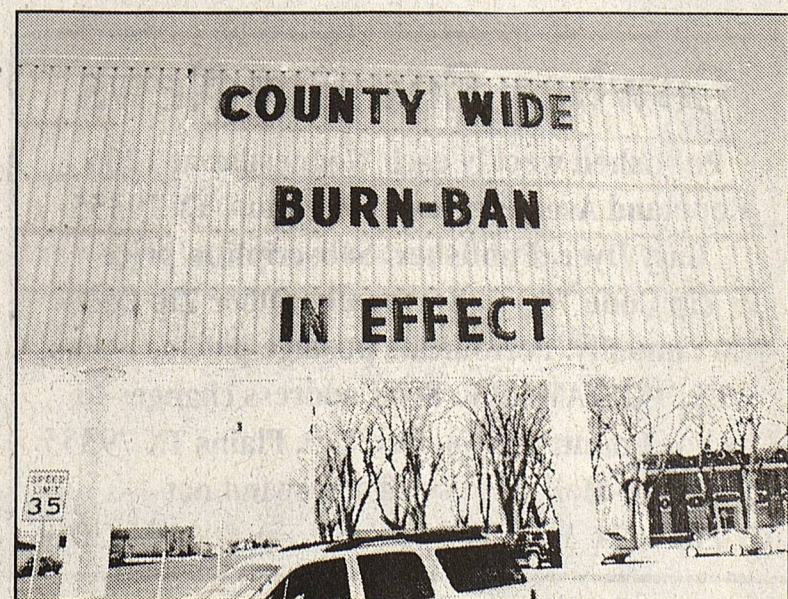
Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District has funds available to make low-interest loans to area farmers for the purchase and installation of more efficient water conservation equipment.

The Sandy Land UWCD service area includes all of Yoakum County covering approximately 531,200 acres in the southern high plains of Texas. There are more than 95,000 acres of irrigated land in

Yoakum County. Loans are limited to 80 percent of the purchase price of the above ground recoverable equipment of the new center pivot irrigation system and 75 percent on used equipment and/or sprinkler packages. The due date for all annual payments will be February 15 with a seven (7) year payout for new systems and a five (5) year payout on used systems.

See LOANS, Page 2

"Sign Of The Times"



COURT, From Page 1

ers for \$3,390 from budgeted funds was approved.

Representatives from Government Capital Securities conducted a review of possible funding options for the construction of a new county jail. The project is estimated to cost some \$5 million, and would eliminate over crowding and the cost of outside housing of inmates, now costing over \$100,000 annually, plus transportation costs. Spokemen explained the county would have the option of pursuing two types of bonding sources, a general obligation bond or a certificate of obligation. Either source would require full explanation to tax payers. Their recommendation was to pursue

LOANS, From Page 1

To apply for a loan, borrower/applclicant must complete a loan package. Loan packages are available from the District office in Plains. Loans will be secured by a first lien on the equipment for the purchase money security interest. The borrower/applclicant will be required to keep in force natural disaster insurance on the system throughout the life of the loan and provide proof of insurance to the District annually. Land on which the new center pivot system is to be installed must be located within the Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District. Completed applications should be returned to the District office by February 3, 2006. The Board of Directors will meet on February 8, at which time they will consider any loan applications received. For more information contact the Sandy Land UWCD at 806-456-2155

the certificate of obligation because of a lower interest rate and fee to negotiate and administer. With a current 4.8 percent interest rate now available, the \$5 million, 20 year note would result in an approximate two cent tax rate in-

crease, or an increase of \$10 on a \$50,000 home in the county. To meet debt service on the certificate the county would be obligated for an annual payment of approximately \$390,000 annually.

Overcrowding of jails is a

major problem across the state. A recent study showed 66 percent of Texas county jails are over populated.



**Capitol Comments
by U.S. Senator
Kay Bailey Hutchison**

2005; A Championship Year For Texas

Texas colleges and universities have a well deserved reputation for excellence, but that success is not limited to the classroom. In the past year, teams of student athletes from Texas schools have been incredibly successful on the playing fields as well.

The University of Texas represented our state with honor recently, winning the college football national championship with an amazing victory over the University of Southern California in the Rose Bowl by a score of 41-38.

The Longhorns finished the season 13-0 by beating the Trojans, who were going for their third consecutive national championship. It was so exciting to be at the Rose Bowl and witness quarterback Vince Young and his teammates win such a big game. When Young scored the final touchdown on a fourth and five play with only 19 seconds left in the game, the Texas fans were so loud you could feel the stands vibrate from the cheering. The team showed great character, becoming more determined after falling behind, and it displayed an indomitable spirit by wearing down the Trojans. I could not sit down the entire game because there was not a single dull moment.

Years ago, I remember watching the great Texas teams coached by Darrell Royal when I attended UT. I will never forget the victory over Navy that clinched UT's first national championship in football on New Year's Day 1964.

This year, coach Mack Brown perfected his team, infusing it with confidence and stability. They are made up almost entirely of native Texans. Of the team's 22 starters, 20 are from Texas. Another great memory I have from Texas sports last year was cheering on the Baylor University's women's basketball team as they defeated the Michigan University Spartans in April to win the school's first NCAA national basketball title. The Lady Bear's 84-62 victory was the second highest margin of victory in a woman's NCAA title game ever and was an outstanding performance by a Texas team on a national stage.

By leading her team to the championship, Coach Kim Mulkey-Robertson became the first woman to win a national championship as a player and a head coach, having been a star on two national championship teams at Louisiana Tech in the 1980's. She was awesome to watch last season.

In June the University of Texas baseball team won the national championship decisively by sweeping the University of Florida two games to none in the College World Series. Coach Augie Garrido has been extremely successful over the past few years, as the Longhorns have reached the College World Series four consecutive years, finishing second in 2004 and first in 2002. (Rice University won the championship in 2003 with another remarkable Texas team.) I am glued to the television during the College World Series each year. I love the games and I am proud of how Texas teams always are a major presence.

Also in June, The University of Texas women's track and field team won the NCAA outdoor Championship by winning a close race in the final event. The Longhorns were in third place with just one remaining, but they came through in the end to bring home the school's fourth outdoor track and field national championship. The victory was especially meaningful for coach Beverly Learney, who overcame a personal tragedy and inspired us all with her hard work and perseverance to recover and return to championship form.

And to close out the year, several other schools saw their football teams complete excellent seasons by appearing in bowl games. TCU finished the season with a 11-1 record after winning the Houston Bowl; Texas Tech capped its winninst season since 1976 by playing in the Cotton Bowl, losing to Alabama only on the last play of the game; the University of Houston played in its second bowl in three years in the Fort Worth Bowl; and the University of Texas-El Paso appeared in its second consecutive bowl game by playing in the GMAC Bowl in Mobile, Alabama, the first time since 1954 the school played in a bowl game in back to back years.

Congratulations to all these teams!! I am rooting for your continued success in 2006. You Make Texas Proud!

**South Plains Ag Conference
In Brownfield Feb. 7**

According to Scott A. Russel, Extension Agent - IPM in Terry and Yoakum Counties, "There are many opportunities for CEUs coming up, including the South Plains Ag Conference on February 7 at the South Plains Ag Conference in Brownfield, and the Sandyland Ag Conference February 9 in Seminole." The following is the agenda for the Brownfield Conference;

- 8 - 8:30 Registration, coffee and donuts
- 8:30-9:15- Drift Mgmt/Sprayer Technology
- 9:15-9:45 - Irrigation & water management
- 9:45-10:15- Break, booth visits.
- 10:45-11:15- Evaluation of peanut fungicides, timing of applications in South Plains peanuts.
- 11:15- 11:45- Monsanto Bio Technology update.
- 11:45 - 12:00 EQIP program update
- 12 noon-1:00- Lunch by Monsanto
- 1:00-1:30-Weed control options in peanuts and cotton
- 1:30-2:00 - Understanding the Ogallala
- 2:00-2:15 - Break and Booths
- 2:15-2:45- WTO/ Farm Bill Issues
- 2:45- Distribution of CEU/CCA certificates

WANTED

2006 Yoakum County
Relay For Life Teams
Please Call Stacey Meece
592-5169 or 592-6285
Stacey_Meece@oxy.com
for any questions you may have!

2006 Yoakum County Relay for Life
Team Captain Meeting Dates

Tuesday, January 24th- 5:30 Oxy Office

Tuesday, February 28th- 5:30 Wells Fargo

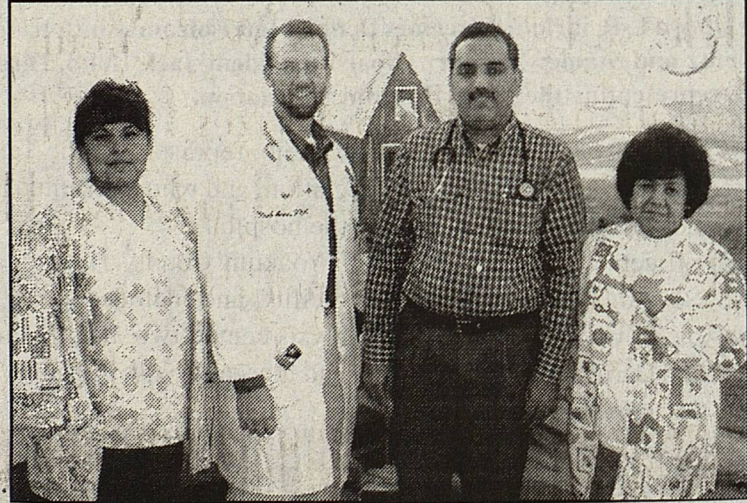
Tuesday, March 28th- 5:30 First United Methodist
Church in Denver City

Tuesday, April 25th- 5:30 Oxy Office

Tuesday, May 9th-5:30 Wells Fargo

Tuesday, May 16th- 5:30 First United Methodist
Church in Denver City

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

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8 am.-5pm.

**Will take walk-ins Appointments preferred
Please call 806-456-6365**

**Distric Court
Criminal
Case**

District Judge Kelly G. Moore heard one criminal case in District Court January 6, with Criminal Diostrect Court representing the state.

Jose Now Rodriguez pled guilty to evading arrest or detention with a vehicle, a State Jail felony.

A two year sentence was suspended and probated five years. He was fined \$750, must pay \$222 court costs and \$25 time payment fee. He will serve 129 hours community servie, and pay \$50 monthly supervision fees. His attorney was Enrique Martinez, and Investigating officer was DPS Trooper Quentin Kingham.

TPA

**MEMBER
2005**

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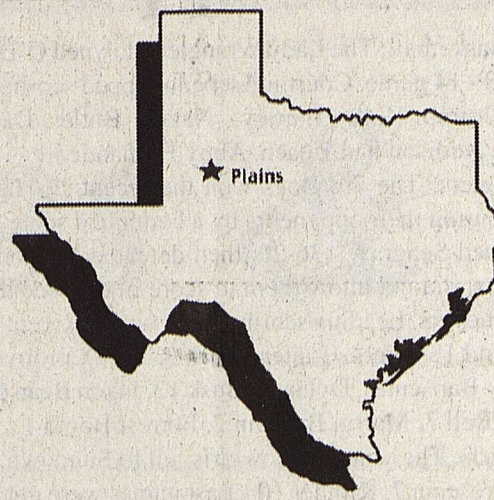
Home - 806-592-3490

Jeff Lowrey Assoc.

CELL 806-592-1319

Home 806-456-3195

Catered Meal By
Two-B Ranch Catering



Dinner Music by
B.J. Lester

Proud Of The Past... Plans For The Future

The Plains Chamber of Commerce Invites You To Our

Annual Banquet

Thursday, January 19, 7 PM, In The Plains ISD Cafeteria. This year our guest speaker, Dallas Powell, is another Hometown Boy who has made good, and continues to maintain his affection for our town, people, and his family here. He will entertain you!

Door Prizes
Galore!

Merchants, firms, organizations, individuals - we need your help with door Prizes - PLEASE help support the chamber with your generosity!!

\$ 8.50 per person

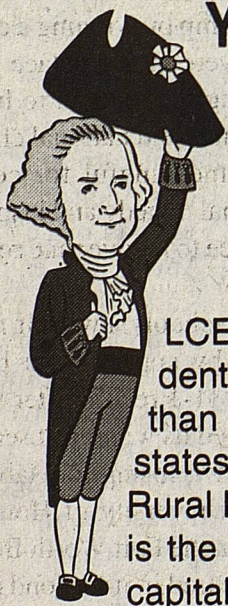
Hey High School Students!

Where will you be this summer?

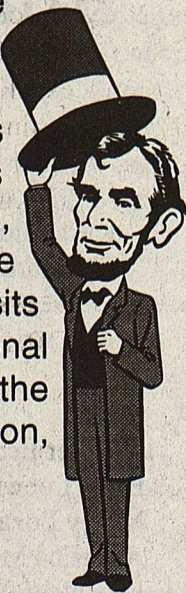
You could be in Washington, D.C.,

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 8-15, 2006. This is the chance of a lifetime to tour our nation's capital, visit personally with legislative leaders, and see where history has been made. The Government-in-Action Youth Tour includes visits to the Smithsonian Institution, Arlington National Cemetery, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Mount Vernon, all the National Monuments and more!



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

Applications are also available at your high school or any LCEC office.
Applications due by February 10, 2006.

Please Be Generous With Your Donation Of Door Prizes For The Chamber Banquet. You May Leave Them At City Hall Or The Library, Or Bring Them To The Banquet !!

ATTENTION

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS!

Lea County Electric Education Foundation is currently accepting applications for scholarships to be awarded for the Fall 2006 semester. The Scholarships are renewable up to 8 consecutive semesters, for a total of \$5,000.00!

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.

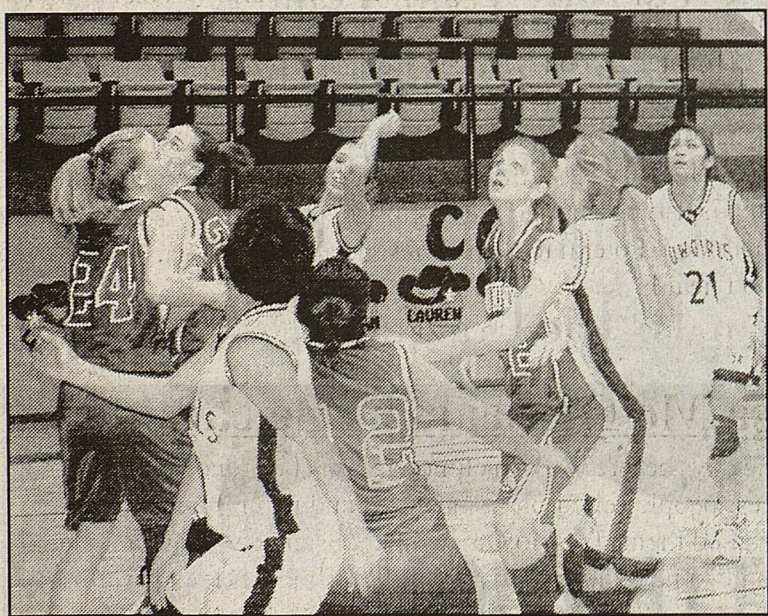
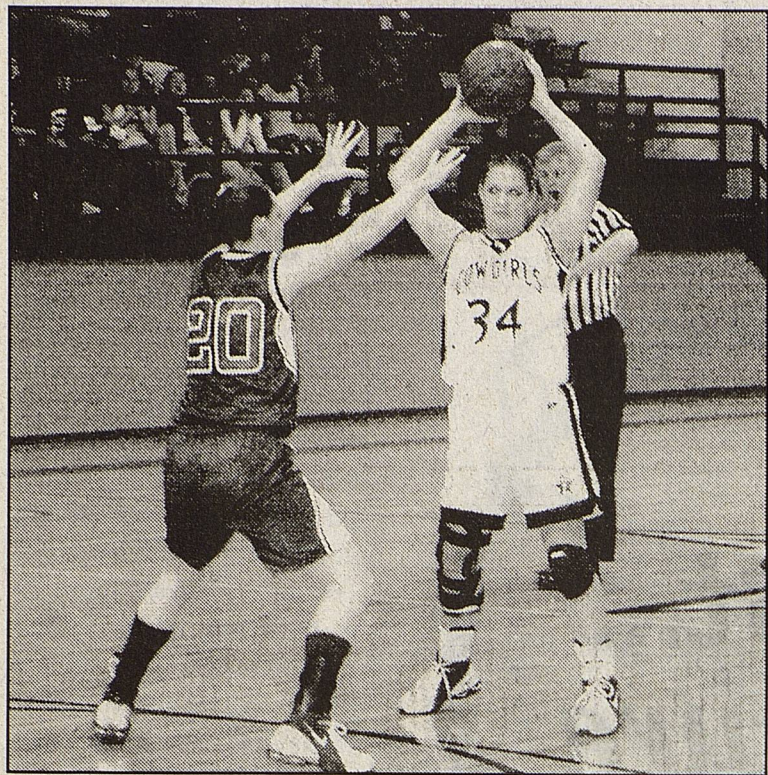
Applicant must submit two letters of reference (see application for important details) and demonstrate a coherent degree plan.

Applications must be received no later than February 10, 2006.

For more information contact Suzie Brown at the Cooperative's Lovington office at 396-3631. Applications are also available at your high school or any LCEC office.

In the January 4 issue of CCN, we failed to list one of the names correctly as a candidate in the March Primary Election. We should have listed Kreg Keesee as a Republican candidat for Commissioner, Precinct 4. We Apologize

Roundball Action Scenes

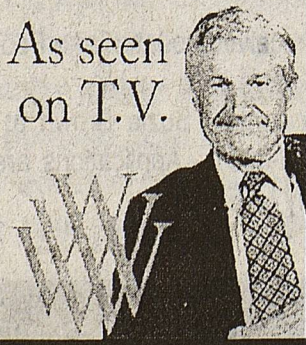


Parents, Dennis Kinman will be here January 19, 6:30 PM in the Resource Center. Information will pertain to the financial aid process for your senior and importance of continued education beyond high school. Deadlines for scholarship opportunities at your students' college choice may be as soon as February 1. Check the individual college website for deadlines. If you have concerns or questions please contact me during school hours at 456-7498. Thank you, Cindy Davis, Counselor

YOAKUM COUNTY LIBRARY PLANS INFORMATION PLEASE PROGRAM

The Yoakum County Library will present an INFORMATION PLEASE program entitled, "Natural Cures and Gentle Medicines" on Thursday, January 26 at 2 p.m. in the Heritage Room at the library. The goal of the monthly programs is to inform and provide current information on topics of interest to the public. Refreshments will be served following the program. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

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PISD Happenings

Jr. High Basketball: The Lady Wranglers downed O'Donnell in a low scoring 18 - 14 game. Courtnei Asebedo topped scoring with 7 points. Hannah Crump, Kelby Bartley, Natalie Butler, Daenna Ramirez, Stephanie Addison had 2 each. Abby Hernandez 1.

7th Wranglers: The 7th Boys won the recent Jr. High Tournament here by routing their opponents by a combined score of 91-46. They first downed Seagraves 36-20, then defeated Morton 55-23, with a defense that did not allow them to score in the second period with 8 forced turnovers. Leading scoring were Jordan Rivera with five three pointers and 18 points, Hunter Welch 3, Theo Cordova 11, Alan Lara 14, Jeffrey Barrientes, Dylan DeBusk 12, Jaxon Bean 6, Cody Friesen 6, Jaaron Bell 3, Martin Burgoin 2, Forrest Booth 1.

JV Cowgirls: The younger Cowgirls fell to Sundown 35-23. Liz had 6 points, Yesenia 7, Kimber 10 (Last names were not furnished) They were also downed by Seagraves 56-24. Liz had 2 points, Heather 13, Mari 2, Brianna 5.

Varsity Cowgirls: On January 10 the Cowgirls lost to Sundown 32-24. Desiraye Broome had 11 points, 7 rebounds, 1 steal, Reyna Gallegos had 3 points, 4 rebounds, 1 blocked shot, two steals, Joani Bell had 3 points, 9 rebounds, 2 assists and a block, Meghan Garcia had 2 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists and a steal. Lauren Davis had 3 points and 2 rebounds. On January 13 they beat Seagraves 53-52 in a good game. Desiraye had 19 points, 9 rebounds, 1 assist and 3 steals. Regina had 11 points, 7 rebounds, 3 assists and a steal. Joani had 10 points, 16 rebounds, a block shot and 2 steals. Lauren had 8 points, 2 assists, Reyna had 3 points, 5 rebounds 2 assists, a blocked shot and 3 steals. Meghan had 2 points, 1 rebound, 4 assists and 2 steals. They have an overall record of 1-3-8 and are 1 and 2 in district.

Varsity Cowboys: On January the Cowboys lost a close 47-43 to Sundown. They suffered from 23 turnovers and missed free throws. Landon Craft led shooting with 15 points, Blake O'Quinn had 13, Abel Ramos 6, T.J. Cordova, Zach Ramos, Blake Parrish and BJ Lester 2 each. O'Quinn led rebounding with 14, Craft had 6. They again lost a squeaker to Seagraves 34-32. Coach Davis reported they failed to score a point in the second quarter, and missed 10 free throws. Craft managed 10 points, O'Quinn 9, Lestr 4, Cordova 3, Addison, Zach Ramos and Casson Curtis 2 each. B.J. Lester grabbed 9 rebounds, O'Quinn 8.

Student of the Week



Student of the Week is Reyna Gallegos, a freshman and the daughter of Manuel and Guadalupe Gallegos. She was nominated by Adam Jones, who said, "Reyna is a person who knows how to handle responsibilities. She has a lot of 'irons in the fire', involved in UIL, Student Council, and as a freshman, is a varsity athlete in both volleyball and basketball. She is extremely hard working and an excellent student."

PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL 3rd Six Weeks

All A's 9th Grade

Chris Addison
Yesenia Loya

10th Grade

Maria Andazola
Ryan Crump
Amber Friesen
Lauren Hise
Colby Ortega
Zachary Ramos

11th Grade

Yesica Calderon
Landon Craft
Steven Dominguez
Jose Gallegos
Antonio Martinez
Araceli Mendoza
Adriana Ponce
Diana Valenzuela
Colby Wilmeth

12th Grade

David Alldredge
Michael Crump
Casson Curtis
Nick Curtis
Allison Friesen
Reagan Haynes
Ashli Humphrey
Skylar Keesee
B.J. Lester
Blake O'Quinn
Blake Parrish
Abel Ramos

All A's and 1 B

Kurt Alldredge
Flor Lara

Jennifer Eccles
Erika Loewen
Nancy Lozano
Angelica Mendoza
Lisa Neufeld
Mario Ruvalcaba

T.J. Cordova
Ricardo Cueto
Ben Hays
Ramiro Martinez
Adam McCravery
Manuel Mendoza
Maribel Mendias

PLAINS ELEMENTARY NEEDS YOUR TRASH!

We are collecting items to raise money for our school and improve the environment. Before you throw away a food box or wrapper, see if it has a "BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION" stamp. Tear this off and save it for us - each stamp is worth ten cents. This adds up quickly. For details on this program visit www.boxtops4education.com. Second, we can recycle *any old cell phones and inkjet printer cartridges*. These may damage the environment if thrown in the trash and they will generate funds for our school. Before you turn your cell phone into a dog toy, consider donating it to help us educate children. Please call 456-7438 or stop by if you have questions or donations. We sincerely thank you for all the ways you help support the children of Plains!!

UIL Meet At Andrews Jan. 14

38 PHS students competed against 22 schools in 1A - 5A. Final results not available. Grade levels are given before students names in Math & Science, their places following the name

Ready Writing 8:00

Angelica Mendoza-9th
Maria Andazola-10th
Joe Luis Gallegos-7th
Flor Lara
Ramiro Martinez
Zachary Guerra

Spelling 10:30

Maria Andazola 5th
Flor Lara
Skylar Keesee
Lisa Neufeld
Erika Loewen

Computer Applications 8:00

Antonio Martinez 1st
Araceli Mendoza 3rd

Feature Writing 11:30

Allison Friesen
Lauren Hise
Lauren Davis 2nd

Number Sense 8:00

9th-Chris Addison
10th-Amber Friesen
10th-Kurt Alldredge - 7th
12th-Blake O'Quinn - 7th
12th-David Alldredge - 4th
12th-Adam McCravery

Editorial Writing 1:00

Araceli Mendoza
Erika Loewen
Jose Luis Gallegos 2nd

Prose 8:00,1:00,2:30

Maretta Trent
Skylar Keesee

Poetry 8:00,1:00,2:30

Lauren Hise
Jordan Williams

Persuasive 8:30,11:00,2:00

Scott Addison 1st
Holden Welch 6th
Adriana Ponce

Computer Science 1:00

Allison Friesen 9th
Adam McCravery 8th
Amber Friesen 13th

Social Studies 1:00

Yesenia Loya
Flor Lara
Angelica Mendoza
Reyna Gallegos

Headline Writing 2:00

Blake O'Quinn 1st
Chris Addison
Holden Welch

Mathematics 2:00

10th-Amber Friesen
10th-Lauren Davis
10th-Kurt Alldredge 4th
11th-Mario Ruvalcaba
11th-Antonio Martinez
12th-Allison Friesen
12th-David Alldredge 7th
12th-BJ Lester

Science 10:30

9th-Zachary Guerra 4th
9th-Landon Earnest 8th
9th-Chris Addison 9th
9th-Yesenia Loya 6th
10th-Amber Friesen
10th-Kurt Alldredge
11th-Mario Ruvalcaba
11th-Antonio Martinez
12th-Adam McCravery
12th-BJ Lester
12th-David Alldredge
12th-Michael Crump
12th-Blake O'Quinn

New Mexico Junior College

Promoting Success through Learning



Register for Spring 2006 Classes Begin January 17

- ✓ Registration January 4-16
- ✓ Late registration January 17-23
- ✓ Late registration for Audit ends February 3

Returning students can register at www.nmjc.edu
or by telephone at (505) 392-2763.

Watch your mail for the Schedule!

Counseling Office: 392-5081

5317 Lovington Highway • Hobbs, New Mexico 88240
505-392-4510 • 1-800-657-6260 • www.nmjc.edu

Lifelines & Styles

NMJC Campus site of Western Heritage Museum, Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame in Hobbs

A premiere opening occurred at New Mexico College in Hobbs January 14, complete with ribbon cutting by the Hobbs Chamber of Commerce. The site showcases the Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame inductees and their memorabilia. The Museum will feature world-class exhibits throughout the year which exemplify the diversity, beauty, and cultural traditions that shaped the American Southwest. The facility also offers a state of the art multi media room and theater.

Home of the largest traveling exhibit space in New Mexico, the museum currently features "Images from the West: The Illustrator's Art" from the OS Ranch Collection of Mr and Mrs Giles McCrury through February 4. Also showcased are exhibits from the Traveling Exhibitions Program (Trex) of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs entitled "Rebirth of a craft; Paper Marbling in New Mexico; and "Word Art: Poetry broadside series." These exhibits can be viewed through March 31.

As visitors explore the approximately 29,000 square foot facility located on the Lovington Highway, they will enjoy an historical overview of the region, from the ancient prehistoric sea that once covered the region, to the rich grasslands, buffalo, ancient peoples, explorers, ranchers and cowboys, to the burgeoning oil industry of today.

Hours of operation beginning January 17 will be Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM to 6 PM. Cost for admission will be \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors 65 and older and youth ages 6-18. Children 5 and under will be free. For more information about the Western Heritage Museum and Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame, please call 505-392-6730.

SPC announces summer Peace Officer Academy

South Plains College is accepting candidates of the 2006 Summer Peace Officer Academy beginning May 3 through August 18 in Levelland. The classes are held Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Applicants must also be admitted to SPC and meet all SPC entrance requirements. Admission to SPC does not ensure admission into the academy. Admission forms are available at the SPC Admissions Office or online at www.southplainscollege.edu.

The approximate course cost is \$1,532 for in-district students and \$2,056 for out of district students in addition to books and supplies. Pre-registration is required by April 21, 2006 along with a non-refundable \$50 application fee for a state and federal background check required through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Office

Standards and Education. The registration process may take three to four weeks, therefore early registration is recommended.

Applicants desiring financial aid must do so through the SPC Financial Aid Office and should seek assistance no later than March 1. The academy is a 16-week course of study involving 618 hours of academy work and approximately 192 hours of physical fitness activities. In addition to academic studies, students will receive training in handgun qualification, driving, mechanics of arrest among other training activities. A personal vehicle or handgun is not required for the courses.

For a more detailed list of admission requirements, log onto www.southplainscollege.edu or call 806-894-9611, extension 2291.

Charm is the ability to make someone else think both of you are pretty wonderful... Kathleen Winsor

Hicks Air & Appliances



TRANE "Its hard to stop a TRANE"



Members of the Yoakum County Hospital Auxiliary met January 12 for the formal installation of officers for the coming year. The "Pink Ladies" who volunteer their services for patients and families are an integral part of the hospital and include these officers; L-R, Darlene Harper, Secretary; Marie Cothren, 3rd Vice President; Ray Champion, President; Betty Wright, Treasurer; Vi Turnbough, 2nd Vice President; Sandy Bell, 1st Vice President; Virginia Johnson, Entertainment; Not pictured was Kathy Pelette, Corresponding Secretary.

Retired School Personnel Association meets here

The Yoakum county Retired School Personnel Association met on Tuesday, January 10, 2006 at Lalito's Restaurant. President Brenda Canada called the meeting to order. Treasurer Pam Smith gave the treasurer's report. The group gave reports about their volunteer work to Judy London.

Two delegates, Brenda Canada and Estelle McAdams, were elected to attend the convention in Amarillo on April 2-4. It was decided that all officers and chairmen of committees would be left in place for another year. Pat Curtis distributed information about the walk for health program. Each member will keep a record of the miles they walk each month.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 14, at 11:00 a.m. at Lalitos. All retired school personnel are urged to attend this meeting.

Recognizing A Stroke May Be A Matter Of Life & Death

* From a thoughtful reader *

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within three hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke -totally. He said the secret was getting the stroke recognized, diagnosed and getting to the patients within three hours.

There are three essential steps to learn in stroke recognition. Sometimes stroke symptoms are difficult to identify, and the lack of awareness can spell disaster. The victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize stroke symptoms.

Doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking the victim three simple questions: 1. Ask the victim to SMILE. 2. Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH

ARMS. 3. Ask the person to SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE... 'It's very warm (cold) today.'

If the affected person has trouble with any of these tasks, call 9-1-1 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

When researchers learned non-medical volunteers could recognize facial weakness, arm weakness and speech problems they urged the public to learn and remember the three questions, and they reported their conclusions to a recent meeting of the American Stroke Association. Use of the three steps could help treatment and prevent brain damage.

Donate blod at upcoming drive to boost local supply

The flu season is upon us. Sore throats, fevers and coughs are keeping kids home from school, people home from work, and blood donors out of blood centers. If you are feeling well, please consider stepping up to donate badly needed blood at an upcoming drive.

"With fewer people donating blood, some parts of the country run the risk of having critical blood shortages," says Rhonda Teal of United Blood Services. To make sure there is an adequate and dependable supply locally, United Blood Services has scheduled a community blood drive from 1:30 PM to 7 PM Tuesday, January 31 at the Plains EMS barn, 1104 Ave. G.

United is asking all who are eligible to stop by and donate life saving blood. Potential donors must be at least 17 years old and in good health.

Tsa Mo Ga hears home cure tips

In the days before walk-in clinics and an abundance of doctor's offices, people relied on home cures and natural herbs to cure what ailed them. Tsa Mo Ga members listened with great interest, and some amusement, as Martha Palmer reviewed *Natural Cures & Gentle Medicines* at the January 9 meeting. The book offered tips on everything from acne to weight control.

The book gives hundreds of cure-alls for all sorts of medical problems, some which can't be mentioned. The book reveals that salt is a natural antihistamine, bananas can offer relief from heartburn and a cough, and ginger and the tumeric in Indian food seasoning is a good anti-inflammatory. A baked potato helps high blood pressure, herbal tea can banish bad breath, honey will relieve colds and the flu, Ketchup is a good source of lycopene, which can lower heart disease and certain cancer. Members shared their home remedies used today to wrap up the program. Hostesses were Wilma Powell and Mary Jo St. Romain.

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10:45 A.M.
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6:00 P.M.

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From The Hack

I recently read in an issue of *American Profile* an amazing lady, 96 year old Evelyn Johnson, has been flying since 1944, has instructed over 9,000 now licensed pilots, and has officially logged 57,630 flight hours. I mentioned this amazing feat to a fellow golfer recently, and he scoffed, "Ha! That's no big deal. My wife has logged more hours than that on her cell phone - and it's only 9 years old!"

It's hard for me to believe I completely forgot to make any New Year promises or vows when 2006 appeared on calendars. It's certainly not because I finally discovered I didn't NEED to make any changes! I am some 99.4% percent sure it was because I *Forgot* the New Year stuff.

A friend did cheer me up by sending me the following list of important thoughts to start 2006 on, reported in order of their monumental importance:

- #10- Life is sexually transmitted.
- #9- Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
- #8- You think I'm nuts? I'm not about to repeat #8. Worry about it. Or ask me on the golf course.
- #7- Give a person a fish and you feed the person a day.

Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks.

#6- Some people are like a Slinky.. not really good for anything, but you still can't help but smile when you see one tumble down the stairs.

#5- Health nuts are going to feel stupid one day, lying in hospitals dying of nothing.

#4- All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

#3- Why does a slight tax increase cost you two hundred bucks and a substantial tax cut saves you thirty cents.

#2- In the 60's people took acid to make the world weird. Now, the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal. And the #1 thought for 2006 - We know exactly where one cow with mad-cow disease is located among the millions and millions of cows in America, but we haven't got a clue as to where thousands of illegal immigrants and terrorists are located. Maybe we should put the Department of Agriculture in charge of immigration.

More or less... actually, much less along the above lines, I am reminded of my ongoing weekly saga with our Postmaster Jan Lester. I actually prefer referring to her as Postmistress, but she told me no, that sounds naughty. OK. Ms. Lester last week handed me a new bunch of Newspaper Mailing Rate Sheets, and with an angelic smile announced, "Postage is going up next week." When she saw the look on my countenance she hurriedly added, "It's not supposed to be too much an increase. I bet you'll be OK." Yeah. Sure. I was in her office Tuesday to mail last weeks paper, and she beamed, and said, "I crunched the numbers, and the local papers you mail are going to be cheaper!" True. When I filled out the form, I too learned local papers cost me an entire 76 cents

less!! Unfortunately, outside the local area the others cost me \$9.86 MORE. And so goes the government - it Giveth, and it certainly Taketh Away.

Married Bliss:

A married couple in their 60's were celebrating their 35th anniversary in a quiet, romantic little restaurant when a tiny but beautiful fairy with a wand appeared on their table and told them because they had been such a loving, faithful couple so long, "I am going to grant each of you one wish."

The excited wife exclaimed, "OOOHH. I want to cruise around the world with my darling, loving husband!" The Fairy waved the wand and quickly produced two tickets with all the perks on a luxury line, then asked what the husband wished for, and he studied a bit, and said, "Gee, I'm sorry to disappoint you honey, but this is too good to pass up. I wish for a lovely wife 35 years younger than me."

The fairy waved the wand and he was instantly transformed into a 97 year old man. It was a female fairy, of course

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF HUBURT FRANKLIN TIRRELL, DECEASED

Notice is now given that Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of Huburt Franklin Tirrell were issued January 16th, 2005, in cause No. 1484, pending in the County Court of Yoakum County, Texas, to: **Randal F. Tirrell**. The residence of such Executor and where claims may be presented is as follows:

Randal F. Tirrell
HCR 1, Box 169
Plains, Texas 79355

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within four (4) months after the date of the receipt of this notice and in the manner prescribed by law or the claim will be barred if not barred by the general statutes of limitation!

Dated January 16th 2006.
Warren New

Warren New, Attorney for the Estate, PO Box 670, Denver City, Texas 79323 Phone 806-592-2129 - Fax 806-592-7733

Job Opening

Plains Independent School Dist. is looking for a qualified individual to perform the tasks of vehicle maintenance and scheduling for the transportation department at the district. The individual should have a working knowledge of gasoline and diesel engines, air and hydraulic braking systems, and automotive air conditioning systems. The ability to acquire a CDL driver's license with a school bus and passenger endorsement is mandatory. The applicant should be willing to spend some time with the paperwork involved with maintaining a transportation fleet for a school district. The salary will be determined based on the applicants experience and skills. A competitive benefits package is included. For information and an application, any applicant should call 806-456-7401 or come by the Superintendent's office at 1000 10th Street in Plains, Texas.

Have some cheese, too

The Texas wine industry contributed more than \$200 million to the state's economy in 2004, according to the Texas Wine Marketing Research Institute.

The overall impact included direct and indirect economic impact, mostly due to winery tourism. For instance, tourists visiting wineries spent nearly \$28 million on wine, food, lodging, souvenirs and other items.

Economic impact, 2004 (in millions)

	Wine grape industry	Wine industry	State sales tax	State excise tax	Total
Direct	\$ 8.3	\$ 59.2	\$ 3.8	\$ 0.3	\$ 71.6
Indirect	11.2	111.3	5.8	0.6	128.9
Total	19.5	170.5	9.6	0.9	200.5

Source: Texas Wine Marketing Research Institute.



COMBINED NOTICE NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT and NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

City of Plains
1015 Ave F
P.O. Box 550
Plains, Texas 79355

Cowboy Country News
January 18, 2006

TO: ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

On or after February 4, 2006, the above named City of Plains intends to request the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) to release Federal funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P. L. 93-383) for Contract No. 725669

Exempt Activities

Administration
Engineering Services

Environmental Assessment Activities

The proposed improvements include installation of a welded steel elevated storage tank (0.10 MG), including foundation, 100 L.F of 8" water line, a concrete vault with an 8" gate valve and connect to an 8" distribution line.

Cost of the Project

\$360,000.00

Finding Of No Significant Impact

It has been determined that such request for release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly the above named City of Plains has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National environment Policy Act of 1969 (P. L. 91-190). The reason for such a decision not to prepare such a statement is based upon the fact that all environmental concerns could either be minimized or mitigated.

An Environmental Review Record for the proposed project has been made by the City of Plains which documents the environmental review of the project and more fully sets forth the reasons why such a statement is not required. The Environmental Review Record is on file at the Office of Community Development, City of Plains, City Hall, 1015 Avenue F, Plains, Texas 79355 and is available for public examination and copying, upon request between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

Public Comments Of Finding

All interested agencies, groups, and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the City to the address as set forth above. Such written comments must be received at the address specified within sixteen (16) days after this publication. All such comments so received will be considered and the City will not request the release of funds or take any administrative action on the project prior to date specified in the preceding sentence.

Release Of Funds

The City of Plains will undertake the activities described above with the Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I from its Program Year 2005 under grant numbered 725669 from the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The City of Plains is certifying to ORCA that Mr. Shane McKinzie in his official capacity as Mayor, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval, the City of Plains may use the Block Grant funds, and it will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. ORCA will accept an objection to its approval only on one or more of the bases and the procedures described in 24 CFR Part 58.75. Objections are to be addressed to the Office of Rural Community Affairs, P. O. Box 12877 Austin, Texas 78711-2877.

Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by the ORCA. No objection received later than thirty-three (33) days after this publication will be considered by the ORCA.

Shane McKinzie, Mayor
City of Plains
P.O. Box 550
Plains, Texas 79355
January 18, 2006

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