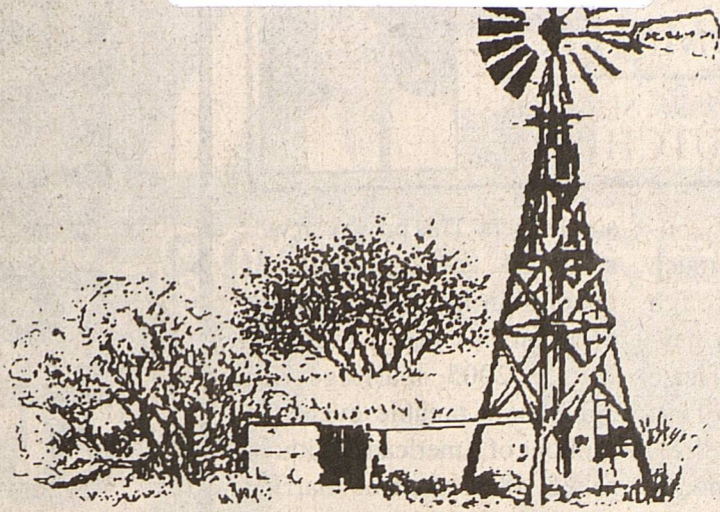


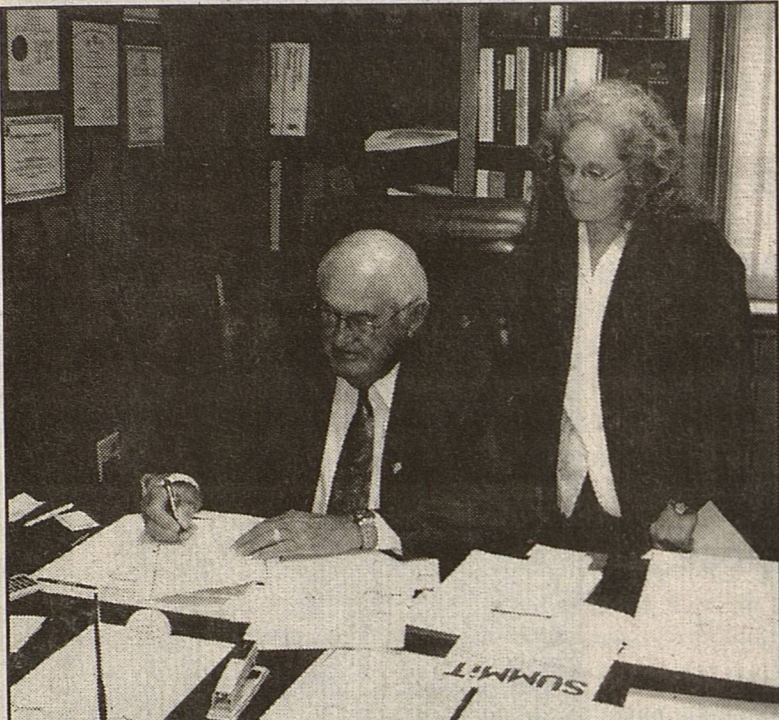
Cowboy Country News

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

Volume X, Issue 31, April 14, 2004



Stewardship Week to be observed here



County Judge Dallas Brewer signs Stewardship Week Proclamation under eye of Conservationist Clerk Jackie Pate.

Yoakum County Judge Dallas Brewer Monday signed a proclamation designating April 25 through May 2 as Soil and Water Stewardship Week. Stewardship Week had its origin more than 1500 years ago. When bad weather brought wide spread hunger to France, the Bishop of Vienne called upon his people to offer prayers, and humble thanks to their creator for the priceless gifts of soil, water air and sunshine, which make all living things possible. Today, the continued productivity of our soil remains one of our nation's most precious renewable resources. The Yoakum County Water Conservation District will celebrate Stewardship week with a breakfast for the community April 24 at the Plains Community Building. Serving time will be 6:30 AM until 8 AM.

Soil and Water Conservation District Board members are Donald Burgess, Chairman, Brad Crump, Vice-Chairman, Danny Bell, Secretary, Larry Nelson, Member, Bud Forbus, Member, Jackie Pate, District Clerk.

Conservation personnel include Don Haley, District Conservationist, Donald Gibbons, District Conservationist/Brownfield Resource Team, and Philip Carter, Range Management Specialist.

Child Welfare Board details reimbursement needs to court

Yoakum County Child Welfare Board members Suzie Parker and Patty Lindsey told Commissioners Court of the Board's difficulties in getting reimbursed by the county for expenditures on children in the care of foster families. Ms. Parker said the Board is currently assisting 17 children, the great majority of them living with foster parents well outside the county.

The Board's operations are funded with budgeted county dollars, and under an agree-

ment Board expenditures on children clients will be reimbursed by the county when receipts are received from foster parents detailing where, when and for what Board money was spent on the children.

Parker said it had been extremely difficult communicating with parents of the out of town children, and at the present time, the Board had been unable to secure the required receipts for their

**Turn To Page 4,
Welfare Board**



Child Welfare Board members Suzie Parker and Patty Lindsey

Battle Royal looms in Legislature over school finance, property tax problems

Weekly, if not daily, media sources are reporting Governor Rick Perry is getting closer to announcing a long expected special session of the Legislature to confront a thorny issue which refuses to go away - how to finance public school operations, and at the same time, afford Texas property owners financial relief from escalating property taxes.

Last week the governor publicly proposed putting an end to the notorious 'Robin Hood' system of financing public education, taking funds from property rich school districts and sending those funds to districts with less taxable assets.

In a news release received by CCN last week, Governor Perry editorialized about ever higher property taxes, claiming "state-wide property tax levies have increased by on average 10.4 percent a year, more than twice the combined annual rate of growth for inflation and our population." Perry further expalined "the back door property tax hike comes in the form of higher appraisals..... Instead of raising tax rates to generate more revenue, local government often depend on the local appraiser to generate additional money for them."

Governor Perry explained he will, in the approaching school finance special session, attempt to "pass a Tax Payer Protection Plan that will ensure we not only cut property taxes, but cap and control them too. I want to cap appraisal growth on Texas homesteads at 3 percent each year."

This proposal has already drawn fire from the Texas Municipal League, supported by member cities and towns throughout the state. TML Executive Director Frank Sturzl said in a recent release, "An artificial limitation on property appraisals would result in the same kind of property tax inequities our state tried to eliminate 25 years ago with uniform appraisals. The most important aspect of any tax system is fairness, and the proposed cap would create appraisal differences escalating each passing year." The submitted column also stated, "Just as lawmakers can't repeal the law of gravity, they can't legislate home values without distorting the market and warping the appraisal system. Value is a reflection of the market place - a willing buyer and a willing seller."

Reported key elements contained in the Governor's proposed school finance reform plan contain a number of new taxing proposals; A statewide business property tax is sure to be opposed

by business owners and owner groups. A tax on video lottery machines legally located at race tracks around the state is another Perry proposal already drawing fire before the Legislature even convenes. Other revenue sources Governor Perry has recently proposed include an even stiffer tax on tobacco, taxes on adult entertainment venues, and a broad array of taxes on service industries now tax free.

CCN asked Gary Walker, a former State Representative who served four terms of office before falling victim to re-districting lines, to make some candid comments about the upcoming battles on Austin's Congress Avenue.

Asked when he thought the Governor would call the special session, Walker replied, "The talk is the session might start April 26. That allows a thirty day session to end before all the school teachers get out of school at the end of May. The Legislature certainly does not want to be in Austin working on school finance with 300,000 teachers free to come lobbying there."

Walker continued, "His three main issues first have to pass by the Legislature, then by the voters, as governor proposals require constitutional amendments. This can get sticky for him; Does he put all three proposals on the floor at the same time and take the chance of getting it defeated, or put each issue up separately and take the chance of getting one or two turned down?"

Walker also listed what may be a crucial point in addressing the elimination of the Robin Hood plan. "Do legislators really want to change Robin Hood? Only about 120 school districts out of more than 1,000 in the state send their money to help poor districts. 90 percent of that money comes from just 44 districts, 75 percent comes from just 20 districts, 66 percent from just 13 districts. The top 7 districts contribute a little over 51 percent. With such a small number of 'rich' districts, I don't know if the Legislature really has the strength to go through the entire relief process."

He finished his comments by adding, "Perry has said he wants a consensus. The reason the special session has not been called yet is because the House and Senate have not agreed with the governor, and he cannot politically afford to call the special session and not get anything constructive accomplished." Constructive or not, the session should be interesting for all Texans. *For another perspective on this very important issue, please read article on Page 3 by James Haynes, Superintendent, Plains ISD.

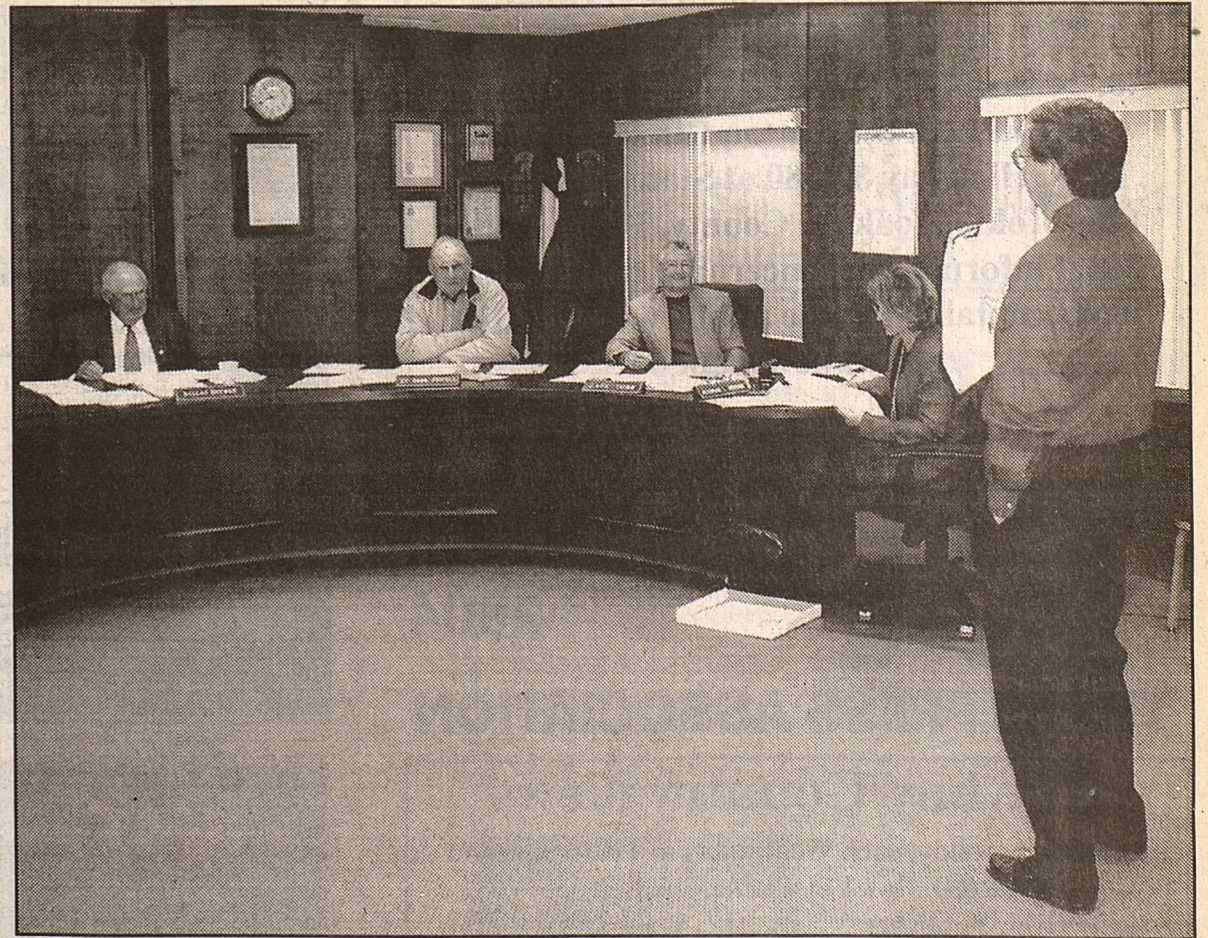
Criminal cases in District, County Court

In the March 30 session of District Court, with Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the state, Michael Lee Stafford pled true and the state modified terms of community supervision from a prior methamphetamine possession cause. He shall pay additional \$65 court costs and \$140 restitution to DPS. Defendant must enroll in the Gaines County Community Rehab Center, submit to evaluation and submit to course of treatment by the center until discharged.

Frederick David Fell pled guilty to a third or more DWI. A five year state pen sentence was suspended and probated five years. He was fined \$1500, must pay \$323 court costs and \$25 time payment fee, must serve 160 hours community service and pay \$50 monthly

**Turn To Page 3,
Criminal Cases**

Chamber explores funding for programmable electronic sign



Ed Hansen, City Administrator and also recently elected Chamber of Commerce President, spoke briefly in Commissioners Court this week of the Chambers quest to purchase a new, electronic sign for Old

Settlers Park, which would replace the ancient marquee sign, now well over 40 years of age.

Hansen told the court if joint funding for the purchase could be obtained from a number of governmental type entities

here, they would have access to the sign, and it would also be available to the public for rental messages, as the marquee currently is. He reported



CAPITOL COMMENT

U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON



TAXING TEXANS: Fifty billion dollars, That's how much Americans will see through higher refunds and lower payments this tax season. Those savings are a direct result of last year's sweeping tax relief, which is putting more money back into the pockets of hard working Americans, creating new jobs and growing the U.S. economy.

The last few years have been rife with the ingredients of an economic disaster, but despite a recession, terrorist attacks at home and abroad, corporate scandals and war, our economy is getting stronger. Inflation, interest and mortgage rates are near historic lows and homeownership is at the highest level ever. Stock market wealth has increased by more than \$4 trillion in the last year, and unemployment has dropped to 5.6 percent recently, below the average rate of the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's.

These numbers are good and they are getting better. But the positive news could be short lived unless Congress acts to make the tax relief permanent. Unfortunately, when we passed the Jobs and Growth Act in 2003 we were forced to sunset on the tax cuts and many of them will begin to fade away at the end of this year. After December 31, 2004, the expansion of the 10 percent bracket and alternative minimum tax relief will disappear. Even more frustrating is the fact that the marriage penalty, one of the most egregious elements of our tax code, is coming back, unless we act again.

One of my highest priorities in the U.S. Senate has been to relieve American taxpayers of the punitive marriage penalty. Last year we raised the standard deduction and enlarged the 15-percent tax bracket for married joint filers to twice that of

single filers. This provision will save 34 million married couples an average of almost \$600 on this year's tax bills. But, in 2005, marriage will again be a taxable event for millions of Americans. Without relief, 48 percent of married couples will again pay more in taxes. While I continue my efforts to make marriage penalty relief permanent, I have introduced legislation to extend last year's victory for married couples for one year, though 2005. We must make sure we do not backtrack on this important reform.

As we look at making the tax relief permanent, we must also strive to ensure basic fairness for all Americans. Unfortunately, for the last two decades Texans have been singled out by the federal government. In 1986, a landmark tax reform law eliminated the deduction for state and local sales tax, but not the deduction for income tax. As a result, taxpayers from state like Texas, who pay sales tax but no income tax, have been penalized. The philosophy behind these deductions is simple and straightforward: people should not have to pay taxes on their taxes. The money given to one level of government should not be taxed by another level. I have introduced legislation to address this inequity and am hopeful my colleagues will agree that Texans, and residents from the other six states with no income tax, aren't treated unfairly.

These are just a couple of the ways I am working in Washington, D.C. to restore equity to our tax code. Hard working Texans deserve to keep more of their own money. Last year proved you know how best to spend your dollars and that tax relief creates jobs, and strengthens our economy.

Lea County Electric Cooperative

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55TH ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS
Friday, April 16th ~ 7:00 pm

at
Pannell Auditorium

Registration:
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M., MDT • Friday, April 16th,
at Lea County Electric Co-op in Lovington

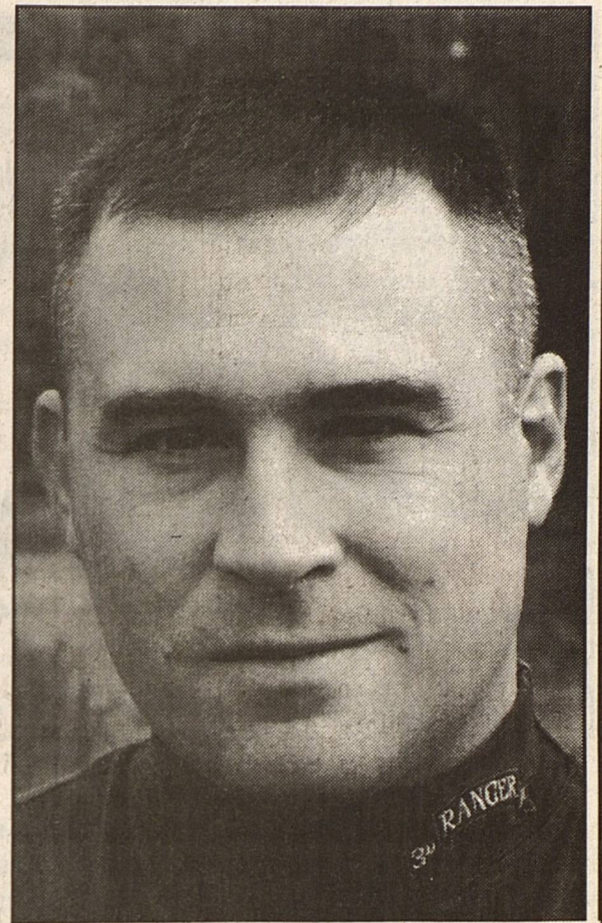
6:00 p.m.~7:00 p.m. MDT

AT
Pannell Auditorium
Lovington High School

Featured Entertainment
Chuck Holton

Author of
A More Elite Soldier
Pursuing A Life Of Purpose

6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Pre-Program Entertainment
provided by
Bluegrass Band
"Flatland"



2004 ANNUAL MEETING DOOR PRIZES

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Dell Computer System-(Dell Inspiron 1100,14.1 XGA, Celeron 2.4 GHz, 256MB, 20GB Hard Drive 56k Modem, 17 inch Monitor, Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition, Dell Jukebox powered by Music Match, Money 2004 Standard and more!) | 23 Heat Giant Space Heater |
| 2 12 Gallon Shop Vac | 24 Emerson CD Boom Box |
| 3 RCA 13 Inch Color TV | 25 Holmes 20" Standing Oscillating Fan w/remote |
| 4 Cool Mist Humidifier | 26 Westcraft Metal Art "Fetish Bear" Welcome Sign |
| 5 Remington 16 Inch 3.25 h/p Chain Saw | 27 Electric Weed Eater |
| 6 Timex Nature Sounds Clock | 28 Handale Collection Lamp by Dale Tiffany Inc. |
| 7 Ice Cream Maker | 29 52 Inch Ceiling Fan |
| 8 Black & Decker Jig Saw | 30 Toastmaster 4 Slice Extra wide Toaster |
| 9 Hamilton Beach Food Processor | 31 Aroma 8 quart Roaster |
| 10 Rechargeable Massager | 32 2 Bronze Buffet Lamps |
| 11 Skil Belt Sander | 33 Rival 6 quart Crock Pot with Little Dipper Pot |
| 12 Gran Pappy Electric Deep Fryer | 34 Procter Silex 12 Cup Coffee Maker |
| 13 Toro Blower/Vac | 35 Eureka Floor Steamer |
| 14 Presto Electric Skillet | 36 George Foreman Large Grill |
| 15 Floor Lite with Stand | 37 Emerson Smart Set Clock/Radio |
| 16 Mr. Coffee Ice Tea Maker | 38 Kathy Ireland Floor Lamp with Lantern Base |
| 17 Skil 7-1/4 Circular Saw | 39 Home Selectives Iron Combo |
| 18 Digital Phone & Answering Machine | 40 Golf Club Table Lamp |
| 19 Skil 3/8-Inch Drill | 41 Poor Boy's Metal Art "End of Trail" Lamp |
| 20 Presto Griddle | 42 Tailgate Tools 12 Volt Air Compressor (Donated by Roberts, Inc) |
| 21 Black & Decker 16 Inch Electric Hedge Trimmer | 43 Quick Minute Microwave Dehydrating System (Donated by Roberts, Inc) |
| 22 RCA Progressive DVD Player | 44 DAEWOO 20" Color TV (donated by Xcel Energy) |
| | 45 \$50.00 cash (donated by SGS Witter, Inc.) |

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TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:
Tokio Co-op Gin has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit No. 24706 which would authorize continued operation of the Cotton Gin located at U. S. Highway 82/380 at State Highway 1780, Tokio, Yoakum County, Texas. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

TPA MEMBER 2004
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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A Special Session for Education Funding

By James Haynes, Superintendent, Plains ISD

It looks like the chances are very good Governor Perry will call a special session to "FIX" school finance. The governor's plan to solve the problem doesn't say much about new funding formulas so districts would be able to get money needed to educate the very diverse student population we have in our state. Instead, it talks about the need for property tax relief and how taxes would be cut for property owners and made up for in other ways.

The governor is pushing a split property tax; the businessness of the state would be taxed at \$1.40 per \$100 valuation with all that money sent to the state then redistributed back to the school districts. Residential property would be taxed locally by the school districts at \$1.25 per \$100 valuation. That money would be spent to enrich the school programs. By splitting out the business property taxes and cutting both tax rates the state would lose at least \$6 billion dollars. The governor would make up this difference by adding additional taxes to cigarettes and video lottery machines at horse race tracks. He doesn't address the need for additional money in the system brought on by the growing number of students and increased standards of performance placed on the schools by the legislature.

I have several concerns about this proposal. If all business taxes are taken out of Plains ISD we will lose 85 percent of our tax revenue. This year, after major budget cuts last year, Plains ISD had a total budget of 8 million dollars. That includes 2.7 million we had to send to the state in the form of recapture, and some \$600,000 we spent out of savings to balance the budget. If all the business tax is sent to the state we would be left with about \$1.71 million. With recapture removed from our budget the true amount to operate our school this year was \$5.3 million. This

means we would have to rely on the state for the additional \$3.1 million, and we would be spending money out of our savings to balance the budget. I am concerned the state will not be able to raise enough taxes from gambling and cigarettes to provide the amount of money we need to fully fund each district. If you remember the lottery, it was sold to the public as a way to help meet the needs of additional school funding. The monetary needs of the education system have increased far beyond the ability of the lottery to keep pace - why would we think additional sin taxes will solve the problem?

A major concern I have is the ability of a district to raise enough money to pay off bonded indebtedness, or to purchase bonds if we need to replace buildings. If the state holds purse strings to 85 percent of our property tax money we lose much of the local control of our schools.

There are many questions needing answers in a special session. First, we should determine what an adequate education costs. Second, how can we make allowances in the funding formulas to pay the cost of educating children who come to us with disabilities, or who don't speak English, or who want to learn a vocational skill, or who change addresses frequently and never stay at one school very long. Children are all not the same, and educating some of them takes much more money than the "average" student. Third, is there a way to raise the money to educate these children without relying so heavily on property taxes? And I would add, there are citizens living in our state who don't pay their fair share for education simply because they don't own property. Some way, they must be included in the solution. Every person in the state benefits from an educated populace, and all must help with the cost. The governor and legislature have a giant task before them. I hope they are successful.

Services for Jimmie Catherine Teaff Bayer

Memorial services for Jimmie Catherine Teaff Bayer, 75, were held Tuesday, April 13, 2004 at 11:30 AM at First Baptist Church, with Rev. Bill Wright officiating. Services were under direction of Mak A. Jones Funeral Directors/Plains Memorial Chapel.

Mrs. Bayer passed away Saturday, April 10, 2004 in Abilene.

Jimmie was born April 17, 1928 in Close City, Garza County to Will and Catherine Teaff. She attended school in Close City and Post, later attending nursing school. She married the love of her life Milton Bayer December 10, 1946. They moved to Plains in 1969 from Brownfield where they had lived since 1958. They owned and operated Bayer Lumber and Hardware until his death in 1999.

She taught Sunday School many years, and traveled on mission trips with the International Commission to Brazil, India, Guatemala and Australia.

lia. She was a member of Tsa Mo Ga Club, the Fine Arts Club and past President of the Yoakum County Art Association. She enjoyed teaching art to the area young people.

Mrs. Bayer leaves behind to cherish her memory two sons and their wives, Keith and Lynne Bayer of Plains, and Scott and Linda Bayer of Wimberly; Three daughters and their husbands, Pam and Bill Burnett, Austin, Sandy and Herman Kreller, Lightning Ridge, Australia, Laine and Billy Beecher, Abilene; two brothers, N.B. Teaff, Roscoe, and Auda Vee Teaff, Lubbock. She also leaves behind eight grandchildren, Michael and wife Ella Burnett, Catherine Burnett, Vicki and Josh Bayer, Travis and Tyler Bayer, Megan and Sarah Beecher, and a great grandchild, Conner Burnett.

The family requests memorials to First Baptist Church, Plains, or the International Commission, 260 W. Continental Drive, Lewisville, TX 75067.

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Roundup Ready COTTON

From Pg. One, Criminal Cases supervision fees, attend weekly AA meetings and surrender his license 180 days. Sheriff, Deputy Kenley Powell was investigating officer, and Paul Mansur was his attorney.

In County Court April 7, with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding, Charla Marie Lozano pled guilty and adjudication of guilt deferred in a false report to police officer cause. She will be on community supervision six months, must pay \$256 court costs and \$250 appointed attorney fees, serve 60 hours community service and pay \$50 monthly while on community supervision. Jason Cowan, Denver City Police, was investigating officer, and Paul Mansur was her attorney. Aurelio Yanez Escalante pled guilty to a first DWI, b.t. .087/

.085. A 120 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. He was fined \$600, must pay \$226 court costs, \$250 appointed attorney fees. He will spend 72 hours in jail with credit for 16 served, serve 24 hours community service, and complete the DWI first offender program. DPS Trooper Carmen Medrano was investigating officer and Warren New served as his attorney. Erasmo Ramos Jr. pled guilty to reckless driving. A30 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 6 months. He was fined \$200 and must pay \$226 court costs and \$25 time payment fee. He will serve 24 hours community service, attend weekly AA meetings, pay \$59 supervision fee and complete the TAIP program.

From 1, Electronic Sign the City of Sundown recently purchased such a sign for about \$18,000. Additional funds were needed to build the mounting structure. With county, school, city and chamber budgets extremely tight, donations from these sources might not be sufficient to fund the project. Hansen expressed his hope community and area residents would display the type of generosity which allowed the purchase and raising of the three black-iron welcome signs on three highways entering town. Several thousands of dollars were

quickly raised for the project. Hansen said the electronic billboard would be very valuable advertising events such as the Watermelon Round Up, Old Settlers Reunion and Rodeo in summer months, when tourist traffic through town is at its peak. It could be programmed from City Hall, and it would not be necessary to pay for having messages installed as the old marquee now requires. Judge Brewer asked Hansen to return to court when he learned more details on the purchase and installation price of the sign.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO THE **33rd ANNIVERSARY of BOB WILLS DAY** in TURKEY, TEXAS **Saturday, April 24, 2004** Featuring many former Texas Playboys/Playgirls www.turkeytexas.com Phone (806) 423-1253

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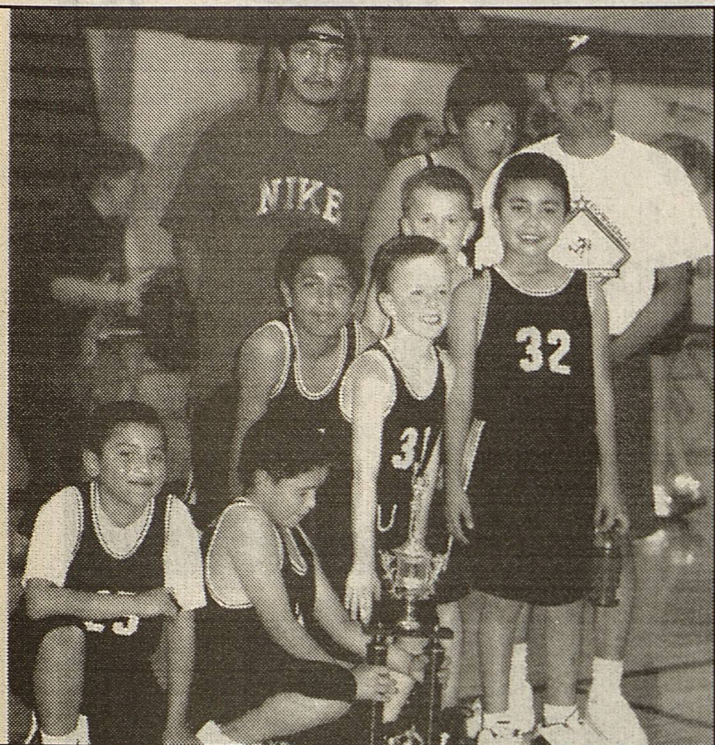
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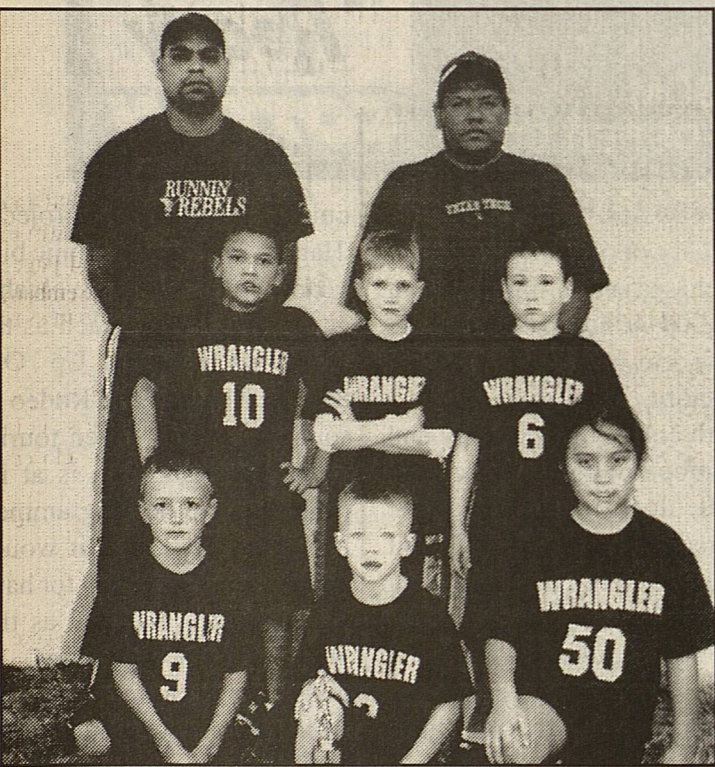
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The Cowgirls Little Dribbler Team took first place in the March Tatum, New Mexico tournament. Shown front L-R, Kelby Bartly, Hannah Crump, Jasmine Mares. Back, Abby Hernandez, Patty Avila, Stephanie Addison. They were coached by Steve Hernandez and Alma Mares



The Plains 3rd and 4th grade Cowboys finished first in their tournament. L-R, P.J. Pando, Alex Barrientes, Fermon Villegas, Zachery Lamar, Troy Alldredge, Joseph Sainz, Miguel Carrillo in back, with coaches Tony Perez and Michael Sainz



The Co-Ed Wrangler Team finished second in the tourney. Front, Zackery Wilkins, Brennan Dominguez, Percy Sosa, back, Lucas Hernandez, Jaston Brink, Colby Bearden, coaches Jerry Dominguez, Steve Hernandez

From Page One, 'Welfare Board'

reimbursements, now totaling \$1061. After considerable discussion on how to secure receipts for childrens purchases or services, Judge Brewer moved to approve the \$1061 reimbursement.

Parker also spoke of the need for volunteers to serve on the Board. By-laws authorize 13 members, and with recent resignations, only six members are actively serving. She suggested the court assist in appointing as equal a number of members from each county precinct as possible to the position, and Judge Brewer stressed the possible candidates should be aware they would be expected to make all meetings and be active in the program.

A county lease of the old courthouse building to the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation was renewed for one year, the \$1 annual lease payment due June 1, 2004.

Clay Taylor, Yoakum County Hospital Administrator, gave the court a review of bids received for medical furniture and equipment for the hospital's new dialysis center and emergency room expansion.

He reported the hospital board had approved the low bid of \$83,346 from McKesson Medical and Surgery. The bid was approved by the court.

County Auditor Darinda McWhirter's request for approval to purchase a badly needed computer with expanded memory and a cradenza for record storage was approved, not to exceed \$4800.

Plains Little League Parents Meeting, Monday, April 19, 7:00 PM At The Community Building. BE THERE!

PLAINS ISD BASEBALL Advertising space available at the Plains ISD baseball field. Help support the athletic program and advertise your business as well. For more information contact Jim Haynes, School Superintendent, 806-456-7401

YCH Foundation Golf Tournament

DATE: April 22, 2004 Thursday
 TIME: 10:00 a.m. Shotgun Start
 ENTRY FEE: \$50.00 - Individual, Team - \$200.00 (includes golf cart and lunch)
 FORMAT: Four Person Scramble

Questions?: Call Clay Taylor 806-592-2121

ENTRY DEADLINE: April 15, 2004
 LOCATION: Yoakum County Golf Course

Sponsored by:
 Arapaho Healthcare Resources LLC/Yoakum County Hospital Home Health and Luker Pharmacy Management Inc.

All Proceeds will go to YCH Foundation

Yoakum County Plains Clinic

Amir Memon, MD
 and
 Jo Lena Wall, PA - C

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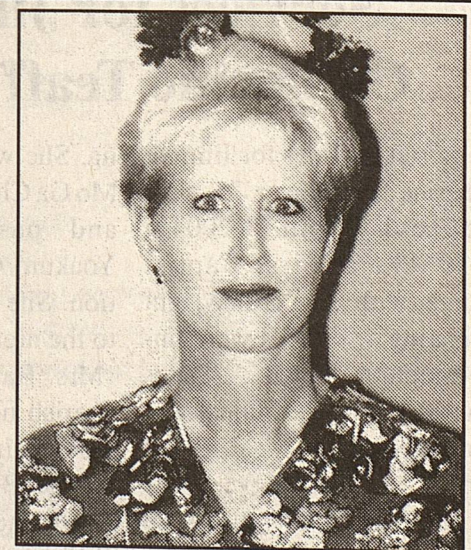
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Yoakum County Hospital

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Jill Durham, Director of Radiology
I treat my patients as I would want to be treated. I always consider my family when I'm working with my patients. What if this were my grandparents, my parents, sister, brother, or child. How would I treat them? What quality of care would I give them? How far would I go out of my way to make sure they were comfortable?

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Lifelines & Styles

Senior Citizens Corner

One day a man went to church. He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up. The driver got out of his car and said "I always park there. You took my place!" When the visitor went inside for Sunday School a young lady approached him and said, "That's my seat! You took my place." Still the visitor said nothing. When later he entered the sanctuary and sat down, another member walked up to him and said "That's where I always sit. You took my place."

Later, as the congregation prayed for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?" The visitor replied, as a tear fell from his eye, "I took your place."

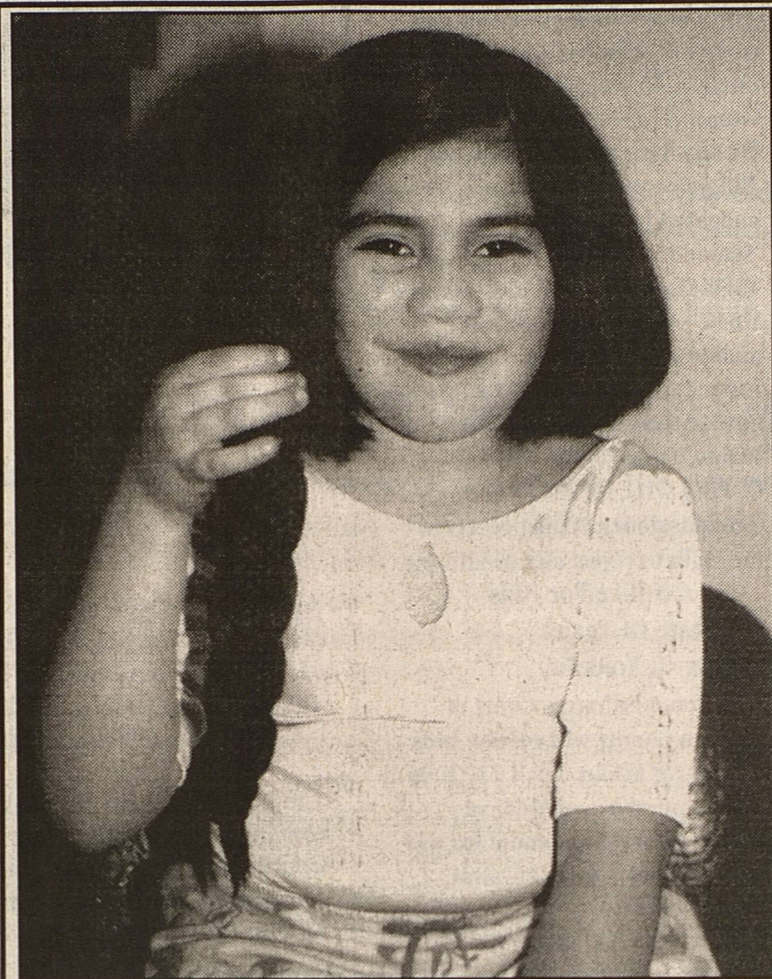
Names appearing on the visitor's list this week include Lennie Wilson, Teddi and Howard Carlson, Clovis McDonald, Faye Nelms, Isabel Aguila, Avera Villa, and Lula Belle Crawford. Some of these are visiting family here in Denver City while others live here. Each one is welcome.

Nancy Chamberlain, one of our board members, is in University Medical Center in Lubbock undergoing treatment. She expects to be confined there for sometime, so you may send greetings to her at Room 448, UMC, 602 Indiana Avenue, Lubbock, Texas, 79415. You may ask for her by name. That is the patient information line and they prefer you ask for the patient instead of the room number in case she has been moved.

A homegoing service was held for Carl Davis on Wednesday this week in Seminole, Texas. Carl and Ireta have been longtime members of our Senior family and have been involved in the pool program by helping in every way they could to see it become the successful program it is today. We shall miss Carl as part of the pool family as well as a personal friend. Our sympathy goes to Ireta and to his children.

The excitement of the Site Council is becoming contagious as they continue to plan a festive week at the end of the month. Everyday will feature a different emphasis. There will be more information next week for you, but mark your calendar and plan to be part of this special time.

Clip for a good cause



Six year old Bethany Mares proudly displays a ten inch braid of her jet black hair which she allowed Mom Alma to cut and donate to Locks of Love, Inc., the Lake Worth Florida Charity which makes and distributes human hair wigs to victim of cancer around the nation.

Art Club April Meeting

The Yoakum Art Association met April 6, with President Jeanette Head presiding. Jeanette Head read the slate of officers that had been selected by the nominating committee, Linda Powell, Eileen Fillipp and Jeanette Head, the members will vote on the nominees in May and the new officers will be installed in June.

The art show will be held in August. Posters are needed to advertise the show. Artists are urged to design a poster, make copies and bring them to the May meeting.

Librarian Pat McNabb wants the members to hang their work in the county library. The suggestion was made that the artist of the month should hang their work each month. Lisa Gentry is the artist of the month for April.

Students interested in the art scholarship need to get the scholarship forms from Mrs. Cindy Davis's office. These forms need to be completed and given to Lisa Gentry as soon as possible.

Beverly Bray, a local artist, gave a demonstration using colored pencils. Following the demonstration, refreshments were served by Hostesses Janell Brantley and Faye Nelms. Special guests were Jim and Joann Barron, Margie Barron and her granddaughter.

In May, Vickie Clark will be demonstrating painting with pastels. Everyone interested is invited to attend the meeting which will be held on May 4 at 7:00 pm in the clubroom. Do plan to attend.

If we keep on doing what we've always done, we'll keep on getting what we always got. - Barbara Lyons

**1st Anniversary
Open House**
April 16, 2004
1:30 PM - 4 PM
Thank you for allowing us to serve you - please come join us for cake and homemade ice cream! We want to continue to serve the insurance needs of Plains!

Dean Richardson
Cowboy Way - Plains, Texas

Student Greenhouse Project
Opening April 15th
Thursdays 12:30 - 4:30
Fridays 12:30 - 3:30
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For information call Mrs. Burgess
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Yoakum County Watermelon Round-Up 2004 Poetry Contest

The Yoakum County Connection and the Yoakum County Watermelon Round-Up Committee are proud to sponsor the third annual poetry contest to be directed by the Yoakum County Wordsmiths. There will be a total of eight winners, with \$25 cash awards in each category. Winning poems will be published in the Watermelon Round-Up tabloid and may be read at the Watermelon Round-Up.

Categories:

Rhymed, metered poetry:

Elementary Grades 1-4
Intermediate Grades 5-8
High School Grades 9-12
Adult

Free Verse:

Elementary Grades 1-4
Intermediate Grades 5-8
High School Grades 9-12
Adult

Rules:

Poems must be on 8.5x11 inch standard paper.

Each poem must be limited to 24 lines.

Theme of each poem should be watermelons, the Watermelon Round-up, or an associated subject.

To be eligible to win, a poem should use the word "watermelon" at least once. ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF POEM PAGE, list name, category, age group, telephone number and address. NAME SHOULD NOT APPEAR ON FRONT!

Deadline:

Poems must be submitted by May 7, 2004 to be eligible.

Poems may be mailed to: Poetry Contest, PO Box 38, Plains, Tx 79355 or turned into Christy Brink at Image 'N That on Cowboy Way in Plains or turned in to Connie Webb, Yoakum County Sheriff's Office, 1010 N. Main, Denver City or either of the Yoakum County Libraries in Plains or Denver City.



What about?

In our day and time of electric devices, phones, and pagers it can become embarrassing to a funeral director to miss such a device in a pocket.

Not to long ago, the story was told about a family that was standing in front of their loved ones' closed casket.

As the family grieved in private with only a funeral director present, suddenly the sound of a phone ringing began to emit from the casket.

During the rush to get the man dressed, the family as well as the funeral director had missed the man's cell phone. It was still in his suit coat pocket.

Thus, the ringing of the phone from inside the casket.

In a conversation with several people some time back we were discussing the need for saving our lands and not bury, but go for cremation instead.

I think Malaysia may have an answer to that problem. They are having a severe shortage of space in their cemeteries.

Of course you know that many of our cemeteries in the U.S. now permit stacking folks in a single grave. That's one person on top of another. (Usually a husband and wife)

Now with Malaysia's thought about saving space in cemeteries, it sure would take up less space.

They are considering burying people vertically instead of lying down. I can't imagine that one though.

I guess with that one, we could no longer say we were placing them in their final resting place? I don't rest real standing up!

We could call it the 'final standing' place though?

I for one wouldn't like being buried in the standing position. I like the idea of lying down for eternity not standing. Until Next Time!

Mark A. Jones
www.majonesfuneraldirectors.com
email comments to:
markajones@door.net.

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From The Hack

Included in my e-mail messages this weekend was the notice of an upcoming 100 hole... yes, 100 hole golf tournament, sponsored by the Tech Student-Athlete Advisory Board to benefit the Ronald McDonald House in Lubbock. I would suggest the Techsters hang on to a chunk of the donated prize money, to help with funeral services for probably more than a few golfers. 100 holes of golf for me would be like an early sentence to that place across the River Styx. Let's say you are a 12 handicapper (I wish I were) and you manage to last the 100 holes... you have probably swung a golf club about 850 times. You have also savagely beat the ground with your clubs a hundred or so times in temper tantrums over errant shots. You have referred to your putting abilities with the vilest of obscenities, and if a true 'man of the cloth' happened to be in your foursome he probably departed from your company after the first dozen holes. You have thought vile thoughts about some in your group who happened to walk in your putting line or talk in your backswing. Your brain swirls in black clouds of despair as you think of your miserable game, and when you are close enough to see a member of the foursome ahead of you pull out a jug and take a healthy pull, you are sorely tempted to dash up to him and threaten him with a three iron if he doesn't share the jug.

No, my normal 18 hole round on Wednesday is plenty for me. I manage to accomplish every bit of the above just half way through the round, I also normally lose at least three golf balls every round.... 100 holes would bankrupt me. Come to think of it, why worry about the balls.... I always lose more cash to the barracudas in my group than dozens of balls cost!

I did something truly stupid Tuesday morning. Went to Denver City for a photo-op, got that taken care of, hurried to my car... do you know how truly difficult it is to open a Chevrolet when the keys are locked inside? Fortunately, I was in the company of a number of very nice D.C. folks who managed to contact another nice lady, reported to be a skilled locked car artist. I was moaning and groaning about how stupid I was, a grown man doing such an infantile thing, while the nice D.C. folks shushed me, telling me to forget it, it happens to everyone, etc, ad nauseum. They were truly sympathetic. I was beginning to feel much better about myself as the locked car artist went to work, and the nice D.C. folks started off, when I heard, "What a KLUTZ!" from one nice D.C. lady, and another muttered, "That guy needs a KEEPER, and I'm glad it ain't ME!"

Tiger Woods is in such a slump the IRS recently told him they would pay for lessons if he could find a better instructor.

*** BID NOTICE ***
The City of Plains is accepting bids for a 1987 Ford Garbage Truck with a Rand Mod#RC301 packer. Unit has 74,585 miles and 7,085 hours. Diesel engine does not run but hydraulic unit is functional. Unit is being sold as is. Buyer will have to arrange transport of vehicle. Sealed bids will be accepted until 5:00 PM May 21, 2004. Questions can be directed to Plains City Hall, 806-456-2288.

RN/LVN for 7pm-7am shift. Great benefits, great working environment. Please call Joyce Tedford 806-592-2121, Yoakum County Hospital, Denver City, Texas

Help Wanted Part time/Full time Apply For Application At Uncle's Convenience Store

TERRY COUNTY TRACTOR Massey Ferguson Kubota Bush Hog Shredders, Lilliston Rolling Cultivators, Lorenz & Buffalo Cultivators, Baker Disc & Switch Plows, Spray Coupe, Wilmar Sprayer Brownfield, Tx. 806-637-4569

Notice For Bids
The State Of Texas County Of Yoakum The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 4 PM Friday, April 23, 2004, for the purchase of Office Furniture and Equipment for the New Yoakum County Hospital Dialysis Center, Physical Therapy Center and Emergency Room Expansion.

Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, April 26, 2004.

For a list of the equipment and more information, please contact Darinda McWhirter, Yoakum County Auditor, 806/456-2422 or PO Box 516, Plains, Texas 79355.

Bid price will be paid from budgeted funds.

Sealed bids should be marked, "OFFICE FURNITURE AND 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.

Notice For Bids
The State Of Texas County Of Yoakum The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 4 PM Friday, April 23, 2004, for the purchase of Medical Furniture and Equipment for the new Yoakum County Physical Therapy Center.

Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, April 26, 2004.

For a list of the equipment and more information, please contact Darinda McWhirter, Yoakum County Auditor, 806/456-2422 or PO Box 516 Plains, Texas 79355 Bid price will be from 2004 budgeted funds.

Sealed bids should be marked "MEDICAL FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT/PHYSICAL THERAPY" on the envelope and mailed or delivered to 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.

Yoakum County Hospital Home Health is seeking RN/Assistant Director. Call Linda, 806-592-3676. Denver City, Texas

Farm for Sale 311 acres - County Road 165 - Two Circle Systems - Six Wells - SW Yoakum County. HUNT REALTY 806-592-3556

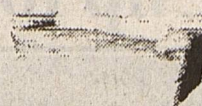
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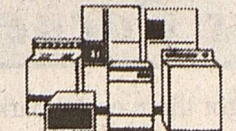
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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



EXAMPLE A

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. 24706

APPLICATION Tokio Co-op Gin has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit No. 24706 which would authorize continued operation of the Cotton Gin located at U.S. Highway 82/380 at State Highway 1780, Tokio, Yoakum County, Texas. The existing facility is authorized to emit the following air contaminants: unburned hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and particulate matter.

The TCEQ received this application on March 17, 2004. The application is available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, TCEQ Lubbock regional office, and the Yoakum County Courthouse, Avenue G and Cowboy Way, Plains, Yoakum County, Texas. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Lubbock regional office of the TCEQ.

The TCEQ executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. Information in the application indicates that this permit renewal would not result in an increase in allowable emissions and would not result in the emission of an air contaminant not previously emitted. **The TCEQ may act on this application without seeking further public comment or providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

PUBLIC COMMENT You may submit public comments, or a request for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application. **The deadline to submit public comments is 15 days after newspaper notice is published.** After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to address in the permit process.

After the technical review is complete the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. If only comments are received, the response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application, will then be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or who is on the mailing list for this application, unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING You may request a contested case hearing. The applicant or the executive director may also request that the application be directly referred to a contested case hearing after technical review of the application. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court. Unless a written request for a contested case hearing is filed within 15 days from this notice, the executive director may act on the application. **If no hearing request is received within this 15-day period, no further opportunity for hearing will be provided.** According to the Texas Clean Air Act § 382.056(o) a contested case hearing may only be granted if the applicant's compliance history is in the lowest classification under applicable compliance history requirements and if the hearing request is based on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the Commission may only grant a hearing on those issues raised during the public comment period and not withdrawn.

A person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility is entitled to request a hearing. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number, and fax number, if any; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; and (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility. If the request is made by a group or association, the one or more members who have standing to request a hearing and the interests the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns. Requests for a contested case hearing must be submitted in writing within 15 days following this notice to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

If any requests for a contested case hearing are timely filed, the executive director will forward the application and any requests for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. Unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing, the executive director will mail the response to comments along with notification of Commission meeting to everyone who submitted comments or is on the mailing list for this application. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact relating to relevant and material air quality concerns raised during the comment period.** Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

MAILING LIST In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notices (if any) mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk for this application.

INFORMATION Written public comments and requests for a contested case hearing must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. If you need more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Office of Public Assistance, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040. General information about the TCEQ can be found at our web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us.

Further information may also be obtained from Tokio Co-op Gin, P.O. Box 514, Tokio, Texas 79376 or by calling Mr. Kelley Green, P.E., Director of Technical Services, Texas Cotton Ginners' Association at (512) 476-8388.

Issuance Date: March 25, 2004

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