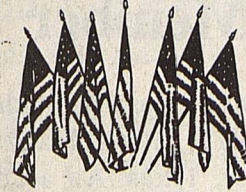
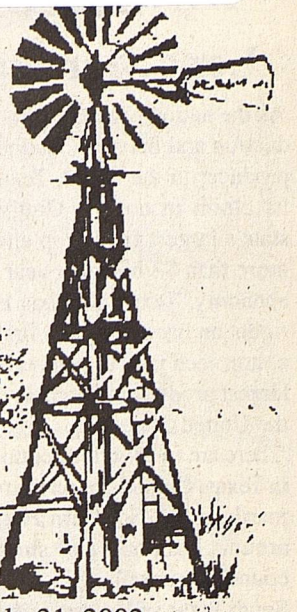


Cowboy Country News

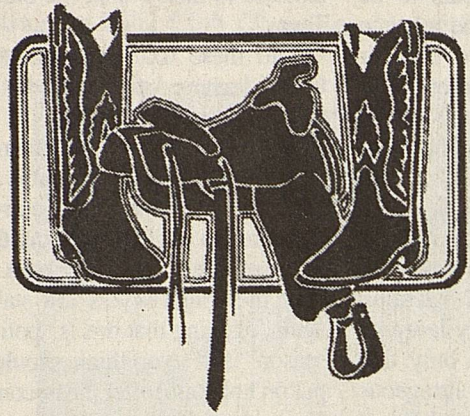


God Bless America!



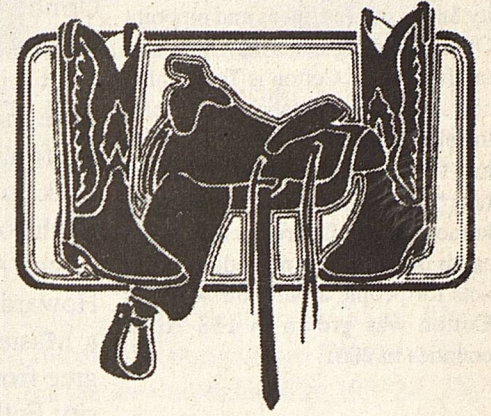
Published each Wednesday in the county seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas

Volume V111, Issue 45, July 31, 2002



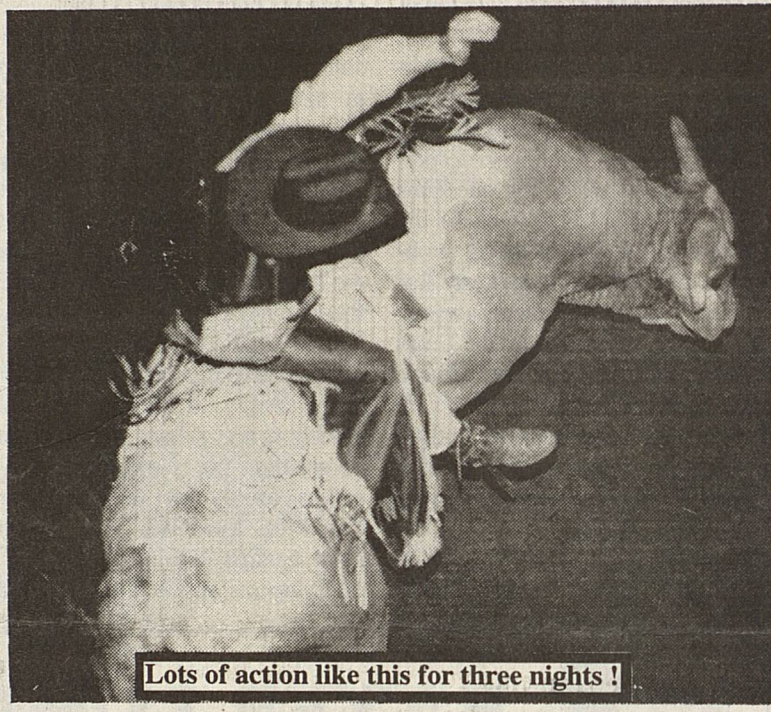
Get your boots shined, saddle soaped, and jeans ironed.....

It's Rodeo time this Week !!



Rodeo, Old Settlers Reunion schedule

Rodeo starts 8 PM Thursday, Friday, Saturday.
Admission \$5 adults, \$3 kids 5 to 11.
Crowning of Rodeo Queen, drawing for custom built saddle or \$500 cash during Saturday performance.
Parade along Cowboy Way Saturday, 10:30 AM
Old Settlers Reunion starts in Stanford Park following parade. Tickets \$6.
Yoakum County Art Association Show and Sale August 2 & 3.



Lots of action like this for three nights!

New Lions Club officers installed



At the July 25 noon meeting of Plains Lions Club, new officers were installed for the coming year. Shown here are David Brunson, former Lions President who was invited from Muleshoe to act as Installation Officer, New President Melba Crutcher, Second Vice-President Vicki Blundell, Tail Twister Debbie Rushing, One Year Directors Vaughn Culwell and Linda Wall, Treasurer Harry Richardson. Not present for photo, First Vice President Tim Addison, Lion Tamer T. J. Miller, Two Year Directors Gary Dyer and Johnnie Fitzgerald.

Hey, ladies.. your cobblers are needed for the Reunion Barbecue!! You may pick up serving cups at the D. Q.

Two drug cases heard in District Court

Two cases dealing with methamphetamine were heard in 121st Judicial District Court July 22, with Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding. Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the State.

Cynthia Elaine Watts pled guilty to manufacture or delivery of more than four grams but less than 200 grams methamphetamine. A ten year Texas Department of Criminal Justice State Jail sentence was suspended and probated ten years. She must pay a \$1000 fine, \$292 court costs, \$480 restitution and \$25 time payment fee. As an alternate to incarceration in a state jail, the defendant shall serve 12 months or until successfully discharged

Turn to Page 2, 'Court'

Working As A Team

An open letter to the community from James Haynes, Plains ISD Superintendent

I wonder if everyone has had a hectic summer. I get amused when someone says to me, "Aren't you glad school is out and you have the entire summer off?" While the level of activity for the students is greatly curtailed during the summer months, there are several areas for the school district where the activity level is greatly increased. Our maintenance and transportation departments go into high gear to make needed repairs not possible when students and teachers are around. Deep cleaning of all buildings, which involves stripping wax from all the floors, cleaning all carpet, dusting all rooms from top to bottom, and thoroughly cleaning 65 bathrooms. Because the students' needs and the school staff are different each year, room changes and alterations must be made. Of course the grounds department is at its busiest time since the growing season is in full swing. Our transportation department must make any major repairs to the fleet and inspect all the vehicles for safety as well as provide major cleaning of all the vehicles.

Administratively, the principals must make the final staffing decisions and start working on the next year's scheduling. A small forest is sacrificed each year as all of the reports re-

quired by the state are finalized. Our cafeteria offers a summer free lunch program. Our teachers and aids who work with our migrant population are busy as well.

At the central office work is done to finish off one fiscal year and begin a new one. The state requires its share of paperwork and the summer is the time when capital outlay projects are coordinated and completed. If you have been driving by the school this summer, you may have noticed some major activity on the roof and at the football/track stadium.

Summer work that is being done this year and is done annually has led to the purpose of this article. There is no doubt a high level of teamwork is required by the people who do the work at the district. They help each other and always provide a great place for our children to come and learn. Their support is without a doubt a major contributing factor to the success of our children.

I want to talk about the teamwork involved in the relationship between the school district, the county, and the city. The level of help and support these three government entities give one another in Plains, Texas is something that should be emulated by other schools,

cities and counties in the state and the nation. Whenever I go to meetings where the topic of discussion is cooperation between government entities, most of the time people I talk to are amazed at how well we work together in Plains. As I sat down to write this article, the current summer is a great example. Precinct 4 of Yoakum County comes to mind because of the help we recently received when the need arose to remove the old track surface at the football field. As we went through the process, the job just seemed to get bigger. The Precinct employees and Commissioner Jack Cobb never blinked. They stayed after the project until we wound up with a surface the contractors could work on.

Another major undertaking took place four years ago when Plains ISD added baseball to our list of activities for the students. Both Precincts 3 and 4 worked together to renovate the old softball field as a starting place. Lea County Electric stepped in and helped set the light poles and also provided some of the wiring involved in the task. In fact, Lea County Electric resets the lights at the beginning of each sports season to make sure all the playing fields are properly illuminated.

Turn to Page 4, 'Team'



On a recent hundred degree afternoon, this crew was laying a new asphalt base for the running track at PISD. Another contractor will later add the rubberized top coating. The previous track was twenty years old and was deteriorating badly.

Cotton Reigns As KING In The Lone Star State

As the nation's leader in cotton production and the sixth leading cotton producer in the world, Texas stakes its claim in cotton. Cotton is the state's largest field crop and pumps more than \$2 billion a year into the economy. Texas also has bragging rights on harvesting the first bale of cotton each year as well as being the largest producer of organic cotton in the United States.

There are two kinds of cotton grown in Texas. Upland cotton is grown primarily in the Southern High Plains around Lubbock and surrounding counties as well as in Central and South Texas and is used in everything from clothing to sheets to towels. American Pima cotton grown in the El Paso region is used for high quality fabric such as linens and pinpoint Oxford shirting material. Other cotton factoids: * Cotton is Texas' official state fiber and fabric. * The cotton plant produces more food for man and feed for animals than it does fiber. * All parts of the seed from the kernels and hulls are used in thousands of edible and non edible products for people around the world. * Cotton was grown in 138 Texas counties in 2001.

SPAG Board Of Directors Welcomes New Member



The South Plains Association of Governments recently welcomed Jack Cobb onto the SPAG Board of Directors. Mr. Cobb, 63, has served as County Commissioner of Precinct 4 in Yoakum County for three and a half years. A graduate from Plains High School, Jack went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Educational Administration from Howard Payne University and a Master's of Education Degree from Texas Tech University. Following graduation, Mr.

Cobb worked as a high school principal in Smyer, Texas and Ackerly, Texas. An accomplished pilot, Jack was also an aviation instructor at South Plains College.

As a SPAG Board member, Mr. Cobb looks forward to working on issues concerning the population decline in the South Plains Region. The SPAG Board of Directors welcomes Jack and looks forward to his contribution to the region.

From Page 1, 'Court'

from the Taylor-Callahan-Coleman Counties Restitution Center in Abilene. Causes of possession of heroin and engaging in organized crime were dismissed. Dennis McGill served as her attorney, and Rick Dickson, Llano Estacado Drug Task Force, and Yoakum County Deputy Inoe Valdez were investigating officers.

Trease Thomas Young pled guilty to possession of methamphetamine. A two year State Jail sentence was suspended and probated five years. She was fined \$1500, must pay \$140 restitution to DPS, \$222 court costs and \$25 time payment fee. She will serve 120 hours community service, complete the TAIP program, complete the drug offender program, surrender her driver license 180 days, and pay \$694 court appointed attorney fees. Officers Dickson and Valdez were again investigating officers, and Chuck Lanehart served as her attorney.

Tobacco attorneys' stalling invites suspicion

By John R. Butler

Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Five personal injury lawyers hired by the State of Texas are fighting tooth and nail against having to hear those words as they begin testifying under oath how they engineered a deal that paid them a \$3.3 billion legal fee in the Texas tobacco litigation. In fact, it required three years, thousands of hours of legal work, and a decision by the United States Supreme Court to make these five lawyers explain how they got their \$150,000-plus an hour sweetheart deal.

When Big Tobacco settled Texas' lawsuit for more than \$17 billion, I would have thought these lawyers would be eager to reveal the details of their victory. Instead, they simply took the money and ran. Even current Texas Attorney General John Cornyn, the state's top lawyer whose duty and responsibility it is to examine these questions on behalf of his clients—the people of Texas—has been unable to get answers in a state court proceeding from the men who were supposed to be working for us, the taxpayers. John Cornyn has pursued these matters with determination and diligence, even at his own political peril in the face of a well-financed and sophisticated public relations campaign against him.

Why are they fighting so desperately to avoid answering questions about this deal? Is it because the entire mess reeks of ethical problems and conflicts of interest? For example, three prominent lawyers, one a former President of the Texas Bar Association, have made sworn statements that they were asked, but refused, to make a \$1 million payment in order to join this team of private attorneys working for the state. The spouse of one of the lawyers picked for the case even swore in a deposition that her then-

husband bragged about paying money to get the lawsuit. Or take the issue of the actual contract, which was changed numerous times, while the lawsuit was going on. And how about the \$40 million in "legal expenses" that were rung up and reimbursed, even though the case was a near exact duplicate of other state tobacco lawsuits?

But perhaps worst of all is the allegation that the lawyers actually sold out their own clients. A consistent refrain from the lawyers, and even from some in the media, is that the legal fee was paid by Big Tobacco, and did not come from the proceeds of the settlement, so it did not diminish the amount received by Texans. However, this claim, on its face, appears to be false. It was clear that the tobacco companies did not care if their funds went to help children or to pay plaintiff trial lawyers. It is very possible that the lawyers made off with billions of dollars that should have actually gone to Texas hospitals and health care programs, instead of buying more private jets, mansions, and seaside vacation homes for personal injury lawyers. In other words, it's not only that they made off with an outrageous and possibly unethical legal fee, it was probably *our money* that they made off with!

These are not minor matters—some of the questions are criminal in nature. Yet these issues have never been adequately investigated, and until recently appeared as though they never would be. Now, if a Harris County court orders it, the oath will be administered and the hard questions will be asked. If these lawyers admit to wrongdoing, then the consequences of their conduct will expose them to huge monetary liability. If they lie, they risk detection and subsequent criminal prosecution for perjury. If they refuse to answer the questions based on the Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination, a civil jury (as opposed to a criminal

jury) may assume that their refusal to answer is evidence of their guilt.

So it's really no surprise that these five plaintiff trial lawyers fought to escape General Cornyn's questions all the way to the United States Supreme Court. But they lost—and now it is time for them to answer some very important questions:

Did these trial lawyers pay money to the former Attorney General in order to receive their contract to represent the State of Texas in the tobacco litigation?

Did these trial lawyers lie about the amount and type of expenses they incurred in the case?

Did these trial lawyers have conflicts of interest that they failed to disclose to their client, the State of Texas?

Did these trial lawyers breach their fiduciary duties to the taxpayers of the State of Texas?

If these lawyers have done nothing wrong, it is inexplicable that they would take such extreme measures to avoid answering these types of questions under oath. Yet now the trial lawyers are stalling again, alleging that this is "political season" and everything should be put on hold until after the upcoming November election. This is a particularly disingenuous argument, since it has been their own stalling tactics that has pushed this issue into the political season. Perhaps they believe their best hope is that a newly elected Attorney General will drop the inquiry.

That would be a travesty. These are important questions that may affect our state's ability to fund education for our children, and health care for our disadvantaged. Let's quit stalling. Stop the delaying tactics. Let the depositions begin, and let the truth come out.

John R. Butler of Houston is chairman of *Texans for Reasonable Legal Fees*, and senior chairman of *J.R. Butler and Co.*, a consulting petroleum engineering firm.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES El Paso Natural Gas Company has applied to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) for issuance of a Voluntary Emission Reduction Permit, Air Quality Permit No. 49099 which would authorize changes to and continued operation of the Plains Compressor Station. The applicant has provided the following directions to the site; from the intersection of FM 214 and County Road 390, head four miles east on FM 214, turn north on County Road 355 and travel approximately one half mile, facility is on the right side of County Road 355, Denver City, Yoakum County, Texas. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

The Board of Directors of Yoakum County Hospital

values your opinion on several changes that are being considered for the future of the hospital, West Texas Medical Center, and the Plains Clinic.

A survey will soon be mailed out to you. We ask that you take the time and effort to fill it out and send it back. These changes will determine how we may best serve you.

You may either mail these surveys back to Yoakum County Hospital, or drop them by the hospital business office, West Texas Medical Center or Plains Clinic.

We appreciate your input, and look forward to meeting the needs of our county in the future.

Thank You !!!

Yoakum County Hospital

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2002 Club Champions



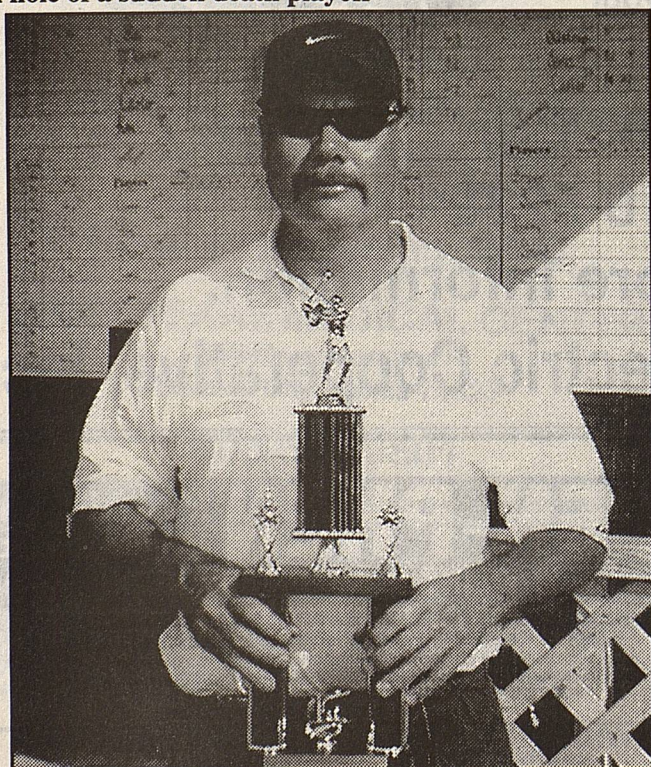
Ryan Sanders, with proud Mom Veronica, repeated his 2001 win, winning the 2002 Club Championship with a three round total of 215 strokes



Lisa Wood was top lady golfer, and won the Championship with a two round score of 155.



Bill Qualls, who is 71, shot that same number Sunday to tie for tops in the First Flight with Rodney Garcia. Qualls won on the fifth hole of a sudden death playoff



Charlie Jividen took the Second Flight trophy with a score of 156

More Yoakum County Golf Club Championship Tournament Results

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT: (3 Rounds) #1-Ryan Sanders, 215, #2- Amory Droogsma, #3- Greg Hix 221
 FIRST FLIGHT: (3 Rounds) #1- Bill Qualls, 224 (won play-off), #2- Rodney Garcia 224, #3- Kenney Hemmeline 228
 SECOND FLIGHT: #1- Charlie Jividen, 156, #2 Johnny Jones 161, #3 Arlan Gentry, 162
 THIRD FLIGHT- #1 Rodger Garcia, 153, #2 Alan Bell 159, #3 Dale Carter 167.
 FOURTH FLIGHT - #1 Gary Clinton, 168, #2 Tony Kay, 177, #3 Jake Depew, 191
 LADIES CHAMPIONSHIP- #1 Lisa Wood, 155, #2 Ashley Green, 161, Veronica Sanders, 165
 SENIORS, 60-69 - #1, Johnny Jones, 161
 SENIORS 70-79 - Bill Qualls 147

Court approves new management contract for County Hospital

In the Monday session of Commissioner's Court, executives with Covenant Health Systems outlined a new management contract between Yoakum County and the Covenant System. Jim Bullard told the court Covenant was seeking a new \$30,000 fee for professional services, but the county would recoup that money from Medicare and Medicaid receipts as a Critical Access hospital. Bullard also told the court there are only some 16 county owned hospitals in the state, five which Covenant has management contracts with. "We feel we have an outstanding relationship with not only the hospital Board of Directors, but you county officials also," Bullard said. "We think your motivation is in the right place. You have a successful hospital because of cooperation and hard work, and we at Covenant think you people have been outstanding stewards of your people's tax dollars." Bullard reported the hospital spent some \$1.2 million in tax dollars in 1993. In 2000, tax expenditures were reduced to \$470,000, and are being further reduced today, while the hospital has added staff, facilities and services. The new contract was approved.

Troy Scott, currently the Municipal Judge in Denver City, and who will be unopposed in the November election for Justice of Peace in Precinct Two, told the court he was seeking their approval to continue serving as Municipal Judge, and following the election, assume the Justice of Peace position in January, 2003. He said the Council of Denver City had verbally approved the move and a few details concerning office space would have to be

worked out before it was formally approved. "I am here today to tell you I want you, as the court body, to feel completely comfortable with this dual job plan." He said the Municipal Judge duties were very small compared to the full time duties as a JP, and the bulk of his time would be spent learning how to administer the duties as a Justice of Peace. Commissioner Woody Lindsey, Pct. 1, after more questions from Judge Brewer about the arrangement, said, "I will make a motion to approve the dual capacity, provided we have your assurance if the Precinct Two JP duties require your full time and efforts you will step down as the city judge." Scott said he would immediately do so if necessary, and the court approved his request.

Treasurer Toni Jones reported a June ending balance of all county funds in June totaling \$8,859,169, compared to approximately \$1.5 million more than that figure a year ago. She also noted returns on funds invested in Tex Pool and other sources were averaging 1.6 to 1.8 percent interest compared to some 4.5 percent one year ago.

The court approved the cancellation of a lease with Denver City ISD on the old kindergarten building there. The county has been leasing the building for one dollar per year since 1998. The school district will use the facility to house a new family assistance program replacing the old Even Start program.

The court also approved advertising for bids for the purchase of a new van type vehicle for the Plains Senior Citizens program

Pierce Receives 20 Year Tenure Award



Joe Pierce was recently awarded the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas 20 year Tenure Award for his years of service to agricultural science and education. The award was given at the annual VATAT Conference held on July 22-26, 2002 in Corpus Christi.

This award is designed to commend individuals who are dedicated and supportive of agricultural education in Texas. Pierce was presented his award during the Agriculture Teachers' Professional Development Conference on Wednesday, July 24, 2002 in Corpus Christi.

"This year's conference is focused on integrating new and emerging technologies into the Agriculture and Science programs in Texas," stated James Korth, President of the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas. "With the rapid advancement being made in technology, it is imperative that Agriscience Teachers are capable of incorporating these changes into their local programs so student are better prepared to pursue their future educational and career goals."

In Texas, there are over 1,500 agricultural science and technology teachers that impact over 95,000 students who are enrolled in agricultural education classes at the secondary level. The Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas is headquartered in Austin and aims to improve agriculture by teaching.

Hot Pursuit



The Plains annual rodeo usually attracts many noted and talented calf and team ropers, and this years show promises another good field. Invite your family or friends to join you Thursday, Friday or Saturday evening!

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TPA MEMBER 2002
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

From Page 1,
‘Team’

The city and the school cooperate on nearly a daily basis loaning and sharing equipment when the need arises. There are numerous occasions when employees from the city, county and school can be seen working together. A great example of teamwork is seen each Labor Day when the Watermelon Round Up takes place. You will see employees from these three entities working together to provide a really great event.

I would not be telling the whole story if I didn't also mention the teamwork displayed when our churches get involved as well. As a superintendent, I have called on the churches of our community in times of crisis to help counsel our students, and they have always responded.

We have also made our facilities available to them when the need arises for different church functions. I know there are places in our country and our state where this could not take place. Thank God, Plains is not one of them.

In short, everyone in Plains works together. This kind of teamwork makes for a great place to live. People who don't know Plains may not understand this is our community's greatest attribute. We care about one another, work to help one another, and because of it we have a great community.

I want to end this article with the real reason I wrote it—to tell all those in the community who work with the school district how much I appreciate their hard work, their care, and their support for the school system and the children of Plains ISD. It doesn't happen everywhere, and I am thankful the spirit of teamwork exists in Plains, Texas.

Three Days: No Taxes

Anyone who wishes the December holiday crush came at a time with warmer weather should put their shopping shoes on and head for their favorite store. The fourth annual Texas Sales Tax Holiday is on the calendar for August 2, 3 and 4, and this year it promises to be a busy weekend for Texas retailers who are rebounding following September 11 and a slow growth period.

The sales tax holiday provides exemptions from state and local sales taxes on most clothing and footwear that costs less than \$100 before taxes. Taking out the sales tax saves shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend.

Gina Smith, a mother of six in Bay City, says she takes advantage of the Sales Tax Holiday, particularly for items that stores rarely have sales on, like underwear and socks. "I have three

‘Toxic’ Mold – Who wants the Truth?

What do these things have in common: wine, penicillin, cheese, beer, and mushrooms? Can't guess? Here's a big hint: it's also the latest dubious health-scare, costing Texas consumers millions of dollars in higher insurance premiums and needless home "health" testing, and it's being used as a get-rich-quick scheme for some personal injury lawyers. Ah, now you know – it's called MOLD.

So how did this very common type of fungus, present in all sorts of good things we use on a daily basis and ever-present in our environment, grow into the major consumer crisis that it has become today? The answer may surprise you.

As a board certified allergist-immunologist, I have taught, done research and seen patients with a variety of immune-based medical conditions for the past 14 years. In the last several years, my clinical office has become increasingly populated by very frightened, sometimes angry individuals. They believe, or have been told, that they have "toxic mold disease." But do they really?

First, let's examine some facts about mold. There are many different kinds of mold — at least 10,000 common types. Mold is everywhere, because it simply requires a source of water, sugar and oxygen along with a friendly surface to thrive and grow. In places where lots of water is actually in the air itself (i.e. high-humidity environments like Texas) mold easily finds

comfortable growth sites and is especially prosperous. Molds are not new — they have always been around us and always will be. It is not possible to "get rid of mold," nor would we even want to.

Is mold harmful to people? Can molds cause memory loss, fatigue, or brain damage? For most people, the answer is a resounding, and hopefully reassuring, "NO!" The world is filled with mold spores — we breathe it in our air, we eat it in our foods, and we drink it in our water every day with no ill effects. Some people do develop allergies and experience symptoms of asthma or hay fever when exposed to some mold spores. There are also a few mold-related diseases that can be serious, but these are extremely rare.

But what about the "experts" who claim to diagnose all sorts of mold related illnesses such as memory loss or learning disabilities? There is absolutely no proof to support these claims. And what about the dreaded "toxic mold?" The term itself seems to have been manufactured to arouse

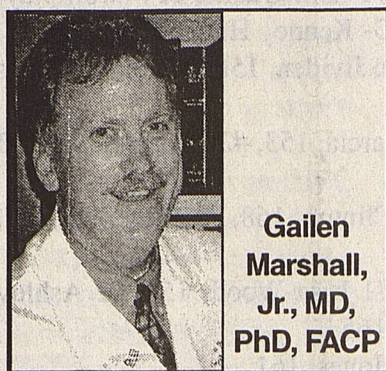
the Texas Legislature to expand the list of tax-exempt items to include backpacks, school supplies, sewing supplies and safety gear such as bicycle helmets and car safety seats. She also proposed expanding the tax holiday from three to five or six days to help ease the traffic jams the holiday can cause.

While the Legislature did not act on the proposal in 2000, Rylander says she will make a similar request to the 2002 Legislature, to help Texas families stretch their budgets a little farther as they shop for school and work clothes.

"I really wish school supplies were included," says Linda Koch, a mother of two in Austin. "Schools post longer and longer lists of things you have to buy, and it really does add up. Plus, now parents are required to buy a lot of things schools used to supply, like paper towels and Kleenex. So including school supplies would be a big help."

Other items, including accessories, jewelry, watches, handbags, wallets and briefcases are also not included in the Sales Tax Holiday. A complete list of tax exempt and non-exempt items is available on the Comptroller's Window on State Government Web site at www.window.state.tx.us.

In 2000, Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander asked



Gailen Marshall, Jr., MD, PhD, FACP

panic and fear among otherwise normal people. Some molds do produce "mycotoxins," but these are mostly of concern in the agriculture and food industries.

Still, even though health risks may be vastly exaggerated, most people would rather not have excess, visible mold in their homes. If there is a lot of mold, it looks bad and it has an unpleasant odor. However, mold removal is relatively simple to accomplish. If you have mold, you have excess moisture and this source needs to be eliminated, whether it is a roof leak, a shower leak, condensation, or from some other source. Often, the mold can simply be cleaned off, and will not return if the moisture is removed.

Should you pay for a "mold test?" No. The nations' most reputable experts, including the US Center for Disease Control and the reigning mold expert from Harvard's School of Public Health, do not support most home mold testing. Remember, in a place with high humidity like the entire Gulf Coast, you will find at least some mold in virtually 100% of homes more than a couple of years old. If you see or smell mold in your home, clean it up, and stop the source of water. It's that simple.

Should you find someone to blame? The mere presence of mold in a home or office does not automatically mean that someone has done something wrong. Unfortunately, our society today seems to be about everyone suing

everyone else for things that used to be considered part of life.

Should you panic? To me, this is the most important issue of all. You need to react to mold based on the facts, not on the hysteria and hype you may have recently heard or read. The mold scare is already having a demonstrable and troubling effect on the Texas economy and on individual lives. Texas insurance rates are already more than double the national average and are continuing to rise based in large part on mold-related claims. Many people can no longer afford homeowner's insurance assuming they can even get coverage in the first place. Home sales are not going through because of mold concerns, and home sellers, lenders, Realtors, title companies, and a host of other industries are being damaged, which will begin to show up as real job losses for real Texans.

Moreover, individuals and families are being moved out of their homes by testers and remediators and having their lives disrupted - most for no legitimate reason whatsoever. If you think the major concern is really about your health, ask yourself this question: do the apartments and hotels into which these people are being relocated have higher or lower mold content than the home from which they have been removed for weeks or months while expensive renovations are completed? Or how about the outside air that we are exposed to every day — are the same molds inside the

home found in the air outside? The bottom line is this: if you are ill, see a physician. If he or she thinks you may have mold allergies, ask to be tested by a reputable specialist who has the credentials to provide calm, reliable medical information - then follow your doctor's direction for treatment. Check the physician's credentials to determine their expertise claim in the diagnosis and management of mold-related allergic diseases. Don't be afraid to discuss with your doctor why he or she thinks mold is causing your problems. If you see or smell mold in your home, simply clean it up and plug the water leak. If you need an expert to help, find a reputable person or company trained in moisture issue management to find and fix the water source.

And, perhaps most importantly of all, if someone comes to you to try and assess blame for the mold "exposure", ask yourself whether you want the aggravation, expense and frustration associated with trying to get compensated for the everyday risks associated with living on our planet. Is the stress, anxiety and guilty conscience really worth it? You be the judge.

Gailen Marshall, Jr., MD, PhD, FACP, is Director of the Division of Allergy & Clinical Immunology at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston and Chief, Allergy-Immunology Service at Memorial Hermann and Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospitals.

Levelized Budget Payment Plan Offers Smoother Ride!

Sure, a roller coaster is fun to ride —
But it's no way to manage your energy bill!

The Levelized Budget Payment Plan can help take the bumps out of your month-to-month energy costs by averaging your current electric bill with your previous 11 months' bills. Because it's based on a running average of your electricity usage, your monthly payment amount will fluctuate slightly, but it will be much easier to plan and budget for!



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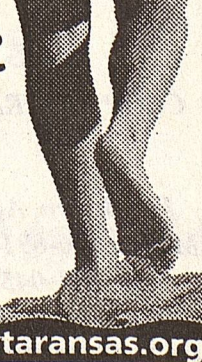
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Senior Citizens Corner

In the absence of our director who has been on vacation the past week, Pat Alman and Ann Holland have been keeping things running efficiently in the office while Tom Clevenger and Layne Black very handily handled the announcement routine.

We were happy to welcome Shirley Mosser, who was in town for a day, and Stanley Dahm, the VA Representative from Lubbock, this past week. It was also good to welcome back Bill and Eunice Groves who have been off doing other things for awhile.

There were seven guests from Lovington for our pool tournament last week and they carried home all of the trophies except for second place eight ball which Carl Davis and Ireta Davis, from Seminole, won in each of the men's and ladies' competition. Eileen Fillipp, from Plains, won first place in nine ball. Congratulations and a free meal ticket to each of you.

Calvin and Wanda Moose were here for lunch after a family reunion trip to Oklahoma. Floreine Rohman will be sadly missed at table three at lunch time and at the Bridge table where she enjoyed afternoons of competition. Our sympathy goes to her family.

Our Senior Center operates under a Board of Directors, each of whom serve a three year term with the option of remaining for a second term. The responsibility of these people is to oversee the general operation of the Center, employ staff members, handle any grievances and suggestions from clientele and be available to help in any situation needing attention. They meet once each

month with additional meetings as needed. With thanks to each one we list those who are currently serving - Pat Altman, Faye Black, Reta Peeler, June Hanneman, Walter Gayle, Bruce Greer, Jack Session, Charlie Gillis, Royce Hemmeline and Bob Thurston. These people serve alternate terms with new board members being added each year as others retire. If you are over sixty years old and would like to serve in this capacity, please contact any of these people. Your interest and services will be welcome, this is YOUR Center!!

Reta Peeler spent some vacation time in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, last week and reports extra warm weather there and evidences of the fire epidemic in the Rocky Mountains.

Jewell and Royce Hemmeline traveled to Ruidoso for a romantic anniversary week end.

Ida Freeman is planning to visit in her children's homes for the next few weeks. We are thankful her injuries were confined to her right forearm and were of a minor kind. We wish her well.

Sandra Wells has been on the sick list this last week. After a trip to the emergency room, she is recovering at home.

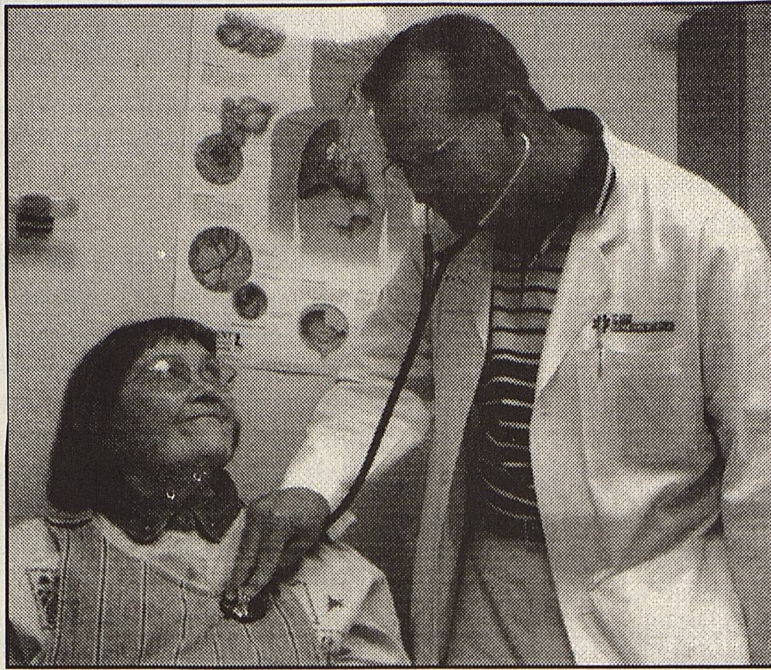
Billie McDonnell's family gathered for a family reunion near Cloudfcroft and reported a wonderful time had by all.

Ireta and Carl Davis met with family members in Colorado City for their reunion. They were unable to gather in their usual area because of the water in central Texas.

Thought for today: "For peace of mind, resign as general manager of the universe." (See Psalms 46:10)

Pregnancy, The Miracle Of Life

By Larry C. Boyd, MD



I think it is safe to say that most of us here in America take many things for granted including pregnancy. We just naturally assume that a mother is going to be pregnant for nine months and deliver a normal, healthy child without any problems whatsoever. We are extremely fortunate just to be able to have that attitude. I recently spent several weeks in Western Africa in Ghana with the United States Reserve and Fleet Hospital Dallas on a Humanitarian Aid Mission. It was quite a rewarding period of time involving a lot of hard work in arduous conditions but it really brought me down to earth and reminded me of how much we have here. The infant and maternal mortality rate in Ghana is quite high. Pregnancy there is not taken for granted as many babies and mothers die in childbirth or from complications of the pregnancy. Most people there never have the opportunity to see a Doctor their entire lives. Some of the villages have a "Nurse" who is actually a midwife but they have no C-section capabilities and little formal training in difficult deliveries. They have no medications available to them, no ultrasounds, and no prenatal screening programs such as blood tests like we have here. Becoming pregnant in a country like Ghana essentially means that the mother rolls the dice and hopes for the best possible outcome for herself and her baby with little help from anyone else.

We have tremendous resources available to pregnant women here in the U.S. and specifically here in the West Texas area. Early prenatal care makes a tremendous difference in the outcome of pregnancy for the baby as well as the mother. It is just so important to start seeing a doctor as soon as you become pregnant. Mothers need to start on their prenatal vitamins and iron as soon as possible because the vitamins, specifically folic acid, have clearly been shown to decrease the incidence of birth defects if taken early. The mother's intravascular volume expands dramatically as the pregnancy progresses and the iron helps the bone marrow make the additional red blood cells needed to keep from becoming severely anemic. Early pap smears need to be performed along with cervical tests to screen for infections which predispose to miscarriage, birth defects, and neonatal mortality and morbidity. Blood tests are performed to test for HIV, hepatitis, syphilis,

anemia, blood type, Rh and other abnormalities.

If problems show up in these tests early, most of them can be easily dealt with insuring the health of the mother and fetus.

Rh negative mothers must be given a drug called Rhogam at about 28 weeks gestational age and after delivery to insure the health of the newborn and future pregnancies. Around 15 weeks gestational age, additional blood tests may be performed to screen for Down's Syndrome and Neural Tube Defects. We also test for Gestational Diabetes which, if not treated, leads to severe problems with the baby and difficult deliveries. Blood pressure is monitored very closely along with urine screens to insure a disease called Preeclampsia is not insidiously developing as well as urinary infection which are quite common and can lead to preterm labor or miscarriage. The fetal heart rate and size of the mother's abdomen are measured regularly to insure proper growth and well being. In short, we scrutinize each mother and fetus extensively throughout the pregnancy to give them the best chance for the best outcome.

By the time delivery is imminent, the doctor is completely aware of every aspect of the pregnancy and prepared for everything whether it means Caesarean Section or Vaginal Delivery. Having said that, even after all this preparation, every pregnancy, every delivery is different. One never knows what is going to actually happen with a delivery or C-section until it happens and the doctor must be trained to deal with every possibility rapidly to ensure the health of the mother and the baby. Pregnancy truly leads to the miracle of life but, it is complicated. It is a very delicate process in which every aspect must progress in an orderly discreet fashion. It is so delicate that the least little alteration in the sequence of events may make a difference in the outcome of the pregnancy.

We take so many things for granted in this great country that I want to take this opportunity to stress the importance of early prenatal care. It makes a difference when you get regular early prenatal care and everyone in West Texas has access to this. The doctors at West Texas Medical Center in Denver City join me in urging everyone to seek prenatal care as early as possible with the Physicians of your choice.
Larry C. Boyd, MD

Certified Nurse Aide Course Scheduled

A Certified Nurse Aide course begins August 12 at South Plains College in Levelland.

Classroom instruction is scheduled 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays through September 21 in the Technical Arts Building, Room 112.

Clinical instruction will be held selected Saturdays at the Levelland Nursing Home. Tuition is \$300 and state exam fee is \$69.75, plus textbook.

Instructor is Barbara Brattain, L.V.N.

The course covers the necessary skills to work in long term care, home health or hospital environments. After completing the 56 hours of classroom and 24 hours of clinical instruction, students will take the State of Texas Certified Nurse Aide Competency Exam.

Students must provide proof of immunization for MMR, Tetanus and have a current TB test.

For more information, contact the SPC Division of Continuing and Distance Education at 806-894-9611, ext. 2341.

New Books At The Library

FICTION:

Desperado... Diana Palmer, *The Mulberry Tree...* Jude Deveraux, *The Remnant...* Tim LaHaye, *Jordan's Star...* Gilbert Morris, *The Bishop In The West Wing...* Andrew M. Greeley, *Grave Secrets...* Kathy Reichs, *Prodigal Father...* Ralph McInerney, *Step To The Graveyard Easy...* Bill Pronzini, *Bad Boy Brawly Brown...* Walter Mosley, *Meet John Trow...* Thomas Dyja, *Flight Lessons...* Patricia Gaffney, *Prospect Street...* Emmie Richards, *An Accidental Woman...* Barbara Delinsky, *Green Calder Grass...* Janet Dailey, *Enemy Women...* Paulette Jiles

NON-FICTION:

Dale Groom's Texas Gardening Guide. Quick Fixes With Mixes... Lia Wilson, *Fly Fisher's Guide To Texas...* Phil Shook, *Computers Simplified...* By Visual, *Celebrate The Red, White & Blue...* Better Homes & Gardens, *When God Weeps...* Joni Eareckson Tada, *Prisoners Of Hope...* Dayna Curry and Heather Mercer, *The Best Mr. Food. No One Left Behind...* Amy Yarsinske, *Lusitania...* Diana Preston, *3000 Degrees...* Sean Flynn, *Texas Wild & Beautiful. Texas Sky...* Wyman Meinzer, *Texas Past...* Lewis Christian

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August 3, 2002

Schedule Of Events

11:30 am Old Settlers Reunion and Rodeo Bar-B-Que in Stanford Park

1:30 pm Assembly in Methodist Church Sanctuary honoring all war veterans

2:00 pm Individual Class meetings for Class of 1940 through Class of 1950

2:30 pm Reception in Fellowship Hall

Everyone is invited to come by for a visit!

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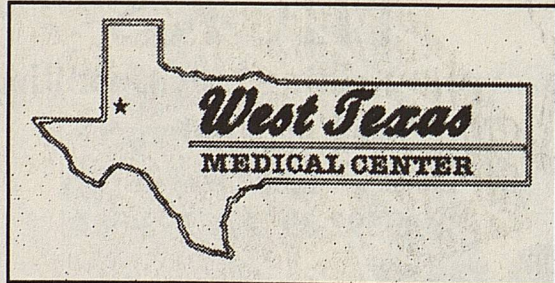
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Amir Memon, M.D.
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9:30 am.

Morning Worship

10:45 am.

Evening Program

6:00 pm.



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Sunday School - 9:45 am

Morning Worship - 10:45 am

Evening Worship - 6:00 pm

Wednesday Connection

Food, Fellowship & Study

5:30-7:30 pm

Other Opportunities

Fitness/Exercise Class - 5:30-6:30 pm

Tuesdays & Thursdays

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From The Hack

In a recent issue of CCN, we challenged readers to correctly supply us with the name of the wife of the Old Testament's Noah, he of the flood fame. We had one solitary reply.

A reader offered, "I think she was called Joan of ARK." Sorry, we can't reward you with the magnificent prize we had in mind for the correct answer.

The following was cheerfully stolen from the Levelland-Hockley County News-Press. For some reason, First Baptist's Bill Wright immediately came to mind when I read it;

A minister parked his car in a no parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. He put a note under the wiper blade saying, "I have circled the block ten times, If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses." When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note. "I've circled this block for ten years. If I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

The following stolen item definitely reminded me of Wright;

Someone has said there are two types of people. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord." And then there are those who wake up and say, "Good Lord, It's morning!"

Something strange has happened at our house. The Bride has gone a bit Daffy Duck over the rodeo sport of bull riding. Yes, I know you find that incredible. Me too.

When we first wed back in the Bronze Age, I mentioned I loved rodeos, and had actually made a fool of myself in a number of them when much younger and stupider. (bad word)

She was stunned. "You mean to tell me you were so brain deficient you got down in that arena with all those wild animals?"

I knew then it was time for her education. I told her I would give her a 13 minute shopping spree in her favorite women's store if she would go with me to a rodeo. She was naturally suspicious, and queried, "I don't have to get down in that coliseum with all those devouring beasts, do I?"

Now, I can't even recall where we shared our first rodeo. I do remember in the lead off bareback riding event, the bronc came busting out of the chute, and did what it does over 60 percent of the time - bucked some young would be bronc rider off on his skinny but muscular buttocks.

Bride looked at me and asked, "What were those funny, loud noises the horse made every time it jumped up in the air?" She actually had no clue animals made the same disgusting gastric noises we humans do when we leap up and down with a full belly.

We worked our way through all the events, and naturally her favorite was the gals running the barrels. She made appropriate comments through my boredom, like, "OOOh, I love her torquoise hat! Wow, look at that girls chartreuse boots.

YUK, I hate her pink hat and grey hair!"

When the final bull riding event crept around, I expected her to faint and fall over when the first big, bad bull came bursting out. When it did, promptly tossing the cowboy 18 yards, she screamed, "Oh, Oh, what is all that bright green stuff on the bull's rump?" I couldn't believe it.

I tried to be patient when I explained why the bright green stuff came from the enraged animal, intent on throwing, or even better, stomping, goreing, and killing the fool cowboy,

"This is a disgusting sport. They should at least allow the poor bull to relieve himself in a private facility!"

No more! She's glued to every episode of the PBRA television episodes each week.

She is so enraptured, she told me during the Saturday feature of bulls versus idiots, "I wish I had been a man... I bet I could have ridden him!"

Reckon it's the water or medicine she's taking?

From our e-mail: "Business Update"

If you had bought \$1000 worth of Nortel stock a year ago, it would now be worth \$49.

With Enron, you would have \$16.50 of the original \$1000.

With Worldcom, you would have less than \$5 left.

If you had bought \$1000 worth of Budweiser (the beer, not the stock) one year ago, you would have drank all the beer, then turned in the cans for ten cents each, and you would have \$214. Based on this, my current investment advice is, drink up, and recycle.

What An Upper! When the fantastic news began unfolding about nine coal miners being trapped in a flooded Pennsylvania mine, I told Bride I was sadly afraid they were all gone. What an incredible triumph of men above ground, and especially, the nine men underground! A perfect example of don't ever give up! As I watched the drama unfold those 70 some odd hours, I kept hearing the Pennsylvania Governor, even media reporters mention the G Word. If God didn't have a mighty hand in this, I'm convinced it would be a nine man tragedy. I wonder how that Appeals Court in California would look at it.

Three day weather forecast by Duncan Axisa, Meteorologist for S.O.A.R

| DATE | WEATHER | WIND | TEMP (°F) | RAIN (inches) |
|----------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|---------------|
| Today | Partly cloudy | SE 10-20 mph | 94/67 | Nil |
| Thursday | Mostly sunny | SE 10-20 mph | 95/65 | Nil |
| Friday | Partly cloudy; Few TS | SE 10-20 mph | 94/69 | < 0.01 |

Notice Of Receipt And Intent To Obtain A Voluntary Emission Reduction (VERP) Air Permit

Air Quality Permit No. 49009

APPLICATION El Paso Natural Gas Company, P.O. Box 1087, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 80944 has applied to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) for issuance of a Voluntary Emission Reduction Permit, Air Quality Permit No. 49009, which would authorize changes to the existing operation of the Plains Compressor Station in order to obtain emission reductions. The Applicant has provided the following directions to the site; from the intersection of FM 214 and County Road 390, head four miles east on FM 214, turn north on County Road 355 and travel approximately one half mile, facility is on the right side of County Road 355, Denver City, Yoakum County, Texas. The following air contaminants will be evaluated for authorization: nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, organic compounds, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter. This permit will not authorize new construction or an increase in emissions.

This application was submitted to the TNRCC on August 31, 2001. The application is available for viewing and copying at the TNRCC central office, the TNRCC Lubbock regional office, and the Yoakum County Courthouse located at the intersection of US 82 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 TNRCC.

The TNRCC executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC MEETING You may submit public comments or request a public meeting or a notice and comment hearing to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TNRCC will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application. The deadline to submit public comments is 30 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.

The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or ask questions about the application. A public meeting about the application will be held if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

After the final deadline for public comments following any public meeting or notice and comment hearing, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material or significant public comments. If any comments are received, the response to comments, along with the executive director's action on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted comments or is on the mailing list for this application.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A NOTICE AND COMMENT HEARING A person who may be affected by the emission of air pollutants from the site may request a notice and comment hearing. The TNRCC may grant a notice and comment hearing on this application of a written hearing request if filed within 30 days after publication of this newspaper notice. The purpose of a notice and comment hearing is to provide an opportunity to submit comments on the draft permit. If a notice and comment hearing is granted, all individuals who submit written comments or a hearing request will receive written notice of the hearing. This notice will identify the date, time, and location for the hearing. 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 to receive future public notices for this specific application mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk by sending a written request to the TNRCC Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION Written public comments or requests for a public meeting or requests for a notice and comment hearing should be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, TNRCC, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. For 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 regarding the TNRCC can be found at www.tnrcc.state.tx.us.

Further information may also be obtained from El Paso Natural Gas Company at the address stated above or by calling Ms. Naomi Cortez, Senior Environmental Engineer at (719) 520-4799.

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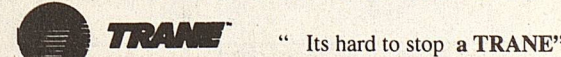
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