

## PAGE ONE

A QUICK READ OF THE NEWS

### 'Pellet Gun' regains crown

Rick "Pellet Gun" Krause took in a deep breath, curled his tongue around a cherry pit and let go a mighty spit Saturday.

The pit bounced to a stop 67 feet, 2 inches away, giving Krause, 45, his 11th International Cherry Pit Spitting Championship title in Eau Claire, Mich.

He also got a measure of revenge against his son, Brian, who beat him last year. "My first spit I got off a pretty good one and put pretty good pressure on him," Krause said.

Brian Krause, 20, who broke his father's record last year with a spit of 72 feet, 11 inches, finished fifth Saturday.

The elder Krause said the keys to pit spitting are lung capacity, cleaning the pit off completely before spitting, and the ability to curl the tongue around the pit "to get a good seal."

### Winner by a ... er ... head

The next actor to play Hamlet at Chicago's Goodman Theatre may want to change Shakespeare's line to "Alas, poor Del. I knew him, Horatio."

Del Close, a veteran of the Second City comedy troupe who died in March, willed his skull to the theater.

He specified that it could be used to play the court jester whose skull is unearthed and leads Hamlet to lament: "Alas, poor Yorick."

Close's skull, missing some front teeth and resting on a velvet cushion in a plastic box, was presented to the theater on Thursday.

"This is exactly what he wanted," said Charna Halpern, Close's longtime companion and the executor of his will. "This is Del getting the last laugh."

The skull, Close insisted, should be used for the Yorick role or any other purpose the theater deems appropriate.



**Drawing date:** Saturday, July 3  
**Winning numbers:** 01-02-12-13-20-45  
**Estimated jackpot:** \$14 million  
**Winners:** 0  
**Next drawing:** Wednesday, July 7  
**Estimated jackpot:** \$17 million

### On this date in history

- July 8** — A crack appears in the Liberty Bell, the symbol of U.S. freedom (1835).
- July 9** — New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia reads comic strips to children over the radio during a newspaper strike (1945).
- July 10/11** — London Bridge literally falls down after a fire (1220).

### LOCAL WEATHER

	High	Low	Pre.
Friday	97	68	—
Saturday	92	68	—
Sunday	90	65	—
Monday	91	65	—
Prec. to date	9.53		

### EXTENDED FORECAST

Partly cloudy conditions are expected to persist through Saturday. Highs should continue to be seasonal — 94 on Thursday, 93 on Friday and Saturday. Lows should be about 65 Thursday and Friday and about 63 on Saturday.

Editor Ronn Smith can be reached at 272-4536 or [ctyankee@fivearea.com](mailto:ctyankee@fivearea.com)

**Missed your paper?** Call carrier Melissa Flores at 272-6719 or the Journal during business hours, 8:30 am-5 pm.

## Fourth of July turnout gratifies organizers

By **RONN SMITH**  
Editor

Organizers of Fourth of July events in Muleshoe say they were gratified by the good turnouts for activities across-the-board.

Adrian Meador, president of the Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, was particularly excited about the attendance at Saturday night's chamber-sponsored fireworks at City Park.

He said he was getting nervous as show time approached, but suddenly people swarmed in. "I'd say there were at least 2,000 people there — between 2,000 and 3,000," he said.

Saturday morning's parade also brought out large numbers of people, both as participants in the parade and as spectators along the winding route.

"On Main Street, they were lined up all the way to the baseball field," Meador said.

A spokeswoman for Joe's Boot Shop, which brought big-name country entertainers to town, said turnout was good at the store, too.

"I think it was the most



Nelda Merriott waves from the Jennyslippers' float in Saturday's Independence Day parade in Muleshoe. The sign toward the rear of the float reads "Giving thanks to those who gave freely." Participation in the parade, as well as the community turnout to view it, was rated high by the Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture president and manager.

people we ever had at Joe's Boot Shop," she said. "We had a great turnout for Gene Watson, and then it was just packed for Janie Fricke."

Joe Rhodes, owner of the store, said he doesn't think sales increased with the size of the crowd.

"I think it's gonna be about the

same — the crowd was up, but sales were about the same," he said.

Pam McCaul, manager of the chamber, said her first Fourth of July in Muleshoe exceeded her expectations.

"I don't have anything to compare it with, of course, but from the

comments I heard, I thought the turnout was great," McCaul said. "Main Street was full — we had people all up and down Main."

"We also had more people sign up for booths on Main Street than I expected," she added, saying she looks forward to next year.

## FEMA's plans for tornado 'safe room' available

SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Residents of tornado-prone areas who are considering building a tornado "safe room" in their homes can now download construction plans directly from the Internet by logging on to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Web site, [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

Agency director James Lee Witt urges everyone in tornado-prone areas to build a safe room that can provide protection against deadly tornados.

Once on the FEMA Web site, click on "mitigation," then "tornado safe rooms."

The construction plans are provided online along with a 25-page illustrated FEMA publication, *Tak-*

*ing Shelter from the Storm: Building a Safe Room Inside Your House*, which outlines the basics of in-house safe room shelters, including designs for several different kinds of safe rooms.

Materials lists and cost estimates are included.

The booklet has been available online for some time, but until now the construction plans had to be ordered.

People without Internet access can still order the information by calling (888) 565-3896.

"The safe-room project is part of Project Impact: Building Disaster-Resistant Communities, an ongoing FEMA initiative to encourage people to take measures to protect themselves and their

property before disasters occur," Witt said.

"When constructed according to the plans, the safe room can provide protection against winds of up to 250 miles per hour and projectiles travelling at 100 miles an hour," he added.

Developed in collaboration with the Wind Engineering Research Center of Texas Tech University in Lubbock, the booklet draws on 25 years of field research by the Texas Tech researchers.

Their work has included studies of the performance of buildings in dozens of tornadoes throughout the United States. They also have done extensive laboratory testing on the performance of building materials and systems when hit by airborne

debris.

The National Association of Homebuilders Research Center evaluated the designs for construction methods, materials and cost.

The shelters are designed with saving lives as the primary consideration.

Regardless of where you build your safe room in your house, the walls and ceiling must be built so that they will protect you from missiles and falling debris and remain standing if your house is severely damaged," Witt said.

The safe-room designs in *Taking Shelter from the Storm* specify building materials and combinations of building materials that will resist penetration of flying objects in extreme winds.

## Curry County getting help on events center, commissioner says

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Curry County is on the verge of building a first-class events center that could enhance the whole region by drawing topnotch events, a Curry County commissioner said Monday.

Commissioner Paul Dee Barnes of Pleasant Hill said the county got excellent cooperation from the Legislature in promising state help on funding the multipurpose center and will be sending representatives to Washington, D.C., in the near future seeking federal help on the proposed Clovis multipurpose center.

Barnes also told the Curry County Fair Board there has been nothing but cooperation between the county and the Clovis City Commission on the equestrian-oriented center, and he would like to see a stop to the talk about a feud between the city and county over the plan.

In response to a question from fair board member Fidel Madrid of Clovis, Barnes said: "There's only one person over there (at city hall) who is fighting this, and I don't mind calling names — it's the mayor. But as far as the city commissioners are concerned, they have voted unanimously to support our position on this. I think I know where those guys stand, and there's

see **CENTER** on page 2



Journal photo: Steve Hoffield

### The best summer dip

Gary Moore, who appears to be modeling the latest in Martian eyewear, takes a break at the municipal swimming pool to visit with a friend. The pool is open Wednesday through Sunday (1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday) and the cost for a cooling dip is \$1 for age 12 and under, \$1.50 for 13 and older. Passes, both family and individual, also are available.

## AROUND MULESHOE

### Trussell honored

Mickey Lynn Trussell of Muleshoe has been listed in the 1999 edition of Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

The national publication honors individual academic excellence.

Trussell, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lanny Trussell, is a student at West Texas A&M University in Canyon.

### Business seminar planned

Clovis Community College has scheduled a seminar on "Entrepreneurs in Small Business" for 8 a.m. (Mountain time) to 5 p.m. July 15 in Room 409 on campus.

The workshop will concentrate on the primary steps involved in starting a business. Local entrepreneurs will share their experiences, a lender will discuss financing options, and an accountant will describe various bookkeeping methods.

The registration fee of \$30 includes lunch and workshop materials.

More information is available by calling (505) 769-4136.

### SPC offers Internet class

South Plains College in Levelland will offer a beginners' course in navigating the Internet this month.

The class is scheduled to meet from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. July 10 and July 17 in Room 123 of the college's Technical Arts Building. Cost is \$25.

Pre-registration and more information can be obtained by calling (806) 894-9611, ext. 2341.

### EMT class scheduled

An emergency medical technician class has been scheduled for Muleshoe beginning Aug. 24 and ending about Dec. 15.

The class will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

More information is available by calling Larry Rasco at 965-5008 or 272-5269, Kem Bales at 272-5400 or 272-4390, or Jackie Burris at 272-4390.

## Camping calls for a few simple safety rules

SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

From Big Bend Country to the Brazos Bend and Palo Duro Canyon to the Piney Woods, thousands of Texans will spend summer vacation time at a state park campground.

In order to enjoy the trip to the fullest, more campers than ever will count on propane for stoves, barbecues and lanterns for campsite cooking and to keep the lantern lit.

By following these simple tips from the Texas Railroad Commission, the state's chief energy agency, campers can get a jump start on propane equipment safety before leaving home.

• While packing for the trip, take a good look at propane camping equipment by checking for leaks.

To do so, simply soak each fuel cylinder connection with soapy water or leak solution and check for telltale bubbles. If a leak is detected, call a local propane dealer. Since Texas accounts for one third

of all propane gas sold in the United States, there is sure to be a dealer nearby.

• Upon arrive at the campsite, make sure the shelter, tent or camper is well ventilated. Never turn in at night with stove, cooker or lantern burning.

Remember to remove the propane cylinders from the vehicle upon arrival. Better yet, consider waiting until nearing the campground to purchase propane. Keep in mind that many campgrounds sell propane on-site.

When meal time comes, make a note to use your propane stove or fish cooker on a level surface in an open area away from shrubs or dry wood.

Barbecuing is a must for most Texas campers, but forest fires can be an undesirable byproduct. Also, before connecting the stove or cooker to the propane cylinder, make sure the valve is set at "off."

Keep hands and fingers to the side of the burner, not over it, and keep hair, sleeves and

### Slayden makes honor list

Julie Michelle Slayden of Muleshoe was among students making the A honor roll for the spring semester at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas.

She was one of 311 students at the school earning a straight A grade-point average while enrolled in at least 12 credit hours of classes.

### Friona graduate advances

Air Force Airman Rogelio Flores has graduated from basic training at Lackland Air Force Base at San Antonio.

He is a 1995 graduate of Friona High School.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs, and received training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Flores' guardians, Dora and Martin Mejia, live in Friona.

### SPC sets fall registration

Fall registration at South Plains College in Levelland is scheduled for Aug. 23-24 at the SPC Reese Center, 9730 Reese Road in Lubbock, and Aug. 26 at the main campus. At SPC Lubbock, 1302 Main St., registration will be Aug. 25 for returning students and Aug. 26 for new students.

Classes will begin Aug. 30, with late registration from then through Sept. 3. A late fee of \$15 and an add/drop fee of \$5 will be charged.

Fall catalogs are available. To obtain one or to get more information, call (806) 894-9611, ext. 2373.

*The deadline for items to appear in Around Muleshoe is 5 p.m. Monday for Thursday's edition and 5 p.m. Thursday for Sunday's edition. Items may be brought to the office at 304 W. Second, mailed to P.O. Box 449, called in to 272-4536 or faxed to 272-3567.*

shirttails away from the flame. This may seem like common sense when we're at home and near the stove, but rusty campers sometimes forget the safest ways to enjoy the outdoors.

Finally, when the trip is drawing to a close, remember to repack the smart way so propane equipment is safe and ready to use next trip.

To begin, disconnect your cooking appliance from the fuel cylinder and let it cool. Then cover and store in a clean, dry place.

On lanterns, check the cylinder, valve connections and mantle before each use, and make sure no dirt has lodged in the valve. Never operate a lamp or lantern without a mantle or with a damaged mantle.

Texas propane dealers can be located by requesting a copy of the Texas Propane Services Directory from the Railroad Commission, (800) 64-CLEAR or pick one up at any Texas Department of Transportation tourism cen-

ter.

This information is also available on the Railroad Commission Web site at [www.rrc.state.tx.us](http://www.rrc.state.tx.us).

For additional information on Texas state parks, call (800) 792-1112 or try the new Internet-based reservation service at [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us).

To book a state park camping reservation, call (512) 389-8900.

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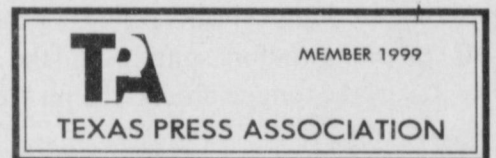
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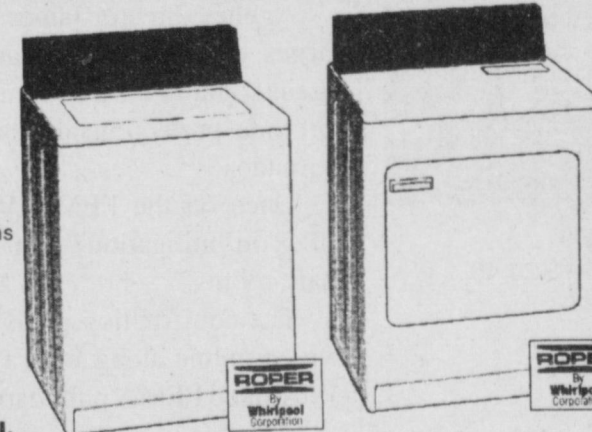
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## Manure seminar to address modern problem

SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

COLLEGE STATION — Roberta Parry, senior agricultural policy analyst with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C., will be the keynote speaker at the Texas Animal Manure Management Conference set for Sept. 9-10 in Austin.

According to Dr. Saqib Mukhtar, Texas Agricultural Extension Service agricultural engineer, it has been four years since regulatory agency personnel, researchers, consultants and producer groups have met together to share the latest findings, technologies and regulatory issues.

"Texas has newly delegated authority to administer the federal permit program," Mukhtar said. "Manure management has become an important topic. As cities grow, rural odors are becoming more of an issue."

Parry will give an overview

of the latest regulatory developments concerning animal manure, including the agency's guidance for nutrient management plans and the final EPA-USDA Joint Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations.

Other topics will include alcohol production, total maximum daily loads, phosphorus issues in land application, ma-

### CENTER

from page 1

no disagreement at all between them and us."

Clovis Mayor David Lansford had wanted the city to purchase property adjoining the fairgrounds to use as an industrial park, while the county wanted to use it to expand the fairgrounds.

City commissioners voted 7-0 not to pursue purchase of the property, leaving the way open for the county.

The county has hired a Nash-

nure quality, composting, the effect of rations on manure, and economic aspects of management alternatives.

Briefings are planned on the latest technological, policy and scientific developments in the manure management arena.

More information is available from Mukhtar at (409) 458-1019.

ville firm that specializes in fairgrounds design to present a plan for the center as well as revamping the fairgrounds, which is mainly made up of buildings constructed in the early 1950s, when the fair moved to its current location.

"I think we're going to see a first-class facility here. I don't think it'll all be complete in my lifetime, but I don't think we're looking too far down the road to get it started," Barnes said.

## Annuals can fill in the gaps — in more ways than one

By **RONN SMITH**  
Editor

We're heading into the time of year when flower beds can start to look more horrific than ornamental—the spring and early summer perennials have bloomed and faded, while the fall show won't start for awhile.

One way to fill that gap is to grow some annuals. These plants—called "annuals" because they generally only live for one year—are likely to put on a display right through late July and August because they only have the one summer to produce as much seed as they can.

Some species will need some "deadheading"—removing old flowers before they can mature seeds—in order to keep blooming all summer, while some are likely to keep flowering anyway.

Sterile hybrids have been developed in many flowers, so that they never develop seeds and just keep blooming until they burn themselves out.

Annuals also make effective fillers in a shrub or perennial bed for the first couple of years until the longer-lived plants mature enough to fill the spaces.

With the recent explosion of

interest in gardening, there are too many annuals available to discuss them all in one column, or even in one book.

To get an idea of the range available, I recommend that you get a free catalog from Thompson and Morgan, P.O. Box 1308, Jackson, N.J. 08527. Even this company doesn't list all the annuals that are becoming popular, but it comes closer than any other source I know.

And most of the plants are illustrated with pretty colored pictures to give you an idea what the blooms will look like.

A list of annuals that tolerate dry soil may as well start with the familiar old marigolds (*Tagetes* species). Much maligned for their smell, which is being bred out of many of the newer hybrids, they just about can't be beat for profuse flowering through heat, drought and just about any other abuse you want to heap on them.

Almost any sunflower (*Helianthus* species) that you're likely to encounter at the local garden center is also going to be drought-tolerant.

Another familiar one is the little moss rose (*Portulaca grandiflora*), a ground-hugging



free-flowering miniature that loves heat.

Other dry-land annuals that are becoming familiar at garden centers (now that the nursery trade has acknowledged that not everyone lives in a climate like Seattle's) are:

- Tree mallow (usually sold under its Latin name, *Lavatera*), with flowers that resemble small hibiscus or hollyhock;

- Sunflower relatives or look-alikes such as senecio (many species are perennial), rudbeckia (most species are perennial), tithonia (known more and more as Mexican sunflower) and helichrysum;

- *Zinnia angustifolia*—not the familiar zinnia, but a smaller single-flowered species that has become quite trendy quite quickly;

- Various annual or tender pe-

renial salvias or sages, one of which—*Salvia coccinea* 'Lady in Red'—I recommend every chance I get;

- California poppy (*Eshcholtzia*), which is being rapidly developed in eye-popping colors—not that the original orange wasn't prone to cause blindness to start with;

- Gazania, the weird-looking little flowers in all sorts of unusual color combinations; and

- Dahlberg daisy (*Dyssodia tenuiloba*), which I became familiar with during my years in Phoenix and have begun to see in garden centers here for the past two or three years. The little plants don't get more than 8 inches high, and they're covered with delicate little yellow daisies (another common name is golden-fleece). Many dry-land plants have foliage that's more gray or bluish than green, but this one has bright green foliage that's almost as lacy as asparagus fern, so it's a welcome relief from the familiar gray areas.

From here, we can branch off into truly rare or unusual annuals, but we'll do that another time.

Questions can be addressed to Garden Writer, Route 2, Box 880, Muleshoe, Texas 79347.

## Cotton crop and use up

SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

World cotton production is forecast at 19.4 million tons in 1999-00, more than a million tons above the estimate for 1998-99 but 600,000 tons below production in 1997-98.

World consumption is forecast at 19 million tons, about 100,000 tons more than in the current season.

World trade is forecast to increase from 5.4 million tons in 1998-99 to 5.6 million tons in 1999-00. The Cotlook A index, an indicator of international cotton prices, is expected to average close to 59 cents per pound during 1998-99, and the forecast for next season is essentially the same.

Cotton prices are the lowest in six seasons, after rising to a record in 1994-95.

The decline in expected prices can be explained by the fact that China, a net importer of cotton for many years, has become a net exporter and also by weaker demand for cotton because of economic weakness in East Asia, Brazil and Russia.

On Sept. 1, the government is expected to announce an official guide price and leave cotton procurement prices to be determined

by the market. Recent announcements by Chinese authorities place 1999-00 procurement prices at 50 to 52 cents per pound.

The secretary estimates that exports by China will climb from 150,000 tons in 1998-99 to 200,000 tons in 1999-00.

Yields are not expected to increase significantly this season.

The world cotton yield is forecast at 508 kilograms per hectare in 1999-00, 5 percent lower than the record set in 1991-92.



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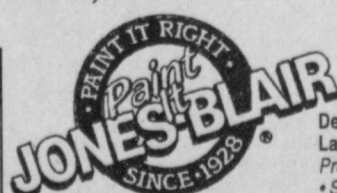
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# Commission approves rules to reduce ozone

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission last week approved rules for cleaner gasoline and vapor recovery equipment to be used by large retail gasoline outlets and bulk terminals in Texas.

The rules, effective May 1 through Oct. 1, 2000, require that fuel be formulated to evaporate more slowly, thereby reducing ozone-producing vapors.

By Jan. 1, 2004, sulfur content of gasoline must be cut back to reduce tailpipe emissions from vehicles.

Cleaner gasoline and vapor recovery equipment will be required in a 95-county area along and east of Interstate 37 from Corpus Christi to San Antonio, then in counties along and east of Interstate 35 north through the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex to the Oklahoma border.

The rules do not mandate or prohibit the use of the controversial gasoline additive MTBE.

The commission will continue to monitor the Environmental Protection Agency's blue ribbon panel on MTBE, expected to make its recommendations by the end of July.



The four-county Dallas-Fort Worth ozone non-attainment area and the eight-county Houston-Galveston ozone non-attainment area are excluded from the new rules because they already participate in a more stringent federal reformulated gasoline program.

### Jury indicts 32 in fraud

A Dallas County grand jury last month indicted 32 people for "clean sheeting," a fraudulent practice that involves obtaining life insurance by submitting an application that hides an applicant's terminal or life-threatening illness.

The indictments allege that insurance companies issued more

than \$10 million in life policies based on applications falsified by the defendants.

Those indicted include three licensed insurance agents and a former viatical settlement marketer who allegedly masterminded a clean-sheeting ring.

The indictments culminated an eight-month investigation by the insurance fraud unit of the Texas Department of Insurance, the State Securities Board and the Dallas County district attorney's office.

### AG funding centers

The Texas attorney general's office has assumed responsibility for Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Attorney General John Cornyn announced June 23.

The \$5 million needed to operate 38 such centers across Texas comes from excess funds in the attorney general's crime-victim compensation fund. Funding for the centers previously was handled by the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services.

The centers provide a safe, child-friendly atmosphere for law officers, district attorneys and caseworkers to investigate inci-

dents of child abuse without having to subject children to repeat interviews.

### 17 amendments proposed

A proposal to clarify how to fill vacancies in the offices of the governor and lieutenant governor will top the ballot in the constitutional amendment election on Nov. 2.

Sixteen other proposed amendments will appear on the ballot. Some of them are:

- SJR 12, relating to the making of advances under a reverse mortgage and payment of a reverse mortgage;
- HJR 4, to authorize the Legislature to exempt property owned by institutions engaged primarily in public charitable functions from ad valorem taxation;
- SJR 22, to increase the maximum size of an urban homestead to 10 acres, prescribing permissible uses of urban homesteads and preventing the overburdening of a homestead;
- HJR 16, to authorize garnishment of wages for the enforcement of court-ordered spousal maintenance;
- SJR 16, to provide for the issuance of \$400 million in general obligation bonds to finance educational loans to students;
- HJR 36, to permit spouses to agree to convert separate property to community property;
- HJR 71, to provide that certain counties shall be divided into a specific number of precincts; and
- HJR 548, relating to the investment of the permanent university fund and the distribution for the permanent university fund to the available fund.

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## Bluegrass workshop to be held at South Plains College

LEVELLAND - Camp Bluegrass 99, a week-long bluegrass workshop for all levels of musicians, is scheduled for July 18-23 at South Plains College.

Beginning, intermediate and advanced classes are scheduled on banjo, mandolin, bass, fiddle, guitar and vocals, along with jam sessions, instrumental, vocal and band workshops, special classes on the history of bluegrass music, music theory for pickers, styles of solo and ensemble singing, and a student showcase concert.

Nearly 80 persons representing 14 states from California to New York and as far away as Hamburg, Germany, have signed up thus far for the workshop. Registration will remain open through the first day of camp.

Check-in is scheduled for 3 p.m. and orientation at 7 p.m. July 18 in the lobby of the Marvin Baker Center. Classes are scheduled 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily in the SPC Creative Arts Building.

Tuition is \$275, and the cost

of room and board in college dorms is \$75 for meals and \$15 per night based on double occupancy, and \$75 for meals and \$25 per night based on single occupancy. A \$100 deposit must accompany the registration form to reserve a place in class.

For more information, interested persons can e-mail questions to [jcarr@spc.cc.tx.us](mailto:jcarr@spc.cc.tx.us) or contact the SPC Office of Continuing and Distance Education at 806-894-9611, ext. 2341.

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Clovis News Journal

**CAPITOL COMMENT**



U.S. SENATOR  
**KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**

**SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL**

It's no news to Texans that oil is one of the basic elements that built this country. More than 200,000 Texans work in or are connected to the oil patch.

Nor is it news to us that the oil industry remains a pillar of the American economy and an indispensable component of our national defense.

Oil powers our cars, heats our homes and runs our factories. Without oil, the American economy stops and the military is stranded. It's that simple.

Unfortunately, we have seen a steady erosion of our ability as a nation to produce all the oil we consume.

Volatile world commodity markets, foreign imports and a growing tax and regulatory burden on domestic producers have decreased America's capacity to meet a growing demand.

Since November 1997, the oil exploration and production industry has been in a crisis that witnessed the lowest inflation-adjusted oil prices in history. Recent statistics speak for themselves:

- We have lost 56,400 jobs out of an estimated 340,700 total industry jobs since October 1997; 20,000 additional oil and natural gas jobs stand at risk of being lost.

- We have seen 136,000 oil wells (25 percent of total U.S. wells) and 57,000 natural gas

wells shut down. A substantial number of these wells will never operate again.

- We have lost \$21 billion in federal royalties and state severance and production taxes.

- We have had to absorb \$25 billion worth of economic losses associated with shut down oil and gas wells.

- Production is down 651,000 barrels per day, to 5.88 million barrels — the lowest U.S. level since 1951.

At home, I hear a lot about low prices when I talk to oil and gas producers across our state. But that isn't by any means all they have to say. Producers are equally concerned about the difficulties they encounter in getting access to the capital needed to do business. Doing business involves high, up-front exploration and development costs, so access to capital can mean the difference between staying afloat or shutting down.

All this is why, on June 18, I was one of the first Senators to speak up for and vote in favor of an emergency loan guarantee bill to help save America's domestic oil and gas industry. It passed the Senate and now is expected to be taken up in the House of Representatives.

This loan guarantee program is a small but important attempt to level the playing field for American companies whose overseas competitors are subsidized by their governments.

In contrast, U.S. produc-

ers, rather than receiving subsidies, face disproportionately high tax and regulatory costs. This is a deadly combination for a critical American industry.

The bill will provide a life-line of capital to many viable, efficient but cash-starved oil and gas producers — at minimal cost to the federal government. The loans are just that — loans, and we fully expect them to be repaid, with interest and fees.

The program is strictly limited to "small business concerns," as defined by the Small Business Administration.

In the oil industry, these are the small, independent producers who — despite their size — when combined, account for a majority of the domestic oil produced in this country.

Unfortunately, these are also the companies least able to withstand long-term drops in energy prices, and they represent the hardest-hit segment of the industry. These are hard-working, honest American entrepreneurs who pay back their loans.

Helping these producers boosts local economies and local governments, including the dozens of school districts in Texas that are dependent on oil property-tax revenues.

But most important, helping these companies helps America remain strong — capable of producing for itself what it needs to continue to lead the world in economic growth and prosperity.

At the time of the 1973 oil embargo, which threw our economy for a loop and into

one of the worst recessions in U.S. history, foreign oil supplied 36 percent of U.S. demand; today, foreign oil supplies 56 percent. Most of that comes from volatile regions of the world.

We cannot stand by and watch our capacity to produce oil and gas disappear. Another supply shock like we saw in the '70s could send the American economy into recession.

We must ensure that this industry does not disappear from the American landscape. Total dependence on foreign oil would profoundly undermine our economic and national security.

We can and we must take steps now to ensure that the remaining infrastructure for this industry is not lost for good.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Signal appreciated Help fight Lupus

For quite some time now, I have been meaning to write and say thanks to our city manager, Rick Hanna, and our mayor and city council members for getting behind Rick to get the state to install a turn signal at the crossroad.

This should have been requested years ago. How many of our citizens — not to mention tourists driving through — have had to wait and wait and wait for the chance to be able to turn west on U.S. 70-84? I for one appreciate Rick and the city looking out for our best interest.

Maybe we should look forward to a turning lane from U.S. 70/Texas 214 south onto U.S. 84.

If I can help in any way, you can count on me — and probably a lot of others in our community. Just call.

There is always room for improvement in Muleshoe, and we all should do our part.

HUGH YOUNG  
Muleshoe

### Crafts, cooking, and decorating highlight show

SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

Information on double-duty decorating and herb gardens will be featured on "Creative Living" on July 13 at noon and on July 17 at 2 p.m. (All times are Mountain).

"Creative Living" airs on public broadcasting station KNEW-TV from Eastern New Mexico University in Portales.

Deborah Durham of Los Angeles, a creative decorating expert with The Bombay Co., will share ideas that address decorating unusual spaces. She will talk about rooms that make a big difference.

Dorry Norris of Trumansburg, N.Y., will discuss uses for herbs and explain how herb cookery has changed in the past 50 years.

Salsa recipes and sewing notions will be featured on July 13 at 9:30 p.m. and on July 15 at noon.

Jane Butel of Albuquerque, cookbook author and cooking-school instructor, will demonstrate how to make a trio of salsas, all based on the original Salsa Fresca.

Dianne Giancola of Stamford, Conn., representing Prym/Dritz Corp., will share some quick notion tips. She says using the right sewing notion can make sewing easier and more fun. She will show some new sewing notions as well as share new tips for using some old favorites.

"Creative Living" is produced and hosted by Sheryl Borden of Portales.

The show is carried on more than 100 PBS stations in the United States, Canada, Guam and Puerto Rico and is distributed by West Link of Albuquerque.

Viewers can request copies of materials offered on the show by sending a first-class stamp for each handout requested.

Send the stamps, along with name, address and booklets requested, to "Creative Living" Requests, c/o KNEW-TV, 52 Broadcast Center, Portales 88130.

The other day someone asked me why I was so involved in the Lupus Foundation: "Why do you have so much drive?"

It's not because I'm sick; it's not because I'm struggling to keep going; it's not for prestige. It's because my 7-year-old daughter is struggling — she's the one with lupus.

I watch her struggle as she walks outside to sit down. It is very important to her that she can say, "I went outside today."

I've watched her doctors cry because her hands were so swollen she couldn't straighten her fingers, or because she had sores in her mouth so bad she couldn't swallow her own saliva.

I've stayed up with her many nights, trying everything in my power to ease her pain.

One specialist told me that doctors hate more than anything to diagnose lupus because it is such a horrible disease. Yet I find many people who have no idea what lupus is.

My goal is to educate as many health-care professionals, patients, family and friends as possible. I am planning a rheumatology conference in April; I'm working with three physicians, a nurse educator and the continuing education director to bring speakers to Lubbock to educate people in West Texas and New Mexico.

If one person is diagnosed quicker, then I will know it was worth my time. To have this medical conference, I must raise \$15,000; I have several activities planned, but not enough volunteers and money.

I am making a plea to all the people afflicted with lupus. If you are physically able and can

spare a few hours or dollars, please call me at the lupus office, (800) 580-5878. Help me to help the physicians, scientists and nurses who treat you.

I also make a plea to all the family members and friends of lupus patients. You guys are the ones with the energy! I don't have to tell you how it feels when your loved one is sick.

I know how it feels when a child looks up at you with tears streaming down her face and says, "Mom, if I could just die, I wouldn't have to hurt anymore. Jesus would take real good care of me."

I'm asking you, if you have an hour or more, or a couple of dollars you can spare, call me.

SUZIE BJORK  
Slaton



### Earning their way

Watson Junior High School cheerleaders operate like a production line during a recent fund-raiser held at Joe's Boot Shop. The squad members were earning money to help pay their way to cheerleader camp.



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- Plains Drinks** ..... gal. jug **75¢**
- Your Choice • Homogenized • Low Fat Chocolate • Reduced Fat Buttermilk • 2% Reduced Fat • 1% Reduced Fat • Skim
- Shurfine Milk** ..... 1/2 gal. btl. **99¢**
- Shurfine
- Corn on the Cob**.. 4 ears **2/\$3**
- Shurfine Reg./Fat Free/Light
- Whipped Topping** .. 8 oz. **99¢**
- Shurfine
- Deep Dish Pie Shells** ..... 12 oz. pkg. **\$1.39**
- Shurfine
- Sour Cream** ..... 16 oz. ctns. **2/\$3**
- Shurfine
- Cottage Cheese** ... 24 oz. **\$1.99**
- Shurfine Chilled
- Orange Juice** ..... gal. jug **\$1.79**
- Shurfine
- Citrus Punch** ..... 64 oz. btl. **99¢**
- Shurfine • Mozz./Mild Cheddar • Monterey Jack • Colby Jack • 1/2 Moon Colby • 1/2 Moon Cheddar
- Natural Cheese** ... 16 oz. **2/\$5**
- Shurfine
- English Muffins** .... 12 oz. **69¢**
- Select Group Shurfine • California • Oriental • Mediterranean • Broccoli & Cauliflower
- Vegetable Blends** .. 16 oz. **99¢**
- Crinkle Cut
- Shurfine Fries**... 80 oz. pkg. **\$2.99**
- Shurfine Taco or Cheddar/Jack
- Shredded Cheese**.. 8 oz. **2/\$3**
- Shurfine Individual Sliced
- American Singles**.. 16 oz. **2/\$5**
- Shurfine
- Baking Soda**.. 16 oz. boxes **2/89¢**
- Shurfine
- Sweet Relish** .... 16 oz. jars **2/\$3**
- Shurfine Creamy/Chunky
- Peanut Butter**..... 28 oz. jar **\$1.99**
- Shurfine Mild, Medium or Hot
- Picante Sauce**..... 16 oz. **99¢**
- Shurfine
- Black Pepper**.... 4 oz. cans **2/\$3**
- Shurfine Dry Roasted or Unsalted
- Peanuts** ..... 16 oz. jar **\$1.99**
- Shurfine Traditional or Vegetarian
- Refried Beans** .... 16.5 oz. **2/\$1**
- Shurfine
- Spring Water** ... 50.7 oz. jugs **2/\$1**
- Shurfine Whole/Diced
- Green Chilies** ... 4 oz. cans **2/\$1**
- Shurfine
- Garlic Salt** ..... 5.25 oz. btl. **99¢**
- Shurfine Mini or Regular
- Marshmallows**... 10-10.5 oz. **59¢**
- Shurfine
- Luncheon Meat** .. 12 oz. can **99¢**
- SAVE ON
- Powerade** ..... 64 oz. **2/\$3**

## HEALTH & BEAUTY

- Western Family
- Cotton Swabs** ..... 300 ct. **2/\$3**
- Western Family
- Isopropyl Alcohol or Hydrogen Peroxide** ..... 16 oz. btl. **3/\$1**
- Western Family • 60 ct. Asstd. Sheer Strips • 40 ct. Sheer Strips • 20 ct. Asstd. Flex Strips • 30 ct. 3/4" Fabric Bandage • 10 ct. Large Sheer Bandage Pad
- Assorted Bandages** ..... your choice **99¢**
- Western Family Assorted
- Antiseptic Mouth Rinse** ..... 33.8 oz. btl. **99¢**
- Western Family
- Non-Coated Aspirin** ..... 250 ct. btl. **\$1.89**
- 325 MG Western Family
- Aspirin Free** ..... 100 ct. btl. **\$1.79**
- Western Family
- Saline Solution**... 12 oz. btl. **99¢**
- Western Family Reg./Peppermint
- Antacid Tablets** .. 150 ct. **2/\$5**
- Western Family Asstd. Extra Strength
- Antacid Tablets** ... 96 ct. **2/\$5**
- Western Family Regular/Max. Strength
- Bis-Mate Antacid** .. 8 oz. **2/\$5**
- Western Family
- Antacid Ultra Tabs** ..... 72 ct. btl. **2/\$5**
- Buy One Western Family Medium or Soft
- Angle Toothbrush**.... GET ONE **FREE**
- Western Family Select Group
- Toothpaste** ..... 5-7 oz. tubes **99¢**
- Western Family Tablets
- Denture Cleanser**.. 40 ct. **\$1.99**
- Shurfine Sliced Hamburger, Whole Kosher or Original
- Dill Pickles** ..... 46 oz. jar **\$1.99**
- Shurfine Assorted Cranberry Blends
- Cocktail** ..... 64 oz. btl. **2/\$3**
- Shurfine Blueberry
- Muffin Mix** ..... 13 oz. box **99¢**
- Shurfine
- Pinto Beans** ..... 4 lb. bag **99¢**
- Shurfine
- Long Grain Rice** ... 2 lb. **2/\$1**
- Shurfine Assorted
- Pretzels** ..... 10 oz. bag **69¢**
- Shurfine Restaurant/Nacho
- Tortilla Chips** .. 40 oz. bags **2/\$5**
- Shurfine Assorted
- Potato Chips** ..... 6 oz. bag **69¢**
- Shurfine White
- Facial Tissue**.... 175 ct. box **99¢**
- Shurfine White
- Bath Tissue** ..... 9 roll pkg. **2/\$3**
- Shurfine
- Paper Napkins** .. 60 ct. **2/89¢**
- Shurfine • 48 ct. 9 inch Decorated Paper Plates • 24 ct. 10 inch Decorated Paper Plates • 80 ct. 9 oz. Decorated Cups • 48 ct. 7 inch Decorated paper Plates
- Tableware** ..... your choice **\$1.99**
- Shurfine Heavy Duty Spoons/Forks/Combo
- Plasticware** ..... 24 ct. pkgs. **2/\$1**
- Shurfine Heavy Duty
- Aluminum Foil** . 37.5 sq. ft. roll **99¢**
- Shurfine 30 Gallon
- Trash Bags** ..... 10 ct. pkg. **99¢**
- All Types Sprite, Dr. Pepper or
- Coca-Cola**..... 6 pk.-12 oz. cans **\$1.58**
- All Types Sprite, Dr. Pepper or
- Coca-Cola**..... 6 pk.-.5 liter **2/\$5**

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