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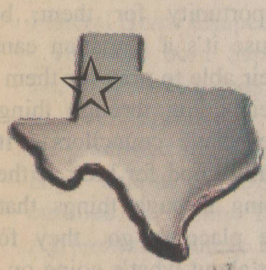
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VOLUME 115 NUMBER 26 THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2011 8 PAGES - 75¢

Lockney ISD announce new basketball coaches

By Homer Marquez
 The Lockney Independent School District has approved the hiring of Coach Josh Strickland as the new head boys basketball coach for the Longhorns. Entering his fourth year of coaching, Josh Strickland will be filling in the spot left open by former basketball head coach Reyes Garza. Coach Strickland comes to Lockney from his alma mater Sanford-Fritch ISD, where he coached basketball, football, and baseball. Making his head coaching debut with the Horns, Strickland is also scheduled to be the track coach and an assistant

football coach; "The reason I chose Lockney is because it is an outstanding school district with a superlative staff," commented Coach Strickland. As a coach at Sanford-Fritch, Coach Strickland was able to help the Eagles qualify for the playoffs for three consecutive years in multiple sports. Coach Strickland graduated from West Texas A&M University in Canyon, and is married to his wonderful wife, Sharla, who is expecting their first in October. Also getting the OK, would be new junior high girl's basketball coach, Lauren

Nichols. Coach Nichols will be filling in the open position left by former longhorn coach Laura Dunn. Entering into her third year of teaching and coaching, Nichols is coming to Lockney from Merkel High School. Graduating from in Coahoma High School herself, Coach Nichols would get her teaching and coaching degree at the University of Texas Permian Basin in Odessa. "I love that basketball is my job," commented Coach Nichols, "it's my absolute favorite thing and I get to be around it every day. The best part about teaching

is when you actually see that you have taught these kids something, it's like you see the light bulb come on. I love that I get a chance everyday to influence these kids in a positive way." After being asked on the reason she chose to move to Lockney, Mrs. Nichols responded, "It seems like a good school that has had a lot of success. I like the small town atmosphere. Mostly though, Coach Schumacher is so well known throughout the panhandle, and the state, I thought it would be a great opportunity to be able to work with her."

Weather takes toll on Floyd County



Photo by Homer Marquez
 Extreme temperatures and dry conditions continue to wreck havoc in Floyd County.

By Homer Marquez
 You don't need a weatherman, radio, or a newspaper to tell you the current weather analysis of West Texas, all you need is calendar and ten minutes outside to realize that this year's summer just isn't normal. It's hot and it's dry, and with records showing the driest year in West Texas since they started keeping records in 1895, combined with temperatures that for the past month have continually teetered between 95 and 110 degrees, the product of our current heat wave and drought has dealt quite a toll towards the community of Floyd County.

auditors have been busy filing the claims of these dry land farmers. As for irrigated farm land, triple digit temperatures and 60 mph winds have dried out a lot of the soil before the water was able to reach the root; as result, farmers who spent a lot of their resources in irrigation, are now faced with several dry and dead spots in their fields; forcing them to only yield a fraction of what they did last year. Plants that were strong enough to survive still had to endure the scorching heat of May and June.

Prompted by the weather phenomenon "La Nina", cooling temperatures in the tropics of South America has resulted in the dry conditions here in Texas. Since October, because of La Nina, West Texas has seen only a few inches of rain within the nine month period. Earlier in the year, a weakening La Nina was poised to bring some much needed rainfall to Texas by the spring, but for some odd reason, dry and hot weather conditions have continued well into summer, mirroring the conditions of the dust bowl in the 1930's. In Floyd County and across Panhandle, these weather conditions are having a detrimental effect on our agricultural community, our water supply, and our safety. For local farms, a few sprinkle showers since the beginning of the year has forced local farmers to rely solely on irrigation for the survival of this year's crop while dry land crops had no chance during this year's drought. For the past couple of weeks, crop insurance

On June 28, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack declared that all of Texas was eligible for disaster relief and could apply for Farm Service Agency assistance; but despite the financial assistance, the short coming of this year's harvest will definitely send shock waves throughout the community as businesses from gins to truckers will surly feel the effects of a short yield.

And if that wasn't enough, the historic drought and the dependence of irrigated water have also served as a catalyst for the water restrictions debate.

Concerned on the depleting water supply of the Ogallala Aquifer, the High Plains Underground Water District, which controls around 16 counties, has moved to try to add restrictions on how much water farmers can pull out of the ground for irrigation systems. One of the options that the High Plains Water District will use to try to lower the consumption of the aquifer's water will be through water meters placed on or by irrigation water pumps. By only letting



Photo by Homer Marquez
 Kids decked out their bikes with red, white and blue as they participated in this year's Fourth of July Bike Parade in Lockney. Celebrating our Independence Day, these patriotic kids let loose as they traveled down Main Street on Monday.



Courtesy Photo
 Floyd County Librarian Sandra Crawford is signing up youngsters for the Summer Reading Program at the Floyd County Library every Wednesday morning in July from 10:00 - 10:45. Floyd County 4-H members Lauryn and Luke Carroll presented the first program on the 4-H rabbit Project. Reading club members will receive coupons for Dairy Queen treats for every 5 hours of reading. Those signed up included (front row, l-r) Logan Smith, Aiden Trevino and Jace Adams; (back row, l-r) Lauryn Campbell, Cameron Yannis, Isaha Yannis, Sandra Crawford, Erin Trevino and Luke Carroll.

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Kelly Prayor

FLOYDADA SENIOR CITIZENS NEWS

By Margarette Word

I did not have an article in the paper last week. I just didn't have any new to report.

It has been so hot that no one is going anywhere. Our town is going to dry up real soon if we don't get rain. We do not want anymore house fires either.

I'm so sorry our neighbors lost their homes. I noticed the area is beginning to be cleaned up. I saw the Lipham's working really hard this past week and they are making progress. Praise God that no one was lost.

My children in Granbury said they have not had any rain either. It is even hotter in that area than it is here.

Boone Adams has been at the Center several times since he got out of rehab. He really looks good and we are so happy he is improving.

Herman Graham seems to be doing really good also. He is coming to the Center. Last Wednesday we had

70 people to show up for lunch. We wish this would be a daily thing. We do have about 27 faithful people who show up daily. I like to go because I don't have to cook and I love visiting with friends. I feel better when I get out of the house and visit people.

The road between Floydada and Plainview is really nice and smooth now. I had to go see my doctor last Friday and no rocks were thrown all my car. Usually when they work on the highways, there is a lot of loose rocks but not this time. Plainview is a mess on 5th street because it was two lane traffic. Maybe it will be in better shape when they finish. 5th Street really did need a lot of work on it. If you have to go to Plainview allow extra time because the traffic is very slow.

We have had several visitors recently. Guy Ginn's daughter and her husband,

ate lunch one day last week. Donna and Bud Henderson ate lunch on that Wednesday we had so many people. I'm sure I missed seeing others too. We are happy for you to come and eat with us. If you are 60 years or older this Center is for you. Our address is 301 E. Georgia and our mailing address is P.O. Box 573, Floydada, TX.. 79235.

Betty Beatty of Roswell, New Mexico spent a couple of days with William and Faye Bertrand recently. They also visited other relatives while in Floydada.

We did not have any memorials to report this past week.

"Happy Birthday" to those who have a July birthday. July 1 - Jerry Galloway; July 3 - Dolores Cannon, Belle Vinson, Tommy McIntosh; July 8 - Opal Kratzer; July 9 - Sam Speck, Kay Tinney; July 12 - Virginia Pyle; July 13 - Genelle Breed, Nancy Mayo; July 18 - Kendis Julian;

July 19 - Ruby Blasingame; July 20 - Charlene Brown, Joan Smith; July 21 - Mary Fewell; July 25 - Sherry Colston, Elaine Galloway.

Thought for the Week - Laughter is the brush that sweeps away the cobwebs of the heart.

Mort Walker

MENU

JULY 14 - JULY 15

Monday

Baked ham, corn, spinach, roll, banana bread

Tuesday - Chicken strips, potatoes, green beans, roll, apple cake

Wednesday

BBQ ribs, potato salad, pinto beans, roll, brownies

Thursday

Chicken quesadillas, salad, pinto beans, cinnamon crisp

Friday

Fried fish, coleslaw, oven fries, cornbread, fruit

Kids head to Camp Hoblitzelle

By Homer Marquez

It's always great to get away for awhile and take a vacation, but unfortunately sometimes certain situations and circumstances prevent us from doing so; however thanks to the help of our local Salvation Army organization and community donations, 18 Floyd County kids will be taking a well deserved trip as they head down to Midlothian, Texas for a one of a kind outdoors experience at Camp Hoblitzelle.

Structured as a getaway for kids who are a little less fortunate than most or are going through a tougher family situation, Camp Hoblitzelle is designed to give campers a type of supportive influence while at the same time providing all the fun activities of the great outdoors. For five days, this Christian-based camp, located at a ranch just south of Dallas, gives campers a chance to participate in a number of different summer activities, including: fishing, horseback riding,

swimming, hiking, canoeing, talent shows, and much more. Throughout the day, Camp Hoblitzelle also incorporates a number of entertaining and inspiring programs like a morning devotional, and several teambuilding exercises in the evening.

"It's really really neat and it's good for kids," commented Salvation Army employee and camp sponsor, Teresa Gonzales, "it's a good opportunity for them...because it's a Christian camp their able to pray for them if their going through things; they have councilors. It's really good for kids; if their going through things that's the place to go...they forget about what's going on at home."

On Tuesday, July 5, Mrs. Gonzales and other camp sponsor, Theresa Andrade will be heading with 18 Floyd County kids to Camp Hoblitzelle on a chartered bus provided by the camp. **FLOYD COUNTY CAMP** continued on page 8

HISTORY OF THE CAPROCK COUNTRY FLOYD COUNTY HESPERIAN JULY 15, 1965. (Article continued from previous week)

THE HISTORY OF LOCKNEY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

NAME CHANGES

J. A. Cisco was listed as president of the college in the 1907 catalogue, with John C. Graham as vice-president, and it was called "Lockney College." The statement was made, however, that it was "A select high school for both sexes." A charter was issued for it in 1909, new equipment and repairs made the building more serviceable, and it was called "Lockney College and Bible School." Chas. W. Smith was president of the board of directors, and J. L. Germany was president of the faculty. Dr. W. H. Freeman was vice-president, Homer

Howard secretary, and other directors were B. F. Sanders, W. C. Nichols, J. A. Nall, C. R. McCollum, W. E. Broyles (sic), E. V. Hartman, J. F. Griffith, and J. L. Germany, Jr., all of Lockney, with an advisory board composed of G. H. P. Showalter (who had moved to Austin to work with the publishing house of Firm Foundation), A. W. Young of Sunset, Price Billingsley of Abilene, T. W. Phillips of Ft. Worth, J. F. Smith of Laketon, A. E. Freeman, Cordell, Okla., Cliff Sanders of Lubbock, Dr. H. Z. Pennington of Claude, Chas. W. Watkins of Emma, Jesse P. Sewell of San Angelo, and T. B. Larimore of Florence, Alabama.

When the 50th Anniversary of the organization of Floydada's City Council came to a head in 1959, Mrs. Alma Holmes, daughter of one of the founders of Lockney Christian College, was able to bring together some observations and remembrances concerning

the college (let's remember that the vast majority of its students were younger than collegians of today.)

YES: EVEN THEN

Even in the '90's (we suspect, always) kids were driving their parents frantic by going to parties, staying out late, wrecking school buildings, and "talking back" to their teachers.

CONFESSIONS OF FOUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Carl W. Smith, later to work with the Bible Chair at West Texas State College in Canyon, and son of one of the founders of the college at Lockney, stated: "College kids are not much different nowadays. I can recall many incidents from the old college, some sad, some very amusing. A couple of boys wrecked the schoolhouse one night. Early Arceneaux and Romlines Jones (both prominent preachers now) were the janitors at the school. One evening Early and Romlines got into an argument and they began wrestling. Finally they bumped into one of the coal burning stoves, knocked the stove over, and the pipe came down with soot. Those boys were black as Negroes, but that stopped the wrestling and the argument, too!"

INK EXPLODES

"One winter Burley Mickey's ink bottle froze up. He placed the bottle on top of the stove, mashed the stopper down tight, and went back to his desk, but it wasn't but a few seconds until the ink exploded with a bang, leaving ink on the ceiling and some very excited kids.

RULES

The college had social rules. Boys and girls could not date except on certain nights. One boy broke the rule (went to a party), some

teacher heard of it, and reported it to the school superintendent. The next morning at chapel he asked the boy to make public acknowledgment of his wrong. The boy states he was sorry he broke the rules. Professor German asked him 'If he wasn't sorry he went to the party.' He replied, "No, I had a good time."

MEDA BAKER HONEA

Meda Baker Honea of Lockney attended the college four years. Daughter of J. A. Baker, who gave land to the college, and moved his general store and postoffice from the first townsite in order to help establish the school, she said, "Sure, I remember going to school at the old Lockney Christian College. I lacked to have lost my big toe right out on the school ground. Bert Broyles got mad at me because I turned him down in a spelling class. When we went out to play at recess he picked up a big block of wood and whammed me on the toe; it bled like a stuck hog! All of the kids went barefoot to school those days."

TOM MCLAIN

Tom's father was the county tax collector when he attended the school. He said he thought the biggest joke of all was in being allowed to attend. He has sworn that he attended school only 19 days one term, was playing hooky and working on the farm. "We had a lot of fun," said Tom. "It was against the rule to write notes in school, but one year the note-writing got awful bad. When you broke a rule you were supposed to be expelled from school, but there was so much of writing notes that if they had expelled us it would have broken up the school. The teachers decided that everyone who broke the rule would have to get up in public and make an apology. Kids began to pop up all over the auditorium saying, 'I'm sorry, I'm sorry.'" Fannie

Rucker (Mrs. J. B. Jenkins of Floydada) got up and said, 'I'm sorry I've been writing notes and if you'll forgive me I'll never do it again.' When Fannie said that everybody in the room turned and looked at a great big ole overgrown boy sitting on the back seat. He weighed around 220 pounds, and he wore a fancy little mustache. After a struggle he managed to get up, and holding on to the back of the seat in front of him said in a weak little voice, 'I'm sorry I wrote a note to Fanny,' and then sat down.

FOOTBALL NEW, ROUGH

"Football was a new game in those days, pretty rough. We didn't have any uniforms, and after I tore up about three pairs of pants my ma made me stop. However, a year or two after that the college did boast a good football team."

ETHEL BROYLES MCADAMS

Ethel Broyles McAdams of Lockney was one of five students who took part in the first commencement exercise ever held at Lockney College and Bible School.

Her father was W. E. Broyles, an early day farmer, lumber dealer, and a preacher. She remembered that her family came to Floyd County in 1894, the year they were constructing the college building. She remembers, "We lived way out on the farm, and every day Papa would go to town to work on the schoolhouse. Sometimes Mama would get so lonesome that she would pack a big dinner and we would all spend the day at the school building site. We kids had lots of fun playing with the scraps of wood."

FANCY DRESS

"I didn't start to school until 1898, but I was in the first graduation class ever held at the college. Other members of that class were John Sams, Charles McLaughlin, Amelia Turner, and Celia Whitt. We didn't have a midnight party, but you should have seen the dress I wore! Real fancy;

white lace and embroidery sewed together in tucks all the way down the front, and it had long sleeves.

GERMAN HER FAVORITE

"J. L. Germany was my favorite professor, and I am sure he has inspired me to better things all my life. All members of the class were required to make a speech on the graduating program. The subject of mine was 'Woman's Sphere.' I still have a copy of that speech. The last lines went like this:

"There's not a place in earth or heaven,
There's not a blessing or a woe;
There's not a whispered yes or no,
There's not a life, there's not a birth
That has a feather's weight or worth
Without a woman in it."

DIFFERENT NAME

"Talk about sex appeal! Of course we didn't call it sex appeal in those days. There was one gal in our room that all the boys were mad about. She was the prettiest thing! Long dark hair, big dark eyes, her name was Eva Dodson (now Mrs. Joe Wilson of Floydada). Eva rode a horse to school with a side saddle. In the afternoon when school turned out all the boys would break their necks trying to get out first so they could help Eva on her side saddle.

RATTLE HACK

"According to the rules of our school we were not supposed to go to parties during the week. Somebody out of town gave a party, though, and one boy had a four-wheel hack. Well, before you knew it, that hack filled up with kids, and we slipped off to the party. Coming home that night one of the teachers caught us. Clara Broyles (now Mrs. Bob Shelton of Roaring Springs) said, 'Well they never would have caught us if it hadn't been for that old rattle trap of a hack.'"

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Registration Deadline July 8
For kids who have completed
1st - 6th grades



Vacation Bible School 2011
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From: 3:00-5:00 p.m.
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OBITUARY

JAMES GIBBS

James (Jim) Gibbs age 89, of Valley Mills, Texas passed away Sunday, June 26, 2011 at a local hospital.

Funeral Services were held at 10 a.m. Thursday, June 30, 2011 at Grace Gardens Funeral Home Chapel with Father Michael Heidt officiating. Visitation was held Wednesday, June 29, 2011 at Grace Gardens Funeral Home Chapel.

Jim was born September 26, 1921 in Floydada, Texas to Cecil and Ruby Gibbs. He graduated from Floydada High School in 1939 and enrolled in John Tarleton Agricultural College for two years. After graduation, he attended Texas A&M and was in the class of 1944.

Jim served in the military

during World War II as a lieutenant. While stationed in Cheyenne, Wyoming, he met Tassie Blevins Miller and they were married September 5, 1945. After the war and completion at Texas A&M, they moved to Valley Mills, Texas. Jim then became the assistant county agent for McLennan County and was later an inspector with the Texas Livestock Commission. In the early fifties Jim started buying cattle at the Fort Worth Stockyards, which developed into Gibbs Cattle Company. He remained active in the order-buying business until the time of his death.

When the Heart of Texas Fair and Rodeo was started in 1953, Jim was one of the original Livestock

Superintendents. Jim also served as Director of the First National Bank of Bosque County from 1962 until the time of his death. He was a member of the Karem Shrine and a member of Our Lady of the Lake Episcopal Church in Laguna Park, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his mother Ruby Gibbs and his wife, Tassie Blevins Miller Gibbs.

He is survived by his daughter, Jimmie Gibbs Munroe and her husband, Dan (Bud) Munroe, his granddaughter, Tassie Munroe, and many close family friends.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Justin Cowboy Crisis Fund, attn: Cindy Schonholtz, 101 Pro Rodeo Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80919.

Happy Union Baptist Church to hold 60th anniversary

Happy Union Baptist Church would like to invite anyone in the listening area to come and join us Aug. 12-14th 2011 as we celebrate our 60th Church Anniversary. Tickets are \$5.00 for kids ages 3-9 and \$15.00 for adults. This will cover your meals on Fri. & Sat.

Event times are as follows: Aug. 12, 2011 at 7 p.m. Christian Comedian (hors d'oeuvres/punch/tea) to follow; Aug. 13, 2011 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Mass Choir Rehearsal for all present and past choir members; 12:30 p.m. "Remembering When" Gathering-(snacks to follow);

Aug. 13, 2011--3:30 p.m. Finale at the church featuring Pastor Victor Harkins from Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Bessemer Alabama.

Please come and help us celebrate our 60th Anniversary. For more information please call the Church @ 293-3785.

THIS WEEK

LOCKNEY CHAMBER HOSTING KCBD AND CITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE

The Lockney Chamber of Commerce will be helping host KCBD news cast on July 25th and cooking free burgers for the public. This will be located in front of the Lockney Elementary. They will also be hosting a city-wide garage sale on August 6th.

Cost is \$10 to get your name on the map. Deadline for this is August 1st. You may contact Kay Martin at J & K Insurance, 652-3386 or Melissa Kunselman at Kaleidoscope, 652-2960.

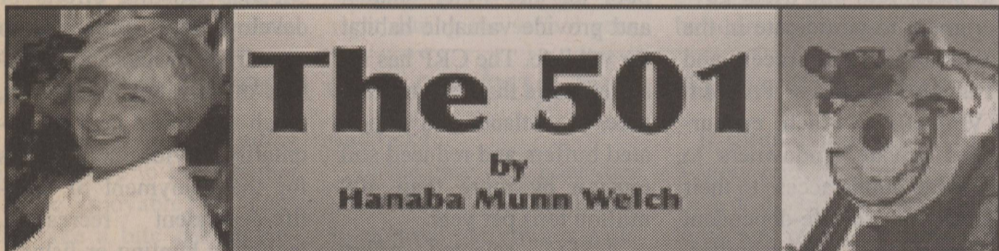
CALVERT HOME HEALTH BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

Calvert Home Health holds

their blood pressure clinics on every first and third Thursday of each month between 9-11 a.m. at the Community Room of the First National Bank of Floydada.

WEIGHT WATCHERS

Weight Watchers will meet Thursday at 5 p.m. at W. J. Mangold Physical Therapy building. Everyone welcome.



Breezes don't ruffle curtains like they used to. That's because you have to open the window to make it happen. Who opens windows?

In North Central Texas, the newer the house and nicer the suburb, the less likely the windows open. I could be wrong. That's my impression.

When I was a kid in the drought of the '50s, evaporative coolers ruled. They fit in windows. You hooked them up to a water supply, and they kept you cool and made your wallpaper want to fall off. If a little oil boom hadn't come along, my folks wouldn't have been able to upgrade to refrigerated window units. I sort of liked the old coolers better. I liked the water in the bottom and the excelsior-looking stuff in the sides and the drum fan that looked like something you'd see in cartoons with an animal making it spin.

Mother, however, much preferred the new units. They rumbled on 220 volts. Impressive. They cost fifty cents a day to operate. Ouch. We used them sparingly,

leaving them off until late morning. They ran during the heat of the day and into the evening. At bedtime we turned each unit off, turned all lights off, opened the double-hung windows, wide at the bottom and a little at the top, and jumped into bed, in that order. You didn't dare open a window with the lights on. Various insects loitered outside, some of them capable of getting through less-than-perfect window screens to zoom around inside. It was their purpose in life.

Intrusive insects sometimes came in after curfew despite our precautions. I remember hearing one bug buzz in and land on my bed with a thud. He sounded huge. I lay very still, waiting for him to leave. I waited long. Finally it dawned on me that he wasn't going to rev his engines for take-off. I turned the light on to investigate. Sure enough, he was gone. His identity remains a mystery. He lives in my imagination.

All who reside in today's hermetically sealed houses

miss all that. No mysterious night bugs. No breezes. No listening to distant thunder and smelling the rain through a dusty window screen.

Today's cars similarly shut out the natural world. We zip down the road at 74 degrees and miles per hour, occasionally checking an ambient temperature gauge just to see what we're missing.

The other day, when the outside reading was 109, my car began to overheat from the strain of towing a trailer. I turned the air conditioner off, and things went back to normal, except for me.

I opened my window to catch the breeze, thankful that car windows still open. I bought ice next and put cubes on my head and down my neck. I balanced cubes on both knees, which is not as bad as texting.

The ice melted. The water evaporated. Shades of the past and evaporative coolers. I was almost cool. All I needed was a breeze-filled curtain.

Maybe next time.

Floyd County Church Directory

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>AIKEN BAPTIST CHURCH
Dennis Butler, Pastor
Morning Worship ..11:00 a.m..
*****</p> <p>BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH
810 S. 3rd, Floydada
Darwin Robinson, Pastor
983-5278
Sunday School10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship ..10:50 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.
*****</p> <p>CALVARY'S CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP
Floydada
Armando Morales, Pastor
Sunday School9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship ..11:00 a.m.
Bible Study6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening7:00 p.m.
*****</p> <p>CARR'S CHAPEL
Service Every Sunday:
Morning Worship9:00 a.m.
Sunday School10:30 a.m.
*****</p> <p>CHURCH OF CHRIST
West College & Third,
Lockney
Steve McLean -Minister
Morning Worship ..10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship5:30 p.m.
Wednesday Service 7:30 p.m.
*****</p> <p>CITY PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST
Levi Sisemore, Minister
Ivan Gomez, Minister
Floydada
Sunday Bible Study..9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship ..10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study7:00 p.m.
*****</p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Tim Franks, Pastor
Terry Simmons,
Minister of Ed./Music
Josh Burgett -Minister of Students
Sunday School9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship ...10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study6:30 p.m.
*****</p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Lockney
John Franklin, Pastor
Chad Cook, Youth Min.
Phil Cotham, Music Min..
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....6:30 p.m.
*****</p> | <p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Floydada
Rev. Les Hall, Pastor
Early Worship8:30 a.m.
Sunday School..... 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship ...10:50 a.m.
Youth (Sunday).....5:00 p.m.
Youth (Wednesday)..7:30 p.m.
*****</p> <p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Lockney
Rev. Ricky Carstensen
Pastor
Sunday School9:30 a.m.
Worship Service10:30 a.m.
Evening Service..... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Jr. High5:30 p.m.
Wed. High School... 6:30 p.m.
*****</p> <p>GRANT CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
Joe Bennett, Pastor
Sunday School10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship ...11:00 a.m.
Evening Service.....7:30 p.m.
Tuesday8:00 p.m.
Wed. Service7:30 p.m.
*****</p> <p>MAIN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST
Lockney
Jay Don Poindexter, Minister
Bible Study9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship ..10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship ... 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:30 p.m.
*****</p> <p>MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
Floydada
Rev. Ralph Jackson
401 N 12th St (983-5805)
Sunday School10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship ..11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Study ...7:00 p.m.
*****</p> <p>NEW SALEM PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Floydada
Pastor Elder Ronnie Hedges
(806) 637-0430
Sunday Singing10:30 a.m.
Morning Worship ..11:00 a.m.
*****</p> <p>OUT REACH HARVEST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
310 E. Mississippi
Floydada
Rev. David Ramos, Pastor
Ester Ramos, Praise Leader
Sunday Bible...10:00 a.m.
Morning Praise...11:00 a.m.
Evening Praise5:00 p.m.
Wed. Worship.... 7:00 p.m.
*****</p> | <p>POWER OF PRAISE FULL GOSPEL CHURCH
Rev. Manuel Rendon, Pastor
704 N. Main, Lockney
Sunday Services....10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:30 p.m.
*****</p> <p>PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA
Lockney
Jesus Caballero, Pastor
Sunday School9:45 a.m.
Worship Service11:00 a.m.
Discipleship5:00 p.m.
Wed. Service7:00 p.m.
*****</p> <p>PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA
Floydada
Pastor Lupe Rando
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship ..10:40 a.m.
Evening Worship ... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Evening7:00 p.m.
*****</p> <p>SAN JOSE CATHOLIC CHURCH
Lockney
Rev. Patrick Maher, Pastor
Wed. Communion...8:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass.....11:30 a.m.
*****</p> <p>SOUTH PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH
Joe Weldon, Pastor
Sunday School10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship ...11:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting..... 7:00 p.m.
*****</p> <p>TEMPLO GETSEMANI ASSEMBLY OF GOD
701 W. Missouri
Joe Hernandez
983-5286 (church)
983-5156 (parsonage)
Sunday School 9: 45 a.m.
Morning Worship ...11:00 a.m.
Evening Service.....5:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.
*****</p> <p>ST. MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Floydada
Rev. Angelo Consemino
Phone: 983-5878
Sunday Mass.....11:30 a.m.
Mon.Wed. Mass6:30 p.m.
Confession Sat.....10-11 a.m.
*****</p> <p>TEMPLO BAUTISTA SALEM
Lockney
Rev. Joe Hernandez
Sun. Prayer Service 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School9:45 p.m.
Worship Service11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship ... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Meeting7:00 p.m.
*****</p> <p>TEMPLO BETHEL SPANISH ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Washington and 1st St.
Sunday School9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship ..11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Service7:00 p.m.
*****</p> <p>TEMPLO NUEVA VIDA
Rev. Herman Martinez
308 W. Tennessee, Floydada
Sunday School10:00 a.m.
Evening Worship5:00 p.m.
Tuesday7:30 p.m.
Thursday Service.....7:30 p.m.
*****</p> <p>Trinity Assembly
500 W. Houston, Floydada
Henry Russell, Co-Pastor
Vance Mitchell, Co-Pastor
Children's Church 10:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:40 a.m.
Sunday Evening 5 p.m.
*****</p> <p>TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Providence Community
on FM 2301 293-3009
Rev. Peter W. Harrington
Minister
Sunday School9:45 a.m.
Worship Service11:00 a.m.
*****</p> <p>WEST SIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST
Floydada 983-3548
Sunday Worship ...10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening5:00 p.m.</p> |
|--|--|---|

<p>American State Bank Member FDIC 217 W. California 983-3725</p>	<p>Goen & Goen Insurance 102 E. California 983-3524</p>
<p>Barwise Gin Barwise Community 983-2737</p>	<p>Lockney Co-op Gin 652-3377</p>
<p>Tastee Burger 116 North Main 652-2630</p>	<p>Oden Chevrolet Inc. 221 S. Main, Floydada 983-3787</p>
<p>Clark Pharmacy 320 N. Main - Lockney 652-3353</p>	<p>Payne Family Pharmacy 200 S. Main, Floydada 983-5111</p>
<p>Davis Lumber 102 E. Shubert Lockney 6523385</p>	<p>Hesperian-Beacon 983-3737 292-4729</p>
<p>BARWISE ELEVATOR & FERTILIZER 11 miles west of Floydada on FM 784 806-983-2051</p>	<p>Schacht Flowers, Jewelry & Gifts 112 W. Poplar, Lockney 652-2385</p>
<p>Lighthouse Electric Coop 703 A Matador Hwy 983-2814</p>	<p>Sunshine Pump Oliver Clark Box 266, Lockney 983-5087 - 774-4412 (Mobile)</p>
<p>Shepherd's Meadow Assisted Living 1230 S. Ralls Hwy Floydada 983-8177</p>	



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Upsetting, isn't it?

Health Advisories for Texas

Beaches Increase Threefold in 2010

Environment Texas Calls for Better Protection

AUSTIN — As Texans flock to the beach, pollution from stormwater runoff and sewage overflows continue to plague Texas's coast. Environment Texas reported that health advisories due to pollution at Texas beaches went up last year - totaling 704 days of beach advisories, according to Natural Resources Defense Council's (NRDC) 21st annual beachwater quality report released today.

"Our beaches are a pride of Texas and places that people across the region come to visit during the summer," said Luke Metzger, Director of Environment Texas. "But every year we see health advisories issued due to excess pollution. It is time that we take the common sense steps to keep our beaches clean."

In its 21st year, NRDC's annual report - Testing the Waters: A Guide to Water Quality at Vacation Beaches - analyzes government data on beachwater testing results from 2010 at more than 3,000 beach testing locations nationwide. The report confirms that last year, our beachwater continued to suffer from serious contamination—including oil and human and animal waste - and a concerted effort to control future pollution is required. The report tallied 704 health advisory days in 2010 in Texas, a threefold increase from the year before. In Texas, the percentage of health standard exceedances increased to 8 percent in 2010 from 5 percent the previous year.

Some of Texas' most popular beaches, including those at South Padre Island and at Port Aransas, were given a 4-star rating for consistently high water quality and good testing and notification protocols. However, the report cited Ropes Park of Nueces County as a "Repeat Offender" for having persistent contamination problems, with water samples exceeding health standards more than 25 percent of the

time for each year from 2006 to 2010. Testing the Waters this year also includes a special section dedicated to oil-related beach closures, advisories, and notices in the Gulf of Mexico region since the BP oil spill last year.

Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson joined with Environment Texas to alert the public to health threats at Texas beaches. Under Patterson's leadership, the General Land Office has launched an unparalleled outreach campaign about its beachwater quality monitoring program, including the [Texas Beach Watch website](#) which allows users to see real-time data on beach conditions.

"Texas's beaches have long suffered from pollution - the difference is now we know what to do about it," said NRDC senior attorney Jon Devine. "By making our communities literally greener on land, we can make the water at the beach cleaner. In the years to come, there's no reason we can't reverse this dirty legacy."

The large majority of closing and advisory days nationwide - 70 percent - were issued because testing revealed indicator bacteria levels in the water that exceeded health standards, indicating the presence of human or animal waste. Stormwater runoff was the primary source of known pollution nationwide, consistent with past years, indicating the problem has not been sufficiently addressed at the national level. Sewage overflows were also a contributor.

Beachwater pollution nationwide causes a range of waterborne illnesses in swimmers including stomach flu, skin rashes, pinkeye, ear, nose and throat problems, dysentery, hepatitis, respiratory ailments, neurological disorders and other serious health problems. For senior citizens, small children and people with weak immune systems, the results can be fatal. The incidence of infections has been steadily growing over

the past several decades, and with coastal populations growing it is reasonable to expect this upward trend to continue until the pollution sources are addressed.

More than a year later, the impacts of the BP oil disaster - still linger in the Gulf of Mexico. Over the course of two months, approximately 170 million gallons of oil gushed into Gulf waters, washing up on approximately 1,000 miles of shoreline. As of the end of January, 83 miles of shoreline remained heavily or moderately oiled, while tar balls and weathered oil continue to wash ashore.

In order to help ensure a disaster like this never happens again, Congress should implement the recommendations of President Obama's National Commission on the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling and help move the nation to cleaner sources of energy that can't spill or run out.

The best way to protect swimmers from beachwater pollution is to prevent it, according to Environment Texas. A key solution is investing in smarter, greener infrastructure on land - like porous pavement, green roofs, parks, roadside plantings and rain barrels - that makes a real difference in the water.

Green infrastructure stops rain where it falls, storing it or letting it filter back into the ground naturally. This keeps it from running off dirty streets and carrying pollution to the beach. And it keeps it from overloading sewage systems and triggering overflows.

Cities nationwide are already starting to embrace these practices at the local level. Now, our federal government has significant opportunities to increase its prevalence on the national level.

"The EPA has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to expand the use of green infrastructure in communities nationwide. Right now they are in the process of updating their national rules for tackling runoff pollution," said Metzger. "We urge the EPA to protect Texas's beaches by creating strong stormwater regulations to reduce runoff from new and existing developments, and apply runoff standards to all communities."

Environment Texas is a statewide, citizen-based environmental advocacy organization.

For the full report, go to www.nrdc.org/beaches

Doucette makes SMU's Spring 2011 Honor Roll

Patrick Doucette, a resident of Lockney and a sophomore at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, is listed on the honor roll with distinction.

To be listed on the SMU honor roll with distinction, students must be in the top 10 percent of their school of record. SMU's Spring

2011 enrollment included 10,595 students.

SMU is a nationally ranked private university in Dallas founded 100 years ago. Today, SMU enrolls nearly 11,000 students who benefit from the academic opportunities and international reach of seven degree-granting schools.

\$100,000 State Farm grant to safety program highlights deadliest crash month for teens

AUSTIN—State Farm has awarded a \$100,000 grant to Teens in the Driver Seat® (TDS), making the company the largest corporate sponsor of the growing peer-based safety program for young drivers. The funding will go toward supporting the program in Texas.

State Farm made its announcement on the eve of what is typically the deadliest month of the year for teens nationwide. The average number of fatal crashes involving teenagers over the past decade has been highest in July, and that month has surpassed all other months in eight out of ten years from 2000 to 2009, based on crash records from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

"Teenagers face more

danger on the roads than any other group, and that danger peaks in July," said State Farm Public Affairs Manager Sophie Harbert. "This is an ideal time for us to highlight our support of Teens in the Driver Seat and our overall commitment to roadway safety."

Started in 2003, Teens in the Driver Seat is the nation's first peer-to-peer program focused exclusively on teen driving safety. The program was developed by the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), and is designed to capitalize on the profound degree of influence that young people have on each other. Crash trends suggest that the program is having a meaningful impact. Since the program started, the number of teen drivers involved in fatal crashes has dropped more steadily in

Texas than in any other state.

Student teams at nearly 500 Texas schools have started Teens in the Driver Seat programs, reaching more than half a million of their peers with safe driving messages. The schools can request help from TTI staff, but the students are ultimately responsible for developing and delivering the safety messages in ways that resonate best with other students.

"Most young drivers don't know that they're many times more likely to die in a crash than people in other age groups," says TDS Program Director Russell Henk of TTI. "But they need to hear the message from a source they trust; they need to hear it from each other. The support we receive from State Farm will help to ensure that they do."

USDA Announces New Recreational, Fishing and Hunting Opportunities in Rural Areas

WASHINGTON, June 13, 2011 — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced developments in two popular USDA programs that will support conservation of working lands for the benefit of wildlife, water quality, and recreation. The Secretary announced that USDA will accept 2.8 million acres offered by landowners under the 41st Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up. The selections preserve and enhance environmentally sensitive lands while providing payments to property owners. Additionally, USDA has approved eight additional states and one tribal government to participate in the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP), which encourages private landowners to provide public access to their lands for wildlife-dependant recreational opportunities, including fishing and hunting.

"USDA is committed to enhancing the great conservation legacy of our nation's hunters and anglers to benefit current and future generations," said Vilsack. "VPA-HIP and the CRP not only help achieve conservation goals, but also increase opportunities for hunting, fishing and other wildlife-dependant recreational activities by providing additional access to privately held lands. CRP assists private landowners and producers as they voluntarily protect their most environmentally sensitive lands."

For this 41st general CRP sign-up, more than 38,000 offers were received on about 3.8 million acres nationwide. Enrollment of the 2.8 million acres will bring the total enrollment in the program to 29.9 million acres, leaving sufficient room under the 32-million-acre cap to continue enrollment in the

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, continuous sign-up and other CRP initiatives. The Secretary has asked FSA to continue to consider ways to use continuous enrollments to ensure CRP contains those lands that are most erodible, most valuable to wildlife or that otherwise ensure the program targets the most vulnerable acres.

Under CRP, farmers and ranchers plant grasses and trees in crop fields and along streams or rivers. The plantings reduce soil and prevent nutrients washing into waterways, reduce soil erosion that may otherwise contribute to poor air and water quality, and provide valuable habitat for wildlife. The CRP has restored more than two million acres of wetlands and associated buffers and reduced soil erosion by more than 400 million tons per year.

USDA selected offers for enrollment based on an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) comprised of five environmental factors plus cost. The five environmental factors were: (1) wildlife enhancement, (2) water quality, (3) soil erosion, (4) enduring benefits and (5) air quality. The minimal acceptable EBI level for this sign-up was 221.

The average rental rate per acre for this sign-up is about \$48. USDA implemented a number of measures including using additional EBI point incentives for producers to submit cost-effective offers and producer outreach activities to encourage competitive offers on the most environmentally sensitive lands. These measures will maintain the high environmental benefits while decreasing the historic cost of the program.

With today's VPA-HIP announcement, California, Georgia, Hawaii, Montana,

New Hampshire, Texas, Virginia and Wyoming join Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin as states participating in the program. Also participating are the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. The total amount of VPA-HIP funds to be obligated in 2011 is \$17.8 million with \$4.6 million of that total being allocated as part of today's announcement.

The VPA-HIP program expands existing efforts or develops new initiatives to encourage owners and operators of privately held farm, ranch and forest land to voluntarily provide public access for the enjoyment of wildlife-dependant recreation, including hunting or fishing, in exchange for financial incentives or other assistance under programs implemented by state or tribal governments. VPA-HIP is a competitive grants program that is only available to state and tribal governments. Funding may be used to expand existing public access programs, create new public access programs or provide incentives to improve wildlife habitat on enrolled lands.

Up to \$50 million is authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill through VPA-HIP through fiscal year 2012. State and tribal grant recipients use the federal funding to provide additional landowner incentives or assistance in order to increase the number of acres available for public access.

To learn more about CRP, visit your FSA county office or online at www.fsa.usda.gov/crp.

For more information on VPA-HIP, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/vpa>.

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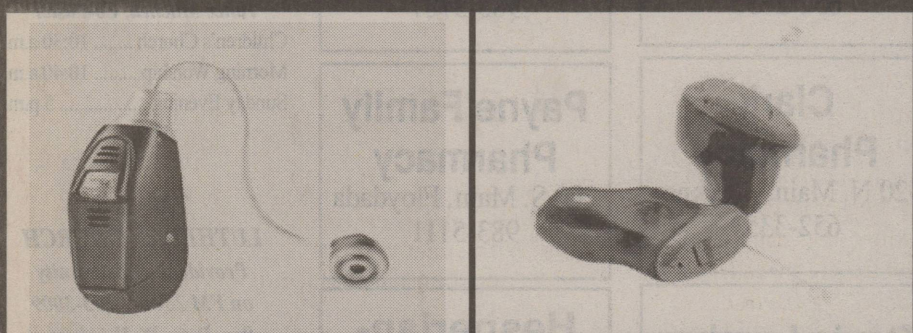
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Environment Texas is a statewide, citizen-based environmental advocacy organization. For the full report, go to www.nrdc.org/beaches

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Drought puts the heat on poorly constructed ponds

OVERTON — If you think it's dry, try being a fish during the drought, said a Texas AgriLife Extension Service expert.

"You know it's dry when your fish have ticks," joked Dr. Billy Higginbotham, AgriLife Extension wildlife and fisheries specialist.

Jokes aside, it's a serious matter as water levels drop for the owners of the more than a million private water impoundments in Texas, Higginbotham said. Channel catfish, bluegill and largemouth bass must survive both a shrinking habitat and dropping water-oxygen levels.

Dropping oxygen levels can be a problem during a hot Texas summer even when there's normal rainfall. But there's nothing like a drought to highlight a poorly constructed pond and magnify the potential for fish kills, he said.

"It's hot and dry even by Texas standards, but the ponds that show the problem first and foremost are those that have

either very small watersheds or those ponds that were built on marginal soil," he said.

A small watershed means there is not a large enough area surrounding the pond for sufficient runoff to maintain water levels, even during years with average rainfall, Higginbotham explained. To hold that runoff, the soil the pond is situated in should contain enough clay.

"These are important construction concepts for landowners to remember whether they are watering livestock or if fish are an important recreation use of that pond," he said. "Fish remain a primary concern to many owners of small ponds, and there are more than a million private impoundments found statewide."

Obviously, Higginbotham said, when ponds are not much more than mud wallows, there's little that can be done about saving fish.

"Certainly, when pond levels reach this point, I hope

they have done something about fish populations already, hopefully harvested them," he said.

But even if a pond is well-constructed and its water level has only dropped a foot or two, it still behooves pond owners to pay attention to fish management and water oxygen levels, Higginbotham said.

"In any case, we want to avoid trying to carry more than a thousand pounds of fish per surface acre during the warm months," he said.

A thousand pounds of fish per surface acre of water is a good rule of thumb for a number of reasons.

"As water temperatures increase, the ability of that water to hold oxygen decreases, so typically, the hot summer months are when oxygen depletions are most likely to occur," Higginbotham said.

Also, as water temperature rises, the metabolic rate of fish, being cold-blooded animals, will increase, and with that increase comes a need

for more oxygen. But under sunny conditions and moderate temperatures, aquatic plants — mostly single-celled algae — will produce enough oxygen to somewhat offset the low oxygen concentration levels of warm water.

Cloudy days have been rare during the 2011 drought, Higginbotham noted, but when skies are overcast, photosynthesis is decreased and oxygen levels drop further.

"If the pond is too heavily stocked, fish can run into an oxygen debt," he said. "Hot weather can even bring about oxygen debt in moderately stocked ponds."

"Furthermore, small ponds that are intensively managed for high-standing crops of catfish at or above 1,000 pounds per surface acre are going to be among the first ponds to experience oxygen shortages as water levels drop."

Higginbotham said he has found that many pond owners over-estimate the surface acreage of their ponds by a factor

of two or three.

There are simple methods to determine the size of a pond, he said. If the pond is more or less rectangular, the simplest way to determine its size is to measure the length and width in feet, then multiply one measurement by the other to get surface area in square feet. Divide this number by 44,000 to get the approximate area in acres.

As an example, a relatively square pond measuring about 200 feet on each side will have 40,000 square feet of surface area, or about one acre.

Calculating a round pond's size is a little more complicated. Divide the distance across the pond by two, square the result, then multiply that number by 3.14.

Once the approximate surface area is determined, the next step is to determine the pounds of fish in the pond, Higginbotham said.

"Usually, the pond owner knows how many catfish were originally stocked in the pond

and has a pretty good idea how many have been removed since stocking," he said. "By catching a few fish and weighing them, an owner can estimate the total pounds of fish in the pond."

Pond owners who suspect low oxygen concentrations should monitor their ponds closely, even if their stocking levels are 1,000 pounds per acre or less, Higginbotham said.

"Visit the pond shortly after daybreak," he said. "If fish are crowded up at the surface at first light, that's a pretty good indication that you've got low-oxygen levels."

If this is the case, pond owners should either immediately harvest fish to reduce the stocking level or aerate that water, Higginbotham said.

"Aerate with a pump or boat motor just to get over the hump and through the immediate emergency in order to raise the oxygen levels, so you don't lose an entire pond of fish."

Parents: Take inventory of the school year as summer begins

HOUSTON — School's out a month now, and although the celebrations have begun, the beginning of summer vacation is a good opportunity for a family to take a step back and reflect on the school year, according to an expert at Baylor College of Medicine.

"It's a good time for parents to think about any difficulties their child had over the year and whether there are any concerns or changes in behavior that they should address during the summer," said Dr. Efrain Bleiberg, professor in the Menninger Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at BCM and chief of psychiatry service at Texas Children's Hospital.

Parents should consider whether their child had changes in grades, concerns from teachers, trouble mak-

ing friends or changes in mood, such as being more irritable or distracted. Because the day-to-day school responsibilities are not there, summer is a good time to deal with any concerns and get help for a child if they need it.

It is important to address this as a family issue rather than just the child's, said Bleiberg.

Having open communication is an important first step. If a parent sees that there is a need for help, they can consult with experts who specialize in working with families.

Families should discuss goals and opportunities for the next year, and be sure to learn from the past year's concerns.

"You should also take this time to appreciate what went right during the school year,

and make it a goal to do more of this in the coming year," said Bleiberg.

Parents should recognize that there is nothing wrong with them because there may be a behavioral or psychological concern with their child. Taking away the stigma that this is shameful is important in getting help for the entire family.

Bleiberg noted that there are a few signs that parents should look out for that may indicate their child needs immediate attention from a health care professional. If a child appears so distraught that it raises concerns about self-harm or harm to anyone else, parents should seek care immediately. Also, if a child appears to be withdrawn and isolated or displays erratic behavior, these could be signs of a bigger issue that should be addressed at once.

IRS increases mileage rate to 55.5 cents per mile

DALLAS — The Internal Revenue Service today announced an increase in the optional standard mileage rates for the final six months of 2011. Taxpayers may use the optional standard rates to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business and other purposes.

The rate will increase to 55.5 cents a mile for all business miles driven from July 1, 2011, through Dec. 31, 2011. This is an increase of 4.5 cents from the 51 cent rate in effect for the first six months of 2011, as set forth in Revenue Procedure 2010-51.

In recognition of recent gasoline price increases, the IRS made this special adjustment for the final months of

2011. The IRS normally updates the mileage rates once a year in the fall for the next calendar year.

"While gasoline is a significant factor in the mileage figure, other items enter into the calculation of mileage rates, such as depreciation and insurance and other fixed and variable costs," said Clay Sanford, an IRS spokesman in Dallas.

The optional business standard mileage rate is used to compute the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business use in lieu of tracking actual costs. This rate is also used as a benchmark by the federal government and many businesses to reimburse their employees for mileage.

The new six-month rate for

computing deductible medical or moving expenses will also increase by 4.5 cents to 23.5 cents a mile, up from 19 cents for the first six months of 2011. The rate for providing services for charitable organizations is set by statute, not the IRS, and remains at 14 cents a mile.

The new rates are contained in Announcement 2011-40 on the optional standard mileage rates.

Sanford said taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates.

Rates	7/1	through
Business	- 55.5	
Medical/Moving	- 23.5	
Charitable	- 14	

TxDOT Kicks Off Buckle Up in Your Truck Campaign

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Transportation's Buckle Up in Your Truck campaign kicks off this month to remind pickup truck drivers and their passengers about the importance of using seat belts every time they get in a vehicle. While seat belt use across the state is seeing record highs among people in cars, people in pickup trucks are still not using their seat belts regularly. TxDOT is launching a summer campaign focusing on those pickup truck drivers and passengers to ensure that all Texas motorists are buckled up.

Safety officials attribute lower seat belt use among truck drivers and passengers to a false sense of security in larger vehicles and the incorrect belief that seat belts aren't necessary for short trips.

"Pickup truck drivers and passengers tend to be younger and male, and they are not getting the message that seat belts save lives," said Carol Rawson, TxDOT's Traffic Operations Division Director. "In fact, crashes involving pickup trucks can be particularly deadly because of the tendency for the trucks to roll over and for occupants to be thrown from the vehicles

unless they are buckled up."

Studies have shown that wearing a seat belt reduces the risk of fatal injury by 45 percent in passenger cars. That number increases to 60 percent for pickups due to their likelihood of rolling over in a crash. According to TxDOT, one out of every two pickup truck drivers killed in a traffic crash was not buckled up.

Despite an overall downward trend in fatalities between 2003 and 2009, traffic crashes remain the leading cause of death for those between one and 44 years of age in Texas. On average, the number of trucks involved in fatal crashes exceeded the

number of passenger cars by 20 percent. In 2009 in Texas, more than 3,000 people died in fatal collisions on Texas streets and highways, and just under half were not buckled up.

Fines and court costs for failing to fasten your seat belt can add up to \$250 or more. It's not just drivers that must buckle up—state law also requires passengers in the front and back seat to buckle up. Visit www.texas-clickitorticket.com for more information.

For more information, contact the TxDOT media relations office at 512-463-8700 or tracie.mendez@txdot.gov.

Keep a keen eye on bug bites this summer

HOUSTON — Spending time outside in the summer can be enjoyable, but bugs can take a bite out of outdoor fun. A Baylor College of Medicine physician has some advice to help families enjoy outdoors.

"The most common bug-related issue seen by health care providers in our clinic in the summer is fire ant bites. There are usually lots of bites, since the ants attack in swarms," said Dr. John Rogers, professor of family and community medicine at BCM.

Fire ant bites are typically painful, itchy, red bumps that can become small pustules, according to Rogers. To treat at home, wash the area with soap and water and apply a cool cloth to ease the pain.

Other common summertime bug-induced ailments include bee or wasp stings

and ticks.

In the case of a honeybee sting, Rogers said to carefully remove the stinger without squeezing the venom sac and then apply ice to the area.

"All bug bites can be treated with ice, anti-inflammatory medication (ibuprofen or naproxen) or pain reliever (acetaminophen). Non-prescription Benadryl or hydrocortisone cream can be used for itching," said Rogers.

While many of these summertime bites and stings can be treated at home, Rogers warns to keep an eye out for the times when a doctor is needed.

If the person has shortness of breath, tightness in throat, severe hives, lightheadedness or begins wheezing, they should get to an emergency room immediately. Call 911 if symptoms are severe.

If these symptoms occur, Rogers said, the patient may have a history of insect allergy and might be carrying an Epi-Pen. This can be injected into the thigh muscle and save the person's life.

"Even if there isn't an immediate reaction, keep an eye on the area. If it develops more swelling and redness a few days after the sting occurred, it may be infected so you should see a doctor," Rogers said.

After outdoor fun, families should check themselves for ticks, Rogers warned.

If the tick is removed less than 72 hours after it attaches to the body, there is less than a 1 percent chance of infection. However, if a tick is left on someone for more than 72 hours, they should seek medical attention especially if a bull's eye rash develops or a red raised papule occurs at the site of the bite.

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Due to the extreme hot weather The Floyd County Historical Museum has announced that they will be open from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. These hours will remain in effect until further notice. If you need more information you can call the Museum at 806-983-2415.

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USDA Designates 213 Counties in Texas as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

WASHINGTON, June 27, 2011 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has designated 213 counties in Texas as primary natural disaster areas after one of the worst droughts in more than a century. The state sustained excessive heat, high winds and wildfires that burned hundreds of thousands of acres.

"Many producers have lost their crops due to the devastation

Anderson	Archer	Bailey
Cochran	Collingsworth	Concho
Galveston	Goliad	Grimes
Jim Hogg	Karnes	Kerr
Midland	Moore	Newton
Scurry	Smith	Sterling
Andrews	Armstrong	Bandera
Coke	Colorado	Cooke
Garza	Gonzales	Guadalupe
Jim Wells	Kendall	Kimble
Mills	Morris	Nolan
Shackelford	Somervell	Stonewall
Angelina	Atascosa	Bastrop
Coleman	Comal	Coryell
Gillespie	Gray	Hale
Johnson	Kenedy	King
Mitchell	Motley	Ochiltree
Shelby	Starr	Sutton
Aransas	Austin	Baylor
Collin	Comanche	Cottle
Glasscock	Gregg	Hall
Jones	Kent	Kleberg
Montgomery	Nacogdoches	Oldham
Sherman	Stephens	Swisher

caused by the drought and wildfires," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "President Obama and I want these farmers and ranchers to know that we will support them through the recovery process and help them once again become productive suppliers of food, fiber and fuel that keep America prospering. This designation will help provide that

Bee	Bowie	Briscoe
Crockett	De Witt	Dickens
Hamilton	Harris	Hays
Knox	Lampasas	Liberty
Orange	Parmer	Presidio
Taylor	Tom Green	Upshur
Bell	Brazoria	Brooks
Crosby	Deaf Smith	Donley
Hansford	Harrison	Hemphill
La Salle	Lavaca	Limestone
Palo Pinto	Nolan	Rains
Terrell	Travis	Upton
Blanco	Brazos	Brown
Culberson	Delta	Duval
Hardeman	Hartley	Hidalgo
Lamar	Lee	Lipscomb
Panola	Polk	Randall
Throckmorton	Trinity	Val Verde
Bosque	Brewster	Burleson
Dallam	Denton	Eastland
Hardin	Haskell	Hockley
Lamb	Leon	Live Oak
Parker	Potter	Reagan
Titus	Tyler	Victoria

support." The drought, wildfires and other natural disasters — which began Jan. 1, 2011, and continues — caused 30 percent or more loss of forage crops, pasture, corn, oats and wheat in the following counties:

Burnet	Cameron	Chambers
Edwards	Fayette	Fort Bend
Hood	Hudspeth	Jackson
Loving	Marion	McMullen
Reeves	Rusk	San Patricio
Walker	Wheeler	Wood
Caldwell	Camp	Cherokee
El Paso	Fisher	Franklin
Hopkins	Hutchinson	Jasper
Lubbock	Martin	Medina
Refugio	Sabine	San Saba
Waller	Wichita	Young
Calhoun	Cass	Childress
Ellis	Floyd	Freestone
Houston	Irion	Jeff Davis
Lynn	McCulloch	Menard
Roberts	San Augustine	Schleicher
Washington	Wilbarger	Zapata
Callahan	Castro	Clay
Erath	Foard	Frio
Howard	Jack	Jefferson
Madison	McLennan	
Robertson	San Jacinto	
Webb	Willacy	

Farmers and ranchers in the following counties in Texas also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous:

Bexar	Williamson	Tarrant	Navarro	Llano	Grayson	Dawson	Zavala	Wharton
Ector	Borden	Wilson	Terry	Nueces	Mason	Henderson	Dimmit	
Hunt	Falls	Carson	Winkler	Uvalde	Real	Matagorda	Hill	
Milam	Kaufman	Fannin	Crane	Wise	Van Zandt	Red River	Maverick	
Runnels	Montague	Kinney	Gaines	Dallas	Yoakum	Ward	Rockwall	

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas June 24, 2011, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program,

to help eligible farmers recover from adversity. USDA also has made other programs available to assist farmers and ranchers, including the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), which was approved as part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008; the Emergency Conservation Program; Federal Crop Insurance; and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Interested farmers may contact their local USDA Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional informa-

tion is also available online at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>. FSA news releases are available on FSA's website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> via the "News and Events" link. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

Grain elevator failures lead to new law to protect growers from financial losses

AUSTIN, Texas (June 20, 2011) — Gov. Rick Perry has signed landmark legislation that will allow Texas grain producers to vote on whether to create and pay for a self-insurance program that will cover their losses when they are not paid for grain they deliver to a buyer or a storage facility. Rep. Larry Phillips of Sherman and Sen. Craig Estes of Wichita Falls introduced the legislation after a series of grain elevator financial failures in recent years resulted in millions of dollars in losses to Texas grain producers who were not compensated for their stored or contracted grain. "Passage of this new law has been a top priority for Texas producers who need this additional risk-management tool to protect themselves from catastrophic losses that could put them out of business," David Gibson, executive vice president of the Corn Producers Association of Texas, said. "This law is the result of efforts from many organizations across

our state, including the Texas Farm Bureau, grain producer associations, grain buying associations and others." The Texas legislation was modeled after successful indemnification programs that have operated for decades in more than a dozen other major grain producing states. "This will be similar to the checkoff programs that producers are familiar with," Gibson said. "And grain producers will have an opportunity to vote on whether to move forward with funding and operating the program." If approved by producers in a referendum, an indemnification fund will be created and financed by a small assessment deducted from a producer's proceeds when grain is sold. Grain buyers will withhold the assessments from the sales and remit the assessments to the fund each quarter. If a grain producer suffers a loss when a grain elevator has a financial failure or a grain buyer fails to pay for delivered grain, the producer can file a claim with the fund to recover up to 90 percent of the value of the grain lost. The program will apply to transactions involving corn, soybeans, wheat and grain sorghum. After the law becomes effective on September 1, 2011, the Agriculture Commissioner will appoint a nine-member board with representatives from grain producers, storage facilities and grain buyers

to conduct the referendum and oversee operations of the indemnification fund. The board will adopt procedures and set a date for the producer referendum. Producers will have 90 days notice before the referendum is held. The cost of the referendum will be paid by producer organizations. "My hats off to the corn producers board and association, Texas Farm Bureau, TDA, Texas House Agriculture Committee and the Texas Senate Agriculture Committee for their leadership in crafting a risk mitigation tool for the benefit of Texas grain producers," Mitchell Harris, CEO of AgTexas Farm Credit Services, said. "The grain indemnity fund legislation brings a very cost effective, farmer funded vehicle for grain farmers to mitigate the counterparty risk of a failing grain elevator in these volatile times." For more information about the grain producer indemnity fund, go to the Texas Corn Producers' Legislature page at <http://bit.ly/mc1ukS>.

CPAT is the legislative arm of Texas corn producer representation. CPAT's mission is to build a strong organizational support system for corn that will represent the interests and concerns of producers from all regions of Texas. For more information, visit www.TexasCorn.org or contact CPAT Communications Director Stephanie Pruitt at stephanie@texascorn.org.

Recently Funded Project Could Change Future of High Plains Agriculture

A Texas Tech University graduate student received a \$5,000 grant from the Texas Water Resources Institute, which will help fund the first year of her research investigating irrigation on the Texas High Plains. Cora Lea Emerson, doctoral candidate in the Department of Plant and Soil Science, will investigate possible solutions to the decline in available water resources. Cotton is the staple of West Texas agriculture and accounts for a large portion of the region's income. However, with decline in available irrigation, the agriculture industry faces a number of problems. "The goal of the study is to determine whether alternative

biomass crops are a better choice in rotation with cotton than more traditional crops, such as grain sorghum, or a better choice than continuous cotton given the region's water constraints and increased disease and pest pressures in cotton monoculture," Emerson said. Emerson's proposal said that the efficient use of low levels of supplemental irrigation in such rotations may stabilize biomass crop production, compared to dryland, and provide economic return as available irrigation quantities decline in the future. Dick Auld, from Texas Tech's Department of Plant and Soil Science, and James P. Bordovsky, with the Texas AgriLife Research Center,

are co-principal investigators on Emerson's project. Other contributors to the study include Texas AgriLife Research, Texas A&M University System, the International Cotton Research Center administered through the Texas Tech College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and the USDA-ARS Ogallala Research Initiative. Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia. CONTACT: Cora Lea Emerson, doctoral candidate, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Texas Tech University, (806) 928-9185 or coralea.emerson@ttu.edu.

Emergency Farm Loan Applications Being Accepted

Applications for Emergency Farm Loans for production and physical losses are being accepted at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices located in Floydada and Crosbyton, Texas, for production and physical losses. Becky V. Rainer, Farm Loan Manager said today for the following Secretarial Natural Disaster Determinations: S3122- This action is based on production and physical losses caused by drought, excessive heat, high winds, and wildfires January 1, 2011 and continuing. EM loan applications will be received through February 24, 2012, for PRODUCTION AND PHYSICAL LOSSES. Crosby and Floyd Counties were among the 213 Texas

primary designated disaster counties recently named by the Administrator eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans to cover production losses resulting from drought, excessive heat, high winds, and wildfires January 1, 2011 continuing. Becky V. Rainer said, "Farmers may be eligible for loans up to 100% of their actual losses or the operating loan needed to continue the agricultural business, whichever is less. For farmers unable to obtain credit from private commercial lenders, the interest is 3.75%." "As a general rule, a farmer must have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of production to be eligible for an FSA emergency loan," Ms. Rainer said. Farmers participating in the Federal Crop Insurance program will have to consider proceeds from those programs in determining their loss. "Applications for loans un-

der this emergency designation will be accepted through February 24, 2012 but farmers should apply as soon as possible. Delays in applying could create backlogs in processing and possibly over into the new farming season," Ms. Rainer said. FSA is a credit agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is authorized to provide disaster emergency loans to recognized farmers who work at and rely on farming for a substantial part of their living. Eligibility is extended to individual farmers who meet U.S. citizenship requirements and to farming partnerships, corporations or cooperatives in which U.S. citizenship requirements are met by individuals holding a majority interest. The FSA offices in Floydada and Crosbyton, TX are open from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday.

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OPINION

Trains, Planes, and...Motorcoaches?

By REBECCA DIFIDE

In the wake of our looming debt ceiling and the millions of dollars wasted every year on Amtrak's less-than-stellar service, Republicans in Congress have proposed that Amtrak be privatized so as to maximize not only revenue, but also efficiency.

Amtrak's popular and lucrative Northeast Corridor route, running from Boston down to Washington, D.C., would be sold to the highest bidder and would give a company an opportunity to expand as the market dictated. According to the Wall Street Journal, several companies that manufacture Europe's high speed trains are eyeing the prime piece of travel real estate like a pack of hungry dogs as they stand to engage in a bidding war in the hopes of future profits.

Since its creation in 1970, Amtrak has had more than its share of mishaps. Going beyond just chronic lateness and the uncanny ability to break down more often than a rusty Model T, Amtrak has an astonishing track record of hitting objects such as cars, trucks or people. While no system is perfect it would seem that Amtrak has failed to maintain a standard of even remotely satisfactory or reliable service, which is one of the many reasons they barely manage to turn a profit, despite being in charge of the most densely populated route in the country.

One downside of traveling with Amtrak that could be remedied by privatization is the high cost. For example, to travel from Washington, D.C., to New York City one way costs

an average of \$140, depending on what time you leave and whether or not the train is an Acela, Amtrak's fleet of high-speed trains, which are more expensive. The biggest competitor to the comfortable yet pricey Amtrak trip are Delta and other flight shuttles that service the Northeast Corridor. Business travelers needing to make a round trip in a day could very easily take this route, without having to risk the threat of track issues or engine trouble. Although planes come with added wait time and various invasive Transportation Security Administration (TSA) inspections, this is a small inconvenience in exchange for cheaper fares.

Another route that is often forgotten about, but is relied on by college students and many tourists as the cheapest of all options is the bus route. A bus trip on any one of a number of private motorcoach companies that service the route of D.C. to New York (BOLT! Bus, Greyhound, megabus, Peter Pan, etc), you can make that same trip for as little as \$15. And even if you book last minute, you won't pay more than \$25. Sure, some would say that a train or airplane offers more amenities, however these bus companies now come equipped with expanded leg room, outlets at every seat, and even free WiFi, and their travel times are extremely comparable.

The idea to create private bus routes was absolutely genius because they provide a competitive service for a fourth of the cost, and because buses are essentially autonomous (all that is needed is a driver, unlike a train which maintains a hefty amount of employees to run effectively), it is much easier to garner a profit because they have less expenses. Also, by

traveling on local roads and highways they are more able to adapt to changes in weather or construction via detours, while trains are bound to their fixed track. However by the same token, trains are less likely to be delayed (assuming there are no weather or mechanical difficulties) because there is no traffic and the routes can be timed very accurately. Especially with the economic structure the way it is, they can corner a large portion of the market who only wants to go from point A to point B as quickly and as cheaply as possible.

If the Northeast Corridor route is privatized, it too can boast lower, more financially accessible prices. Also, the issues with crashes and break downs can be dealt with internally, rather than taking taxpayer dollars to pick up the slack where the government was negligent. Although the removal of the Northeast Corridor would likely dissolve Amtrak, that in itself is a good argument to go on with it because if the other routes don't make enough to support themselves and rely on the profits from the Northeast Corridor to stay in service, why do they exist in the first place?

It is safe to say that the incentive to keep subsidizing Amtrak, when the only route that makes any money is being overrun by competitors, is officially gone. There is no reason to spend countless millions of dollars on a trip that can easily (and much more cheaply) be made by using a different method of transportation. Any way you travel you're going to have to make sacrifices, but wasted taxpayer dollars shouldn't be one of them.

MSNBC Analyst Suspended for Crude Truth Telling

By RICK MANNING

The first presidential press conference in three months brought the real Barack Obama clearly into focus and what America, and even the liberal press corps witnessed was not pretty.

Rather than the uniter, visionary leader who they manufactured and sold to the American public, one MSNBC analyst used an off-color pejorative that is a synonym for jerk to describe Obama. Of course, after receiving complaints from the White House, that analyst has been suspended indefinitely. Somehow I don't remember swift suspensions following various attacks that were far cruder against Sarah Palin, but that is another story.

Even more important than the revelation that the anointed one is actually a jerk who talks down to anyone who doesn't bow to his commands, was the incredible site of a president who is renowned for playing basketball and golf demanding that Congress "get to work."

This is audacious even for someone who "wrote" two autobiographies before he had ever done anything.

The "get to work" order comes from a man who submitted a budget to Congress this year that garnered zero votes in the Senate. Not one member of the U.S. Senate was willing to vote for Obama's vision for America. Harry Reid voted no. Barbara Boxer voted no. Even socialist/independent Bernie Sanders voted no. Obama could not lead anyone to vote for

his vision.

The "get to work" order comes from a man who has studiously attempted to avoid involvement in the day to day negotiations over the fiscal future of the nation.

Ironically, the "get to work" order was directed at Republicans in Congress who have passed a budget in the House of Representatives, proposed a plan to deal with the looming Medicare bankruptcy, and have had the courage to tackle sacred cows.

In contrast, the Senate Democrats have not even bothered to offer a budget, let alone pass one, for more than two years. The Senate Democrats and Obama himself have sought to use Republican attempts to begin addressing and saving Medicare for their own political advantage through a campaign of deliberate misrepresentation and knowingly false scare tactics.

Rather than being the adult in the room, Obama showed himself to be the churlish child who stomps, pouts and spits invective when he doesn't get his way. Hardly helpful in an already tense discussion pressed against a short time frame before the United States government runs out of money to pay all of its bills.

Of course, Obama's attitude did cheer one person, former Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who applauded his performance, which probably says more about why she is the former speaker than anything else.

Over the past few months it has become fashionable to

compare Obama's presidency to the disastrously incompetent Jimmy Carter years. I have begun to think this is too kind to Obama as he begins to look more and more like James Buchanan, a man overwhelmed by circumstances whose deer-in-the-headlights approach led to the inevitability of the civil war.

However, the one thing that can be counted upon with this president is that unlike Buchanan, he will not go away easily. Right after his incredible demand that Congress "get to work," Obama flew off to Pennsylvania, a key electoral state where his approval ratings have been in the dumpster lately, to raise a little campaign cash. It is reassuring that in this world where every assumption about our nation's future seems to be in question that one thing remains the same.

The modern politician seems to always think of the American people first, at least those Americans who have check books big enough to fund his re-election ambitions.

The Declaration of Independence concludes with the words, "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor."

It sure would be nice if the occupant of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue took those words to heart and served as a leader rather than a bullhorn-wielding community organizer.

Other Opinions

Clearing the air

By PAUL DRIESSEN

Ever since public, congressional and union anger and anxiety persuaded the Environmental Protection Agency to delay action on its economy-strangling carbon dioxide rules, EPA has been on a take-no-prisoners crusade to impose other job-killing rules for electricity generating plants.

As President Obama said when America rejected cap-tax-and-trade, "there's more than one way to skin the cat." If Congress won't cooperate, his EPA will lead the charge. Energy prices will "skyrocket." Companies that want to build coal-fired power plants will "go bankrupt." His administration will "fundamentally transform" our nation's energy, economic, industrial and social structure.

EPA's proposed "mercury and air toxics" rules for power plants are built on the false premise that we are still breathing the smog, soot and poisons that shrouded London, England and Gary, Indiana sixty years ago. In reality, US air quality improved steadily after the 1970 Clean Air Act was enacted.

Moreover, since 1990, even as US coal use more than doubled, coal-fired power plant emissions declined even further: 58% for mercury, 67% for nitrogen oxides, 70% for particulates, 85% for sulfur dioxide – and just as significantly for most of the other 80 pollutants that EPA intends to cover with its 946-pages of draconian proposed regulations.

It's time to clear the political air – and scrub out some of the toxic disinformation that EPA and its allies have been emitting for months, under a multi-million-dollar "public education" campaign that EPA has orchestrated and funded, to frighten people into supporting its new rules. PR firms, religious and civil rights groups, environmental activists and college students are eagerly propagating the myths.

EPA's "most wanted" outlaw is mercury. But for Americans this villain is as real as Freddy or Norman Bates. To turn power plant mercury emissions into a mass killer, EPA cherry-picked studies and data, and ignored any that didn't fit its "slasher" film script. As my colleague Dr. Willie Soon and I pointed out in our Wall Street Journal and Investor's Business Daily articles, US power plants account for just 0.5% of mercury emitted into North American's air; the other 99.5% comes from natural and foreign sources.

Critics assailed our analysis, but the studies support us, not EPA – as is abundantly clear in Dr. Soon's 85-page report, available at www.AffordablePowerAlliance.org. The report and studies it cites fully support our conclusion that America's fish are safe to eat (in part because they contain selenium and are thus low in biologically available methylmercury, mercury's more toxic cousin), and blood mercury levels for American women and children are already below FDA's and other agencies' safe levels.

Not only are EPA's mercury claims fraudulent. They are scaring people away from eating fish, which are rich in essential fatty acids. In other words, EPA is actively harming people's nutrition and health.

One of the more bizarre criticisms of our analysis contends that mercury released in forest fires "originates from coal-burning power plants," which supposedly shower the toxin onto trees, which release it back into the atmosphere during arboreal conflagrations. In fact, mercury is as abundant in the earth's crust as silver and selenium. It is absorbed by trees through their roots – and their leaves, which absorb those 0.5% (power plant) and 99.5% (other) atmospheric mercury components through their stomata.

Another bizarre criticism is that mercury isn't the issue. The real problem is ultra-fine (2.5 micron) soot particles. So now the "power plant mercury is poisoning babies and children" campaign was just a sideshow! Talk about changing the subject. Now, suddenly, the alleged health benefits and lives saved would come from controlling soot particles. That claim is as bogus as the anti-mercury scare stories.

Even EPA and NOAA data demonstrate that America's air already meets EPA's national standard, which is equivalent to disseminating an ounce of soot (about one and a quarter super-pulverized charcoal briquettes) across a volume of air one-half mile long, one-half mile wide and one story high. That's less than you're likely to get from sitting in front of a campfire, fireplace or wood-burning stove, inhaling airborne particulates, hydrocarbon gases and heavy metals. (Search the internet for Danish, EPA and Forest Service studies and advisories on these popular "organic" heating and cooking methods.)

Simply put, EPA's proposed rules will impose huge costs – for few health or environmental benefits, beyond what we are already realizing through steadily declining emissions under existing regulations.

Besides bringing mythical health benefits, EPA claims its lower national emission standards will simply put all states and utility companies "on the same level playing field." This pious rhetoric may be fine for states that get little electricity from coal. However, for states (especially manufacturing states) that burn coal to generate 48-98% of their electricity, the new rules will be job, economy and revenue killers.

Energy analyst Roger Bezdek estimates that utilities will have to spend over \$130 billion to retrofit older plants, under the measly three-year (2014) deadline that EPA is giving them, under a sweetheart court deal the agency brokered with radical environmental groups. On top of that, utilities will have to spend another \$30 billion a year for operations, maintenance and extra fuel for the energy-intensive scrubbers and other equipment they will be forced to install.

Many companies simply cannot justify those huge costs for older power plants. Thus Dominion Power, American Electric Power and other utilities have announced that they will simply close dozens of generating units, representing tens of thousands of megawatts – enough to electrify tens of millions of homes and businesses. Illinois alone will lose nearly 3,500 MW of reliable, affordable, baseload electricity – with little but promises of intermittent pixie-dust wind turbine electricity to replace it.

Electricity costs are set to skyrocket, just as the President promised. Consumers can expect to pay at least 20% more in many states by 2014 or shortly thereafter. According to the Chicago Tribune, hard-pressed Illinois families and businesses will shell out 40-60% more! How's that for an incentive to ramp up production and hire more workers? How's that "hope and change" working out for families that had planned to fix the car, save for college and retirement, take a vacation, get that long-postponed surgery?

For a mid-sized hospital or factory that currently pays \$500,000 annually for electricity (including peak-demand charges), those rate hikes could add \$300,000 a year to its electricity bill. That's equivalent to ten full-time entry-level employees ... that now won't get hired, or will get laid off.

And it's not just private businesses that will get hammered. As the Chi Trib notes, if the Chicago public school system wants to keep the lights on and computers running for two semesters, by 2014 it will get hit for an extra \$2.7 million it doesn't have, to pay for skyrocketing electricity costs.

Carry those costs through much of the US economy – especially the 26 states that get 48-98% of their electricity from coal-fired power plants – and we are talking about truly "fundamental transformations." Millions will be laid off, millions more won't be hired, millions of jobs will be shipped overseas – and millions will endure brownouts, blackouts and increasing social unrest.

EPA generally refuses to consider the economic effects of its regulations, except to insist that even its most oppressive rules will generate benefits "far in excess" of any expected costs. Perhaps it will at least consider the obvious, unavoidable and monumental adverse physical and mental health impacts of its rate hikes and layoffs – on nutrition, healthcare, depression, family violence and civil rights progress.

The Environmental Protection Agency has always had a horse-blinder attitude about environmental policy. Under Administrator Lisa Jackson, it has become a truly rogue agency. It's time for Congress, state legislatures, attorneys-general, courts and We the People to bring some balance and common sense into the picture. Otherwise 9.1% unemployment – with Black and Hispanic unemployment even higher – will soon look like boom times.



Photo by Homer Marquez

During Monday's Fourth of July celebrations, Kids decorated their bikes as they participated in this year's Bike Parade in Lockney.

Local American Legion Post sees resurgence

Your local American Legion would like to invite all former military members to join the distinguished organization of Post 141. Officially started in 1919 by an act of the United States Congress, the American Legion is a proud and patriotic group of veterans who dedicate their time building their communities and spreading patriotism through community services and programs. Throughout the years, membership in the Floyd County American Legion

has declined, with only 9 veterans currently in Post 141. However, with the help of other veterans groups like the VFW, a new resurgence has been created for the Floyd County Legion. At a meeting that was held a couple of weeks ago at the Dixie Tavern Café in Lockney, the Legion would welcome 11 new members into the organization; and more meetings are being scheduled for the near future.

Requirements to join the American Legion are that a person needs to have served

at least one day in the armed services; this also includes members of the National Guard. Past community services by the Legion in Floyd County include once owning the Community Center and the Swimming Pool. Legionnaires continue to do a multitude of other community service including maintaining the flags at the Lockney Memorial Park. If you would like to join the American Legion or help contribute to their efforts please contact Ed Marks at 806-652-3157



Courtesy Photo

Before heading off to Camp Hoblitzelle, nurses at Hospice Hands of West Texas donate free medical physicals to campers. Sponsored by the Salvation Army, Camp Hoblitzelle is a five day camp that provides kids with a much needed vacation that is filled with tons of outdoor fun and games.

CAMP continued from page 2

County's group will be joined at the camp by others from Dimmit, Dumas, Hart, Post, and Brownfield. Funding for the camp comes solely from the donations made to the Salvation Army and the items sold at the store in Lockney. Monies collected by Christmas bell ringers

and other fund raisers are used to help the community with programs like Camp Hoblitzelle. The Salvation Army would like to thank the Floyd County community for their continued support; and would like to especially like to thank Hospice Hands of West Texas in Lockney for

providing medical physicals free of charge so that campers could be cleared to go; and Mr. and Mrs. James Doucette for providing sleeping bags. If you would like to help, donate, or just ask a question, you can contact anyone at the Lockney Salvation Army office.

FLOYDADA CLASSIFIEDS

GARAGE SALE

CARPOR SALE-314 SW 5th Street, Lockney. Saturday - July 9th, 8 a.m. - 7p. Kitchen items, furniture, baby items, clothes, and much more. 7-7p

THREE FAMILY GARAGE SALE- 516 SW 6th Street, Lockney, Friday, July 8 from 8a.m to 5; and Saturday, July 9, from 8a.m to noon; Dining Chairs, TV, Baby items, kitchen and household items, and lots of miscellaneous. 7-7c

HELP WANTED

ASB
American State Bank
AMERICAN STATE BANK is looking for a Teller (15-19 hours/week). Applicants must have customer service and cash handling experience. Apply in person at 217 West California St. American State Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer. 7-7c

LOCKNEY HEALTH AND REHABILITATION CENTER is searching for a part-time LVN for double weekends, 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Experience a plus! Please apply in person at 401 N. Main Street, Lockney, Texas. tfn

THE COVEY-SMOKEHOUSE EATERY is accepting applications for full-time and part-time help. Call 806-548-3357 to schedule interview. tfn

DRIVERS: Reefer for HCT. Up to 40 cpm and great equipment. CDL-A, 2 years experience required. Clean MVR. David, 800-635-7687, ext. 1055. M-F 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. only. 7-14p

HOUSES FOR SALE

FOR SALE - 3 bedroom, 2 bath house with carport. 302 SE 2nd Street, Lockney. Assiter & Associates, 806-983-3322. tfn

SERVICES

CEMENT WORK - Need a new driveway, sidewalk, patio or flowerbed curb? Call Gary Bennett at 806-983-5120 (home) or 806-778-8549 (cell). tfn

WEATHER continued from page 1

farmers pump out a set amount of water, the District will look to keep in place at least 50 percent of the current aquifer. Farmers, especially corn producers, have opposed strict regulations claiming that they would cripple the West Texas economy. For the past several months, debates have sparked up during town hall meetings between the High Plains District and producers. In July, a vote will be held concerning the final decision of High Plains Underground Water District.

Meanwhile, back in the city limits, citizens are trying their best to stay cool and safe in the blazing summer heat. With a 100 and plus temperatures outside, air-conditioning units are working overtime to try to keep up with the heat, causing utility costs rise since the start of this heat wave. Outside, residents are shelling out even more on their water bill in the efforts of saving their landscape; but no matter how much water these green

thumbs are pumping into their yards, the blistering sun continues to scorch grass and plant life.

Scorched and dried out vegetation outside of town are also the reasons for the high number of wildfires that we've had this year. Dried CRP grass has been a matchbox for ravenous grassfires and a nightmare for local firefighters. Since the dry temperatures incited over 230 counties to issue burn bans in early November, over 3 million acres of land have been burned in Texas alone, causing billions in damage.

Weather forecasts for Floyd County for the upcoming week continue to show a steady stream of above 90 temperatures with no precipitation in sight; however rains over the last weekend have given West Texas a glimpse of hope as clouds continue to roll-in unexpectedly. Community members are still encouraged to pray for rain.

Find us on Facebook

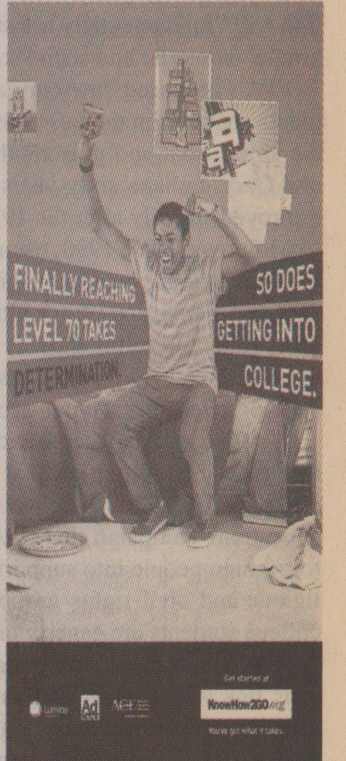
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