

Volume 46 Number 36

Quitaque, Texas 79255

ABYMERIBUN

the Rolling Plains"



Serving ~ Briscoe ~ Hall ~ Motley ~ Counties • Thursday, March 22, 2007



Mrs Sherry's Dance Team consist of: Back Row: Lindsey Stewart of Lockney Texas. Middle Row: Kennadee Buchanan of Turkey Texas, Ignasio Ascencion of Lockney, Haley Wheeler of Turkey. Front Row: Dixie Williams of Lockney and

Local Dance Group Head To Nationals In July

Mrs. Sherry's Dance Team competed in Amarillo Texas on March 11, 2007 at the Showstoppers Dance Competition. They were awarded top honors at Showstoppers, which is the largest Dance Competition in the country. They performed a new routine to "It's Raining Men" and did a great job. They won Platinum 1st place in the Jazz division, Platinum 1st in their age group 9-12, and most importantly—won the overall Platinum 1st place to recieve a bid to the National Dance Competition in July at San Antonio Texas.

Turkey's Spring City Wide Clean-Up

The City of Turkey will have their City Wide Clean-up for the Spring on April 10, 11 & 12. Be sure to place all your items in the alley if you would like for the City to haul them off for you This is a great opportunity for everyone to get their property all spruced up before the bob Wills Celebration!

Mexican Food This Saturday In Quitaque

The Iglesia Bautista "La Trinidad" Youth Group will be holding Mexican food fundraiser this Saturday, March 24 beginning at 9 a.m. in front of 313 Main Street in Quitaque, across the street from the First National Bank. The group will be selling tamales, taquito plates and funnel cakes. Call in orders can be made by calling 455-1171. The monies raised will be used to help the church youth group go to Youth Convention April 5-7.

What's Happening In The Valley Area This Week?

- * Drivers License Office open at Briscoe Co.
- Courthouse 9:30 a.m. 3 p.m. * Turkey EDC meeting @ 7 p.m.

- 4th Annual Caprock Canyons Enduro & Grand Prix this weekend in Quitaque
 - March 26
- * Caprock Partners meeting @ 5:30 p.m. * Briscoe Co. Historical Committee meeting

- * Quitaque EDC meeting

**************************** THE CAPROCK CAFE

Closed On Sundays 455-1429

CHECK OUR SPECIALS ON PAGE 3 ABOVE



The Original TEXAS CROSSWORD

Of Agriculture and Recognizes Importance Of Industry To All Texans Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples announced that March 18-24 is National Agricul-

Ag Week Looks Towards The Future

tural Week in Texas - a time to recognize the state's bard working farmers and ranchers and acknowledge their contributions to the Texas economy - \$73 billion a year.

"Take time to recognize, celebrate and thank the many individuals who help shape our Texas agriculture industry," Staples said. "From nutritious foods to high-quality fiber and fresh plants, agriculture provides us with the necessities of life while helping ensure a robust economy for all

The Agriculture industry is currently going through a major transformation. New innovations and advances in technology are turning Texas agriculture into a high tech business. The application of new equipment like global positioning systems, self-propelled machine operations and electronic age has changed the nature of the business. To maintain the leadership role in agriculture it is important for Texas producers to remain on he cutting edge of this new tech-

From the Gulf Coast to the Panhandle, Texas is one of the most agriculturally diverse states in the nation. Agriculture is the state's second largest industry and employs about one out of every seven working Texans. Eighty percent of the state's land is in some form of agricultural production.

American farmers are working harder and are more efficient than ever before, and it shows. Today, each producer feeds more than 129 people. Agricultural crops are American's top exports and are vitally important in sustaining a healthy economy.

And it's not just the producer who makes our food possible. All aspects of the agriculture industry, all the way from the farm gate to the retail clothing store and grocery store, are vital links in a chain that bring food fiber to every citizen and millions of people abroad.

"It can be easy to take agriculture for granted in America because our food is readily accessible and safe," Commissioner Staples said. "For this, we are extremely fortunate, and it gives us even more of a reason to recognize those who make it possible."

Kiss A Farmer/ Rancher... It's Ag Week!

Matador Sub-Standard Hosuing Board Receive Permission To Tear Down 4 More Old Structures

The Matador City Council met in regular session on Thursday, March 8. Present for the meeting were Mayor Pat Smith, Council members Terry Simpson, Bert Darsey, Chuck Ream. City Secretary Debra Scott and Water Superintendent Steve Barton. After attending to regular monthly council business the following items were addressed:

* Steve Barton reported that they have burned the ICX building and the house belonging to Dale Bumgardner. He also reorted that the City will need to replace the riding lawn mower before parks can be mowed this summer.

* No one was present representing the Sub-Standard Hous-

ing Board but, Debra Scott had attended their last meeting in Tony Rose's absence and reported that they have four locations they have received permission to destroy. Tommy Gleghorn, Melvin Pitts, Dorothy Lester and Dale Bumgardner. A motion passed to proceed with these locations after owners have had a chance to remove some items.

* A motion passed to approve the Traffic Ordinance after adding the City Council in the heading giving them authority to decide on locations

Che Shadle and Dustin Davis with ODJ Engineering arrived to address the council concerning the water grant. Prices have risen from 30-40 percent due to hurricane Katrina and they suggested a possible revision to the grant plans to stay within the budget. Council will check with TxDOT about paving costs o a bypass tank to supp suggested the with build a bypass and repair at least one of these will address this issue at the March 22 meeting.

No action was taken on the excessive water usages.

* The electric bill for the City lights will increase approximately 75% due to missed billing when the company deregulated. Possible decrease in the number of lights was discussed but Darsey made the motion to leave all lights in the current locations. This motion passed.

A motion passed to renew the Letter of Credit and authorize Mayor Smith to sign all necessary documents

* A motion passed to appoint Danika Jameson as the new Election Judge for the May 12 election.

A motion passed to designate May 2 and May 7 as two 12 hour voting days for the early voting for the May 12 election.

A motion passed to revise the commitment to the County Jail Renovation Grant.

*A motion passed to schedule a Public Hearing for the Proposed Budget on Thursday, March 22, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at City the junk vehicle ordinance, economic development, water use

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

3rd Annual Hunting **Heritage Banquet** This Friday In Turkey

The Turkey Roost Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation will hold the 3rd Annual Hunting Heritage Banquet of Friday, March 23 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Bob Wills Community building, located at 601 Lyles Street in Turkey. The evening will be filled with games, a raffle, a silent auction at which you will have a chance of winning rifles, shotguns, prints and bronzes all throughout the event. The evening meal, which begins at 7;30 p.m. will be roast beef, green beans, mashed potatoes, fruit cobbler, relish tray, rolls and drinks and is being catered by Tri-County Meals. Monies raised from the event will provide a \$500 scholarship that will be awarded in May to the Valley High School senior with the winning essay written on Wildlife and Conservation, as well as benefiting the National Wild Turkey Federation.

The National Wild Turkey Federation banquets are events where you can buy exclusive merchandise, have a great time with friend, all the while you will be raising vital funds for wild turkey conservation and important programs that introduce the outdoors to women, children and the disabled.

Tickets are \$40 per person or \$55 per couple. Tickets for the upcoming event may be purchased from Cody Bell by calling 806-423-1276, please leave a message or by calling Gail Hanna at Turkey City Hall at 806-423-1033.

Silverton Council **Approves 4" Water Main** For Silver Wind RV Park

The Silverton City Council met in regular session on Monday, March 12, present for the meeting were Mayor Garvin, Council members Kyle Fuston, LaQuetta Schott, Delane Smith, Dwain Tipton, City Secretary Jerry Patton and guests Gary and Sharon Weaver. After attending to regular monthly council

while current tanks are being painted. Mr. Shadle predicted the life of these repainted tanks to be extended 10-15 years. He regards to water and sewer services for Block 82, 83, 106 and 107. After a discussion on the volume of water needs to serve tanks at the wells to stay within ORCA's grant intent. Council Silver Wind RV Park. A motion passed to install a 4 inch water main on Save Street from Eighth Street to Eleventh Street.

> The bid tabulation sheet from the March 8th bid opening for the sealcoating project was presented for review. A motion passed to accept and award the bid to Lipham Construction Company for the total project of 37,030 square yards for the bid amount of \$1.66 per square yard for a total project of \$61,469.80 plus engineering cost \$5,840.00 The total cost of the project is \$67,309.80.

> Secretary Patton reported that 5 p.m. March 12 was the deadline for filing an application for a place on the ballot for the May 12 General Election. Mayor Garvin, Council members Wayne Reed and Dwain Tipton were the only candidates to file and therefore would be unopposed. March 20 is the first day that an election may be cancelled if all candidates are unop-

and quality and tax collections.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.



Allen Murdock & Treena Smith

Murdock and Smith To Wed In Afternoon Ceremony

Allen Murdock and Treena Smith would like to announce their engagement and approaching marriage. The couple will be united in marriage on Saturday, April 7 at 3 p.m. in the Hope Center, Quitaque, Tx

Treena is the daughter of Don and Jan Brummett of Quitaque, TX, Paul and Lois Barnell of Kemmerer, WY and the step-daughter of the late James R. Jackson of Evanston, WY. Allen is the son of Allen "Sonny" and Billie Jean Murdock of

After the wedding the couple will make their home in Mem-

Quitaque VFD Needs Your Brownies This Weekend

Quitaque Volunteer Ambulance and Fire Department Services is asking for your help. March 24 and 25 we will be hosting the concession stand for the Enduro races. We are asking for your donation of brownies, rice krispie bars, or cookie bars to help with our concession stand. Please take your desserts to Albert at Merrell Food or bring them by the Fire Department bay on Saturday we will be at the bay from noon Saturday till late that night and all day Sunday till late afternoon. Come by and enjoy a grilled burger with the ever famous homemade ballpark sauce. We will be serving burgers from 3 p.m. Saturday until late. On Sunday we will start with breakfast burritos at 7 a.m. and burgers thereafter until the crowd stops coming late that afternoon.

We The Women's THRIFT SHOP

Check out the Thrift Shop for Easter Basekts and Goodies! Reduced Bag Sale Merchandise to \$2-Clothing, Shoes, Purses Beginning Friday, March 23,10:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.

SHIRLEY HAWKINS

We The Women, a non-profit organization, raises money for various community projects

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HAPPY



Natalie McFarlin, Margureat Lane, Tomas Hinojosa Sr. Forest Otis, Josephine Cerbantes, Geneva Martin

March 23:

Johnny Griffin, Rex Harmon, Grant Oberheu, Lani Adamson, I.D. Mullin, Brooklyn Smith, Venita Howell March 24:

JoLynn Frazier, Hanna Boedeker, Janice Henson, Nancy Price, Eunice McFall March 25:

Jerry Green, Larissa Payne, Sheila Reagan, Gary Martin, Karen Tiffin, Jeannine West, Sheila Reagan

March 26: Christy Withers, Debra Zanardi, Lee True Burson, Johnnie Rogers, Patrick Jenkins, May Otis, Gordon Lowrey, Michelle Francis, Payton Estes, Pam Morris March 27:

Roy Beavers, Freda Hughes, Clay Schott, Karlie & Kylie

March 28:

Rita Guest, Kristen Jenkins, Lonnie Cagle, Zeola Taylor, Shawn Stephens, Phil Lemons March 29:

Mark Butler, Christopher McBee, Vance Lemons, Jim Messer, Lou Braddock, Lytle, Jeffery Daphine Addison

> **PUBLIC NOTICE** CONSTITUTIONAL **AMENDMENT**

PROPOSITION 1 (SJR 12)

tion to authorize the legislature to adjust the public school ad valorem tax or tax rates for taxpayers who are aged 65 or older, or are disexempted homestead. The amendment would thereby allow the legislature to provide tax relief to such elderly or disabled taxpayers who did not receive tax relief as a result of the school tax rate reduction passed in the 79th Legislature, 3rd called session.

pear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a reduction of the limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for public school purposes on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect any reduction in the ate of those taxes for the 2006 and 2007 tax years."



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Menu Subject

Tri-County Meals 806-455-1053 ~ P.O. Box 421, Quitaque, TX 79255

Meals Delivered **By Community** ebound residents of Turkey, Quitaque, Silverton & Flomot

Serving free hot meals to the ho Monday, March 26 Wednesday, March 28 Pork Chops Chicken Ravoli Tossed Salad Sweet Potatoes

Sweet Peas Greens Dessert* Dessert' Crackers Roll/Milk abetic Desserts Available Milk

Friday, March 30 Cod Fish & Tartar Sauce Black-Eyed Peas Okra & Tomatoes Dessert* Cornbread

This Week's Menu Sponsored By: The Valley Tribune ~ Voice of the Rolling Plains

March Non-Local Subscriptions Due \$3000 per year

TxDOT -Childress Donnie Bowman-Floydada Sandra Barclay-Lockney Troy Riddell-Cee Vee Jackie Christian-Amarillo Donna Proctor-Amarillo Hubert Brooks-Wellington Cindy Key-Fritch Hugh Eudy-Midland LeighAnn Lane-Midland Margaret Lane-Midland JC Moss-Anson Raymond West-Kermit Lola Eudy-Joshua David Gonce-Ft Worth Ruby Smith - Iowa Park Bill Hardcastle-Meridian Bob Hanna-Vernon

John Scott-Bryan

Brandon Eddleman-Round Rock Out of State RC King - Colorado Springs. CO CL Patterson-Ogden UT DC Hood-Montrose CO Henry Baker-Waurika OK Pat Magee - Midwest City OK

March Local Subscriptions Due \$2500 per year * Over Ager 65 - \$2000 per year

Quitaque Russell Heskett Charles Hamne Butch McBee Dean Purcell Bennie Brown Walter Irwin Jessie Reagan Walter Skinner

Turkey Turkey Branch MSB James Fuston Carrie Ball

Silverton

City Bank Briscoe Co. Adult 4-H Leaders Briscoe Co. Judge

Flomot Jacke Sperry Wilson Barton Matador

First Ag Credit Seigler Funeral Home **Roaring Springs**

> Happy Spring

MEMBER 2007

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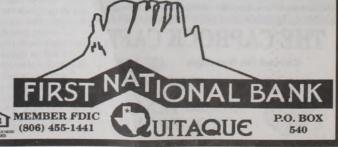
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ENJOY YOUR STAY & COME AGAIN!



stronger it grows

(arch 17 with a Matt Washington ng Springs. Refn. ifts and then the Special guests Cerry Morrison of ina Washington

gton of Flomot Others attend andra and Jerry nd Amy, Mrs. IcWilliams, Mrs. dickey and Kenzi lory, Arny, Huds uckert, Lance, S

n and wife, Con iday until Mol inda's uncle and ir 50th weddi Leah Cruse of ts, Brenda and s Brenda's mo Mary Ellen "D e home of Dixit ests were Mrs. ton of Matad e returning ho Weekend gues ilies, Lance, d Ty, Brittany, Mrs. Melissa l iday until Tue

arry Gray. Wilburn Mari nristi visited fr s sister and hu ttending the Gr ay were Mr. and Enjoying dinn rville Lee, Kellan ee, Tom and Cod his grandparents, Mrs. Christi M. her parents, Kathy and Haley remain Wednesday and T

Kevin Sehon and joyed the perform Lubbock Saturda Morris an Lo guests Friday of Mark and Jo Anna Beth and

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FLOMOT NEWS

OVERHEARD

Gratitude like faith is a miracle. The more you use it the stronger it grows.

Birthday Celebration

Brazos Washington celebrated his fifth birthday, Saturday, March 17 with a party in the home of his parents, Ashley and Matt Washington and new baby brother, Sterling Blu in Roarng Springs. Refreshments of decorated cupcakes and ice cream sundaes were served. Brazos had a fun filled time opening his ;ifts and then they enjoyed basketball games

Special guests were his maternal grandparents, Tom and Kerry Morrison of Lorenzo and paternal grandparents, Tim and Dina Washington. Great-grandparents were Mrs. Erma Washngton of Flomot and Bobby McWilliams of Quitaque.

Others attending were Mrs. Connie Franks, Cara Franks, andra and Jerry Barclay of Flomot; Martha and Roger Ludwig nd Amy, Mrs. Samantha Malone, Zack and Jaycee, Billy IcWilliams, Mrs. Kristy Mynard and Nacey of Quitaque; Caleb, lickey and Kenzie Clary and Ty Barclay and Tylee of Matador; ory, Amy, Hudson and Madison Franks, Cary Franks, Anissa uckert, Lance, Sherryll, Colton and Kayla Barclay of Lubbock.

########## Linda and Travis Kendall, son Tim Kendall of Flomot and on and wife, Cory and Janet Kendall of Midland visited from iday until Monday in Hermitage, Missouri. They visited nda's uncle and wife, Fred and Barbara March and celebrated eir 50th wedding anniversary Sunday

Leah Cruse of Canyon visited overnight Friday with her parits, Brenda and Darrell Cruse. Their luncheon guest Sunday as Brenda's mother, Mrs. Marihelen Wason of Matador. Mary Ellen "Dude" Barton was a luncheon guest Sunday in

e home of Dixie and Bundy Hal Campbell in Matador. Other ests were Mrs. Brigid Brooks of Lubbock and Mrs. Eugenia irton of Matador. Dude visited Judy and Butch Renfro bere returning home.

Weekend guests of Jerry and Sandra Barclay were sons and milies, Lance, Sherryll, Colton and Cayla Barclay of Lubbock at Ty, Brittany, Tylee, Trent and Trevor Barclay of Matador. Mrs. Melissa Kendall and sons, Jere and Jacob visited from iday until Tuesday in Fort Worth with parents, Marsha and

Wilburn Martin and his grandson, Cole Martin of Corpus hristi visited from Thursday until Saturday in Granbury with is sister and husband, Nita and Ervin Merritt. They enjoyed tending the Granbury Live Theater. Visiting Wilburn Sunay were Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Holcomb of Lockney.

Enjoying dinner in Quitaque Thursday night were Ruth and rville Lee, Kellan Roberts of Waro, Teresa Lee and Kacee, Ernie ee, Tom and Cody Heck of Turkey. Kellan visited Sunday with nis grandparents, Ruth and Orville.

Mrs. Christi Milam, Emily and Haley of Petersburg visited her parents, Kathy and Clois Shorter Wednesday night. Emily and Haley remained to visit until Saturday. Visiting them Wednesday and Thursday were daughter and family, Keri and Kevin Sehon and son, Brian of Ropesville. Kathy and Clois enjoyed the performance of The Platters at the Cactus Theater in Lubbock Saturday night.

Morris an Lou Degan of Medicine Mound were luncheon guests Friday of his mother, Mrs. Leona Degan.

Mark and JoAnn Clay of Terrell visited the weekend with Anna Beth and Joe Ike Clay

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Corner By Virginia Sailsbury

If this recent nice weather fish, I have some good ways to fix them without frying. Enjoy!

Spicy Catfish 1/4 cup butter or margarine,

melted 3 tablespoons lemon juice 6 (about 6 ounce each) cat-

fish fillets 11/2 teaspoons Creole sea-

Combine butter and lemon juice; dip each fillet in butter mixture and arrange in a 13x9x2 inch baking dish. Sprinkle with Creole seasoning. Bake at 375° for 25-30 minutes or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork.

Microwave Catfish 4 (about 6 ounces each) catfish fillets

2 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted

1/4 teaspoon garlic powder 1 tablespoon lemon pepper

Brush fillets with butter; arrange in a 12x8x2 inch baking dish, placing thicker portions towards outside of dish. Combine garlic powder and lemon pepper; sprinkle over fillets. Cover tightly with Saran Wrap; fold back a small edge to allow steam to escape. Microwave on Medium High (70% power) for 4 1/2 minutes. Rotate dish if you have no turntable, and cook on Medium High (70% power for 4-5 minutes until fish turns opaque. Let stand still covered with Saran Wrap for 3-5 minutes before serving.

Just right along with the catfish with no frying!

Baked Hush Puppies

1/2 cup yellow cornmeal 1/2 cup flour

1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder

1/2 teaspoon salt 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper

1 egg, beaten 1/2 cup evaporated milk 1/4 cup onion, finely

chopped 2 tablespoons Crisco Oil Combine the first six ingredients in an medium bowl' make a well in the center of mixture. Combine egg, milk,

onions and oil' add to dry ingredients, stirring just until moistened. Spoon about 1 tablespoon batter into miniature (1 1/2 inch) muffin pans coated with cooking spray. Bake at 425° for 15-20 minutes until lightly browned. Makes 18.

Now for dessert! **Peach Pound Cake**

1 cup butter or margarine, softened

3 cups sugar 6 eggs

3 cups flour 1/4 teaspoon baking soda 1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 cup sour cream

1 cup peaches, (fresh, canned or frozen), mashed

1 teaspoon vanilla extract 1 teaspoon almond extract. Cream butter; gradually add

sugar, beating well at medium speed with electric mixer. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Combine flour, soda and salt. Combine sour cream and mashed peaches. Add flour mixture to creamed mixture alternately with peach mixture, beginning and ending with flour mixture. Mix just until blended after each addition. Stir in flavorings. Pour batter into two greased and floured 9x5x3 inch loaf pans. Bake at 350° for one hour and 5 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool in pans 10-15 minutes; removes from pans and cool completely on wire racks. Makes 2 loaves. Freezes well and makes yummy shortcake!

God Bless America!

201 MAIN - QUITAQUE, TEXAS - 455-1429 OPEN Monday - Saturday / 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

THURSDAY'S CHICKEN

Noon Buffet 11:00am - 2:00pm Night Buffet More Chicken

Gizzards & Livers 5:30pm-8:30pm

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FRIDAY'S **BAR-B-QUE** & CATFISH

Noon Buffet 11:00am - 2:00pm Night Special Catfish Dinners Fixin's & Salad Bar 5:30pm -8:30 pm

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41 "____in Peace"
43 Mansfield's "
Bell Rodeo"
44 cowboy's polite
address to women

47 more tidy

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Co-Op Sponsors Youth Tour For 43rd Year, Winners To Also Receive College Scholarship

Again in 2007, for the 43rd consecutive year, Lighthouse Electric Cooperative will sponsor two area high school students on the Texas Electric Cooperatives' Government-in-Action Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. This year's tour is scheduled for June 7 to June 15. As an added

bonus this year, the two winners will each receive a \$500 college scholarship.

As participants in the Youth Tour, local winners will join other winners from across the state to travel to Washington where they will spend seven days touring places of historical interest, visiting members of Congress, and getting a first-hand view of their government in

Any high school age boy or girl who resides in the general service area of Lighthouse Electric Cooperative, which includes the school districts of Plainview, Petersburg, Floydada, Lockney, Valley, Memphis, Crosbyton, and Motley County, other than immediate family members of

Lighthouse employees or directors, will be eligible for the trip.

The two winners will be selected from participants in the Co-op's Youth Tour contest to be held April 12. Contestants will be required to submit an application and sit for an interview with a panel of independent judges. Judges will score the contestants on how well they answer four standard questions made available prior to the contest, as well as their general knowledge of rural electric cooperatives, their ability to interview well, their appearance and poise. From these contestants, two winners and two alternates will be chosen.

Over the past 42 years, Lighthouse has sponsored 89 students from area high schools on the tour. Winners over recent years have been

1997, Johnnie Mosley and Lindi Miller of Lockney

1998, **Walt Henson of Quitaque** and Emily Leonard of Plainview 1999, Danny Huggins of Lockney and Stefane Hedrick of Plainview 2000, Kayla Copp of Matador and Rebecca Warren of Floydada

2001, Jenna Payne of Floydada and Melanie Huggins of Lockney 2002, Skyler Cornelius of Floydada, Jalee Dietrich of Lockney, and Cydni

Waldon of Turkey 2003, Addie Foster of Lockney and Spencer Schacht of Floydada

2004, Kami Keaton and Jana Miller of Lockney and Kittie Campbell of Matador 2005, Rebekah Thornton of Plainview and Daniel Houchin of Petersburg

2006, Krista Rasco of Lockney and Maddie Ramsey of Quitaque

For further information on the contest, contact the Member Services Department of Lighthouse at (806)983-2814 or (800)657-7192.

Welcome News During Tax Season:

I-Can!™ E-FileWebsite Provides Free Tax Filing Service for

Working Texas Families

www.icanefile.org (English ... Spanish versions)

AUSTIN— Every year, Texas families leave an estimated \$1.2 billion in potential tax credits in the hands of the federal government, due to lack of knowledge about the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). This year, the Texas Legal Services Center is providing a way for Texas families to claim all tax credits for which they are eligible, including the EITC, so that unclaimed money can be brought back to Texas

A new website sponsored by the Texas Legal Services Center, www.icanefile.org, will automatically calculate and file for all potential tax credits, including the EITC, child tax credit, and others (see below). There is no charge to use the website.

Who Qualifies for the EITC? For the 2006 tax year, qualified individuals, families, and the potential amounts of EITC refund are as follows

INCOME-single Number of qualifying children INCOME-married Maximum EITC amount 2 or more \$36,348 \$38,348 \$4,536 \$32,001 \$34,001 \$2,747 \$12,120 \$14,120 \$412

How does I-CAN!™ E-File Work? The site www.icanefile.org is built around a userfriendly interface that asks the taxpayer straightforward questions to determine the appropriate

Users access www.icanefile.org from their home, or at a local public library branch. * Families and individuals who earn less than \$50,000/year are eligible to use the site

* Users go through a series of secure web pages inputting answers to a series of simple, interactive questions.

* The website also allows viewing of instructional IRS videos and educational materials. What is the EITC? The EITC is a tax credit for working individuals and families whose yearly net earnings are not enough to move out of low-income status. One of the most important federal anti-poverty programs, the EITC brought over \$4 billion to low-income working families

However, an estimated \$1.2 billion in EITC money went unclaimed in Texas alone that same year. The I-CAN!TM E-File website automatically claims the EITC for eligible filers, and thereby makes this potential financial advantage a reality for working Texas families.

Governor Rick Perry, aware of this potential impact, has publicly promoted the EITC. "Helping Texas families is one of our top priorities, and EITC does just that," said Governor Rick Perry, in 2005. "I would like to see 100 percent of eligible Texas families apply for EITC."

The Center for Public Policy Priorities has also recognized the importance of the EITC as a broad-based poverty fighting strategy. "[The] EITC stimulates hard-pressed urban and rural communities. The EITC can also provide an excellent opportunity for working families to invest in the future by saving for a home, a higher education, or a small business. Each of these families' investments is also an investment in the Texas economy.

The Turkey Roost Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation Presents: The 3rd Annual Hunting Heritage Banquet Friday, March 23 beginning at 6 p.m.

Bob Wills Community Building 601 Lyles Street, Turkey, TX Tickets \$40/Single \$55/Couples

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thousands of people who could
Team All Region. Macy & be significantly helped by the
Molly Davidson were also thousands of people who could EITC don't know about it, and they pay high fees to tax preparation services. Additional information can be www.texaslawhelp.org.

Further, "Hundreds of Ivory were each named First-

to Coach Ramsey for their honors and for the tremendous season this year! Way to Iglesia Bautista "La Trinidad" **Mexican Food Youth Fundraiser**

Saturday, March 24th 9 a.m. - ??? 313 Main Street in Quitague, TX Across from the First National Bank Call In Orders: 455-1171

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Valley School Lunch Menu Sponsored By The Valley Tribune

Monday, March 26

Breakfast: French Toast, Syrup, Sausage, OJ/Milk Lunch: Chicken Strips, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Peaches, Biscuits, Milk

Tuesday, March 27

Breakfast: Cereal, Toast, Jelly, OJ/Milk Lunch: Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Caesar Salad, Mixed Fruit, Garlic Bread, Milk

Wednesday, March 28 Breakfast: Breakfast Hot Pocket, OJ/Milk

Lunch: Polish Sausage, Mac & Cheese, Corn on Cob, Biscuits, Pears, Milk Thursday, March 29

Breakfast: Biscuits, Jelly, Sausage, OJ/Milk Lunch: Meat & Cheese Nachos, Salad, Pinto Beans,

Mandarin Oranges & Pineapple, Milk Friday, March 30 Breakfast: Breakfast on a Stick, Syrup, OJ/Milk

Lady

Patriots

Receive

Post Season

Honors

The 5-A All District Team

Senior, Macy

was announced and the Lady

Patriots were well repre-

Davidson was declared the

Junior, Jasmin Ivory, and Senior, Maddie Ramsey were each named to the First Team,

and Senior, Ana Karen Mendoza was designated as Honorable Mention.

The 6-Man Coaches Asso-

ciation named their All-Region and All-State Teams.

with three Lady Patriots mak-

ing the All-Region Team and two players named to the All-

State Team. Macy Davidson,

Molly Davidson, and Jasmin

named Second-Team All-

We are so proud of our Lady Patriots! Congratula-

tions go out to these girls and

Senior, Molly Davidson,

By Susan Ramsey

District MVP,

Lunch: Ham & Cheese Hoagies, Lettuce, Tomatoe, Pickles,



THE LUNCHROOM LADIES Menu Subject To Change

Senior Spotlight e: Jeffrey Seth Fuston

Parents Name: Jeff & Kathy Fuston My Pet Peeve: Slow drivers & poeple that talk with their mouth full My Role Model: My dad

My Best Characteristic: My willing-ness to help others Favorite Pastime: Being outdoors

Favorite Style of Dress: I-Shirt, Jeans, and some comfortable shoes Favorite Food: Anything Italian

Favorite Food: Anything Italian
Favorite Movie: The Rocky Series
My Favorite Sport: Football
Hobbies: Hiking
If I could Iravel anywhere, I would go...Anywhere in Europe
The best advice I ever received was...No one will ever know
My Worst Inabil Ist.Being unprepared in training in the
I'm thankful for...Every breath I am allowed to take
I remeber in elementary school when...We read Halchet and Brian's
Winter

Winter If I could change something, it would be... The losses at state in foot-

ball
My most frightening moment: Walking to the bathroom on the camping trip at the state park in 5th grade (it's a long story)
My best memory: Painting our chests for the girls baskelball games I always fall for...Babies & little kids
My greatest fear is... The loss of someone close to me Someday I want to... Buy a yacht
My most valued possession... My Mustang
If I had only one day to live, I would...Spend it with my family & friends
After graduation I plan to...Attend Texas Tech
In ten years I see myself....27 years old and in a foreign country

Senior Spotlight

: Mathew Dozier Age: 18 Birthdale: March 20, 1989

Parents Name: Larry & Angle My Pet Peeve: When someone asks alol of guestions

alof of questions
My Role Model: My parents
My Best Characteristic: My eyes
Favorite Pastime: Spending time
with Maria

Favorite Style of Dress: Casual Favorite Food: Pizza

Favorile Food: Pizza

Favorile Food: Pizza

Favorile Movie: Half Baked
My Favorile Sport: Football
Hobbies: Chilling with friends/girlfirend
If I could travel anywhere, I would go...Cancun, Mexico
The best advice I ever received was...Well never get caught
My worst habit Is...Dipping
Tim thankful for...My family
I remeber in elementary school when...Ms. Proctor made me sit on a
stool in the middle of the room
If I could change something, it would be... My past
My most frightening moment: The time I hit the back of a suburban
when I was I3 at Laura's salon
My best memory: Entering the state game at Shotwell Stadium
I always fall for..A cute smile
My greatest fear is... Dying young
Someday I want Io... Move out of Turkey
My most valued possession... My car
If I had only one day to live, I would...Spend II with my family
After graduation I plan Io...Be successful
In ten years I see myself...In California

Experience is that marvelous thing that enables you to recognize a mistake when yo u make it again.

~ Franklin P. Jones

Mistakes are the portals of discovery.

~ James Joyce

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Is Biodiversity The **Future of Farming?**

Industrial agriculture faces painful challenges: the end of cheap energy, depleted water resources, impaired ecosystem services, and unstable climates. Scientists searching for alternatives to the highly specialized, energy intensive industrial system might profitably look to the biological synergies inherent in multi-species systems, according to an article in the March-April 2007 issue of Agronomy Journal.

The paper's author, Fred Kirschenmann, Distinguished Fellow for Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Iowa State University, states that industrial agriculture assumes

· Production efficiency can be best achieved through specialization, simplification and concentration

· Therapeutic intervention is the most effective way to control undesirable events
• Technological innovation will always be able to overcome

production challenges

 Control management is the most effective way to achieve production results

Cheap energy will always be available

As we enter the 21st century most, if not all, of these assumptions must be questioned. The degraded condition of ecosystem services was detailed in the UN "Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Synthesis Report" (2005). The report also anticipates that during the next 50 years demand for food crops will grow by 70 to 85% and demand for water by between 30 and

Volatile weather conditions predicted to be part of emerging climate change will make it difficult to sustain highly specialized cropping systems which require relatively stable climates. To keep agriculture productive, farmers likely will need to adjust quickly. If we can design farming systems that are less enintensive, more resilient in the face of unstable climates, and that begin to out-produce monocultures by virtue of their multi-species output, the economic advantages of such complex farming operations might be an incentive to change.

A few farmers already operate successful, complex farming systems based on biological synergies and adaptive management. One is Takao Furuno's duck/fish/rice/fruit farm in Japan. He produces duck meat, duck eggs, fish meat, fruit, and rice without any purchased outside inputs, using a highly synergistic system of production on the same acreage where he previously only produced rice. And, in this new system, his rice yields have increased up to 50% over previous yields from an energy-intensive rice monoculture. Joel Salatin, of Polyface Farms near Swoope, VA, has developed a rotational grazing production system featuring pastures containing at least 40 varieties of plants and numerous animal species. Salatin's farm uses little fossil fuel, yet the farm is highly productive. The 57-hectare farm annually produces 30,000 dozen eggs, 10,000 to 12,000 broilers, 100 beef animals, 250 hogs, 800 turkeys, and

A study by George Boody and colleagues has calculated, on a watershed basis, that diverse, synergistic farms can be profitable and simultaneously benefit the environment. They showed that when farms are converted from corn/soybean monocultures to more diverse operations, net farm income can increase by as much as 108% while generating significant environmental and social benefits. Principles that might guide postmodern farms are almost diametrically opposed to those supporting industrial agriculture. They may need to:

LADIES

Change

Be energy conserving
 Feature both biological and genetic diversity

 Be largely self-regulating and self-renewing Be knowledge intensive

· Operate on biological synergies · Employ adaptive management

• Feature ecological restoration rather than choosing between extraction and preservation

· Achieve optimum productivity by featuring nutrient-density, and multi-product synergistic production on limited acre-

To learn more about biodiversity, view the Agronomy Journal article abstract at: http://agron.scijournals.org/cgi/content/ abstract/99/2/373

If you have made mistakes, even serious ones, there is always another chance for you. What we call failure is not the falling down but the staying down.

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~ Mary Pickford

It's hard to beat a person who never gives up. - Babe Ruth

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Round II Of The Regional Safe Room **Program** Announced

With the start of the severe weather season in sight, the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC) recently announced the start of the second round application period for the for the REgional Residentiaol Safe Room Rebate Program. The Safe Room Rebate Program provides approved homewoners with a rbate to partially cover the cost of installing a safe room/tornado shelter int their home. The program is open to residents throughout the Texas Panhandle.

This program is being funded through a Federa Emergency Managemeth Agency grant the PRPC reeived through the Governor's Divison of Emergency Managemetn. To be eligible to participate, residents must own the home in which the safe room will be installed. Mobile home owners must own their home and the land on which their mobile home sits. Homeowners can receive a rebate of up to 50% on the cost of installing a shelter in their home. the maximum amount of grant funds paid for a shelter has been capped by the State at \$2,500.

The Safe Room Program is relatively new to the State of Texas. In fact, the program was implemented first int he Tecxas Panhandle. the PRPC concluded its first round application cycle in November with the funding of 235 shelters. PRPC will accept Round II applications through Aprin 27 2007. Residents interested in applying for a rebate will find the application form and guidance ont he PRPC's website at www.theprpc.org. Resident scan also obtain rebate information by contacting Stefan Bressler at (806) 372-3381. There will be approximately 550 safe room rebates available under Round II of this regional program.

So long as they don't get violent, I want to let everyone say what they wish, for I myself have always said exactly what pleased me

~ Albert Einstein

You can do anything in this world if you're prepared to take the consequent

~ W. Somerset Maugham

It is almost impossible to watch a sunset and not dream. ~ Bern Williams

Misfortune shows those who are not really friends. ~ Aristotle

Texas Legislature Votes NRA-Backed "Castle Doctrine" Into Law

The Texas State Legislature cently gave final approval to the National Rifle Association (NRA)-backed "Castle Doctrine" bill (SB 378), bringing common sense self-defense protections to law-abiding Texas citizens

Texas is the first state to pass "Castle Doctrine" legislation this year, making it the sixteenth state to recognize the importance of victim's rights.

I want to thank the Texas Legislature for working to-gether to pass this vital legislation and take further steps in protecting the people of this great state," said Chris W. Cox, NRA's chief lobbyist. "Lawabiding citizens now have the choice to defend themselves and their families in the face of attack knowing their decision will not be second-guessed by the State of Texas.

SB 378, sponsored by Sen. Jeff Wentworth (TX-25) with 27 co-authors and the House version of the bill, sponsored by Rep. Joe Driver (TX-113) with 106 co-authors, states that if a criminal breaks into your occupied home, your vehicle or your place of business, the victim may use any manner of force against that person and does not have a "duty to retreat". The bill also provides protection for persons using force authorized by law from liability for injuring their criminal attackers

"On behalf of all NRA members in Texas, I want to thank Senator Wentworth and Representative Driver for their diligence in passing this important bill into law," concluded Cox. "The Castle Doctrine bill is about putting the law back on the side of the victim, the way it's supposed to Silverton Chamber Banquet To Feature Officer Beighle

It's banquet time!! Well, it is coming in less than a month! And the big treat is our speaker, State Trooper Wayne Beighle!! Officer Beighle will share the humor he has become known for. And the meal is going to be delicious!!

The Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet is to be held on Saturday, April 14, at 6:30 pm. The Malt Shop, owned by Jeb and Sally Moorhouse will cater the meal. The main course will be Enchiladas; Beef with Carne Sauce; Cheese with Green Chile Sauce and Chicken with Sour Cream Sauce. Side dishes will be Ranchero Beans, Mexican Potato Casserole, Corn Casserole, Chips & Salsa. Dessert will be Flan. Tickets will be sold by Chamber of Commerce Members. There will only be 150 tickets sold. Don't wait too long to get yours!! Chamber members are out even now asking those generous donors of door prizes to do it again for you! If we missed you and you have something you wish to give, call Kyle at City Bank, 806-823-2328

The theme will be about Texas. Essays will be written by the Silverton High School seniors called, "How things really are Bigger in Texas". The winning essay will be read to all the guests. Citizen of the Year will be chosen and you can have a part in the choosing. Voting boxes will be out at eight places, Rhoderick Irrigation, City Bank, City Hall, Silver City Mercantile, Farm Bureau Office, Dollar Store, Something Different Restaurant

and the Malt Shop .

Richard Howell is organizing the Fishing Tournament for June 23, 2007 at McKenzie Lake. When asked if the fishing was good, he replied, "Oh yes, very good." It will be an open tournament with prizes for the biggest in class and prizes for the youth ages 12 and under who will enter for only \$5. Team cost will be \$50 and individual cost, \$25. Great prizes are to be given! Call Richard today at 806-823-2011. It is never too early to enter!

Jan Curry was has contacted 400 vendors for the Briscoe County Celebration the second weekend in August. Make plans now to have your booth!.

New members are Keely and Craig Cox and Tammy and Brent Brannon.







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Senate Budget Committee Approves New Spending Plan On Party Line Vote

Senator Kent Conrad, Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, oversaw approval of a \$2.9 Trillion FY 2008 Budget plan on a 12-11 party line vote March 15. The Senate panel's approval sends the plan to the Senate floor for final approval.

sends the plan to the Senate floor for final approval.

Included in the plan is the Senate's budget allocation for writing the 2007 Farm Bill and language authorizing up to an additional \$15 billion over five years to address new needs or the expansion of existing programs to meet changing program priorities.

The Budget Committee's addition of extra spending authority doesn't necessarily mean that there is that much extra money to work with when the Senate Agriculture Committee sits down to write the farm bill however. The kicker on the extra funding is that the Senate plan appears to require that spending offsets or a revenue increase be found to make the additional money available.

According to Ag Chairman Tom Harkin the plan approved by the Senate Budget Committee will not be sufficient to fully address all the items that need attention during the farm bill debate especially with the strings that are currently attached.

Harkin notes that even if it is realized, the extra spending authority is still \$5 billion short of the figure he and Ranking Member Senator Saxby Chambliss had requested from the Budget Committee over the next five years to write the farm bill.

It is best to note that the budget plan that will now move to the Senate floor for consideration is far from the last step in the process relative agriculture spending. With the House of Representatives facing a similar dilemma

With the House of Representatives facing a similar dilemma when it sits down to produce a budget plan next week it should be clear that the budget process is far from over.

Palo Duro Basin Oil & Gas Report

By Tom Musser

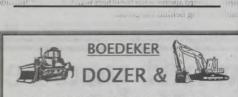
Floyd County: The PetroGlobe Energy McIntosh lease well #176 reached total depth and is being evaluated.

Hale County: Well completion

Hale County: Well completion work continues on the PetroGlobe Energy Ramsower lease well #1113.

Motley County: No information has been released on the Bankers Petroleum Cogdell "64" lease well #1.





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Be A Smart Shopper When Selecting Cotton Varieties

With planting time just around the corner, South Plains farmers are thinking about cotton seed or already booking it with suppliers. There is a dizzying array of genetics and varieties available today, but picking seed doesn't have to be difficult, said a Texas Cooperative Extension cotton agronomist. "Be a smart shopper," advised Dr. Randy Boman, Extension cotton agronomist based at Lubbock. "Keep it simple. Compare several characteristics among many varieties and then match those to typical growing conditions on your farm." Producers can't control growing conditions or climate, but they can choose "smart genetics" with good potential for yield and lint quality. Genetic traits such as herbicide tolerance and insect and disease resistance are valuable too, but they should be evaluated using data from local field trials, he said.

"In some cases, it's wise to select varieties based on individual field conditions," he said. "Fields with high disease pressure should be matched to resistant varieties. On the other hand, disease-resistant varieties may not perform as well as other varieties in fields with zero disease pressure." Boman recommended four publications when comparing cotton varieties nose-to-nose:

 2006 Cotton Performance Tests in the Texas High Plains and Trans-Pecos by Dr. John Gannaway, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station cotton breeder.

- Extension's 2006 Systems Agronomic and Economic Evaluation of Transgenic and Conventional Varieties in the Texas High Plains.

2006 Texas High Plains Cotton Variety Ratings for Verticillium Wilt and 2006 Texas High Plains Cotton Variety Ratings for Bacterial Blight, both by Dr. Terry Wheeler, Experiment Station plant pathologist.

ment Station plant pathologist.

These publications and crop production guides pertinent to High Plains growing conditions are available online at: http://lubbock.tamu.edu . "They are a good start for comparing baseline performance," Boman said.

"It's best to compare varieties and genetics based on multiyear and multi-site averages, when they are available. Yield potential is foremost in growers' minds, but lint quality is just as important. We sell pounds of lint, but its value is a function of fiber quality." Last year was challenging for cotton producers on the South Plains. More than 1 million acres of dryland cotton failed due to drought that lingered into mid-August. Even so, producers harvested more than 4 million bales û the third largest crop ever. The crop also had record fiber length and strength, he said.

"But 2006 was also a low-micronaire year," Boman said. "Our micronaire averaged about 3.8 û the third lowest since 1992 and only marginally higher than 2005. Pounds of lint and fiber quality are profitability factors, but we also need to consider adaptability."

For example, longer-season picker varieties are adapted to areas with longer growing seasons than the High Plains. They can sometimes be a good choice for growers willing to invest in management but can be risky in the uncertain Plains climate, be said.

"Even with good weather, it's risky to leave open-boll cottons in the field hoping for a killing freeze to condition the plants for harvest," Boman said. "Terminating irrigation, applying defoliants and desiccants at the right time and getting the crop out of the field early is a better option." Storm-proof varieties are more suitable for uncertain harvest conditions and are more likely to survive damaging weather without considerable lint loss. As a result, Boman advised growers to also check for storm resistance when evaluating varieties.

"One issue we often encounter is nearly all varieties tend to have less storm resistance when they are under significant moisture stress," he said. "The bottom line is picker varieties may have higher risk for pre-harvest storm losses when they are moisture stressed. These later maturing varieties may also be prone to low micronaire." Transgenic varieties are another option, if the cost is competitive with traditional weed or insect control. Resistance to verticillium and fusarium wilt, bacterial blight and root-knot nematodes is another valuable trait for growers to consider, he said.

growers to consider, he said.

"All of this is food for thought when you are comparing cotton genetics and varieties," Boman said. "No matter how you size-up and choose varieties, don't plant the farm to only one variety. Diversify your planting list. Spread your production risk by matching varieties and genetics to specific fields. It's simply good management."

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This Week's Crop & Weather Report

Texas hay producers are currently preparing their land for the planting of the 2002 hay crop, Texas Cooperative Extension reports.

"Most annual hay crops are planted starting in March in South Texas through late April in northern Texas," said Dr. David Bade, Extension forage specialist in College Station. "Planting is done as soil temperatures warm up and the danger of a freeze is past."

Like any other crop, hay needs moisture, fertility and sunlight for good growth, Bade said. Planted crops need enough moisture for germination and growth. He said this will vary on the type of hay and how well the variety does in limited rainfall. "From the spring rains, we are in similar moisture condi-

"From the spring rains, we are in similar moisture conditions as last year for this time of year," Bade said. "With additional rains in the spring and early summer the potential for similar hay yields is present."

Planting of haygrazer hays, a sorghum type of hay, and millet, another variety of annual hay, occurs in the spring, Bade said. Most hay in Texas is from perennial grasses, which live more than one year and come up from the root system, such as bermuda grass, bahia grass and bluestems. These are managed as they green up in the spring and do not have to be planted every year, he said.

According to the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, 130,000 acres of alfalfa was harvested in 2001 and 5.1 million acres of other varieties of havs were harvested

acres of other varieties of hays were harvested.

"Hay should be ready to cut from four to six weeks after greenup or germination," Bade said. "Then with moisture, hay can be cut every four weeks of growth."

can be cut every four weeks of growth."

"Most hay crops had not started to grow yet so this (recent) cold spurt is not harmful," Bade said. "In deep South Texas where grass was beginning to green up, the cold did freeze that back, making the grass start over in greenup."

With any variety of hays, producers always have the worry of insects. Insect damage should be noticed as the hay is growing and should be treated if a problem occurs, Bade said. If there has been a problem with disease in haygrazer and/or alfalfa crops in the past, then a disease resistant variety is usually recommended, he said.

The following specific livestock, crop and weather conditions were reported by district Extension directors.

PANHANDLE: Temperatures were variable throughout the week. The northern portion of the area received a trace amount to a quarter-inch of rainfall. Land preparation for spring planting continues. Soil moisture is rated very short to adequate. Wheat is rated mostly fair to good. Range conditions are rated mostly fair. Cattle are in fair to good condition; supplemental feeding continues.

SOUTH PLAINS: About 1 to 3 inches of rain fell early in the week, and warm temperatures prevailed. The rainfall reduced the need for pre-plant irrigation. Soil moisture is adequate. Winter wheat is rated fair to good condition. Most wheat is near the jointing stage and will benefit from rainfall received. Pastures and ranges are in fair to good condition. Cattle are in good condition and supplemental feeding continues.

ROLLING PLAINS: Rain fell across most of the area counties, helping the wheat crop. Producers who haven't top dressed wheat are making plans to distribute more fertilizer. Deep subsoil moisture is adequate. Wheat is starting to joint and most herbicide applications have stopped. Cool season annuals and weeds are abundant. Livestock are in fair condition with some supplemental feeding. Farmers are preparing fields for cotton planting. Sprigging of hybrid Bermuda grasses continues as weather permits. Peach trees are approaching full bloom.

Extension Expert: Irrigation Opportunities Must Be Accompanied by Proper Planning

Excitement and anxiety are building as irrigation producers look at the first opportunity in many years to have profitable spring crops, said a Texas Cooperative Extension specialist. "We see on the horizon a great opportunity to make some money," said Leon New, Extension irrigation specialist, during the High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show in Amarillo.

"We've got the equipment, both center pivot and sub-surface drip, to make the most out of the least, that being water," New said. "There's not a lot more we can do on the systems, so it's planning on your part that will generate the most efficiency." He advised producers not to overshoot their water capabilities. Formulate a plan based on the gallons-per-minute per acre capabilities of the wells on a property, New said.

Formulate a plan based on the gallons-per-minute per acre capabilities of the wells on a property, New said.

"We're challenged this year," he said. "We're going to try to do more than what we have water to do it with, and we can't afford to lose water. You have to make some good decisions."

Manage the irrigation water, rainfall and soil moisture to maximize yields on each crop, New said, keeping in mind that no irrigation system can "make" water that's not available. Dr. Steve Amosson, Extension economist in Amarillo, said producers in limited water situations who are producing wheat, sorghum and cotton should compare the benefits of partial versus full irrigation.

"You may be better off to spread the water out by partially irrigating all of it instead of fully irrigating part of it and letting the rest grow under dryland conditions," Amosson said.

In limited-water situations, the value of the initial water ap-

In limited-water situations, the value of the initial water applications are higher than later applications, he said. The rate of return for the last few inches of water applied to a crop is not as great and may be more efficiently used if applied to another crop, he said. However, Amosson agreed with New, saying this is the year for producers with water to use it, and the greatest return is going to be with corn. "Pump it," he said. "There are times when you shouldn't irrigate, but you do. This is the year where you are going to get good returns for that water pumped."

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The Power is On!



National Agriculture Week

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Cracking Up

In the U.S. in 1998, hens produced 6,657,000,000 dozen eggs - that's 6.657 billion dozen! After these eggs were laid, about two-thirds were sold in the shell and one third of them were broken - not by accident, but on purpose. Because after the eggs are broken out

of their shells, they can be made into liquid, frozen, dried and specialty egg prod-

* The egg shell may have as many as 17,000 tiny pores over its surface Through them, the egg can absorb flavors and odors.

Storing them in their cartons helps keep them fresh! Eggs age more in one day at room temperature than in

one week in the refrigerator. * Occasionally, a hen will produce double-yolked eggs throughout her egg-laying career. It is rare, but not unusual, for a young hen to produce an egg with no yolk at all.

It takes 24 to 26 hours for a hen to produce an egg; there is 30 minutes between each egg-producing cycle.

* About 240 million laying hens produce about 5.5 bil-

lion dozen eggs per year in the United States.

* Egg yolks are one of the few foods that naturally con-

tain Vitamin D.

AGriculture Week

March 18-24, 2007

ITAN OD

Crazy About Cotton

U.S. textile mills presently convert over half of the cotton they use into clothing.

The majority of cotton is used for men's and boys' clothing, with jeans, underwear, and shirts topping the list.

* If all of the cotton produced annually in the U.S. were

used to make one product, such as blue jeans, it would make 5 Billion pair.

One bale of cotton can produce 1,217 men's t-shirts or 313,600 one-hundred dollar (\$100)

* Cotton's home uses range from bedspreads to window shades. It is by far the dominant fiber in towels and washcloths. Cotton is also popular in sheets and pillowcases.

 * Industrial products containing cotton include wall coverings, book bindings, and zipper tapes. The biggest cotton users in the this cat-egory are manufacturers of medical supplies, industrial thread, and tar-

* Cotton is a food crop. Almost 200 million gallons of cottonseed oil are used in food products such as margarine and salad dressing. Cottonseed and cottonseed meal are used in feed for livestock and poultry. And even products such as toothpaste, ice cream, and the paper money used to buy them contain byproducts of the cotton seed.



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nels on each ear of corn.

* Farmers grow corn on ev-

ery continent except Antarctica

Each tassel on a corn plant releases as many as 5 million grains



Piggy, Piggy

Pigs can't sweat. Pigs have no sweat glands, that is why they roll around in mud to cool off.

* Heart valves from hogs are used to replace damaged or diseased human heart valves.

A pig can run a 7-minute mile.

* A baby pig, or piglet, weighs about 3 1/2 pounds at birth and will double its weight in just 7 days.



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Udderly Amazing

* In a year's time a dairy cow produces 1,500 gallons or 6,000 quarts of milk. A Jersey cow will give as much as 3 to 4 gallons or around 16 quarts of milk each day.

* Dairy cows provide us with milk and milk by-products like cheese, butter, and ice cream. In addition, milk is also used to manufacture glue, paint, and plastics.

Straight from the cow, the temperature of cow's milk is

about 97 degrees Fahrenheit.

* The average U.S. dairy cow produces 22.5 quarts of milk each day. That's about 16,000 glasses of milk per year – enough for about 40 people. One cow can give 200,000 glasses of milk in a lifetime

It takes approximately 1.4 gallons of milk to make 1 gallon of ice cream.

Cheese was first made over 4,000 years ago in

A cow has 4 stomachs. They are: the rumen, where the food is first stored, the reticulum where food that has been more thoroughly chewed is stored once the cow has chewed the cud and has swallowed it; the omasum where extra water is squeezed



out, and finally the food goes to the abomasum. Some of the digested food is then stored in the cow's udder where it is made

* Cows are ruminants or cud-chewing animals eating hay, corn, soybeans, grass, wheat, and ensilage. Each cow eats 20 to 25 pounds of grain, 40 to 60 pounds of ensilage, 30 pounds of

hay and drinks about 15 to 25 gallons of water a day.

* Cows are sedentary animals spending up to 8 hours a day chewing the cud while standing still or lying down to rest after grazing. When going to be milked, a certain cow in an established herd always leads the others with the weaker and older cattle trailing behind the group.

* A typical, full grown Holstein cow weighs about 1,400

pounds and produces 60 pounds of milk per day.

* One day's production is 2.6 pounds of butter or 7 gallons of milk or 6 pounds of cheese.

* A dairy cow consumes 35 gallons of water, 20 pounds of grain and concentrated feed and 35 pounds of hay or silage (a mixture of corn and grass) in just one day.

* It usually takes about 20 minutes for a cow to be milked.

On average a cow is milked 2 to 3 times a day.

 Hamburger meat from a single steer will make about 720 quarter pound hamburger patties. That's enough for a family of 4 to enjoy hamburgers each day for nearly 6 months.





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The Changing Face of Agriculture

Farmers and ranchers are producing meat lower in fat and cholesterol. This has resulted in retail cuts that are 15 percent leaner, giving consumers better value for their dollar. For example, a pork tenderloin now has only one more gram of fat than a skinless chicken breast, one of the true fat "lightweights." Also, much leaner beef cuts are being produced than 20 years ago, resulting in 27 percent less fat reaching the retail case than

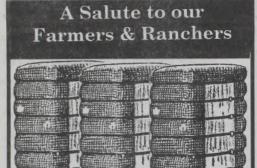
Research and advancements in biotechnology are now in the marketplace with tastier fruits and vegetables that stay fresh longer and are not damaged by insects.

A new technique called "precision farming" boosts crop yields and reduces waste by using satellite maps and computers to match seed, fertilizer and crop protection applications to local

Farm equipment has evolved dramatically from the team of horses used in the early 1900s. Today's four-wheel drive tractors have the power of 40- 300 horses. This makes for a large capital investment, as farmers pay anywhere from \$97,000 for an average 160 horsepower tractor to \$170,000 for a four-wheel

As the amount of mechanization and horsepower in farm machinery has increased, the time needed to complete tasks has decreased. Combines, huge machines used to harvest grains such as corn, soybeans and wheat, have dramatically changed agriculture. In the 1930s, before the machines were available, a farmer could harvest an average of 100 bushels of corn by hand in a nine-hour day. Today's combines can harvest 900 bushels of corn per hour-or 100 bushels of corn in under seven min-

The efficiency of U.S. farmers benefits the United States consumer in the pocketbook. Americans spend less on food than any other developed nation in the world. On average in 2004, Americans spent only 2% of their disposable income on meat and poultry, compared to 4.1 percent in 1970.



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Texas Commodities By the Number

Cattle, \$7.6 billion

Cotton (Lint and Seed), \$1.8 billion 2.

Poultry/Eggs, \$1.7 billion

3. Nursery, \$1.3 billion

Milk, \$982 million 6. Timber, \$759 million

Feed Grains, \$747 million

Food Grains, \$382 million

Vegetables, \$371 million 10. Horses, \$342 million

Oil Seeds, \$262 million 11.

Hay, \$225 million 12. Hogs, \$103 million 13.

Goats, \$ 97 million

Pecans, \$96 million 15.

16. Potatoes, \$93 million

Citrus, \$89 million Sheep, \$60 million

18. Sugarcane, \$45 million

Fruit, \$29 million



It's The Bees Knees

A hive of bees flies over 55,000 miles to bring you one pound of honey. A honey bee can fly 15 miles per hour. * Honey bees must tap two million flowers to make one pound of honey. Each worker honey bee makes 1/12th teaspoon

Honey bees visit 50-100 flowers during one honey col-

lecting trip. Bees have been producing

honey from flowering plants for at least 10 million years! And maybe even as long as 20 million years! Flowers and other blossom-

ing plants have nectarines that produce sugary nectar. Worker bees suck up the nectar and water and store it in a special honey stomach. When the stomach is full the bee returns to the hive and puts the nectar in an empty honeycomb. Natural chemicals from the bee's head glands and the evaporation of the water from the

nectar change the nectar into honey In one day a honey bee can fly 12 miles and pollinate

up to 10,000 flowers.

Honeybee workers must visit 2 million flowers to make one pound of honey.

"The most peaceful thing in the world is plowing a field. Chances are you'll do your best thinking that way." Harry S. Truman



Profile of the Farmer

More than three million people farm or ranch in the United States. Individuals, family partnerships or family corporations operate almost 99 percent of U.S. farms. Over 22 million people are employed in farm or farm-related jobs, including production agriculture, farm inputs, processing and marketing and wholesale and retail sales.

According to the 2002 Census of Agriculture, 50 percent of the farmers are 55 years of age or older, up only three percent from 1997. Average age of the principal operator is 55.3.

Forty-one percent of U.S. total land area is farmland (938.28

million acres). In 1900, the average farm size was 147 acres, compared to 441 acres today.

The top five agricultural commodities are cattle and calves, dairy products, broilers, corn and soybeans. U.S. farmers produce 46% of the world's soybeans, 41% of the world's corn, 20.5% of the world's cotton and 13% of the world's wheat.

Farmers and ranchers are independent business people who provide for their families by growing and producing food and fiber. They use modern production techniques to increase the quality and quantity of the food they produce. In the 1960s one farmer supplied food for 25.8 persons in the U.S. and abroad. Today, one farmer supplies food for 144 people in the U.S. and

America's Bread Basket

Each American consumers, on average, 53 pounds of bread per year.

* Assuming a sandwich was eaten for breakfast, lunch and dinner, it would take 168 days to eat the amount of bread produced from one bushel of wheat.

A family of four could live for 10 years off the bread produced by one acre of wheat.

* One bushel of wheat will produce 73 one-pound loaves

* Farmers receive approximately 5 cents (or less) from each loaf of bread sold.



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* Margaret D 823-2135 or come by the office nerous to list.

A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorplicant must be TCLEOSE cer-

Need Office/Inventory While one person hesitates Person at Silvercot Gin. other is busy making mistakes Time or Seasonal. Call Kenneth at 806-847-2241.

I have learned throughout my life as a composer chiefly through my mistakes and persuits of false assumptions, not by my exposure to founts of wisdom and knowledge. ~ Igor Stravinsky

Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes.

~ Mahatma Gandhi



HOW COME?

Coffee smells so good but tastes so bad? Spaghetti tastes good when made but the next day smells

We're fighting guys with names like El Sadar and Bin Laden and we have a guy named Barak Hussein Obama running for

Bananas don't keep in the refrigerator? Ice cream scoops out better with a cold spoon than with a

Why do the Hemmingway cats have 6 toes on their back feet? Why can't we find Bin Laden?
Why is a rhino's horn made of hair and not bone?

Why is there a semblance of a claw in the bush of a lion's

Why are the stripes on a Bengal tiger also in the skin? Why are there no tigers in Africa?

Why are the ears on an African elephant bigger than an Indian elephant?

Why didn't Noah smack the two mosquitoes when he had

Why is there no dot after the Dr in Dr Pepper? Besides all that, what was that 10, 2, and 4 thing all about? Why don't sharks have bones?

Why is a baby swan called a signet?

Why are all polar bears left handed, or pawed, or whatever

and how many stitches did the man have that determined that? How come you can't tame a zebra? Nope, that wasn't a zebra that Sheena was riding in that movie.

If we are an off- shoot of the ape as some people say, why

can't they say a few words?(The ape, not the people)
Why are there Braille signs on the drive up at the bank?
Why don't flies have any memory?

How come hyenas are high in the front and low in the back?

These are questions that bother me Things That Make You Go Hmmm...

By Laura Taylor

So You Married Yourself A Texas Woman

Three men were sitting together bragging about how they had given their new wives duties. The first man had married a woman from Colorado and had told her that she was going to do dishes and house cleaning. It took a couple days, but on the third day he came home to a clean house and dishes washed

The second man had married a woman from Nebraska . He had given his wife orders that she was to do all the cleaning, dishes, and the cooking. The first day he didn't see any results, but the next-day he saw it was better. By the third day, he saw his house was clean, the dishes were done, and there was a huge

The third man had married a girl from TEXAS . He told her that her duties were to keep the house cleaned, dishes washed, lawn mowed, laundry washed, and hot meals on the table for every meal. He said the first day he didn't see anything, the second day he didn't see anything, but by the third day some of the swelling had gone down, and he could see a little out of his left eye enough to fix himself a bite to eat and load the dish-

HHMMMM....

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This Week In Texas History!

Mar 24, 1957
The panhandle blizzard continued, killing eight people and stranding thousands. Snow drifts were between seven and 10 feet deep in places:

Mar 24, 1883

Mar 24, 1883
Some 325 working Panhandle cowboys refused to work and went on strike demanding higher wages. They wanted \$50 a month for cowboys and cooks and \$75 a work for trail bosses. onth for trail bosses

Mar 24, 1825 The Mexican Congress passed a colonization law requiring all immigrants to be-come Mexican citizens.

Mar 25, 1957
The Panhandle blizzard ended. It killed 10 people and stranded 40, 000 on area highways, damage estimates were in the millions of dollars.

Mar 25, 1950
Frank "Bring 'Em Back Alive"
Buck died in Houston. He was
born in Gainsville in 1888, Buck provided zoos with over 100,000 birds and animals in his lifetime. He also had his own circus.

own circus.

Mar 25, 1843

17 unlucky Texans from the Mier expedition drew black beans and were then executed by the Mexican Army. Mar 26, 1918
Gov. William P. Hobby signed legislation giving women the right to vote in

The Secession Convention ratified the constitution of the Confederate States of

Mar 26, 1846
Fort Polk was established at Point Isabel, nine miles from

the mouth of the Rio Grande Mar 27, 1917

Three days after the first earthquake hit, another quake hit near the center of Carson County. It was more severe and registered 4.7 on the Rich-ter scale. It struck at 7:56 p.m. and was felt over a 5,000

square mile area. Mar 27, 1864

William Quantrill was ar-rested in Bonham. He and his men were able to escape and rode out of Texas at Preston,

near the Oklahoma border. Mar 27, 1836 Janes Fannin were marched out of Goliad by the Mexican Army. Where they were executed on orders of Santa Anna. Only a few lucky Texans were able to escape the Palm

were able to escape the Palm Sunday massacre.

Mar 28, 1969 Dwight David Eisenhower died in Washington at the age of 78. Born in Denison, he was the first native born Texan to serve as president. Mar 28, 1958

Elvis Presley arrived at Fort Hood to begin 25 weeks of

military training. Mar 28, 1862 1,200 Confederate soldiers, along with the Fourth Texas Mounted Volunteers, were de-feated by Union forces at the Battle of Glorieta Pass near

Mar 29, 1836
As the Mexican Army approched San Felipe, Gen. Sam Houston along with his 1,300 soilders who had arrived the day before, rounded up all guns and provisions, then torched the community, and continued the eastward re-Mar 30, 1981

John Warnock Hinckley Jr. of Highland Park, attempted to assassinate President Ronald Regan in Washington.

Mar 30, 1870 Texas was readmitted to the Union following Reconstruction and the Civil War.

Mar 30, 1836 Gen. Sam Houston's Army reached Groce's Plantation as the "Runaway Scrape" contin-

Don't Tread on Texans' Long-Term Care, Fix It

If the nation isn't prepared for the aging baby boomers, it isn't because the boomers sneaked up on us. For some time, we have seen the warnings and been conscious of the coming "age wave." The problem is that few have taken heed and been moved to act thus

While national leaders warn about the coming collapse of Medicare and Social Security, state lawmakers grow increasingly concerned about meeting the increasing demand and cost of Medicaid long-term care as the boomers age. To stave off the coming disaster, state lawmakers need to respond quickly to embrace every ounce of the limited federal flexibility available

Most Medicaid reformers look to how states can encourage people to plan for their longterm care through private long-term care insurance. Too often, these lawmakers think that merely educating people on the differences of Medicaid and Medicare and which pays for long-term care will be enough to reshape people's behavior. But the truth is that it doesn't matter whether long-term care is paid for by Medicare, Medicaid, or Santa Claus - the important thing is that somebody pays, and we know this because people are not going with-

The more important thing is for federal and state officials to recognize why they have a problem with long-term care. To wit, the government's been giving it away since 1965, crowding out private financing alternatives like personal spend down, reverse mortgages and long-term care insurance. It's no wonder most Texans don't worry about long-term care, use their home equity to pay for it, or purchase long-term care insurance against the risk, and instead end up dependent upon public assistance for long-term care as the only alternative to consuming their own wealth and their heirs' inheritances.

The second thing is that although Medicaid, the primary payer of long-term care services in Texas, is a means-tested public assistance program, it is actually rather easy to qualify for Medicaid long-term care services. Generous eligibility guidelines and well-known and exploited loopholes make it easy for Texans with substantially higher income and assets to qualify by purchasing exempt assets with otherwise countable resources and retaining the counsel of Medicaid estate planning specialists.

Medicaid is too often used as inheritance insurance for those who have resources that should be used to support their own long-term care. Although Medicaid was intended to be a safety net for the few who truly have no other alternatives for their long-term care needs, it now serves the poor and prosperous alike and allows people to plan for Medicaid to pay their bills. As a consequence, the program will soon feel the weight of a growing caseload among those who are already the program's most expensive population to serve, which will threaten the safety net for the truly needy.

What should Texas policy makers do about this? To a large degree, their hands are tied by federal laws and regulations. But to the extent that they can, they must begin to target Medicaid to the truly needy and use the savings to educate the public about long-term care and to incentivize the use of private financing alternatives

As a result, seniors will get better access to higher quality care across a wider spectrum of care if they pay privately, and Medicaid will be able to do a better job for a smaller number of people who truly need it. The long-term care market will respond in kind, giving people the services they demand at the best prices. Competition will reward providers richly for providing benefits that the people want, and those seeking long-term care services whether at home or in an institutional setting, will have greater choice with better quality.

Perhaps most importantly, people will have an interest and an opportunity to plan for their own long-term care.

Of all the examples where government programs have crowded out private activity, the most egregious and fiscally damaging have been the impacts of Medicare and Medicaid on planning for long-term care. Our window of opportunity to set these programs back on sound footing is quickly closing and nothing short of fundamental reform will do. If we continue to deny the problem and simply kick it forward into the future, we will find that the "inheritance" we're trying to leave for our kids may not be enough to cover the tax bill with which we've stuck them.

Stephen Moses (smoses@centerItc.com) is president of the Center for Long-Term Care Reform in Seattle www.centerItc.com) and a Senior Research Fellow at the Texas Public Policy Foundation in Austin, Texas oses' new report on Medicaid Long-Term Care in Texas is available through the Foundation au

Federal **Transportation** Cuts

AUSTIN The Texas Department of Transportation is seeking public input on how best to respond to an anticipated mandate for Texas to return approximately \$290 million in federal highway funds to Washington.

Although the Federal Highway Administration has not issued an official notice, a appropriations for Fiscal 2007 escinded more than \$3.4 billion in previously authorized transportation funds across the nation. TxDOT has been advised Texas will be required to return approximately \$290 million in unobligated federalaid highway funds.

On Thursday, March 22, the Transportation Texas Commission will hold a special meeting to receive public comment on how implement the expected order to return federal funding. The hearing will begin at 9 a.m. at TxDOT headquarters, 125 East 11th St. in Austin.

"We want to hear from the public on how we should prepare to absorb these funding cuts," said Mike Behrens, TxDOT executive director. "We would like to have as little impact as possible on our ability to meet our goals to reduce congestion, enhance safety, expand economic opportunity, improve air quality and increase the value of transportation assets.'

TxDOT anticipates it will have less than a month to respond once official notice comes from Washington, according to Behrens.

During the last 15 months, Texas has returned \$305 million in response to federal funding cuts.

Public Hearing New Website Offers Topic: Expected Valuable Information on Pecans

Newswise — A virtual encyclopedia of pecan-related information is now available online — just in time for National Pecan Month (April). The National Pecan Shellers Association (NPSA) has redesigned its website, www.ilovepecans.org, to educate culinary and health professionals, food technologists and the general public about the nutritional benefits, variety of uses and all-around great taste of pecans. The new NPSA website features the Internet's most comprehensive collection of data on pecan health studies —and explains in an easy-to-understand way the meaning of those studies.

Under the creative direction of Kellen Interactive, the redesign brings the site's most valuable content to the surface. The

new site features, among other items:
A special section for health professionals and educators, fearecent resolution continuing turing a detailed overview of the health benefits associated with eating pecans, a recap of all major health studies on pecans, a nutritional breakdown of pecans, and frequently asked questions about pecans;

A history of pecans and the pecan industry in the U.S.;Recipes with complimentary, full-color photos (courtesy the Georgia Pecan Commission); Information on National Pecan Month; A section for food service and commercial users with technical information on using pecans as an ingredient; and Contact information for companies that produce the world's highest quality pecan products.

"As public awareness of the health benefits of pecans continues to rise, the new site will be a useful resource to consumers, health professionals and food industry professionals who want to learn more about these nutritious nuts," said NPSA Executive Director Vickie Mabry.

The National Pecan Shellers Association (NPSA), a non-profit trade association, is committed to educating culinary and health professionals, food technologists and the general public about the nutritional benefits, variety of uses and all around





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