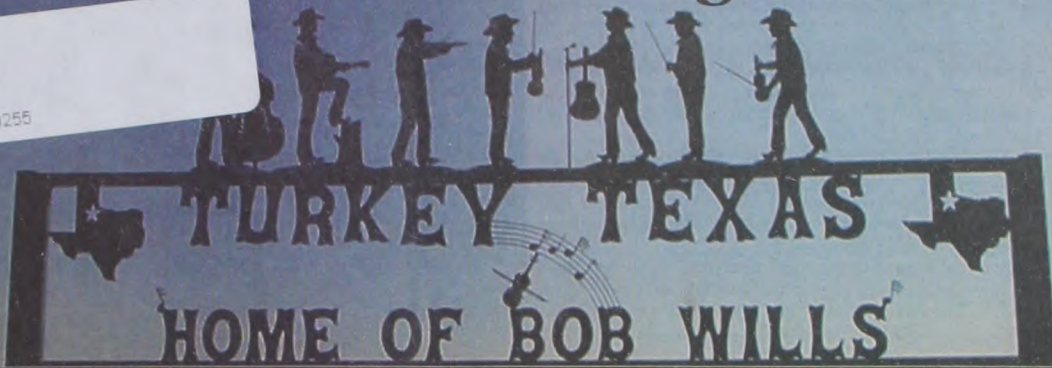


THE VALLEY TRIBUNE

"Voice of the Rolling Plains"

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Volume 47 Number 38 * Quitaque, Texas 79255 * Serving ~ Briscoe ~ Hall ~ Motley ~ Counties * Thursday, April 10, 2008

Learn More About Wind Farm Leases April 30 In Memphis

Landowners and ag producers from across the state are making it their business to learn more about the development and benefits of wind farm leases. On Wednesday, April 30, at 9 a.m., the North Rolling Plains Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) will host a meeting in Memphis at the Memphis Community Center, 721 Robertson in Memphis, Texas.

Landowners interested in wind energy are encouraged to attend the meeting. Presenters will provide information about the environmental, ecologic, economic impacts and other concerns for wind energy utilization.

The primary purpose of the meeting is to discuss items landowners and ag producers should consider when leasing their land for wind farm development.

Alan Carmichael, the co-author of a booklet titled "Wind Facts: A Landowners Guide," will give an overview of current wind farm development and discuss what landowners should look for in their leases.

John Crowell, North Rolling Plains RC&D Coordinator said, "From a USDA standpoint, one of the questions we have been asked many times is, "How will a wind farm development on my land affect my CRP, my Conservation Plan or my Farm Program Payments?"

"This is the fourth information meeting on Wind Farm Development the North Rolling Plains RC&D Council has hosted," Crowell said. "We have had an overwhelming response to these meetings. We encourage landowners faced with leasing their land for wind farm to attend. They will leave with a better understanding of what should, and should not, be included in a wind farm lease. Alan also will give them an update on what is happening across the state with wind farm development."

For more information, contact the North Rolling Plains RC&D office in Pampa at 806-669-0312.

Hall County Courthouse Restoration Efforts Will Now Fall On Local Taxpayers Backs

Questions about the Hall County Courthouse restoration are still in the air, after a well attended meeting of the county commissioners ended with a vote to reject a \$296 thousand planning grant from the Texas Historical Commission. One thing is certain no grant money will be used to prepare plans or buy materials to restore the historic building. Commissioners voted not to accept the planning grant that would put Hall County in the running for a potential grant for restoration two years down the road.

The Texas Historical Commission selected Hall County to receive the emergency funds to prepare drawings and plans for application for the restoration grants awarded by the THC for construction. The biggest of these grants to date is around \$5 million, but nobody can say for sure if Hall County would ever receive its share of the construction money or how much would be awarded if the county did.



By rejecting the planning grant, Hall County will not be placed on the waiting list for the future award of a construction grant. Once the planning money was rejected, the commissioners forfeited the county's place in line for financial assistance from THC for full courthouse restoration. The commissioners plan to use county tax dollars to repair the structure as they can. Back in October 2007, as reported in The Valley Tribune, the commissioners suggested that spending

\$50,000 per year of the county budget would be better use of taxpayer money for repair and maintenance. As opposed to spending 15% (\$900,000.00) of taxpayer money for matching funds for the approximately \$6 million grant that would be required to restore the courthouse.

They began this process in a special called meeting on March 21 by soliciting bids to remove the bat population and discussing replacing the electrical wiring in the courthouse. According to the Texas Historical Commission, all work (outside routine maintenance) done to the structure must be approved by the THC because of the building's designation on the historic register. According to commissioners, legal counsel advised them that they did not need THC approval for work items done to the courthouse if no THC grant money was accepted by the county. The THC information provided on their website indicated that any historically designated building, whether receiving a grant or not must follow certain rules to maintain the historical integrity of the building, above regular maintenance. These changes must be presented in writing to the THC by the commissioners court before any changes can be made.

Both sides of this argument, whether to accept grant funds or go it alone have very valid points. The fact is, both arguments are based on pure speculation. No assurance can be made that the construction grant, if awarded to Hall County, will cover completely the expenses incurred by the county (outside the 15% matching pledge). There is absolutely no sure way to predict what dollar amount the county would receive or what the expense of restoration would be.

The figures provided by Architect, Arthur Weinman, take inflation and rising costs into account, but there is no absolute truth to the estimated \$6 million projected cost of restoration. According to the architect, the projected total cost of restoration is \$6,949,119.54. The estimated cost of construction documents, consultants, and reimbursables is \$437,061.00. The planning grant and the matching funds from the county come off the top of the original construction estimate leaving \$6,512,058.54 remaining for the second construction grant. The estimated amount needed by the county in the second grant is \$5,535,249.75 with the county providing \$976,808.78 in either in-kind or matching money.

This brings the architect's prediction of the total expense to the county to \$1,121,863.56. Some projects have already been completed that could be used to satisfy part of the balance due from the county. The construction of the new steps outside the courthouse plus all architect fees paid to date would count toward the county's obligation. These projects have knocked off around \$210,000 from the county's potential expense.

But, why even talk about the grant scenario when that issue is dead. Maybe it's not. Although the initial deadline to accept or reject the planning grant of April 1 has passed, the commissioners could still rescind their original resolution to reject the funds and accept the THC planning grant. They briefly discussed the possibility of taking the grant acceptance to a popular vote in the November election. According to one commissioner, there are no plans to consider accepting the planning grant money at this time.

Other counties like Donley and Wheeler have gone through the restoration process and were left with significant debt due to lack of adequate grant funding. What if the construction grant does not cover all the cost of construction? Again, speculation comes into play. If the construction grant did not pay for the entire cost, minus the 15% county match, the remainder of the funds would come from the county on top of their 15%. Without grants, the commissioners will restore and improve the courthouse with tax money as it is available. All improvements, plans, construction and consultant fees will be paid with county money.

This story was taken in part from an article in the Hall County Herald and requested for reprint in the Valley Tribune by the Hall County Historical Commission.

Bob Wills Days In Turkey Texas April 24, 25 & 26

Make Plans Now To Attend

For more information contact: Turkey City Hall at 806--423-1033



Darryl Sparkman Of Quanah Wows Jamboree Crowd

This past Saturday after a great meal the jamboree crowd were treated to a great evening of fine country music at the Gem Theatre. First on the program were the mother-daughter team of Jamie and Kelcy Timmons, whose selection of music was well received by the crowd. Their selections included "Between Your Heart and Mine" and Ray Price's "Crazy Arms" were a few of their songs. They concluded with a great version of "I'll Fly Away".

The following act was the Hacketts, Jacob and Jordan, who received standing ovations for many of their songs. Their set was a lot of Bob Wills music including "Take Me Back To Tulsa" and "Milk Cow Blues", "It's A Sin" and a rousing fiddle tune "Cotton Eye Joe".

Quanah's Darryl Sparkman was up last and he performed a real fine selection of Hank Williams, Hank Thompson and Merle Haggard songs including "You Win Again", "Your Cheating Heart", "Okie From Muskogee" and "Wild Side of Life". His set was voted by the audience as the best of the evening and he was awarded the \$100 first prize, donated by Billy Ray Hardcastle and the Quitaque Masonic lodge.

The Turkey Gems were, as always, great with the musicians all having a chance to exhibit their particular talents. Glenn Waters showed he was also a great banjo player with his rendition of the old fiddle tune "Going Up Cripple Creek". Benny Brown did a solo on guitar of the "Bells of St Mary's", which was roundly applauded. Dewayne and Melody Pettiet closed the show with melody doing "Blue Moon of Kentucky" and Dewayne doing the ballad "Lucky Me".

We all hope to see ya'll on Saturday May 3 at the beautiful restored and historical Gem Theatre in downtown Turkey, Texas.



Outgoing president, Bill Smith, receives a gift of appreciation for his leadership and service to the Caprock Partners Foundation. Presentation by board member, Wilburn Leeper. Photo by Phil Barefield.

ON THE QT

By Patsy Herrington

Looking back over the years, one of the things most clearly remembered about the Texas Panhandle where we live is the presence and sound of the wind. Sometimes it blows perpetually; at times it is shrunken to a lively breeze, at others pounding down the Caprock, howling and rattling doors and windows. Last Friday was an exception. It was a perfectly still, marvelously beautiful, glorious day, and it seemed almost a sin to stay indoors.

Now we are glad we have it, the wind that is, for the prospect of its advantage in restoring our economy with the wind turbines and the promise of wonderful things to come in the future of wind power. Glory, hallelujah! Also, what would our early settlers have done without the wind power of the windmills? Sunday afternoon was also lovely!

Myra Brown went to a doctor last Monday a week ago in Lubbock and met with a specialist of Parkinsonism. He scheduled her for surgery to relieve her symptoms- a new procedure. Benny Brown accompanied her. Benny and Myra had dinner with Patsy (Brown) and Billy Rhoderick while there. Patsy and Billy are former residents of Quitaque and patsy a sister of Benny and also Robin Brown, Quitaque.

Jim and Donna Taylor of Amarillo were her running the north hotel (the Sportsman Lodge) during the Enduro Races. They were accompanied by her cousin, Doug Bingham, part owner, and his mother, Mary Sue Bingham, both of Amarillo. Mary Sue, almost 88, says "she enjoys and looks forward to coming to Quitaque so much!" Mary Sue is a sister of Bobby and Billy McWilliams. Doug Bingham is a court reporter in Amarillo and Stinnett, but also has business here.

Sadly Dona Browning of Turkey, 97, recently passed away in a rest home in Matador. D.W. (Bumpy) Farley, a former Turkey resident, is very ill down in Decatur. He's the former husband of Melanie Brown, sister of Benny and Robin Brown. The family requests prayers.

Bob Hinkle's mother, of Abilene, has been ill, but is doing much better. Arlene Purcell Hinkle took her husband, Bob, to the doctor Friday. Arlene does a wonderful job of running the Quitaque Library, works hard at the Thrift Shop, and just about anything else that needs doing around here.

Debbie Cagle had her husband, Lonnie, her son Wade, and her grandson Dustin here for Easter from Canadian.

Donna Hamilton gave blood here Friday, then went back to the Hardware Store and passed out. An ambulance took her to Lockney Hospital.

Joyce King Price had her last chemo treatment last week and will soon start radiation, which won't be nearly so bad. She's started back to work at Caprock Canyons State Park.

Lex Herrington came down to Quitaque Friday from Floydada to check on things out at the farm, then took his mother, Patsy, out to eat that night.

Joan Helms, had breast surgery last week which came back with a good report.

Greg and Susan Ramsey and family took the weekend off to travel to Lubbock to help their son, Zack, celebrate his 21st birthday.

Linda Gamanco of California visited her friend, Jill Johnson, recently. Years ago they worked together in Chicago for Playboy Magazine.

Jim Taylor of Amarillo has written a song and put it on DVD, 'Another Day at Quitaque'. It is rather cute.

Henrietta Finney Price spent last weekend with her son and wife Bob and Kaylene Kayser and grandson of Lubbock. She returned home Sunday night.

Everything is greening up out at the State Park. It's a good way to view God's handiwork and the awesome beauty of His creation. "The Earth is Filled with His Glory".

OBITUARIES

Dona B. Browning

Dona B. Browning, 97, of Turkey died April 01, 2008 in Crosbyton, Texas. Services were 2:00 p.m. Thursday April 03 at the Church of Christ in Turkey with Barry Ezra and J. Henderson officiating. Burial was in Dreamland Cemetery under the direction of Myers-Chancellor Funeral Home.

Dona was born October 6, 1910 in Hall County to Horace and Arena Augberg Mullin. She married Jess Browning in 1929.

Mrs. Browning was a lifetime member of the Church of Christ in Turkey. She worked many years as a Store Clerk for Lacy Dry Goods in Turkey. After moving to Rising Star, she was an active member of the Senior Citizens Club and Star Pride.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 1992, six brothers and three sisters.

She is survived by a daughter, Tommie Jo Cruse of Turkey, one son, E.J. Browning and his wife Mary of Rising Star, seven grandchildren, twenty-two great grandchildren, and ten great-great grandchildren.

I have made mistakes, but I have never made the mistake of claiming that I never made one.

~ James Bennett

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Adults Who Eat Apples Have Lower Risk for Metabolic Syndrome

Newswise — Not eating your apple a day? Perhaps you should be. Adults who eat apples, apple juice and applesauce have a significantly reduced risk of metabolic syndrome, a cluster of health problems that are linked to numerous chronic diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

The study results, presented at the Experimental Biology 2008 meeting this week, were derived from an analysis of adult food consumption data collected in the 1999-2004 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), the government's largest food consumption and health database.

Dr. Victor Fulgoni analyzed the data, specifically looking at the association between consumption of apples and apple products, nutrient intake and various physiological parameters related to metabolic syndrome. When compared to non-consumers, adult apple product consumers had a 27% decreased likelihood of being diagnosed with metabolic syndrome.

In addition to having a 30% decreased likelihood for elevated diastolic blood pressure and a 36% decreased likelihood for elevated systolic blood pressure, apple product consumers also had a 21% reduced risk of increased waist circumference — all predictors of cardiovascular disease and an increased likelihood of metabolic syndrome. Additionally, adult apple product consumers had significantly reduced C-reactive protein levels, another measurable marker related to cardiovascular risk.

Furthermore, apple product consumers' diets were healthier than non-consumers — they had a greater intake of fruit and key nutrients, including dietary fiber, vitamins A and C, calcium and potassium. These consumers also ate less total fat, saturated fat, discretionary fat and added sugars.

Metabolic syndrome is believed to affect an estimated 36 million Americans.

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* Diabetic Desserts Available

This Week's Menu Sponsored By: **Caprock Cellular GSM**

FLOMOT NEWS

By Earlyne Jameson

OVERHEARD

A politician should have three hats. One for throwing into the ring, one for talking through and one for pulling rabbits out of if elected!

Motley County A Little Greener Following A Little Rain In March

Wheat and pasture land have made Motley County a little greener after a rain March 17 followed by light sprinkles of rain during the month. Gusting winds blew two and three days out of every week, but this was march known for the winds!

Farms plows are moving across cultivated land cleaning up and listing rows with herbicide applications.

Dryland operations, which majority of Motley County has, would need an average of 3.62 inches of water to fill their fields before planting according to district's annual pre-plant soil moisture survey.

Rain totals for march reported by the Motley County National Weather Service Volunteers; Buzz Thacker, Roaring Springs-1.26; Ronnie Bailey, Matador-1.90; Lawrence Allen, Whiteflat-1.10; Clois Shorter, Flomot-1.00 and Betty Simpson, Northfield-0.80 inches.

April Showers Bring May Flowers At Do Gooders; Club Monthly Meeting

The Do Gooders' Club met Tuesday afternoon April 1st at the Community Center in Flomot and were pleased with the spring decorations depicting "April Showers Bring May Flowers". Mrs. Erma Washington and Mrs. Brenda Browning presided at a lime green and hot pink designed service. The table was laid with a lime green cloth and centered with a wild flower spring bouquet in a pink basket. Adding to the colorful decor, butterflies and beads were arranged on the table.

They served refreshments of vegetables with assorted dips, dirt cake in flower pot with decorated tulip cookies and gummy worms of candy extending from the pot. The beverage was cherry lime punch served in crystal glasses with a cherry and pink and lime straws in each glass.

Mrs. Browning conducted the business meeting. They discussed having needed plumbing done at the Community Center. They put the Flomot Homecoming quilt in a frame. They will begin quilting two days a week until it is completed.

Those attending were Mesdames Anna Beth Clay, Waydetta Clay, Connie Franks, Brenda Browning, Erma Washington, Nada Starkey, Cally Sperry, B. Rogers and Kathy Shorter.

Guests in the home of Shonda and Roger Lee this week were her daughters, Mrs. Jessica Schupbach and daughter, Waveland of Denver, Colorado and Jenne and son Paxton of Dallas.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ike Clay enjoyed Little Dribblers basketball tournament last Saturday in Hedley in which grandchildren, Ryleigh and Walker Carson of Turkey competed. This weekend they were in Wellington to attend the Little Dribblers basketball tournament in which Walker played.

Janice and Butch Hughes visited in Floydada, Thursday with son and family, Roger and Tiffany Hughes, Tara, Reagan and Brodie.

Mrs. Erma Washington and daughter, Mrs. Connie Franks attended Little Dribblers basketball tournament in Silverton, Saturday in which grandson and nephew, Caleb Clary of Matador played.

L.T. Starkey of Ralls accompanied his brother, Johnie Starkey to Amarillo, Wednesday for a medical appointment at the Veterans' Hospital.

Mrs. Judy Rhodes of Cypress and Beverly and Louis Shorter and Megan of Fort Worth visited the weekend with their father, L.E. Shorter and brother and wife, Clois and Kathy Shorter. Kathy and houseguests, Mrs. Cindy Calvert and Cade of Istanbul, Turkey, Judy Rhodes, Beverly Shorter and Kathy's daughters Mrs. Christi Milam, Haley and Emily of Petersburg and Mrs. Keri Sehon of Ropesville attended a baby shower in Lockney given for Mrs. Salena mark Saturday afternoon.

Nada and Jack Starkey were in Amarillo, Thursday for her a medical check up. They visited Bessie and Clifton Reid and in Canyon with Mr. and Mrs. Michael Starkey.

Mary Ellen "Dude" Barton attended the Ken Young Photography Exhibit Sunday afternoon at the Motley County Library in Matador.

Wilburn Martin attended to business in Plainview during the week.

Cally and Will Sperry, Blayne, Savannah, Cash and Gage attended Little Dribblers basketball tournament in Wellington this weekend in which Blayne and Savannah played.



COOK'S CORNER

BY LAURA TAYLOR

Looking for something to feed your bunch before you head out for your evening activities. Here are 4 great supper ideas that are easy on your budget. Just add a fresh salad and your done!

Chicken Spaghetti

1 Chicken, boiled, deboned and broken into small pieces
16 oz Package Spaghetti, cooked & drained

1 c. Chopped onion
1 c. Bell pepper, chopped
4 oz Jar pimentos
1 can Cream of Mushroom soup

1 small can Evaporated Milk
1/2 c butter
1/2 lb Velveta, cubed
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
2 c. Cheddar cheese, shredded

Salt & pepper to taste
Saute onion and bell pepper in butter. Add pimentos, soup, evaporated milk and worcestershire. Bring to a boil, add velveta cheese and stir until cheese is melted. Add in spaghetti, mix thoroughly, top with grated cheese and bake at 350 for 25 minutes.

Stuffed Bell Peppers

6 Bell Peppers
1 lb Extra Lean Hamburger or Ground Turkey

1 c. Minute Rice, cooked as directed
1/2 c. Onion, chopped
1 clove garlic, minced
1 tsp. Salt

1/2 tsp pepper
2 8 oz can tomato sauce
Brown hamburger or turkey, add in salt, pepper, onion and garlic, cook until tender. Add in 1 can tomato sauce and rice. Stuff bell peppers with mixture and top with tomato sauce. Cover and bake in 350 degree oven for 1 hour.

Mexican Lasagna

1 1/2 lb Ground Beef
1 onion, chopped
1 clove garlic, minced
2 16 oz cans diced tomatoes
1 1/2 tsp. Taco Seasoning
1 tsp. Salt

1 Egg
1/2 lb Cottage Cheese
8 Corn Tortillas
1 C. Cheddar Cheese
3/4 lb. Monterey jack Cheese

Sm can Black Olives, sliced
Brown meat and onions, add garlic, tomatoes, taco seasoning and salt. Set aside. C combine egg and cottage cheese. In 9x13 pan layer meat mixture, tortillas, cottage cheese, cheddar cheese and Monterey Jack cheese. Top with olives. Cover and bake at 375 degrees for 1 hour.

Polish Sausage & Potatoes

14 oz Polish or Turkey kielbasa, sliced
1 tbs Butter
3 tbs Flour
1/2 tsp Salt
1/2 tsp Pepper
1/2 tsp Garlic Powder
2 c Milk
2 c. Potatoes, sliced
2 c. Cabbage, shredded
1 Onion, chopped

Brown sausage over medium heat. For white sauce, melt butter in saucepan. Stir in flour and seasonings until smooth. Gradually add milk. Bring to a boil and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Remove from heat. In 3 qt baking dish, coated with Pam, layer a third of potatoes, cabbage, onion, sausage and white sauce. Repeat layers twice. Cover and bake in 350 degree oven for 1 hour.

A man is his own easiest dupe, for what he wishes to be true he generally believes to be true.
- Demosthenes

Nothing is really work unless you would rather be doing something else.
- Sir James Barrie

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ACROSS

- TX JoBeth film: "___": His Song Continues"
- this Karolyi was coach of U.S. gymnastics team in 2000 Olympics
- 5-across worked for this org. (abbr.)
- TX-born Evelyn Keyes film: "___ With the Wind"
- TXism: "high time you did it"
- in Harris Co. on I-45
- western "High ___"
- TX Siral's "___ Expect It From You"
- TXism: "It'll ___ in a pinch"
- what you run at a honky tonk (2 wds.)
- the old man
- Houston pro baseball team
- moving stairs
- Nazi surrender Day
- TXism: "sticks like road"
- star of the former Dallas Sidekicks
- this Warren was in "Tough Enough" with TX Quaid
- Valley fruit organization: "Texas ___"
- layers
- TXism: "___ lady (prostitute)
- teaching helper at a TX college (abbr.)

DOWN

- Aggie "12th Man" coach ___ X. Bible
- TX Kelly Clarkson's label: ___ Records
- TXism: "a shy dog don't ___ no biscuits"
- "The Ryan ___"
- TXism: "does a wet dog stink?"
- 50-across threw seven ___-hitters
- Athens, TX and Seymour, ___ claim "home of the hamburger"
- TXism: "size 'em up"
- TX ___ Million Gates"
- scout out of there
- TXism for "in ___ addition" (2 wds.)
- TXism: "up and at ___ juice" (coffee)
- ___ River
- Littlefield ISD: ___ gets lost in the crowd"
- saloons in England
- home of the Permian Panthers
- tech univ. in Jerry's home state (abbr.)
- Texas Tech "Red ___"
- poke fun at: ___ in Austin: ___ Edwards University
- Ryan of "D.O.A." with TX Quaid straws"
- TXism: "mouth ___ (drinks)
- short horn blast
- Acton State Park is a cemetery
- "you'll ___ the day
- hombres
- across the border from Del Rio: Ciudad ___
- TXism: "you're grabbin' ___ straws"
- Ablene's Dyess was a ___ base
- TX-based film: "A ___ to Bountiful"
- ___ Club
- TXism: "covered like white ___"
- dry heat baths
- "Whampus ___"

The Original TEXAS CROSSWORD
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Smoked Sausage....12 oz.....\$1 ²⁹	Burritos...5 oz.....2 for 89¢
Regular Bar S	Eggo 10.7-16.4 oz
Sliced Bacon....12 oz.....2 for \$3 ⁰⁰	Pancakes or Waffles.....2 for \$4 ⁰⁰
Crisp	Golden Layers or Golden Homestyle
Iceberg Lettuce...ea.....69¢	Pillsbury Biscuits....6 oz.....79¢
Salad Size	Fresh & Creamy
Avocados.....2 for \$1 ⁰⁰	Parkay Spread....4.1 oz.....\$2 ⁹⁹
Spicy	Arden 3-5 Count Bar Mops or
Jalapenos...1 lb.....79¢	Kitchen Towels.....\$3 ⁹⁹
Red Ripe	Western Family Tablets or Caplets
Tomatoes...1 lb.....99¢	Ibuprofen...100 ct.....\$2 ⁹⁹
Texas 1015 Sweet	Western Family Whitening or Cavity Control
Yellow Onions.....2 lbs \$1 ⁰⁰	Toothpaste...6.4-8.2 oz.....4 for \$5 ⁰⁰
Fresh	
Broccoli Crowns...1 lb.....99¢	
Whole	
Mushrooms...8 oz.....2 for \$3 ⁰⁰	
Garden Fresh	
Broccoli Crowns...1 lb.....99¢	
Peeled	
Baby Carrots...1 lb.....99¢	
Red Ripe	
Strawberries...1 lb.....2 for \$4 ⁰⁰	
Tangy	
Lemons.....4 for \$1 ⁰⁰	

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Valley School Lunch Menu

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Monday, April 14

Breakfast: Breakfast on a Stick, Syrup, OJ/Milk

Lunch: Lasagne, Ceasar Salad, Apricots, Garlic Bread, Milk

Tuesday, April 15

Breakfast: Cereal, Toast, Jelly, OJ/Milk

Lunch: Oven Fried Chicken, Ranch Potatoes, Green Beans, Biscuits, Honey, Milk

Wednesday, April 16

Breakfast: French Toast, Sausage, Syrup, OJ/Milk

Lunch: Frito Chili Pie, Kosher Dills, Orange Slices, Milk

Thursday, April 17

Breakfast: Pop Tarts, OJ/Milk

Lunch: Pepperoni Hot Pockets, Corn, Mandarin Oranges & Pineapple, Milk

Friday, April 18

Breakfast: Biscuits, Sausage, Jelly, OJ/Milk

Lunch: Ham & Cheese Hoagies, Salad, Chips, Cookies, Milk



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THE PATRIOT

Valley School News

Valley Tennis Teams Excel At District

By Susan Ramsey

Valley traveled to Lubbock last Tuesday & Wednesday to participate in the District 4A Tennis Meet. There were teams present from Patton Springs, Motley County, Paducah, Lorenzo, Petersburg, Cotton Center, and Amhurst. The Valley teams did very well, as the boys team won the District Title and the girls team finished in second.

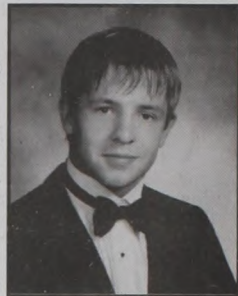
On the boys side, Brady Ramsey defended his District Title by winning the boys singles title. Justin Rucker also advanced to Regional by winning a playback match and taking second place. Jacob Hancock & Isaac Smith also repeated this year as boys doubles champions.

Armando Mendoza and Mariela Mendoza won the mixed doubles championship, and Savannah Smith & Jacy Proctor won the girls doubles title. Lauren Young and Lacie Pointer also competed in the girls singles bracket and both advanced to the quarterfinals.

This was quite an accomplishment for the tennis teams, as eight players advanced to the Regional Tournament in Leveland, which will be played on the 23rd & 24th of this month. Way to go kids and Coach Ramsey!

Senior Spotlight

Name: Justin Rucker
Age: 18
Parents: Donna Rucker
Favorite Color: Orange
If you could be a Disney cartoon character who would it be? Wolverine
If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? I would go to a deserted island
Most embarrassing moment: When the state trooper was at my house after my wreck
Favorite Valley school memory: Beating Happy on their homecoming
Favorite website: Myspace.com
Favorite movie: The Notebook
Favorite Food: Pizza
If you were any element on the periodic table, which one would you be and why? Nickel, because someday I will be made of money.
Favorite sport: Football
Favorite athlete: John Elway
When I grow up I want to be like...why? No answer
Favorite book: The Bible
If you could be any character from a book or movie, who would it be? Spiderman
Favorite thing to do with your friends: Spend the whole day in Lubbock
Favorite school subject: Home Economics
Favorite beverage: Dr. Pepper & Coke mixed
Favorite TV show: High School Reunion
What is your favorite/lucky number: 4
What type of music do you like the most: Alternative Rock
What is your best physical characteristic: Probably my legs
Who do you look up to the most? My mom and grandmother
What is your planned major: Sports Education or Health Science
In 10 years I will be? Married, working as a strength coach, and very successful



Senior Spotlight

Name: Savannah Vivian Smith
Age: 17
Parents: Stuart & Vivian Smith
Favorite Color: Purple
If you could be a Disney cartoon character who would it be? Cinderella so I can kiss Prince Charming
If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? Switzerland
Most embarrassing moment: At district track meet I was walking, not looking where I was going and out in front of everyone fell over a hurdle...!
Favorite Valley school memory: Homecoming 2007, getting crowned Homecoming Queen
Favorite website: Myspace or Google
Favorite movie: 13 Going On 30 or Step Up
Favorite Food: Beef Stroganoff
If you were any element on the periodic table, which one would you be and why? Gold, because I am worth alot
Favorite sport: Cheerleading/basketball
Favorite athlete: Steve Nash
When I grow up I want to be like...why? My mom because she is a faithful Christian and she loves her family!
Favorite book: A Walk To Remember
If you could be any character from a book or movie, who would it be? Allie from The Notebook
Favorite thing to do with your friends: Hangout with Jasmin and Leslie in Lubbock
Favorite school subject: LUNCH
Favorite beverage: Diet vanilla Coke at Sonic
Favorite TV show: American Idol or America's Next Top Model
What is your favorite/lucky number: 10
What type of music do you like the most: Country
What is your best physical characteristic: Eyes or my long black hair
Who do you look up to the most? My dad
What is your planned major: Business/General Management
In 10 years I will be? Hopefully married, with family owning my own hair salon, Curl Up and Dye, in Texas somewhere living in a beautiful house.



Tips To Make Your Morning Worry and Hurry Free

* Create an area in your house outfitted with hooks for backpacks, gym bags, jackets and shoes. Post a dry erase board and calendar nearby with schedules so everyone in the house knows what to pack on each day. Consult the calendar and pack backpacks and briefcases the night before.

* Set a specific time and routine for bedtime, especially during the week, to allow for an easier walk-up. Streamline your mornings by keeping the TV off. Do the same things in the same order every morning to help prevent getting sidetracked.

* Don't wait until the morning to decide what you are going to pack for lunch. Set aside items such as baby carrots, pretzels, string cheese and yogurt for lunch the night before. In the morning, just grab it and go.

By Marco... Just like some fem... Agric... L. Pitts-S... influence... that may... up reside... growers... Some... cavities... boards, t... and beek... they need... Wild b... rently pla... disorder... nating in... Unit in L... Scient... lignaria)... that othe... lematica... causing... To fin... investiga... pollen, k... In one... approxi... fluid that... ticated la... informat... Perhaps... other, th... ously occ... investiga... to make...

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ALLSUP'S WHEAT BREAD 24 OZ. / \$1.09 EACH OR	2 FOR \$1.89
TENDER CRUST HOT DOG BUNS 8 CT. BAG	\$1.39
BAR-S TURKEY BREAST 12 OZ.	\$2.59
BAR-S MEAT FRANKS 12 OZ.	89¢
ALLSUP'S ICE 8 LBS. BAG	\$1.59
WIRED ENERGY DRINK SELECT GROUP 23.5 OZ.	2 FOR \$5.00
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COMBO NO. 5 SPICY POPCORN CHICKEN & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.69	COMBO NO. 10 2 BEEF & BEAN BURRITOS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.59



Studies of the blue orchard bee—shown here visiting an apple blossom—may reveal new ways to lure these proficient pollinators to live and work in orchards and fields. Image courtesy T. L. Pitts-Singer.

Creating Homes That Please America's Wild Bees

By Marcia Wood

Just like people who are looking for a perfect place to live, some female bees search for the ideal place to build their nests.

Agricultural Research Service (ARS) entomologist Theresa L. Pitts-Singer is discovering more about the "nesting cues" that influence wild bees' house-hunting decisions. It's information that may help entice more of the hardworking pollinators to take up residence in new, ready-to-occupy nesting structures that growers and beekeepers provide.

Some bees like living in snug, dark recesses called "nesting cavities." These range from deep holes drilled into wooden boards, to bundles of cardboard tubes or hollow reeds. Growers and beekeepers place bee housing in orchards and fields where they need the bees to live and work.

Wild bees augment the work of the European honey bee, currently plagued by a puzzling problem known as colony collapse disorder. That's according to Pitts-Singer, with the ARS Pollinating Insect Biology, Management and Systematics Research Unit in Logan, Utah.

Scientists already know that female blue orchard bees (*Osmia lignaria*) and certain other wild bees prefer to nest in cavities that other females of their species once occupied. That's problematic because old nests may be contaminated with disease-causing spores.

To find out what's making old nests alluring, Pitts-Singer is investigating components from the old homes, including old pollen, leaves, mud, and a fluid bees apply to cavity walls.

In one test, Pitts-Singer and colleagues used glass tubes to approximate drilled nesting holes, then collected the now-dry fluid that bees had left on walls. The scientists are using sophisticated laboratory instruments to glean some of the first-ever information about the chemical composition of the fluid.

Perhaps secreted by bees to differentiate one home from another, the fluid may also add to the overall appeal of a previously occupied nesting site. If that's the case, Pitts-Singer's investigations might lead to using synthetic versions of the fluid to make tomorrow's new nesting structures more inviting.

Transparency, A Key Government Responsibility

By Susan Combs, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

You pay for your government, and you deserve to know how it spends your money.

That philosophy is gaining traction. State and federal governments are making transparency a priority, opting to make many records freely accessible, rather than keeping the public waiting for information requests.

From the beginning of my tenure at the Comptroller's office, we prioritized transparency efforts. On day three, we published this agency's expenditures online — down to the pencils — and posted other agencies' expenditure data in short order.

Building upon those efforts, our office created Where the Money Goes, an online database for viewing state agency spending. Expenditures in the database are searchable by vendor name, expenditure category or agency name. With that kind of easy access to the information and numbers that make public institutions tick, taxpayers can learn about their government, question decisions, root out inefficiencies and hold officials accountable for the way tax dollars are spent.

Other Texas agencies have begun to embrace the idea that we can better inform taxpayers about spending. Together, our offices are standardizing agency spending reports and focusing an eye toward providing more detailed, consistent pictures of state expenditures in the future.

Transparency is not just a Texas issue. Sen. John Cornyn will soon introduce the Federal Spending and Taxpayer Accessibility Act of 2008. Recognizing the leadership role of our office and Texas state government in transparency initiatives, Sen. Cornyn modeled the bill in part on our efforts. His legislation would expand upon www.usaspending.gov, the national database that allows taxpayers to search for federal contracts and grants.

Technology — and the Web in particular — has changed the expectations for customer service and government transparency at all levels. In a computer- and Internet-based society, we can no longer justify the money and time required to print reports. Publishing information online means no postage, no waiting for the mail, up-to-date documents and worldwide accessibility.

By demystifying state spending and providing easy access to those numbers, we ensure greater accountability to the public. As the window on Texas state government, our office cannot have the blinds pulled down.

For more information on Texas state agency expenditures, visit www.window.state.tx.us.

Eating Beans Helps Lower Cholesterol

By Rosalie Marion Bliss

Consuming as little as one-half cup of cooked dry beans every day helped volunteers lower their total cholesterol levels in an Agricultural Research Service (ARS) study in North Dakota. These results add to a growing—and convincing—body of evidence that beans are a heart healthy food choice.

The lead authors, chemist Philip Reeves and nutritionist John Finley (no longer with ARS), conducted the study at the agency's Grand Forks Human Nutrition Research Center in Grand Forks, N.D. ARS is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific research agency.

The researchers tested 80 volunteers aged 18 to 55 years. Half were healthy, while half had at least two symptoms that lead to metabolic syndrome, a combination of conditions that signal a risk for cardiovascular disease. Those with "pre-metabolic-syndrome" had abdominal obesity and either high triglyceride levels, low HDL "good" cholesterol, high blood sugar, or high blood pressure.

For 12 weeks, half of the group was randomly selected to eat one-half cup of cooked dry pinto beans daily along with their regular daily diet. The others ate a replacement serving of chicken soup instead of the pinto beans. The findings show that, compared to measures taken prior to the 12-week test phase, all the volunteers—the healthy ones as well as those with symptoms—who ate pinto beans saw a reduction in their cholesterol levels.

Scientists Determine Farm Costs of Producing Switchgrass For Ethanol

Following up on a net-energy study published in the January Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), a team of Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) scientists today reports the on-farm economic costs of producing switchgrass for cellulosic ethanol.

In their PNAS energy-analysis paper, the team reported that switchgrass, when used for cellulosic ethanol, yielded over five times more energy than required to produce the fuel. In this month's edition of the journal *BioEnergy Research*, the team describes their study's second part, which examined the farm-scale production costs of switchgrass. Richard Perrin of UNL and Ken Vogel, Marty Schmer and Rob Mitchell—all in the ARS Grain, Forage and Bioenergy Research Unit at Lincoln—conducted the studies.

According to Perrin and Vogel, this study is the most comprehensive one completed to date assessing the economic costs of producing switchgrass biomass on commercial fields. The team contracted with 10 farmers in Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota to commercially grow switchgrass for five years, starting in 2000 and 2001. Throughout the study, the farmers recorded all costs for producing switchgrass biomass, from seed and fertilizer expenses to equipment and labor costs. Total baled biomass yields were recorded for each farm.

On average, switchgrass production costs were \$60 per ton. Two farmers with previous experience growing switchgrass were able to limit production costs to \$39 a ton. They were among a group of five farmers whose production costs were \$50 or less per ton. That's something farmers elsewhere could probably achieve as they, too, gain production experience with switchgrass, the researchers suggest. Based on the \$50-per-ton figure, and assuming a conversion efficiency of 80 to 90 gallons per ton, the farmgate production cost of cellulosic ethanol from switchgrass would be about \$0.55 to \$0.62 per gallon.

Perrin and the ARS agronomists expect production costs will also decline as new, "ethanol-friendly" cultivars are developed.

ARS is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific research agency.

Be courteous to all, but intimate with few, and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence. True friendship is a plant of slow growth, and must undergo and withstand the shocks of adversity before it is entitled to the appellation.

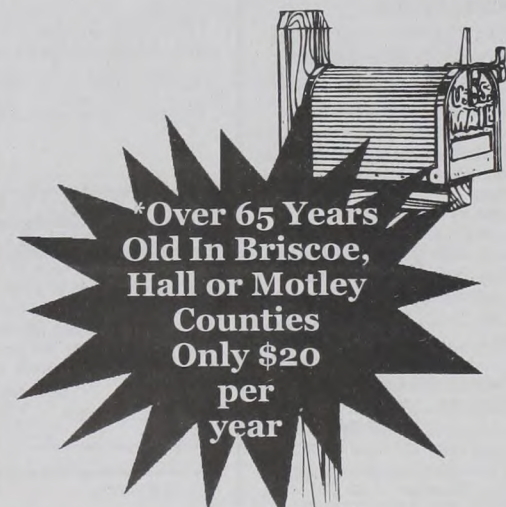
~ George Washington

I believe that imagination is stronger than knowledge - that myth is more potent than history. I believe that dreams are more powerful than facts - that hope always triumphs over experience - that laughter is the only cure for grief. And I believe that love is stronger than death.

~ Robert Fulghum

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Managing Small Acreages For Wildlife Workshop To Be Held At Clarendon College

In today's world, wildlife management and recreation can be an integral part of your ranching operations. With proper management techniques, rangeland habitats can support a variety of wildlife species. If you would like to learn more about managing small acreages for wildlife, plan to attend the upcoming workshop on Thursday, May 8, 2008.

During the morning session, presentations will be held in the Bairfield Building at Clarendon College in Clarendon. After lunch, field exercises will be held at Taylor Lakes Wildlife Management Area (7 miles east of Clarendon). Topics will include Farm Bill Programs, Invasive Brush Management, Riparian Restoration, Prescribed Burning, White-tailed Deer Control, Plant Identification, Forage Inventories, and Grazing Management.

Registration fee is \$15.00 (included catered lunch). Preregistration is required! The workshop will start at 8:30 a.m. and will end at approximately 3:30 p.m. Participants are asked to preregister by May 2, 2008. For more information call Leonard Haynes, Donley County Extension office at 806-874-2141 or Kory Perlichek, Matador WMA at 806-492-3405. CEUs will be offered for those attending the event.

Faster Forage Option for Growers

By Sharon Durham

A new bahiagrass may provide forage growers with a better shot at beating back weeds before they gain a stranglehold on forage pastures. Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists in Tifton, Ga., have developed a cultivar called "TifQuik" that would do just that.

Geneticist Bill Anderson and colleagues in the ARS Crop Genetics and Breeding Research Unit in Tifton developed TifQuik, a bahiagrass with great potential as a forage grass in the Southeast. ARS is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) chief scientific research agency.

Released by the USDA and the University of Georgia (UGA), TifQuik provides faster germination and field establishment than Tifton 9, another USDA/UGA variety that's widely grown for forage.

Most bahiagrass cultivars currently available require two to three weeks to establish a full stand. During this time, weeds may infest the pasture, and moisture for forage seed germination may be restricted.

The sole criterion for selection of plants to develop TifQuik was fast germination. Former ARS agronomist Roger Gates and retired geneticist Wayne Hanna performed four selection cycles, beginning with Tifton 9. Plants were allowed to cross-pollinate, seed was hand-harvested, and that seed was then used to start the final selection cycle in a greenhouse.

In greenhouse studies, the germination rate of TifQuik averaged five times greater than that of Tifton 9 after six days, and three times greater after eight days. One week after planting, TifQuik emerged about 75 percent faster than Tifton 9 and Pensacola, another commonly used forage bahiagrass. Four weeks after planting, TifQuik plants were taller than those of both Tifton 9 and Pensacola.

TifQuik will be particularly valuable to growers wanting to include bahiagrass in a sod-based rotation system with row crops such as peanut and cotton in the Southeast.

What's Your Quail Count?

What's your quail count? A Texas AgriLife Extension Service wildlife specialist and a host of quail enthusiasts want to know. Dr. Dale Rollins of San Angelo said the Trans-Texas Quail Count starts May 1. The grassroots effort is meant to determine the relative abundance of quail across the state. The results, which will be collected from quail-counters all over Texas, will be tabulated to give a good idea of the state's current quail population dynamics.

Rollins hopes to involve volunteers throughout Texas. The count will run from May 1-13 during the prime time that quail roosters begin calling for mates in earnest. "Our goal is to get as many folks out listening for quail calls across the state as possible," Rollins said. "Counters are especially needed in the eastern half of Texas where bobwhite populations are below critical mass for hunting and thus 'politically' not very important."

"Many landowners and quail hunters think their local quail population imploded back in October. One of our objectives of the count is to evaluate the local abundance of quail to determine whether or not this assertion is correct."

The count's other objectives are:

- Bring attention to the plight of quail across Texas.
- Evaluate breeding capital after two consecutive disappointing hunting seasons.
- Demonstrate appreciation for quail among a broad array of stakeholders.
- Identify remnant quail populations, especially in areas of east and central Texas.
- Spark an interest in rekindling struggling quail populations.
- Presence/absence of bobwhites will reflect availability of quail habitat.
- Identify "usable" and non-usable space for quail.

Rollins said counting quail is easy and takes relatively little time. Ideally, counters make six stops at one-mile intervals on a property and listen for quail heard calling during a five minute period at each stop. Though the count period lasts almost two weeks, Rollins said, counters need to make the effort only once; not every day of the period.

"The bobwhite whistle is easily recognized, so training per se is minimal," Rollins said. "Data sheets to record findings are available at: <http://teamquail.tamu.edu>. Hook up with friends, other hunters and a local Bobwhite Brigade youth if you wish, to form your own count team. You really need at least two counters per route so there is some check on precision. The count will only take about three hours of one morning, and it's time well-spent."

Rollins said counts should take place from 7-9 a.m., and counters should record the number of different roosters heard calling, and the total number of quail whistles heard per stop. Once the counts are completed, FAX the findings to Rollins for compilation at 325-658-4364. "Bobwhites are our main focus, but blue-scaled quail could also be included," Rollins said. "Just remember when dealing with the blues that you're listening for the 'whock' song, not the 'chip-chur' call."

Rollins said he sees the count as an excellent opportunity to demonstrate what quail appreciation is all about. "For many who participate, that morning could well be the first time they have ever really discovered the elements of a beautiful morning in an auditory sense," Rollins said. "They will be amazed at how much noise the mockingbirds make, and how far highway noise pollutes the morning's calm. Above all, I hope their efforts are rewarded by hearing at least three quail calling from each stop."

This year's quail count sponsors are AgriLife Extension, Bobwhite Brigade, Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch, Audubon Texas, Texas Master Naturalists and Quail Unlimited.

This is the final test of a gentleman: His respect for those who can be of no possible service to him.
 ~ William Phelps

Let us be silent, that we may hear the whispers of the gods.
 ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Bumper Crops Could Lead to Bagged On-Farm Storage

Jimmy Hayes, a Calhoun County producer, didn't want to take a chance on having to hold his harvest in the field because the grain elevators were full. He researched on-farm storage in the form of polyethylene bags.

These bags are not the typical seed or feed bag size - they are 200 foot long and can hold the equivalent of about four railcar loads of grain, so they are taking the place of storage buildings, Hayes said.

Because Hayes was working with a new product for storage in Texas, he asked Roy Parker, Texas AgriLife Extension Service entomologist from Corpus Christi, to help him determine if the corn would store sufficiently and if the insects could be controlled.

Pat Porter, AgriLife Extension entomologist in Lubbock, presented some of Parker's early findings during the Texas High Plains Grain Elevator Workshop held in Amarillo recently.

"It's an interesting technology that we need to know more about before we can make recommendations," Porter said, adding that he wasn't aware of anyone trying it for grain storage in the High Plains yet.

"With the advent of grains for biofuels, we've found that we don't have enough storage capacity," he said. "This might give us another option."

Parker said storage of corn in polyethylene bags started last spring when growers along the coast anticipated that harvest would be delayed as grain elevators exceeded capacity. "We got involved because people were unsure how the grain would store," he said. "We've had corn in them for about five months now and it still looks good. We took samples of the grain as it went into the bags, had it officially tested, and are now monitoring on a monthly basis. We're taking temperature, moisture readings, bushel weights and counting insects."

In the last two months, Parker said, he's only found one weevil in 16 samples each month. Coming out of the field, the corn had weevils in it, but a month later, there were none. The respiration of the grain is supposed to use up the oxygen resulting in eventual death of the insects. Incubated samples he kept, however, ended up with four weevils per quart sample in two of the 16 samples.

There's been no real problems storing corn in the bags, he said, unless water or rats got in where it wasn't sealed well. An electric fence was placed around the bags to keep feral hogs and other animals out.

He said corn must go into the bags at a moisture level below about 14.5 percent, the ends must be sealed well and the bags should be set up on hard ground.

While the protection looks good so far, the economists still need to look at the method along with insurance considerations and other costs involved, to determine if it is a viable alternative.

"Some are saying this is cheaper to do it this way," he said. "It looks promising for short-term storage, at least in this area."

Hayes believes it is cheaper, and more than just promising. "This county turned a huge amount of grain this last year, and we knew we had to have some storage," Hayes said. "We found this alternative."

In researching the system, most information came from Argentina, Hayes said.

He said he was able to store 7,400-7,500 bushels of corn per 200-foot bag. They have unloaded some of the bags now, and there was no shrink due to loss of moisture. It went into the bag at 14 percent moisture, and it came out at 14 percent moisture, Hayes said.

"It is a dry grain system," he said. "It doesn't work for high moisture corn. We recommend around 14 percent for corn, 13.5 percent for grain sorghum and 12.5-13 for soybeans. The drier it is, the longer the shelf life."

Hayes said he put up eight bags for himself and another eight bags for the local co-op. Several other producers with baggers put up eight bags each. He was the only one who bought an unloader, and he is allowing the other producers to borrow it for now.

When figuring the cost of it compared to a grain tank, he said, a 12-railcar grain tank would have cost \$100,000. This system, the bagger and unloader cost \$40,000, and one bag that would store the equivalent of 4.4 railcar loads cost \$600.

"I'll do it again regardless of the grain situation, because the system is much cheaper than going to commercial storage or building a tank," Hayes said. "The alternative was watching it sit in the field. It's a must for us."

Stephen Tillery, operations manager for Attebury Grain in Amarillo, said while he doesn't see his company using the alternative, it might be one for other commercial grain storage companies or even producers.

"It gives some companies another avenue to store grain without letting it go out of condition," he said. "And, if we keep having good crop years like we did this year, it might be beneficial to the farmer to have some on-farm storage. This would be a viable method for him to keep it for himself for feeding cattle or even (use on) dairies."

He said this was the first time he's seen corn and even wheat on the ground in a long time, and it immediately starts to deteriorate with the first rain or first snow. "The most positive thing about them is the fact you have them there if you need them, but you don't have the high dollar cost of building a building," Tillery said.



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Floydada- Producers Co-op Elevator	983-2821	12:30-1:30 P.M.
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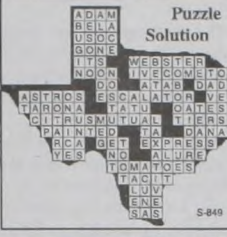
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POLITICAL CALENDAR

The Valley Tribune is authorized to make the following announcements of candidates for off ice subject to the March 2008 primaries and the November, 2008 general elections.

Hall County
Hall Co. Sheriff
Elect
Tim Wiginton

Briscoe County
County Commissioner Pct #1
Elect
Jimmy Burson
Briscoe Co. Sheriff
Elect
Rosalio "Rosey" Hernandez
Political ads paid for by individual candidates

Thank You

Friends in Christ,
We would like to share the true Blessings we have received over the past few weeks from our friends and family. The acts of kindness, gifts of love and above all your time in prayer for our family proves that we all walk in the path of an AWE-SOME GOD. Our prayer is that HE will keep each of you in HIS loving and healing arms.

*In Christ all is possible,
Clyde and Renee Dudley*

We want to say thank you to everyone who helped to make the Turkey Jamboree meal a success; especially to Craig Chancellor of the Turkey General Store for donating the buns. And of course to all of our volunteers from Flomot, Quitaque, Silvertown and Turkey who donated their dessert making talents. We also want to thank those that served the meal. Big thanks to Sandy Fuston for all the work she did at the Gem Theatre before and after the meal. As always our cooks Janice and Kelly did a marvelous job on the meat. Again thanks to everyone who helps keep our homebound friends fed.
Tri-County Meals

We would like to thank everyone for all of your calls, cards and prayers while Billy was in the hospital in Amarillo. We are home now and he is doing much better. A BIG Thank You to Billy Brockett and Frank Cruz who helped me to get Billy up when he fell in the front yard. I couldn't have done it without your help. We are very lucky to live in such a caring community.

Billy & Margie Pinkerton

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Things That Make You Go Hmmm...

By Laura Taylor

Just A Big Thank You To Everyone Who Sends Me E-mails

I just want to thank all of you for your educational emails over the past year.

- * Thanks to you, I no longer open a public bathroom door without using a paper towel.
- * I can't use the remote in a hotel room because I don't know what the last person was doing while flipping through the adult movie channels.
- * I can't sit down on the hotel bedspread because I can only imagine what has happened on it since it was last washed.
- * I have trouble shaking hands with someone who has been driving because the number one pass-time while driving alone is picking your nose.
- * Eating a Little Debbie sends me on a guilt trip because I can only imagine how many gallons of trans fats I have consumed over the years.
- * I can't touch any other woman's purse for fear she has placed it on the floor of a public bathroom. Yuck!
- * I must send my special thanks to whoever sent me the one about poop in the glue on envelopes because I now have to use a wet sponge with every envelope that needs sealing.
- * Also, now I have to scrub the top of every can I open for the same reason.
- * I no longer have any savings because I gave it to a sick girl (Penny Brown) who is about to die in the hospital for the 1,387,258th time.
- * I no longer have any money at all, but that will change once I receive the \$15,000 that Bill Gates/Microsoft and AOL are sending me for participating in their special e-mail program.
- * I no longer worry about my soul because I have 363,214 angels looking out for me, and St. Theresa's novena has granted my every wish.
- * I no longer eat KFC because their chickens are actually horrible mutant freaks with no eyes or feathers.
- * I no longer use cancer-causing deodorants even though I smell like a water buffalo on a hot day.
- * Thanks to you, I have learned that my prayers only get answered if I forward an email to seven of my friends and make a wish within five minutes.
- * Because of your concern I no longer drink Coca Cola because it can remove toilet stains.
- * I no longer can buy gasoline without taking someone along to watch the car so a serial killer won't crawl in my back seat when I'm pumping gas.
- * I no longer use Saran wrap in the microwave because it causes cancer.
- * And thanks for letting me know I can't boil a cup of water in the microwave anymore because it will blow up in my face...disfiguring me for life.
- * I no longer check the coin return on pay phones because I could be pricked with a needle infected with AIDS.
- * I no longer go to shopping malls because someone will drug me with a perfume sample and rob me.
- * I no longer receive packages from UPS or FedEx since they are actually Al Qaeda in disguise.
- * I no longer shop at Target since they are French and don't support our American troops or the Salvation Army.
- * I no longer answer the phone because someone will ask me to dial a number for which I will get a phone bill with calls to Jamaica, Uganda, Singapore or Uzbekistan.
- * I no longer buy expensive cookies from Neiman Marcus since I now have their recipe.
- * Thanks to you, I can't use anyone's toilet but mine because a big brown African spider is lurking under the seat to cause me instant death when it bites my butt.
- * And thanks to your great advice, I can't ever pick up \$5.00 dropped in the parking lot because it probably was placed there by a sex molester waiting underneath my car to grab my leg.
- * I can no longer drive my car because I can't buy gas from certain gas companies!

Yes, my life is much simpler now, thanks to you!
HHHMMM.....



This Week In Texas History!

- Apr 14, 1933**
The Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon was dedicated.
- Apr 14, 1865**
Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered the Confederate Army at Appomattox, but the Civil War would not be over in Texas for another month. One of the Union officers on hand for the surrender was Col. Ranald S. MacKenzie.
- Apr 14, 1836**
Penny Santa Anna's army captured Harrisburg.
- Apr 15, 1940**
Bob Wills and the Light Crust Doughboys recorded "San Antonio Rose" for the first time in a studio in Dallas.
- Apr 15, 1840**
Josiah Gregg's exploration party arrived in Fort Smith, Ark., from Santa Fe. They had discovered a new route which was later followed by California gold rush 49ers.
- Apr 15, 1836**
Mexican Gen. Santa Anna's army burned Harrisburg to the ground. The Republic's government had reached Morgan's Point.
- Apr 16, 1947**
The S.S. Grandcamp, a French ship carrying ammonium nitrate fertilizer, exploded while docked at Texas City. The first explosion resulted in other explosions and fires which killed nearly 600 persons and left 200 others missing.
- Apr 16, 1836**
Gen. Sam Houston and his army reached Spring Creek, in present-day Harris County. Here Houston ended his retreat and started moving his troops toward Gen. Santa Anna's army in Harrisburg.
- Apr 17, 1970**
A tornado struck Silvertown, killing one person and injuring four.
- Apr 17, 1911**
The hull was laid for the battleship "Texas."
- Apr 17, 1871**
Texas A&M was created by the Texas Legislature. It was the first institution of higher education in Texas.
- Apr 17, 1837**
The Texas Navy ship "Independence" was attacked by two Mexican ships and forced to surrender near Velasco.
- Apr 17, 1836**
Gen. Santa Anna's army crossed Vince's Bridge and left behind most of his army in his march to Morgan's Point, where the Texas government was located. He was to late however the government had moved by boat to Galveston Island.
- Apr 18, 1934**
The first washateria in Texas opened in Fort Worth.
- Apr 18, 1863**
A small unit of Union soldiers attempted a surprise landing at Sabine Pass. The sailors were captured by the Confederates.
- Apr 18, 1836**
Gen. Santa Anna's small army arrives at Morgans Point, finding the Texas Government gone, they burn the town to the ground.
- Apr 19, 1993**
The Branch Dividian compound east of Waco was engulfed in flames after Federal agents used M-60 tanks to smash holes in the walls and pump in tear gas. The fire killed as many as 86 people, and ended a 51 day standoff with the religious sect in what officials called a mass suicide.
- Apr 19, 1836**
Gen. Sam Houston moved his army across Buffalo Bayou at Vince's Bridge.
- Apr 20, 1836**
Gen. Sam Houston called a halt among the trees along Buffalo Bayou where it met the San Jancinto River near Lynch's ferry. The Texas and Mexican armies exchanged cannon fire. Sidney Sherman attempted and failed to draw Santa Anna into a battle.
- Apr 20, 1815**
President James Madison appointed Sam Houston a second Lieutenant in the 39th Infantry Regiment.

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A Big Thank You From The Post Enduro Association

The Post Enduro Association (PEA) would like to extend its many thanks and appreciation to the City and community of Quitaque for hosting our 2008 Quitaque Grand Prix and Caprock Canyon Enduro on March 29th and 30th. The club members realize the inconvenience and general disruption this annual event causes the community. While it is virtually impossible to mention everyone, we would like to recognize a few of the community leaders, citizens and volunteers that help make this event possible. Maria Merrell has been very helpful not only during the weekend of the event, but during the rest of the year as well. We certainly appreciate the local landowners that tolerate our presence. Jerry Beck and Daniel Ortiz are very accommodating in allowing us to use their property in town for parking. Dee Whittington allows us to utilize his ranch in addition to the acreage in town close to the trailway. Jerry Don Price, Ruby Mae Woods, and Warren Lee Merrell also allow us access to their land north of Quitaque, and Mr. and Mrs. Billy Evans and the Burson family are very tolerant of us riding on their ranches outside of town. Deanna Oberheu, Manager of the Caprock Canyon State Park is and has always been very supportive and helpful. As you can see, without the landowners cooperation and the support of the community, this event would be virtually impossible. Everything starts and ends for the PEA based on our landowners. Without them, PEA would not exist in Quitaque or any other community. Your tolerance of our sport and willingness to accept dirt bikes on your property and in your community make all of this possible. For this, we are extremely grateful.

These races can be dangerous for everyone involved, and our riders fully understand the risk. The presence of the Quitaque EMS, fire department, local law enforcement and Jeff Addison, Pastor of the First Baptist Church, certainly gives us comfort that everything is in control should someone need assistance.

There are many, many more folks that support our event that are not mentioned here, and their continued tolerance and support is very much appreciated. We had riders from as far away as Wyoming, Arizona, and Kansas, as well as Colorado, Oklahoma and New Mexico. We always have positive comments about the atmosphere of Quitaque, the convenience of being in town and the hospitality of the community. Hopefully, the local merchants benefitted economically from the event, as it is certainly our desire and objective that they do so.

Our relationship with Quitaque is precious and we truly hope it will continue for many years to come. Please feel free to communicate any concerns or complaints to Maria and we'll do our best to address them to your satisfaction. Once again, thanks for your cooperation and support.

Ruth Ann Parsley
Secretary, Post Enduro Association

Researchers Study Playa Lakes Over The Ogallala

By Don Comis

Are the tens of thousands of playa lakes that dot the Southern High Plains key to keeping the Ogallala Aquifer's dwindling waters clean? That's the question Agricultural Research Service (ARS) plant physiologist Dennis Gitz is asking about North America's largest aquifer.

Playas are ephemeral lakes that form when rainwater fills natural clay depressions in the landscape. Gitz found that this water flows continually downward, if slowly, into the Ogallala, contributing to its recharge.

The recharge rate for cropland over the Ogallala is negligible, which is why there is so much concern for this practically finite source of water.

Part of the playas question is whether the recharge rate is significant enough for them to be protected with filtering borders of gamagrass or switchgrass. If so, the grass borders would ensure that playas continue to add significant amounts of clean water to the



Rain that makes it past the plant root zone is a key source for recharging the Ogallala aquifer. Photo courtesy Dennis Gitz.

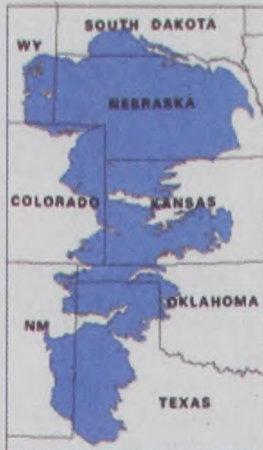
Ogallala and help extend its useful life.

To measure the recharge rate of the Ogallala for both cropland and playas, Gitz and colleagues from Texas Tech University are using soil thermometers to track rainwater's downward movement through soil. The thermometers track rainwater by detecting sudden changes in temperature where rainwater stops seeping.

The scientists proved the thermometer idea works in a study that showed a good agreement between thermometer readings and actual water infiltration readings. Thermometers are much less expensive than other methods of tracking rainwater infiltration.

Gitz has installed a bank of instruments at 14 playas and is developing instruments for 16 more. These include instruments for weather stations, as well as for measuring water levels. He will use data from these instruments to calculate expected water evaporation rates for comparison to actual water losses. The difference shows the amount of water that has infiltrated the soil below the lakes.

If the recharge rate for playas turns out to be negligible, farmers could consider managing them for range-land or recreational use.



The Ogallala aquifer underlies parts of eight states. Photo courtesy U.S. Geological Survey.

SHOP AT HOME

Comptroller's Report Examines Economic Opportunities and Challenges In A Growing Economy

In a report released recently Texas Comptroller Susan Combs says to ensure the continued success of the Texas economy, the entire state and its communities will need to prepare for the opportunities in a changing economy. We must also confront the challenges of a growing and changing population and increasing demands for water, energy and transportation.

"One of my responsibilities as Texas Comptroller is to analyze factors affecting the state's economy," Combs said. "This report is designed to give local and statewide leaders detailed statistics and research that paint a full picture of where Texas stands today and how it is positioned for the future."

"These reports will examine each of the regions' demographic characteristics, including population and education," Combs said. "As with this report, the regional reports will look at the major issues facing businesses and communities, tailored in detail to each region."

Each report will summarize the regions' major industries and occupations. The series of reports will discuss specific economic factors for each region, identify growth sectors and project future growth potential.

Demographics — Texas' population is becoming older, more diverse and more urban. Of the estimated 23.5 million people who lived in Texas in 2006, 52 percent were 25 to 64 years old; those under age 25 accounted for 38 percent of the population; and 9.9 percent were 65 or older. The over-65 population is growing faster than the state as a whole. From 1980 to 2005 the number of senior citizens grew 65.7 percent, while Texas overall population grew by about 60.7 percent.

Infrastructure — How Texas tackles infrastructure needs in water, energy and transportation will help determine its capacity for economic growth. Agriculture, other industries and urban and rural communities all require water. Careful long-term planning and conservation are needed to make a limited water supply serve a growing population. Demand for water is expected to increase 27 percent between 2000 and 2060.

Health care — Health care is closely tied to economic development. Health care is one of the fastest-growing segments of the Texas economy; but health care costs are a significant obstacle to many businesses and their employees who require medical care to work at peak efficiency. One in four Texans has no health insurance coverage. Only about half of Texas residents have employment-based insurance. Seventy-two percent of Texas businesses have fewer than 50 employees, and less than half of these small businesses provide health insurance to their employees, due to the high cost.

Education — Texas needs a well-educated population to handle the jobs that will drive the Texas economy in the fu-

ture. Texas public schools educate about 4.6 million students, 20 percent more than a decade ago. Texas has enacted school accountability measures, curriculum reforms and tougher graduation requirements to ensure that high school graduate.

Economic development — Texas communities and the state as a whole must remain competitive to attract new businesses and create more and better-paying jobs. In deciding where to locate or expand, businesses consider factors such as the skill of the work force; the quality of schools and infrastructure; and availability of grants, loans and other incentives.



Quitaque Blood Drive Nets 14 Units

The Coffee Memorial Blood Center recently held a Community Blood Drive in Quitaque.

14 people were seen and 14 units of blood were drawn.

Way To Go Quitaque!!

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Woman wins State Hopping Contest after using Thera-Gesic®



BEXAR COUNTY — Mary Ann W. applied Thera-Gesic® to her aching hip and one day later went on to win the State Hopping Contest. When asked what she likes most about entering hopping contests, she painlessly replied, "None of your dang business!"

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