

VALLEY WEATHER			
DATE	HI	LO	PREC
JAN 4	58	23	—
JAN 5	59	28	—
JAN 6	60	34	—
JAN 7	59	35	—
JAN 8	52	27	—
JAN 9	57	26	—
JAN 10	59	26	—

MAY 31, 2001
 1
 WALTER TAYLOR
 BOX 244
 QUITAQUE TX 79255

50¢
 per copy

Voice of the Caprock Canyons

THE VALLEY TRIBUNE

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 29 BRISCOE COUNTY QUITAQUE, TEXAS 79255 6 PAGES THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2001

Briscoe County Stock Show Soon

Thursday, January 25th and Saturday, January 27th are the dates set for the Briscoe County Stock Show which will be held in the Vance Price Memorial Barn at Valley High School. On Thursday starting at 7 p.m. the Beef Heifer Show will begin the activities. This show will be followed by the Steer Show.

Saturday at 8 a.m. the Sheep Show will kick off the day's events, immediately followed by the Gilt Show. Then following the Gilt Show will be the Barrow show and last but not least will be the Pee-Wee Showmanship.

At 5 p.m. a brisket dinner will precede the awards presentations at 6 p.m. which will be followed by the premium sale at 6:30.

Be sure to come out and support these hard working students with their FFA and 4-H projects.

Combs Announces Rural Economic Workshop

Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs announced that the Texas Department of Agriculture is partnering with the Childress Economic Development Corporation to host a workshop on Monday, January 22 in Childress. The open forum will provide farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses, manufacturers, small businesses, commodity groups and the community a chance to learn about the opportunities available to them through TDA's and SBA's economic development programs.

The conference will begin at 5:30 p.m. at Fair Park Auditorium, north end of Commerce Street, in Childress. The meeting is free and open to the public. Attendees are asked to pre-register by calling 806/799-8555 or 940/937-8629.

The "Lender-Borrower Workshop" will feature business development specialists and loan

officers presenting the latest in business planning, marketing and financing programs that can assist in rural development in Texas.

Allison Workman-Morris, TDA's chief of marketing for the Panhandle-West Texas region, will discuss new markets and promotional opportunities available through TDA's GO TEXAN programs. David Luttrell, director of finance, will present information on the financing available through the Texas Agricultural Finance Authority.

"Agriculture is one of the most dynamic industries in Texas. By working with our producers and agribusiness leaders, we can keep our industry on the forefront of change in the 21st century," Combs said.

For more information on the conference, contact Sheila Martin at TDA's Lubbock office at 8096/799-8555.

North West Texas Cotton Conference

by Brad Schnitker, CEA-Ag Hall Co.

Crop producers can improve their cotton production and marketing skills, and learn more about minimum tillage and pest management by attending the January 16 North West Texas Cotton Conference in Childress. The conference is a joint effort of the Extension Service in Childress, Hall, Cottle, Collingsworth, King, Motley, Hardeman, and Donley counties and the District 3 Extension Agricultural specialist from Vernon.

"This conference offers producers a wealth of knowledge on several important topics. It will be held in the City Auditorium in Childress," said Brad Schnitker, Hall County Extension agent-agriculture. "Those who attend can earn six Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for their private or commercial pesticide applicator licenses."

The conference will run from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Speakers at the conference will cover these topics:

- Cotton Market Outlook; Shawn Boyd, National Cotton Council.
- Crop Insurance Update; Dottie Sampley, Risk Management Association
- Cotton Minimum Tillage; Danny Davis, Dryland No-Till Cotton Producers
- Minimum Till Panel Discussion; Danny Davis, Burt Dockery, Bruce Inman, Johnny Lindley
- Pesticide Applicator Laws-Regulations; Don Renchie, Extension pesticide specialist

- Spray Drift Management; Brent Bean, Extension agronomist-Amarillo
- Boll Weevil Eradication Update; Larry Smith, Texas Boll Weevil Foundation
- Cotton Pest Management; Emory Boring, Extension entomologist - Vernon
- Pest Management and Production Projects on the Northern Rolling Plains; Todd Baughman, Extension agronomist - Vernon

"We are working with Congressman Mac Thornberry's office in hopes of getting the congressman as our keynote lunch speaker," Schnitker said. "Producers should be especially interested in the presentations by Shawn Boyd, Dottie Sampley and Danny Davis, but all of our speakers will provide information and insights on situations that Rolling Plains producers encounter every season."

The conference cost is \$5.00 which includes lunch. Producers can obtain more information on this event by calling Schnitker at the Hall County Extension office (806) 259-3015, or by contacting Childress, Cottle, Collingsworth, King, Motley, Hardeman or Donley County Extension offices.

Toll-free number for Valley Tribune
 1-877-655-1101

Western Rolling Plains Chemical Conference

by Gary D. Antilley, King CEA-AG

The Annual Western Rolling Plains Chemical Conference to obtain 5 CEU hours, will be held on Monday, January 15th, 2001, at the Guthrie Community Center. Registration begins at 8:45 a.m.

This Annual CEU program that has traditionally been hosted in Spur, is one of the several Multi-County program efforts by the Texas Agriculture Extension Offices from King, Stonewall, Kent and Dickens counties.

Please RSVP before January 11th to any of the four county extension offices or call Guthrie at 806/596-4451. The cost is \$10.00 if pre-registered by January 11th.

Caprock Cotton Conference January 23

courtesy J. D. Ragland, Floyd CEA-Ag

The Caprock Cotton Conference is scheduled for January 23, 2001 at the Plains Baptist Assembly between Ralls and Floydada. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Three CEUs will be given this year, 1 in Integrated Pest Management and 2 in General. There will be a registration fee. Pre-registration will be open until January 12. Following this date the registration fee will be higher. This fee includes lunch, conference cap and program materials.

The program will start at 8 a.m. with topics on Marketing Outlook, Crop Insurance Program, State Wide Water Management Guidelines, Economics on Energy Comparison, Update on Plains Cotton Growers Association, No Till Cotton Management, 2000 Insect Recap, What to Expect from Boll Weevil Eradication and Varieties and Harvest Aids. The conference will be over at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Major sponsors for this year's conference are Delata & Pine Land Company, and Watermaster Irrigation Supply. Other sponsors are Abell-Prewitt Company, Hurst Farm Supply, Irrigators Inc., Ray Lee Equipment, Terry Rainwater Crop Insurance, Fuel Efficient Engine Service, Brown Implement and Wilbur-Ellis Company. These sponsors as well as others will have booths set to advertise their products.

Continued on page 6

- ### Calendar of Events
- January 11**
Turkey City Council
Matador Masonic Lodge
 - January 12**
Valley Varsity H with Crosbyton 4 p.m.
 - January 13**
Motley County Jr. Hi Basketball Tournament
Mexican Food @ Catholic Center in Quitaque
 - January 14**
Attend Church of Choice
 - January 15**
Quitaque Lions
TAFCE Club
 - January 16**
Turkey Fire Department
Valley Varsity Basketball H with Chillicothe @ 4
 - North West Texas Cotton Conference @ Childress
 - Rolling Plains Chemical Conference @ Guthrie



Bob Wills, center, with brothers Luther Jay and Billy Jack Wills, in early 1940s.

Last of Wills Brothers, Luke, Dead At 80

courtesy John Wooley World Entertainment Writer

The first family of western-swing music lost the last of its four band-leading brothers in October when Luke Wills died at the age of 80. His sister, Lorene, said that he suffered a massive stroke at his Las Vegas Home.

Luke or Luther J. as he was sometimes known was an instrumentalist as well as a band leader like his brothers, Bob, Johnnie Lee and Billy Jack. He spent much of his career as a bass player and occasional vocalist with Bob Wills' Texas Playboys Band and Johnnie Lee Wills and All His Boys.

His first instrument however was the tenor banjo which is an all-but-forgotten instrument that was used primarily for rhythm in the early western-swing bands.

In a 1997 interview for the Tulsa World Wills said that he was only 17 in 1937 when he did his first show with Bob's band. "I played tenor banjo. As a matter of fact, I signed my first Social Security card in the office of Cain's Academy, the famed Tulsa venue was later known as Cain's Ballroom. Not long after I started up with Bobby, Johnnie Lee started up his first band and I became his bass player.

Things were a little different at the Cain's then," he added. "We didn't have tables, and we didn't have intermissions. We left the bandstand one at a time if we needed to, while the rest of the band kept going. It just seemed like it was the nature of things then that if you took intermission, you had trouble. Not with us, but with the crowd."

A few years earlier, Bob Wills had begun his noontime radio broadcasts from Cain's. These programs, on station KVOO, reached the households throughout the Southwest and popularized the mixture of hill-billy, pop, blues, swing and jazz music that would soon become known as western swing.

When Bob left for Hollywood to make movies in the early 1940s, Luke and several of the other Playboys went with him. Together, they made several theatrical shorts and features while Johnnie Lee took over the Cain's broadcasts and dances. Luke returned to Tulsa to work with Johnnie Lee until the late 1940s until Bob called him back to the West Coast. Bob had been inspired, according to music historian Rich Kienle, by a performance of Paul Whiteman's jazz orchestra, to put together a band to work dates that the Texas Playboys couldn't play. Origin-

nally called Luke Wills and the Texas Playboys No. 2, the name was soon changed to Luke Wills' Rhythm Busters.

The Rhythm Busters were recorded by both King Records and RCA Victor in the late 1940s. After its final Victor sessions in 1948, the group disbanded for a time, although Luke revived it in 1950 for a standing job at Oklahoma City's Trianon Ballroom.

Continued on page 2

Emergency CRP Grazing Extended

January 9, 2001 - Hall County FSA

Because of the severe weather conditions in the calendar year 2000, and because Hall County entered the winter months well below the normal forage needs, the State Committee has authorized extending the emergency CRP grazing period through February 28, 2001 for all counties that were previously approved. No additional payment reduction will be charged to those already approved unless you desire to make use of additional eligible CRP acreage.

If you have already removed the livestock, and you have already met the 25% payment reduction requirement, you are allowed to return the animals to the earlier approved acres only - any new or additional acres would require separate approval, grazing plan, and applicable reductions. New participants must come to the USDA Service Center - Farm Service Agency - to make application, develop an approved grazing plan by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and be approved before using any CRP acres.

All current and potential participants are reminded that if conditions improve enough before February 28, 2001 that would no longer warrant emergency CRP grazing, the County Committee and/or the State Committee may determine to discontinue this authorization - each counties current condition's are assessed separately. Please call or visit your local FSA County Office if you have any questions about emergency grazing or CRP acres.

THEN & NOW!

by Eunice McFall

Soon after Christmas, a Quitaque lady called me to tell me that she had received one of the 809 phone numbers to call. She had remembered that we had put something about this phone scam warning people not to respond to the call. To refresh your memory about the scam---you may receive a message on your answering machine, e-mail, etc. asking you to call a number beginning with area code 809. Reasons you're asked to call may be "to receive information about a family member who has been ill, to tell you someone has been arrested, has died, you have won a wonderful prize, etc."

In each case you are told to call the 809 number right away. Apparently you will be charged \$2,425 per minute on these calls, and could be charged up to \$24,100!!

The 809 area code is located in the British Virgin Islands (the Bahamas.)

It is important to prevent becoming a victim of this scam, since trying to fight the charges afterwards can become a real nightmare.

Please take note of this information and pass it along to your friends and family. It could possibly save you quite a bit of cash.

Things of this nature makes you wonder why in the world people want to always come up with something to create problems and cheat others but I suppose that is just the nature of the beast. It does not mean that we should not be aware of the fact that there are lots of scoundrels out there in the world for us to keep watch for so that they do not do any harm to us.

Personally I want to believe that if you treat others in a nice way that for the most part you will receive the same treatment in return. But even so there are always one or two who will try to take advantage of you if you are not on your toes at all times. We do need to trust our fellow man but then when it comes to those whom we do not know and have no way of knowing, it is better to be quite cautious in our dealings with them.

Perhaps one of our new year resolutions should be to be a bit more cautious in the coming year.

Mexican Dinners To Be Served At Catholic Center

The Quitaque Catholic Center will once again be serving their Mexican dinners on Saturday, January 13, 2001 at the Catholic Center.

Serving hours are from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and again from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday.

The group will also have available tacos, enchilada plates, chalupas and burritos. If you need further information, please call 455-1277. You may call this number for take out orders also.

Proceeds from the dinner will go to the upkeep of the Catholic Center.

Quitaque Post Office
 Closed
 Monday, January 15, 2001
 For
 Martin Luther King Day

Turkey Post Office
 Closed
 Monday, January 15, 2001
 For
 Martin Luther King Day

Luke Wills
Continued from page 1

Later, Luke returned to the Playboys as bassist. When the Playboys finally disbanded, Luke settled in Las Vegas where he worked as, among other things, a casino security guard.

In 1988, *Bear Family Records* of Germany released a collection of his RCA Victor recording entitled, *High Voltage Gal*. An in the '90s, despite a stroke that rendered him unable to play bass, he was a regular member of the Bob Wills tribute bands that played regular dates around the country. During the annual Bob Wills Birthday Bash at the Cain's he never failed to draw a crowd of fans and admirers.

Bob, the eldest Wills brother, died in 1975; Johnnie Lee, the next oldest, in 1984; and Billy Jack the youngest, in 1991.

"Of the four brothers, Luke was the most pleasing," says Lorene Wills. "There was just something about him. If a child came by, Luke would have to pat him on the head. Wherever he was, he'd take the time to talk to anyone, and people could tell. They knew they could go up to him and he'd talk as long as they wanted. He really had the personality, and he was so loving and special. I think he left a lot of good friends."

At his memorial services, Dana Wills sang *Just a Closer Walk With Thee* and *It's No Secret*. A band played *Faded Love* and *Take Me Back to Tulsa* as well as special thoughts shared by his family.

Quitauque Senior Citizens Meet

Nine members and one guest met on Friday, January 5, 2001 for the first meeting of the year for the Quitauque Senior Citizens. Kathy Fuston administered blood pressure checks for all the members.

Following the pot luck supper, the members held their regular business meeting. The group sang happy birthday to those members who have January birthdays, Ellen Skinner and Sid McFall.

Bingo was enjoyed by the members after the business session before returning to their homes.

As soon as you trust yourself you will know how to live.
—Goethe

New Officers For We The Women

by Arlene Hinkle
New officers were selected at the January meeting of *We The Women*. The new president is Donna Hamilton; 1st vice-president, Johnnie Rogers; 2nd vice-president, Mary Stark, and secretary/treasurer/reporter, Arlene Hinkle. The calling committee consists of Ann Chadwick, Ruth Anderson, Patsy Herrington, and Jean Mullin.

There will be a Planning Committee Meeting at the home of Delene Tyler on Tuesday, January 16 at 12 noon. The meeting will determine the events and calendar for the new year. Please try to come and let your voice be heard.

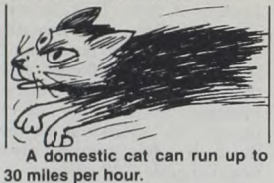
Also, the club will soon be opening a Thrift Shop that will be open once a month, probably on the first Saturday of the month. More about that in a week or so. *We The Women* are accepting donations of small appliances, furniture, knic-knacs, and clothing in good condition.

Polly early prepared a delicious meal of lasagna, bread, salad, and dump cake. The next scheduled meeting will be on February 13 at the Methodist Church. We hope to see you there!

On The QT

Cory Farley, grandson of Roberta Farley, visited in Quitauque a couple of times through the Christmas holiday. Cory is a student at Texas A & M University in College Station. He had to return to College Station Christmas week to attend the weddings of two sets of close friends in Houston.

Ruby King spent the Christmas holidays at Palmer, Terrel and Mesquite, Texas visiting with her daughter Jane and family. Her grandson-in-law, Bob Vercher and his daughter Paula came and accompanied her to their home in Palmer. They enjoyed a Christmas gathering of Jane's family on the Saturday before Christmas at the Vercher home. While there Ruby also spent one night at the home of her grandson, Troy Hawkins in Mesquite. She got to spend quite a lot of time visiting with Jane in Terrell. Joyce Price met Bob and Beth Vercher in Wichita Falls on the Saturday after Christmas to accompany Ruby back to her home in Quitauque. Ruby reports a great time but is enjoying being home.



PUC Tips

Check phone bill to avoid becoming cramming victim

If you've ever found charges on your phone bill for services you didn't order or for services you never received, you may be the victim of "cramming." Cramming is the addition of charges to your bill for unauthorized services.

Sometimes these charges go unnoticed because customers don't read their phone bills closely. And sometimes the charge is paid simply because customers don't understand what the charges are for and are fearful their credit rating will suffer or their phone will be disconnected if they do not pay.

Telephone customers in Texas have protections against cramming thanks to Public Utility Commission (PUC) rules. The rules specify that before a charge for any product or service can be added to your phone bill, the service provider must inform you about the product and its associated charges, obtain your consent for the charges and provide a toll-free line for customers to call for information.

If you find any unfamiliar charges on your bill or charges for a service you did not order, you do not have to pay those charges.

Your local service cannot be disconnected for non-payment of disputed charges. You must, however, pay the rest of your bill.

To correct this problem contact your local phone company and tell them you are disputing the unauthorized charges. Contact the company billing you for the unauthorized charges and tell them you did not order the services and will not pay for them. Tell them to remove the

charges from your bill and not to bill you in the future for those charges.

If the charges are listed under the name of a company acting as a billing agent, be sure to contact the company making the charges and not just the billing agent. The billing agent may not be able to remove the charges.

PUC rules require companies to refund or credit customers who have paid unauthorized charges. A customer must consent to charges for services either in writing or verbally to an independent third party, not the company selling the services. The cramming company must keep records of disputed charges for at least two years, including the customer's telephone number, the date the customer requested removal of the unauthorized charges, the date the charges were removed and the date of refund or credit to the customer.

Texas telephone customers should receive a cramming bill of rights from their phone providers either by mail or in phone directories.

If you think you have been crammed, file a complaint with the PUC. Companies that violate the PUC's cramming rules may be penalized up to \$5,000 per day per violation.

For more information about cramming, or if you have other questions relating to your telephone or electric service, call the PUC toll free at 1-888-PUC-TIPS (1-888-782-8477). You may also write the PUC Office of Customer Protection at P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3266, email at customer@puc.state.tx.us or visit online at www.puc.state.tx.us.

Source: Public Utility Commission

OBITUARIES

Floye McCracken

Services for Floye Mae Carter McCracken, 94, were at 2 p.m. Monday, January 8, 2001 at the Quitauque Church of Christ with Mr. Benny Young, Mr. Richard Edwards and Mr. Barry Francis officiating.

Burial was in Resthaven Cemetery at Quitauque by Myers-Long Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Carter died January 7, 2001 at Lockney, Texas.

Floye Mae Carter was born on December 25, 1906 at Serrett, Indian Territory, Oklahoma. She was the third of seven children of W. J. and Thronton Carter. As a young girl she and her family moved to Atoka, Oklahoma where they lived in a tent and covered wagon until her father could clear the land and build a house for his family. She was baptized at the age of 14 into the Church of Christ. In 1924 the family moved to Gasoline, Texas. On May 9, 1926 she and Amos Boone McCracken were married in her parents home at Gasoline.

She and her husband lived in the same house that Boone had built which they moved into as newlyweds until 1972, adding on to the house as needed. They moved into Quitauque in 1972.

Boone preceded her in death in 1978. She was also preceded in death by her parents, two sisters and three brothers.

Survivors include two daughters, Paulita Young of Tucson, Arizona and Glenda Francis of Silvertown, Texas; a son Stewart of Tulsa; nine grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; one brother, Ralph Carter of Lubbock and many nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Happy Anniversary

January 13
Mr. and Mrs. Brent Campbell

January 14
Mr. and Mrs. Pete Blakenship

January 16
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Dudley

January 17
Mr. and Mrs. John Pigg

Experience is not what happens to you; it is what you do with what happens to you.
—Aldous Huxley

NEWS FOR OLDER AMERICANS

Bill Asks Fairness For Notch Babies

(NAPS)—Cautious optimism. That's the approach a group of seniors called Notch Babies are taking to a legislative proposal.

Notch Babies is the term used to describe Social Security recipients who were born from 1917 through 1926. As a result of vari-



Social Security recipients born from 1917 through 1926 are described as Notch Babies.

ous changes in Social Security policy in 1977, this group of older Americans receives less in Social Security benefits than those born before and after them.

According to Michael Zabko, Executive Director of TREA Senior Citizens League, "Many of those born during the Notch years receive as much as \$200 less in benefits each month than those with a similar work history." Said Zabko, this group is also among the hardest hit by rising drug costs.

Currently, the League is promoting a legislative proposal called the "Notch Fairness Act." The bill would direct a portion of the federal government's budget surplus toward the needs of Notch Babies.

According to Zabko, the League urges seniors who want to voice an opinion on this, or any other piece of legislation, to contact their elected officials.

For more information, send \$1 for shipping and handling to TSCL, Dept. N944, N. Washington St., Suite 300, Alexandria, VA 22314 or visit the Web site at www.tscl.org.

Alice Mildred Landry

Services for Alice Mildred Landry, 75, were held on December 26, 2000 at Moore Funeral Home Chapel in Arlington at 1:30 p.m.

Burial was in Moore Memorial Gardens in Arlington.

Mrs. Landry died Thursday, December 21, 2000 in Arlington.

She was born January 13, 1925 in Turkey, Texas to Mr. and Mrs. Garland Coker.

Mrs. Landry was a retired civil service employee and a homemaker. She was preceded in death by her husband of 25 years, Weldon Starkey; her parents; a daughter, Jo Starkey; two sons, Timothy Starkey and Donald Landry and a sister, Rosalind Acheson.

Survivors include her husband of 24 years, Robert L. Landry of Arlington; sons, John Starkey of Grandview and Michael Landry of Sarasota, Florida; daughters, Rebecca Roten of Virginia Beach, Virginia and Patricia Thornton of Ashland, Oregon; a daughter-in-law, Marsha Starkey of Burleson; a brother, Bob Coker; a sister, Martha Crumley; 14 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and numerous nephews and nieces.

Time For The Valentine Page

If you wish to have your favorite sweetheart on the Valentine page of the Valley Tribune for the year of 2001, you will need to have your pictures to the Tribune office by February 5th.

The Valentine pictures will be printed in the issue of February 8th. The cost of a one column picture this year will be \$10.00 and \$15.00 for a two column picture. This will include the name of the child, parents and grandparents.

Remember to get your favorite sweetheart's picture to the Tribune by Monday, February 5th.

MEMBER 2000

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THE VALLEY TRIBUNE OBITUARY POLICY

The policy of The Valley Tribune has always been to print obituaries in a standard format. If you wish an obituary to contain information other than the standard, it will be placed in a display format, and charged accordingly.

Happy Birthday

January 11
Julius Early, Olga Thibodeaux, Orville Lee, Michael Dickman, Jason Smith, Melvin Clinton, Stacy Price

January 12
Weldon Griffin, John David Harmon, Deana Oberheu, Stacy Wilson, Cal Farley, Natalie Nicole Fierro, Hal Fuston, Jay Proctor

January 13
Frances Wheeler, James Cox, H. E. Mullin Jr., Courtney Boyles, Danny Barrett, Bonnie Mott

January 14
Jake Merrell, Dude Barton, Melvin Clinton, Trey Smith

January 15
Reynaldo A. Galvan, Ashley Smith, Ryan Jenkins

January 16
Dot Arnold

January 17
Michael Lane

January 18
Adam Ortiz, Walt Henson, Thomas Fuston

LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Around 1970, I wrote a few lines of a Christmas song while I was in Mr. George Colvin's class (which was one of my best teachers). In October while digging in my attic, I found a notebook with some lines that I had written. So I decided to finish the song playing my guitar.

The outcome became the *Christmas Tamale* song. I've played this song recently around town. I've had a couple of well-known artists looking into recording this song. If for some reason I cannot get the song recorded, I will be willing to record this song myself. I think it's a great song!

Roy Martinez
P.O. Box 312
Tulia, Texas 79088

Be not afraid of life. Believe that life is worth living, and your belief will help create the fact.
—William James

WE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, JANUARY 15 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

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Valley Patriot Basketball

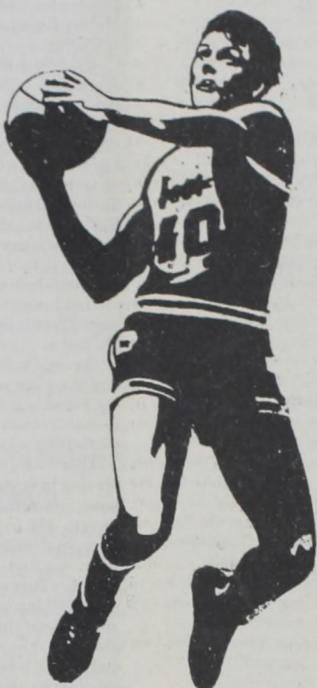
VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

JAN. 12	CROSBYTON	4:00	HOME	X X X X
JAN. 16	CHILLICOTHE	4:00	HOME	X X X X
JAN. 19	* SILVERTON	4:00	HOME	X X X X
JAN. 23	* HAPPY	4:00	AWAY	X X X X
JAN. 26	* NAZARETH	4:00	HOME	X X X X
JAN. 30	* SILVERTON	4:00	AWAY	X X X X
FEB. 2	* HAPPY	4:00	HOME	X X X X
FEB. 3	MOTLEY CO. JV TOURN.	TBA	AWAY	X X
FEB. 6	* NAZARETH	4:00	AWAY	X X X X

VALLEY JR. HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Jan. 13th	Motley County Tourn.	TBA	8G, 8B
Jan. 22nd	Silverton	Away	4:00 7G, 8G, 7B, 8B
Jan. 27th	Valley Tourn.	TBA	8G, 8B
Jan. 29th	Happy	Home	4:00 7G, 8G, 7B, 8B
Feb. 5th	Nazareth	Away	4:00 7G, 8G, 7B, 8B

Coach Troy Fry
 Coach Wade Callaway
 Coach Greg Ramsey



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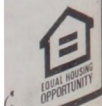
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The Patriot

NEWS OF AND ABOUT VALLEY SCHOOL

Patriots Play During Holiday Season

by Coach Wade Calloway
The Christmas season wasn't very merry early on for the Patriots as they dropped their game before and after Christmas. However, the New Year has been much happier as they have won their last two. Valley started the holidays with their most disappointing performance of the year: a 53-39 to Motley County. Wes Henson had 9 points and Rowdy Mullin and Cole Calvert had 7 rebounds. On December 29th the Patriots traveled to Chillicothe, a regional qualifier team last season with all key players back, where they were downed 62-48. Cole and Rowdy each had 11 points in the game.
The New Year saw Valley travel to Samnorwood where they beat the Eagles 52-20. Rowdy and Wes put in 8 points while Vance Chandler added 7 points. Wes Henson and Robert Valdez had 7 and 6 rebounds, respectively, while Rowdy also contributed with 6 steals. On January 5, Valley continued on the road with a trip to 2-A ralls. In a hard-fought battle the Patriots prevailed 48-41. Rowdy had another big game as he scored 13 points and had 10 rebounds. Wes added 9 points and 7 rebounds while Derrick Cruse pitched in 6 points, 5 steals, 4 assists and 5 rebounds. Valley finished its road swing Tuesday as they traveled to Crosbyton to face a very tough Chief's team. That score will appear in next week's edition.

Valley Jackpot School Menu

- Monday 15th**
Mexican Stack
Cheese Salad
Chips
Peaches
Milk
- Tuesday 16th**
Beef Veg Soup
Cheese Sticks
Corn Bread Cakes
Mixed Fruit
Milk
- Wednesday 17th**
Corn Dogs
French fries
Pickles
Cookies
Milk
- Thursday 18th**
Soft Tacos
Meat
Cheese
Beans
Chips
Banana Pudding
Milk
- Friday 19th**
Pizza
Corn
Pickles
Fresh Fruit
Milk

Blunck Studio To Be At Valley

Blunck's Studio will be coming to Valley School on Thursday, January 18th. Various pictures will be taken on this day. Some of these pictures will include Classroom Memory Mats from grades Pre-K through 8th, Jr. High and High School Basketball pictures will be taken as well.

Valley J. V. Performs Well

by Coach Wade Calloway
The Valley J. V. won 4 out of 5 during and around the holiday break, including a runner-up showing in the Valley Tournament.
The Junior Varsity began by downing Motley County 34-33 on December 19th. Justin Wilks scored 10 points to lead the way. At Chillicothe the Patriots finished strong to beat the Eagles. Justin Lucero added 8 and Adam Ortiz and Ramiro Ramos pitched in 6 apiece. At Ralls the Patriot J. V. again had a strong finish and defeated the Jackrabbits 41-32. Cliff Yeary led the way with 10 points, Justin Lucero had 8 and Dylan Gaddis scored 6 in the win.
At the Valley J. V. Tournament the following day, the Patriots had to face Ralls again. This time they won 38-33. Justin Wilks scored 12 points and Danny Hinojosa and Cliff Yeary each had 6 points.
In the Championship Game Valley played Claude, who beat Motley County in their earlier game. The Mustangs pulled it out late 36-30, but again Justin Wilks led the way with 11 points followed by Danny Hinojosa with 6 points.

Keeping an Eye on Texas

We're into eating out

According to the National Restaurant Association's 2001 Restaurant Industry Forecast, nationwide, Americans are expected to spend more than \$1 billion per day dining out. The strength of the economy as well as more disposable income are contributing to the rise in restaurant sales across the country.

State	2001 Sales Forecast	Increase from 2000
Texas	\$22.6 billion	6.7%
Louisiana	4.1 billion	6.3
Oklahoma	3.3 billion	5.3
Arkansas	2.1 billion	5.2

SOURCES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts



CAPITOL COMMENT

U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

WATER TREATY SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED

Much of Texas history, and much of our literature as well, can be summed up by the statement "Water is scarce." Countless stories outline the successes and frustrations of Texas' efforts to stake claim to an adequate supply of water to ensure a sustainable and prosperous future.
In few regions is this struggle more evident than in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, where a severe lack of water continues to threaten agriculture and the jobs it provides to valley residents. In addition to suffering from a protracted drought that has affected other areas of Texas as well, South Texas agricultural producers are not receiving their fair share of water from six Mexican tributaries of the Rio Grande, water to which they are entitled under the terms of a 1944 treaty with Mexico.
For nearly a half-century, the water treaty served Texas and Mexico well because both sides understood its importance. The treaty was intended to ensure water users on both sides of the river minimum amounts of water so they could manage their withdrawals and plan how it is to be used. The United States has scrupulously observed its treaty obligations for the Colorado River basin and provided Mexico with the amount of water to which it is entitled every year - an amount roughly equal to what Mexico owes us for the Lower Rio Grande.
As of the beginning of this year, Mexico owed Texas roughly 1.5 million acre-feet of water, a debt going back to

1992 (an acre-foot of water is the volume of water that covers one acre to a depth of one foot). For this reason South Texas' Falcon and Amistad reservoirs are at dangerously low levels. During the summer of 1998, water levels fell to 18 percent of capacity - the lowest in more than 40 years. The effects of the drought could be eased considerably if Mexico would make good on its treaty obligations.
Recent studies by Texas A&M University and the Texas Water Development Board suggest the economic impact of Mexico's withholding of this water to be more than \$400 million annually. A continuing shortage could eventually jeopardize the health of local residents on top of crippling the valley's agriculture-based economy.
Last month I introduced a resolution in the Senate calling on the President to utilize the full powers of his office to require Mexico to comply with the terms of this treaty, and begin repaying the water it has impounded. It also calls on the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, which oversees the treaty's performance, not to accept anything less than full repayment of water in its attempt to negotiate a settlement of the dispute. A similar measure has been introduced in the U.S. House. I have met with the Mexican Ambassador to the United States to discuss this situation as well.
The U.S. government needs to make this a top priority. Not only has Mexico failed to present a plan to repay the water we're due for previous years, but so far, it has failed as well to present its plan to deliver us the water we are due in 2001 and 2002.
It is my hope that congressional passage of my resolution will impress officials on both sides that Mexico must structure a water repayment plan and do it quickly - before more farmers and ranchers in the valley lose their livelihoods. Consumers of our great South Texas citrus fruits will also be affected by a reduced supply.
Making certain we have an adequate water supply is critical to Texas and in particular to the Lower Rio Grande Valley. It is vital that Mexico work with us to develop better water management strategies that will make possible continued economic development and prosperity on both sides of our shared river.

Duck Family Holds Annual Christmas Gathering

The annual Duck Family Christmas was held Sunday, December 31st at the Quitaque Community Center. The party was well attended despite bad weather conditions. The two surviving Duck sisters, Owayne King and her husband, Joe, of Dumas and Roberta Farley of Quitaque, were in attendance, as well as these children and their families.
Roberta's children who attended were Larry and Linda Farley, April, Jimmy, and Jacob Snavelly, and Matthew Farley of Amarillo; Debbie, Jack, Jamie, Richard, Ryan, and Jessica Wellman, Dennis, Lisa, Melody, Randy, and Mitchell Farley of Quitaque.
Attending from Marie's family were Dale, Carol, Russell and Kristin Ramsey of Quitaque and friend, Eric Nielson of Levelland; Dwight, Anita, and Dara Ramsey of Silvertown and friend, Cory Chandler of Quitaque; Kyle, Amy, Torrey, Shelby and Maison Fuston, Bill and Kayla Miller of Silvertown; Glenna and Cameron Jameson, of Claytonville, Michelle and Christian Anderson of Plainview.
Una Lee's children who attended were Danny and Judy Barrett of Quitaque.
Owayne's and Joyce's children and the other nieces and nephews were unable to attend this year due to health concerns, bad weather, or conflicting schedules.
There were 42 family members present to enjoy the visiting, great meal, gift exchange, and old home movies. My, my how the group has changed since the fifties and sixties when the first home movies were filmed. They enjoyed reminiscing and laughing over how much they and all their childhood friends had grown up, but were both saddened and excited to see and remember all the family members who have passed away. What a great thing close family is and what great memories family gatherings give.

FLOMOT NEWS

OVERHEARD
A friend is the first one to walk in when the world walks out

Holiday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Tiffin were grandson and family, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Tiffin, Trent and Kevin of Weatherford.
Dane Degan of Lubbock visited Friday night and Saturday with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Rogers. Joining them to visit Saturday were his parents, Donna and Stanley Degan of Kalgary.
When checking water lines at a building south of his home Friday morning, L.E. Shorter was surprised when he encountered a large rattle snake outside the building in the sun. He didn't realize it was there until it struck and was thankful it missed him!
Mrs. Annie B. Cloyd, who is ill, is visiting in Memphis in the home of her son and wife, Dickie and Kim Cloyd.
Perry and Jerry Whitaker of Crane, twin sons of Bert Whitaker, have moved to Flomot and enrolled in the Motley County Schools.
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Starkey visited in Wellington, Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Jay Kennedy, Jackie and Tanya Starkey. Visiting Mr. and Mrs. Starkey, Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Michael Starkey of Canyon.
Mr. and Mrs. L.E. Shorter visited from Saturday until Monday at Lake Conroe with daughter and family, Judy and Richard Rhodes. Other guests for a New Year and belated Christmas celebration, Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Rick Rhodes and Chase of Irving and friends of Houston, Russell Rhodes, student at Texas A&M in College Station and friend, Kimberly Holt of Midland, also an A&M student.
Mr. and Mrs. Shorter visited overnight Monday in Houston with his sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Thrumman Kirtley before their flight home to Lubbock Air port.
Visiting during the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Johnney Turner were son, Cobey, student at Texas Tech in Lubbock and fiancée, Janell Kilmer, student at SPC in Levelland.
Weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Johnson and celebrating New Year and a belated Christmas were Lucretia and Breck Dockery and daughter, Brittany of Vernon, Kayla and Neil Guest of Turkey and Mrs. James May of Quitaque.
Floyd T. Starkey of Ralls visited his grandmother, Mrs. C.W. Starkey, Sunday.
Art Green visited during the week in Matador with son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Green, Aaron, Ashlee and Annie. He attended the funeral of his aunt, Mrs. Ira (Lennie) Slover held at the Methodist Church in Matador, Monday and burial services at the Whiteflat Cemetery.
Mary Ellen Barton visited in Floydada, Friday with her sister, Mrs. Mollie Burleson.
Mr. and Mrs. Clois Shorter and daughter and family, Christi, Dwain and Emily Milam of Petersburg enjoyed lunch and entertainment in Lubbock, Saturday.
Julie Clay of Lubbock visited Saturday night and Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ike Clay. She attended the Sunday morning services at the Flomot Baptist Church with them.

THANKS FOR READING THE CLASSIFIEDS!

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- AMERICAN BEAUTY ELBO MAC LONG OR TUNA SPAGHETTI 11 CT. 99¢
- CONFRANTO REFRIED BEANS 11 OZ. 59¢
- ASSORTED SWEET-N-LOW 11 CT. 1.19

GOLDEN RIPE Bananas 3 \$1

Salad Mix 1.49

Tomatoes 99¢ LB.

BAKED NAVEL Oranges 4 LB. BAG 1.59

JALAPENO Peppers 89¢ LB.

SUPER SELECT Cucumbers 3 for 89¢

DIETARY Squash 89¢

PREPARED SPAGHETTI SAUCE 1.19

PREPARED BEEF STEW 1.19

PREPARED KETCHUP 1.19

DAIRY

- EMERALD QUARTERS 2 LB. 1.00
- KRAFT BEST SHREDED VELVETA 4 OZ. 1.99

FROZEN

- PREPARED FISH STICKS 4 OZ. 1.79

FRESH BOSTON BUTT Pork Shoulder Roast 1.19 LB.

FAMILY PACK Drumsticks or Thighs 49¢ LB.

MEATY PORK SHOULDER Country Style Ribs 1.49 LB.

PREPARED PORK STEAK 1.39 LB.

PREPARED PORK CHINA BROS. ARM ROAST 1.89 LB.

PREPARED TRIM BONELESS BEEF ARM CHARCOAL STEAK 1.99 LB.

PREPARED TRIM BONELESS BEEF TOP BLADE ROAST 2.39 LB.

MORE MEAT SPECIALS

- PREPARED TRIM BONELESS BEEF TOP BLADE STEAK 2.19
- WHEELS STEW 2.19
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- SHRIMP REEL OR HOT BREAKFAST SAUSAGE 1.69
- MARKET CUT PEELED LONGSHOULDER CHEDDAR CHEESE 2.29

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Cotton's New Press
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Cotton News

Cotton's Message Delivered to New President Elect

Lubbock, Tx., December 22, 2000 By Shawn Wade
After being invited to one of the first sit-down meetings on Agriculture policy by President-elect George W. Bush, cotton industry representative Robert E. McClendon discussed a number of issues that affect severely distressed cotton producers in Texas and across the United States.

McClendon described to Bush, and Secretary of Agriculture nominee Ann Veneman, an economic scenario that threatens to critically wound a significant segment of the Texas cotton industry.

McClendon reiterated the fact that authority for a third wave of disaster assistance does exist under the "Severe Economic Loss" section of the 2000 Crop Disaster Program approved by Congress as part of the FY2001 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.

The primary target of much of the problem are a large number of producers whose production in 2000 exceeded the 65 percent Crop Disaster Program (CDP) trigger level but still suffered significant quality deductions on the heels of wet, harvest-delaying weather in October and November.

The net effect is less income from a short crop that was more expensive than expected to produce.

Without the benefits provided through the 2000 CDP these producers will be unable to generate enough income at current price levels to cover operating expenses which skyrocketed due to increased insect pressure and energy costs during the growing season.

The bulk of the impacted growers in 2000 are located on the Texas High Plains and Plains Cotton Growers has been pushing hard to find both short and long term solutions that will ultimately keep farmers in the game in 2001.

The most significant hurdle will be financing options available to growers in 2001. Most observers are indicating that producers will be hard pressed to demonstrate a positive financial outcome in 2001 based on current price and expense projections.

Irrigated producers trying to figure out how to finance both carry-over debt from 2000 as well as 2001 operating expenses will have an especially hard time. Dryland producers will also face an uphill battle.

The central battleground seems to be the loan office for many producers and PCG is working to formulate some type of plan that would help producers project positive cash flows from next years crop.

Central ideas at this time involve the pursuit of increased loan rates on the 2001 crop to raise the floor price that producers can realize, increasing the 2001 Ag Market Transition Payment rate to 1998 levels, and authorization of the use of modified producer yield and crop acreage base figures for cotton.

The general consensus is that updating the program in these three areas would provide enough of a boost in projected income levels to allow full financing of operating expenses in 2001.

The other avenue for short-term assistance that is still in need of further pursuit is the authority for "Severe Economic Loss" payments under the current Disaster program.

PCG and the NCC will be encouraging the new Administration to find some way to implement assistance under this section and target some help to growers who have suffered significant economic losses over the past two to three years but have been cut off from disaster assistance in the past.

Cotton's invitation to sit at the table with President elect Bush is certainly an encouraging sign that he and Secretary of Agriculture nominee Ann Veneman are interested in helping agriculture and cotton get through this very difficult period.

PCG Focused On Producer Needs In 2001
Lubbock, January 5, 2001 By Shawn Wade

Members of the Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. Board of Directors will meet Wednesday, January 17 in Lubbock to discuss the organization's legislative priorities for 2001.

The PCG Board has been working for several months to fashion a preliminary set of goals to bring both short- and long-term relief to growers in 2001. The ill effects of the 2000 growing season piled on top of poor economic outcomes in previous years have virtually every link in the industry chain worried about the coming year.

At the top of the list are producers and bankers trying to figure out how to finance operations that face the worst of all situations, low prices and increased costs.

Adding to the misery is the hit price projections took this week with an upward revision in Chinese production numbers. The change will no doubt alter forecasted world supply and carryover projections and change the timeline for price recovery.

In the light of these and other issues PCG has focused on two immediate changes to benefit producers.

Chief among the policy changes PCG will be pushing for, and one that could make the most direct impact on producer cash-flows, is the immediate increase of the base cotton loan rate by 20 percent.

Such a change would increase the loan rate to about 60 cents per pound and put a new face on the balance sheets of many growers.

Bank representatives are scrambling for ways to prevent the unfair penalization of growers who, through no fault of their own, have been adversely affected by drought, cost increases, and low prices.

Many growers are simply unable to project a positive cash-flow situation due to the effects of variables over which they have no control.

The second part of PCG's short-term relief initiative would entail changing the 2001 Agricultural Market Transition Act (AMTA) payment rate and authorization of a second AMTA payment for the 2001 crop year.

PCG is suggesting all 2001 AMTA payments be calculated using the 1998 payment rate of 8.17 cents per pound.

Any short-term changes will hopefully get producers back in the game in 2001. They are, however, only the start of the policy work that will be taking place in 2001.

Efforts are also underway to develop a comprehensive set of long-term policy reform suggestions to set the stage for development of the next Farm Bill. The House Ag Committee is gearing up for another round of hearings and the issue is expected to be a top priority in 2001.

PCG is currently looking to initiate changes aimed at several areas key to shoring up the safety net provisions of current farm policy.

The balance must be struck, however, is to provide an adequate safety net without decreasing the flexibility growers currently have under Freedom to Farm.

Long-term reform ideas that PCG is now looking into include:
1. A permanent increase in Marketing Loan rates for all program commodities.
2. Initiation of a voluntary set-aside program that producers can use to further increase loan rates along the lines of the "Flexible Follow" program being studied at the time.
3. Initiation of counter-cyclical price protection mechanism to kick in automatically when prices are down.
4. Continuation of some form of de-coupled payment mechanism similar to current AMTA payments utilizing updated acreage and yield figures.

In the coming months PCG will be seeking additional input throughout this process. The main conduit for surfacing, evaluating and then pursuing new program ideas is the PCG Board of Directors.

Current PCG member gains in the 25-county High Plains region earn a seat on the PCG Board automatically and are immediately entitled to take part in all PCG deliberations.

One of the key strengths PCG enjoys, and the main reason it receives the consideration it does at the State and National level, is the fact that 70 percent of the cotton produced in the High Plains region pay dues to support the organization's efforts.

That level of support makes it clear that the messages that PCG delivers and the situations it describes are not only accurate but carry the weight of a significant portion of the cotton growers in the region.

Grower input and participation makes the process work and allows PCG to translate grass-roots support and ideas into real benefits for its grower membership.

Turkey Lions Meet

by J. Guest
The Lion's Club met on January 8th with 12 members present. After the meeting was called to order, Lion Morse led the pledge followed by Lion Green's prayer for the meal. Following a pot luck dinner, the upcoming agenda was discussed. It was agreed to continue pot luck until someone is located to cook the meal.

Notices will be sent to notify everyone that fees for the Flag Service are now due. Arrangements are now being made to engage Ricky Phiel for a Tailtwister presentation.

The annual Valentine Banquet for singles and widows is scheduled for the February 12th meeting. Invitations will be prepared and mailed by Lion Guest. Lion L. Cruse and Marjorie Bell volunteered for the decoration committee.

The coaches of Valley High School will give an informative presentation about the Valley sports program at the February 26th meeting. Also Lion Colvin will give a brief report on information gained at an Eye Bank Meeting.

The club is scheduled to prepare the meal at the next Jamboree on February 3rd. It was decided to have chili dogs or a bowl of chili, brownies, cookies and rice crispies treats. Several volunteered to bring various items for that meal. This project, which also provides delightful entertainment, is a good money-maker for the Club.

Turkey Medical Clinic News

During the last week of December, 2000, the clinic saw eleven people and gave several flu and pneumonia injections. The flu and cold season is upon us. Here are some facts to know and tips on prevention and feeling better.

A cold and the flu have many of the same symptoms. But a cold is generally mild, while the flu tends to be more severe. Both the flu and colds are caused by viruses. There's no cure for a cold or the flu. Antibiotics don't work against viruses. All you can do to feel better is treat your symptoms while your body fights off the virus. Here are some tips on treating your cold/flu symptoms:

1. Stay home and rest, especially if you have a fever.
2. Stop smoking and avoid second-hand smoke.
3. Drink plenty of fluids like water, fruit juices and clear soups.
4. Don't drink alcohol.
5. Gargle with warm salt water a few times a day to relieve a sore throat.
6. Use salt water (saline) nose drops to help loosen mucus and moisten the tender skin of your nose.

American Academy of Family Physicians (1999)

Think Texas

by Agriculture Commissioner SUSAN COMBS

While big businesses and booming populations are mainstays of Texas' urban areas, rural Texas is fading. This is a fact of life here and across the nation - and something must be done to make sure our rural areas do not languish while the rest of the state prospers.

Just looking at the striking differences between urban and rural Texas, it's clear that we must come up with solutions that have the potential to raise the spirits - as well as the status - of rural areas.

One such solution is the Texas Agricultural Finance Authority, which has been active in keeping agricultural businesses alive. While it's nothing new, we are now working to broaden its rural economic development scope.

Under TAFE, we recently have developed a new program called the Rural Economic Development Finance Program. Basically, this new program opens doors for rural loans that aren't necessarily related to agriculture but help the local community.

Beyond the new program, we'll be seeking changes to TAFE in general in the coming legislative session. Such changes include issuing revenue bonds to provide financial assistance in rural areas for rural economic development, providing access for rural political subdivisions to the Rural Economic Development Finance Program, adding a new rural development loan project category to the Linked Deposit Program with a \$5 million allocation, and offering loan guarantees for the purchase of farm and ranch real estate.

In agriculture, we're always up for a challenge. And with programs like TAFE, many of these challenges turn into opportunities. We are looking forward to addressing some of the difficulties we share in agriculture and work collectively to boost the spirits and enhance the prosperity of our rural communities.

Where Do We Go From Here?

Guest Column

U.S. Representative Mac Thornberry

I have to admit that I am one of those who believe we are just now about to enter the new millennium. My wife says it does not matter, but I argue that if there never was a year zero, we did not complete 2000 years until the end of the year 2000. And if we are just entering the new century and new millennium, maybe we have another chance to evaluate where our nation stands, without all of last year's hype.

Given all that the country has been through in the past few weeks, a lot of questions come to mind. We stand at the pinnacle as the most powerful, most prosperous country in the history of the world. Will we stay that way?

I do not believe that the United States will be conquered from the outside. There are certainly enormous security challenges before us, such as the spread of terrorism and of weapons of mass destruction. The world is shrinking, and we cannot pretend that we are unaffected by problems elsewhere. But I have come to believe that the biggest hurdle to our staying on top is internal.

The media has been full of stories about the deep divisions in the country. Certainly if we analyze the exit polls from the recent elections, there are startling contrasts in the voting patterns of urban and rural voters, of men and women, of whites and blacks.

Diversity has always been one of America's strengths. From the beginning, people have come here from all over the world seeking freedom and a better life, bringing their culture and heritage with them. America has benefited from that wealth of energy and talent which people of different faiths, different backgrounds, and different perspectives bring.

As we have seen in the Balkans and elsewhere, if differences are allowed to take center stage, people will splinter into opposing groups causing mistrust, suspicion, and hostility. Then, it is easy to lose touch with our common heritage or Lincoln's "mystic chords of memory." Throughout our history, people in the United States have been able to pull together, recognizing that we have differences, but always remembering that those things that we have in common as Americans are stronger than whatever differences we may have.

Unfortunately, we have been seeing a disturbing trend. Some individuals and groups seem to exploit - or even create - differences among us, for their own selfish purposes. They seem to thrive on the very divisiveness and hostility that poses a threat to our overall strength as a nation.

Some so-called "leaders" try to get more television time, more followers, and more influence by playing up real or imagined grievances. One well-known person actually called for his followers to take to the streets to protest the outcome of the Presidential election. A whole industry has grown up with groups that send out inflammatory mail on some issue which then asks for a contribution to help fight some "evil."

These folks have no interest in working together to accomplish good things - that would rob them of the issues that give them power. They profit from polarization. Division is their currency, and the national news media often provides amplification for their voices. We have seen much of that in Florida in recent weeks.

We may see some of that in Washington, too. President-elect Bush has made it clear that he will reach out to Democrats. He has a history of doing so in Austin, and he knows he will have to have some of their votes to make progress on his agenda.

The bigger question is whether they will meet him halfway? We have found that when some in Congress get their way, it is hailed as "bipartisanship"; when they do not get their way, it is labeled "extreme partisanship." Bipartisanship has to be a two-way street, but some politicians may think they are better off politically by fanning the flames of divisiveness and exploiting feelings of outrage and injustice.

So what do we do in the face of those who try to gain power and influence by dividing Americans? Clearly, we will always have differences of opinion, but we have to put greater emphasis on all that we have in common - those values and ideas which unite us.

For example, all Americans should have a good understanding of American history. In recent years it seems that studying the Founding Fathers, the Revolutionary War, and those ideas which make America special are not "politically correct." Too many people today are not familiar with the basic precepts about freedom and the role of government contained in our Declaration of Independence. When speaking before a group of new citizens, school groups, or a local Rotary club, I have found that reminding people of those "self-evident" truths can be as uplifting and unifying now as at any time in our past.

We also have to unite against those who would whip up prejudice or envy or ignorance to pit one American against another. We should have little tolerance for these tactics. True leaders bring out the best in us, not the worst, appealing to "the better angels of our nature" as Lincoln put it.

In his concession speech, Vice President Gore said, "...that which unites us is greater than that which divides us." For well over 200 years it has been so, but we cannot assume that it will be so indefinitely. Each of us has a responsibility to preserve and strengthen those American ideals for the new millennium, whenever it starts.



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Cotton Conference
Continued from page 1
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THANK YOU
 I would like to thank the Quitaque EMS and those people involved in transporting me to Amarillo during the ice and snow storm. Thanks again.
 Santos Cavazos

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Yesteryear
Taken From The Quitaque Post Thursday, January 3, 1957
Recipe for New Year's-
 "Take twelve fine, full grown months, see that these are thoroughly free from old memories of bitterness, rancor, hate and jealousy, cleanse them completely from every clinging spite, pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness, in short see that these months are freed from all the past - have them as fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time."
 "Cut these months into thirty one equal parts. This batch will keep for just one year. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so many people spoil the entire lot this way), but prepare one day at a time, as follows:-
 "Into each day put 12 parts of faith, 11 parts of patience, 10 of courage, 9 of work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil hope, 7 of fidelity, 6 of liberty (the flavor of the rest), 8 parts of humility, 5 of kindness, 4 of rest, 3 parts of prayer, 2 of meditation and 1 of well-selected resolution."
 "Put in about a teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, a cupful of good humor. Pour into the whole batch and mix with a vim. Cook thoroughly in a fervent heat, garnish with a few smiles, serve with unselfishness and cheerfulness--and a Happy New Year is a certainty."
 -The Telescope Messenger
JIMMY DAVIDSON HOME FROM FT BLISS FOR VISIT
 Pvt. Jimmy Davidson left Sunday night to return to Fort Bliss at El Paso after spending the weekend here with his wife, Clara Ruth and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Davidson and Freddie.
 Mrs. Francis Wise and children are spending the Christmas season with her two sisters, Mrs. J. R. Johnson at El Paso and Mrs. Dorothy Hanny at Las Cruces, N. M.
 Alfred Martin and son, Eldon Dean Turner and Rex Johnson attended the Silverton Rodeo Sunday.
 Mr. and Mrs. Sam Ross were in Lubbock Wednesday and Thursday where he received a check up at the hospital.

Immunization Clinics For January
 Immunization Clinics offering vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases are scheduled for December. Protection is against polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps and HIB (haemophilus influenzae type b) and Varicella (chickenpox).
 A charge for vaccination will be assessed based on family income, family size, and the ability of the individual or family to pay, however no one will be turned away if not able to pay. These charges are necessary in order to help defray the cost of keeping the clinics operating.
 Additionally, flu shots will also be available at the noted clinics. Those considered to be in a high-risk category should seek to be immunized as soon as possible. This would include anyone over the age of 65 and anyone with a chronic medical condition.
 Immunizations will be available at the Texas Department of Health Office in Tulia at 219 E. 2nd Street on January 10, 2001, January 17, 2001 and January 24, 2001 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
 Immunizations will be available at Silverton City Hall from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on January 16, 2001.
 Immunizations will be available at the Valley School on January 11, 2001 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
 Immunizations will be available at the Texas Department of Health Clinic at Clarendon at 114 South Sully on January 16, 2001 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
 All times are subject to change or cancellation due to weather or scheduling conflicts.

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