

THE VALLEY TRIBUNE

"Voice of the Rolling Plains"

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PHIL BAREFIELD
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Volume 47 Number 24 * Quitaque, Texas 79255 * Serving ~ Briscoe ~ Hall ~ Motley ~ Counties * Thursday, January 3, 2008



A 'Love Fund' has been set up at the First National Bank of Quitaque for Fidel and Susanna Valdez and their young son who lost their home and all their belongings in a fire around midnight on Sunday, December 30 in Quitaque.

The young couple had no insurance at the time of the fire. If you wish to help the family, your donations can be taken by the First National Bank of Quitaque or to Quitaque City Hall.

Jamboree This Saturday In Turkey

This Saturday, January 5th will be the first jamboree of 2008 and a chance for everyone to wish each other a happy new year if you have not seen them over the holiday season. The show will be as always at the beautiful and warm Gem Theatre in downtown Turkey, Texas where the admission is free and so is the parking! There will, as always, be a great meal prior to the show and the meal of Taco soup with all the trimmings and dessert will benefit the Turkey Roost Museum. The meal will be \$5.00 and they will start serving at 6p.m.

The show will start off with keyboard stylist Turkey's own Gary Johnson, a real talent and crowd pleaser. He will be followed by the Adams Brothers, Jimmy and Les, from Clarendon and Canyon. The third contestant vying for the cash prize will be country song stylist Kathy Whitton of Lubbock.

There will also be the Talent Showcase and everyone is invited to try to entertain the audience.

The 'Premier Band of West Texas' will conclude the night. They are eight of the most talented musicians as individuals and when they get together they are super talented!

For anyone who has not attended one of these shows be assured they are family oriented and no one has ever been displeased with the talent or the content of these shows. All ages will enjoy themselves!

The \$100.00 cash prize for the winner was donated this month by Billy ray Hardcastle and Dr. Sidney Ontai. The \$25.00 Door Prize was donated by Imogene Molloy, of Memphis. There are also many prizes to be given out between acts from baked goods to electronics.

We hope to see y'all on the 5th of January, and remember bring a friend or two!

Hall County FSA Begins Making Disaster Payments

Hall County Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Executive Director Billy Foster announced on December 26, 2007 that FSA has been authorized to immediately begin making disaster payments.

"These payments are for approved Crop Disaster, Livestock Compensation and Livestock Indemnity Program applications," Said Foster, Hall County Executive Director. "Payments made in Texas represent a portion of nearly \$1 billion dollars in disaster assistance to be issued through FSA nationwide, to date."

The Livestock Compensation program 2005-2007 (LCP) provides benefits to livestock producers in designated disaster counties who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disaster occurring between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007, including losses resulting from blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007.

Livestock Indemnity Program 2005-2007 (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers in designated disaster counties for livestock deaths caused by natural disasters that occurred between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007, including losses because of blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007.

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered losses to the 2005-2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions as long as the actual crop lost was planted or prevented from being planted before February 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year for which to receive benefits and may receive benefits for multiple crop losses if all were in the same crop year.

Sign up for LIP and LCP began on September 10, 2007 and sign up for CDP began on October 15, 2007; no sign up deadlines for these disaster assistance program have been set.

For more information about disaster payments, contact the Hall County FSA County office located at 1002 West Noel Street, Memphis or call 806-259-2166.



Stock Show Just Around The Corner

The Briscoe County Stock Show is scheduled for January 10 and 12, 2008 at the Showbarn in Silverton on the 10th and at the Vance Price memorial Building at Valley School on the 12th.

Schedule of Events:
Thursday, January 10 at 5:00 p.m. - Cattle, Lamb and Goat Show

Saturday, January 12 at 8:30 a.m. - Swine Show; 5:00 p.m. - Buyers' Brisket Supper; 6:00 p.m. Awards Presentation; 6:30 p.m. Premium Auction.

Snow fell, in varying amounts, over the Valley area during the Christmas holiday causing travel difficulties for some travelers. Snow on the Caprock made a beautiful sight, helping set the stage for a truly 'Caprock Country Christmas'!

Briscoe Co. Commissioners Vote To Hold Joint Primary In March

The Briscoe County Commissioners Court met in regular session on December 10. Present for the meeting were County Judge Wayne Nance, Commissioners Terry Grimland-Pct 1, Dale Smith-Pct 2, Larry Comer-Pct 3, John Burson-Pct 4, County Clerk Bena Hester, and County Treasurer Mary Jo Brannon. After attending to regular monthly court business the following items were addressed:

* A motion passed to approve Resolution #07-004, which approves of a Joint Primary for the upcoming March 8, 2008 Primary Election and any necessary primary runoff.

* A motion passed to approve the Courts 2008 Holiday Schedule as presented.

* A motion passed to cast ballots for the Briscoe County Tax Appraisal Board members as follows: Wayne Nance - 850; Dale Smith-850; Kathy Kingery-42.

With no further court business the meeting was adjourned.

What's Happening In The Valley Area This Week?

January 3

* Valley School Begins 4th Six Weeks

January 5

* Turkey Jamboree @ 7p.m. Supper @ 6 p.m. before show

* Silverton Clothes Closet Open Today

January 7

* Quitaque Lions Club meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

January 8

* Valley School Report Cards

* We The Women meeting @ 12 noon

January 10

* Turkey City Council meeting @ 7 p.m.

* Matador Masonic Lodge meeting

It Is FREE To Add Your Events To This Calendar

Deadline Is Noon Tuesdays

To Add Your Event Call: 806-455-1101 or email: vtaylor@caprock-spur.com

Palo Duro Basin Oil & Gas 2007 Summary

Thomas Lee Musser

2000 to 2007 Palo Duro Basin Oil and Gas Activity:

In the six counties of Briscoe, Floyd, Hale, Hall, Motley and Swisher there are forty-one wellbores of interest:

* One old shut-in wellbore has been plugged and abandoned.

* Three wellbores have been re-entered: One re-entry is producing oil and two re-entries are shut-in.

* Twenty-two new wellbores have been drilled: two new wells are producing oil and or condensate; Two new wells are currently being tested; One new well is currently ongoing horizontal re-completion; Two new wells are awaiting pipeline connection; Fifteen new wellbores are shut-in; Two new wellbores have been plugged and abandoned.

* One scheduled re-entry is awaiting operations to begin.

* Three new wellbores are awaiting drilling operations to begin

* Ten drilling permits have expired without the wellbore being drilled

* One drilling application was dismissed by the Railroad Commission of Texas, Oil & Gas Division.

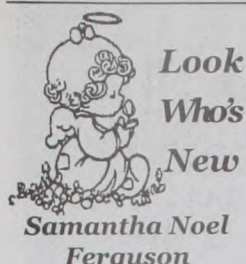
Current Palo Duro Basin Oil and Gas Activity as of January 1, 2008

Three producing oil wells: Briscoe County - OGL Holding - G. Mayfield - Well #1; Floyd County - Apollo Energy - W.D. Miller - Well #1; Motley County - Tyner Texas Operating - R.G. Stephens - Well #1.

Currently Being Tested: Floyd County - PetroGlobe Energy - McIntosh - Well #176; Motley County - Bankers Petroleum - Burleson 60 - Well #1

Horizontal Re-Completion: Motley County - Bankers Petroleum - Cogdell 64 - Well #1

Awaiting Pipeline Connection: Floyd County - PetroGlobe Energy - McIntosh - Well #1077; Floyd County - PetroGlobe Energy - McIntosh - Well #176



Look Who's New

Samantha Noel Ferguson

Cory and Becky Ferguson and Kaitlyn are the proud parents and sister of a baby girl, Samantha Noel. She was born on November 7, 2007. She weighed 7 lbs. 14 ozs and was 19 1/2 inches long.

Samantha's grandparents are Ike Ferguson, Frances Ferguson and Kevin and Treva Cunningham. Great-grandparents are E.G. and Barb Reed, Linda Ferguson, Jan Morgan and Larry Cunningham, and great-grandmother Goldie Horton.

Look Who's New



Payton Joe Pinkerton

Billy and Margie Pinkerton have a new grandson, Payton Joe Pinkerton, born November 27, 2007 in Lubbock. He weighed in at 7 lbs and was 19 inches long at birth.

Proud parents are Tommy and Shauna Pinkerton. Payton arrived 3 weeks early and had to spend time in intensive care on a respirator, but has improved and was able to go home from the hospital on Sunday, December 11th. Since being at home, he has been doing great and received a good report at his doctor's visit.

OBITUARIES

Arlowene M. Williams

Funeral services for Arlowene M. Williams, 90, of Turkey, will be held Monday, December 31, 2007 at the First United Methodist Church, in Turkey. Interment followed in Dreamland Cemetery at Turkey, under the direction of Seigler Funeral Home of Matador.

Mrs. Williams passed away Friday, December 28, 2007 in Lubbock. Arlowene married V.B. Doc Williams on November 14, 1936 in Hollis, Okla. Mrs. Williams had been a resident of Turkey since 1936 before moving to Lubbock for the past four years. She was a homemaker and worked for West Texas Utilities as a clerk for a number of years. Mrs. Williams was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Turkey, The Order of Eastern Star, and had served on the Turkey City Council.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 1979, and by a son, Harve Wade Williams, September 6, 2005.

She is survived by one son, Terry Doc Williams, of Abilene; one daughter, Bridgett Johnson, of Idalou; one daughter-in-law, Betty Williams, of Turkey; two brothers, Nelion Majors, of Lorenzo, and O.H. Majors, of Lubbock; one sister, Betty Connell, of Pampa; five grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: Greg Williams, Kyle Williams, C.J. Bollinger, Darryl Cash, David Majors, & Richard Johnson.

Courage is the ladder on which all the other virtues mount. ~ Clare Booth Luce

Courage is the price that life exacts for granting peace. ~ Amelia Earhart



Joe Ernest 'Ernie' Lee

Joe Ernest "Ernie" Lee, 31, died Sunday, December 23, 2007 in Amarillo, Texas.

Services were held on Thursday, December 27, 2007, in the Community Fellowship Church in Clarendon with the Rev. Roger Smith, Pastor, and Rev. Darrell Burton, Pastor of the Martin Baptist Church in Clarendon, officiating. Interment was in Citizens Cemetery in Clarendon.

Ernie was born March 3, 1976 in Groom to Joey & Brenda Lee. He lived in Clarendon most of his life and graduated from Clarendon High School in 1994. He worked for Chamberlain Motor Company until 1999 and had been working for Lee's Insurance Agency since that time. He was a member of the Turkey Lions Club. He was also a member of the Martin Baptist Church since November 11, 1984.

Ernie was preceded in death by his grandfather, Fred Row on February 27, 1997; his grandmother, Marjorie Row on November 25, 2007; & 2 sets of great-grandparents.

Survivors include his parents, Joey & Brenda Lee of Clarendon; 2 brothers, Robert Lee and wife Klyn, & Jason Lee, both of Amarillo; his grandparents, Orville & Ruth Lee of Flomot; 2 uncles, Ricky Row of Clarendon, & Roger Lee and wife Shonda of Flomot; an aunt, Teresa Lee of Turkey; and many cousins, classmates, & friends.

In lieu of flowers the family request memorials be to a local Lions Club of choice or the Lions Eye Bank of District 2T-1/Northwest Texas Hospital/1501 S. Coulter / Amarillo, Texas 79106.

Turkey Senior Citizens News

The annual Christmas party was held December 18th with a Chinese gift exchange. There were 22 people present including two nurses from home health. Before the delicious meal, J. R. Bradshaw said the prayer.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 8, 2008 at 6:00 pm. Blood pressure checks will begin at 5:30 pm. If you are a senior, come and join us for some food! fun! and fellowship!

Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage. ~ Anais Nin

Concentration comes out of a combination of confidence and hunger. ~ Arnold Palmer

Opal Faye Hill McClure

Opal Faye Hill McClure, 89, of Silverton, died Friday December 28, 2007. Services were held on Monday, December 31, 2007 at the First Baptist Church in Silverton. Brother Ed Norris officiated. Burial followed in Silverton Cemetery under the direction of Myers-Chancellor Funeral Home.

Opal was born August 20, 1918 in Munday, Texas to Jesse Walter and Alma Brannon.

She married Richard Hill on December 31, 1937 in Quitaque, Texas. He preceded her in death in 1969. Opal married T.V. McClure March 6, 1970 in Plainview, Texas. He preceded her in death in 1999.

Opal enjoyed a career as a licensed beautician. She was a lifetime member of the First Baptist Church and a member of Eastern Star.

Opal is survived by five children, Walter Richard Hill and wife Dianna of Plainview, Fred Hill and wife Lois of Canyon, Faye Pascal and husband Norman of Plainview, Garland McClure of Walnut Grove California, and Carrol McClure of Hunstville, Alabama, nine grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by four brothers.

The family requests memorials be made to HospiceCare of the Southwest 1500 S. Coulter Suite 3, Amarillo, Texas 79106.

You have to have confidence in your ability, and then be tough enough to follow through. ~ Rosalynn Carter

Self confidence is the first requisite to great undertakings. ~ Samuel Johnson



THE VALLEY TRIBUNE

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Laura Taylor, Editor

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Patsy Herrington, Quitaque Correspondent

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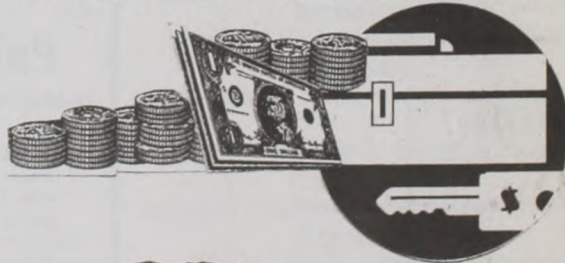
PRIVACY ~ SECURITY ~ PEACE OF MIND ~

Some Things are Priceless! Your Grandfather's Watch, Your Grandmother's Heirloom Necklace or Jewelry, Valuable Coins, A Letter or Picture!

Some Things can be Replaced, But with great effort! Stocks ~ Bonds ~ Abstracts ~ Deeds ~ Contracts

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

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Tri-County Meals

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

Serving free hot meals to the homebound residents of Turkey, Quitaque, Silverton & Flomot

Table with 3 columns: Day, Meal, and Description. Monday, January 7: Steak Fingers & Gravy, Broccoli & Cheese, Hot Roll, Dessert*, Milk. Wednesday, January 9: Baked Chicken, Whipped Potatoes, Green Peas, Bread/Dessert*, Milk. Friday, January 11: Ham Salad, Macaroni Salad, Soup/Crackers, Bread/Dessert*, Milk.

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

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'FLOMO', 'OVERHEARD', and 'Family'.

FLOMOT NEWS

By Earlyne Jameson

OVERHEARD

Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man. Happy New Year!

Christmas Candlelight Church Services

Candlelight services were held Sunday night, December 23 at the Baptist Church in Flomot. The Rev. Nathan Mulder, pastor, conducted the services, "Twelve Powers of Christmas". Each glowing candle reflected the power of Christ illuminating a world of darkness.

Special music was presented by Mrs. Kathy Shorter and Savannah Young, "The Christmas Lullaby". Karlee Kleibrink of Clifton and Sarah Clay of Panhandle sang "Away In The Manger". The congregation joined in singing Christmas hymns.

Accompanying them on the piano was Mrs. Anna Beth clay. Mrs. Kathy Mulder played the organ that was given to the church by Mrs. Theda Jenkins Anderson, former Matador resident.

Mrs. Judy Rhodes of Cypress and daughter in law and children, Mrs. Marian Rhodes, Chase and Wyatt of Tampa, Florida visited from Christmas day until Friday December 28 with her father, Everett Shorter, brother and wife, Clois and Kathy Shorter. Marian's husband, Dr. Rick Rhodes, stationed with the U.S. Air Force in Afghanistan, is an orthopedic surgeon.

Janice and Butch Hughes were guests Sunday, December 23 in the home of son and family, Ricky, Tasha, Kason and Kendall Hughes of Floydada. Christmas day they were guests in Floydada on son and family, Roger, Tiffany, Reagan and Tara Hughes.

Christmas guests of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ike Clay Saturday, December 23 were children and families, Lori and Kevon Kleibrink, Karlee and Kyler of Clifton, Larry and Angelia Clay, Kelsey, Tanner and Sarah of Panhandle, Tina and Pat Carson, Walker, Ryleigh and Parker of Turkey, Julie and Bill Edwards, Caden, Jaxon and Laney of Flomot.

Visiting Clois and Kathy Shorter during the Christmas holidays were daughters and families, Christi and Dwain Milam, Emily and Haley of Petersburg and Keri and Kevin Sehon and Brian of Ropesville.

Christmas day guests of Mrs. Erma Washington were Matt Washington, Brazos and Blu, Mr. and Mrs. Tim Washington of Roaring Springs, Anissa Huckert, Colton Barclay, Mr. and Mrs. Cory Franks, Madison and Hudson of Lubbock, Cary Franks of Idalou Mr. and Mrs. Conway Clary, Caleb, Micky an Kenzie of Matador, Clint Cowart of Post, Mr. and Mrs. Coy Franks, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Barclay and Cara Franks of Flomot.

Christmas holiday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Johnson were daughters and families, Lucretia and Breck Dockery and Brittany of Vernon and Kayla and Neil Guest of Turkey.

Holiday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Barclay were Mr. and Mrs. Cody Barclay, Lane and Ashton of Borger, Mrs. Sherryl Barclay, Kayla, and Colton of Lubbock, Mr. and Mrs. Ty Barclay, Tylee, Trent and Trevor of Matador.

Wilburn Martin visited in Borger Sunday and Monday in the home of daughter and husband, Marilee and Fred Cooper. They had a family celebration Sunday night and other guests were Wilburn's grandchildren, Cole Martin of Portales, NM, and Lindsay Martin of Amarillo; Cory and Becca Cooper, Gavin and Mason and Bob cooper of Borger, Carl Cooper of Amarillo and Kendra Cooper of Pampa.

Cally and Will Sperry, Savannah, Blayne, Gage and Cash attended the Christmas eve celebration held in he home of Johnnie Pigg of the Gray Mule community. They visited Christmas day in Lubbock with her grandmother, Mrs. Sue Pool.

Holiday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Starkey and Johnnie Starkey were Mr. and Mrs. Michael Starkey and Ben of Canyon, Mrs. Nola Long and Christen of Winnewood, OK, Mrs. Bobbie Hanna of Warner, OK, Lola Jewel Starkey of Clyde, L.T. Starkey of Ralls and Phylis and Roy Gladson and Tonya of Austin.

Visiting during the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Roger Vinson and Mrs. Beverly Vinson were Mr. and Mrs. Shannon Vinson, Kaitlyn, Morgan and Bubba and Mr. and Mrs. Dana Vinson, Allison and Elise of Lubbock.

James, Darla and Danielle Gwinn joined family members at the Gwinn home in Matador on Christmas eve. Others attending were Aly Gwinn, Mrs. Sarah Hurt, Emily and Annie of Lubbock, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Holcomb of Floydada, Fannin Gwinn and friend, Rebecca of Flomot, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Raetz and Charles "Chig" Gwinn of Matador.

Mary Ellen "Dude" Barton was a guest at a Christmas day luncheon in the Matador home of Judy and Butch Renfro and their family. Before returning home, she visited Dixie and Bunday Hal Campbell and their holiday guests.

Mrs. Tommie Jo Cruse and her family enjoyed a Christmas night celebration in her home in Flomot. Those attending were Regina and Chad Seward, Allison, Quaid and Macy of Goldwithe, Mr. and Mrs. Chancey Cruse of Clarendon, Roegan Cruse of Turkey, Mr. and Mrs. Talon Cruse and Colton of Whiteflat and their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Cruse of Flomot; Mr. and Mrs. Larry Clifton of Elk City, OK, Mr. and Mrs. Tanner Smith, Cutter and Jaxon of Floydada and Skylar Clifton of Denver, CO, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Patton, Thor, Tory, Teah and Tally of Happy, Mr. and Mrs. James Gwinn and Danielle of Whiteflat and Fannin Gwinn of Flomot, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Cruse of Flomot and their holiday guests, children, Leah Cruse of Canyon, Mr. and Mrs. Keane Cruse and Reese of Turkey and Derrick Cruse of Casper, WY.

Mrs. Jackie Sperry of Quitaque and Mrs. Cally Sperry attended the funeral of Ernie Lee held in Clarendon Thursday afternoon.

Letters To The Editor



December 30, 2007 Dear Vince and Laura (Valley Tribune),

Thank you so much for your willingness to help the Quitaque First United Methodist Church with stories about activities in our church. I appreciate your kindness and smiles when I e-mail a late article and you work just a little later to get it in the paper.

Not only do I appreciate the help with the FUMC, but the willingness to print articles for the Quitaque Ambulance Service is greatly appreciated.

Printing the articles helps the Ambulance Services in Quitaque, Turkey and Silvertown meet the public awareness requirements in order to qualify for Regional Advisory Council state funding.

Thank you so much for the great work you do with the Valley Tribune. I greatly enjoy the paper.

Sincerely, Dianne Washington

Cutest Dog & Cat Photo Contest Open To Area Residents

The TX State Chapter of Dog & Cat Lovers of America in partnership with IPOC is proud to announce that many cash and prizes are up for grabs including a \$1,000.00 Cash Grand Prize in the 2008 Spring Cutest Pet Photo Contest. 10 lucky entrants will also be selected to have their photo grace the cover of an internationally distributed pet book. "We refer to them as Cover Pets," states Rosa Bonheur, contest chairperson. Recent winners include Candice Ramsey of Arkansas (\$1,000.00 Cash) and Connie Ernske of Ohio (\$1,000.00 Cash).

Pet owners from the Valley area are welcome to win a share of the prizes. The deadline for the contest is Feb 15th. The contest is open to everyone and entry is free. Dog and cat photos are welcome. The photo may contain one pet or several and may include different pet types in the same photo. There is a strict limit of one photo per household to avoid disqualification. "Every pet owner has at least one photo that shows just how cute their pet is," says Bonheur, "When people learn about the contest, they get excited about the chance of winning and the potential for national attention," continued Bonheur.

The preferred method of entry is to enter directly online at www.CutestPetContest.com.

You may also submit your photo by postal mail. Please send one photograph full color or black and white of any size. All photo entries must include the photographer's name and address on the back. Photographs should be sent to: TX 2008 Spring Cutest Pet Photo Contest, P.O. Box 4470, Olathe, KS 66063. Entries must be postmarked by Feb 15th 2008.

Dog & Cat Lovers of America is an organization dedicated to bringing pet owners from around the world together for fun and fellowship. Membership in the organization is not required to participate and the entry is free. Past winners are listed at www.cutestpetcontest.com

CAPROCK CAFE

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

THURSDAY'S

FRIED CHICKEN

Noon Buffet 11:00am - 2:00pm Night Buffet More Chicken Gizzards & Livers 5:30pm- 8:30pm

FRIDAY'S

BAR-B-QUE & CATFISH

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

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Authentic MEXICAN FOOD

Chile Rellano's, Taco's, Enchiladas, Chalupas; Served with Beans, Rice, Chips & Homemade Salsa ALL DAY

Call In Your Order & Have It Hot & Ready For Pick-Up When You Arrive

Crossword puzzle titled 'The Original TEXAS CROSSWORD' with clues and a grid. Includes categories like ACROSS, DOWN, and various word clues related to Texas history and culture.

I was always looking outside myself for strength and confidence, but it comes from within. It is there all the time. - Anna Freud

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WARM-UP TO OUR WINTER FOOD VALUES. Advertisement for Venture Food Store featuring a list of winter items like Navel Oranges, Lemons, Gala Apples, Cucumbers, Broccoli Crowns, Zucchini Squash, Paper Towels, Pineapple, Chicken Broth, Vegetables, Black Eyed Peas, Marshmallows, Cocoa Mix, and Sweetened Coconut with their respective prices.

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More Texas Sunshine In Washington

By U.S. Sen. John Cornyn

At a time when government seems to be growing by the day, Congress made an important move at year-end towards increasing government openness, transparency and accountability. Both the Senate and House approved the most sweeping reforms to our freedom of information laws in more than a decade.

I first introduced the OPEN Government Act with U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., two years ago. After months of hearings and negotiations, it was finally approved overwhelmingly in December. The Cornyn-Leahy bill will not merely be a victory for transparency in federal government operations. It will be a vital building block to strengthen our democratic process.

Texas has long had one of the nation's strongest open government laws. When I served in state government as Attorney General, I had a key role in enforcing that law. So bringing a little Texas sunshine to the federal government was a top legislative priority for me when I arrived in Washington five years ago.

The Cornyn-Leahy bill updates the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to address undue delays and onerous burdens that often greet Americans looking for information from their government.

The underlying FOIA law was initially enacted more than 40 years ago. Achieving prompt responses has been a serious problem in its enforcement from the beginning. Some pending requests for information are more than a decade old, possibly sitting in a bureaucrat's drawer somewhere. And many information requests can only be resolved through costly lawsuits, which effectively prevent citizens from receiving information they're entitled to.

The bill restores meaningful deadlines—with consequences—to the FOIA system, encouraging government agencies to provide timely responses. It creates a new initiative for tracking pending FOIA requests and an ombudsman to review agency compliance. It provides safeguards against misuse of the law, and closes loopholes used to avoid compliance. It recognizes changes in the way information is circulated, and allows journalists and public representatives equal access to information.

The OPEN Government Act bolsters the most fundamental requirement for an effective democracy—a free and informed citizenry. It reinforces Abraham Lincoln's notion of a government "of the people, by the people, for the people" by facilitating the flow of information into the hands of Americans. I have tried to advance these principles throughout my years in public office.

These FOIA reforms come after years of legislative work that required significant bipartisan cooperation. In a year when gridlock seemed periodically to take over Congress, Sen. Leahy and I are proud that we were able to achieve consensus in both chambers, and among both parties, for this bill. It is clearly one of the signature accomplishments of the current Congress.

James Madison once declared: "The advancement and diffusion of knowledge is the only guardian of true liberty." But I know firsthand that government, unless prodded, has a natural tendency to suppress distribution of information, particularly when it is inconvenient or embarrassing to those in office.

There are always exceptions to the rule that must be observed, such as the need to keep confidential information that could compromise our national security. Our FOIA reforms recognize that. But our underlying principle is this: when information can be made open and available, it should be.

These reforms will require federal agencies to make significant changes in the way they operate. I will be watching closely to make certain they comply. And Congress itself needs to do much more to improve transparency. The earmark process—when legislators insert narrow projects into a massive spending bill—should have far greater openness and accountability. I intend to pursue that reform as well.

Texas has long prided itself on its wide-open spaces, and open government. Accountability is also an important Texas value. Our state has been a national leader in advancing the ideals of transparency in our public business. We are all safer, and our liberty more secure, whenever Washington adopts more of that Texas sunshine.



Tips for Success: Helping Students Avoid Common Mistakes in Preparing for College

Preparing for college takes hard work. High school students sometimes have difficult choices to make as they prepare themselves for the next level of education. Below are five common mistakes to avoid.

1. Taking the easy road—Students who take the easy road when choosing high school classes—opting for courses that require the least amount of work and brain power—are probably hurting their chances for success in college. College classes are very difficult and demanding. Students who don't take challenging courses in high school are likely to struggle even more with college coursework.

2. Slacking off senior year—It's very tempting for students to slack off during their senior year of high school, taking easy courses that give them more time to have fun. Students who hope to succeed in college, however, should avoid this temptation. Those who "take their senior year off" may actually find themselves behind academically when they arrive at college. The best way for students to prepare for success is to do the opposite: keep taking challenging courses and academically push through senior year.

3. Focusing too much on GPA—Grades are certainly important when it comes to getting into college. However, colleges tend to look not only at students' grades but also at the specific courses they took. Earning a "B" in an advanced course such as calculus or physics can mean more to college admissions officers than earning an "A" in an easier course such as business math or general science. Students who sacrifice advanced coursework for a high GPA may be doing more harm than good in the long run.

4. Waiting until high school to start planning—Some students wait until their junior or senior year in high school before they start planning for college. By then, it may be too late to take the courses needed to qualify for college, yet alone succeed once they get there. The best time for students to start planning and setting goals for the future is in middle school, when there is plenty of time to set the right course for success. It's never too early to start thinking about your future.

5. Not asking for help and advice—Counselors, teachers, administrators, and parents may seem out of touch about some of the things that are important to teenagers. When it comes to planning for college and the future, however, they tend to know what's important. Teens should ask these adults for help and advice when preparing for the college. Don't miss out on some of your most valuable resources.

To learn more about college and career planning, visit ACT's student website: www.actstudent.org. ACT—Helping people achieve education and workplace success.

Getting ahead in a difficult profession requires avid faith in yourself. That is why some people with mediocre talent, but with great inner drive, go much further than people with vastly superior talent.

—Sophia Loren



Valley Varsity Boys



Jr Varsity Boys



Valley Varsity & Jr Varsity Girls

Valley Varsity & Jr Varsity Boys & Girls vs Matador
Friday, January 4 @ 4 p.m., there

Valley JV Boys & Girls vs Spur
Tuesday, January 8 @ 4 p.m., here

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Tuesday, January 8 @ 6:30/8 p.m., here

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January 3, 2008
ON
By Patsy Herrington
Christmas is no longer
long and dear. Let's
great big cheer!
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ON THE QT

By Patsy Herrington

Christmas is no longer here, but the memories will remain long and dear. Let's all embrace the coming year, and give a great big cheer!

The Lions Club banquet held Monday night a week ago was very nice with many visitors and a delicious meal cooked by the Methodist ladies of turkey, dressing, and all the trimmings.

I had a large group of carolers come by my house to enhance the Christmas season by singing Christmas songs. These are led by Linda Lemons and Verla Barrett and they do a great job of working with them.

The new water tower is like a tall beacon of light, all now newly painted white and gleaming in the sunlight.

The Lonnie Cagle's have had their grandson, Robbie here living with them for sometime. He is from Ohio, but loves it here. He is eighteen and works with them each week at their jobs in Canadian. They come home on weekends. He may make this his permanent home.

Candy Jones Kern of Plano and her children Holly, Stephen and Ben have been here visiting her mother An Chadwick and Buster Chadwick over the Christmas holidays.

Amber Stark was in a bad car wreck recently, but luckily came out with only a few bruises. The other girl in the opposite car wasn't so lucky, but is recovering.

Billy Jean and Weldon Griffin spent Christmas in Canyon at their daughter and husband's home, Cindy and Steve Venerable, Emily and Ben. Emily is a sophomore at college; Ben is a sophomore in high school and very active in the music department and school choir of which many times he has the leading part.

Visitors over Christmas at Patsy Herrington's home were daughter, Kim and Ron Eudy, Marshall, Parker, and Gracie, of Austin, son Max and Anne Marie Ham, Chase of Crosbyton and granddaughter Traci Ham Dykstra, of Nashville, Tennessee, daughter Lisa Herrington Welborn and Bud, Blake, Betsy and Bella of Austin and son Lex and Dana Herrington, Everett and Emery of Floydada. They all had a good time visiting and eating.

Scotty Stark has been very ill, but is "quite a bit better", says his doctor at his checkup last Thursday.

On Christmas eve there were candlelight services at both the Methodist and Baptist Churches. Patsy was asked to play the organ at the Methodist in the absence of Delene Tyler. She asked her grandson, Parker Eudy, to accompany her on the violin. They played (as the congregation joined in) "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear", "O Come All Ye Faithful", "Away In A Manger", and "Silent Night" With Bro Dorn's message, it was a very moving service, especially when the candles were all lit.

Parker Eudy plays with a fiddle group in Austin, all his age or round about (sophomores), eight in all. One of their favorites is Bob Wills music. They play at county fairs and many social events. Parker's great-grandfather Clayton Ham, used to barber alongside Bob Wills in Turkey, Texas. His mother, Kim Ham, was the 1st Bob Wills queen.

Jill Johnson spent Christmas with her brother, John Lynn Johnson and wife, Janet at his cabin near San Antonio.

On Christmas day Ruby King had her grandson Danny Mayfield and wife, Debbie of Lubbock visited and eat dinner with her, Joyce Price ate also.

On Friday of that week Jerry and Wanda King and grandson, Alex, of Odessa came for a few days visit with Ruby King. They visited Caprock Canyons State Park and other friends while here. Imogene Bethel, Ruby's sister of Lamesa, also visited her for a few days.

On Thursday night we received over tow inches of snow. After dinner that night, Traci Ham Dykstra, Patsy's granddaughter started home to Crosbyton. The weather had turned to almost blizzard conditions. Daughter Lisa's husband, Bud Welborn, accompanied her to the top of the Caprock where the snow wasn't so fierce. Even at that, it took her three hours to get home in the snow and ice.

The season brings all kind of things - A year that's new and a wish for you - Happy New Year!

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 * Scott Nail, CEO *

HARDEMAN COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL provides quality medical care to the people of this area, located in **Quannah**, at 402 Mercer Street, phone number (940) 663-2795. This facility has modern medical technology and their personal attention to make each patient's visit as pleasant as possible. Whether a patient comes to HARDEMAN COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL for minor surgery, diagnostic testing, rehab or home health services, or inpatient medical care, the entire staff is dedicated to making their hospital visit a beneficial one. The medical professionals here make this hospital a quality choice for primary, outpatient and preventative care, as well as for surgical, rehab, and emergency treatment. From the registered therapists and well-trained nursing staff to the technicians and customer service staff, the group as a whole is always ready and helpful to serve their patients. The administration of the facility continues to look for ways to develop its services to the community while maintaining determination to keep costs to a minimum.

We, the editors of this 2008 New Year's Business Review and Reference Guide, know they are committed to meet this area's medical needs with expert knowledge, advanced technology, and compassion. When you are in need of medical, surgical, outpatient, or emergency treatment, remember that Hardeman County Memorial Hospital stands ready to help and declares that **Nothing Is More Important Than Your Health.**

Cash Giveaway At Old Mill Trade Days In Post This Weekend

This weekend shoppers will have an opportunity to win cash at Old Mill Trade Days in Post. "Everyone could use a little cash after Christmas," explained Rosa Latimer, General Manager of the event, "so we decided to have a cash giveaway for our customers."

OMTD will give away cash all 3 days of the January event which begins this Friday. Each day shoppers can bring \$50.00 (or more) in OMTD vendor receipts (with that day's date) to the Antique Mall & Gift Shop in Two Bush Knob and trade the receipts for one draw from the Old Mill Money bin. The money bin will be full of cash from \$1 up to \$100, free passes to Trade Days, special discount coupons from vendors and gift certificates redeemable for meals at OMTD food vendors.

With an average of 60 to 65 vendors each weekend, Trade Days offers a variety of merchandise, some only available in Post. "We have several vendors who began with Trade Days over 14 years ago. Plus, with each event we have new vendors offering a variety of merchandise," the General Manager explained. "Old Mill Trade Days is a great mix of familiar and different. It changes every month as new vendors participate and our regular vendors bring in new merchandise."

Vendor products include handmade jewelry, antiques, exotic birds, gourmet food & coffee, and a variety of home décor items. Food vendors offer bar-b-que, hamburgers, funnel cake, pizza, turkey legs, nachos, fajitas and various desserts.

Other recent changes have placed Trade Days in a position to appeal to the shopper and vendor of this decade. Online shopping on the OMTD web site was established and an area of approximately 3,000 square feet in the Post City Building was designated as an Antique Mall & Gift Shop.

"As we talked to potential new vendors during the past couple of years we discovered that many are not willing or can no longer afford to travel to Post for the weekend to sell their merchandise," the General Manager continued. "The Antique Mall has been a successful alternative for the vendors as our staff handles sales for the vendors in the Antique Mall area."

Several OMTD vendors are selling merchandise via www.olfmilltradedays.com and this option will expand in 2008. "We have contracted with a web site service that will handle all online shopping/selling. This service is not limited to Trade Days vendors but is available to any small business that wants to participate in online selling. The cost of using the Trade Days web site is much less than developing a web site," Latimer continued.

First Friday Old Mill Trade Days is this weekend, January 4-6, and every first Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of the year. It is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Sunday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Admission on Friday is \$1.00 for adults/free for Senior citizens and on Saturday and Sunday \$2.00 for adults. Children under 10 are always admitted free when accompanied by an adult and parking is free. Call 495-3529 or visit www.oldmilltradedays.com for more information.

Turkey News

Billy and Margie Pinkerton spent five days in Snyder helping Tommy take care of Clayton and Kelcey. This past week, they went to Gunter for a few days. Margie has been released by her orthopedic doctor and has finished therapy. Billy has been to his heart specialist since returning home and will have tests run after Christmas.

Turkey Roost Museum News

Work at the museum has been on hold since Margie's injury but since her improvement things have picked up again. We are hoping to have the museum open again by the first of March. We are in the process of clearing out the front room so that we can finish painting the walls and then we are repainting the floor. Our electrician has done more work and we have been moving some of the displays around.

The Christmas Tree Skirt that was donated to the museum by Bonnie Jo Choate for us to sell chances on was won by Delores Price. We certainly appreciate all those who bought chances on the skirt. The money will be put to use on our projects.

We also received a very unique donation from Tamera Chambless to the museum as gift to Bonnie Chambless. Tamera's letter expressed appreciation of the museum and our desire to preserve the past history of families who once lived in Turkey.

There are admirable potentialities in every human being. Believe in your strength and your youth. Learn to repeat endlessly to yourself, "It all depends on me."
 ~ Andre Gide

Attempt easy tasks as if they were difficult, and difficult as if they were easy; in the one case that confidence may not fall asleep, in the other that it may not be dismayed.
 ~ Baltasar Grucian

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Prediabetes: A Wake-Up Call to Make Changes to Prevent Diabetes

Newswise — New data suggests that 54 million Americans may be on track to develop diabetes within the next 10 years.

They have prediabetes, a condition where blood sugar is higher than normal but not high enough to be classified as type 2 diabetes. A special diabetes report in the November issue of Mayo Clinic Women's HealthSource covers prediabetes and what can be done to prevent it from becoming type 2 diabetes, a potentially debilitating and life-threatening disease.

Overlooking prediabetes is easy, because often there are no symptoms. And blood tests for prediabetes aren't given routinely.

People age 45 and older who have never been tested for diabetes should discuss prediabetes screening with a physician. A blood glucose test will likely be recommended for people who have any of these risk factors:

- A family history of diabetes
- A body mass index of 25 or higher
- Low levels of high-density lipoprotein (HDL or "good") cholesterol and high triglycerides, another blood fat
- High blood pressure
- A history of gestational diabetes (diabetes during pregnancy) or giving birth to a baby weighing more than 9 pounds
- Polycystic ovary syndrome
- An ethnicity that is disproportionately affected by diabetes, including African-American, American Indian, - Hispanic-American/Latino and Asian-American/Pacific Islander.

For those who have prediabetes, making healthy lifestyle changes can significantly reduce the risk of developing diabetes. One large research study found that diet and exercise that resulted in a 5 percent to 7 percent weight loss could lower the risk of diabetes in high-risk individuals by 58 percent.

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Getting Help for Substance Abuse

Alcohol and drug abuse are common medical conditions in the US. Nearly 9% of women 18 and older are considered heavy drinkers—meaning they consume three or more drinks at one sitting on five or more days per month. In 2001, 8.3% of nonpregnant women and 3.7% of pregnant women reported illegal drug use.

Substance abuse is a problem that affects women of all backgrounds, regardless of age, socioeconomic status, or race, and can lead to devastating consequences for women and their children.

Women are more vulnerable to problems, such as heart and liver complications, at lower levels of alcohol intake than men are. Even before they know they are pregnant, women who drink alcohol may put their fetuses at risk for fetal alcohol syndrome, the leading cause of mental retardation and other developmental disorders. Women are also especially susceptible to the effects of combined alcohol and tobacco use, particularly cancers of the head, neck, esophagus, and throat.

Women who use illicit drugs may experience a number of physical and mental health issues, such as depression, and pregnancy and newborn-related problems. They may also be at increased risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases and encountering domestic violence and poverty.

Many women are reluctant to admit that they have an addiction, fearing repercussions at work or with the police, social isolation, or loss of their children. Others may not be aware of the extent of their dependence on drugs and alcohol or may be in denial. But if you or someone you know has a substance abuse problem, it is important to seek help.

T-ACE is a screening test that was developed just for women to identify problems of alcohol abuse:

- * Tolerance: How many drinks does it take to make you feel high?
- * Have people Annoyed you by criticizing your drinking?
- * Have you ever felt you ought to Cut down on your drinking?

Eye opener: Have you ever had a drink first thing in the morning to steady your nerves or get rid of a hangover?

If your answer to the tolerance question is more than two drinks, give yourself a score of 2. Score 1 for each "yes" answer to any of the other questions. A total score of 2 or more could mean that you have a drinking problem. You can modify these questions to test for drug dependence.

Substance abuse is a treatable condition. Talk to your doctor about your drinking and drug use. He or she can refer you to health professionals and support groups that can help you throughout your recovery. Your doctor may also suggest medication, counseling, or other strategies to help you quit. No matter what methods you use, kicking a substance abuse habit is an ongoing and difficult process, so the sooner you start on the road to recovery, the better.

Courage and perseverance have a magical talisman, before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish into air.

~ John Quincy Adams

A hero is no braver than an ordinary man, but he is braver five minutes longer.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

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- Aldous Huxley

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