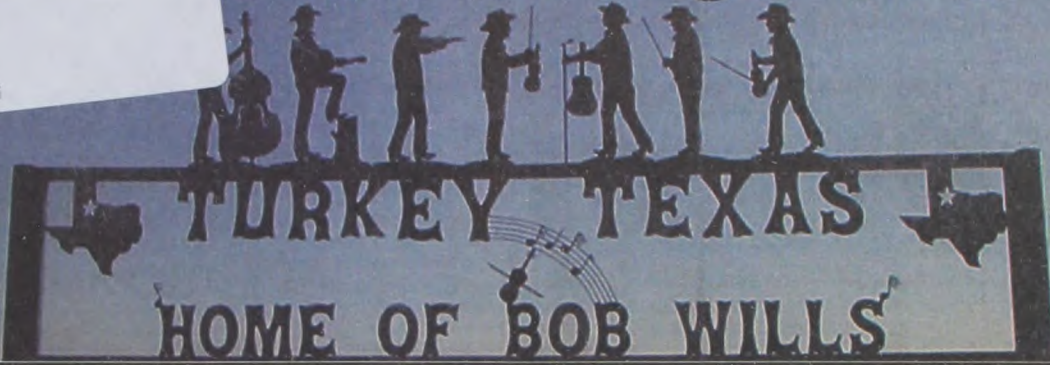


# THE VALLEY TRIBUNE

"Voice of the Rolling Plains"

1 10/31/2008  
PHIL BAREFIELD  
BOX 025  
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75¢  
Per Copy



Volume 47 Number 37 \* Quitaque, Texas 79255 \* Serving ~ Briscoe ~ Hall ~ Motley ~ Counties \* Thursday, April 3, 2008

## Let Memories Swing Back To The Old Whiteflat Neighborhood Porches

Whiteflat Homecoming Reunion April 5<sup>th</sup>

By Earlyne Jameson

"The slightest vestige of a childhood experience may wake a warm remembrance richly laden with thoughts of yesterday."

Back in the early days of Whiteflat, a little town eight miles north of Matador, did not have air conditioning. They enjoyed the big porches across the front of homes that provided a shady place to sit.

No longer does the old adage, "The United States is as American as a front porch" hold true for the porch has all but disappeared. Porches were once windows of the world, where neighbors visited each other. However, as a center for family togetherness, porches have gone the way of the horse and buggy. Who wants to sit outside when there is no air conditioning? It is much more comfortable inside where it is nice and cool!

I love porches. No, I am not writing here of those tiny stoops one sees in front of homes such as the one in which I lived before I married. I am referring to what is often called a veranda, a roofed area that extended across the front of the house. Sometimes they projected from more than a side of the structure.

When I married over fifty years ago and moved to Whiteflat, I was delighted to see the two story home of Tom Tilson, Sr., the T.M. Dixon and Kim Wilkerson homes with extended porches in front. I was truly impressed by the Shands-Hargrove home that had four porches around the two story framed structure including a balcony porch. These porches used to be an integral part of a home. It nearly always included an old porch swing, rocking chairs and other furniture. Cardboard fans bearing colorful pictures and painted funeral advertisements were always available.

Porches were spacious. There was room for reading, listening to radios, playing games and working with garden vegetables such as shelling black-eyed peas which I don't lie to do! There were other porches running entire length of house screened from top to bottom with beds for sleeping such as the former home of my husband along the Middle Pease River. In threatening weather, they had curtain tarps they could fold down. He liked sleeping here in the summer and learned to distinguish night sounds.

Beautiful flowers bordered the porches and clay pots of geraniums lined the porch railings. If there was a back porch, it sheltered a wringer washer, washtubs, shovels, brooms and buckets. Clearly this porch was not a favorite, but good storage.

Memorable evenings were spent on front porches in relaxation and rest and cares, tension and anxieties seemed to drain away. This was true before television when no family was "glued to the tube."

It is quite true that today's random drive by shootings make it unwise to encourage family gatherings on the porch in some neighborhoods.

I fear I will likely never see a porch like used to be. For those of us who return to memories of porches, those memories are laden with nostalgia.

May you renew memories at the Whiteflat Homecoming Saturday, April 5 at the Senior citizen building in Matador.



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

Make Plans Now To Attend

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

## Public Hearing About Wind Energy Set For April 24 In Amarillo

By Enrique Rangel/Amarillo Globe News

People who want to learn more about wind energy and what it means for the Panhandle and South Plains should mark April 24 on their calendars.

At 9 a.m. that day, the House Regulated Industries Committee will have a public hearing at the Panhandle Conference Center in the Region 16 Education Service Center, 5800 Bell St., to discuss major wind energy development.

Considering the short notice, it is an ideal location, said state Rep. John Smithee, R-Amarillo, who along with his colleague David Swinford, R-Dumas, sits on the nine-member panel.

The center is spacious, is centrally located and has plenty of parking, Smithee said. Every county in the region is expected to send at least a representative or two. In addition, a good number of lobbyists and prospective investors are expected. Wind energy is being touted as a multi-billion dollar industry in the region because it is clean and inexhaustible.

As Swinford, who has been working for more than four years to bring wind energy to the region, puts it: "With wind power you don't use one ounce of water, or any oil or gas. If that is not a good deal, I don't know what a good deal is."

The office of Rep. Phil King, R-Weatherford, chairman of the committee, said there will be "invited testimony only," but Smithee said he will ask King to allow the public to ask questions.

If that presents a conflict because at least two members of the Public Utility Commission will be at the hearing (PUC members have judicial status and cannot hear opinions in public forums), Smithee said he will see that at least he and Swinford can answer any questions in an informal setting at the conclusion of the hearing.

"If the public has any questions, they should be able to get answers," Smithee said.

Some big-name investors who have already been widely mentioned to send representatives include billionaire Boone Pickens, the Hunt family of Dallas, Xcel Energy and Florida Public Line.

Xcel already owns a significant wind farm in Oldham County, Smithee said.

In addition to the hearing, committee members, PUC members and others will get a tour of the area so that they can see how abundant the wind is in the Panhandle and how the flat topography would help because there would be no problem carrying, installing and operating the giant windmills.

"I think it is going to be helpful for some of the members who don't live in wind-generating areas to come out," Smithee said.

## Comptroller Reminds Businesses of April 15 Deadline For Filing Property Tax Renditions

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs reminds Texas businesses to render their property with their county appraisal districts by April 15. To render is to list the taxable inventory, furniture and fixtures, machinery and equipment and other property a business owned or managed as of Jan. 1, 2008. Appraisal districts may use the information to set property values.

"Rendition helps county appraisal districts appraise business property fairly and accurately," Combs said. "If some businesses are not paying their fair share of property tax, it places a greater tax burden on other business owners and homeowners."

Rendering allows property owners to record their opinion of their property's value and ensures that the appraisal district sends them a notice before changing a value on their property. Owners do not have to render exempt property, such as church property or a farmer's equipment used for farming.

If more than one appraisal district appraises a property, the property owner should render in each appraisal district office.

Story Continued On Page 5

## Only Incumbents File For Place On Turkey City Council

The Turkey City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, March 19. Present for the meeting were council members Danny Stewart, Brian Wheeler, Mary Fierro, Vicki Lindsey, City Manager Jerry Landry and City Secretary Gail Hanna. After attending to monthly council business the following items were addressed:

\* A motion passed to approve the corrections in the brochures Steve Gerkey had prepared.

\* A motion passed to appoint Pat Carson and Doyle Dean Proctor to take care of the Bob Wills agenda for the city.

\* A motion passed to purchase a copy machine for the city office from Hoglands Office Equipment.

\* Gail Hanna reported that the deadline for filing for a place on the city council had passed and only incumbents mayor Pat Carson, council members Mary Fierro and Vicki Lindsey had filed. A motion passed that there would be no election.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

## Turkey Jamboree Set For April 5

By RJ Kalafus

Saturday, April 5th will be the first Jamboree of Spring 2008 and it will feature three performers who have all competed before and were crowd pleasers. The show will be held at the historic Gem Theatre in downtown Turkey, Texas.

Preceding the show there will be a BBQ Sandwich meal with drink and dessert benefiting Tri-County Meals. The meal will cost only \$5 and serving will begin at 6 p.m.

Starting off the show will be the mother and daughter duet of Jamie and Keley Timmons of Guthrie, Texas. They are both country stylists and were previous winners. UP next will be the brothers Jacob and Jordan Hackett of Plainview, who also were winners and are pure country and great musicians. Ending the competition will be Quanah's Darryll Sparkman, a fine and talented singer who also was a past winner. Darryll has a strong voice and was well received by the audience on his last appearance.

There will also be a Talent Showcase where anyone can perform for the crowd strictly for the joy of entertaining.

Closing out the night will be the best band in West Texas "The Turkey Gems" all of whom are super talented and their love of music shows with each performance.

The show starts at 7 p.m. and as always it is free and there is plenty of parking. It is guaranteed that no one will leave the theatre without having been entertained!

There will be a \$100 first prize to the best act, donated by Billy Ray Hardcastle and the Quitaque Masonic Temple. There will also be a \$25 door prize for guests. See ya there and bring a friend!

## Burn Ban Extended For Motley County Due To Dry Conditions

The Motley County Commissioners' Court met in regular session on Monday, March 10. Present for the meeting were County Judge Ed D. Smith, Commissioners Ronnie Davis-Pct 1, Donnie Turner-Pct 2, Franklin Jameson-Pct 3, Russell Alexander-Pct 4, County Attorney Tom Edwards and assistant Carol Campbell, Deputy Sheriff Chris Spence, guests, Larry Markham and Larry Vogt, Motley County Oversight Committee members Waydette Clay and Marie Lieber-Harkort. After attending to regular monthly court business the following items were addressed:

\* Donald Kelm, District Extension Administrator for District 3 and Ryan Martin, County Extension agent informed the court as of January 1, 2008 the new name for the Extension Service was changed to Texas AgriLife Extension Service

\* Larry Markham, courthouse maintenance supervisor informed the court a wind turbine that could be installed on top of the courthouse to help with utilities cost. The turbine would cost about \$5,500.00 and save approximately \$75.00 per month. After discussion, the matter was tabled until further information can be obtained.

\* Tom Edwards gave a Wind Energy update to the court. April 2nd is the date a study is to be presented to the PUC about where transmission lines should be placed. The Caprock Wind Energy Association is being contacted by new developers.

\* Judge Smith informed the court that Safety Inspector Rodney Sikes had found inadequate fire extinguishers in the county equipment and barns. The county will purchase new extinguishers to place in equipment and barns.

\* The Burn Ban in effect for Motley County was extended due to dry conditions.

\* Carol Campbell gave a Jail restoration update. The Diekemper Foundation has made the final donation needed to complete the grant match. The Diekemper Foundation has donated a total of \$18,261.80 to the grant match. Additional fund raisers are planned and bids are being advertised to start the renovation.

\* Two bids were received on the county equipment advertised for sale. A motion passed to accept the bid of \$125.00 for the 1986 F250 Ford Pickup from Bobby Witcher. A motion passed to reject the bid on the 1980 International Dump truck. The judge will readvertise the 1980 International Dump truck for sale.

\* A motion passed to allow Judge Smith to sign the intra-local government cooperation contract on the Flomot Water Grant between Motley County and the South Plains Association of Governments. This allows SPAG to administer the water grant.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

# ON THE QT

By Patsy Herrington

Well, here I am back again! I only hope you folks missed me just half of how much I missed you! I really enjoy writing to you.

Last week I travelled to Austin to see my two daughters, Kim and Lisa and 6 grandchildren. They live on the same block, so that makes it easier and lots of fun. First we had to go see Blake (6th grade) play basketball. When we arrived back at home after winning, Kim and Lisa and the whole gang had a birthday dinner (I call it supper) with birthday cake, too, all set out for me! We all had a great time. The next few days were spent visiting, going to church, and having Easter dinner. We also went to see Ronnie Eudy, who was very ill.

Then suddenly, non Sunday, March 23, Ronnie passed away. Ronnie was Kay's husband and Ron and Angela's dad, and granddad to many, so it was a sad time for all. Ronnie was a fine, wonderful man and loved by all who knew him. He was brought back to Turkey for the funeral on Thursday, March 27 at the First United Methodist Church there. The family had received friends in Austin March 25. Ronnie and Kay had lived in Turkey for many years. Ronnie was a mortician.

Weldon and B.J. Griffin had a busy spring break last week. On Tuesday their daughter Cindy, came down from Canyon and brought Ben and a couple of his "garage band" buddies, Josiah and Brian. The boys had a great time; they went out to Caprock Canyons State Park, went to Turkey to see the Bob Wills monument. They think Quitaque must have been the small rural America town in the movie CARS. They stayed until Thursday morning and had to go back because the boys all had One Act Play practice Thursday afternoon. On Friday Russ and Debbie's daughters from Denton came by to spend the night. They had been on a road trip to Ft. Davis, TX and Carlsbad, NM. On their way back home they sent up to Santa Rosa, NM and came to Amarillo, stopping along the way to look at landmarks on Route 66. They spent part of Friday on 6th Street in Amarillo looking in the antique shops. They went home on Saturday after lunch. They had to eat chili rellenos at the Caprock Cafe before they left.

Greg Ramsey and family recently lost two dogs, a dachshund and a husky. They had looked everywhere for them and were frantic over the thought of losing them! And the, miraculously, Cory Pointer found them downtown and returned them to the Ramsey family, safe and sound! How happy they all were.

Inetha Blankenship of Quitaque met her nephews, Kirby and Kenny Chandler of Frisco and all went on a trip to Las Vegas, NV. They spent two nights at the Excalibur Hotel and Casino, and had a great time.

There was a big fire south of town Thursday evening on about a section of land close to Wilburn Martin on Baker land. It took fire trucks from Silverton, Matador, Turkey and Quitaque to contain it.

Imogene Bethel of Lamesa came last Friday to spend the Easter holidays with her sister, Ruby King, and visited also with Joyce Price.

Allen Brummett is currently in a Lubbock hospital with a staph infection. He may be there for several weeks, according to family.

The big Enduro Races were here in Quitaque last weekend and attracted almost 400 people. There were motor homes, vans, pickups and cars on every available lot. The Sportsman Lodge and Hotel was full and overflowing. What a boost it would be to our town if we could have something similar to this to attract people here every few weeks! We live in Texas with our scenic Caprock and landscape surrounding the village of Quitaque, and also Caprock Canyons State Park is a big attraction to this area.

I was only gone for five days, and had a wonderful time but when I returned to Quitaque I was reminded of the words to the old song, "Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home"—especially Quitaque!

Tell me what you did Easter or any news by phoning 455-1239.

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<b>Monday, April 7</b> Beef Tacos Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese Beans Dessert* Milk	<b>Wednesday, April 9</b> Baked Chicken Broccoli & Cheese Whipped Potatoes Dessert* Roll/Milk	<b>Friday, April 11</b> Salmon Patties Black Eyed Peas Greens Hot Roll Dessert* Milk
--	--	--

\* Diabetic Desserts Available

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

## OBITUARIES

### O.F. 'Pete' Williams

Graveside rites for O.F. 'Pete' Williams, 81, of Matador were held Monday March 31, 2008 at the East Mound Cemetery in Matador, TX with Johnny Morris and Winfield Davenport, officiating. Arrangements were under the direction of Seigler Funeral Home of Matador. Mr. Williams passed away Saturday, March 28, 2008 at the Hackberry Creek Care Center in Matador.

Pete was born May 6, 1926 in Lamar County, Texas to Talmer Buford Williams and Velma Bell Pierce Williams. His family moved to Matador when he was a small child and has been a longtime resident. Mr. Williams was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Matador, has served on the Matador City Council, and was a deputy under Sheriff Jinks Wilson. He was a former member of the Matador Jaycees. Mr. Williams was a Fire Fighter for 54 years serving in all the official positions within the Fire Dept. Pete served his county in the US Army and was a fire fighter in the Korean War conflict at Big Delta Alaska.

He is survived by: His wife: Bessie Jean of Matador, Texas; 1 Son: Rodney Williams and wife Glenda of Matador, Texas; 1 Daughter: Ronda Miller and husband Terry of Matador, Texas; 2 Brothers: Jelly Williams and wife Cathy of Free Port, Texas, Bobby Williams and wife Jeanne of Matador, Texas; 4 Grandchildren: Lindsey, Kristi, Ryan, and Brittany; 2 Great-Grandchildren: Andrew and Randa.

In lieu of flowers the family suggest memorials to the Hackberry Creek Care Center in Matador.

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**West Texas Press Association**  
EST. 1926

### THE VALLEY TRIBUNE

Successor to The Quitaque Tribune, Which was established at Quitaque in 1960  
Published every Thursday at Quitaque, Texas 79255  
Vince F. Taylor, Owner/Publisher  
Laura Taylor, Editor

Earlyne Jameson, Flomot Correspondent  
Patsy Herrington, Quitaque Correspondent  
Postmaster Send Address Changes To:

The Valley Tribune  
P.O. Box 478  
Quitaque, Texas 79255  
Periodical Postage Paid At Quitaque, Texas 79255  
Publisher #621-020

#### Yearly Subscription Rates:

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## Letters To The Editor



For the gutless person who dumped the tick infested puppies all over Quitaque, SHAME ON YOU! These are God's creatures. You have burdened your fellow citizens of this community to either try and find a home or to keep the puppies because of your inhumane action.

If you didn't dump the mother either find a home for her other than yours or have her fixed, you will be doing her and this community a favor.

Fortunately there are alot of people in this town with a heart and conscious to clean up your mistake.  
Name withheld by request

\*\*\*  
*Words are a mirror of their times. By looking at the areas in which the vocabulary of a language is expanding fastest in a given period, we can form a fairly accurate impression of the chief preoccupations of society at that time and the points at which the boundaries of human endeavour are being advanced.*  
- John Ayto

\*\*\*  
*A cynic is not merely one who reads bitter lessons from the past; he is one who is prematurely disappointed in the future.*  
- Sidney J. Harris

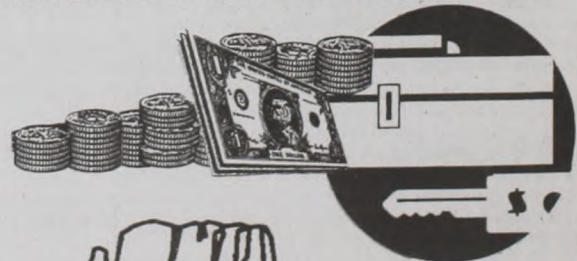
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FLOMOT NEWS

By Earlyne Jameson

OVERHEARD

It is the little things that matter, that add up in the end, with the priceless thrilling magic found only in a friend.

Flomot Grass Fire

The Matador, Flomot, Quitaque, Turkey, Lockney and Floydada Volunteer Fire Departments responded to a grass fire at 3 p.m. Thursday, March 29 three miles west of Flomot.

When they were still battling the fire at 6 p.m., the wind turned to the north and the fire shifted to the southwest.

Rodney Williams of Matador reported 400 acres of CRP and pasture land was destroyed at the Baker and Dr. Chamales locations, but the goats on the Baker land were okay.

Wilburn Martin, who lives just north of the fire, was appreciative of the Fire Departments containing the damage to south side of pavement.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. and Mrs. James Gwinn and daughter, Danielle enjoyed the spring vacation at Port Mansfield.

Visiting last weekend with Wilburn Martin and attending Mrs. Geneva Martin's birthday party were daughter, Mrs. Marilee Cooper of Borger and grandson, Cole Martin of Portales, NM

Mrs. Nada Starkey was a patient from Saturday until Monday at Cogdell Hospital in Lockney with a virus infection.

Mrs. Cally Sperry, Savannah, Blayne, Cash and Gage attended the Little Dribblers basketball tournament held in Hedley from Thursday through Saturday.

Jerry Barclay visited Monday night in Lockney with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S.D. Barclay.

Reporting Forms Now Available For Revised Texas Franchise Tax

Forms to report the revised Texas franchise tax based on the new margin calculation are now available on the state Comptroller's Web site for the May 1 due date for initial and final filers and the May 15 due date for annual filers.

"Our office is offering electronic reporting and payment options to make it fast and easy for taxpayers to do business with us," said Texas Comptroller Susan Combs.

Taxpayers will receive notices by mid-April, giving them information needed to file franchise tax reports electronically, including identification and security codes to ensure the confidentiality of their data.

The Taxpayers who prefer to mail a paper report can still take advantage of the online forms, which contain dynamic fields that help process reports more quickly and accurately when they are printed and mailed.

The Comptroller's office advises that franchise tax reports must be submitted on the correct forms, or they cannot be processed and must be returned to taxpayers.

The Texas Legislature revised the franchise tax by changing the tax base and the tax rate and extending coverage to most legal entities.

During the last year, agency experts have spoken at industry conferences and to taxpayers groups, hosted 10 taxpayer seminars throughout Texas and conducted a dozen Webinars to inform taxpayers about changes to the tax.

Answers to franchise tax questions can be found at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/franchise/ or by calling (800) 252-1381.



COOK'S CORNER

BY LAURA TAYLOR

Now that Spring is here there are a million things to do! So here are some tasty crockpot recipes that will free up some of your valuable time.

Chipotle Chicken Tacos

- 1 lb boneless skinless chicken breast
1 can chipotle chilies in adobo sauce
1 can condensed tomato soup
1 cup white onion chopped
1 Tablespoon chili powder
1 Tablespoon cumin
Salt & pepper to taste
Tortillas flour or corn
Cilantro
Sour cream
Shredded cheddar cheese
Avocado

Puree the canned chipotle chilies in adobo sauce in a blender until smooth. Put 2-4 tablespoons of mixture into crock pot. Add can of tomato soup, chopped onion, chili powder, cumin, and salt and pepper to taste.

Spicy Crockpot Pork Barbecue

- Sauce:
1 cup thick barbecue sauce
(Head Country BBQ Sauce is Excellent!)
1 medium onion, thinly sliced
2 cans (4.5 oz each) diced green chilies
3 tablespoons chili powder
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 teaspoon dried oregano
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 boneless pork shoulder roast, 2 1/2 to 3 pounds, trimmed
1/2 cup chopped cilantro

Combine sauce ingredients in a bowl. Place pork in crockpot; pour sauce mixture over the pork, lifting pork slightly so sauce will flow under the roast.

Remove pork to a cutting board and chop or shred with forks. If sauce is very liquid, cook down on the stovetop until desired thickness and flavor is reached.

Crockpot Shrimp Creole

- 1 1/2 cups diced celery
1 1/4 c. chopped onion
1 c. chopped bell pepper
1 (8 oz.) can tomato sauce
1 (28 oz.) can whole tomatoes, broken up
1 clove garlic, minced
1 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
6 drops Tabasco, or to taste
1 lb. shrimp, deveined & shelled

Combine all ingredients except shrimp. Cook 3 to 4 hours on high or 6 to 8 hours on low. Add shrimp last hour of cooking. Serve over hot rice.

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## Senior Spotlight

Name: Ana Iris Valdes  
 Age: 18  
 Favorite Color: Pink-n-Black  
 If you could be a Disney cartoon character who would it be? "Lola" Bugs Bunny's girlfriend  
 If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? Mexico or England  
 Most embarrassing moment: In 7th grade I fell down the library stairs and freaked Mrs. Mullin out!!!  
 Favorite Valley school memory: traveling with Mrs. Taylor  
 Favorite website: www.myspace.com  
 Favorite movie: Step Up & Step Up 2  
 Favorite Food: Tortas -n- Taquitos  
 If you were any element on the periodic table, which one would you be and why? Mercury, because I'm unique and there's only 2 liquids in the periodic table  
 Favorite sport: Tennis  
 Favorite athlete: Allen Iverson  
 When I grow up I want to be like...why? My sister, Estela because she is a great person and I love her!  
 Favorite book: The Color Books -n- Silver Is For Secrets  
 If you could be any character from a book or movie, who would it be? Stacey for the Candel books  
 Favorite thing to do with your friends: Dance -n- watch movies  
 Favorite school subject: Reading AR -n- Mrs. Taylors classes!  
 Favorite beverage: Strawberrylimeaids -n-n Sobe drinks  
 Favorite TV show: Lola -n- Rebelde  
 What is your favorite/lucky number: 3 -n- 15  
 What type of music do you lie the most: Mexican -n- Rock  
 What is your best physical characteristic: My eyes  
 Who do you look up to the most? My Mom, because she is like my sister and friend.  
 What is your planned major: Nursing  
 In 10 years I will be? Hopefully married, have 2 children and working hard as a nurse.



## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Community awareness and involvement key to reducing abuse

In communities large and small across Texas, the victims of child abuse are crying out for recognition. For too long, these smallest victims have had to suffer in silence. Their injuries happened behind closed doors and, all too often, went unnoticed by many who think "It can't happen here."

In an effort to raise awareness of child abuse in Texas, the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and its Child Protective Services (CPS) agency are observing Child Abuse Awareness Month in April. DFPS will be teaming with its partners across the state to inform the public that child abuse and neglect is happening right now, right here, in every community.

"Child abuse is a crime that thrives only in darkness," said CPS Regional Director Camille Gilliam. "The only way we can fight it is to shine the light of public awareness on the problem. We must all recognize that we have a stake in watching out for the children in our communities. It doesn't matter if it's a family member, a neighbor or a complete stranger; children cannot defend themselves from abuse, so they rely on all of us to do it for them."

In fiscal year 2007, 223 Texas children died due to abuse or neglect. In the Panhandle/High Plains area alone, CPS investigated 7,521 cases of abuse and neglect with 4,050 children confirmed who had suffered abuse at the hands of a parent or caretaker.

CPS hopes that by raising awareness of the problem of abuse, more people will be willing to step forward and report abuse, thereby doing their part to protect Texas children.

The Briscoe county child welfare board/CPS board will be giving out blue April is child abuse prevention month stickers, pens and notepads at Valley and Silverton schools next week in recognition of child abuse prevention month. The board appreciates all of the generous support the county has given them in helping to provide fall and spring clothing, and Christmas gifts for the foster children of Briscoe county. If anyone would like more information, or would like to make a donation please contact any board member.

CPS hopes that you will join us in calling attention to the need to help the children of our area who are suffering abuse. Your help could literally save a life.

*The first human who hurled an insult instead of a stone was the founder of civilization.*

- Sigmund Freud

*Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you.*

- Pericles

*The palest ink is better than the best memory.*

- Chinese Proverb

*A man there was, tho' some did count him mad / The more he cast away, the more he had.*

- John Bunyan

*There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.*

- Elie Wiesel



# THE PATRIOT

Valley School News

## Valley School Lunch Menu

Sponsored By The Valley Tribune

Monday, April 7

Breakfast: Cereal, Toast, Jelly, OJ/Milk

Lunch: Hamburger Steak & Brown Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Hot Roll, Milk

Tuesday, April 8

Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza, OJ/Milk

Lunch: Polish Sausage, Mac & Cheese, Corn on Cob, Apricots, Biscuits, Milk

Wednesday, April 9

Breakfast: Biscuits, Jelly, Sausage, OJ/Milk

Lunch: Chicken Spaghetti, Salad, Pears, Hot Rolls, Milk

Thursday, April 10

Breakfast: French Toast, Syrup, OJ/Milk

Lunch: Chili Cheese Burritos, Corn, Peaches, Milk

Friday, April 11

Breakfast: Cinnamon Rolls, OJ/Milk

Lunch: Hamburgers, Lettuce, Tomato Slices, Pickles, Cheese, Chips, Cookies, Milk



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 THE LUNCHROOM LADIES  
 Menu Subject To Change

## Senior Spotlight

Name: Roger Ramos  
 Age: 17  
 Favorite Color: Blue  
 If you could be a Disney cartoon character who would it be? Speedy Gonzales  
 If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? France  
 Most embarrassing moment: no answer  
 Favorite Valley school memory: Hanging out with friends  
 Favorite website: ilazy.com  
 Favorite movie: Love in Basketball  
 Favorite Food: Hamburgers  
 If you were any element on the periodic table, which one would you be and why? Neon, because I am flashy  
 Favorite sport: Football  
 Favorite athlete: Tim Duncan  
 When I grow up I want to be like...why? My Dad, because he is a hard worker and a good man.  
 Favorite book: Of Mice and Men  
 If you could be any character from a book or movie, who would it be? Super Man  
 Favorite thing to do with your friends: Just hanging out  
 Favorite school subject: English  
 Favorite beverage: Dr. Pepper  
 Favorite TV show: Hannah Montana  
 What is your favorite/lucky number: 44  
 What type of music do you lie the most: Slow Jazz  
 What is your best physical characteristic: My hair  
 Who do you look up to the most? My Dad  
 What is your planned major: To be a athletic trainer  
 In 10 years I will be? Single, living the life.



## Thornberry To Host Service Academy Forums

Congressman Mac Thornberry will host Service Academy Forums in Amarillo and Wichita Falls to provide information to interested students and their parents about attending the United States service academies. The Wichita Falls Forum will take place on Saturday, April 5 and the Amarillo Forum will take place on Saturday, April 19.

Representatives from West Point, the Naval Academy, and the Air Force Academy will give presentations and answer questions. Staff members from Thornberry's office will also be on hand to explain the application process. The Forum is designed for potential nominees in their junior or senior year of high school, but all students, parents, and counselors are invited to attend.

"Graduates of the service academies are essential to the continued strength of our Armed Services. As we fight terror at home and abroad, we must remember that the officers produced by the academies will be the future leaders of our troops. This is one of the reasons I consider nominating young people to our service academies to be a very important part of my job," Thornberry said.

As a member of Congress, Thornberry is allowed to nominate a limited number of students for each service academy. Applications for nomination must be submitted to Thornberry's office by December 1 of a student's senior year. After reviewing Congressional nominations, final selections and offers of acceptance are made by the service academies. Nominees who are accepted by the academies receive a free education. In return, they agree to serve in the military for a minimum of five years after graduation.

The schedule for the Forums is as follows: Saturday, April 5, 2008 9-11 a.m. at Midwestern State University J.S. Bridewell Hall Rm 108, Wichita Falls or Saturday, April 19, 2008 9:30-11:30 a.m. Amarillo Public Library-Southwest Branch, 6801 Southwest 45th Avenue, Amarillo. For more information please call Amarillo 806-371-8844 or Wichita Falls 940-692-1700.

\*\*\*  
 Knowing others is intelligence; knowing yourself is true wisdom. Mastering others is strength, mastering yourself is true power.

- Lao-Tzu

## Don't get hit with a penalty! "Render" your taxable property by April 15.

A "rendition" is a report to the appraisal district that lists all the taxable property you owned or controlled on Jan. 1st of this year.

### Who must file a rendition?

You must file a rendition if you own tangible personal property that is used to produce income—such as the inventory and equipment used by a business. If you render late, don't render or file an incomplete or false rendition, a 10 percent to 50 percent penalty may be imposed.

### Are there any advantages to you?

The advantages of filing a rendition are:

- You give your opinion of your property's value. The appraisal district must notify you in writing of any value change and explain how you can protest that value to the appraisal review board.
- You record your correct mailing address so your tax bills will go to the right address. If your bill is mailed to the wrong address, the law still holds you responsible for paying your taxes on time or paying extra charges for late payments.
- You can also file a "report of decreased value" to notify the appraisal district of significant depreciation of the value of your property in 2007. The district will look at your property before assigning a value in 2008.

### What's the deadline?

The last day for filing 2008 renditions is April 15. You can get an automatic extension to May 15 if you ask for it in writing on or before the April 15 deadline. The chief appraiser may grant an additional 15 days after May 15 for an owner who shows good cause in writing.

### Where do you file?

File renditions with your local appraisal district at:

Hall County Appraisal District  
 512 Main, Suite 14  
 Memphis, TX 79245

For more information, stop by your appraisal district and pick up

"Texas Property Taxes: Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies and Responsibilities"



Or contact:  
 Texas Comptroller Susan Combs  
 Property Tax Division  
 P.O. Box 13528  
 Austin, TX 78711-3528  
 or call: (800) 252-9121

or on the Web at: [www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/](http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/)

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# KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

UNITED STATES SENATOR • TEXAS

## The Latin Crisis

by Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

This month Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez opened the next phase of his dangerous political career by nearly provoking a war with Colombia.

In the aftermath of his military threats, the Colombian government learned disturbing information about the relationship between Mr. Chavez and the terrorist group FARC — the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. In light of those revelations, and their implications for U.S. national security, perhaps it is time the Bush administration placed Venezuela on the list of state sponsors of terrorism.

On March 1, the Colombian military retaliated against numerous unprovoked FARC attacks in their territory and struck one of their clandestine camps — in Ecuador, killing one of the organization's top leaders. FARC, a formerly Soviet-backed insurgency, today makes a living off international kidnapping, drug trafficking and terrorism.

It still holds hundreds of hostages for ransom, including American missionaries and a former Colombian presidential candidate. It has been designated as one of the world's leading terrorist organizations by the State Department.

In the days after the raid, Colombia uncovered e-mails in which FARC operatives reported, after meeting with Mr. Chavez, that significant financial support and even munitions would be forthcoming from the Chavez government. Evidence suggests Venezuela may have provided as much as \$300 million to FARC since Mr. Chavez came to power.

If indeed Venezuela has provided money, weapons and other logistical or diplomatic support to FARC, it is guilty of supporting terrorism, a grievous violation of international law. In the wake of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the United Nations Security Council reaffirmed the obligation of all states to refrain from assisting terrorists or tolerating their presence inside the country. The United States does not distinguish between terrorists and those who harbor them and support them — and neither should any of our allies.

Venezuela must now be held accountable for its descent into a terrorist haven, and Ecuador should not protest when free countries, like Colombia, step across boundaries to protect innocent lives from plotting terrorists.

On March 17, when the Organization of American States held its summit in Washington, it missed an opportunity to take a strong stand against terrorism and instead passed a resolution condemning Colombia's actions in self-defense.

While imposing additional sanctions on Venezuela could cause adverse short-term economic consequences, Mr. Chavez needs us more than we need him. Venezuelan oil has an extremely high-sulfur content, which requires special refineries to turn it into gasoline. Most of those refineries are in the Southern U.S. along the Gulf Coast. In short, Venezuela would have a very hard time finding other buyers if it loses its most important customer.

And with the increased willingness of Venezuela's military to stand up to Mr. Chavez — not to mention his sinking popularity among the public — the United States is one customer Mr. Chavez can't afford to lose.

# Wild Winds: Texas Tornadoes

By U.S. Sen. John Cornyn

A burst of wildflowers and green leaves across Texas point to a welcome change of seasons, but springtime also brings an unwanted weather visitor. Texas is hit by more tornadoes than any other state.

Texas anchors the southern end of "Tornado Alley," a wide swath of land that touches most states in America's midsection north to the Dakotas. Some 1,000 tornadoes hit the United States annually and an average of 139 per year strike Texas.

Since 1953, official records list 7,319 tornadoes hitting Texas, more than half in spring and early summer, the tornado "season."

May 11 marks the 55th anniversary of a destructive tornado in Waco that virtually mirrors another storm that struck Goliad, near the Gulf Coast, five decades earlier. Each caused 114 deaths. They're tied as the 10th most deadly tornadoes in United States history.

The Goliad tornado struck on a Sunday morning in May 1902, tearing through local churches—including one congregation where all the worshippers were killed. The same twister picked a train engine weighing nearly a ton and set it down about 20 feet away.

The 1953 Waco tornado ravaged the business district, putting permanently to rest an Indian legend about the city's immunity to tornadoes. As the downtown area collapsed amid showers of bricks, glass and wood, 196 buildings were destroyed, 2,000 autos were wrecked, and 850 homes were flattened or damaged.

Tornadoes have struck all across the map of Texas, writing history in a tragic and epic way in Wichita Falls, Sherman and Paris along the Oklahoma border, as well as Lubbock, Glazier in the Panhandle, and the West Texas communities of Saragosa and Rock Springs. Record casualties and destruction have been wreaked on large cities, including Dallas, and on smaller communities such as Jarrell, Bynum, Mertens and Frost.

As an act of nature, tornadoes fixate us with their random nature. For example, a rural homeowner in Higgins heard the deadly sound of an approaching tornado one day in 1947. As he opened his front door, the force of the storm lifted him into the air over the tops of trees, meteorologist George W. Bomar writes in his book Texas Weather. A visitor followed his friend to the front of the house and the same thing happened to him.

"After a few very anxious moments, both men were lowered to the ground several hundred feet away from where the house had originally stood ... When they ultimately got back to the site of the house, they found nothing but the foundation. Sitting on the floor was a lamp and a couch containing the owner's terrified but unharmed wife and two children."

Because of public anxiety, U.S. weather authorities before 1950 actually banned use of the word "tornado" in forecasts. Today, Texans depend on tornado watches and warnings issued by the National Weather Service, as well as the efforts of other meteorologists, governments at all levels, storm spotters, emergency responders, and the news media.

Tornadoes continue to be a frontier we may never tame. But researchers now generate knowledge that can help us understand and cope with them. Two nationally known programs are here in Texas: Texas Tech University's Wind Science and Engineering Research Center and Texas A&M's Department of Atmospheric Sciences.

Adversity always produces the best in Texans. Neighbors help neighbors in the aftermath of tornadoes and other disasters, demonstrating regularly the best of the Texas spirit.

As the tornado season continues, we can take every precaution, watch the weather warnings closely and pay attention to every report about approaching twisters. Keeping alert can help make springtime in Texas a safer season.

# Comptroller Urges Texans to Claim Federal Tax Breaks

As federal tax filing season gears up, Texas Comptroller Susan Combs reminds Texans that the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) puts billions of dollars in income tax refunds into families' pockets and the Texas economy.

"If you work and your family made less than \$39,783 in 2007, the federal government may owe you a refund on your income tax," Combs said. "Last year, more than 2 million Texans claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit and received almost \$4.7 billion in EITC refunds — an average of \$2,151 per qualifying household."

EITC refunds are based on family income and the number of children in the family. To receive the credit, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires families to meet specific eligibility requirements and have a valid Social Security number for each family member.

Taxpayers who expect to qualify for the EITC and have at least one qualifying child can sign up for the Advance Earned Income Tax Credit at work and receive part of the credit in each paycheck, instead of waiting for a tax refund.

More information about how to qualify for the EITC, along with helpful links to IRS tax forms and publications, can be found on the Comptroller's Web site, [www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/eitc/](http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/eitc/), or by calling the IRS at (800) 829-1040.

"The Earned Income Tax Credit gives Texas families extra spending power and puts billions of dollars to work in the Texas economy, so I urge Texans to find out whether they qualify and to claim the EITC," Combs said.

Combs also reminds Texans that taxpayers who itemize deductions on their federal income tax can claim a deduction for state and local sales taxes they paid in 2007.

This may be the last time the sales tax deduction is available, unless the U.S. Congress votes to continue the tax break. The provision is aimed at Texas and six other states without state income taxes that residents can deduct from their federal tax. Combs is working with the Texas congressional delegation to make the sales tax deduction permanent. The Comptroller says continuing the deduction for 2008 and beyond would save Texans a projected \$1.2 billion a year, or an average of \$520 per filer claiming the deduction.

"Both the Earned Income Tax Credit and the sales tax deduction keep hard-working Texans' money here in Texas," Combs said.

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## HALL COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION APRIL 8, 2008

Early voting began March 31, 2008 and will end April 4th, 2008 in the County Clerk's office from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Election Day Voting Precincts:**

Precincts 101, 202, 302, 402 - Memphis Community Center  
Precinct 201 - Lakeview High School  
Precinct 301 - Estelline Post Office  
Precinct 401 - Bob Wills Community Center Cafeteria

No. **SAMPLE**

**Democratic Party Primary Runoff Election**  
(Elección Primaria Decisiva del Partido Democrático)  
(Condado de) **HALL** County, TX  
April 8, 2008 (8 de Abril, 2008)  
**OFICIAL BALLOT**  
(BOLETA DE OFICIAL)

**INSTRUCTION NOTE: (NOTA DE INSTRUCCION):**  
Vote for the candidate of your choice in each race by placing an "X" in the square next to the candidate's name. (Vote por el candidato de su preferencia en cada candidatura marcando con una "X" el cuadro a la izquierda del nombre del candidato.)

**Railroad Commissioner**  
(Comisionado de Ferrocarriles)

Dale Henry

Mark Thompson

**County Tax Assessor-Collector**  
(Asesor-Collector de Impuestos del Condado)

Kelly D. Forkner

Maribel C. Gonzales

## April 15 Deadline For Tax Renditions

Property owners who need more time to file their renditions may file a written request with the chief appraiser on or before April 15 to receive an automatic extension to May 15. The chief appraiser may also grant an additional 15 days after the May 15 deadline if necessary.

Combs also reminded owners whose property was damaged by a storm, flood or fire last year that they may file a special decreased value report that could lower their final tax bills. Property owners have until April 15 to file the decreased value report, which indicates their property's condition on Jan. 1, 2008.

Rendition forms and decreased value report forms are available from the appraisal district or the Comptroller's office. The rendition forms ask for the property owner's name and address, general description of property by type or category and the property's location. For property with an aggregate total of more than \$20,000, the property owner also must provide a general estimate of quantity of inventory and the owner's good faith estimate of the property's market value. The owner may provide the historical cost when new and the year the property was acquired rather than the good faith estimate.

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## USDA Seeks Public Comment On Changes To CRP Managed Haying and Grazing

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced last Friday, March 28 that it will hold public meetings in Texas on April 8-9, 2008 on proposed changes to managed haying and grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will hold a meeting on April 8, 2008 at 9 a.m. at the Regency Inn Suites Hotel in Abilene, TX. The second meeting will be on April 9, 2008 held at the Fifth Season Inn in Amarillo, TX beginning at 1 p.m.

FSA is proposing rule changes to the frequency that managed haying and grazing is allowed on land that is enrolled in CRP. Public comments will be accepted at the meeting and the public may also comment on changes to primary nesting season dates, during which managed haying and grazing are not permitted.

The proposed changes apply only to those lands enrolled in CRP after September 25, 2006 and existing CRP contracts where managed haying and grazing was not authorized prior to that date. For such lands in Texas, current managed haying and grazing frequencies and PNS dates are shown in the table below. Texas's State Technical Committee (STC) determined that changes to the current program provisions were warranted. The changes they proposed, which would benefit grassland species, are shown in the table below.

	Current	Proposed
Managed Haying Frequency	1/10	1/3
Managed Grazing Frequency	1/5	1/3
PNS dates	1 March-1 July	No Change

FSA will consider public comments when it prepares state-specific environmental assessments that will evaluate the effects of the proposed changes. The environmental assessments will aid USDA decision makes and the public with an analysis of the benefits and potential impacts of the proposed changes to manages haying and grazing on CRP land.

Public comments can be submitted both electronically and by regular mail. They must be received by the close of business on May 9, 2008. Direct comments to: MHG EA's, Geo-Marine Incorporated, 2713 Magruder Blvd., Suite D, Hampton, Va 23666-1572 or send them to the Web site: <http://public.geo-marine.com>.

These meetings are two (2) of fourteen (14) public meetings that will be held in 13 states where USDA is proposing rule changes to the managed haying and grazing program. More information on meeting dates and locations is available on the project Web site: <http://public.geo-marine.com>

*Have a heart that never hardens, and a temper that never tires, and a touch that never hurts.*

~ Charles Dickens

*The influence of each human being on others in this life is a kind of immortality.*

~ John Quincy Adams

*He who would travel happily must travel light.*

~ Antoine Saint-Exupery

*It is not what we do, but also what we do not do, for which we are accountable.*

~ Moliere

**Cotton**  **News**  
By Shawn Wade  
from Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.

### HIGH PLAINS BMP WORKSHOPS SET FOR APRIL 1 & 2

Harvesting, irrigation and pest management methods will be discussed at two free Best Management Practices training seminars being offered by Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the National Cotton Council.

The meetings will be held from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1 at the Moore County Community Building in Dumas, and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2 at the Reese Technology Center in Lubbock, according to Dr. Randy Boman, AgriLife Extension cotton agronomist in Lubbock. Presenters will be from AgriLife Extension, Texas AgriLife Research and Texas Tech University.

Extension and research personnel and crop consultants from across the Cotton Belt worked together to develop a set of best management practices cotton growers can incorporate into their operations to increase the efficiency and cost effectiveness of their overall production systems.

Two publications, entitled *The First Forty Days* and *Fruiting to Finish*, were generated as a result of this collaboration and form the basis of the BMP workshops in Dumas and Lubbock. The workshops are designed to generate in-depth discussions of variety selection, pest management and harvest practices, including deciding weighing the option of switching from stripper to picker harvesting.

Continuing education units will be offered for certified crop advisors and for those who need credits from Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and New Mexico departments of agriculture.

Seating is limited and growers who are interested in attending the workshops should RSVP concerning the meeting they want to attend. For more information and to reserve your spot contact Dr. Boman at 806-746-6101 or [r-boman@tamu.edu](mailto:r-boman@tamu.edu), or contact the National Cotton Council's Bill Robertson by email at [BMP@cotton.org](mailto:BMP@cotton.org). Participants are asked to provide contact information including their name, an e-mail address and a phone number when submitting their RSVP for the workshop.

Lunch will be provided to participants at both workshops. Bayer CropScience sponsored the two papers and will sponsor the workshops.

### COTTON INC TO OFFER FREE COTTON MARKETING WORKSHOP; RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY

Get your calendars out and plan to attend this year's Cotton Price Risk Management and Pricing Strategies Seminar sponsored by Cotton Incorporated in cooperation with Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.

The free seminar is designed to help producers develop and sharpen their individual cotton marketing skills and develop market-based strategies for managing price risk for the 2008 marketing season.

This year's workshop will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Towers, located at 801 Avenue Q in Lubbock. The workshop will run from 8:30 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided to all workshop participants.

Workshop topics include: *Why are options on cotton futures critical to your business?; What can options do for you and how?; and, Actionable hedging strategies.*

Instructors for this year's seminar will be retired Texas A&M Extension Economist Dr. Carl Anderson and Mr. Mike Stevens of Swiss Financial.

The program will also include a 2008 Production Cost Outlook by Dr. John Robinson of Texas A&M University; a Market Outlook by Cotton Marketing Specialist Dr. O.A. Cleveland; a presentation on hedging Counter-cyclical payments by Kelli Merritt, from CropMark, Inc., in Lamesa; and a session on practical application of the skills and information provided during the workshop by Cotton Specialist Mike Stevens.

For information about the conference contact Jeanne Reeves at Cotton Incorporated (919-678-2370) or Shawn Wade at Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. (806-792-4904).

Registration is required for the conference and participants can register by telephone or email. Telephone registrations should be directed to Kay Wriedt (919-678-2271). Email registrations should be addressed to: [kwriedt@cottoninc.com](mailto:kwriedt@cottoninc.com)

## CRP Provides Big Benefits for Many Mixed Grass Birds

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is doing more for some birds than any other conservation practice in the mixed-grass prairie, and loss of CRP would have a drastic impact on regional bird populations. These findings and more are part of a new wildlife Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) study conducted by the Playa Lakes Joint Venture (PLJV) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to quantify the effects of the CRP on priority birds in the mixed-grass Bird Conservation Region (BCR 19).

"It's pretty impressive when you look at certain species like Dickcissels. In the mixed grass prairie region of some states, the CRP is supporting a third or a half of the carrying capacity for the species. That is pretty surprising and powerful," said Charles Rewa, wildlife CEAP coordinator for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The CEAP assessment involved analyzing national and regional bird population goals and landscape carrying capacities for 12 priority birds in BCR 19, and determining how much CRP is contributing to those goals. The evaluation found that CRP contributes more than 15% of the population goal for Dickcissels, Grasshopper Sparrows and Eastern Meadowlarks in at least two of the four states assessed, and that the program contributes significantly to population goals for other priority species such as Cassin's Sparrows, Lark Buntings, Northern Bobwhite Quail, Ring-necked Pheasants and Western Kingbirds.

PLJV used Geographic Information System (GIS)-based spatial data to place the CRP within the context of other bird habitats. What they found was that not only does CRP provide significant percentages of habitat for many priority birds, but that it also helps create large blocks of grassland habitat important for Lesser Prairie-Chickens.

"CRP on its own wasn't that important for Lesser Prairie-Chickens, but when you look at contracts adjacent to grasslands, the story changes. Straight CRP coverage provides less than 1% of the goal for Lesser Prairie-Chickens. But with contracts adjacent to grasslands that make up large blocks of habitat, CRP helps provide 6% of the goal. This illustrates the importance of where these enrollments are on the landscape with respect to their wildlife value for some species," Rewa said.

"Given what we have learned through this CEAP process, we can now target CRP enrollment to nearly recover Lesser Prairie-Chickens," said PLJV Coordinator Mike Carter.

This study of CRP was the first to quantify the impact of the program on regional bird populations and explicitly answer the question - how many birds does CRP support? PLJV and USDA partners were able to answer this question by calculating the carrying capacity of CRP for priority birds in the study area, and comparing those numbers to national and regional population goals. This was done using the PLJV's Hierarchical All-Bird Conservation System database.

"Not only were we able to assess the effects of CRP for bird species, but also put it in the context of population objectives. If the goal is to double the population for a species and you find out that 20% is supported by CRP, that is a pretty important piece of the landscape," Rewa said.

This study was a joint effort between the PLJV, Great Plains GIS Partnership, NRCS and the Farm Service Agency, and plans are in the works to conduct another CEAP project to assess the impact of CRP on priority birds in the shortgrass prairie Bird Conservation Region (BCR 18).

"This project is a good example of how productive partnerships work. The USDA had the need to assess CRP, and the PLJV and Great Plains GIS Partnership had the tools and mutual interest to put a project together that is technically sound and produced useful outputs," Rewa said.

The USDA will use the results to help improve how the agency operates in the field, and is currently working on a blueprint for putting all CEAP project findings into practice. NRCS will also soon release a Conservation Insight related to this project.

"In addition to evaluating the past, the project gives us good insight on how to do better for bird populations in the future," Carter said.

The full CEAP project report can be downloaded from the PLJV website. Also, you can listen to a recent Playa Country Radio interview with PLJV GIS Analyst Megan McLachlan about the project.

The Playa Lakes Joint Venture is a partnership of federal and state wildlife and natural resource agencies, national, state and local conservation groups, corporations and individuals dedicated to conserving bird habitat in the Southern Great Plains. For more information, visit the PLJV website: [www.pljv.org](http://www.pljv.org).

*This grand show is eternal. It is always sunrise somewhere; the dew is never all dried at once; a shower is forever falling; vapor is ever rising. Eternal sunrise, eternal sunset, eternal dawn and gloaming, on sea and continents and islands, each in its turn, as the round earth rolls.*

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Public Notice Hall County Hospital District P.O. Box 245 101 S. 10th Street Memphis, Texas 79245 806-259-3504 Fax 806-259-5081 ORDER OF CANCELLATION The Hall County Hospital District hereby cancels the election scheduled to be held on May 10, 2008, in accordance with Section 2.053 (a) of the Texas Election Code. The following candidates have been certified as unopposed and are hereby elected as follows: Candidate Office Sought Shelby Hignight Hall County District Board Member Pauline Johnsey Hall County District Board Member Betty Farley Hall County District Board Member A copy of this order will be posted on Election Day at each polling place that would have been used in the election.

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POLITICAL CALENDAR The Valley Tribune is authorized to make the following announcements of candidates for off ice subject to the March 2008 primaries and the November, 2008 general elections. Hall County Hall Co. Sheriff Elect Tim Wiginton Briscoe County County Commissioner Pct #1 Elect Jimmy Burson Briscoe Co. Sheriff Elect Rosalio "Rosey" Hernandez Political ads paid for by individual candidates

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Things That Make You Go Hmm... By Laura Taylor

Did You Know? DID YOU KNOW? As you walk up the steps to the building which houses the U.S. Supreme Court you can see near the top of the building a row of the world's law givers and each one is facing one in the middle who is facing forward with a full frontal view ... it is Moses and he is holding the Ten Commandments! DID YOU KNOW? As you enter the Supreme Court courtroom, the two huge oak doors have the Ten Commandments engraved on each lower portion of each door. DID YOU KNOW? As you sit inside the courtroom, you can see the wall, right above where the Supreme Court judges sit, a display of the Ten Commandments! DID YOU KNOW? There are Bible verses etched in stone all over the Federal Buildings and Monuments in Washington, D.C. DID YOU KNOW? James Madison, the fourth president, known as "The Father of Our Constitution" made the following statement: "We have staked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God." DID YOU KNOW? Patrick Henry, that patriot and Founding Father of our country said: "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists but by Christians, not on religions but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ". DID YOU KNOW? Every session of Congress begins with a prayer by a paid preacher, whose salary has been paid by the taxpayer since 1777. DID YOU KNOW? Fifty-two of the 55 founders of the Constitution were members of the established orthodox churches in the colonies. DID YOU KNOW? Thomas Jefferson worried that the Courts would overstep their authority and instead of interpreting the law would begin making law . an oligarchy . the rule of few over many. DID YOU KNOW? The very first Supreme Court Justice, John Jay, said: "Americans should select and prefer Christians as their rulers." How, then, have we gotten to the point that everything we have done for 220 years in this country is now suddenly wrong and unconstitutional? It is said that 86% of Americans believe in God. Therefore I have a very hard time understanding why there is such a mess about having the 10 commandments on display or "In God We Trust" on our money and having God in the Pledge of Allegiance. HHHMMM.....



This Week In Texas History!

Apr 7, 1860 Senior Texas Ranger Maj. John S. "Rip" Ford joined forces with U.S. Army Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee and the border fighting along the Rio Grande River between the Texas Rangers and Mexicans ends. Apr 7, 1836 Capt. Mosely Baker's soldiers kept the Mexican Army from crossing the river at San Felipe. Since they could not cross the river because of the deadly gunfire from the Texans, Gen. Santa Anna & Gen. Joaquin de Ramirez y Sesma, were forced south toward Fort Bend. Apr 8, 1864 Confederate Gen. Richard Taylor defeated the Union Army at Mansfield, La. The Union Army retreated and the threat of a "March through Texas" was over. Apr 8, 1822 American filibuster Dr. James Long was murdered in Mexico City. In Spanish, a filibuster referred to American insurgents against the Spanish crown. Apr 8, 1817 Pirate Jean Lafitte set up a base of operation on Galveston Island. He was born a Frenchman, but was loyal to the United States and would only attack Spanish ships in the Gulf of Mexico. Apr 9, 1888 The first regular service passenger train left Fort Worth for Denver on the Fort Worth and Denver Railroad. Apr 10, 1837 Texas President Sam Houston moved the Republic capital to Houston on a site now occupied by the former Rice Hotel. Apr 10, 1836 Gen. Santa Anna gained control of the Brazos River from the Texan sharpshooters. The Mexican Army crossed the river at Fort Bend and captured the Texan's hidden supply of corn and sugar. Apr 10, 1722 The Mission Nuestra Senora del Espiritu Santo de Zuniga was founded about two miles from the presidio of Nuestra Senora de Loreto at Matagorda Bay. Four year later it was moved 25 miles inland to the Guadalupe River, in 1749 it moved to Goliad. Apr 11, 1926 Mary Ann Goodnight died. She was married to Col. Charles Goodnight for 56 years. Apr 11, 1862 The Texas Military Board offered a \$5,000 contract to a group of Lancaster men to make revolvers for the Texas troops serving in the Confederate Army. Apr 11, 1842 The Galveston News was published for the first time. It is the oldest newspaper in Texas still being printed. Apr 12, 1873 Gen. William T. Sherman gave oral orders to Col. Ranald S. Mackenzie to cross the Rio Grande River from Fort Clark near Brackettville and destroy the Kickapoo Indian village about 80 miles inside the Mexican interior. Apr 12, 1836 Gen. Sam Houston ordered all Texas troops to join his army immediately. He continued to tighten his lines and train his troops. Apr 13, 1897 The first of 38 reported sightings over a seven day period of "spaceships" was made in North Central Texas. Apr 13, 1836 Gen. Santa Anna's army approached Harrisburg and the Republic government evacuated the town. The Republic's records were barely saved. Republic President David G. Burnet wrote Gen. Houston and begged him to stop retreating and turn and fight the Mexican Army.

Thank You

Words cannot express our deep appreciation for the many acts of kindness shown to our family during the loss of our loved one, Ronnie. Your physical presence, your prayers, the beautiful flowers, the delicious food, and numerous donations in his memory along with other caring thoughts and deeds touched our hearts deeply. We want to express our gratitude to the Methodist Church for opening their doors for the funeral service and providing our family a place to be together during this time. Many had traveled long distances to be with us and we were grateful for a place to gather. A special "thank you" to the ladies of the Methodist Church along with others in the community who prepared and served the delicious meal. We are also grateful to the following for their part in the beautiful memorial service: Faye Roberts, Pastor; Stuart Smith, Minister; Patsy Herrington, Pianist; the Pallbearers, Craig Chancellor, Funeral Director of Turkey; and Linda Meek Gedwillo, Funeral Director of Austin. Linda traveled from Austin to conduct the funeral. Her presence was important to us as Ronnie had hired and trained Linda and they had worked together many years. We were at peace knowing Linda would do it "Ronnie's way." It is times like these that make us even more aware that the people of Turkey, Quitaque and the surrounding area are among the most caring and thoughtful people anywhere. May God Bless Each of You! The Family of Ronald L. Eudy

The City of Quitaque Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Service would like to extend our appreciation to all our local citizens who supported our concession stand this weekend. To all those who donated time making hamburger patties, who provided desserts, and who worked in the concession stand we appreciate your support. Your show of support for our departments makes our volunteering a worthwhile effort. We also wish to thank the Grand Prix and Enduro participants for supporting our endeavors. A special thanks to Billy Roy Fuston and Jim Weeks for being here to help cover ambulance runs while we worked the concession. Everyone working together is what makes this yearly project a worthwhile effort for our departments.

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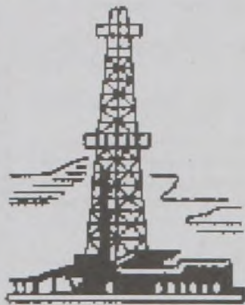
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## Palo Duro Basin Oil & Gas Report

By Tom Musser

Motley County: On Monday March 24, 2008 Roaring Springs Energy, Ltd. applied for a drilling permit for the Hamilton Lease Well #1, Roaring Springs, West (Permo-Penn) oil field to be located 467 feet from the north line and 100 feet from the west line of Section 47, Block J, Indianola Railroad Company Survey, Abstract-137, one mile east of Roaring Springs.

The Roaring Springs Energy, Ltd. Hamilton lease is 1280 acres encompassing both Section 47, Block J, Indianola railroad Company Survey, Abstract-137 and Section 27, Block J, Houston & Great Northern Railroad Company survey, Abstract-132. Under previous lease agreements these two sections have been operated as separate leases, the Hamilton lease in Section 47 and the O.C. "Ollie" Scott in Section 27.



This will be the tenth well drilled on this 1280 acres of Sections 47 and 27. The first well drilled on Section 47 was in 1959 and the first well drilled on Section 27 in 1957.

The Roaring Springs Energy, Ltd. Hamilton lease well #1 will be located approximately 415 feet northwest of the plugged location of the S.K. Rogers Oil, Inc. J.A. Hamilton lease (14055) well #2 and approximately 278 feet northeast of the plugged location of the Hamilton Brothers O.C. Scott lease (14908) well #2.

When the Railroad Commission of Texas, Oil and Gas Division posted this drilling application on their website on Thursday, March 27, 2008, the RRC O&G mistakenly listed this application in the Roaring Springs (Permo-Penn) filed instead of in the Roaring Springs, West (Permo-Penn) field. This drilling application should be correctly listed as the operator filed it, in the Roaring Springs, West (Permo-Penn) filed. Since 1959 wells drilled in the area East to West from Midsection 11, Block O-4 thru Section 27, Block J have been listed in the Roaring Springs, West (Permo-Penn) field. The Roaring Springs and the Roaring Springs, West are listed as separate fields because each is located over separate structural highs.

## Economic Stimulus Package Provides More than Just Rebate Checks

Newswise — The Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, passed in February, instructs the Treasury Department to distribute "rebate" checks totaling some \$100 billion to working-class families across America. But one Texas Tech University tax expert says the act is about more than sending checks to consumers.

Robert Ricketts, the Frank M. Burke Chair in Taxation at Texas Tech's Rawls College of Business, said the package also includes tax cuts designed to jump-start the automobile industry and to encourage American businesses to buy new equipment this year.

Twenty years ago, Congress imposed limits on depreciation deductions in connection with cars — so-called "luxury automobiles" — taxpayers used in their business or on the job. Depreciation deductions allow taxpayers to use some of the money they would otherwise pay in taxes to reduce the cost incurred in purchasing that new car. The depreciation caps have fallen far behind the actual cost of a new "luxury" car in today's dollars, Ricketts said.

For example, Ricketts says, the depreciation deduction available for purchase of a new car in 2008 would have been just more than \$3,000 before passage of the stimulus bill. With an average tax rate of 20 percent, a deduction of this amount would save the taxpayer \$600, or about 1.5 car payments in the year of purchase. The Economic Stimulus Act increases the maximum depreciation deduction for a newly purchased car in 2008 to just more than \$11,000. At that 20 percent tax rate, this deduction reduces the average person's tax bill by \$2,200, or about five or six months of car payments in the year of purchase.

"This is quite an incentive to go out and buy a new car," said Ricketts. "Of course, you only get the deduction if you use the car for business, so for the average working Joe, the benefit doesn't apply."

Ricketts says for businesses, the incentives created by the Stimulus Act are even more substantial — two new incentives for businesses to buy property other than real estate in 2008. First, the first-year expense election is increased from \$128,000 to \$250,000, meaning that a business can claim up to a quarter of a million dollars of new property acquisitions in 2008. Assuming a tax rate of 34 percent, this means that the government will reduce a company's tax liability for 2008 by as much as \$85,000 if it buys \$250,000 or more of equipment this year.

A second benefit follows the same rationale. Under the "bonus depreciation" rules implemented in the stimulus bill, companies can claim additional depreciation deductions equal to 50 percent of the cost of new equipment purchases in 2008, not including real estate. Thus, businesses purchasing new equipment in 2008 can claim three levels of depreciation deductions, including regular depreciation.

To illustrate, a company buying \$600,000 of new equipment in 2008 can claim a first-year deduction of \$250,000. It can then deduct half of the remaining cost, or \$175,000, as "bonus" depreciation, and it can claim regular depreciation deductions on the remaining \$175,000. If the property has a five-year depreciable life, the regular depreciation deduction would be \$35,000. Thus, the company's total deduction related to the original equipment purchase would be \$460,000. Assuming a 34 percent tax rate, this would reduce the company's 2008 tax bill by \$156,400, an amount that might well exceed the down payment required to buy the property.

"At \$150 billion, the price tag on the stimulus package is certainly expensive," said Ricketts. "But for self-employed taxpayers who need a new car, or companies that are thinking of buying new equipment, the government wants to help you buy it this year. It remains to be seen just how much stimulus this package will really create."



Work zones can be hazardous places for motorists as well as construction crews working to improve Texas highways.

## TxDOT Observes National Work Zone Awareness Week

AUSTIN — For many motorists, the first word that comes to mind when a highway construction work zone is ahead is "delay," when the word that should come to mind is "caution." Work zones can be hazardous places for motorists as well as construction crews working to improve Texas highways.

In observance of the ninth annual National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 7-11, 2008, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is joining the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and numerous other state DOT's and national transportation associations to urge motorists to take extra care when traveling in and around work zones.

TxDOT maintains more than 79,000 miles of highway with more than 1,000 construction or maintenance projects underway at any given time. With so much construction work underway, it is all too common for motorists to encounter work zones.

Over 1,000 motorists are killed and 40,000 are injured in work zone-related crashes across the nation each year. In Texas, approximately 150 people are killed annually in highway construction and maintenance zones.

More than four out of every five work-zone fatalities are motorists traveling through the work zones. Speeding and inattention are the most cited causes of work zone crashes, and one in three work zone crashes is a rear-end collision.

"We want motorists to be aware of the safety issues that work zones pose to construction workers and the traveling public," said Carlos Lopez, director of the TxDOT Traffic Operations Division. "Our goal, as always, is to reduce the number of fatalities that occur in work zones and to remind motorists to do their part to help save lives."

Lopez said everyone should take responsibility for work zone safety, from engineers and planners to drivers and pedestrians. The key to reducing work zone fatalities is as easy as following some simple rules:

- \* Observe and comply with work zone warning signs. Speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be altered or reduced in number, and people may be working on or near the roadway.
- \* Slow Down. Speeding is one of the major causes of work zone crashes.
- \* Don't Tailgate. Keep a safe distance between you and the car ahead of you.
- \* Keep a safe distance from construction workers and their equipment.
- \* Obey flaggers. They are the experts in what is best for safely moving traffic through the work zone.
- \* Stay alert and minimize distractions. Dedicate your full attention to the roadway.
- \* Keep up with the traffic flow. Motorists can help maintain traffic flow and posted speeds by obeying speed limit and warning signs and merging as directed.
- \* Plan and schedule enough time to drive safely. Check the radio, TV and Websites for traffic information.
- \* Be patient and stay calm. Remember that work zones aren't there to personally inconvenience you. Highway crews are working to improve the road so that your future drive will be better.

\*\*\*  
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~ Charles W. Eliot

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This national initiative runs through May 31, with participating groups and communities receiving free supplies.

To read more, see attachment or visit <http://www.ktb.org/press/o8gacrelease.htm>.

Great American Cleanup on the web - <http://www.ktb.org/programs/gac/>

Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off on the web - <http://www.ktb.org/programs/trashoff/>

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