

Cielo inks deal with hospital district

The Donley County Hospital District will receive \$650,000 in lieu of property taxes from a proposed wind farm following a called meeting of the hospital board last Friday, April 25.

Cielo Land & Cattle, doing business as Salt Fork Wind, will pay the district \$65,000 per year for ten years in exchange for a tax abatement on the company's wind farm, which will be located along Interstate 40 in the northwestern corner of Donley County.

District Administrator Anna Howard said the hospital board's agreement differs from agreements with the county and with Clarendon College in that it doesn't kick in until Cielo provides certification that the project is complete. Until that time, the company will be taxed at the district's ad valorem rate.

Earlier last month, Cielo agreed to pay the college district more than \$800,000 in direct payments, scholarships, and other costs.

In November, the company

inked a deal with county officials that should generate about \$1.6 million in payments in lieu of taxes for the county.

Howard said the hospital board has not earmarked the money for any purpose. Cielo's payments will be put in a rainy day fund in case the money is needed in the future by the hospital district, which provides fully staffed emergency medical services, runs as many as four ambulances, and provides indigent care in the county.

AgriLife Extension plans insect scouting school

AMARILLO - The first Texas Panhandle Scout School hosted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be held May 9 at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 6500 Amarillo Blvd. West, Amarillo.

The training is open to anyone interested in learning about scouting and identifying insect pests of corn, grain sorghum and cotton, said Dr. Ed Bynum, AgriLife Extension entomologist in Amarillo. They will also learn how to distinguish differences between pest damage, herbicide injury, fertilizer deficiencies and disease symptoms.

Bynum said the school should benefit any agricultural worker wanting a refresher or to learn more, including crop consultant workers, farmers and their workers, and AgriLife Extension agents and their interns.

Registration will begin at 12:45 p.m. and sessions will go from 1-5 p.m. There is a \$10 fee payable at the door. Speakers and topics will be: Dr. Jourdan Bell, AgriLife Extension agronomist in Amarillo, weed identification, herbicide injury and fertilizer deficiency symptoms. Bynum and Blayne Reed, AgriLife Extension integrated pest management

agent for Hale and Swisher counties, insect scouting, pest identification and damage symptoms. Dr. Ron French, AgriLife Extension pathologist in Amarillo, diseases and disease symptoms.

A Texas Department of Agriculture worker protection safety DVD will be shown for agricultural workers needing a pesticide handling green card. Three continuing education units - two integrated pest management and one general - will be offered. Those planning to attend should preregister with Ronda Fisher at 806-677-5600 or at rk-fisher@tamu.edu by May 7.

Spring Break sees 1,300 drunk drivers

AUSTIN - Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) troopers made more than 1,300 DWI arrests during a Spring Break special enforcement period this year. The targeted DWI enforcement from March 7 - March 23 included additional patrol hours funded by a Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) grant.

"Every year Texas is a top destination for students and families during Spring Break, and the potential for increased incidents of drinking and driving during that time is a primary concern for DPS," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "Our troopers work every day to keep Texas roadways safe for all travel-

ers, and these DWI patrols are aimed at saving lives by taking dangerous drivers off the road."

DPS Highway Patrol troopers made 1,374 DWI arrests during the Spring Break enforcement effort. The TxDOT grant allowed increased patrols in high-risk locations during the times when alcohol-related crashes are most frequent, which directly resulted in 170 of the arrests.

These DPS enforcement efforts also resulted in 18,826 speeding citations, 3,266 seat belt/child safety seat tickets and more than 23,400 other citations. In addition, troopers made 848 fugitive arrests and 713 felony arrests during this time period.

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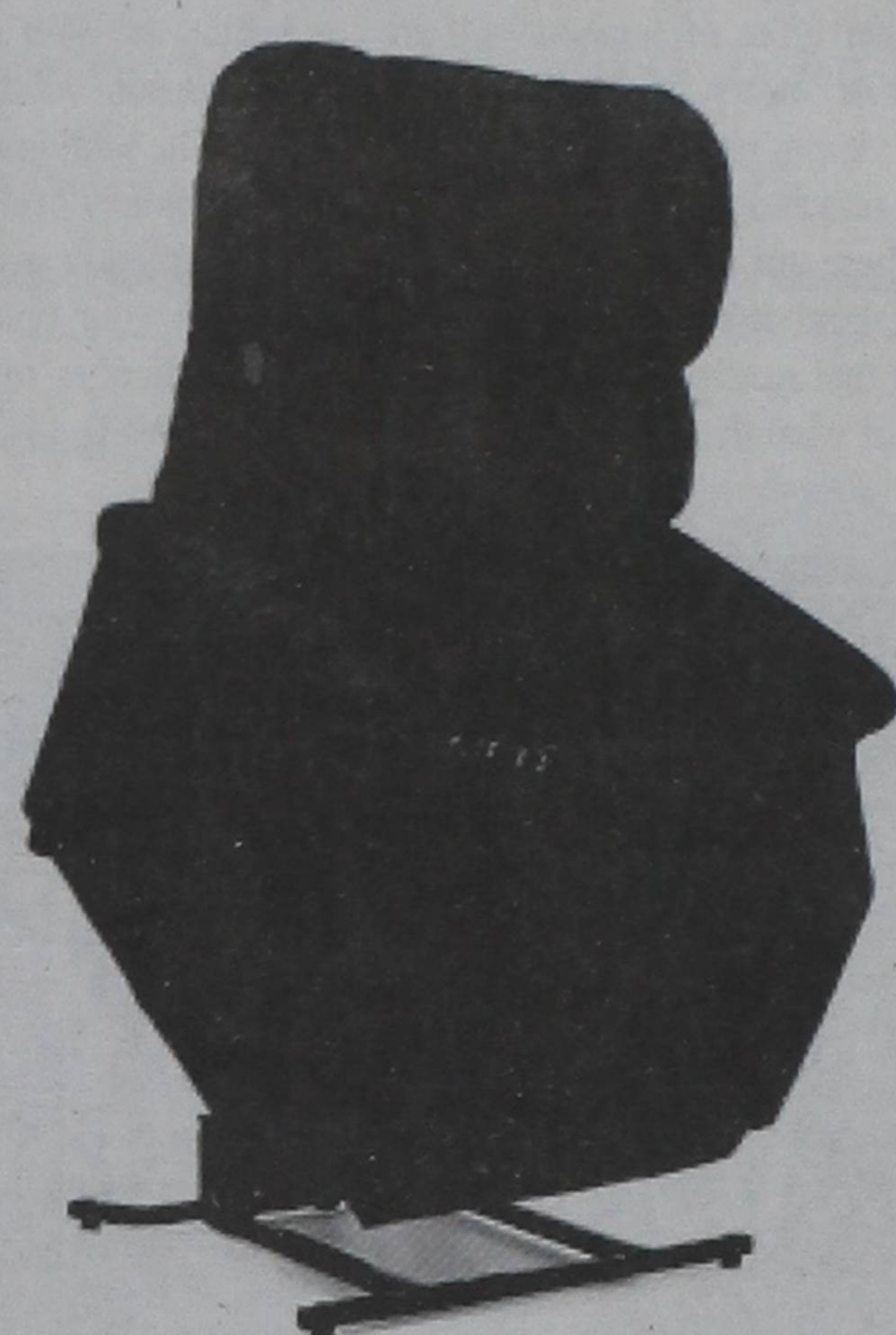
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Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who attended our fundraising dinner, contributed silent auction items, or donated money to help with the cost of our judging trip.

We greatly appreciate your support of us as well your help in getting us to Australia. We are so excited about this once in a lifetime opportunity and can't wait to get there.

We hope to come home as champions and bring great recognition to Clarendon College as well as this community.

- 2014 International Meats Judging Team
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PBS big idea challenge culminates May 2

AMARILLO – On Friday, May 2, dozens of teams and hundreds of participants in Big Idea Challenge will gather atop the Happy State Bank parking garage (located at 8th & Taylor) for the final leg of a month-long, puzzle-solving extravaganza. While the previous five weeks have allowed teams several days to solve clues and decipher puzzles, this live, final event will send teams to undisclosed destinations throughout downtown Amarillo in a final frenzy of activity from 6 to 9 pm.

Since its kickoff April 1, Big Idea Challenge has combined elements of scavenger hunts and clue decoding—along with personal fundraising—as teams of six to ten people compete to solve puzzles, raise money, and accumulate points with the goal of qualifying for the live final challenge. Teams have been comprised of coworkers, colleagues, friends, and family members, including teams from Border States Electric, Ascension Academy, FirstBank Southwest, Happy State Bank, Education Credit Union, Chick-Fil-A

on Georgia, Roasters Coffee & Tea Company, and more. The qualifying team that earns the most combined points from weekly puzzles, individual fundraising, and the Final Challenge will be awarded the event's first-place "Big Brain Cup."

Corporate sponsors of Big Idea Challenge are FirstBank Southwest, Roasters Coffee & Tea Company, and Gilliland Family Foundation.

"This is the finale of the whole thing," says Big Idea Challenge co-chair Matt Morgan. "These teams have been taking it very seriously, gathering together every week to solve these puzzles—which have been really complex—all while raising money for local public television programming. It's been incredibly fun."

Jason Boyett, a member of the Big Idea Challenge planning committee and the official "Gamemaster" for the final challenge, is looking forward to the event. "We've been hearing a lot of chatter on Facebook and Twitter from team members as they've been solving these clues.

Some are even boasting how easy it's been," Boyett says. "With this final event, we're unleashing some truly smart, driven, competitive teams on the downtown area. But they have no idea what they're in for."

Panhandle PBS's membership services coordinator, Julie Mann, praises the response to the unique fundraiser.

"We envisioned it being something that skewed toward younger participants, but we've seen all ages having fun with this," she says. "These teams are really into it. Our hope is that we've given Amarillo a fun few weeks while also connecting Panhandle PBS with a new generation of supporters."

Sausage wraps and drinks will be served during the final challenge. Admission for participants is free. Entrance for non-competing guests is \$20 at the door.

For more information about Big Idea Texas or the final challenge event, visit bigideatexas.org or at the Big Idea Texas Facebook page (facebook.com/bigideatexas).

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