

VALLEY WEATHER			
DATE	HI	LO	PREC
JAN. 9	75	37	-----
JAN. 10	55	23	-----
JAN. 11	50	20	-----
JAN. 12	45	21	-----
JAN. 13	48	26	-----
JAN. 14	62	25	-----
JAN. 15	53	29	-----

JUNE 30, 2003
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50¢
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THE VALLEY TRIBUNE

VOLUME 42 NUMBER 30

BRISCOE COUNTY

QUITAQUE, TEXAS 79255

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2003



In Special Remembrance...

*Martin Luther King, Jr.
 Birthday
 January 20, 2003*



This large group of turkeys was seen between Flomot and Gasline on Wednesday morning. There appeared to be well over 100 turkeys in this large group.

Comptroller Strayhorn Distributes \$283.1 Million In January Sales Tax Allocations

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn recently sent \$283.1 million in monthly sales tax payments to local governments. Sales tax allocations are down 1 percent compared to January 2002.

January sales tax rebates include local sales taxes collected in November and reported to the Comptroller in December. The state's share of sales tax reported during this period was \$1.1 billion, a decline of 1.3 percent compared to a year ago.

The following local allocations were made. Quitaque received \$1,593.45, an increase of 67.01%, compared to their January 2002 payment of \$954.05. Silvertown received \$1,309.22, an increase of 8.73%, compared to their January 2002 payment of \$1,204.00. Turkey received \$1,828.07, an increase of 52.98%, compared to their January 2002 payment of \$1,194.91.

The Comptroller's next sales tax allocation will be made on Friday, February 14.

E-Mail
 The Valley Tribune
 vtaylor@caprock-spur.com

Calendar Of Events

January 17

- * Valley vs Samnorwood, there @ 6:30 p.m. VG,VB
- * Quitaque Senior Citizens meeting @ 5 p.m.

January 20

- * Martin Luther King, Jr Day
- * TEC meeting
- * Quitaque Lions Club meeting

January 21

- * Valley Jr High vs Patton Springs, there @ 5 p.m. G,B
- * Valley vs McLean, here @ 5 p.m. JVB, VG, VB
- * Turkey Fire Department meeting @ 7:30 p.m.

January 23

- * Drivers License Office at Briscoe County Courthouse 9:30 a.m. 12 noon & 1 - 3 p.m.
- * Turkey Economic Board meeting

Caprock Partners Mexican Dinners To Be Served At Catholic Center

Caprock Partners Foundation will be having their annual meeting on January 23, 2003 at 6 p.m. at the Quitaque Community Center. All members are urged to attend.

Stew, chili, cornbread and cobbler will be served. Door prizes will also be given during the evening's event.

A model of the new visitor's center and plans that have been in the making for Caprock Canyons State Park will be on display at the meeting.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of this organization is welcome to attend.

The purpose of the organization is to help Caprock Canyons State Park by acquiring goods and money to be used solely by this Park. Nothing that is given to the Park by the Foundation will go to another Park, it will remain at Caprock Canyons State Park.

The Quitaque Catholic Center will once again be serving their delicious home-made Mexican Dinners on Saturday January 18, 2003 at the Catholic Center.

Serving hours on Saturday will be from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and again from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The group will also have available other wonderful authentic Mexican entrees such as tacos, enchilada plates, chalupas and burritos.

If you need further information, please call 455-1277. You can also call this number on Saturday to place orders for take out.

Proceeds from this event will go to towards the upkeep of the Quitaque Catholic Center, and thank you for your support.



Texas Department of Transportation
 2002 SAFETY AWARDS

Briscoe County Maintenance: Standing left to right: Jeff Smith, Wade Proctor, Johnny Tiffin, Finis Scoggins, Rhonda Collinsworth and Wendell Reed. Seated Left to right: Lynn Smith, Gary Clinton, Joe Ramirez and Darrell Reynolds.

Briscoe County TxDOT Wins Safety Award

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) recently held their annual Safety Awards Banquet at the Childress Fair Park Auditorium in Childress. This banquet is held to recognize employees outstanding efforts in the operation of TxDOT vehicles and equipment and for having no work related injuries. The Briscoe County Maintenance Office employees were recognized for combined totals of 119 years as safe operators and 62 years of no injury.

Briscoe county Maintenance employees who received awards are: Gary Clinton, Joe Ramirez, Jeff Smith, Johnny Tiffin, Rickey Minyard, Wade Proctor, Darrell Reynolds and Lynn Smith.

Here's A Texas

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Page 3

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Introducing Our New Staff:
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HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED A Salute To Local Veterans



James F. Bailey

James F. Bailey entered the Armed Forces on November 19, 1940. He served in the Army Air Corp. as an Airplane Flight Chief with the 865th Bomb Squadron. He achieved the rank of Master Sergeant.

The battles and campaigns he took part in were the Air Offensive - Japan, Eastern Mandates, South Philippines - Luzon's and the Western Pacific. He received the following decorations: American Theatre; Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Philippine; Liberation; Good Conduct, Bronze Star and Victory Medal.

"Bud" was discharged from the military on November 11, 1945 at Ft. Bliss, TX. He returned to Quitaque and resumed farming.



Doyle E. Wynn

Doyle E. Wynn entered the Armed Forces on October 22, 1942. After completing Basic Training at Camp Blanding, Florida and Camp Butner, North Carolina he served with the U.S. Army - Engineers.

Doyle went overseas on April 2, 1943. He served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre of Operations, with engagements at Phoenix Islands, Saipan, and Okinawa.

Doyle returned the U.S. November 4, 1945 and was discharged on November 14, 1945 at Camp Fannin, Tyler, Texas. He was awarded two Bronze Star Merit Badges. Doyle achieved the rank of Corporal after serving a total of thirty-seven months.



Hawkins Graduates From DPS Academy

On Friday, December 13, 201 troopers graduated from the Texas Department of Public Safety Training Academy during the largest graduation ceremony in the history of DPS. Among those graduates was Jay Hawkins, the son of W.E. and Shirley Hawkins of Quitaque.

After graduation Jay was assigned to Van Horn, TX. Jay, his wife Tracy, and their two children Braxton and Jacy Brooke have recently moved to El Paso from Kress, TX, so he can assume his new duties. Jay will be assigned to the Weights and License Division of the DPS near the Mexico border in approximately six months. During the next six months he will be working closely with another officer as a highway patrolman in the El Paso area.

"These graduates of the Training academy join their fellow troopers in Texas' fight against crime," said Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., director of the DPS. "By becoming DPS troopers, they have demonstrated their willingness to face the dangers that come with a career in law enforcement, and we know that they will make us proud."

The troopers began the six-month training academy in June. Instruction covered more than 100 subjects, including traffic and criminal law, arrest procedures, accident reconstruction and first aid. They also received extensive firearms, driving, self-defense and physical fitness training.

THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO HMMM...

By Laura Taylor

- * Why is there an expiration date on sour cream containers, isn't it already soured?
- * If corn oil comes from corn, where does baby oil come from?
- * If a book about failures doesn't sell, is it a success?
- * Does fuzzy logic tickle?
- * When companies ship Styrofoam, what do they pack it in?
- * If vegetarians eat vegetables, then what to humanitarians eat?
- * Why when a door is open it's ajar, but when a jar is open it's not ajar?
- * I think everyone has a photographic memory, but some folks don't have film.
- * Boycott Shampoo. Demand the real Poo!
- * Did you hear? Corduroy pillows, they're making headlines.
- * Laughing Stock: cattle with a sense of humor
- * All those who believe in psychokinesis, raise my hand!
- * How do I set my laser printer on stun?
- * If a rig loses it's voice, is it disgruntled?
- * Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
- * When someone asks you "A penny for your thoughts", and you put in your "two cents", what happens to the other penny?
- * How is it possible to have a civil war?
- * Is it possible to be totally partial?
- * Do hungry crows have ravenous appetites?
- * If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?
- * Is it true that cannibals don't eat clowns because they taste funny?
- * A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
- * The only cure for insomnia is to get more sleep.
- * Did you know, when you go into court you are putting yourself in the hands of 12 people not smart enough to get out of jury duty
- * Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- * When it rains, why don't sheep shrink?
- * Why do they report power outages on TV?
- * Should vegetarians eat animal crackers?
- * Why do people who know the least know it the loudest?
- * Who is General Failure and why is he reading my disk?
- * Why are there 5 syllables in the word monosyllabic?
- * Why do they call it the Department of Interior, when they are in charge of everything outdoors?

hmmm...

Smith Sworn In As Texas Supreme Court Justice

Steven Wayne Smith, husband of former Flomot resident, Susan Hunter Smith, was elected to the Texas Supreme Court in the November 2002 election. He was administered the Oath of Office by United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor during his Investiture on the Texas Supreme Court held in Austin on January 6.

Justice Smith and wife, Susan, were delighted to sit beside Justice O'Connor and visit with her during dinner that evening. Susan later stated, that she was interested to learn that, like Flomot resident Dude Barton, Justice O'Connor is also a member of the Cowgirl Hall of Fame.

Susan and Steve have two daughters, Allison and Emily. Susan is employed by the Texas Education Agency, and is the daughter of former Quitaque and Flomot residents, Wayne & Jimmie Hunter of Lubbock.

Attending the ceremony were Justice Smith's parents, Kenneth and Barbara Smith of Ft. Worth and Susan Smith's brother and sister-in-law, David and Rhonda Hunter of Midland.

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 Medicare at www.medicare.gov.
 Get Tough on Angina at www.LifeHeart.com.
 Crest Spin-Brush at www.crest.com.



LOOK WHO'S NEW

Wyatt Matthew Rhodes

Mr. and Mrs. L.E. Shorter are proud to announce the birth of their great grandson, Wyatt Matthew Rhodes. He was born at 11:51 a.m., Tuesday, January 7, 2003. Wyatt weighed in at 9 lbs. and he is 20" long.

Welcoming the new arrival are his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Rick Rhodes and brother, Chase, of Ft. Wayne, Indiana; grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rhodes of Conroe, and Mrs. Eunice Grooms of Dallas.

Chandler On Dean's List At Cisco College

Kenneth Chandler of Quitaque was recently named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of 2002 at Cisco Junior College. The Dean's List includes students earning a 3.5 or better grade point average on a 4.0 system.

We The Women

By Arlene Hinkle

We the Women met on Tuesday, January 14 with 12 members present. Each member brought a covered dish for a potluck lunch.

President Patsy Herrington called the meeting to order and addressed several items of business. There will be a work day on Wednesday, January 22 at the Thrift Shop.

The first item of business was a letter from John Hale of Gainesville, Georgia. He was passing through Quitaque in route to a funeral when he saw the mural of the buffalo. He called City Hall and the Library to find out the history of the mural. He then, wrote the letter to the managing editor of Texas Parks and Highways to see if she would be interested in it for the magazine. Whether anything comes of this or not, it was a nice gesture and one that We the Women really appreciate.

Special projects were suggested, one of which is the buffalo sculpture that has been commissioned by Ryan Richy of Plainview; playground equipment; and a sign for Quitaque. These were just suggestions and no vote was taken.

The February meeting will be our long awaited trip to Hale Center. We will meet at the Methodist Church at 9:30 a.m. on February 11.

The Ladies wanted to let everyone know that donations to the Thrift Shop are much appreciated. We accept clothing, appliances, furniture, and toys. If you are cleaning out all those after Christmas things, please remember us.

We still have birthday calendars, these calendars are good through the month of December 2003.

E-Mail
 The Valley Tribune
 vtaylor@caprock-spur.com

Happy Birthday

- January 16**
Dot Arnold
- January 17**
Michael Lane
- January 18**
Adam Ortiz, Walt Henson, Thomas Fuston, Bradley Lane
- January 19**
Rhonda Farner, Courtney Thibodeaux, Karen Rice
- January 20**
Jonathon Steve Farley, David McKay, Grant Wheeler
- January 22**
Warren Lee Merrell, Christopher Yorston, Belle Davis
- January 23**
Katilin Fuston, Reddell Irby, Mike House, Samantha Lange, Dickie Cloyd, Gilbert Ortiz

Happy Anniversary

- January 16**
Mr & Mrs Clyde Dudley
- January 17**
Mr & Mrs John Pigg
- January 20**
Mr & Mrs Odis Reagan
- January 23**
Mr & Mrs Clay Lowrance
- Mr & Mrs Keith Lane

OBITUARIES

Ester Butler

Ester Butler, 98, of Amarillo died Thursday, January 9, 2003. Graveside services were held Saturday, January 11, 2003 in Memorial Park Cemetery with Lyndon Latham officiating.

Mrs. Butler was born January 24, 1904, in Nashville, Ark., to William and Leona Brewer. She married Russel S. Butler on April 14, 1928 in Tulia. She was a lifelong member of the Church of Christ.

She was preceded in death by her husband; four sisters, Odie Lane, Ethel Askew, Wanda Owen, and Bernice Arnold; and a brother, James R. Brewer.

Survivors include two sisters, Therna Farley of Turkey, and Connie Townsend of Oxnard, California; six nieces and seven nephews.

Quitaque Weather Forecast for Next 9 Days

	High / Low (°F)	Precip. (%)
Thu Jan 16	Partly Cloudy / Wind	40°/17° 0%
Fri Jan 17	Mostly Sunny	50°/32° 0%
Sat Jan 18	Sunny	57°/28° 0%
Sun Jan 19	Sunny	64°/36° 0%
Mon Jan 20	Sunny	66°/32° 0%
Tue Jan 21	Mostly Sunny	60°/28° 0%
Wed Jan 22	Mostly Cloudy	51°/26° 10%
Thu Jan 23	Partly Cloudy	49°/28° 20%
Fri Jan 24	Partly Cloudy	55°/30° 10%

Last Updated Wednesday, January 15, 2003, at 4:54 AM Central Standard Time (Wednesday, 5:54 AM EST)

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

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WE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY JANUARY 20, 2003 FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

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FLOMOT NEWS

BY EARLYNE JAMESON

OVERHEARD

If you have found it hard sometimes
To stop and chat a little while
Be sure to speak some kindly word
And beam a broad and friendly smile.

And this will give your way of life
A part of many friendly folks
And this will be your happy lot
Because you lived, and smiled, and spoke.

Do Gooders' Club Of Flomot Begin New Year With Optimism

The Do Gooders' Club met at the Community Center in Flomot Tuesday afternoon, January 7 and began the New Year with optimism.

Mrs. Waydette Clay conducted the business meeting. They were given a good financial report and discussed future projects. Members were reminded those who served as hostesses for the monthly meeting would have the responsibility of presenting a program for the club.

Mrs. Anna Beth Clay and Mrs. Waydette Clay performed entertaining comical skits followed by resounding laughter by the members.

Hostesses were Mrs. Anna Beth Clay and Mrs. Mary Jo Calvert. In the absence of Mrs. Calvert, Mrs. Leona Degan and Mrs. Clay presided at silver appointments and served apples with fruit dip, sand tarts, chips and dips with spiced apple cider. The table was laid with a lace cloth and blue runner, centered with a silver bowl with compartments filled with colorful confetti. Silver bells arranged intermittently completed the lovely decor.

Mrs. Nada Starkey won the raffle ticket drawing and was elated with the angel in a beautiful quilted ensemble.

Those attending were Mesdames Trula Martin, Judy Stark, Geneva Martin, Leona Degan, Nada Starkey, Kathy Shorter, Waydette Clay, Anna Beth Clay, Alma Shorter and Suzie Shannon.

Birthday Celebrated

Mary Ellen Barton whose birthday is January 14th, was honored with a pre-celebration Saturday at a Mexican luncheon with all the trimmings in Turkey. Following the luncheon, they returned to Mary Ellen's home and enjoyed coffee and visiting.

Those attending the happy occasion were Mrs. Judy Renfro of Matador, Mrs. Marise Potts and Ralph Powell of Floydada, T rula and Wilburn Martin and Waydette and Ronald Clay of Flomot.

Arriving Sunday to visit Mr. and Mrs. Travis Kendall and Mr. and Mrs. Tim Kendall, Jere and Jacob were Mrs. Robbie March and son, Dustin of Hemmet, California, Tammy Mustane of Raleigh, North Carolina and Richard March who moved from California to Quitaque.

Skylar Clifton of Cisco visited the weekend with his grandmother, Mrs. Tommie Jo Cruse and other relatives.

Mrs. Connie Franks was in Lubbock, Tuesday for a medical appointment and visited Cary Franks and Sorrel Schmidt.

Johnie Starkey accompanied his mother, Mrs. C.W. Starkey to Lockney, Saturday and visited Margie and Homer Cypert. L.T. Starkey of Ralls visited Mrs. Starkey, Sunday.

Cara Franks of Canyon visited the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Coy Franks.

Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Calvert were in Lockney, Tuesday for him a medical appointment and tests.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Starkey attended the graveside services of Mrs. Marjorie Tennison, 82, held Wednesday afternoon, January 8th at the Dreamland Cemetery in Canyon. They visited son, and wife, Michael and Connie Starkey of Canyon.

Mrs. Tim Shannon and daughter, Nellie Bly were in Lubbock Friday night and Saturday attending to business. They visited Steven Brazleton before returning home.

Cooks Corner

By Virginia Sailsbury

More low-fat dishes this week to keep you on your diet! If you are tired of green salads, two different salads can add variety, taste, and still be low in fat and calories. Many doctors recommend that we eat fish at least twice a week, so I have a great way to prepare some salmon fillets. Enjoy!

MAPLE TERIYAKI SALMON FILLETS

- 1/3 cup apple juice
- 1/3 cup maple syrup(sugar-free OK)
- 3 Tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 Tablespoons finely chopped onion
- 2 minced garlic cloves
- 4 salmon fillets(about 2 pounds)

In a bowl, combine the first five ingredients. Remove 1/2 cup for basting; cover and refrigerate. Pour remaining marinade into a large Ziploc bag. Add salmon; seal bag and turn to coat. Refrigerate 1-3 hours.

Drain and discard marinade. Broil salmon 4 inches from the heat for 5 minutes. Baste with reserved marinade. Broil 10 minutes longer or until fish flakes easily with a fork, basting frequently. May also be grilled on gas or charcoal outdoors. Makes 4 servings.

Black bean and corn salad makes a great side dish for dinner or a tasty lunch with some leftover meat.

BLACK BEAN AND CORN SALAD

- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 1 Tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon cider vinegar
- 1 minced garlic clove
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon sugar
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2 cans(15 oz. each) black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can(16 oz.) whole kernel corn, drained
- 3/4 cup chopped red onion
- 1/2 cup chopped sweet red pepper

In a bowl, whisk the first nine ingredients until well blended. Add the beans, corn, onion, and red pepper; toss well. Cover and chill 8 hours or overnight. Serves 12.

Cucumbers are one of the few vegetables with reliable quality available year around. This salad is good any time of year, but especially in the winter when so few vegetables are good and affordable.

SESAME CUCUMBER SALAD

- 8 cups thinly sliced cucumbers
- 1 Tablespoon salt
- 2 green onions, sliced
- 1 minced garlic clove
- 3 Tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 Tablespoons vinegar
- 1 Tablespoon vegetable or olive oil
- 1 Tablespoon sesame seeds, toasted
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper

Place cucumbers in a colander. Set the colander on a plate; sprinkle cucumbers with salt and toss. Let stand for 30 minutes. Rinse and drain well. In a bowl, combine the onions, garlic, soy sauce, vinegar, oil, sesame seeds and cayenne. Add cucumbers and toss to coat. Cover and chill until serving. Serves 8-10.

Remember to send a card or a care package to relatives and friends in the service. They need to know they are not forgotten in these uncertain times. GOD BLESS AMERICA!

THE SPORTSMAN CAFE

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY - NOON
Your Choice Chicken or Beef Quesadillas	Mexican Food All the Trimmings	Plate Lunch Veg. & Hot Rolls	All You Can Eat Catfish, Codfish or Shrimp
FRIDAY - NIGHT	SATURDAY - NOON	SATURDAY - NIGHT	SUNDAY
Chicken or Beef Fajitas	Chicken Fried Steak, Beans & Cornbread	Bar-B-Q Ribs & Sausage	Plate Lunch Veg. & Hot Rolls

Monday	CAFE - OPEN	BAR - OPEN
CAFE - CLOSED	Tuesday - Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Tuesday - Friday Noon - Midnight
MONDAY BAR OPENS 6:00 p.m. till Midnight	Sunday Noon - 3:00 p.m.	Saturday - Noon to 1:00 a.m. Sunday - Noon to 3:00 p.m.

QUITAQUE, TEXAS 79255 ~ (806) 455-1200

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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ACROSS

1 UT football coach Brown

5 TXism: "bone _____" (study)

6 TX Phyllis George was in "Meet the Parents" with actor Robert De _____

7 pickup blemish

8 TXism: "_____ in the hole" (reserve)

9 TXism: "hasta _____" (see ya)

16 Friday night cheer

18 TXism: "looking for a gas leak with _____" (tricky)

21 state of TX Buddy Holly crash (abbr.)

22 this Guerrero was Railroad Commissioner in 1991

23 TXism: "his facts _____ elastic" (liar)

24 tiny "wet" town just north of Abilene

30 19th century TXns the city was named for this Dallas (init.)

34 the city was named for this Dallas (init.)

35 1967 TX hurricane that spawned 115 tornadoes

36 winter garment

37 in Titus Co. on 271

39 TXism: "happy as _____ lap"

43 TXism: "_____ a hool" (run, dance)

44 Redskins & Eagles to the Cowboys

45 TX electronics co.

46 Mr. Lincoln, et al.

DOWN

1 in Knox Co. on 277

2 TXism: "just down the road _____"

3 this Bilvins helps run famed pan-handle JA Ranch

4 TXism: "don't get your shorts in a _____" (calm down)

9 _____ Porte, TX

10 h.s. honor for TX "Dandy Don"

11 many TXns fought in _____

12 TXism: "pay _____ never mind"

13 TXism: "has book _____" (educated)

14 UT grad. student teacher (abbr.)

15 TXism: "high as popcorn _____ picture show"

17 so. of Dallas on hwy. 342

19 TXism: "jaw _____" (dentist)

20 TXism: "changes his mind as often as _____" (fish)

28 some Aggies _____ his socks"

24 this Irving wrote songs for TX Ginger (init.)

25 TXism: "gave _____ song and dance"

26 TXism: "upchuck _____" (fish)

27 TXism: "bait _____" (fish)

28 some Aggies _____ his socks"

29 TX singer B.J.

31 chili _____ carne

32 TXism: "chow down"

33 world's largest desert

38 pregnancy pains

40 West _____ Virus appeared in TX

41 dir. to Lufkin from Dallas

42 goofus

49 TXism: "just a _____ in the bucket"

51 TXism: "a watched _____ never boils"

52 TX Tarzan Ron

57 pleasure cruiser

58 TXism: "boring as a fishing trip with _____ warden"

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Top Sirloin Steak Preferred Trim Boneless Beef **2 79** lb.

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Spare Ribs **1 59**

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White Onions **2 91**

Dole Salads **2 94**

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Zucchini **99¢**

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QUITAQUE, TEXAS



The Patriot

NEWS OF AND ABOUT VALLEY SCHOOL

Lady Pats Defeat Groom

After dropping a game Friday night to the #1 ranked Hedley Lady Owls the Lady Pats had a very important game Tuesday for sole possession of second place in District with the 16-5 Groom Lady Tigers. The first quarter saw Valley get off to a sluggish start and trail by a 19-14 score. Valley then got their offense going and outscored Groom 23-8 in the second quarter to take a 37-27 halftime lead. The third quarter saw Valley outscoring the Lady Tigers 20-13 to open up a 57-40 lead to begin the fourth quarter. The Lady Tigers came charging back and closed the gap to 4 points at one time, but the Lady Pats held on for a 67-61 victory over a very tough Groom squad. The victory moves Valley to 16-7 on the season and more importantly to a 3-1 record in District and sole possession of second place. Groom drops to 16-6 overall and 2-2 in District.

Valley was led by Natalie Wheeler who poured in 31 points and pulled down 15 rebounds. Also having strong games were Katherine Pigg with 17 points and 13 rebounds and Amanda Roys with 10 points and 4 steals. Scarlett Sperry and Natasha Ramos gave the team a big boost with their aggressive defense and rebounding. Chelsea Wheeler and Larissa Payne withstood tremendous pressure from the Lady Tigers late in the game to help the team hold on for a victory. The Lady Pats are next in action Friday night at Samnorwood where they will close out the first half of District play.

Personality Elections Held

Recently the Valley High School student body had class elections the following personalities we chosen:

- Mr. & Miss VHS - Justin Wilks and Amanda Roys
 - Wittiest - Kevin Ortiz and Scarlett Sperry
 - Best Personality - Kevin Ortiz and Paige Hughes
 - Most Dependable - Derrick Cruse and Cydni Walden
 - Most Likely To Succeed - Chase Maynard and Cydni Walden
 - Classiest - Cody Barrett and Chelsea Wheeler
- The high school students also voted for class favorites the results were:
- Seniors - Justin Wilks, Sara Fierro, and Amanda Roys
 - Juniors - Rodney Fuston and Katherine Pigg
 - Sophomores - Albert Espinoza and Paige Hughes
 - Freshmen - Jimmy McGuire and Larissa Payne

Patriots Begin District Run

Derrick Cruse scored 25 points, grabbed 13 rebounds, dished out six assists, and had seven steal to lead the Valley Patriots to a 64-52 win over the Groom Tigers. The win moves Valley to 11-6 for the year and 2-2 in District play.

"Derrick was great," Coach Clay said. "He took it to the basket strong and did all the little things that help the team win."

Anthony Ortiz scored 10 points and had nine blocked shots. Adam Ortiz scored nine points, Douglas Payne scored seven points, Cliff Yeary scored six points, Justin Wilks scored five points, and Robert Mendoza scored two points.

The Patriots began District with an 88-59 win over McLean. Justin Wilks led all scorers with 17 while Adam Ortiz and Anthony Ortiz each had 13 points. Wilks also had 10 rebounds and Derrick Cruse had seven assists and six steals.

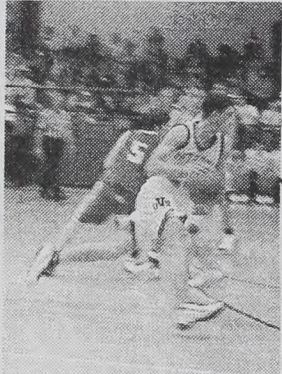
Against Silvertown, the Patriots fell short as they shot 16% from the field in a 51-29 loss. Justin Wilks led the scoring with 17 while he and Cruse each had 10 rebounds.

The Patriots then traveled to Hedley where they lost a close duel 69-63. Derrick Cruse had 27 points and 11 rebounds, and Adam Ortiz chipped in with 21 points. Dylan Gaddis had 10 rebounds and Justin Wilks had seven assists.

"We aren't where we hoped to be in District but we are still in good shape," Coach Clay said. "We need to keep winning and things will fall into place. Our goal is to get into the playoffs and we think we will achieve that goal."



Chelsea Wheeler pushes the ball down the court for a fast break against the Silvertown Owls.



Derrick Cruse cruises down the court on a Patriot drive.



Last Week In Texas History!

- Jan. 10, 1901 - Lucas gusher came in at Spindletop, setting off the Texas oil boom.
- Jan. 11, 1862 - Legislation passed creating the State Military Board.
- Jan. 11, 1863 - CSS Alabama sank USS Hatteras off Galveston.
- Jan. 14, 1818 - Charles Lallemand arrived in Galveston and attempted to establish a French military colony in Texas.
- Jan. 14, 1962 - First official Texas historical marker, Camp Ford in Smith County, was erected by the Texas State Historical Survey Committee (now the Texas Historical Commission).
- Jan. 15, 1841 - Congress of the Republic chartered Houston and Austin Turnpike Co. to lay out Austin-Houston road.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

- Menu Subject To Change**
- Monday, January 20**
Breakfast: Cereal, Toast, OJ/Milk
Lunch: Soft Tacos, Lettuce, Tomatoe, Cheese, Beans, Spanish Rice, Milk
- Tuesday, January 21**
Breakfast: French Toast, OJ/Milk
Lunch: Chicken Strips, Stuffed Baked Potato, Broccoli, Garlic Bread, Milk
- Wednesday, January 22**
Breakfast: Cinnamon Toast, OJ/Milk
Lunch: Lasagne, Salad, Mixed Vegetables, Garlic Toast, Pudding Milk
- Thursday, January 23**
Breakfast: Waffles, Syrup, OJ/Milk
Lunch: Hamburger Steaks, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Hot Rolls, Honey, Milk
- Friday, January 24**
Breakfast: Biscuits, Sausage, OJ/Milk
Lunch: Hamburgers, Cheese, Lettuce, Tomatoe, Pickles, Chips, Fruit, Milk

3rd Six Weeks

- 1st Grade ~ Mrs. Hill**
 All A's: Christian Chavira, Jessi Messer, Dalton Valdez, Cory Belmares
 A's & B's: Laura Mora, Macy Maynard, Jerrica Galvan, David Greene
- 1st Grade ~ Mrs. Brown**
 All A's: Ketch Smith, Kelby Williams
- A's & B's: Tamran Castillo, Mandy Purcell, April Villarreal
- 2nd Grade ~ Mrs. Cruse**
 All A's: Brennan Allen, Abby Hill, Sierra Bureson, Sarah Clay, Dodie Payne, Andrew Gonce, Daniel Valdes
- A's & B's: Carson Proctor, Hayden Meyer
- 2nd Grade ~ Mrs. Ramsey**
 All A's: Sunny Helms, Blake Pigg, Ben Seth Ramsey, Pecos Williams, Samantha Sanderson, Jose Mendoza, Colleen Hancock, Kameron Buchanan
- A's & B's: John Pigg, Macy Valdez
- 3rd Grade ~ Mrs. Pigg**
 All A's: Caitlyn Brown, Ezekial Clay, Tanner Clay, Danielle Gwinn, Kristen Jenkins, Madison Myer, Jacob Pigg, Alyssa Pointer, Chambray Smith, Jayson Pigg, Jessie Price
- A's & B's: Keri House, Enrique Mendoza, Kortni Carnes, Natalie Fierro, Courtney Galvan, Jose Valdez, Pablo Martinez, Kammie Warr
- 4th Grade ~ Mrs. Proctor**
 All A's: Autumn Phillips, Khaki Scrivner, Landon Allen, Grant Wheeler, Jarette Valdez, Kati Fuston, Desiree Casillas
- A's & B's: Kimberly Leal
- 5th Grade ~ Mrs. Davidson**
 All A's: Kelsey Clay, Jacob Hancock, Lacie Ponter, Payton Price, Jacy Proctor, Sadie Valdez, Lauren Young

Honor Roll

- A's & B's: Salvador Bernal, Mariela Mendoza, Rebecca Ramos, Isaac Smith, Courtney Thibodeaux, Ana Mora, Iisa Ortiz, Alejandro Valdez, Jessica Valdez
- 6th Grade**
 All A's: Dalton Allen, Mitchell Farley, Callie Helms, Jordan Jenkins, Brady Ramsey
 A's & B's: Chancy Campbell, Laura Martinez, Shawna Meeks, Cesar Mendoza, Leslie Payne, Francisco Pozos, Alexandria Skinner, Ana Karen Valdez, Gloria Valdez
- 7th Grade**
 All A's: Cole Brown, Mary Kate Davidson
 A's & B's: None
- 8th Grade**
 All A's: Macy Davidson, Molly Davidson, Ana Karen Mendoza, Maddie Ramsey
 A's & B's: None
- Freshmen**
 All A's: Randy Farley
 A's & B's: Elisa Cagle, Larissa Payne, Anna Rosa Pozos, Fernando Regalado, Charlie Walden
- Sophomores**
 All A's: None
 A's & B's: Maria Martinez, Juan Mendoza, Zack Ramsey, Matt Whittington
- Juniors**
 All A's: Katherine Pigg
 A's & B's: Cathy Bernal, Rodney Fuston, Chase Maynard, Juan Regalado, Jessica Wellman
- Seniors**
 All A's: Natalie Wheeler, Derrick Cruse, Cydni Walden
 A's & B's: Erika Chavez, Sara Fierro, Lorena Mendoza, Sammie Dee Ross, Amanda Roys, Scarlett Sperry

Picture Day Is Coming!

Blunk's Studio photographers will be at Valley School on Wednesday, January 22. The following pictures will be taken: retakes of school pictures, Pre-K through 8th grade classroom memory mates, Jr. High basketball and High School basketball.

Drinking & Driving Facts
 One in four high school seniors said they had driven a car after drinking at least once during the past school year.

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 GET YOUR SWEETHEART'S PICTURE IN
THE VALLEY TRIBUNE'S VALENTINE'S SWEETHEART PAGE
 DEADLINE FOR PICTURES IS **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2003**
 Your Valentine's picture will appear in the **Thursday, February 13, 2003 Edition of The Valley Tribune**
 TO PLACE YOUR SWEETHEART'S PICTURE ON THE VALLEY TRIBUNE SWEETHEART PAGE SEND \$10 DOLLARS WITH EACH PICTURE TO BE PLACED, ALONG WITH A SELF ADRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE (IF YOU WANT YOUR PICTURE RETURNED) TO
THE VALLEY TRIBUNE
 P.O. BOX 478
 QUITAQUE, TX. 79255 OR
 THEY MAY BE E-MAILED TO vtaylor@caprock-spur.com

Date

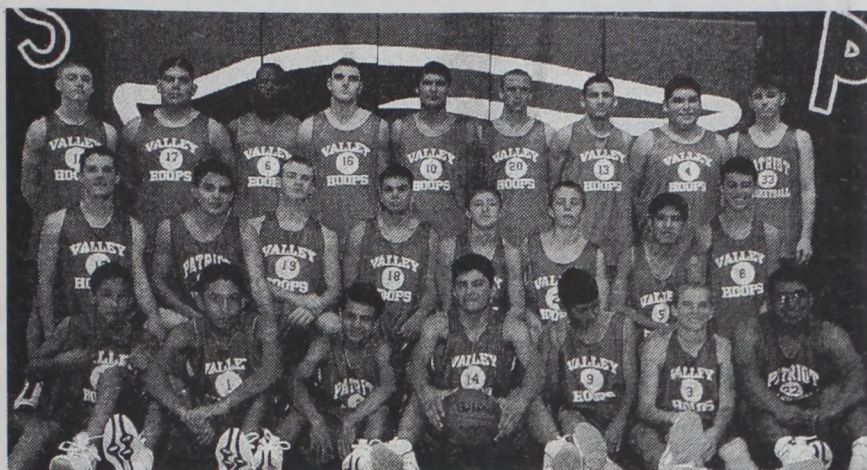
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VALLEY PATRIOTS BASKETBALL



2002 - 2003 Valley Basketball Schedule



VALLEY PATRIOT 2002-2003 J.V. & Varsity Boy's Basketball Team



Date	Opponent	Place	Time	Teams
December 5-7	Patton Springs Tournament			VG, VB
December 5-7	Clarendon JV Tournament			JVG, JVB
December 9	Clarendon	Home	8:00	JVB
December 10	Motley County	Away	4:00	JVG, JVB, VG, VB
December 12-14	Spur Tournament			VG, VB
December 17	Jayton	Away	4:00	JVG, JVB, VG, VB
December 20	Chillicothe	Home	4:00	JVG, JVB, VG, VB
December 26-28	Silverton Tournament			VG, VB
December 30	Chillicothe	Away	4:00	JVG, JVB, VG, VB
January 3	McLean*	Away	6:30	VG, VB
January 6	Clarendon	Home	7:30	JVB
January 7	Silverton*	Home	4:00	JVG, JVB, VG, VB
January 10	Hedley*	Away	6:30	VG, VB
January 10	Happy	Away	5:00	JVB
January 14	Groom*	Home	6:30	VG, VB
January 14	Silverton	Away	4:00	JVG, JVB
January 17	Samnorwood*	Away	6:30	VG, VB
January 21	McLean*	Home	5:00	JVB, VG, VB
January 24	Silverton*	Away	4:00	JVG, JVB, VG, VB
January 25	Valley Tournament			JVG, JVB
January 28	Hedley*	Home	6:30	VG, VB
January 28	Happy	Home	5:00	JVB
January 31	Groom*	Away	6:30	VG, VB
February 4	Samnorwood*	Home	6:30	VG, VB
February 4	Silverton	Home	5:00	JVB

2002-2003 Valley Basketball Junior High Schedule

Date	Opponent	Place	Time	Teams
December 9	Patton Springs	Home	5:00	G, B
December 9	Nazareth	Home	7:00	G
December 16	McLean	Away	5:00	G, B
January 6	Oilton	Home	5:00	G, B
January 11	Motley County Tournament			G, B
January 13	Silverton	Away	5:00	G, B
January 20	Patton Springs	Away	5:00	G, B
January 27	Silverton	Home	5:00	G, B
February 1	Valley Tournament			G, B
February 3	Spur	Home	5:00	G, B
February 3	Nazareth	Home	7:00	G



VALLEY PATRIOT 2002-2003 J.V. & Varsity Girl's Basketball Team

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"TEXUN TAWK"

Observations Of Life From A Fellow Texan
By Bill Sperry

I was thinking on how anxious I was to leave that area when I graduated from high school and couldn't understand why people stayed there. After many years and seeing lots of this country I know what Dorothy meant when she said, 'There's no place like home.' I miss not having the same neighbors to say hello to each day and the same surroundings. I miss living in the same house and knowing that things will be the same when I come home.

When I visit there, I'm envious of the guys driving around with their 'ole dog in the back of the pickup. I miss going to the graveyard and visiting my folks buried there. Greeting people in town, calling them by their first name and knowing their background, that's a comfort too. I enjoy seeing some of my teachers I had in school, to let them know that I didn't turn out too bad.

The world has made some strange turns since my leaving and most of them, not for the best. I've noticed that a couple of wars haven't changed things for the better. Seems that area is the only place that has hung onto any sanity. The world seems to be getting fuller of strange people and the valley there just hangs on to some very simple beliefs. I hope that the way the world is doesn't leak over into that area and destroy the important things that are there. Good people, good neighbors, and a strong belief in the Good Lord and what's right, I hope is always there. I hope everyone there knows the value of what they have and hang onto it desperately. I'm proud to be an American, prouder to be a Texas, and most of all, proud to be from that little valley I'll always call home.

What's the only state big enough to have it's own crossword puzzle?

The Original TEXAS CROSSWORD



RIM ROCK CANYON



By Clint Harmon



The human brain is about 80 percent water, which makes it more watery than human blood.

The Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation invites you to join the historic family of TEXAS Legacies. For more information call 1-877-58TEXAS, 806-655-2181 or visit us on the web at www.epictexas.com. TEXAS Legacies is co-produced by West Texas A&M University. College credit hours are available through WTAMU for performing in TEXAS, and schedules will permit time to enroll in offered courses.



Calling All Local Heroes

Do you know a hero? Someone in your community who is building a neighborhood center for needy kids, developing recycling programs for their schools or helping save the life of a perfect stranger?

If so, you may be interested in knowing that Volvo Cars of North America has launched a national search for ordinary people doing extraordinary things in the areas of safety, environment and quality of life.

It's called the Volvo for Life Awards, a national public service program that celebrates and rewards three local heroes with more than \$250,000 in financial contributions. One hero will win a Volvo car for life. To nominate someone you know, log on the www.volvoforlifeawards.com.

Deadline to submit nominations is February 28, 2003. During this time, Volvo will profile select nominees. Volvo is conducting the program in an effort to inspire people nationwide to make outstanding contributions in their own communities.

In March, Volvo will select 50 semifinalists, who will receive a framed Certificate of Merit in honor of their accomplishments. From those 50 semifinalists, Volvo will select 10 finalists, who each will receive \$10,000. Of those finalists, a distinguished panel of judges including Bill Bradley, Dr. Jane Goodall, Caroline Kennedy, Dr. Sally Ride, Eunice Kennedy Shriver and Maya Lin will name three winners, who each will have a \$50,000 donation made in their name to the charities of their choice. The winners will be flown to New York on April 16 to be honored at the first ever Volvo for Life Awards ceremony, to be held at Times Square Studios. The top winner will receive a Volvo car for the rest of his or her life. To learn more and to nominate a hero, visit www.volvoforlifeawards.com.

WORD FROM WASHINGTON

A New Combat Vehicle For The New Army

(NAPS)—The information age is changing the face of battle. Data can now be collected—from both human and electronic assets—and become the basis for a tactical decision faster than ever before.

As a result, the U.S. Army is changing its culture, tradition and doctrine to adapt. It's also changing the way it uses its ground forces. The kinds of conflict the Army will be called upon to tackle in the future will likely call for smaller units that can be deployed quickly without sacrificing firepower.

That's why the Army has called for a transformational combat vehicle to support a new kind of unit. The unit is referred to as the Brigade Combat Team. The new vehicle is called the Stryker.

Traveling at speeds of 62 mph, the Stryker has a range of 312 miles. It is easily deployed from C-130 or C-17 aircraft.

The Stryker's Mobile Gun System configuration features a General Dynamics 105 mm tank cannon in a low-profile, fully stabilized, "shoot on the move" turret. It can fire 18 rounds of 105 mm main gun ammunition, 400 rounds of .50-caliber ammunition, and 3,400 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition.

Its armor protects the crew from machine gun bullets, mortar and artillery fragments on the battlefield.

Other Stryker configurations include a nuclear, chemical and biological reconnaissance vehicle; antitank guided missile and medical evacuation vehicles; as well as vehicles for engineer squads, fire support, mortars, reconnaissance, and command.

In a recent exercise demon-



Traveling at speeds of 62 mph a new combat vehicle called the Stryker is changing the way the Army will fight.

strating the mobility of the new Stryker, soldiers had some very positive things to say about these lethal and survivable military vehicles: "It's fast. You can take 11 people and all their gear off a C-130 and put it in combat configuration in less than 12 minutes," said a soldier participating in the exercise.

"We went across some terrain that would have destroyed a lot of vehicles at the speed we were going. It was just awesome."

Another soldier said, "The Stryker protects soldiers inside from fire, chemicals and enemy weapons. With this machine, soldiers will be able to get to the fight more quickly—it lets us reach out and touch the enemy a lot faster. It's ready. I'm ready. Stryker is good to go."

General Dynamics and General Motors share fabrication and final assembly of the vehicles. The Army wants six Brigade Combat Teams of Strykers so that soldiers will be able to fight, win, and come home.

Think Texas

By Agriculture Commissioner SUSAN COMBS

The new year spurs new resolutions, and for most people their promises revolve around their diet. They go for less fat and more fresh produce, the hallmarks of a more nutritional way to eat.

An easy way to boost fresh vegetable intake in the new year is to make baby carrots a part of snacks and meals. Carrots are extremely high in vitamin A—one medium carrot has 330 percent of the daily recommended allowance. Carrots are also low in sodium and are fat- and cholesterol-free. It's easy to pack them into lunches, stir them into soups or steam them with garlic or herbs for a satisfying side dish.

Many people choose baby carrots because they're snack-sized, quick and convenient. Americans now average nearly 11 pounds of fresh carrots per person annually, which is up more than 38 percent from a decade ago. The size and convenience of baby carrots has a lot to do with the increased popularity of carrots among consumers. Despite their popularity, some people don't know that baby carrots aren't actually "babies." The only difference between baby carrots and conventional carrots is that baby carrots are bred to be more cylindrical so they can be cut into uniform pieces.

Carrots are grown in the Winter Garden, the Rio Grande Valley and the High Plains. In 2001 about 6,500 acres of carrots were harvested, and Texas ranked fourth in production of fresh carrots at 126 million pounds.

SPC Registration Continues Tonight In Plainview

Registration for five South Plains College courses offered this spring in Plainview will continue tonight, Thursday, January 16. Sign-up is 5-6 p.m. at Plainview High School. Courses offered are The Infant and Toddler, a child development course meeting Thursdays; American Government & Functions, Mondays; College Algebra, Tuesdays; Administrative Office Procedures, Thursdays, and Business Communications II, Tuesdays. Classes meet 6-9 p.m. one night a week and begin January 21.

To enroll, students need to complete an SPC application for admission, provide high school and or college transcripts and proof of Texas residency with a driver's license. Prospective students also need to show evidence of compliance with TASP or make arrangements to take the state-required assessment measuring skills in reading, writing and math. Certain exemptions apply.

For more information, contact the SPC Division of Continuing and Distance Education at 806-894-9611, ext. 2341.

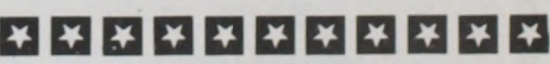
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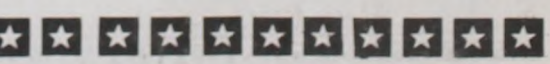
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(Monday) - Meatloaf, Stroganoff, Chicken Fried Chicken, Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Four Vegetables, Rolls, Cornbread & Dessert.

(Tuesday) - Porkchops, Baked Chicken with Rice, Chicken Fried Chicken, Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Four Vegetables, Rolls, Cornbread & Dessert.

(Wednesday) - Enchiladas, Mexican Chicken Cassarole, Chicken Fried Steak, Chicken Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Four Vegetables, Rolls, Cornbread & Dessert.

(Thursday) - Our Famous Fried Chicken, Gizzards, Livers, Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Four Vegetables, Rolls, Cornbread, Apple or Peach Cobbler & Banana Pudding.

(Friday) - Catfish, Brisket, BBQ Sausage, Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Rolls, Cornbread, Homemade Cake & Banana Pudding.

(Saturday) - Homemade Authentic Mexican Food, Delicious Handmade Chili Rellanos, Sopapillas, Enchiladas, Chalupas served with Spanish Rice, Beans, Chips & Homemade Salsa, along with many more items!

(Sunday) - Fried Chicken, Ham, Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Hot Rolls, Cornbread, Four Vegetables, Homemade Cake.

All Buffets include Salad-Bar & Drink (Dine-In Only)

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Cotton News

By Shawn Wade

from Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.

Beltwide Provides Glimpse Of Future

With the aftertaste of less than memorable markets and more than one unwanted hit from Mother Nature fresh on the minds of growers the 2003 Beltwide Cotton Conference delivered something somewhat unexpected—a glimpse of cautious optimism for the future.

One of the main purveyors of that view is none other than William B. Dunavant, Jr. of Memphis, TN.

Mr. Dunavant's comments to the 2003 Beltwide Cotton Conference included his thoughts on the importance of the U.S. Farm Bill to growers, as well as his current thoughts on the direction we may be headed in the marketplace in 2003 and beyond.

Not everything he said could be considered 100 percent positive, but at the end of the day it felt as if there might be some blue sky on down the line.

On farm policy he voiced his support for the U.S. Farm Bill as a key component of grower survival until market conditions right themselves.

Dunavant reiterated his position that, while he doesn't necessarily agree with many of the specific provisions of the U.S. farm program, he strongly supports its primary purpose of delivering critical support to U.S. farmers. Dunavant also highlighted the positive direction in which U.S. and world carryover stocks were moving, pointed out an optimistic forecast for increased world consumption and cautioned growers to not move too quickly to cement 2003-4 marketing plans as the situation continues to change over the next few months.

High Plains Crop Exceeds 3.1 Million Bales

Weekly reports from the Lubbock and Lamesa USDA Cotton Classing offices continue to creep further above the 3 million bale level. Season to date figures for the two offices now total just under 3.1 million bales reviewed.

Cotton continues to trickle into the offices as the final bales move through the gins. Harvest activity is virtually complete except in isolated pockets.

Quality continues to be below the norm in many cases, especially in terms of Color and Leaf.

Most of the quality differences can be associated with weather patterns that brought beneficial rainfall, but kept growers out of the field for extended periods during the harvest period.

Predominant Color-Leaf grades recorded at both Lubbock and Lamesa have been 41-4 for the past couple of months and the season.

Other quality factors have also been affected during the harvest season and most noticeable is fact that 17 percent of the 2.5 million bales classed at Lubbock have been "Barky" bales and incurred additional loan discounts.

Additionally, Micronaire readings have seemed to be a notch or two higher than normal as fully 50 percent or more of the bales classed at Lubbock have recorded Mike readings greater than 4.3. Some 250,000 or so bales have also been hit with Mike readings above 5.0.

Staple lengths have been holding their own throughout the year with the season average being 33.4. Staple lengths at the Lamesa office have averaged 33.31 so far.

Altogether, the final numbers on the 2003 crop could easily move above the 3.2 million bale mark and rank as one of the best of all time.

Keeping an Eye on Texas

Sentencing Studied at Conference

The Judicial Advisory Council, in coordination with the Community Justice Assistance Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and the National Institute of Corrections, is sponsoring the first Judicial Advisory Council Sentencing Conference.

The conference is Jan. 23-24 in Austin and will feature legislators, leadership of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and speakers from all facets of the Texas system.

Conference participants will be able to interact with nationally known speakers with judicial and prosecutorial expertise.

For more information go to:

http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/publications/cjad/sc_brochure_dec02.pdf

SOURCES: Carole Keeton Strayhorn, Texas Comptroller (www.window.state.tx.us) and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.



Texas Wheat Producers Association Pushes For Disaster Assistance

Members of the Texas Wheat Producers Association (TWPA), along with the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG), have joined with a coalition of over 35 farm organization in Washington, D.C. this week in a major push to secure agricultural disaster assistance funding from Congress. Congress convened on Tuesday, January 7th and began immediate work on the remaining 2003 spending bills that were not enacted before the start of the 2003 fiscal year, beginning on October 1, 2002. The hope is that some form of emergency disaster assistance may be included as part of this funding package, and that this emergency aid is not taken from existing farm programs. "With a \$6.9 billion disaster assistance package attached to the interior appropriations bill, we feel it is imperative to discuss the crucial need of disaster assistance for farmers and ranchers with our Senators and Congressmen," said David Moore, TWP A President.

The impact of the drought in both 2001 and 2002 has ravaged Texas agricultural production, as well as the incomes of farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses. In many areas, drought dicimated crops and forage and reduced water supplies available for livestock. In other areas, farmers experienced crop destruction and reduced crop quality due to flooding.

According to a June 2002 report by the Texas Cooperative Extension, the drought this past growing season devastated Texas' wheat crops and destroyed substantial South Texas crop production acreage, resulting in losses estimated at \$316 million in 2002. An additional \$16 million was estimated in wheat grazing losses. Texas' 2002 wheat crop was estimated at 78.3 million bushels, down 28 percent from last year but 19 percent above 2000. The wheat producers in the Texas Panhandle suffered the most, however, harvesting a mere 24.4 million bushels, down 58.3 percent from last year. Rain has returned to most of the wheat producing areas and hopes are that moisture will be adequate to nurture the upcoming wheat crop. However, the rains are too little, too late, for the 2001-2002 wheat crops.

The participants representing the Texas Wheat Producers Association in Washington, D.C. include: David Moore of Dumas, TWP A President; David Cleavinger of Wildorado, TWPA Vice President; Tommy Womack of Tulia, NAWG Vice President; Johnny Schmucker of Dumas, Great Plains Ag Credit; and Rachel McInnis, Director of Producer Relations and Communications TWPA. These individuals are meeting with members of Congress and key Administration officials in order to put a human face on this economic calamity. Many other state delegates will have broad representation, including local bankers and equipment dealers, to illustrate the fact that the drought issue is broader than farming, it is about preventing the collapse of entire rural economies.

Farm Bureau Says Mexico Water Agreement Too Little Too Late

The president of Texas' largest farm organization described last Thursday's water agreement between the U.S. and Mexico as "far too little and much too late."

"Essentially, Mexico has said that it will honor the terms of the treaty for the coming year only, and much of it too late for the current growing season," said Kenneth Dierschke, president of the Texas Farm Bureau. "Mexico has repeatedly refused to address the water debt from previous years."

The Associated Press reported on January 10 that Mexico agreed to provide 350,000 acre-feet of water by September 30 of this year and an additional 50,000 acre-feet if climatic conditions allow it. The agreement calls for 200,000 acre-feet to be delivered by January 31, in time for spring planting.

Mexico has been in violation of a 1944 treaty between the two nations that obligates Mexico to release 350,000 acre-feet of water into the Rio Grande annually. The U.S. must allow 1.5 million-acre feet to flow into Mexico from the Colorado River. The U.S. is in compliance but Mexico now owes a water deficit of more than 1.7 million-acre feet. Farmers in the Rio Grande Valley charge that the treaty violation has cost them millions in a time of severe drought.

The Texas Farm Bureau has called for actions, including withholding water for use on the U.S. side of the border. That water cannot be channeled to the Rio Grande Valley, however.

Mexico's ability to repay the water debt remains in dispute. Officials of the Mexican government claim they do not have enough water to honor the treaty. Texas and U.S. officials have charged that the water has been impounded south of the Rio Grande for irrigation in the interior of Mexico.

Dierschke says Farm Bureau has asked for sanctions to encourage Mexican compliance. These include, compliance language in pending U.S.-Mexico legislation, Congressional inquiry into the U.S. State Department's inability to force resolution, withholding water obligated to Mexico from the Colorado River and embargo of Mexican imports.

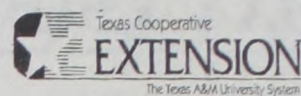
If a man can't forge his own will, whose will can he forge?
—W.S. Gilbert

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Agriculture Conferences Slated Across The South Plains

South Plains producers can update their crop production, marketing, and management skills, and learn more about irrigation, fertility, pest management and farm legislation at several regional Texas Cooperative Extension agriculture conferences slated in January.

"Our regional agriculture conferences are designed to provide farmers the latest information on way to improve their operations," said Jett Major, Texas Cooperative Extension district director for agriculture on the South Plains. "The information presented at each conference is designed to help producers in that region or county."

Producers can also earn continuing education units (CEU's) for private and commercial applicator licenses at these regional conferences.

January 22 - The Caprock Cotton Conference at the Plains Baptist Assembly south of Floydada runs from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with at least three CEU's offered. Call Floyd County Extension office at 806-983-4912 or Crosby County Extension office at 806-675-2347 for more details.

January 23 - Hale and Swisher County Cotton Conference at the Ollie Linder Center in Plainview. Begins with registration at 8:30 a.m. Call the Hale County Extension office at 806-291-5267 or the Swisher County Extension office at 806-995-3726 for more details.

Scholarships Available For Next Master Marketers Program

Two agricultural lenders are offering scholarships for young producers who want to participate in the next Master Marketers session, according to a Texas A&M economist.

"Ag Texas, headquartered in Lubbock, and Great Plains Ag Credit, headquartered in Amarillo, have graciously decided to pay one-half of the tuition fee for producers 35 years old or younger," said Jackie Smith, Texas Cooperative Extension economist. "The tuition fee is \$250, so each scholarship is worth \$125."

This is a substantial financial commitment from these two lenders, but it is a good investment. Marketing education is one of the best investments of time and money that any producer can make."

The first of four 2003 Master Marketer Program sessions begins on January 22. Sign-up for this intensive marketing and risk management education program is still under way.

Participants will learn how to identify and evaluate marketing opportunities, and then design and follow through with sound marketing plans.

"Farm program benefits under the new farm bill will be directly and substantially affected by both market direction and changes in market prices," Smith said. "The key to successfully dealing with that risk is a good working knowledge of farm program provisions and the forces likely to drive prices up or down in the futures and cash markets."

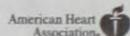
"Several of our speakers in the upcoming Master Marketer program will discuss special price risk management tools producers can use to offset that risk."

Texasans can get registration forms or more information by calling Smith at 806-746-6101, or their local county Extension office. You can also learn more about the Master Marketer program on the Internet at: <http://mastermarketer.tamu.edu>.

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UNGLUED By Clint Harmon



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