

THE VALLEY TRIBUNE

"Voice of the Rolling Plains"

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PHIL BAREFIELD
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Volume 47 Number 42 * Quitaque, Texas 79255 * Serving ~ Briscoe ~ Hall ~ Motley ~ Counties * Thursday, May 8, 2002



Friday afternoon, May 2 four Valley high school students were injured in a roll-over near Caprock Canyons State Park. Photo by Tom Heck



One of the injured was transferred by AeroCare to Lubbock Covenant. The others were transferred by ambulance to local hospitals. According to reports all involved did not receive any life threatening injuries and are all on the road to recovery. Quitaque EMS were on the scene quickly to assist the wreck victims. Photo by Tom Heck.

Audience Can't Get Enough Of Shannons At Jamboree

By RJ Kalafus

This past Saturday for three hours a near capacity house enjoyed three hours of no thoughts of gas prices, farm prices, war, health care, global warming all this was put out of mind and only the music mattered and they were all at ease. The crowd was promised good music and a good time and they got it.

First to appear were the pride of Northfield the Shannon family who came dressed in authentic Civil War era clothing made at home. Their portion of the show as dedicated to songs of the Civil War including Soldiers Joy, Ashokan Farewell, Bonnie Blue Flag and Dixie. The band consists of Cimmaron and Laredo on fiddle, Aspen on Mandolin and Atlanta on guitar and 6 year old Stockton making an appearance on the fiddle.

Silverton's Jimmy Burson was next to appear and his set was all cowboy songs from Cattle Call to South of the Border to Red Steagal's Roundup in Texas and ending with When Its Roundup Time in Texas.

Idalou's Marty Gilbert was the final contestant. He on the keyboard and friends Michael Grace and Gary Johnson put on a great show with selections from pop ballads to bluegrass and country. His set was roundly applauded.

The premier band of West Texas were next and each musician got a chance to solo. Glenn Waters showed his versatility on the steel guitar with a version of Steel Guitar Rag. Lucy Dean Record pounded out Down Yonder and JM Dickson played Golden Slippers on the harmonica. Bennie Brown did a medley including Bells of St Mary's. Melody and Dewayne Petteit closed out with Heartaches by the Number and Working Mans Blues. The Gems would like to thank Jimmy Burson for filling in for Jimmy Adams on the fiddle.

By audience vote the Shannons were awarded the \$100 first prize. This prize was donated by Billy Ray Hardcastle and the Masonic Lodge. The \$25 door prize was also awarded to an audience member, this was a gift from Joy and Jan Turner. There were numerous other prizes awarded. We would like to thank all that have helped either with prize money or gifts, they are all appreciated.

The next Jamboree will be Saturday, June 7th at the historic Gem Theatre in beautiful downtown Turkey, Texas.

See ya'll there!

Palo Duro Basin Oil & Gas Update

By Tom Musser

Motley County: Drilling operations have concluded on the Roaring Springs Energy, Ltd. Hamilton Lease well #1; Roaring Springs, West (Permian) field. Total depth was reached this past weekend and the drilling rig has rigged down and moved off location. This wellbore was drilled as a "Tight Hole" and no further information is available at this time.

Annual Washington Cattle Co. Bluegrass Festival May 15, 16 & 17

Once again Flomot, Texas will be alive with the sound of bluegrass music on May 15, 16 and 17, 2008. The Ninth Annual Washington Cattle Co. Bluegrass Festival will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 15 with gospel music and barbeque. Friday night the stage music starts at 6:00 p.m. and will continue until 10:30 p.m. On Saturday, the music begins at 1:00 p.m. and goes until 11:00 p.m. Please bring lawn chairs for the most comfortable seating.

Eight bands from Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma are scheduled to play during the festival. The bands scheduled to perform during the festival include *Pecos Valley Bluegrass* from Mayhill, New Mexico, *Grassfire* and *Now and Again* from Amarillo, Texas, *Texas Country* from Wicket, Texas, *Music Mountain* from Seymour, *Harvesters* from Lubbock, *Wichita Mountain Bluegrass* from Oklahoma, and *Triple L* from Portales, New Mexico.

But, the official bands are just half of the fun. Groups will be playing and jamming at all hours on the festival grounds. Everyone who plays an instrument is welcome to come and join in the music. If you don't play you are welcome to listen to the various groups.

Brenda Browning will have a food concession open Friday and Saturday. Everyone is invited to come to Flomot and listen to great music and eat with Brenda.

An added event this year is the Flomot version of Hardin & Turner Western Trade Day on Saturday May 17. This event specializes in tack and other things found around the ranch. Everyone is welcome to come to buy, sale or trade.

RV parking is \$10.00 per night and hookups are still available with festival ticket purchase. Thursday festival tickets are \$8.00 for music only and \$12.00 for music and barbeque, \$8.00 on Friday, and \$12.00 for all day Saturday. Children under 13 admitted free with an adult at all times. Children's Thursday night barbeque tickets are \$4.00.

For more informational please call 806-469-5278 or 806-269-1578. E-mail flomot@caprock-sur.com.

Clean Up Day In Quitaque May 17

By Arlene Hinkle

Volunteers are needed to help us spruce up downtown and other odd jobs around the community Saturday after next, May 17th.

We plan to reinstall the trash bins, clean up more of the corner building being proposed as a mini park on the corner of Main Street. We are looking at some new planters to install, talk about street lamp placement, move chairs from the Hope Center to provide space for existing chairs, work on replacement of glass, reinstall pole banners, work on welcome monument and other odd jobs.

If you have something in the old store front (owned by Jack Johnson) and would like to get it back, the building will be open for you to get your items back.

Please plan to come and help out for 3 to 4 hours in the morning as we spruce up Quitaque.

Briscoe County Jr. Livestock Show Board Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Briscoe County Jr. Livestock Show Board on Tuesday, May 13th, 2008 at the Ag. Shop at Valley High School. Dates and rule changes for the 2009 show will be discussed.



When the City of Quitaque flushed the water lines last week, Cooper Hill, Grant and Ty Oberheu took full advantage of the water, trying to usher summer in early! Photo By Todd Oberheu.

Comptroller's Report Examines Economic Opportunities And Challenges In Texas' High Plains Region

A new report by Texas Comptroller Susan Combs offers a promising economic outlook for the High Plains region. "Job expansion, a youthful population, abundant natural resources, innovative health care solutions and educated citizens will ensure the region's economy continues to grow," Combs said, as she released Texas in Focus: High Plains, the second in a series of reports highlighting economic development issues statewide and for individual regions of Texas.

The High Plains Region is made up of 41 counties, stretching from the Panhandle through the South Plains, including the cities of Amarillo and Lubbock. The Comptroller's report provides information on the forces driving change in the region and examines factors that may affect economic development.

According to the report, job growth in the High Plains region will be similar to the state as a whole from 2002 to 2012, increasing about 19.5 percent. Job growth in the Amarillo area (22.1 percent) and in the Lubbock area (20.4 percent) will outpace the rural counties (16.4 percent).

Though agriculture and oil and gas have traditionally dominated the region, a broader economy is emerging from growth in the service industries. The fastest-growing industries in the High Plains through 2012 will be professional and business services, financial activities, education and health services and construction.

To provide the skills needed to prosper in an expanding and increasingly technology-based economy, the High Plains region is fortunate to have school districts that outperform the state average on many educational indicators and offer lower-than-average class sizes. The region also offers outstanding and affordable institutions of higher education, including Texas Tech University. The High Plains, like the state as a whole, must continue its efforts to serve an increasingly diverse school population

Story continued on Page 5

ON THE QT

By Patsy Herrington

Just delightful, memorable, sensational Spring days - several in a row - have made this time of year very very special and a treat for all!

Jaycee and Jaden Pigg, children of Jon and Julie Pigg, had a slight accident on a 4 wheeler at their grandparents (Julie Pigg's folds) in Friona, but with a few cuts and bruises are doing well.

There was a bad accident out at Caprock Canyons State Park a few days ago when a jeep flipped over. Involved were Kelsy Kelley, Jarrett Valdez (son of Cindy and Edward) Courtney Thibodeaux, and Shelby Hinojosa. jarrett had to be air lifted to a hospital. No immediate reports on the others at this time. Some came out okay reports say.

The Texas Highway Department has been busy pouring black asphalt on various streets this week. Better be careful!

Dana Herrington, wife of Lex Herrington teaches business at Floydada High School and won with her students at regional in Abilene in UIL Public Speaking. She has gone with them this weekend to state in Austin. Meanwhile back at home, lex took his son, 9 year old Emery and his partner Braden Campbell of Floydada to Levelland Saturday where they won 3rd place at the District 24-H Roundup for their safety method demonstration on hunter safety.

My daughter Lisa Herrington Welborn, came from Austin last Monday (drove) to stay and help me all week - and help she did. She mowed the lawn, washed the front windows, ran errands and cooked every meal. She was a blessing. I hated to see her return to her family last Friday. She has three children, seven, nine, and eleven plus a husband to care for. Lisa remarked that "We have great EMT's here".

It is good to see Junior and Lilly Leal back her to stay after being several months in south Texas.

Elaine Harmon went to Amarillo Monday to have a procedure (dental) done. She was accompanied by her parents, Odis and Jessie Reagan.

Dee Dee Galvan and Kyleigh (11 month) of Sunnyside came down for a visit with her parents, Elaine and Rex Harmon this weekend.

Floydada is still mourning the death of two of its teenagers in a pickup rollover with five teenagers. One of the dead was the grandson of Johnny Sue, whom many people know here. So tragic it was!

Lex Herrington, Floydada, Emery and Evertt, came down to visit his mother, Patsy Herrington Sunday. Others visitors were Zelda Leeper, Elaine harmon, Delene Tyler, Jill Johnson, Ann Chadwick, Buck Chadwick, Sandra Stark and Sammie Johnson.

Joyce Price is in Lubbock this week staying with her sons while she is taking two radiation treatments a day. She has finished her chemo and will be through with all treatments after this. Hallelujah!

There have been several interesting visitors at the park recently. Richard Harris from Rocky Mound, VA has been doing a documentary video in high definition for TV viewing concerning the Caprock Canyon State Park as well as the Rails to Trails. Some of the park personnel are included in it.

Also Mike Forsberg from Lincoln, NE has been working on a book about the Great Plains. He and Bill Hager were here for several days gathering information and taking photographs. Should anyone wanting to view some of his work his website is MichaelForsberg.com. Some of the photography taken here will be featured in the future.

My daughter, Kim Eudy, Austin, phoned me recently and read me the obituary of Robert Singleton, Texas Parks and Wildlife Architect - Park master Planner. In essence the article said, "He took great pride in the work he'd done with parks, especially Caprock Canyons State Park, Quitaque, of which he was architect - park master planner of. He passed away April 25, 2008 and was 34 years old. this article came from the Austin Statesman.

Many thanks to the First United Methodist Church for their special prayer for me when I was ill. Also to the Juan Diego Spanish Prayer Group for praying for me and the Prayergram signed by all in Fairmont Baptist Church.

I will be gone to Austin Thursday - Tuesday to see my grandson, Marshall Eudy, son of Kim and Ron Eudy, graduate from Rice University in Houston. Then on Mother's Day I will celebrate the day with my daughters, Kim and Lisa and families. May all you readers out there have a great weekend!

Obituaries

Mark Louis Timmons

Mark Louis Timmons, beloved father and sailor, fell into his final slumber May 2, 2008.

Services will be at 11:00 AM Wednesday at Rector Funeral Home Osage Chapel with Msgr. Joseph Tash of St. Thomas the Apostle Church officiating. Graveside services will be at 4:00 PM Thursday at Northfield Cemetery in Northfield with Glen Walton of Bell Avenue Church of Christ officiating.

A resident of Amarillo, he was born Jan. 8, 1951, in Childress, Texas, to Walter Louis and Geneva Timmons. Mark was raised in Northfield, Texas and in 1968, graduated from Matador High, where he was a football and track athlete. He joined the U.S. Navy in August 1970 and married Karen Kappel of Port Washington, N.Y., in March 1972, and one year later, their first daughter Casandra was born in Pensacola, Fla. The family relocated to Amarillo after Mark graduated from mortuary school in 1977, and in 1981, daughter Angela was born. Mark re-joined the Navy three years later and in 1986, became a Navy corpsman in San Diego, Calif. After transferring to Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland, Mark earned a Bachelor of Science from the esteemed George Washington University. Following retirement, he worked at Columbia University's medical school in New York, N.Y. until he and Karen returned in 2001 to Amarillo, where he also returned to funeral directing.

He is survived by ex-wife, Karen of Amarillo; daughter Casandra Uythoven and husband Sean of Burleson, Texas; daughter Angela of Austin; 1 sister Montie Dawson and husband Donnie of Amarillo, as well as various close friends and relatives.

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Postal Service Customers Prepare For New Prices On May 12

Demand for the Forever Stamp continues to increase as the May 12 stamp price change approaches. In the past several weeks, Postal Service customers have been buying Forever Stamps at a rate of about 30 million per day, bringing the amount sold to more than 6 billion since they were first offered in April 2007.

"We knew the Forever Stamp would be a big hit with our customers and we continue to replenish our stock to meet demand," said Karla Helms, Officer-In-Charge at the Quitaque Post Office. "We introduced these stamps as a customer convenience to ease the transition during price changes, and they also deliver economic value."

The Forever Stamp, as the name suggests, can be used to mail a one-ounce First Class Mail letter at any time in the future without additional postage, regardless of when the stamps are purchased or used and no matter how prices may change. Customers who buy Forever Stamps now at the current First-Class mail stamp price of 41 cents will save a penny when the price of stamps, including the Forever Stamp, increases to 42 cents on May 12.

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May 8, 2008

FLOR

A mother's patience quite all gone! May 1 Days of Gusti

Days of gusting with depleted moisture in the pastureland and The moisture ree be able to plant co Livestock were in u continuing to supp

The Motley Count ficially reported the p Roaring Springs-14 inches; Betty Simpson Whiteflat-1.20 inches

Guests Sunday of Jackie Davis of Fric Virginia Segodia of E Amarillo, Thursday f erans' Hospital. En son and family, Mr. Leah Cruse of Can Brenda and Darrell C Visiting Mrs. B. R her cousin and son, land. Other luncheo Hand of Roaring Spr Ty Barclay and chi visited his parents, S and Jerry visited in L Mrs. S.D. Barclay. S Mrs. Linda Kend Kendall, Jere and Ja her other son and fa and Chancey. They c party and all the trim Grandfather, Travis cause he was on the s Visiting Mr. and M Carter and son, Rile Mrs. Erma Washi reported to be much Wilburn Martin w repair of his car that of running into a dee Donnie Rogers wa attended the wedding held at the Texas Dep Bruce and Betty Pr with Mary Jo and Do Anna Beth and Jo ment in Panhandle F ner and Kelsey Clay c Mr. and Mrs. Larry C Mrs. Cindy Calvert of her parents, Clois ar Calvert of Washington returned here to visit Calvert of Turkey.

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FLOMOT NEWS

By Earlyne Jameson

OVERHEARD

A mother's patience is like a tube of toothpaste...it is never quite all gone! May God bless you on Mothers' Day.

Days of Gusting Winds In April Depleted Motley County Moisture

Days of gusting winds and roller coaster temperatures in April depleted moisture in Motley County. It is surprising how well the pastureland and winter wheat fields have survived.

The moisture received helped, but dryland farmers will not be able to plant cotton and feed until they receive more rain. Livestock were in mostly fair to good condition with producers continuing to supply supplemental feed.

The Motley County National Weather Service Volunteers officially reported the precipitation for April 2008: Buzz Thacker, Roaring Springs-1.41 inches; Ronnie Bailey, Matador-0.90 inches; Betty Simpson, Northfield-0.94 inches; Lawrence Allen, Whiteflat-1.20 inches; Clois Shorter, Flomot-1.11 inches.

Guests Sunday of Jack and Nada Starkey was daughter, Mrs. Jackie Davis of Fritch and her son, Michael Davis and friend, Virginia Segodia of Bushton, Kansas. Jack and Nada were in Amarillo, Thursday for Jack a medical appointment at the Veterans' Hospital. En route home, they visited in Canyon with son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Starkey and Tanya.

Leah Cruse of Canyon visited the weekend with her parents, Brenda and Darrell Cruse.

Visiting Mrs. B. Rogers from Thursday until Sunday were her cousin and son, Mrs. Alma Carter and Riley Carter of Garland. Other luncheon guests, Friday were Mr. and Mrs. Billy Hand of Roaring Springs.

Ty Barclay and children, Tylee, Trent and Trevor of Matador visited his parents, Sandra and Jerry Barclay, Saturday. Sandra and Jerry visited in Lockney, Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S.D. Barclay. S.D. is seriously ill.

Mrs. Linda Kendall, son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Tim Kendall, Jere and Jacob visited the weekend in Midland with her other son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Cory Kendall, Connor and Chancey. They celebrated Connor's eighth birthday with a party and all the trimmings. Many friends attended his party. Grandfather, Travis Kendall was unable to make the trip because he was on the sick list.

Visiting Mr. and Mrs. Coy Franks, Saturday were Mrs. Alma Carter and son, Riley Carter of Garland.

Mrs. Erma Washington has been on the sick list, but was reported to be much better Sunday.

Wilburn Martin was in Plainview, Tuesday checking on the repair of his car that was damaged when he had the misfortune of running into a deer.

Donnie Rogers was in Fort Worth during the weekend. He attended the wedding of friends, Coy McKay and Jaclyn Crowley held at the Texas Depot in Fort Worth.

Bruce and Betty Price of Quitaque visited Sunday afternoon with Mary Jo and Doyle Calvert.

Anna Beth and Joe Ike Clay enjoyed the basketball tournament in Panhandle Friday night in which grandchildren, Tanner and Kelsey Clay competed. They also visited their family, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Clay and Sarah.

Mrs. Cindy Calvert and son, Cade who have been houseguests of her parents, Clois and Kathy Shorter, met her husband, Chad Calvert of Washington, D.C. at the Lubbock Airport Friday. He returned here to visit and also with his mother, Mrs. Wanda Calvert of Turkey.



COOK'S CORNER

BY LAURA TAYLOR

Here are some really easy and tasty recipes for Mother's Day.

Chicken Parmigiana

- 1/3 c dry bread crumbs
- 2 ts parmesan cheese - grated
- 3/4 tsp Italian seasoning
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1 lb chicken breasts without skin
- 1 egg - beaten
- 8 oz tomato sauce
- 3/4 c mozzarella cheese - shredded

Combine bread crumbs, cheese, italian seasoning, and garlic powder in a shallow bowl.

Dip each chicken breast in beaten egg, then roll in bread crumb mixture to evenly coat.

Place chicken on a cookie sheet or jelly-roll pan.

Bake in preheated 375F oven for 10 minutes. Turn chicken over; bake 10-12 minutes or until chicken is thoroughly cooked.

Spoon tomato sauce over chicken. Sprinkle cheese over top. Bake 3 minutes or until chicken is melted.

Italian Green Bean Casserole

- 3 (16 oz.) cans French style green beans
- 2 (16 oz.) cans artichoke hearts
- 2 c. Italian bread crumbs
- 8 oz. olive oil
- 1 lg. onion
- 6 pods garlic
- 1 c. grated Italian cheese (Romano or Parmesan)

Chop onions and garlic; saute in olive oil until onions are soft. Coarsely chop green beans and artichoke hearts; add them to onions. Gradually add bread crumbs and cheese to mixture. Simmer for about 10 minutes. Place in 13 x 9 x 2 inch casserole dish. Sprinkle top with a little cheese and bread crumbs. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Quick Hot Rolls

- 2 c. hot water
 - 4 tbsp. Crisco
 - 1/3 c. sugar
 - 1 tsp. salt
 - 1 pkg. yeast
 - 5 c. flour
- Put hot water in a large mixing bowl and add Crisco, sugar, salt, and yeast. Stir. Add flour, a cup or two at a time. Mix well. Leave in bowl and let rise. Make into rolls and place in a buttered pan. Let rise again. Bake at 375 degrees until browned, about 20-30 minutes. Quick, easy, and delicious!

Impossible Brownie Pie (Bisquick)

- 4 Eggs
 - 1/4 c Margarine or butter; melted
 - 4 oz Chocolate; cooking - melted and cooled
 - 1/2 c Brown sugar; packed
 - 1/2 c Bisquick or baking mix
 - 1/2 c Sugar; granulated
 - 3/4 c Nuts; chopped
- Preheat oven to 350F. Grease 9 x 1 1/4" pie plate. Beat eggs, margarine and chocolate till smooth, 10 seconds in blender on high or 30 seconds with hand beater. Add brown sugar, Bisquick and granulated sugar. Beat till smooth, 1 minute in blender on high (stopping occasionally to scrape down sides) or 2 minutes with hand beater. Pour into plate; sprinkle with nuts. Bake till knife inserted in centre comes out clean; about 35 minutes. Cool.

I don't paint things. I only paint the difference between things.

- Henri Matisse

Art is the stored honey of the human soul, gathered on wings of misery and travail.

- Theodore Dreiser

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by Charley & Guy Orbison

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ACROSS

- TX Greer Garson film: "Blossoms in the ..." (41)
- TXism: "got misery ... my armpits"
- TXism: "run off at the mouth"
- dieter's selection
- nickname for TX born prez DDE
- TXism: "tenderfoot"
- TXism: "get your ... built" (settle down)
- TXism: "tickles ... (tastes good)"
- TX Roy Orbison's "Pretty Woman"
- TX Ginger Rogers film: "Twist of ..." (54)
- female deer
- El ... TX
- attachers
- "Bum" Phillips
- wedding role: ... Honor
- TXism: "hit the ... on the head"
- TX Swayze '90 film
- TXism: " ... boot"
- exclamation of surprise
- TX was once in Confederate ... America
- genetically copied
- TXism: "put up ... shut up"
- organ, for some TX teachers (abbr.)
- this Basinger was with TX Tanya in "Hard Country" (81)
- TXism: "he'd ... wrestle King Kong" (brave)
- hot dogs

DOWN

- In Erath Co. on hwy. 377
- TXism: "cut it ... a boardinghouse pie"
- TX was once in Confederate ... America
- "Mamas, Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up ... Cowboys"
- TX hero Audie (unit)
- TX LBJ line: " ... meal, TX ... Americans"
- TXism: "busier than an ant ... all-day picnic"
- TXism: "couldn't ... through a barbed wire fence" (poor eyes)
- TXism: "scarf it ..."
- ancient Greek marketplace
- sleepin' springs
- TXism: "run up ... flag" (surrender)
- anger
- TXism for "carry"
- pep and vigor
- TX Kite won ... Open in '92
- "get ... of it"
- TXism: "locked up tighter ... (secure)"
- TXism: " ... a goose"
- these are assigned in TX Stadium
- actor Dean in "Four for Texas" (unit)
- TX meal, TX ... Grande
- TXism: "it's all water off ... back to me"
- TXism: "let a sleeping ..."
- TX Carrell's "The Super Handyman's Encyclopedia ... Repair"
- Juan, TX
- "uncle" south of the border
- blackeyes
- Granbury ... House
- TXism: "he's ... ornery old cuss"
- Gulf activity: deep ... fishing
- most dismal
- TX Valent's cinema org. (abbr.)
- TXism: " ... your drift" (understand)
- TXism: "plain as the ... on your face"
- fabric with diagonal parallel ribs
- TXism: " ... sheets to the wind"

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MOTHER'S DAY SPECIALS

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Boneless Beef Bottom Round Steak...1 lb.....\$2 ³⁹	Blue Bunny Assorted Ice Cream...144 oz.....\$5 ⁹⁹
Boneless Beef Rump Roast...1 lb.....\$2 ⁴⁹	General Mills Fruity or Regular Cheerios...12-14 oz.....2 for \$4 ⁰⁰
Fresh Ground Round...1 lb.....\$2 ³⁹	Shurfine Apple Juice or Cider...64oz.....\$1 ⁰⁰
Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast...1 lb.....\$2 ³⁹	Assorted Shurfine Sodas...2 liter.....89¢
Cook's Bone-In Shank Portion Ham...1 lb.....99¢	Assorted Minute Rice...14 oz.....2 for \$4 ⁰⁰
Cook's Bone-In Butt Portion Ham...1 lb.....\$1 ¹⁹	Libby's Potted Meat...3 oz.....5 for \$2 ⁰⁰
Owens Hot or Regular Breakfast Sausage...1 lb.....\$2 ⁴⁹	Shurfine Condensed Milk...14 oz.....2 for \$3 ⁰⁰
Owens Hot or Regular Breakfast Sausage...2 lb.....\$3 ⁹⁹	Act II 3 Pack Microwave Popcorn.....\$1 ²⁹
Bar S Regular Sliced Bacon...12 oz.....\$1 ⁷⁹	Rosarita Refried Beans...16 oz.....\$1 ¹⁹
SeaBest Breaded Jumbo Shrimp...10 oz.....\$2 ⁹⁹	Hunt's Tomato Sauce...8 oz.....2 for \$1 ⁰⁰
Red Ripe Strawberries...1 lb.....2 for \$3 ⁰⁰	Shurfine Whipped Topping...16 oz.....2 for \$4 ⁰⁰
T. Marzetti Strawberry Glaze...13.5 oz.....2 for \$4 ⁰⁰	Shurfine Sliced Strawberries...16 oz.....2 for \$4 ⁰⁰
Fresh Green Asparagus...1 lb.....\$1 ⁹⁹	Banquet Pot Pies...7 oz.....69¢
Crisp Sleeved Celery...each.....79¢	Shurfine Cottage Cheese...24 oz.....\$2 ⁹⁹
Cello Pack Whole Mushrooms...8 oz.....2 for \$3 ⁰⁰	Imperial Margarine Quarters...16 oz.....\$1 ⁰⁰
Cello Pack Tomatoes...4 pack.....2 for \$3 ⁰⁰	Cottonelle Double Ultra Bath Tissue...12 rolls.....\$5 ⁹⁹
Large Green Bell Peppers.....2 for \$1 ⁰⁰	
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Western Family Allergy PE Tabs...48 ct.....\$1 ⁹⁹	
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Back L-R: Nikki Neel, Kaylee Rogers, Stormi Jackson, Brienne Shouse, Chasity White. Front L-R: Haley Burnam, Kourtney Bramley, Kortni Carnes, Sterling Magee and Chelsi Cherry.

Carnes Named Freshman Cheerleader At Andrews

Andrews High School of Andrews, Tx. has announced their Freshman Cheerleaders for the 2008-2009 school year. Miss Kortni Carnes, formerly of Turkey, Tx is one of the team members. She is 14 years old and is continuously an Honor Roll student. Kortni is also in two advanced classes, which are History and English and is also a member of the tennis team. Kortni was also a cheerleader for 2006-2007 and is very excited to become a part of the High School Cheerleading team.

Kortni moved from Turkey to Andrews in August of 2006. She is the daughter of Travis and Rochelle Carnes and the granddaughter of Pat and Gerald Carnes of Turkey and also the late Erwin Birdwell and the late Greta Richards both formerly of Wichita Fall, Tx.

Attend The Texas Historical Commission's Grant Writing Workshop

Make plans now to attend the June 2008 Grant Writing Workshops hosted by the Texas Historical Commission (THC). The annual workshops will be held in two sessions: June 23-25 and June 25-27 at the Regional Foundation Library in Austin. The workshops are designed to benefit staff, board members and volunteers from a wide variety of organizations, participants include those with backgrounds in historic preservation, the arts, health care, nonprofit and government administration.

The three-day workshops will explore all aspects of fundraising, including potential sources of financial support, developing a funding strategy and writing successful proposals. Participants are encouraged to bring a laptop computer to the workshop, along with a brief description of their programming and funding needs and a basic budget. Draft proposals are also welcome and can be reviewed with the instructors.

For more information, visit www.thc.state.tx.us and select Grants and Economic Incentives or call 512/463-6092.

Comptroller Announces Additional Time To File Annual Franchise Tax Reports

Businesses Given Extra Month To Navigate Revised Tax

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs announced recently that businesses who are unable to meet the May 15 due date for the franchise tax will have an additional 30 days to submit their returns or file an extension without penalty.

The Comptroller's office recognizes the complexity of the revised franchise tax and the newness of the enhanced electronic reporting methods have caused concern among tax practitioners and taxpayers statewide. The extended deadline allows businesses to avoid a 5 percent penalty they would have faced had they not filed by May 15.

"We want to make sure businesses and tax practitioners have adequate time to make sure they're complying with the revised franchise tax," Combs said. "Because they're dealing with new calculations and enhance technology for filing reports, the one month penalty waiver will help taxpayers accurately complete their returns in the first year of this brand new tax."

Information about the revised franchise tax is available on the Comptroller's Web site at www.window.state.tx.us or by calling (800) 252-1381.

The Stigma of Mental Illness

By Ron Trusler

In the next several weeks I will be writing articles about mental illness. They are meant to increase awareness and better understanding and especially to reduce the stigma.

The word "stigma" means "a mark of shame or discredit; a sign of social unacceptability." In mental illness, "stigma" refers to have negative attitudes and beliefs that motivate the general public to fear, reject, avoid and discriminate against people with mental illness.

Regardless of your age, no one wants to be rejected and as a result people who may have a mental illness are afraid to reach out for help, and the results can be devastating.

So how do we get rid of stigma? First, we must realize how common mental illness really is. Anyone can get a mental illness. About 10 percent of all Americans will have a mental illness sometime in their lives, and about 40 percent will be affected when a friend or family member develops a mental illness. Mental illness can affect anyone, anywhere, anytime and at any age. It does not discriminate against gender, religion, race or any other identifying feature. Look around at your friends and neighbors, it is possible that at least one person has a mental illness now, and many others likely will experience on over their lifetime.

One of the first ways to get rid of stigma is to watch what we say. When you first think of someone with a mental illness, do any of the following words come to mind: Crazy, Retarded, Weird, Maniac, Drug Addict, Psycho, Insane, Dangerous, violent, Loony, Sick, Mental, Scary, etc?

Imagine being called any of these words. Or worse, imagine having a mental illness and feeling that people think of you this way. You probably would not want to let anyone know how you are feeling.

It's important to fight stigma so people with an illness will be accepted and feel comfortable reaching out and getting the help they need, perhaps they would not attempt to kill themselves.

Report Examines Economic Opportunities And Challenges In Texas' High Plains Region

Story continued from page 1

and ensure all students obtain the education and training they need to succeed in a changing economy.

The High Plains region will benefit from the proposed Ports-To-Plains Trade Corridor. The improved transportation corridor to move goods from the Mexican border to the central U.S. passes directly through the High Plains and will bring new jobs in construction, distribution, manufacturing and roadside services between now and 2030 and pump billions of dollars into the Texas economy.

Over the next five years, the High Plains' population is expected to grow by more than 50,000, or 6.8 percent. Growth will vary, with Amarillo's population increasing by 12.4 percent, Lubbock's population growing 5.2 percent and the rest of the region by 3.7 percent. The High Plains region has a greater share of residents between the ages of 10 and 24 than the state as a whole. A younger population means more people will enter the job market and fill many of the newly created service jobs.

As with any other region in the state, the communities of the High Plains face challenges, including rising demands for water, energy and transportation; the need for a skilled and educated work force to continue the success of the region's economy; and increasing health care costs. Delivering health care is a challenge in the High Plains, with its widely dispersed rural population and a shortage of health care professionals. But innovations such as telemedicine and telepharmacy are shrinking the distances and helping ensure all residents have access to health care.

"One role of state government is to create an environment in which a healthy economy can flourish," Combs said. "We hope local government officials, chambers of commerce, economic development corporations and many others will use the report as a tool to stay on top of important issues as they work to keep their local economies thriving."

The Comptroller's office provides economic development information to local governments and other groups, as well as analysis of demographics, labor force and other factors that affect local economic growth. Using its Texas EDGE (Economic Data for Growth and Expansion) Program, the agency runs economic models and provides analyses that identify occupational and industry trends and their effects on the local economy. The Comptroller's office also identifies opportunities for local governments to raise funds for economic development through property, sales and franchise tax revenues, exemptions and credits.

Look Who's New



John Cooper Pointer

Little Cooper weighed in at 5lbs 3 oz and 18 1/2 inches long. He was born on April 30, 2008 at 6:54 p.m. to Cory and Cassie Pointer. Grandparents are Robert and Sharon Anderson of Montgomery Tx. Johnnie Pointer of Quitaque Tx. Rayland and Lindy Gann of Childress Tx. Great Grandparents are Faye Pointer of Quitaque Tx, and Robert and Anne Hervey Scotland Tx.



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SHURFINE ORANGE JUICE GALLON	\$3.99
ALLSUP'S SANDWICH BREAD 24 OZ. / 99¢ EACH OR	2 FOR \$1.69
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COMBO NO. 5 SPICY POPCORN CHICKEN & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.79	COMBO NO. 10 2 BEEF & BEAN BURRITOS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.69



March Cotton Marketing Figures Show Big Decrease; Estimated CC Payment Slipping

Cumulative Upland cotton marketings for the first eight months of the 2007-marketing year totaled 9.803 million-bales according to information released April 30 by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.

That figure is 898,000 bales behind the amount marketed through the same period last year as USDA estimated March 2008 marketings at 488,000 bales with an average selling price of 60.5 cents per pound.

So far the 2007 Upland Cotton Weighted Average Price calculated through March 2008 stands at 56.37 cents per pound.

With three-quarters of the marketing year now past, the calculated 2007 Weighted Average Price is 4.37 cents above the 52-cent threshold where the Upland cotton Counter-cyclical payment begins to drop below the 13.73 cent maximum payment rate. The preliminary mid-month price reported for April 2008 was 60 cents per pound.

The following table shows the average price received each month by farmers and the associated weighted average price based on prices and cumulative marketings from August 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008.

The 2007 Counter-cyclical payment rate authorized under the 2002 Farm Bill will be based on the 12-month Weighted Average Price Received by growers. For cotton the 12-month Weighted Average Price will reflect price and marketings for the 2007 marketing year. The 2007 cotton marketing year began August 1, 2007 and ends July 31, 2008.

Every portrait that is painted with feeling is a portrait of the artist, not of the sitter.

~ Oscar Wilde

PLANTING TIME: SOIL TEMPERATURE AND HEAT UNIT DATA AVAILABLE THROUGH PCG WEBSITE

Farmers in West Texas never stop looking at the weather. With the First of May now come and gone, planting season is here and High Plains farmers are busy putting the final touches on plans for their 2008 crops.

Depending on the crop mix, some producers have had planters running for a few weeks while others are waiting for the right conditions to start. Although some have gotten started in recent days, most cotton producers haven't quite seen weather and soil conditions get to a level where the majority of growers are willing to start planting.

As Spring temperatures gain a stronger hold in the area, cotton planting should rapidly increase over the next two weeks with the area expected to be fully engaged by the middle of May.

Practically every element of a growers planting plan is dependent on the weather, either getting the open weather and warm soil temperatures needed to ensure proper germination of early planted irrigated cotton acres, or getting the rainfall needed to plant non-irrigated cotton acres that are currently facing a significant moisture deficit in many areas.

Either way, the information growers need to keep track of current weather conditions and forecasts can quickly be accessed from one convenient location - the Plains Cotton Growers website. Just click the iWeather link on the PCG Home page (www.plainscotton.org) and you are instantly transported to PCG's Weather Page.

There you will find 3- and 7-day forecast data, current conditions and a bevy of links on the left-hand side of the page through which growers can access data from the National Weather Service (NWS) in both Amarillo and Lubbock as well as Texas Tech Mesonet.

Of primary concern to producers this time of year are soil temperatures and Heat Units. Growers can use the following direct link to the PCG website to get Lubbock NWS soil temperature information excerpted from the daily NWS weather summary: <http://www.plainscotton.org/weatherdata/index.php>

The best available source of Heat Unit data can be accessed through the PCG Home Page by clicking the iDeltapine Weather link. Once there, just follow the instructions to create a comprehensive custom weather report containing cumulative weather data from a planting date you specify.

To view or download the weather data select the weather station closest to your field, enter the date that the cotton crop was planted. The report is automatically generated showing daily and accumulated precipitation information, maximum and minimum temperatures, wind speed and direction, crop water use, and many other critical crop management weather measurements.

The D&P calculator will also calculate daily and cumulative Heat Units (DD-60) from the date entered and provides an easy way to keep track of Heat Unit accumulations during the growing season. Heat Unit calculations are made using West Texas Mesonet data provided courtesy of the Texas Tech University College of Engineering.

With 50 weather stations available across the High and Rolling Plains, growers or consultants can easily access locally relevant weather information to help manage their cotton crop.

Don't say things. What you are stands over you the while, and thunders so that I cannot hear what you say to the contrary.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Cotton **News**

By Shawn Wade
www.plainscotton.org
from Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.

CONGRESS APPROVES 2-WEEK EXTENSION; CONFERES MAKE STRIDES TOWARD FINAL BILL

Congress and the White House have reached another agreement on the Farm Bill. Unfortunately, it's still not the one everyone would like to see announced.

What the two sides have agreed on, however, is a fifth funding extension of the 2002 farm bill to, once again, give Congress time to put the finishing touches on a new farm bill conference report. The latest move is a two-week extension that will run through May 16.

Publicly farm bill progress appears slow as the two sides still remain at an impasse over the specifics of what will ultimately become the 2008 Farm Bill. Whether or not they will actually veto the final product is still a matter of speculation, fueled by White House comments suggesting President Bush will veto just about anything Congress is likely to produce.

A marathon six-hour Conference Committee meeting that started May 1 and ended early May 2 brought some good news for High Plains cotton producers and others that want to see the completion of a 2008 farm bill blending the House and Senate offerings. The next meeting is expected to take place May 6.

Fortunately for growers that want to see the bill finished, appeasing the White House on every "veto-able" point of disagreement their voice doesn't seem to be at the top of the Conference Committee's priority list any more.

It is also doubtful that the Administration, which has failed to find very much good in the Conference Committee's efforts to date, would view the outcome of the Committee's May 1 meeting as progress.

It should be noted that a real hold-up for conferees has been an earnest effort to find middle ground with the Administration. Coupled with the challenge of finding budget off-sets agreeable to the House, the Senate and the White House, the effort to get the Administration on board has been major contributing factor in the delays experienced to date.

Thursday's meeting proved to be one of the most productive sessions the Committee had yet completed and followed several days of behind the scenes work by staff and key House and Senate farm bill conferees. The end result is that the Committee was able to work through all of the Farm Bill Titles that had not yet been considered by the full Conference Committee.

Several titles were agreed to completely, while a few were agreed to with the exception of a handful of issues. Most of these pending issues were set-aside for the committee to complete after revised CBO scoring is obtained. Others will take a bit more work and face-to-face debate by the full committee.

Among the major issues that remain unresolved are final revisions to payment limit and program eligibility provisions. Leaders and staff are still discussing these two items in order to reach an agreement among themselves and, hopefully, strike a deal that the Administration will sign off on as well.

More important to agriculture than Administration approval at this time is crafting a final farm bill package that can provide a veto-proof majority in the Senate and the House when the final bill is brought to Congress for a vote.

A few of the highlights from the work completed by the Conference Committee Thursday night include:

Commodities Title - The bill includes a newly named Producer Income Protection title that continues basic features of the 2002 bill, which farmers have thought worked well, and it gives producers a new option, beginning with the 2010 crop year, to choose to participate in a state-level revenue protection system.

The Average Crop Revenue program, modeled after legislation proposed by farmers and introduced by Senators Dick Durbin, D-Ill., and Sherrrod Brown, D-Ohio, offers producers better options for managing risk of both yield and price declines on their farms.

Conservation Title - The new CSP, renamed the Conservation Stewardship Program provides incentives for adopting, improving and maintaining sound conservation practices on land in agricultural production. Harkin said the program would enroll just under 13 million acres each year (starting in 2009) through 2017, for a total of nearly 115 million acres. An additional \$1.1 billion was provided for CSP for a total of \$12 billion over 10 years.

This title shifts the focus in conservation strongly in the direction of working land conservation. Funding that would not have been used in land retirement programs was redirected to programs that focus on reducing the environmental impact of agricultural production, like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and CSP.

Energy Title - Increases Biofuels Production: The farm bill will accelerate commercialization of advanced biofuels, like cellulosic ethanol, by helping farmers produce biomass crops, by providing grants and loan guarantees to support these new biorefineries, and by increasing bioenergy research to guarantee that we have a continuing flow of more productive and resource-conservative technologies in the decades to come.

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Thank You

We would like to thank the EMT's who took care of our kids, who were involved in the accident day after noon. Thank gentleman who stopped my daughter was was get help, and called 911. Thanks to the other man who let me use phone. And thanks to who rode in the ambulance with them to the hospital. Thanks for all the calls, and visits. You are some. God Bless You for do. The Parents of

LOST

LOST: Keys with leather fob and metal somewhere between Quitaque & Quitaque. \$10 Contact The Valley Tribune 455-1101. 42-11

POLITICAL CALENDAR

The Valley Tribune is pleased to announce the following candidates for office subject to the 2008 primaries and the 2008 general election.

Hall County
Hall Co. Sheriff Elect
Tim Wiginton

Briscoe County
County Commissioner Elect
Jimmy Burso
Briscoe Co. Sheriff Elect
Rosalio "Rosey" Hernandez
Political ads paid for by individual candidates

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Thank You

We would like to thank all the EMT's who took special care of our kids, who were involved in the accident on Friday afternoon. Thanks to the gentleman who stopped when my daughter was walking to get help, and called 911.

Thanks to the other gentleman who let me use his cell phone. And thanks to all those who rode in the ambulance with them to the hospital.

Thanks for all the prayers, calls, and visits. You are awesome.

God Bless You for all you do,

The Parents of the Kids

Thank you so much for all of the cards, gifts, prayers, kind words, and wonderful food given to us following our accident. All of the love shown us has helped us to recover so quickly, we feel so lucky to have such caring friends and family. Thank you.
Jaden and Jaycee Pigg

LOST

LOST: Keys with six inch leather fob and metal concho, somewhere between Flomot and Quitaque. \$10 reward. Contact the Valley Tribune at 455-1101. 42-1t

POLITICAL CALENDAR

The Valley Tribune is authorized to make the following announcements of candidates for office 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
Rosario "Rosey" Hernandez
Political ads paid for by individual candidates

Help Wanted

Tri-County Meals is now taking applications for a food preparer- 3 days a week. Call Janice Hughes at 806-455-1053 or Kay Calvert at 806-455-1275. 42-1tc

Help Wanted at new state of the art nursing facility. Need RN part time for every other weekend. Flexible hours. LVNs and CNAs.

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A valid Texas driver's license, CDL classification, or the ability to obtain one, will be required with the willingness and ability to pass a pre-employment physical, including drug screening. Salary will be commensurate with the qualifications and experience of the successful candidates. Lighthouse Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity employer. Deadline for submitting applications is May 31, 2008. Applications may be picked up at the Cooperative headquarters in Floydada. 42-3tc

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Things That Make You Go Hmmm...

By Laura Taylor

Oleta Randall sent the following to me. Hope you find it as funny as I did!

Comfortable

Two sisters, one blonde and one brunette, inherit the family ranch. Unfortunately, after just a few years, they are in financial trouble. In order to keep the bank from repossessing the ranch, they need to purchase a bull so that they can breed their own stock. Upon leaving, the brunette tells her sister, "When I get there, if I decide to buy the bull, I'll contact you to drive out after me and haul it home." The brunette arrives at the man's ranch, inspects the bull, and decides she wants to buy it. The man tells her that he will sell it for \$599, no less.

After buying the bull, the brunette drives to the nearest town to send her sister a telegram with the news. She walks into the telegraph office and says, "I want to send a telegram to my sister telling her that I've bought a bull for our ranch. I need her to hitch the trailer to our pickup truck and drive out here so we can haul it home." The telegraph operator explains that he'll be glad to help her, then adds, "It's just 99 cents a word." After paying for the bull, the brunette only has \$1 left. She realizes that she'll only be able to send her sister one word.

After thinking for a few minutes, she nods and says, "I want you to send her the word 'comfortable.'" The telegraph operator shakes his head. "How is she ever going to know that you want her to hitch the trailer to your pickup truck and drive out here to haul that bull back to your ranch if you send her the word, 'comfortable?'"

The brunette explains, "My sister's blonde. The word's big. She'll read it slow--'com-for-da-bull!'"

HHHMMMM.....

Public Notice

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF BETTY COLEEN TAYLOR

Administration of the Estate of BETTY COLEEN TAYLOR, Deceased, has been commenced by the issuance of original Letters Testamentary to Walter Wayne Taylor and Fay Lynnette Barefield, on the 16th day of April, 2008, in the County Court of Briscoe County, Texas, acting in Cause No. 1515 styled the Estate of BETTY COLEEN TAYLOR, Deceased in which court the case is pending.

All persons having claims against the Estate are hereby notified to present them within the time prescribed by law. The address to which claims may be presented is:

Lex S. Herrington
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 445
Floydada, Texas 79235

Attorney for Independent Executors

DATED the 18th day of April, 2008.

Lex S. Herrington

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF BRUCE KAROL BLANKENSHIP

Administration of the Estate of BRUCE KAROL BLANKENSHIP, Deceased, has been commenced by the issuance of original Letters Testamentary to Inetha Lynn Blankenship, on the 16th day of April, 2008, in the County Court of Briscoe County, Texas, acting in Cause No. 1514 styled the Estate of BRUCE KAROL BLANKENSHIP, Deceased in which court the case is pending.

All persons having claims against the Estate are hereby notified to present them within the time prescribed by law. The address to which claims may be presented is:

Lex S. Herrington
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 445
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Attorney for Independent Executor

DATED the 18th day of April, 2008.

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This Week In Texas History!

May 12, 1956
Texas Tech was admitted to the Southwest Conference.

May 12, 1897
The Fort Worth and Denver Railroad established a depot in Estelline. The Hall County community became the largest cattle shipping point in the U.S. for several years.

May 12, 1858
Texas Ranger Capt. John Ford and his men faced over 300 Comanche Indians at a large encampment near the Canadian River in Oklahoma Territory. The Rangers withstood two major Indian attacks, then Ford and his men charged, the Indians broke and ran, Capt Ford and his company chased them for six miles.

May 13, 1975
Bob Wills, the father of Western Swing, died in Fort Worth.

May 13, 1865
The last battle of the Civil War was fought at Palmetto Ranch, near Brownsville. The "Cavalry of the West", Texas Confederate soldiers under the command of Col. John S. "Rip" Ford, captured a surprised Union Army. After he had won the battle, he found out the Civil War had ended a month earlier.

May 13, 1846
The United States declares war on Mexico.

May 14, 1922
Members of the K.K.K. from Childress and Wellington joined 225 Oklahoma Klansmen in a hooded parade in Altus. An estimated 6,000 spectators were on hand to watch.

May 14, 1836
The Treaties of Velasco were signed by interim Republic President David G. Burnet and Gen. Santa Anna. The Treaties one public one private were never legally recognized by either government.

May 15, 1957
A tornado struck Silverton killing 21 people and injuring 80. Damage was estimated at \$500,000.

May 15, 1877
John and Cornelia Adair arrived at the Charles Goodnight Ranch in the Palo Duro Canyon. Adair and Goodnight formed a partnership and started the J-A Ranch.

May 15, 1755
Laredo was founded by Don Thomas Sanchez.

May 16, 1912
The first Estelline High School graduating class had five seniors.

May 16, 1853
"Jane" a slave, was the first woman legally hanged in Texas.

May 17, 1873
Col. Ranald S. MacKenzie led the Fourth U.S. Cavalry into Mexico to find Indians accused of crossing the Rio Grande River and stealing Texas horses. MacKenzie left Fort Clark near Brackettville with 400 soldiers and 20 Seminole Indian Scouts.

May 18, 1938
Fire destroyed Vernon's first and oldest hotel, The Vernon. The three story 100 room brick building was built in 1887.

May 18, 1912
The Battleship "Texas" was launched.

May 18, 1873
Col. Ranald MacKenzie and his Fourth Cavalry attacked a Kickapoo village near Remolino, Mexico killing 14 braves and capturing the chief and 40 Lipan women and children along with 65 horses. The raid effectively ended attacks by the Indians north of the Rio Grande River.

May 18, 1881

150 Kiowas Indians led by Santana and Big Tree attacked a wagon train at Salt Creek near Jacksboro, killing seven of the twelve teamsters. If they would have attack an hour earlier they would have caught Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman and the Inspector General of the Army, Randolph B. Marcy, as they crossed Salt Creek at the same point.

May 18, 1839
A company of Texas Rangers captured 600 pounds of powder and shot along with 100 horses that the Mexican government had shipped to the Indians along with plans to retake Texas along with Indian help.

Patterson Welcomes Return Of Second Amendment Rights To Some National Parks

Proposed Rules Change Would Respect State Carry Laws In All National Parks And Refuges

Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office, today praised proposed rules changes by Secretary of Interior Dirk Kempthorne that would respect state laws regarding the carrying of concealed firearms in federal parks. The rules are now subject to public comment before adoption.

"Texans who can lawfully carry a firearm in state parks can now carry in federal parks, including Big Bend National Park," Patterson said.

Patterson said the ban on carrying concealed firearms in national parks was unconstitutional and never should have been inflicted on Americans these past 25 years.

"Federal bureaucrats simply shouldn't be allowed to override the Constitution with administrative rules," Patterson said.

"The anti Bill of Rights crowd will say this is unnecessary and dangerous. Americans who live in concealed carry states have heard this before," said Patterson, author of the Texas Concealed Handguns Law.

"They said 'blood would run in the streets,' but that didn't happen and it won't happen in national parks," Patterson said. "The Bill of Rights enumerates a right to 'keep and bear arms.' I should not be required to forgo my Second Amendment, or for that matter my First, Fourth or Fifth Amendment rights just because I happen to be in a park."

"When I'm in a state or national park, I'm armed," Patterson said. "An unconstitutional rule promulgated by a federal bureaucracy is not sufficient to deny me that right."

Patterson urged Texans who care about gun rights to comment on the proposed federal rules change, available in the Federal Register and on www.doi.gov.

Once the public comment period has closed, all comments received will be evaluated and incorporated into the decision making process on a final rule. The number and substance of the comments received will determine the timeline for the final decision.

Mother's Day? Ideal Time To Remind Women To Take Care of Themselves

As Mother's Day quickly approaches, our female loved ones are on the forefront of our minds. What better way to honor these individuals than to remind them to take care of themselves by asking their doctor about yearly cancer screenings, such as having their annual mammogram. Mammography can detect breast cancer at an early stage when treatment may be more effective.

Early detection - finding a cancer early before it has spread - gives individuals the best chance to do something about it. Knowing about these cancers and prevention steps can save their life.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death among women with lung cancer being the top killer followed by breast and colon cancers. Other cancers that most frequently affect women are endometrial, ovarian, skin, and cervical cancers. In the United States, it's estimated that more than 270,000 women will die from cancer this year. Many cancers are linked to poor nutrition, physical inactivity, obesity, and other lifestyle factors including smoking. Continued next column.

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For Texans, A "Proposition 13" Moment

By William Murchison

Oh, look, it's our friend the postman, bearing to our doorsteps the fragrant tidings of springtime: such as how much we will soon owe the county or the school district in property taxes!

It goes with the robins and the roses - the bad news of what property ownership costs in a society that leans heavily, for the satisfaction of public wants, upon the owners of homes and businesses. Which is why I read with more than academic interest my Texas Public Policy Foundation colleague Talmadge Heflin's well-reasoned argument, on the TPPF website, for substitution of the sales tax for the exactions of the property tax.

Could it happen? Few enough of us have the prophetic insight to say. What we might possibly say is, things can't go on much longer with property taxes the way they are soaring: not just here in Texas but throughout the rest of the country, as states slough off their responsibilities upon counties and communities. States like Florida, Minnesota, North Dakota, even New York are aboil with indignation over the steady rise of the property tax.

Concern with, and resentment of, too-general reliance on property taxes for the financing of local government may be reaching the anxiety level at which Californians, just 30 years ago, snapped, passing Proposition 13 and sending notice to the taxing authorities that the patience of put-upon property owners is easy to overestimate.

Proposition 13 declared that "the maximum amount of any ad valorem or real property tax shall not exceed One percent (1 percent) of the full cash value of such property." Not that expression of the people's sovereign will was going to stop in their tracks those parties determined to enlarge the role of government. What "Prop 13" did do was roll back California property taxes by an average 57 percent and advise the taxing authorities to exploit other victims besides the California property owner. So there!

Texas, property tax burden, our rates, as Heflin notes worriedly, are the 14th highest among the 50 states, has a semi-benevolent explanation. This is to say, we've no income tax; nor have Texans, if it comes to that, as large an inclination toward big government programs as the majority of Americans seem to.

Heflin, it seems to me, rightly takes aim at the burdens inflicted on property owners by the state's undue reliance on property taxes. Case in point: the egregious scheme known as "Robin Hood," whose nominal purpose is the evening out of public school spending across the state. Taxpayers in "property wealthy" districts have had to fork over to "property poor" districts for no better reason than that state lawmakers couldn't or wouldn't come across with the funds to meet educational obligations.

A consequential point emerges here. What if the Legislature took with full seriousness its obligation to spend state revenue in ways that conduce most to the general good, starting from the premise that not every problem has, or even deserves, a government solution?

What if state government kept a closer watch both on expenditures and performance, so as to make sure that reliance on government didn't become an unseemly habit, and that, wherever government's duty to the people was unquestioned (as with education) the job got done with maximum efficiency?

Wouldn't it be fascinating, for instance, to look at how all those Robin Hood dollars have gotten spent, and what the educational results have been?

Maybe, if state government regarded with a combination of fear and respect its role as steward of the people's money, and correspondingly kept taxpayers, burdens as light as possible well, maybe, the likes of Brother Heflin wouldn't have to spend valuable time proposing reinvention of the tax system. Talk about a deal, finally, for the taxpayer!

William Murchison is a Senior Fellow at the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

Mothers' Day Remind Women

Story continued

But there is hope; by following simple measures women can reduce their risk for cancer and other diseases; Women are encouraged to:

- Follow the American Cancer Society screening guidelines, available online at www.cancer.org or by calling 1-800-227-2345. Get regular health check ups. Visit with physicians about testing for breast, colon, cervical, and skin cancer; and based on family history visit with their doctor on how often to be tested.

- Eat a variety of healthful foods, emphasizing plant sources such as vegetables, fruits, and whole grains, limit red meat, adopt a physically active lifestyle, maintain a healthful weight throughout life, and limit alcohol consumption.

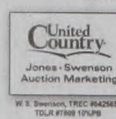
- Avoid smoking or other tobacco products. The American Cancer Society can help smokers quit, through telephone counseling sessions by calling 1-800-227-2345.

- Limit or avoid sun exposure during midday hours (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.). When outdoors, wear a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen with SPF of 15 or higher. Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer. The most serious form of skin cancer, malignant melanoma, will be diagnosed in approximately 62,480 people in 2008.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer. For more information call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

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