

VALLEY WEATHER				
DATE	HI	LO	PREC	
DEC. 5	33	24	.20	
DEC. 6	42	27	-----	
DEC. 7	54	26	-----	
DEC. 8	55	29	-----	
DEC. 9	46	34	-----	
DEC. 10	46	26	-----	
DEC. 11	60	24	-----	

47 JUNE 30, 2003
 BURNS MRS. LESLIE C.
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 NORWALK CA 90850



50¢
per copy

THE VALLEY TRIBUNE

VOLUME 42 NUMBER 26 BRISCOE COUNTY QUITAQUE, TEXAS 79255 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2002



Participants of the Home Based Business Seminar held last Saturday at Valley School went away with a wealth of knowledge to help them as entrepreneurs.

Home Based Business Seminar Provided Valuable Information To Entrepreneurs

By Cory Edwards, TEC, F&CS, Briscoe County
 A Home Based Business Seminar was held on Saturday December 7, 2002 in the Valley School cafeteria. It was cosponsored by Texas Cooperative Extension, Briscoe County and the Quitaque Chamber of Commerce.
 Pam Brown, Extension Consumer Science Specialist, shared information on getting a home based business started, finding financial assistance, marketing your product and competitive pricing of your product. Also information on formulating a business plan was discussed from the curriculum "Cashing In On Business Opportunities". Dan Redd with West Texas A&M University described a program that assists rural communities to help local entrepreneurs called the RuralAg Incubator. Rick Beesinger, Certified Public Accountant shared business tax law information and Briscoe County Attorney Bill Smith spoke about various legal issues a home based business could encounter. Roland Hamilton along with Dale and Donna Smith shared their personal experiences with home based businesses.
 If you were unable to attend the seminar but would like a copy of the information shared at the seminar, please call the Extension Office at 823-2131.

Community Love Baskets
 The Community of Turkey will distribute "Love Baskets" again this Christmas.
 If you would like to help with this worthwhile community project please leave monetary donations or nonperishable food items at Turkey City Hall or Turkey General Store.
 For more information call Theresa Clinton at 423-1033 OR Margie Pinkerton at 423-1240.
 "Love Baskets" will be delivered December 20



Joe Garrett is open for business at the intersection in Flomot. The Plainview native invites you to stop by and see him.

Flomot Has New Business

If you have driven through Flomot this week, chances are you noticed the sweet smell of Texas BBQ mingled in along with the sweet smell of cotton being ginned.
 Joe Garrett of Plainview has set up his BBQ Wagon at the intersection in Flomot. He will be open Sundays through Thursdays during ginning season for lunch. Joe will be serving BBQ plates and sandwiches. He will also be smoking whole briskets for folks to purchase.
 Joe has been the cook for the "Racing Boys From Flomot", Coy Franks, Roger Lee, Dale Ramsey, Shannon Jackson and the rest of the crew at various team racing events around the state for quite a few years.
 Joe and his wife Gayleen currently live in Plainview but are considering moving "down below the cap", at a future date. Gayleen is the owner of Gayleen's Creations in Plainview, an interior design studio. They also have two grown sons.
 Next time your in Flomot stop by and say hi to Joe!

Local Relay For Life Ranks First In Texas

All the figures are in and the 2002 Briscoe Relay For Life, raising over \$18,000 ranked first in the state and 10th Nationally! The teams gathered at the Valley School this year to show their support in the fight against cancer. Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's community oriented team event, where participants walk or run around a track relay style. When they aren't taking their turn walking, team members camp out and take part in a variety of fun activities.
 "Relay For Life is as much an awareness raiser about progress against cancer as it is a fund raiser," said Jacquelyn Ham, Briscoe Relay For Life chairperson. "Many of the participants were recovering cancer patients themselves. Their involvement is proof of the progress that has been made not only in cancer cure rates, but in the quality of life following cancer treatment. The funds raised enable us to continue our services to cancer patients and their families, to offer more educational or risk reduction programs, and to expand cancer research programs," she went on to say.
 The American Cancer Society is the nationwide, community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy and service.
 Thanks once again to all who supported this years Briscoe Relay For Life.

Calendar Of Events

December 12
 *Spur Basketball Tournament begins, VB, VG
 *WIC at Silvertown First Baptist Church @ 9:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
 *Turkey City Council meeting @ 7 p.m.

December 14
 *4-H Sheep & Goat Clinic at Silvertown Show Barn @ 10 a.m.

December 16
 *TEC meeting
 *Quitaque Lions Club meeting
 *Valley Jr High vs McLean, G,B There @ 5 p.m.

December 17
 *Valley vs Jayton, JVG, JVB, VG, VB There @ 4 p.m.
 *Turkey Senior Citizens meeting @ 6 p.m.

TXDOT Hosts Preconstruction Meeting To Discuss Landscape Project In Turkey

The Texas Department of Transportation hosted a pre-construction meeting on Thursday, December 5, 2002 at the Bob Wills Center in Turkey. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the upcoming landscape project located in the City of Turkey.
 This \$59,000.00 contract was awarded to Tommy L. Johnson, Inc. of Sheppard, TX. Construction efforts will begin after the first of the year with 76 working days planned for completion of this project.
 Chief Inspector for TXDOT is James McIntosh and Paul Smith is the Project Superintendent for Tommy L. Johnson, Inc.
 When completed, this landscape project will have planter beds, colored textured concrete sidewalks, new curb and gutter as well as a pedestal that the City of Turkey will use to mount a plaque depicting historical information. "It is wonderful to see some of our tax dollars coming back to our community", said Margie Pinkerton.
 "This project will be something that TXDOT will be proud of and I hope it's something that the citizens of Turkey will be proud of. I look forward to seeing the finished product", said Danny Brown, Childress Area Engineer.
 According to Smith, "We plan to begin this project after the first of January. Weather permitting, it should take approximately four weeks for completion".

ONLY
12
SHOPPING
DAYS
LEFT
UNTIL
CHRISTMAS

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

Dear Briscoe County Citizen:

"Many of you have already received or may soon receive a notice to report for Jury Duty. It seems that most react with "Oh No". Please read the following and better understand how important this is."

There are many things that set our country apart from most of the world. One thing that is most **envied** by others and therefore should be **most treasured** by us is our Judicial System. The very heart of this system is the right to a trial by a jury - of our peers - in open court.

The only way this system can function as a democratic process is for each and everyone of us to be a part of it.

It is so sad that what should be counted a privilege by us is counted as a burden by so many. "I am too busy," "I have great responsibilities," "It will interfere with my work," ect., ect...

What should we do? Should we search Our County for those who choose not to work, have no responsibilities, or nothing to do? Serving on a jury might not be an inconvenience to them, but are these the only people you want making decisions concerning you or your family if you were accused of a crime or were being sued?

I know it will be an inconvenience for you just as it will be for everyone else. However, what a privilege it is for the Common Citizen to take a vital and active part in the greatest Judicial System in the world.

If we want the **Right** to have a trial by jury should we not also **Willing** to **Serve** on a jury when asked?

Think About It!!

Thanks,
 Ted Kingery
 Briscoe County Judge

Here's A Texas
 You Can Mess With!
 Page 3

The Original
TEXAS
CROSSWORD (Mess with it all you want)

The Texas Crossword Puzzle
 proudly sponsored every week by:
THE SPORTSMAN RESTAURANT
 Quitaque, TEXAS 1-806-455-1200

The Valley Tribune
 Will Be Closed From
 December 23-27
 For Christmas

Have A Merry Christmas

"TEXUN TAWK"

Observations Of Life From A Fellow Texan
By Bill Sperry

Stone Deaf and Never Recovered

Once upon a time in the land of a mighty empire there lived a princess that had everything she wanted or desired. The land was Texas and the princess was my daughter. Early on in life, having been bequeathed with red hair, she decided that when she became a teenager, she would have a convertible to match her hair and go to a high school befitting her station in life. Clothes would be plentiful and becoming a cheerleader would be necessary for her to rule over her subjects, namely, her mother and father.

It came to pass that one day, finding out that Night Ranger and Cheap Trick would be in concert in her fair city, the princess designated her father to go to the mall at Casual Corner and supply her with a new outfit to attend. Several sales ladies were in attendance for the princess to find just the right attire as her father, being ignorant of fashion, would be totally inept and could only supply the funds to purchase the articles needed. The sales ladies, seeing the plight of the father, were quick to come to the rescue and put together the clothing and accessories needed for the red headed princess to attend this concert in high fashion. To her hundred and fifty dollars later with the father in shock, the princess departed the shop with a steely glint in her eye, knowing that her wardrobe would be second to none for all those attending.

Later on that evening, the princess, with the father in tow, found seats in the Coliseum directly under several large speakers. These seemed to be prime seats as all others were vying for this location. With a look of satisfaction, the princess awaited the entertainers.

As though the speakers suspended above the princess and her father wasn't enough, Cheap Trick came on state with a rush and several more speakers that put out enough sound to more than offset the roar of the crowd and jets landing at the airport. Such a volume of sound had never been heard or felt by the father as he could feel the sound waves striking him in the chest. The princess, being brave, was able to ward off some of these sound waves by holding her fist in the air and moving it to the rhythm of the music. The father trying this, found no respite but was satisfied knowing this torrent of noise was ineffectual on the princess as she had a large smile on her face, brave soul that she was. This was just the preliminary for what was to come.

Night Ranger came on stage with a thunderous crash and never let up. Lots of jumping around and a volume of sound unknown to mankind, (unless you count the explosion of the volcano, Krakatoa) ensued. Several riffs by the lead guitarist sounded like a large cat in distress being pulled through a pipe by the tail. The large speakers on stage served a twofold purpose, putting out sounds like a locomotive and they were also used for platforms for the entertainers to jump on and off of. Night Ranger apparently wasn't being paid much as their clothing had seen better days, fugitives from some rag bag. The lead guitarist must have bought cheap picks as he would use them for a while then throw them to the crowd. After what seemed like ten hours, Night Ranger finally quit. Leaving the stage, some clever fireworks were lit proclaiming the name, Night Ranger!

This was when the father started downstairs when the fireworks display exploded and the name of Night Ranger became even larger. The princess's arm will always be a little longer than the other and the father apologized for this but was unable to hear the reply as he is now stone deaf. Driving home was something of an ordeal as the father started the car three times as he couldn't tell if the engine was running or not. Next concert, mom took the princess.

Never trust a man who speaks well of everybody.
—John Churton Collins

Quitaque Weather

Forecast for Next 9 Days

Day	Weather	High / Low (°F)	Precip %
Thu Dec 12	Partly Cloudy	52°/33°	0%
Fri Dec 13	Sunny	56°/30°	0%
Sat Dec 14	Mostly Sunny	56°/34°	0%
Sun Dec 15	Mostly Sunny	59°/35°	0%
Mon Dec 16	Partly Cloudy	57°/46°	0%
Tue Dec 17	Partly Cloudy	62°/35°	0%
Wed Dec 18	Partly Cloudy	51°/28°	20%
Thu Dec 19	Partly Cloudy	50°/29°	0%
Fri Dec 20	Partly Cloudy	51°/28°	20%

Last Updated Wednesday, December 11, 2002, at 2:33 PM Central Standard Time (Wednesday, 3:33 PM EST)

Turkey Senior Citizens News

By Oleta Randell

The Turkey Senior Citizens had only 11 members at the last meeting. Margie Pinkerton and Don Turner checked blood pressure for everyone. G.P. Driskill led the prayer for the food. Table games were played after a delicious meal.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 17. This will be our Christmas party, so everyone is urged to come for this and bring a gift. Ladies bring a ladies gift and men bring a man's gift. We will have sandwiches, chips, and desserts. So bring your favorite finger foods and enjoy the fun! food! and fellowship!

December Non-Local Subscriptions Due

~\$21.50 Per Year~

- Hal House - Amarillo, TX
- Joy Lacy - Amarillo, TX
- Raymond Roy - Amarillo, TX
- Diana Hanna - Amarillo, TX
- Robert Geissler - Earth, TX
- Dennis King - Pampa, TX
- Dr. Tommy Russell - Winters, TX
- Bob King - Grand Prairie, TX
- Candy Kern - Plano, TX
- Robert Landry - Arlington, TX
- Jess Yeary - College Station, TX
- Corky Morris - Barksdale, TX
- Duug Hobbs - Georgetown, TX
- The Jones Company - Austin, TX
- William Folley - Wellington, CO
- Margaret Bellino - Yonkers, NY
- Jeff Sperry - Anniston, AL
- Salt Jones - Canada

December Local Subscriptions Due

~\$18.50 Per Year~

- Ann Chadwick
- Bobby Phillips
- Delos Johnson
- Jan Turner
- Jack Martin - Memphis
- Geneva Martin - Flomot
- A.B. Lyles - Kress

Happy Birthdays

- December 12**
Christopher Leal, Ashley Cagle
- December 13**
Tammie Farley
- December 14**
Jamie Taylor, Gloria Majors, Gelene Proctor
- December 15**
Chancy Jo Campbell, Linda Ferguson, Audra Smith, Halley Mills, Jan Turner, Amy Michelle Stark, Micah Stark, Julie Hernandez
- December 16**
Cade Lockhart, Wilma J. Eudy
- December 17**
Ruth Ann Scrivner, Sammy Dee Ross
- December 18**
Dorothy May, Nickelyn Bays
- December 19**
Vicky Billegas, Lela Mae Hutcheson, Christine Hinojosa, Jewel Hall, Callie Helms, Greg Ramsey, Parker Clayton Eudy

Happy Anniversary

- December 14**
Mr & Mrs Allen Brummett
- December 15**
Mr & Mrs Trent McKay
- December 16**
Mr & Mrs Joe House
- December 18**
Mr & Mrs Ike Ferguson
- December 19**
Mr & Mrs Jeremy Hughes
- December 19**
Mr & Mrs Jack Pigg
- December 19**
Mr & Mrs Todd Mills



Beverly Jo Whitaker

Lori and Bert Whitaker are proud to announce the birth of a baby daughter, Beverly Jo, Monday, December 2, 2002 at the United Medical Center in Lubbock. She weighed eight pounds, two ounces and was 21 3/4 inches long.

Welcoming the new arrival are maternal grandparents, Phylis and Jack Heise of Zumbrota, Minnesota.

Turkey Roost Museum News

By Margie Pinkerton

The Museum will be open on Saturday, December 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visiting the Museum that day will be Ed Bright from Clarendon. Ed will be giving glass blowing demonstrations and have his art glass on display. He will also have available his handmade jewelry. We invite you to come visit the Museum and visit with Mr. Bright.

The Museum group would like to report the stew supper and raffle was a great success! Laverne Hamner and TFCA were instrumental in this success. The winners of the two gift certificates were Crystal Clinton and Melody Hysinger. Winner of the \$25 cash prize was Bobbie Mullin.

Our next big fund raiser will be the Psalms IV in concert on April 12. We hope you will keep that date in mind and plan to attend.

Until our heating system is installed there may be times during the winter that we may have to be closed. Any time you would like to visit the Museum and it is warm enough, give us a call at 423-1240 or 423-1273.

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

TA

MEMBER 2002

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

THE VALLEY TRIBUNE
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Published Every Thursday at Quitaque, Texas 79255
Vince F. Taylor, Owner/Publisher
Laura Taylor, Editor
Earlyne Jameson, Reporter

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ELSEWHERE.....\$21.50

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POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO
THE VALLEY TRIBUNE, BOX 478, QUITAQUE, TEXAS 79255
(806)-455-1101

THE VALLEY TRIBUNE OBITUARY POLICY

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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Reg. - \$8.95 - On Sale - \$5.95
Reg. - \$9.95 - On Sale - \$6.95

You are cordially invited to attend a
Retirement Party
Sunday, December 15
2:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.
Community Room - Housing Authority
Honoring
County Judge - Kenneth Dale
&
County Treasure - Marion Bownds
For their years of service to Hall County.
Hosted by The Hall County Elected Officials
A Money Tree will be presented during the party!

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

The Valley Trib
FLO
BY

After joining a new woman was introduced skills, I tried hard to re aid: I imagined her face Weeks later, with fa church member if she I Her initial response wa I quickly added, "Sh Imagine my red face was followed by, "You

The Holiday

The cold, wet cloudy the Flomot Community the Do Gooders' Club m Christmas decor was a Mrs. Weydette Clay cal residents on the sick was a financial success club's 2002 officers by ac detta Clay, Vice Preside Shorter and Reporter, M

A miniature decorated had a fun filled Chinese Everyone was pleased w Hostesses, Mesdames Calvert presided at a twinkling lights. Intern holiday decorated bird candle trees which Mrs. An abundant assortment cider punch and coffee. Those enjoying the cel Starkey, Barbara Payne, Martin, Alma Shorter, Wa Kathy Shorter.

Guests during the Th Johnson were daughters tany of Vernon and Kayla Mrs. Dorothy May of Quit Thanksgiving day guest Pearce and Katie Hamilt and Callie, Paula and Bob Quitaque; Ryan and Jamie Aaron, Ashley and Annie o flat.

Mr. and Mrs. S.D. Barcl wife, Jerry and Sandra Bar Coy and Julie McKay of luncheon guests Sunday of Floyd T. Starkey and L Thursday.

Mrs. Connie Franks baby and Kenzie, children of L Covenant Medical Center in Mr. and Mrs. Wilburn Ma ship Volleyball games Satur year. The exciting games Truman University, Penns consin Edinboro University. Erna Washington accom Memphis, Tuesday for a den Donnie Cruse had neck Hospital in Amarillo. With mother, Mrs. Tommie Jo Cr Mr. and Mrs. Orville Lee for her medical tests. Visiting Friday and Satu Mrs. Christi Milam, Emily Ropesville.

Look to a gown of gold, a

ED B

"Fine A
Dece
9:30 a.m
The Turke
Art Glass and Gla
Great Selection of

STORAGE

We Have 10
Ideal
28 to 48 Foot Long

Banker
Says
To
Sell
NOW!

\$1250
Come Look-Take
We Ne
See Rol
at Wellington
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WELLING

FLOMOT NEWS

BY EARLYNE JAMESON

OVERHEARD

After joining a new church, I quickly attempted to learn names. One woman was introduced to me as a capable seamstress. Hoping to use her skills, I tried hard to remember her name. I even used a popular memory aid: I imagined her face as an open, purple flower, thinking it would help. Weeks later, with fabric and sewing project in hand, I asked another church member if she has seen Pansy in the congregation that morning. Her initial response was a puzzled look. I quickly added, "She's a seamstress." Imagine my red face when the puzzled look changed to a big smile and was followed by, "You mean Violet."

The Holiday Spirit Prevailed At Do Gooders Club Christmas Party

The cold, wet cloudy weather did not dampen the holiday spirit inside the Flomot Community Center Tuesday afternoon, December 3rd when the Do Gooders' Club met for their annual Christmas party. Sparkling Christmas decor was a welcomed sight throughout the building.

Mrs. Waydette Clay opened the business session with a prayer for local residents on the sick list. She announced the club's recent Bazaar was a financial success. In new business, the members reelected the club's 2002 officers by acclamation to serve in 2003: President, Mrs. Waydette Clay; Vice President, B. Rogers; Secretary/Treasurer, Mrs. Alma Shorter and Reporter, Mrs. Geneva Martin.

A miniature decorated Christmas tree was surrounded by gifts. They had a fun filled Chinese swap when exchanging colorful wrapped gifts. Everyone was pleased with their final choice.

Hostesses, Mesdames Erma Washington, Judy Stark and Mary Jo Calvert presided at a table laid with a glistening cloth encircled with twinkling lights. Intermingled on the table was a lovely arrangement of holiday decorated birchhouses, silver and gold Christmas balls and silver candle trees which Mrs. Kathy Shorter won in the raffle ticket drawing. An abundant assortment of Christmas delectables was served with hot cider punch and coffee.

Those enjoying the celebration were Mesdames T rula Martin, Nada Starkey, Barbara Payne, B. Rogers, Mary Jo Calvert, Judy Stark, Geneva Martin, Alma Shorter, Waydette Clay, Anna Beth Clay, Leona Degan and Kathy Shorter.

Guests during the Thanksgiving holidays of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Johnson were daughters and families, Mrs. Lucretia Dockery and Britany of Vernon and Kayla and Neil Guest of Turkey and Carolyn's mother, Mrs. Dorothy May of Quitaque.

Thanksgiving day guests of Joan and Joe Edd Helms were Mrs. Seritha Pearce and Katie Hamilton of Amarillo; Kenneth and Carla Helms, Sunni and Callie, Paula and Bobby Phillips and Autumn and Randa McBee of Quitaque; Ryan and Jamie Martin, Art Green, Billy and Cindy Green, Aaron, Ashley and Annie of Matador and Kelli and Hal Martin of Whiteflat.

Mr. and Mrs. S.D. Barclay of Lockney visited Wednesday with son and wife, Jerry and Sandra Barclay.

Coy and Julie McKay of Vernon and Donnie Rogers of Flomot were luncheon guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Rogers.

Floyd T. Starkey and L.T. Starkey of Ralls visited Mrs. C.W. Starkey, Thursday.

Mrs. Connie Franks baby sat Tuesday in Matador with Mickey, Caleb and Kenzie, children of Lacy and Conway Clary. Lacy had surgery at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock, Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilburn Martin enjoyed the NCAA Women's Championship Volleyball games Saturday night held at the Event Center in Canyon. The exciting games were competed by West Texas A&M, Missouri Truman University, Pennsylvania Grand Valley State Lakers and Wisconsin Edinboro University.

Erma Washington accompanied her husband, Bill D. Washington to Memphis, Tuesday for a dental appointment.

Donnie Cruse had neck surgery, Tuesday at Baptist-St. Anthony's Hospital in Amarillo. With his during surgery was his wife, Judy and mother, Mrs. Tommie Jo Cruse.

Mr. and Mrs. Orville Lee were in Lubbock Wednesday and Thursday for her medical tests.

Visiting Friday and Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Clois Shorter were Mrs. Christi Milam, Emily and Haley of Petersburg and Brian Sehon of Ropesville.

Look to a gown of gold, and you will at least get a sleeve of it. —Sir Walter Scott

ED BRIGHT'S

"Fine Art Display"

December 14th

9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at

The Turkey Roost Museum

Art Glass and Glass Blowing Demonstration.

Great Selection of Handmade Jewelry Available!

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WELLINGTON, TEXAS

Cooks Corner

By Virginia Salsbury

I have been a victim of political correctness! The media, major and otherwise has been referring to the Christmas season as "The Holidays". I thought that this term meant the time from Thanksgiving to Christmas to New Year's Day. This week I heard discussion in two places on talk radio about the ways that the politically correct crowd has taken Christmas references out of the season entirely. In this column, we will not have any more "holiday" recipes—we will have CHRISTMAS recipes, and we will not view the National Holiday Tree—we will see the CHRISTMAS Tree! I am not buying and baking holiday gifts—I am buying CHRISTMAS GIFTS. I apologize for inflicting Holiday terms on you, and I hope you will join me in celebrating CHRISTMAS.

This week I have some ideas for snacks and goodies for entertaining of gift giving. I hope you are able to try them during this busy CHRISTMAS season.

Fabulous Two-Tone Fudge combines two favorite flavors—chocolate and peanut butter.

TWO-TONE FUDGE

6 cups sugar
3 sticks margarine (not spread)
1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk
1 jar (13oz.) Marshmallow creme
2 teaspoons vanilla
1 cup real semi-sweet chocolate chips

1 cup crunchy peanut butter
Mix sugar, margarine and milk in heavy saucepan; bring to a full, rolling boil, stirring constantly. Boil until soft ball stage on candy thermometer—234 degrees. Remove from heat and stir in marshmallow creme and vanilla. Divide mixture into 2 equal parts (about 5 cups each). Stir chocolate chips into 1 part and spread in a greased 13x9 pan. Stir peanut butter into other part and carefully spread over chocolate layer. Cool at room temperature and cut into squares. Makes 5 1/2 pounds.

Rich and creamy cheese spread looks so festive with flecks of green onion and red pimento dotting the cheddar cheese. It's a crowd-pleaser at any party.

CHRISTMAS CHEESE BALL

1 package (8 oz.) cream cheese
2 cups (8 oz.) shredded cheddar cheese

2 green onions, chopped
1 jar (2 oz.) diced pimentos, drained
2 Tablespoons butter, melted
2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
Assorted crackers

In mixing bowl, beat cream cheese until fluffy. Beat in the cheddar cheese, onions, pimentos, butter and Worcestershire sauce. Press into a small bowl; smooth top. Cover and chill. Remove from refrigerator 15 minutes before unmolding. Serve with crackers. Makes about 2 1/2 cups spread.

Cheesy Olive Snacks will be a hit with olive lovers. They are easy since the topping can be made ahead and they bake only 7 minutes.

CHEESY OLIVE SNACKS

1 cup (4oz.) shredded mozzarella cheese
1 cup (4oz.) shredded cheddar cheese
1 can (4 1/4 oz.) chopped ripe olives, drained
1/2 cup mayonnaise
1/3 cup chopped green onions
Triscuit crackers

In a bowl, combine the first five ingredients. Spread on crackers and place on baking sheet. Bake at 375 for 7 minutes. Serve hot. Topping may be chilled for later use. Makes about 4 dozen.

Candy canes are one of the enduring Christmas symbols, and a tasty one, too. One of my favorite pound-cakes is this Peppermint Pound Cake. It makes a big Bundt cake and easily serves 15-20.

PEPPERMINT POUND CAKE

1 cup Crisco
2 cups sugar
4 large eggs
1 teaspoon peppermint extract
1 teaspoon butter flavoring
1/2 teaspoon red food color
1/2 teaspoon salt
3 cups flour
3/4 cup buttermilk
1 teaspoon soda
1 Tablespoon vinegar
1/2 crushed peppermint candy canes

Cream shortening, sugar and eggs. Add extract, flavoring, coloring and salt. In a small bowl, mix buttermilk, soda, and vinegar. Add this buttermilk mixture to the shortening mixture alternately with the flour. Mix well and fold in the peppermint candy. Pour batter into a greased and floured Bundt pan. Bake at 325 about 1 hour and 10

minutes, until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. When unmolded and cooled, drizzle cake with a simple glaze of powdered sugar and milk. Garnish with additional peppermint candies.

Next week—some ideas for what to serve for CHRISTMAS Dinner. Hint: It's not turkey. Merry CHRISTMAS, and may GOD BLESS AMERICA!

THE SPORTSMAN RESTAURANT

MAJOR CHANGES

WILL TAKE EFFECT

BEGINNING

JANUARY 1, 2003

AT THE SPORTSMAN

QUITAQUE, TEXAS 79255 ~ (806) 455-1200

ACROSS

- 1 home of the Dr. Pepper Museum
- 5 TXism: "mean ___ old range cow"
- 6 TX Henley's "Life in the Fast ___"
- 7 religious FM in McCook, TX
- 8 TXism: "if a hog ___ wings he'd be an eagle"
- 9 George H.'s Avenger was shot down in WWII
- 12 1st pres. of Rice: Edgar ___ Lovett
- 17 TXism: "___ been a snake it would have bit you"
- 19 film by TX rancher Chuck Norris: "___ Silence"
- 21 TXism: "___ caged cougar"
- 22 C&W singer Conway
- 23 TX Roy Orbison hit: "In ___"
- 28 ex-Cowboy lineman Newton
- 29 TXism: "bid ___"
- 30 naval construction worker
- 31 TXism: "a ___ bones" (skinny)
- 35 ___ phone
- 36 San Antonio's "Tower of ___"
- 42 TXism: "opossum on the ___"
- 44 TXism: "in the ___ luxury"

- 46 TXism: "went ___ once too often"
- 48 they can be illegal
- 49 TXism: "got an overdose of ___" (sad)
- 50 "Ground Zero, Texas" is a ___ game
- 51 hot peppers: jala ___
- 52 Cowboy Dat Nguyen's position (abbr.)
- 53 in Concho Co. on 83
- 54 possesses

The Original

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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DOWN

- 1 TXism: "he'd ___ in a revolving door" (nepht)
- 2 TXism: "hot ___ griddle"
- 3 Hemphill Co. seat
- 4 wallet stuffers
- 9 TXism: "___ dog won't hunt"
- 10 Astro or Ranger equipment (2 wds.)
- 11 agcy. for neuro-muscular diseases
- 12 State Fair mo.
- 13 product feature of Dallas-based Pillowtex (2 wds.)
- 14 actress Adams in "A Cry for Love" with TX Powers Boothe
- 15 Nocona Boot slogan "Rodeo!"
- 16 TXism: "___ of breathing room"
- 18 assn. for TX care providers (abbr.)
- 20 "Hello Walls" singer Faron (init.)
- 23 "Prime Time" ex-Cowboy (init.)
- 24 concerning
- 25 apiece
- 26 TXism: "made my heart skip ___"
- 27 "___ out"
- 32 TX hero Audie (init.)
- 33 appliance maker
- 34 TXism: "come hell ___ high water"
- 36 film "___ Alamo"
- 37 cuts with an ax
- 38 Gen. Robert ___ starred with TX Martin in "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels"
- 40 Santa Anna ruse at San Jacinto (2 wds.)
- 41 TX Hyer film "The ___ of Katie Elder"
- 43 TX Kenny Rogers' "___ Believes in Me"
- 45 Sinatra in "Four for Texas" (init.)
- 47 med. testing (2 wds.)
- 48 imitates
- 55 TXism: "___ a soul" (no one)

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The Patriot

NEWS OF AND ABOUT VALLEY SCHOOL



Lady Patriots Win Patton Springs Tournament

The Lady Patriots attended the Patton Springs Tournament last weekend and came away with three impressive wins along with the championship trophy. In the opening round of the tourney, valley faced Plainview Christian Academy, and came away with a 69 - 33 victory. Natalie Wheeler led the way along with Katherine Pigg with 27 and 13 points respectively.

In the second round of the tourney, Valley faced Benjamin. Once again the Lady Patriots responded with a win by an 88 - 27 score. Natalie Wheeler again led the way with 29 points, and Enedina Valdez also turned in a very strong game with 16 points. Katherine Pigg and Amanda Roys followed with 15 and 11 points.

In the championship game, Valley faced the squad from Cotton Center. Valley exploded to a 32 - 14 halftime lead and coasted to a 59 - 30 win for first place. Once again, Natalie led the way with 26 points and Katherine turned in a strong performance with 16 points and 11 rebounds.

RIM ROCK CANYON

By Clint Harmon



SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

Menu Subject To Change

Monday, December 16

Breakfast: Biscuits, Sausage, OJ/Milk

Lunch: Hamburger, Lettuce, Tomatoe, Cheese, Chips, Fruit, Milk

Tuesday, December 17

Breakfast: Blueberry Muffin, OJ/Milk

Lunch: Baked Chicken, Potato Salad, Salad, Hot Roll, Honey, Milk

Wednesday, December 18

Breakfast: Breakfast On A Stick, OJ/Milk

Lunch: Stuffed Baked Potatoes, Cheese, California Blend Vegetables, Garlic Bread, Milk

Thursday, December 19

Breakfast: Cereal, OJ/Milk

Lunch: Pizza Pockets, Stuffed Celery, Frozen Delite, Milk

Friday, December 20

Breakfast: Cereal OJ/Milk

Lunch: Ham & Cheese Sandwiches, Lettuce, Tomatoe, Oranges, Chips, Oreo Cookies, Milk

Finalists Announced For Six-Man Player Of The Year

Dave Campbell's Texas Football recently announced the five finalists for its Gulf Lubricants Class A (Six-Man) Player of the Year Award, honoring the most outstanding senior in Texas high school football during the 2002 season.

Among those five finalists is Valley's own Derrick Cruse. While playing running back Derrick totaled 136 carries for 1,375 yards and 25 TD's and 12 catches for 277 yards and five TD's. He added 116 tackles on defense, with two INT's.

This marks the second consecutive year for Gulf Lubricants to sponsor Texas Football's prestigious Player of the Year Awards, which date back to 1972.

Datatel Scholarship Applications Due Jan 31

The deadline to apply for a Datatel Scholars Foundation scholarship is fast approaching. All applicants must submit their completed on-line application to the Datatel Web site by January 31.

The Datatel Scholars Foundation offers the following four scholarship opportunities to students:

- Datatel Scholars Foundation Scholarship** - for any student currently attending a Datatel Client institution, West Texas A&M University fits into this category.
- Angelfire Scholarship** - for any student who is a Vietnam veteran, a spouse or child of a Vietnam veteran or a refugee from Cambodia, Laos or Vietnam during the 1964-1975 time frame.
- Returning Student Scholarship** - for any student currently enrolled in school after experiencing a five year or more absence.
- Nancy Goodhue Lynch Scholarship** - for any student majoring in an information technology curriculum program.

The Datatel Scholars Foundation was established in 1990 to meet the pressing need for student financial aid. The Foundation evaluates each application based on the quality of their personal statement, academic merit, achievements and letters of recommendation. Awards can be used exclusively for paying tuition, fees and other education related expenses during the academic year.

For more information on applying for a Datatel Scholars Foundation Scholarship, visit the Web site, www.datatel.com, "Scholars Foundation", or call the Office of the Assistant to the President at WTAMU, 806-651-2097.

WANTED LOCAL NEWS

If you have news you would like in **Turkey Talk** you can call or fax it to The Valley Tribune at 806-455-1101 or drop it in our folder at Turkey City Hall.

On **The QT** news may be dropped off at The Valley Tribune, by using our door mail slot or you can call or fax it to 806-455-1101.

Remember, this keeps all the folks that live out of town up to date on local happenings!

Valley Defeats Motley County

Tuesday night, the Lady Patriots traveled to Motley County to take on Motley County Lady Matadors. The Lady Matadors are ranked #18 in one poll.

Valley came out strong with Natalie Wheeler scoring the games first nine points, and went on to win the game by a 69 - 43 score. Natalie led all scorers with 32 points, and Katherine Pigg followed with 11. Strong defensive games were turned in by Enedina Valdez, Chelsea Wheeler, Amanda Roys and Larissa Payne.

Motley County has a very talented, athletic squad, and the Lady Pats kept them in check most of the evening. Valley next plays in the Spur Tournament next weekend.

Six-Man Football Dist. 2 All District Players Announced

The Six-Man Football District 2 All-District selections were announced this week after the Valley Patriots lost in the play-offs.

The Offensive MVP selections honor two players as Co-MVP. These are Derrick Cruse, Sr. of Valley and Red Ivory, Sr. of Silverton.

Those named First Team All District Offensive players include: Spreadback Bradley Conatser, Sr., Hedley.

Quarterback Clay Flemming, Sr. Patton Springs.

Running Backs Derrick Cruse, Sr. Valley; Red Ivory, Sr. Silverton.

Ends Mason Pierce, Jr. Patton Springs, Chase Comer, Sr. Silverton.

Split Ends: Dustin Hale, Sr. Silverton; Justin Buck, Sr. Patton Springs; Stephen Howard, So. Hedley.

Center John Arnold, Sr. Silverton.

Kicker Justin Wilks, Sr. Valley.

First Team Defense

Defensive MVP Robert Mendoza, Jr. Valley.

Defensive Line Robert Mendoza, Jr. Valley; Adam Ortiz, Jr. Valley; Bradley Conatser, Sr. Hedley; Clint Cooper, Sr. Motley County; John Arnold, Sr. Silverton; Chase Comer, Sr. Silverton.

Linebackers Mason Pierce, Jr. Patton Springs; Cliff Yeary, Jr. Valley; Derrick Cruse, Sr. Valley.

Safeties Justin Wilks, Sr. Valley; Red Ivory, Sr. Silverton.

Punter Jack Simms, Jr. Happy.

Second Team Offense

Spreadback Seagram Sims, So. Motley County.

Quarterback Justin Wilks, Sr. Valley.

Running Backs Cliff Yeary, Jr. Valley; Jack Simms, Jr. Happy.

Ends Clint Cooper Sr. Motley County; J. C. Pigg, Sr. Valley.

Split End Douglas Payne, Jr. Valley.

Center Rodney Fuston, Jr. Valley.

Kicker Jack Simms, Jr. Happy; Kale Brandon, Jr. Hedley; Clay Flemming, Sr. Patton Springs.

Second Team Defense

Defensive Line Josh Fry, Sr. Happy; Dustin Carter, Sr. Patton Springs; Dustin Hale, Sr. Silverton; Manuel Chaves, Sr. Valley; Landon Young, Jr. Patton Springs.

Linebackers Lorenzo Salazar, Jr. Motley County; Stephen Howard So. Hedley; Beau Brock, Sr. Silverton.

Safeties Dusty Baxter, Sr. Patton Springs; Darren Irbeck, Sr. Happy.

Punter Chance Bingham, Fr. Motley County.

Hedley's Honorable Mention

Players include Lisle Rowland, offensive and defensive end, Sr. Hedley; and Chris Fobbs, center, Jr. Hedley.

NOTICE
The Valley School Business & Tax Office will be closed from: **December 23 - December 27**
The School Tax Office will be open **All Day December 30** and will be open **until 12 Noon December 31**
Thank You

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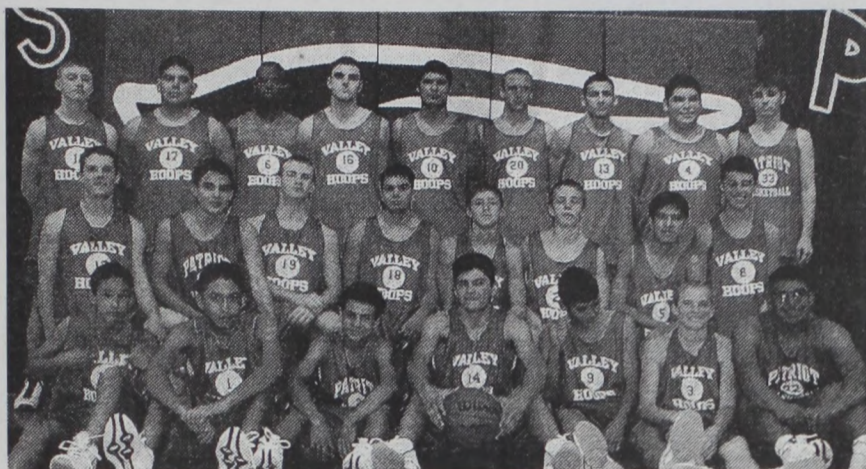
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VALLEY PATRIOTS BASKETBALL



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	Olton	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

Wilburn & Zelda Leeper

Valley Booster Club

Midway Drive-In
Memorial Day to Labor Day

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Turkey General Store
Turkey, TX 423-1330

Paymaster Gin
Guitaque, TX 455-1440

Mayfield & Associates
Lubbock, TX 800-527-1870

Merrell Food
Guitaque, TX 455-1282

Valley Farm Store
Guitaque, TX 455-1105
Jim & Barbara

Carson Insurance
Turkey, TX 423-1289
Pat & Tina

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Flomot Gin
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FARMING OUR GREAT STRENGTH

Acclaimed Risk Management Program Helps Producers In New Marketing Climate

Some ag producers believe the new farm bill will simplify their marketing options, choices, and decisions. That may not be the case, according to a Texas A&M economist.

"The new farm bill does provide an enhanced income safety net. But that doesn't mean your marketing decision will be any easier, in fact, marketing may become more complicated," said Jackie Smith, Texas Cooperative Extension economist based in Lubbock. "The methods we use to attain the best cash price haven't changed, but a portion of our income safety net is now market dependent."

The new farm bill includes a counter cyclical producer payment that is directly tied to market prices. That payment will be highest when market prices are lowest, but may not be there at all when market prices improve.

"That's what makes marketing plans and methods so important to producers operating under the new farm bill. Learning how to manage farm bill provisions/options such as the counter cyclical payment should be an integral part of your marketing plan," Smith added. "Educating producers on these options and helping them develop strategies to reduce price risk is a key goal of the instructors in our next series of Master Marketer classes."

The first of four 2003 Master Marketer Program sessions begins on January 22, 2003. The registration deadline for this in-depth, intensive marketing and risk management education program is January 7, 2003. Participants will learn how to identify and evaluate marketing opportunities, and then design and follow through with sound marketing plans.

Master Marketer training pays direct dividends to the bottom line. A recent survey suggests past participants were able to increase their average annual gross revenues from three to 10 percent, or about \$30,000 each, simply by applying their new found marketing skills and knowledge, Smith said.

Master Marketers learn from top industry and university professionals, who apply case study examples and simulation exercises in the classroom. The 64 hour curriculum is offered in four, two day sessions held every two weeks.

Registration costs \$250 per person, plus a commitment to work with your county agent back home to try to start a marketing club. Anyone interested should register as soon as possible. The first two times the class was offered in Lubbock it filled up before the deadline.

Texans can get registration forms or more information on the 2003 Master Marketers Program in Lubbock by calling Smith at 806-746-6101, or their local county Extension office. More information on the Master Marketer Program is also available on the Internet at <http://mastermarketer.tamu.edu>.



This Christmas Tree is decorated as part of the Highway 70 Assn. Christmas Lights Contest. ALL residents of Turkey and those folks who live out of town but can be seen from Hwy 70 are encouraged to take advantage of the extension of the deadline to December 16 and enter at Hotel Turkey, Turkey General Store, Lacy Dry Goods or Valley Peanut Growers. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top 3 winners.

Keeping an Eye on Texas

Education Spending in Texas

According to the latest figures from the Texas Education Agency, only 51 cents of every education dollar is going into classroom instruction.

About 90 percent of the \$28.6 billion spent on education in 2001-02 covered operating expenses, such as payroll, contracted services and supplies.

Roughly 10.4 percent went toward non-operating costs, such as debt service.



SOURCES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller (www.window.state.tx.us) and the Texas Education Agency.

You can have such an open mind that it is too porous to hold a conviction.

—George Crane

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This Week In Texas History!

Nov. 24, 1863
Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of President Kennedy, shot and killed by Jack Ruby in Dallas.

Nov. 25, 1842
Troops commanded by Alexander Somervell leave San Antonio for Mexico.

Nov. 26, 1864
First battle of Adobe Walls.

Nov. 26, 1867
Fort Richardson established on a tributary of the Trinity River near present day Jacksboro, abandoned on May 23, 1878.

Dec. 4, 1835
Group of Texas Volunteers stormed San Antonio against the orders of their superiors.

Dec. 4, 1867
Fort established at the junction of the Concho and the North Concho Rivers. First called Camp Hatch, then Camp Kelly, and finally named Fort Concho in March 1868, abandoned June 20, 1889.

Dec. 5, 1835
Siege of Bexar began, led by Ben Milam.

Dec. 5, 1848
Fort Martin Scott established about two miles south of Fredericksburg. Abandoned December 1853, held by Confederates from 1861 to 1865 and reoccupied by US troops on October 18, 1866, abandoned December 26, 1866.

Dec. 7, 1835
Ben Milam killed during Siege of Bexar.

Dec. 8, 1659
Mission Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe de El Paso founded.

Dec. 8, 1884
General Walker recommended the exterior design of the capitol be changed to granite because of the poor quality of the limestone being used.

Dec. 10, 1835
Texans took San Antonio. General Martin P. de Cos signed terms of capitulation.

Dec. 10, 1836
Great Seal of the Republic of Texas was adopted by the Congress of the Republic.

In any contest between power and patience, bet on patience.

—W.B. Prescott

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

NASS To Conduct 2002 Census Of Agriculture

One of the ways farmers and ranchers can personally participate in the process of developing agriculture legislation and regulation is to make sure that the information used by lawmakers and government agencies is as accurate as possible.

Perhaps the best way to ensure the accuracy of the information available is to actively participate in the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service's 2002 Census of Agriculture.

The Census of Agriculture is conducted once every five years and is used as the primary database for agriculture information. The information often becomes the basis for the development of new laws and rules for issues like tax policy and pesticide regulation.

The 2002 Census of Agriculture will begin in mid-December with census packets mailed to all farmers and ranchers. Information provided on individual operations is strictly confidential by law. To further protect the identity and confidentiality of individual operations NASS will only publish data aggregated at the County, State, and National levels.

Census information and reports should be completed and returned to USDA by February 3, 2003.

The 2002 Census will include several new features and for the first time include information relating to multiple operators per farm, production contracts/landlord shares, computer and Internet use, more detailed farm-related income statistics, and gather information on many new commodities.

Farmers and ranchers who receive a 2002 Census packet are encouraged to participate and to provide the most accurate information possible.

Among the benefits to producers is the fact that the more accurate the information they provide, the more accurate the picture of U.S. agriculture is to those outside the industry.

Producers, farm organizations, ag businesses, legislators and State extension personnel make use of the Census to spot trends in various areas of the industry and to propose policies and programs that meet agricultures actual needs.

Anyone who produces at least \$1,000 or more of agricultural sales is eligible to participate in the Census and should receive census forms.

Producers who do not receive census forms by mail can contact the NASS order desk at 1-800-999-6779 to request a packet or go to www.usda.gov/nass and download the forms themselves.

November Sales Tax Rebates Down For Area

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander recently delivered \$368.9 million in monthly sales tax payments to local governments. Below is a listing of local sales tax rebates received in November.

November sales tax rebates include local sales taxes collected in September by monthly filers and in July, August and September by quarterly filers, and reported to the Comptroller in October. The state's share of sales tax reported during this period was \$1.1 billion.

City	Tax Rate	Net Pymt This Period	% Change From Same Date 2001
Quitaque	1.5	\$2,598.99	-25%
Silverton	1.0	\$1,414.06	-21.15%
Turkey	2.0	\$2,170.99	-40.05%

Don't abuse your friends and expect them to consider it criticism.

—Edgar Watson Howe



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The Valley Tribune, Quitaque, Texas, Thursday, December 12, 2002

Cultivating Rural Health
By Patti J. Patterson, M.D.
Imagine a young man from a rural area who has an optometrist and established an optometry practice in his hometown. Had Josh Wyatt, a high school graduate, information about optometry and information in order to learn more about becoming an optometrist, he was able to realize his dream. Fortunately, he has a lot of information about how to work in health care because the opportunities available and the financial assistance to young people in order to enter the health care profession.

The Area Health Education Center in Plainview in June 2002, is designed to help South Plains region access to education. AHEC of the Plains provides information about the program and has recognized his interest in optometry. AHEC staff and a local optometrist have made it possible for Josh to have access to the information which gives him experience in the field of optometry. AHEC of the Plains, which is part of the National Center for Rural Health Services, is a national leader in providing young people's interest in the health care profession.

Why is it so important to have more health care professionals in rural areas? A shortage of health care professionals in rural areas has limited the health care services available to rural communities. As the population in rural areas continues to grow, the need for health care services will increase. AHEC of the Plains is working to address this need by providing information and resources to young people in rural areas who are interested in the health care profession.

Many West Texans have a long drive to see a health care professional. AHEC of the Plains is working to address this need by providing information and resources to young people in rural areas who are interested in the health care profession.

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Cultivating Tomorrow's Rural Health Care Providers

By Patti J. Patterson, M.D.

Imagine a young man from a rural community who dreams of becoming an optometrist and establishing a practice in his hometown. Now picture this young man abandoning his dream because he knows so little about the field and he thinks his aspirations are impossible to achieve.

Had Josh Wyatt, a high school student from Plainview, not had access to information about optometry and the opportunity to shadow a local optometrist in order to learn more about the field, he might not have realized that dream. Fortunately, when Josh expressed an interest in becoming an optometrist, he was provided encouragement and concrete, helpful information about how to pursue his dream.

Sadly, young men and women in rural communities may not aspire to work in health care because they are unaware of the range of career opportunities available and the numerous programs that offer educational and financial assistance to them. It is imperative that we reach out to young people in order to ensure the future of health care access in rural communities.

The Area Health Education Center of the Plains (AHEC), which opened in Plainview in June 2002, is designed to provide students in the 21 county South Plains region access to education about health care career opportunities. AHEC of the Plains provided Josh the assistance he needed when he recognized his interest in optometry. Because of the genuine interest of the AHEC staff and a local optometrist, Stewart Webb, O.D., Josh now has ready access to the information he needs, a mentor and a part-time job which gives him experience in a health field and a clear advantage when it comes time to apply to colleges of optometry.

AHEC of the Plains, which is funded by Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center's Office of Rural and Community Health, strives to cultivate young people's interest in health care fields while providing a mentoring environment to cement that interest and lay the groundwork for future careers.

Why is it so important to create a pipeline for students to pursue careers in health care? A shortage of virtually all types of health care providers now plagues many rural areas in West Texas. Efforts to recruit health care professionals from urban areas to live and work in small communities have had limited success. Since research suggests that individuals raised in rural communities are more likely to eventually settle down in rural area, we should turn to students in rural areas to fill the current void of health care providers. This could help guarantee these communities future access to local health care.

Many West Texans have come to accept driving 60 miles or more in order to receive health care. With the help of center like AHEC of the Plains, young people like Josh Wyatt might make it possible to exchange an hour long drive to see a physician in another town for a visit to a local doctor whose office is only five minutes from their doorstep.

Patti J. Patterson, M.D., is vice president of rural and community health at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

Fidgeting And Fitness

Today's jobs often require sitting in front of a keyboard or a steering wheel. Because of this, people often do not get the daily exercise needed to lead a healthy life-style. According to many experts, you can add exercise to your daily routine by performing simple exercises or even fidgeting. Any type of movement throughout the day, no matter how small, is going to help increase circulation and burn calories. Some of the activities you can partake in during the day include sitting down and standing up several times or raising your legs repeatedly to waist level. Even try moving your arms back and forth and up and down. People often have to consciously think about engaging in physical activity. Performing these few exercises during the course of the work day will help increase that activity.



Estelle, Clara Ruth, and Jimmy Davidson enjoyed the Stew & Cornbread Luncheon sponsored by the Quitaque Chamber of Commerce as part of Caprock Country Christmas held last Saturday in Quitaque.

Resolve To Turn Down The Noise And Turn Up The Family

Making resolutions for 2003? Improving family relationships should head the list, says a psychologist at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

"Telephones, televisions and computers can interfere with having quality time with our families," said Dr. James Bray, Associate Professor at Baylor's Department of Family and Community Medicine.

But it takes more than getting rid of distractions or just saying that you want a better relationship with your family.

"Write down specific areas of your relationship that you want to improve with each family member," he said. Otherwise, the resolution to improve family relationships is too vague. You'd never know if you're accomplishing your goal."

Bray suggests that you consider these ideas as ways to improve family relationships:

- * Spend quality time with family members.
- * Set regular mealtimes at least three times a week when family members can express genuine interest and share uninterrupted conversation.
- * Turn off distractions to family conversations. Give your undivided attention.
- * If your family lives in the same town, Bray suggests that you schedule regular contact. This could be by attending a regular event or having Sunday lunch together.
- * If family members live far away, stay in touch with e-mail, instant messaging systems or use a Web camera to feel more "connected".
- * Seek counseling if your relationships are not going well or old problems keep reoccurring.

Resolutions require good follow through. Bray suggests that it's important to review your written resolutions once a month. You can see where you've succeeded or what's stopping your progress.

"Don't be discouraged if you haven't been perfect," said Bray "You can simply recommit yourself to your goals for the following month. The point is not to give up."

You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.

Being Alone On Holidays Doesn't Mean Being Lonely

Traditionally, the holidays place an emphasis on being with family during the season of giving. But a new job in a new city, a spouse's military deployment, estrangement from family, divorce and other reasons can mean not being with family. Still, that doesn't mean the holidays have to be any less celebratory.

"You can celebrate the holidays by yourself," said Dr. Roberta Nutt, professor of psychology at Texas Woman's University. "Buy yourself a gift; take yourself out to dinner."

Or simply, create a "family" to celebrate the holidays.

Volunteer time at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter. Visit residents in a nursing home. It's the season of giving, so give some of your time and energy to them.

An elderly neighbor or other co-workers may be alone during the holidays. Make plans to spend time with them, dinner, a party, or some relaxed socializing. "Do what fits for you."

Share holiday cheer by making a basket of treats to share with firefighters or police working Christmas. Hospital staff and homeless shelter staff also work the holidays and they appreciate such gestures, too.

Volunteer to be a substitute driver for Meals On Wheels on Christmas day. Deliver holiday care baskets for a food bank. Be a Christmas angel and buy gifts for an underprivileged child. There are so many possibilities.

Creating a personal holiday ritual is another way to celebrate. Decorating your home and putting up a tree could be a ritual you enjoy while your neighbors enjoy the decorations.

Another ritual could be giving yourself quiet time to reflect on the year, mourn losses and embrace blessings. Since the holidays are stressful enough, and family can make them more stressful, that alone quiet time can be a gift to yourself.



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NOTICE OF PROPOSED INCREASE IN SERVICE CHARGES

On December 6, 2002 Atmos Energy filed a Statement of Intent to change its service charges with the Railroad Commission of Texas and each incorporated city listed below. The proposed changes will take effect no sooner than 35 days after filing.

The proposed increase will not effect the Company's other gas rate schedules. The change will apply to Residential, Commercial, Small Industrial, and Public Authority customers. The Company proposes the following increased service charges:

	During Business Hours	After Hours
Turn on new service with meter set	\$32.00	\$48.00
Turn on service (shut-in test required)	\$23.50	\$35.25
Turn on service (meter read only required)	\$15.00	\$22.50
Reconnect delinquent service or service temporarily off at customer's request	\$37.50	\$56.25
Miscellaneous service calls	\$11.25	\$16.88

The proposed service charge changes are expected to increase the Company's annual revenues by approximately 4% and therefore do not constitute a "major change". The proposed changes could affect approximately 215,000 gas customers in the following communities and surrounding rural areas:

Abernathy	Lamesa	Quitaque
Amherst	Levelland	Ralls
Anton	Littlefield	Ransom Canyon
Big Spring	Lockney	Ropesville
Bovina	Lorenzo	Seagraves
Brownfield	Los Ybanez	Seminole
Buffalo Springs Lake	Lubbock	Shallowater
Canyon	Meadow	Silverton
Coahoma	Midland	Slaton
Crosbyton	Muleshoe	Smyer
Dimmitt	Nazareth	Springlake
Earth	New Deal	Stanton
Edmonson	New Home	Sudan
Floydada	Odessa	Tahoka
Forsan	O'Donnell	Timbercreek Canyon
Friena	Olton	Tulia
Hale Center	Opdyke West	Turkey
Happy	Pallsades	Vega
Hart	Pampa	Wellman
Hereford	Panhandle	Wilson
Idalou	Petersburg	Wolforth
Kress	Plainview	
Lake Tanglewood	Post	

*unincorporated - Southland, Welch, Whitharrall

Copies of the filing are available at the Atmos Energy Office at 5110 80th Lubbock, TX 78408-1121 or at an Atmos Energy Office nearest to you. Affected persons whose gas rates are subject to the original jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission may file in writing comments or a protest concerning the proposed changes with the Docket Services Section of the Legal Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, at any time within 30 days following the date on which the change would or has become effective.

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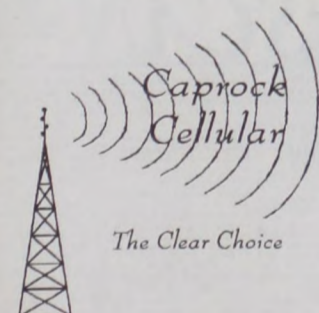
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It is not the length of life, but the depth of life.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

