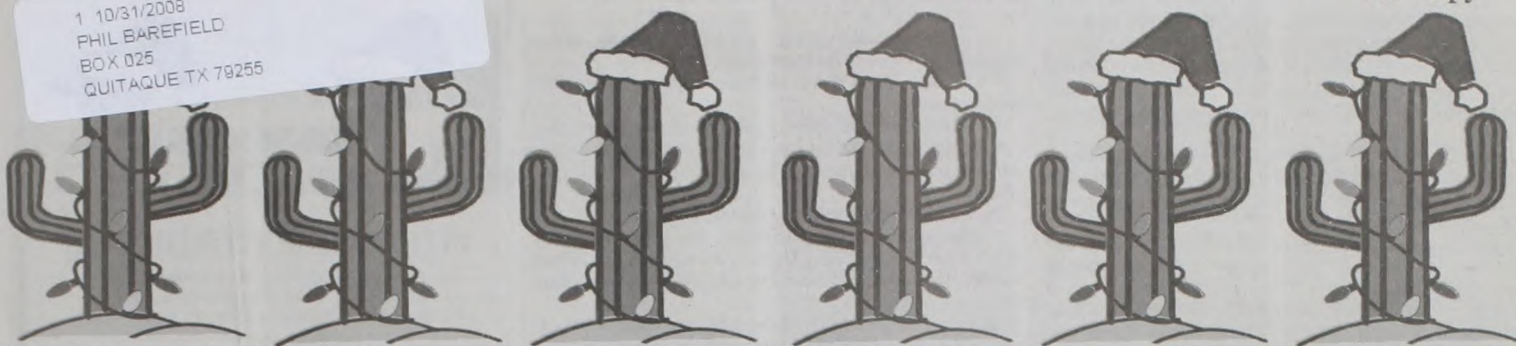


THE VALLEY TRIBUNE

"Voice of the Rolling Plains"

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Volume 47 Number 21 Quitaque, Texas 79255 • Serving ~ Briscoe ~ Hall ~ Motley ~ Counties • Thursday, December 6, 2007

Hall Co. Commissioners Hold 2 Called & 1 Emergency Meeting Over Courthouse Restoration Grant Process

The Hall County Commissioners Court met three times over the past month regarding application process for a courthouse restoration grant.

- The first called meeting was held Monday, October 29 with County Judge Jack Martin, Commissioners Milton Beasley-Pct 1, Terry Lindsey-Pct 2, Buddy Logsdon-Pct 3, Fames Fuston-Pct 4 and Deputy County Clerk Hans Skovlund.

* A motion was made to accept the proposal from architect Arthur Weinman for \$7,000.00 to update the grant for the restoration of the Hall County Courthouse. The motion failed. (Roll call vote not available) Meeting was then adjourned.

- Next the Commissioners Court met in another called meeting on Monday, November 5. Present for the meeting was County Judge Jack Martin, Commissioners Milton Beasley-Pct 1, Terry Lindsey-Pct 2, Buddy Logsdon-Pct 3, Fames Fuston-Pct 4 and County Clerk Raye Bailey.

* Members of the Hall County Historical Commission were present and reported that they had collected the \$7,000.00 needed to update and complete the grant application for restoration of the Hall County Courthouse. A motion made by Commissioner Lindsey and seconded by Commissioner Fuston passed to adopt the following resolution:

Whereas the commissioners court is the governing body of the county and the Texas Constitution provides that the courts consist of a county judge and four county commissioners elected by the qualified voters of individual commissioners precincts, and

Whereas, Local Government Code, Sec. 291.001 provides that the commissioners court is responsible for providing a courthouse and county offices at the county seat, and

Whereas, close scrutiny of the finances and expenditures of the county are required to meet the obligations to operate within the budget of the county in a manner found most beneficial to the citizens of the county as determined by the collective action of the commissioners court, and,

Whereas, the pending courthouse restoration grant application is anticipated to require multiple decisions of a financial nature with options of varying costs available to address specific problems that should be addressed on a case by case basis by the commissioners court.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that all considerations of proposals to expend public funds for the restoration of the Hall County courthouse be taken up in the usual order of business by placing same on the agenda of a regularly or specially scheduled meeting of the commissioners court of Hall County, Texas, with the supporting or opposing date assembled, discussed, considered and passed upon by the commissioners court as a body, in order to arrive at a decision representing the action of Hall County on same.

It Is Further Resolved, that Hall County Judge, Jack Martin, shall be the contact person for all persons and entities to contact with information, requirements, proposals and materials pertaining to the said pending Hall County Courthouse Restoration Grant application.

Next a motion passed that we (the Commissioners Court) have heard a proposed resolution regarding the Courthouse grant read to us over the phone by Arthur Weinman, which is being faxed to Pauline Johnsey. We hereby pass that resolution as endorsed by our signatures on the hard copy when it arrived.

- * A motion passed to reinstate the county wide burn ban. (No time limit designated)
- * A motion passed that the hourly wage for extra help on roads be \$10 per hour.

With no further business this meeting was adjourned.

- Then on Tuesday, November 6 (with less than 24 hours public notice) the Commissioners Court met in an Emergency Called meeting. Present were County Judge Jack Martin, Commissioners Milton Beasley-Pct 1, Terry Lindsey-Pct 2, Buddy Logsdon-Pct 3, Fames Fuston-Pct 4 and County Clerk Raye Bailey.

* A motion was made by Commissioner Lindsey and seconded by Commissioner Logsdon to adopt a Resolution supporting the County's participation in the Texas Courthouse Preservation Program and the filing of an application for a grant from the State of Texas to assist with the preservation of the Hall County Courthouse. Motion carried unanimously.

(EDITOR'S NOTE): According to the Texas Open Meeting Act, an emergency "exists only if immediate action is required of a governmental body because of an imminent threat to public health and safety" or "because of a reasonably unforeseeable situation." The courts and the Attorney General have traditionally construed the emergency posting exception strictly. As a general rule, the members of a governmental body should ask themselves two questions when considering whether an emergency exists. First, what would happen if the meeting on the "emergency" issue was postponed for 72 hours? If the governing body cannot point to some imminent risk to public welfare or safety that would occur if action was not taken within 72 hours, then it would be difficult to argue that an emergency exists. Second, how long has the governing body known about the "emergency" issue? If the governing body has known about the matter for more than 72 hours, it would work against the entity's argument that an emergency exists. It should also be noted that a situation is not "unforeseeable" merely because a deadline is less than 72 hours away. If the governing body knew about or should have known about the deadline in advance, then it may be difficult to argue that the situation was "reasonably unforeseeable." - Taken from the 'Texas Open Meeting Act Made Easy'

Hall County Commissioners Court Ban All Fireworks In Unincorporated Areas Of County

The Hall County Commissioners Court met in regular session on Tuesday, November 13. Present for the meeting was Commissioners Buddy Logsdon-Pct 3-presiding, Milton Beasley-Pct 1, Terry Lindsey, -pct 2, James Fuston-Pct 4 and County Clerk Raye Bailey. After attending to regular court business the following items were addressed.

* A motion passed to canvass the votes of the Constitutional Amendment election held on November 6 on Friday, November 16.

* A motion passed to authorize Raye Bailey, County Clerk, to write the U.S. Justice Department in regards to possibly moving all Memphis election polling places to the Memphis Convention Center.

* A motion passed to authorize Raye Bailey, County Clerk, to write the U.S. Justice Department in regards to moving the Lakeview polling place from the Lakeview High School to the City Hall in Lakeview.

* A motion passed to enter into a lease-purchase agreement with Welch State Bank on the new motor grader in the amount of \$70,000 at an interest rate of 4.88 cent per annum.

* A motion passed to purchase a pickup for the road and bridge department from Arvis Davis in the amount of \$21,650.

Story continued on Page 2

Filing Now Open For 2008 March Primary Elections

The first day to file for a place on the ballot for the March Primary is December 3, 2007. Deadline for filing is January 2, 2008. In Briscoe, Hall and Motley Counties the following positions are up for re-election: Sheriff, Tax-Assessor/Collector, County Attorney, Commissioners for Precinct 1 & 3.

Last day to register to vote in the March Primary is February 4, 2008.

Only 19 Shopping Days Left Until Christmas



Santa's elves have placed Santa's Mailbox in front of The Valley Tribune, located at 111 Main Street in Quitaque. Children have until Friday, December 14 to get their letters mailed. According to the elves Santa is currently making his list and will soon be checking it twice, to find out just who has been naughty and who has been nice!



This angel tree at Caprock Cafe is raising money for the Quitaque's Methodist Church Annual Youth Food Drive. Last day to donate will be Friday, December 14.

Birthday Party For Jesus Saturday, December 8

The First United Methodist Church of Quitaque will host a birthday party for Jesus on Saturday, December 8, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at the church. All kids in the area are invited. Everyone is asked to bring canned food as a birthday gift. The food will be used to fill food baskets to help make Christmas brighter for various community members.

Lots of fun activities are planned. Kathy Taylor is baking a birthday cake, Todd Oberheu is in charge of the music, and John Dorn will tell the Christmas story. There will be a craft project for the kids to make.

For more information contact any Methodist Church member or call Dianne Washington at 347-2636 (work) or 469-5278 (home).

Grass Fires In Motley County

By Earlyne Jameson

Grass fires Monday and Tuesday, November 19-20 northeast of Matador destroyed 2,400 acres before being brought under control. The Matador Volunteer Fire Department was joined by the Turkey, Quitaque, Floydada, Paducah, Roaring Springs and Dougherty Fire Departments. They fought the wind blown flames from 1:30 p.m. Monday until Tuesday 10:30 a.m. The acreage and miles of fences were lost on the Dora Fay Cook, Key West Ranch, Bob Stafford and Brent Durham grassland.

Rodney Williams, fire chief of the Matador Fire Dept. expressed his appreciation of the Fire Departments, the help of the three county commissioners and the four county motor graders; the TxDOT's three motor graders; and 6,500 gallon water tender; paducah bringing their Light Plant and the PRPC communication trailer. He was also appreciative of the food and beverages brought to those fighting the fires by concerned citizens.

What's Happening In The Valley Area This Week?

December 10

- * Silverton City Council meeting @ 7 p.m.
- * Quitaque Volunteer Fire Department meeting @ 7 p.m.
- * Turkey-Quitaque CISD Board of Trustees meeting
- * Quitaque City Council meeting @ 6 p.m.
- * Briscoe County Commissioners Court meeting @ 10 a.m.
- * Motley County Commissioners Court meeting @ 9:30 a.m.
- * Hall County Commissioners Court meeting @ 10 a.m.

December 11

- * Turkey Senior Citizens meeting @ 6 p.m. B/P Checks @ 5:30 p.m.
- * Hall County Hospital Board meeting @ 2 p.m.
- * We The Women meeting 2 12 noon

December 13

- * Matador City Council meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- * Turkey City Council meeting @ 7 p.m.
- * Matador Masonic Lodge meeting

FLOMOT NEWS

By Earlyne Jameson

OVERHEARD

While waiting for my first appointment in the reception room of a new dentist, I noticed his certificates, which bore his full name. Suddenly, I remembered that a tall, handsome boy with the same name had been in my high school class some 30 years ago. Upon seeing him, however, I quickly discarded any such thought. This balding, gray haired man with the deeply lined face was too old to have been my classmate. After he had examined my teeth, I asked him if he had attended the local high school.

"Yes, Ma'am," he replied. "When did you graduate?" I asked. He answered, "In 1964." "Why you were in my class!" I exclaimed. He looked at me closely and then asked, "What did you teach?"

Motley County Residents looking For Rains As Record Cotton Harvest Almost Complete

Motley County residents are looking for rains to make up for dry weather in October and November that helped farmers harvest a bumper cotton crop. The National Weather Service reported an official "killing freeze" in Motley County early Monday morning November 26 that was a benefit to cotton farmers who did not defoliate. Wheat land is laying dormant for lack of moisture. Strong demand and open markets have Motley County cattle industry pleased in spite of soil moisture being short.

December 1 made its entry with a light sprinkle of rain and gusting winds.

The last day of November was the only moisture registered for the month by the Motley County National Weather Service Volunteers: Buzz Thacker, Roaring Springs-0.04; Ronnie Bailey, Matador-0.05; Lawrence Allen, Whiteflat-0.02; Clois Shorter, Flomot-0.00 and Betty Simpson, Northfield-no report.

Salt and Susan Jones of Calgary, Alberta Canada visited during the week with his father and wife, M.C. and Barbara Jones and in Quitaque with his mother and husband, Ann and Buck Chadwick. Other weekend visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Jones were son, Pepper Jones of Austin and friend, Don Burton of Cedar Creek Lake.

Tylee, Trent and Trevor Barclay of Matador visited the weekend with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Barclay. Saturday afternoon, the birthdays of the twins, Trent and Trevor celebrated their first birthday at a party given by their parents, Ty and Brittany Barclay at the Riley Turner Lode in Matador. They blew out their one candle on beautiful decorated cakes. Special guests were great-grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. S.D. Barclay of Lockney beside grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Barclay.

Kathy and Clois Shorter had lunch in Lubbock, Saturday with their daughter and family, Keri and Kevin Sehon and son, Brian of Ropesville. Kathy and Clois enjoyed the Gaither Homecoming Concert Saturday night held at the United Spirit Arena in Lubbock.

L.T. Starkey of Ralls visited during the week with his brother, Johnnie Starkey.

Mr. and Mrs. Orville Lee and daughter, Mrs. Teresa Lee of Turkey attended the funeral services of Mrs. Margie Row, 79 Wednesday held at the Community Fellowship Church in Clarendon. She is the mother of their daughter in law, Mrs. Joey (Brenda) Lee of Clarendon.

Mrs. Darla Gwinn and daughter, Danielle attended the football game of Valley vs Rule Friday night held at the Lowrey Field in Lubbock.

Attending Trent and Trevor Barclay's first birthday party Saturday afternoon in Matador was great-grandmother, Mrs. Erma Washington, great-aunt Mrs. Connie Franks and friend, Anissa Huckert of Lubbock.

Visiting during the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Coy Franks and Cara Franks were Cary Franks of Idalou, Anissa Huckert of Lubbock and Clint Cowart of Post.

He who has imagination without learning has wings but no feet.

~ Joseph Joubert

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Congressman Mac Thornberry Files For Reelection

Clarendon - Congressman Mac Thornberry today announced that he will seek reelection to represent Texas District 13 in the United States House of Representatives and that he has submitted his application for a place on the 2008 Republican primary ballot.

Background on Congressman Mac Thornberry

Mac Thornberry is a fifth-generation Texan and a lifelong resident of the 13th District of Texas. Mac's family has been ranching in the area since 1881 - a family business in which Mac remains actively involved.

As one of the few Members of Congress personally involved in agriculture, Mac understands the challenges Texas agricultural producers face and has been a key player in efforts to support them. To this end Thornberry has sponsored or cosponsored a number of property rights and ag-related bills and recently became a cosponsor of H.R.4193 to provide for an emergency one-year extension of the 2002 Farm Bill.

Long active in efforts to encourage domestic energy production, Thornberry's "No Excuses Energy Act" has garnered national attention for its focus on increasing the production of all types of American-produced energy.

Congressman Thornberry is a longtime advocate of tax reduction and limited government. This year alone he has voted against over \$100 billion in tax increases and is working to defeat legislation that would raise taxes on American businesses and families by a staggering \$1.3 trillion more. In addition to sponsoring a repeal of the Death Tax and cosponsoring the Fair Tax, Mac has recently cosponsored H.R. 3818 the Taxpayer Choice Act - a new and innovative approach to make our tax system fairer and flatter.

A nationally recognized leader in national security and intelligence matters, Mac Thornberry is one of the few Members of Congress to serve on both the House Armed Services Committee and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. He is the top Republican on the Armed Services Committee's Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats, and Capabilities. A member of the bipartisan Center for Strategic and International Studies' Smart Power Commission, Thornberry recently returned from a trip to Iraq where he met with our frontline troops and was briefed on the progress of the war by General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker.

Born in Clarendon and raised on the family ranch in Donley County, Mac graduated from Clarendon High School before continuing his education at Texas Tech University. After obtaining a B.A. in history from Tech in 1980, he went on to the University of Texas Law School where he graduated in 1983. In 1989, Mac joined his brothers in the cattle business and began to practice law in Amarillo.

Mac's wife, Sally, is also a native Texan. They have two children.

Without risk, faith is an impossibility.

~ Soren Kierkegaard

Faith is not something to grasp, it is a state to grow into.

~ Mahatma Gandhi

Faith is the subtle chain which binds us to the infinite.

~ Elizabeth Smith

Faith is that which is woven of conviction and set with the sharp mordant of experience.

~ James Russell Lowell

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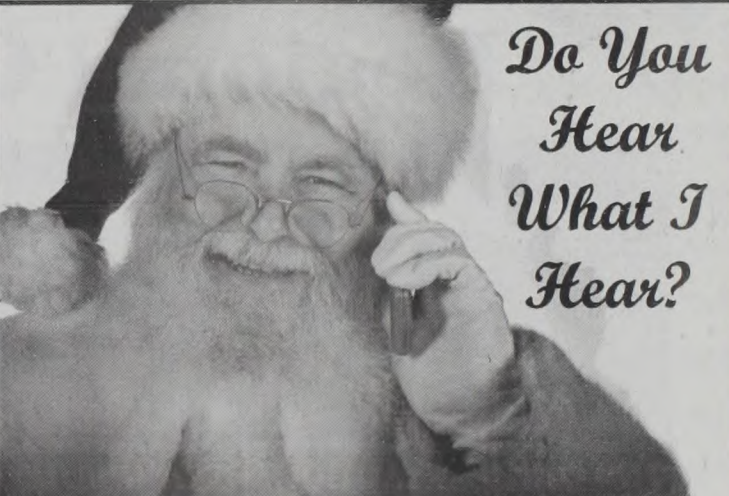
TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
Copyright 2007 by Orbison Bros.

ACROSS

- TXism: "put that in your ___ and smoke it"
- OK town
- Bowie crossed the Alamo line on ___
- TXism: "he's all vine, ___ watermelon"
- TX House rep. from 6th Dist., Berman
- TXism: "it's all water off ___ back" (unconcerned)
- Red Steagall: cowboy ___
- OU's "___ Schooner"
- "H" of Dallas newspaper founder A.H. Belo
- Olympic athlete sample?
- TXism: "___ the end of his rope"
- wanton look
- gravy on the shirt
- TXism: "ivory tictler" (piano ___)
- caught the calf
- Andrews Co. was named for this 1st fatality of the TX revolution (init.)
- TX Al ___ was on "One Life to Live"
- western actor Richard ___
- Galveston's "USS Cavalla," for short
- TXism: "weak ___ -day-old kitten"
- they wait to come back into style (2 wds.)
- Texas Motor Speedway event
- TXism: "nary a soul"
- Astro RBI or ERA
- another cowboy state (abbr.)
- Jackson Co. seat
- this Lovett was 1st president of Rice (init.)
- tailor
- sandwich shop
- Cowboys got respect in ___ Parcels ___
- Rangers bench coach Howe ___
- lie-___ jeans
- black-eyed ___
- end of 51-down
- Fort Stockton newspaper
- this Cowboy DE was 1st draft pick in '74
- TX Bonnie & Clyde acquisition
- TXism: "gentle as ___ -go-round"
- TX defeated Antonio Lopez ___ Santa Anna
- Route 66 cut 'cross TX panhandle
- Santa helper
- dir. from Dallas to Denton
- TX state ___ has a lone star & olive branch
- "Believe It ___" to Billie Joe
- TXism: "numerous as ants ___ worm"
- TXism: "wipe the ___ clean"
- abbr. for big TX semiconductor manufacturer

DOWN

- TXism: "___ through a barbed wire fence" (bad eyesight)
- Corpus Christi TV station
- state of agitation
- drug emporium
- cowboy bolos
- put a top on the apple pie?
- how Cowboys & Texans treat injuries
- TXism: "would jerk a ___ from a glass eye" (sad)
- computer printer manufacturer (abbr.)
- TXism: "drawing a ___ on it"
- eye amorously
- TXism: "put on the feed bag"



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Valley School Lunch Menu

Sponsored By The Valley Tribune

Monday, December 10

Breakfast: Cereal, Toast, Jelly, OJ/Milk
Lunch: Hamburger Steak & Brown Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Hot Rolls, Milk

Tuesday, December 11

Breakfast: Cinnamon Rolls, OJ/Milk
Lunch: Chili Cheese Burritos, Corn, Apricots, Milk

Wednesday, December 12

Breakfast: Breakfast Hot Pocket, OJ/Milk
Lunch: Chicken Spaghetti, Peas & Carrots, Pears, Hot Rolls, Milk

Thursday, December 13

Breakfast: Biscuits, Sausage, Jelly, OJ/Milk
Lunch: Mexican Stack, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Cheese, Pinto Bean, Mandarin Oranges & Pineapple, Milk

Friday, December 14

Breakfast: Cinnamon Toast, Applesauce, OJ/Milk
Lunch: Corn Dogs, Tator Tots, Kosher Dills, Brownies, Milk



"Christmas is just around the corner!!"

THE LUNCHROOM LADIES
 Menu Subject To Change



THE PATRIOT

Valley School News

Rule Ends Patriot Season

By Susan Ramsey

The Valley Patriots took on Rule last Friday in Lubbock in a state quarterfinal game and lost by a 59-14 score. The loss marked the end of a very successful season for the Patriots, in which they posted an 11-2 record.

The Valley senior players, Cole Brown, Roger Ramos, Armando Mendoza, Justin Rucker, and Bryce Reagan, all had outstanding seasons and will be hard to replace.

The Valley Patriot team and coaching staff would like to extend their gratitude to all the fans for their tremendous support during the season. In addition, they would like to thank the cheerleaders, pep squad, and their sponsors for the great job that they have done! It is easy to see that we truly have the best support of any school in the state, and it is appreciated!

Way to go Blue! We are proud of you!

Study Shows Clarendon College Above Average In Serving Students

Clarendon College stacks up well when compared to other institutions its size and is particularly good when it comes to serving students, according to a recent study.

Information from the National Center for Education Statistics shows Clarendon is doing several things well.

Tuition and required fees at Clarendon College are considerably less when compared to other similarly sized colleges. CC students pay about \$1,656 per academic year, while students at comparable colleges pay an average of \$2,550.

Graduation rates at CC exceed the comparison group, particularly for blacks and other minorities. And while CC awards fewer associate's degrees than the comparison group median, it awards more than twice as many one-year program certificates and more than five times as many certificates for programs less than one year.

The data also shows that Clarendon College serves its students while keeping costs below other colleges in every category, having fewer staff and administrative positions than other colleges, yet having more instructors than the median.

For the study, the National Center for Education Statistics used the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) to compare CC with 20 other public colleges serving rural populations in the Southwest, Rocky Mountains, and Far West, including Frank Phillips College at Borger, Texas State Technical College at Sweetwater, Ranger College in Ranger, and Western Texas College in Snyder.

The IPEDS is the core postsecondary education data collection program for the NCES. It is a single, comprehensive system designed to encompass all institutions and educational organizations whose primary purpose is to provide postsecondary education. For additional information see <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds>.

Creativity represents a miraculous coming together of the uninhibited energy of the child with its apparent opposite and enemy, the sense of order imposed on the disciplined adult intelligence.

~ Norman Podhoretz

Valley School Makes Honor Roll

Texas Business and Education Coalition congratulates Valley School for making the TBEC Honor Roll for 2007. This is a very select group of more than 8,000 Texas public schools, less than 5% are honored.

The TBEC Honor Roll is the most prestigious award for sustained academic excellence in Texas. It recognizes schools that have demonstrated three years of consistent, high performance in all subjects compared to other schools serving similar student populations. TBEC Honor Roll schools have the highest percentage of students performing at the state's most rigorous standard - commended in every subject. Schools earn a place on the Honor Roll through hard work and student achievement over an extended period of time.

What Students Can Do To Save Some Money

By Jim Kelly

With the new school year well under way, many students are off at college with credit cards and access to bank accounts for the first time. ING Direct USA, the nation's largest direct bank, asked its summer interns what they wished their parents had told them as they headed off to college.

Here's their advice:

START SAVING at a young age. This way you will always have money to fall back on when you need it, and you'll learn the importance of saving.

USE A CREDIT CARD ONLY WHEN ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. Just because a credit line is available, doesn't mean you need to max it out. Only use a credit card in emergency situations.

MAINTAIN A BUDGET. College is costly. You must buy books, clothes, supplies. Create a budget for each semester so you can prepare for future expenses.

CAR POOL TO CLASS with your friends. Also, check to see if your campus has a bus service that you can use to get to class.

IF YOU HAVE A JOB after school, take money out of each paycheck and put it in a savings account. You won't be tempted to spend all of your money, and you will always have some extra spending money for fun or when you really need it.

KEEP TRACK OF YOUR MONEY. Keep a log of deposits and purchases, especially from checks and debit cards. Even though your bank may track this electronically, it's good practice for you to personally manage your funds. Plus, transactions might not go through as soon as you make them. Having a hard copy is always a good idea.



Valley Patriots Regional Champs 2007



THE 2007 VALLEY PATRIOT FOOTBALL TEAM & VALLEY CHEERLEADERS

Valley Superintendent: Jerry Smith, Valley Principal: Jon Davidson
 Valley Head Coach: Bret Tyler, Valley Asst. Coaches: Craig Hamilton, Greg Ramsey, Stuart Smith

Congratulations Valley Patriots On An Outstanding Season!

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 423-1321

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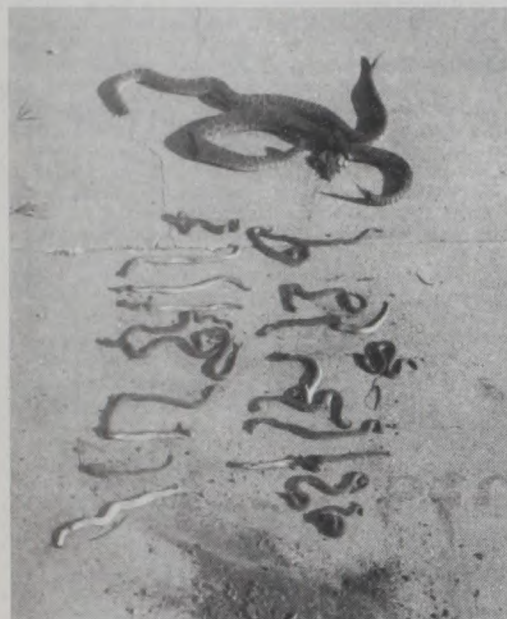
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Shane'a Russell Receives 4-H Gold Star Award

Shane'a Russell, daughter of JD and D'anna Russell of Matador and member of the Motley 4-H club, received the District 3, 4-H Gold Star Award. The Gold Star award is the highest award a 4-H member can receive at the district level. To qualify for the gold star award, a 4-H'er must be at least 15 years old, participated in 4-H for three years, complete a 4-H recordbook and have at least three 4-H projects. Shane'a Russell fulfilled all criteria and was presented with a certificate and Gold Star pin.



Carely Fleming of Quitaque who runs Fleming Well Service, Silverton, discovered a huge den of rattlesnakes when working on an irrigation well - approximately 25. Photo Courtesy of Scotty Stark



Palo Duro Oil & Gas Report

By Tom Musser
Motley County: Last week Bankers Petroleum plugged and abandoned the Ollie Birnie (073843) lease well #2. The Ollie Birnie well #2 was located 990 feet from the South Line and 690 feet from the West Line of Section 2, Abstract 1161, Houston & Great Northern Railroad Company Survey, 5 miles west of Whiteflat.

Jack F. Grimm drilled the Ollie Birnie well #2 in 1975 and completed the well in 1977. The Ollie Birnie well #2 had an initial potential of 580 mcf per day of gas and zero barrels per day of condensate from perforations in the First Conglomerate Atoka Formation from 8457 feet to 8461 feet.

Although listed as the Birnie (Congl.) Gas Field Discovery Well, the Ollie Birnie well #2 was never produced, and was shut-in from August 26, 1977 until November 26, 2007.

The operators of the Ollie Birnie lease (073843) well #2 throughout the years include: Jack F. Grimm and Petrotex, Inc. 09/1975 to 07/1996; Cogdell Oil Company, 08/1996 to 04/2003; Legacy Exploration, LLC, 04/2003 to 11/2003; MTT, LP, 11/2003 to 05/2004; Vintage Petroleum Inc., 05/2004 to 05/2006 and Bankers Petroleum (US) Inc., 05/2006 to 11/2007.

Nothing splendid has ever been achieved except by those who dared believe that something inside them was superior to circumstances.

~ Bruce Barton

Confidence is that feeling by which the mind embarks on great and honorable courses with a sure hope and trust in itself.

~ Cicero

ON THE QT

By Patsy Herrington

"It may be cold in this windy old weather, but isn't it nice we can all get together to celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas craft shows and 80th birthday!"

Almost 100 family members and friends gathered at Bobby McWilliams home south of town to help celebrate his 80th birthday Saturday. His daughter, Martha, from Hereford, his daughter Deana Washington from Matador, and his niece Christy Maynard, Quitaque, worked for days assembling it all together and preparing the food, which was bountiful and delicious including fajitas, calf fries and several cakes. Among those present was his sister, Mary Sue Bingham, Amarillo, his cousin Donna Taylor, Amarillo and a host of grands and great-grandchildren.

Thanksgiving guests of Ruby King were her grandchildren, the Troy Hawkins of Mesquite, Bob Vircher of Waxahachie, Danny Mayfield of Lubbock, Karen and Aubrie Price of Mansfield, Don Price of Lubbock and Joyce Price.

Connie (Price) Mullin, of Canyon, has been here visiting her parents, Bruce and Betty Price. Benny Reagan reports that he will be auctioneering all this week in Pampa.

Valley played the big playoff game, having beaten Throckmorton the week before at Lubbock. The road was filled and lined with cars and pickups going to the pregame tailgate party. Rule won 59-14, sadly, but isn't it great that, our boys and coach went this far! Quite an honor and outstanding playing and coaching! Congrats go to all!

Delores Pigg had Thanksgiving dinner at her home southwest of town. Present were Mike Pigg, Barbara mayfield, Delene Tyler, and Connie Bills from Arizona. Connie lived with Delores for two years her junior and senior years in school.

Tiffany Darnell and boys came down from Amarillo Monday and spent the night with Odis and Jessie Reagan. Tiffany is Eva's (deceased) oldest daughter.

The State of Texas has hired tow part-time employees of 20 hours each at Caprock Canyons State Park beginning Dec. 1. Names will be divulged later.

Carely Fleming of Quitaque who runs Fleming Well Service, Silverton, discovered a huge den of rattlesnakes when working on an irrigation well - approximately 25. He broke the existing record.

Scotty Stark reported that his daughter, Samantha Stark Lang, Tulia, and family went to Naogdoches for Thanksgiving holiday to visit her grandparents, Mary Stark henry and Durward henry.

The Craft Show last Saturday held at the Hope Center did real well and report a good crowd. The Mexican food served there was excellent!

Michelle Mershon, who moved here 1 1/2 years ago and a good friend of Sandra Stark and others, just returned from Abilene from doctor appointments and spending Thanksgiving with her friends there.

Salt and Susan Jones from Calgary, Canada have been visiting Ann, his mother, and Buck Chadwick this week. They are doing a splendid job of mission work up there.

Macy and Molly Davidson are freshmen at Lubbock Christian University in Lubbock. They are playing basketball on the Junior Varsity team there. Their parents Jon and Laura Davidson, grandparents James and Wilda Fuston, Jimmy and Clara Ruth Davidson, also aunts and uncles have taken turns watching them play at Wayland Baptist, Plainview, Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Howard County in Big Spring, Frank Phillips in Borger, Clarendon Jr. College in Clarendon, and Ripp Griffin Center on LCU campus. The latest game was last Friday evening at LCU. They played Hardin-Simmons University JV and beat them 59-41.

Once again Bill Wilson, Perry Campbell and Bobby Martin have made the long trip from Covington, Virginia to hunt quail (1500 miles). They brought their hunting dogs, too. This is Bill Wilson's 16th year to come. They all love it here. Back home Bill is an attorney, Perry is a vet, and Bobby is a jewelry man. They have many friends here including the late Ross Herrington, Odis Reagan and others. They are staying at the Taylor Ranch southwest of town.

It's beginning to look like Christmas around the town with beautiful holiday lights and decorations springing up everywhere!

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| Hunt's Assorted | Drumsticks or Thighs1 lb..... 99¢ |
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| Assorted Regular \$3 ⁴⁹ Size/13-13.5 oz | Pork Roast ...1 lb..... 99¢ |
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| Bob's Candy Canes12 ct..... 99¢ | Jimmy Dean Assorted |
| Assorted | Sausage12-16 oz.....2 for \$5⁰⁰ |
| Cool Whip ...8 oz..... 99¢ | Extra Lean Hickory Bar S |
| Select Group | Sliced Ham ...1 lb..... \$2⁹⁹ |
| Sara Lee Pies37-40 oz..... \$2⁹⁹ | Juicy & Sweet 4 lb Bag |
| Blue Bunny Assorted Squares | Navel Oranges2 for \$3⁰⁰ |
| Ice Cream ...1/2 Gallon.....2 for \$7⁰⁰ | Assorted 3 Lb Bag |
| Select Group Green Giant | Apples2 for \$5⁰⁰ |
| Vegetables ...7-10 oz.....2 for \$3⁰⁰ | Tropical |
| Brownie or Assorted Cookie | Mangos ...each..... 89¢ |
| Pillsbury Dough ...16.5 oz.....2 for \$4⁰⁰ | U.S. #1; 10 Lb Bag |
| Assorted | Russett Potatoes2 for \$3⁰⁰ |
| Tampico Punch ...128 oz..... \$1⁰⁰ | Garden Fresh |
| Basic 12 Big Rolls | Asparagus ...1 lb..... \$2⁹⁹ |
| Charmin Bath Tissue \$3⁹⁹ | Red Ripe |
| Assorted Xtra Liquid | Tomatoes ...1 lb..... \$1⁰⁰ |
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| Vegetables ...10 oz.....2 for \$4⁰⁰ | |
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| Grapefruit ...5 lb Bag.....2 for \$5⁰⁰ | |

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Native Prairie: A Disappearing National Treasure

By Don Young

A national treasure is disappearing with little more than a shrug from the American public. Our 10-thousand-year-old native grasslands are being lost at an alarming rate. Unfortunately, it seems very few people recognize and appreciate their value and beauty.

More than 70 percent of the nation's original native prairie has been lost. Much of the remaining prairie is on poor quality soils not suited for production agriculture. Compared to 2006, the latest USDA figures show a 40 percent jump this year in the conversion of native grasslands into cropland.

Landowners in North Dakota and Montana plowed out 30,000 acres of native prairie in 2007. More than 20,000 of those acres were in the Prairie Pothole Region, the world's most valuable duck nesting habitat. Data from South Dakota is not yet available, but that state has had the highest rates of prairie conversion in the last few years. Unfortunately, these croplands on poor soils are highly vulnerable to erosion.

Our native prairie provides values to society that are lost once these prairies are converted to cropland. Grasslands provide habitat for our wildlife, preserve our soil and water quality, and remove carbon dioxide from the air, thereby potentially helping to address global climate change.

This recent increase in the loss of grassland is driven mostly by a rise in the price of commodities such as wheat, corn and soybeans. These prices will moderate, but that may not happen before many more thousands of acres of native prairie are lost forever.

High commodity prices are not the only factor driving the conversion. Current farm policy provides substantial risk protection on these marginal acres through crop insurance and disaster payments, which are paid for by the U.S. taxpayers.

A recent congressional report, Farm Program Payments Are an Important Factor in Landowner's Decisions to Convert Grassland to Cropland, highlighted the relationship between government risk support and grassland conversion. This report found that farm program payments, like crop and disaster insurance, remove the risk of planting on marginal land that should never be cropped.

Clearly, current farm policy is creating unintended consequences for the future. Sound farm policy should provide a safety net for farmers, not encourage land-use decisions that leave taxpayers carrying the financial burden. That is why legislators and sportsmen are encouraging Congress to support a Sodsaver provision in the proposed farm bill that would discourage the conversion of native grasslands.

The House of Representatives has already passed its version of the 2007 farm bill and they included a Sodsaver provision to protect these native grasslands. While the House version of the provision is a good start, the Senate must act to include a stronger Sodsaver that effectively removes all federal incentives for converting the remaining native grasslands to cropland.

"We believe that production agriculture is vital to our nation's economy and we heartily support farming lands suitable for such production. However, our nation's grasslands are too precious to squander, especially at the expense of future generations. It is time that farm policy supports the idea of 'Farm the Best and Conserve the Rest.'"

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Showmanship Clinic
Thursday, December 20, 2007
Silverton Show Barn

6p.m.-Quality Counts
by Seth Manney, CEA-Briscoe Co.

6:30 p.m.-Brisket Supper
prepared by Bryan Burson, Silverton Ag/Science Teacher

7 p.m.-Lamb Showmanship
by Kyle Steward, CEA-Armstrong Co.

7:30 p.m.-Goat Showmanship
by Josh Brooks, CEA-Hall Co.

8 p.m.-Swine Showmanship
(competitive obstacle course)
by Seth Manney, CEA-Briscoe Co.

8:30 p.m.-Conclusion

Participants will be competing for showmanship prizes. This clinic will give kids the opportunity to practice and learn the art of showmanship. Sessions are going to be an open discussion & learning activity between the showman and the judge. Each exhibitor is encouraged to bring their livestock project (unclipped) to practice with. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Please contact Seth Manney by Dec 17 at 806-823-2521 to RSVP if you are interested in attending.

Continuing Agriculture Policies That Work

By U.S. Sen. John Cornyn

Five years ago, when commodity prices were low and the national economy was reeling, Congress approved a controversial major farm bill. The 2002 law shored up nutrition, conservation and commodity support programs, and brought benefits to rural and urban areas alike.

Now that legislation has expired. Because of gridlock in Washington, Congress has had difficulty approving a new farm bill. We need to get to work this month and get legislation to the President. Delays are already affecting planning decisions in South Texas and will soon be felt statewide.

The bill under consideration is similar to the 2002 version that has helped boost our national agricultural exports to record levels, nearly \$80 billion this year. This economic stimulus is vital to our national economy at a time when the U.S. has a trade balance deficit that has helped weaken the U.S. dollar.

The proposed bill would continue substantial federal crop subsidies at a time when farm income is high. That concerns many legislators. But a safe, dependable domestic food supply is now linked with our national security, and the expanding world population depends on U.S. supply and technological advances.

There is now a national consensus on the necessity of maintaining a steady and predictable food supply, using a federal agricultural safety net. We can do it without encroaching on the traditional independence of our farmers and ranchers.

At the same time, two-thirds of the five-year, \$288 billion price tag goes to nutrition programs for lower income Americans, including food stamps and subsidized school meals. In this year's bill, there's also a \$5 billion annual disaster fund. That will replace annual emergency appropriations that are often loaded up with earmarks and Congressional pork.

The stakes in this bill are high for Texas. Nearly one in seven Texans still make their living in agriculture-related jobs. Texas leads the nation in the number of farms and ranches, the amount of land in production, and the number of cattle, horses, sheep and goats. We're among national leaders in a score of crops, and number one in cotton, wool, mohair and hay.

Over the last century, Texas agriculture has become vastly more efficient. Our pioneer settlers were largely self-sufficient. But the typical rancher or farmer now produces food or fiber for 129 people, here and abroad.

That efficiency means more land can now be devoted to protecting farmland for future generations. The 2007 bill increases funding for grasslands and wetlands reserve efforts that support a variety of natural habitats. That should please environmentalists and hunters alike.

Unfortunately, the bill was stalled last month in large part because the majority party refused to guarantee a full opportunity for consideration of amendments by individual Senators. Some of these amendments bear directly on agriculture policy, and deserve an up-or-down vote.

I have an important amendment, for example, that would make combating childhood obesity a priority in the largest Agriculture Department expenditure—the food stamp program. When we are spending \$190 billion on nutrition, we have an obligation to ensure we are not pushing unhealthy diets on young people and increasing obesity-related health risks.

There are other problems with the bill that affect Texas. One provision would dramatically increase federal regulation of the livestock industry by prohibiting meat processors from owning or controlling stock until only a few days before slaughter.

Texas ranchers have worked hard to create some of the best stock our country has to offer, including the highly sought-after Santa Gertrudis breed. As a result, they often enter into contracts with feeders and processors earning higher prices. I do not believe the federal government should dictate how our ranchers can sell their products.

Even so, this farm bill promises continuity in a vital segment of our economy. Our recent farm policies have brought stability to Texas agriculture, lower prices to consumers, nutritional assistance to many, and vastly increased exports. We should continue that winning formula.

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Cotton **News**

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

Wildfire Potential High; Growers/Landowners Advised To Take Appropriate Precautions

Texas Cooperative Extension and the Texas Forest Service are advising farmers and ranchers across Texas to be especially vigilant as dry conditions that settled into the State earlier this year continue to pose a significant wildfire risk in the coming months.

Healthy stands of grass and other groundcover that resulted from plentiful spring rains have now dried down across the State and significantly increased the potential for wildfires to occur. The dry conditions have already caused many Texas counties to take a proactive stance and establish burning bans that restrict outdoor burning activities.

A map showing Texas counties with burning bans as of November 30, 2007 has been developed by the Texas Forest Service and is available on the internet. To view the map, go to: <http://tfsfrp.tamu.edu/wildfires/decban.png>

Pasture and range land, along with Conservation Reserve Program land, are notable at-risk areas under the current conditions. Landowners and farmers who have experienced wildfires in the past are well aware of the risk to livestock, equipment, property and crops.

With a large portion of what should be the second best cotton crop ever produced in Texas likely to sit on turn-rows and along field margins for an extended period of time over the next few months, cotton producers are advised to pay particular attention to the procedures they use when building and locating cotton modules during harvest.

PROPER MODULE SPACING IS KEY TO LIMITING RISK

One of the most devastating losses a grower can experience during the harvest season is the loss of a portion of their cotton to fire after it is stored in the module.

Module fires, while not an uncommon occurrence, are usually an isolated problem in most years. Dry conditions like the State is currently experiencing, coupled with a higher than normal concentration of cotton modules resulting from an exceptional production year, increases the risk a grower faces.

On the High Plains of Texas hundreds of thousands of acres of cotton lie adjacent to CRP land, pastures and other at-risk areas. With more than 5.25 million bales of cotton to be produced, the 2007 cotton ginning season is not expected to be finished until late-February or early-march in many areas.

That means quite a bit of cotton could be stored in modules for 2-3 months, or longer, before it is ginned. Once turned into the gin, cotton modules are typically covered under the gin's liability policy against loss from fire or other causes so long as they are grouped and spaced according to the provisions of the gin insurance policy.

Growers are advised take the time to gain a satisfactory understanding of the protection afforded to them via the gin policy's coverage limits or deductibles. It is important to remember that gin insurance policies often differ in their requirements and growers need to make sure they contact their gin to learn the specifics of those requirements.

Taking the time to space and group modules properly is the best defense a grower has against the financial consequences of a module fire. Simply put, proper module spacing minimizes the chance that what would otherwise be an isolated loss could turn into something bigger and significantly more damaging.

Disaster Payments Remain On Hold Pending Publication of Final Program Regulations

Despite opening the sign-up process on October 15, the USDA Farm Service Agency has not released any payments to growers that have gone through the process and qualified for benefits under the 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP). The CDP was authorized earlier this year as part of the Agricultural Assistance Act of 2007.

According to the Farm Service Agency, payments under the CDP will be released as soon as the final regulations governing the program are published in the Federal Register. FSA officials say they are now in the final stages of the USDA clearance process for the regulations and hope to have the final rule published in the Federal Register by mid-December.

Since there is always the possibility that a last-second glitch could delay publication of the final rule, FSA officials note that they cannot absolutely guarantee that CDP payments will be issued before the end of the year. In fact, the most that they can say in this regard is that CDP payments for applications on file when the rule is published should be released soon thereafter.

Since many growers signed up for the CDP early anticipating the payments would come before the end of the year, the current delay may have inadvertently created some potential tax issues for growers that find they need to balance income between the 2007 and 2008 tax years.

While it is likely that CDP payments will get issued before the end of the year, growers that would prefer to not take a chance on additional delays pushing the payments into the 2008 tax year may prefer to make other plans.

FSA officials note that the only way to absolutely guarantee that a CDP payment will not be issued before the end of the year is to withdraw an already completed CDP application and make arrangements to reapply after January 1, 2008. FSA has not set an end date for the 2005-2007 CDP sign-up period at this time.

One possibility for cotton growers to consider for bringing what would otherwise be income generated in 2008 forward to 2007 is applying for a seed cotton loan before the end of the year.

Able to be requested on a module-by-module basis, seed cotton loans are a viable way for growers to shift a pre-determined amount of potential 2008 income into the 2007 tax year. Seed cotton loans could be particularly helpful to growers who know that a significant portion of their 2007 cotton will not be ginned or sold until after January 1.

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~ Vince Lombardi
Self-confidence is the first requisite to great undertakings.
~ Samuel Johnson

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Things That Make You Go Hmmm...

By Laura Taylor
Dear Tide:
I am writing to say what an excellent product you have! I've used it all of my married life, as my Mom always told me it was the best. Now that I am almost forty and with kids, I find it even better!

In fact, about a month ago, I spilled some red wine on my new white blouse. My inconsiderate and uncaring husband started to belittle me about how clumsy I was, and generally started becoming a pain in the neck. One thing led to another and somehow I ended up with his blood on my new white blouse! I grabbed my bottle of Tide with bleach alternative, to my surprise and satisfaction, all of the stains came out!

In fact, the stains came out so well the detectives who came by yesterday told me that the DNA tests on my blouse were negative and then my attorney called and said that I was no longer considered a suspect in the disappearance of my husband.

What a relief! Going through pre-menopause is bad enough without being a murder suspect! I thank you, once again, for having a great product.

Well, gotta go, have to write to the Hefty bag people.
HHMMM.....

Depression in Women

Depression is a common mental illness that affects one in 10 Americans each year. Women are twice as likely to develop depression over the course of their lifetime than men are.

Depression is often misunderstood—its symptoms can be overlooked or attributed to a passing case of "the blues" or another medical problem, such as a thyroid disorder. Nearly two-thirds of sufferers do not get the help they need. But being depressed goes beyond feeling sad for a short time or grieving after a loss.

In some women, depression may be triggered or worsened around the time of certain reproductive events, such as menstruation, pregnancy, loss of a baby, after the birth of a baby, mastectomy, hysterectomy, and menopause. Extreme stress or grief, feeling overwhelmed by responsibility at work and home, having a stressful job, money problems, drug and alcohol use, a history of abuse, divorce, or the death of a partner are also causes.

Women who are depressed usually have several symptoms on a near daily basis, all day, for at least two weeks. Symptoms can include:

- * Lack of interest in things that used to be enjoyable
- * Feeling sad or "down in the dumps"
- * Restlessness, the inability to sit still, or feeling very sluggish
- * Feelings of worthlessness or guilt
- * A change in appetite or weight
- * Thoughts of death or suicide or attempts at suicide
- * Problems concentrating, thinking, remembering, or making decisions
- * Sleeping too much or having problems falling or staying asleep
- * Lack of energy or always feeling tired

If you have at least five of these symptoms (including one of the first two) you may be depressed. Additionally, some women may suffer from headaches or other aches and pains, digestive problems, sexual problems, hopelessness and negative feelings, worry, or fear. Talk to your doctor if you have any of these symptoms.

Depression is a treatable condition that can improve with the proper care. If you are diagnosed with depression, it is important that you work with your doctor to tailor the best treatment plan for you.

Your doctor may prescribe anti-depressants to treat mild to moderate depression. Take antidepressants according to your doctor's instructions, and quickly report any side effects—nausea, dizziness, constipation, skin rashes, weight gain or loss, restlessness, insomnia, or sexual problems. Additionally, your doctor may refer you to a therapist.

Women with long-term depression, those who have symptoms between severe episodes, or those who don't respond to therapy alone, may be prescribed both antidepressants and psychotherapy.

Self-respect will keep a man from being abject when he is in the power of enemies and will enable him to feel that he may be int he right when the world is against him.
~ Bertrand Russell



Only 19 Shopping Days Left Until Christmas



This Week In Texas History!

Dec 9, 1844
Dr. Anson Jones was inaugurated as the last President of the Republic of Texas (1844-46).

Dec 9, 1835
The siege of San Antonio ended. At 6:30 a.m. Mexican Army Gen. Martin Perfecto de Cos sent a white flag from his headquarters in the Alamo and asked for surrender terms. He and his 1200 soldiers then surrendered to the Texans.

Dec 10, 1838
Sam Houston ended his first term as president of the Republic of Texas. Mirabeau B. Lamar became the Republic's third president after David G. Burnet and Sam Houston.

Dec 10, 1836
The Republic of Texas flag was adopted by the Texas Congress. It was called the "David Burnet" flag because he wanted a single star on a blue field. The first star was gold but in 1839, the Texas Congress voted to change it to white and at which time, they also adopted the Great Seal of the Republic.

Dec 11, 1811
Jose Gutierrez met with U.S. Secretary of State James Monroe in Washington, D.C. to discuss plans to liberate Texas from Spain.

Dec 12, 1929
Col. Charles Goodnight, 93, suffered two heart attacks and died while visiting in Arizona.

Dec 12, 1862
The Union Navy shelled a small Confederate fort located on Padre Island.

Dec 12, 1840
Republic Vice President and former interim President David G. Burnet became acting head of state when ill health forced Pres. Mirabeau B. Lamar to take a leave of absence.

Dec 13, 1841
Sam Houston became president of the Republic of Texas for a second time.

Dec 13, 1835
The Mobile Grays arrived in San Antonio. The 30 volunteers were to late to help in the capture of San Antonio. They were organized by James Butler Bonham and Alexander Horton in Mobile Ala., and all were Southerners. On March 27, 1836 most of them died in the Goliad massacre.

Dec 14, 1835
Gen. Edward Burleson reported the capture of San Antonio to Texas leaders. Sentiment for an independent nation in Texas grew because of the victory.

Dec 15, 1978
George Miller, State District Judge of Floydada, ruled that Tell Precinct Five in Childress was wet and alcoholic beverages could be sold.

Dec 15, 1863
The Civil war Legislature defined "sedition" and "disloyalty" and set the punishment for these crimes.

If a man doesn't delight in himself and the force in him and feel that he and it are wonders, how is all life to become important to him?
~ Sherwood Anderson

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DPS Shopping For New Recruits

New Troopers Sought For Border Security Needs

The Department of Public Safety is now accepting applications for anyone interested in becoming a state trooper, but the deadline is approaching fast.

The application deadline for Texas residents is January 4-December 28 for out-of-state applicants. The recruit school will begin March 30, 2008, in Austin.

"We need applicants to help us fill positions created by the Legislature for border security and commercial vehicle enforcement," said DPS Director Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr. "Our intern program allows recruits to earn money right away after they are accepted while they wait for the class to begin-and it helps them get acclimated with different areas of the Department."

Information is available through a toll-free number, 1-866-TXTROOP (898-7667), that rings directly into the recruiting office at DPS Headquarters in Austin. Additional information is accessible on the DPS Web site, www.txdps.state.tx.us <<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us>>, and application packets can be picked up at any DPS office.

"Diversity is important to DPS. We encourage minorities and women to consider a law enforcement career with the Department," said DPS Recruiting Coordinator Lt. Phillip Ayala.

Graduates are initially assigned as uniformed officers in one of several services. After gaining experience, troopers can compete for a variety of assignments in the Texas Highway Patrol, Criminal Law Enforcement, Driver License, Administration and Texas Ranger divisions.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens, at least 20 years of age and have completed approved Associates Degrees or 90 hours of college credit. Law enforcement, jailer or military experience may be used toward fulfilling the college requirement.

Each applicant's background will be carefully scrutinized, including prior criminal history. They will also be required to submit to a polygraph examination, psychological examination and physical readiness test. DPS is an equal opportunity employer.

State Housing Agency Calls On Texans To Check Home Energy Efficiency, Conservation

"Whether or not Texans own or rent their homes, everyone can take energy cost-saving measures to maintain their home's affordability," explained TDHCA Executive Director Michael Gerber.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), people who have weatherized their home have saved an average of as much as \$300 in annual utility costs while adding an estimated \$1,000 to the value of their home. The dollar savings alone can make a big difference for low-income families.

TDHCA encourages low income Texans in need of weatherization assistance to learn about the state's Weatherization Assistance Program, which is administered by TDHCA through funding received from the DOE, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Utility Program funds.

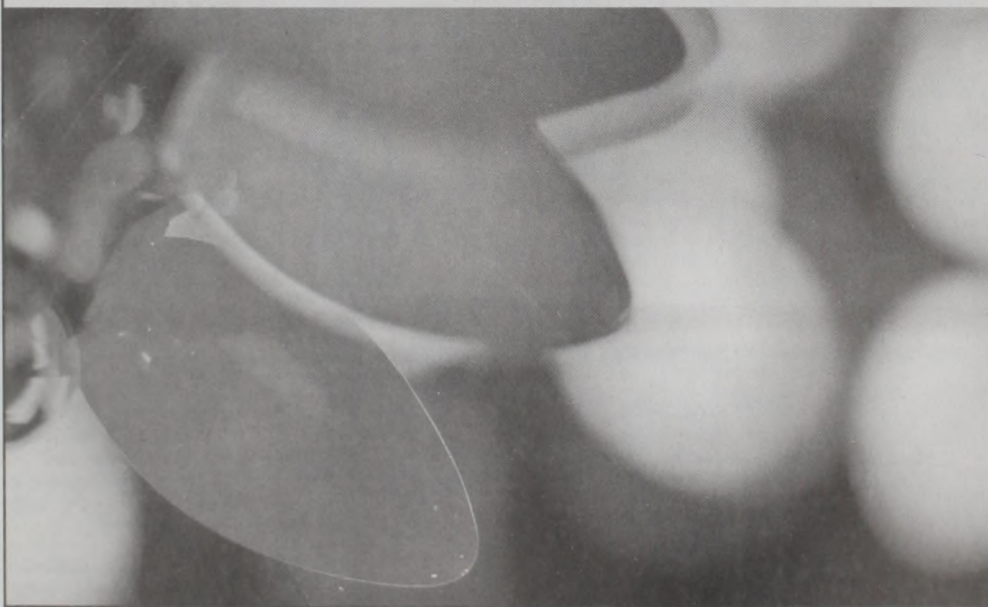
Weatherization activities supported by the program include energy education as well as home energy audits (a review of a home's energy efficiency, which identifies where air leaks may be occurring, inefficient appliances, etc.), and the installation of weatherization measures to increase energy efficiency of a home.

The weatherization work consists of caulking; weather-stripping; adding ceiling, wall, and floor insulation; patching holes in the building envelopes; and tune-up, repair or replacement of energy inefficient heating and cooling systems.

The Department encourages all Texans to apply the following weatherization measures to make their homes as energy efficient and affordable as possible:

- Install storm windows, or add caulking or sealant to existing windows to reduce the infiltration of cold air in the winter and warm air in the summer;
- Close drapes or blinds and lock windows to ensure a tight seal;
- Weatherstrip the perimeter of exterior doors;
- Install insulation in your attic, walls (where accessible), and floors;
- Set water heater to 120 degrees and add an insulation blanket to the unit (check the manufacturer's label for important information);
- Add insulation to water pipes;
- Install low flow shower heads and faucet aerators;
- Use conservation showerheads to eliminate hot water waste;
- Replace filters in heating and cooling systems on a monthly basis;
- Check the direction of ceiling fans: in the winter, set fans to move air downward; (counter-clockwise); in the summer, set fans to move air upward (clockwise);
- Adjust the thermostat to slightly lower temperatures in the winter and slightly higher; temperatures in the summer when your family is sleeping or away from the home;
- Install Compact Florescent Light (CFL) bulbs.

5:35 p.m. Thursday



Lighting up the holidays.

As you begin using decorative lighting in and around your home this holiday season, AEP Texas reminds you to keep safety in mind. Check light strings for frayed cords, and use only UL-approved lights and extension cords. Remember not to overload circuits, and remind children not to touch lights or outlets. And on behalf of all of us here at AEP Texas, please enjoy a safe, bright holiday season with your family and friends. AEP Texas is there, always working for you.



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