

The Hansford County Reporter



Statesman

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2007

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Happy Thanksgiving!

Friendship consists in forgetting what one gives, and remembering what one receives.

-- Alexandre Dumas

HCHD Attends HealthMATCH Conference

Hansford County Hospital District recently attended an annual HealthMATCH conference sponsored by Area Health Education Center (AHEC) of the Plains. The purpose of HealthMATCH is to introduce resident physicians and medical students at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) to rural communities throughout the West Texas area.

The event was held at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center campus in Lubbock, TX. Community representatives such as Jerry Jasper, Samantha Wilkerson, and Verna Lee Shirley were there to visit with Texas Tech resident physicians as well as other health professions students.

Pam Danner, director of the West Texas AHEC Program in the TTUHSC F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health, gave a short presentation about the fundamentals of starting a practice, and introduced community attendees. HealthMATCH is an event which allows rural communities in West Texas to collaborate with future healthcare workers to ensure the quality of healthcare available in their community.

AHEC of the Plains, based in Plainview, TX, is an independent 501(c)3 that serves the 24 counties of the South Plains. For more information about AHEC of the Plains and the services that we offer, visit the web-

site at www.ahecplains.org or contact Danielle Askins, center director, at 806.291.0101. There are also AHECs that serve the Panhandle, Abilene, and Permian Basin areas of West Texas.

The mission of the West Texas Area Health Education Center (AHEC) is to address the health care provider shortage and improve health care access in West Texas through education and development of the health care workforce.

To accomplish its mission, the West Texas AHEC focuses on the following strategies:

- Introduce youth, K-12, to health careers
- Support rural clinical training for students who are in the health professions
- Provide practice support to existing health care professionals, and
- Promote healthy living.

The AHEC is a program of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center's F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health. The mission of the West Texas Area Health Education.



Physician residents and medical students fill the hallways at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center during the recent HealthMATCH, sponsored by Area Health Education Center of the Plains.

Gladiola Flower Club Home Tour

COME TO THE GAME

Spearman Lynx/Lynxettes

11/26 9th B (7:30), 7B (5) & 8B (6) vs Fritch; 9th G (7:30), 7G (5) & 8G (6) at Fritch

11/27 VG (6:30), JVG (4), VB (8), JVB (5) at Texhoma, OK

Gruver Greyhounds/Lady Hounds

11/16 JVG (4), JVB (5:15), VG (6:30) & VB (8) vs Vega

11/26 7G (5) & 8B (6:15) vs Sunray; 7B (5) & 8B (6:15) at Sunray

11/27 JVG (4), JVB (5:15), VG (6:30) & VB (8) at West Texas

NOTICE!

We will be closed Wednesday, November 14th until Monday, November 26th.

The deadline for the November 29th issue will be Monday, November 26th at 5 p.m. Items submitted after the deadline will be published at a later date, as time and space permit.

Items may be submitted by phone (806-659-3434), fax (806-398-9080), mail (Reporter-Statesman, 213 Main Street, Spearman TX 79081), or e-mail (reporter@spearmanreporter.com).



NEELY LANDRUM HOME
1017 LINN DRIVE

The Methodist parsonage was built in 1966 by contractor E.J. Callaway. It is now the home of Rev. and Mrs. Neely Landrum. This is a spacious 3-bedroom home.

Neely and Sabrina have personalized their home with Neely's collection of Dallas Cowboy pictures in the hallway, a collection of coffee mugs in the kitchen, and House of Lloyd decorations, crosses and nativity scenes throughout the home.

The Landrums are proud to invite you to their home on Sunday, December 2nd from 2-5 p.m. during the Gladiola Flower Club Home Tour. Tickets are \$5, and may be purchased at the door.

Other homes on the tour include: Mr. & Mrs. Carson Womble, 1106 S. Bernice; Mr. & Mrs. Eric Cudd, Hwy. 15 West, then Hwy. 207 North; and Mr. Frank Dominguez, 601 S. Haney.

CARSON WOMBLE HOME
1106 S. BERNICE ST.

The Womble home was built in the late 1960s. Carson and Shelley purchased it in 2005 from Monty Blackman. They have completely remodeled the home from floors, walls and custom-made kitchen cabinets, entertainment center, dining table and office furniture. The theme throughout the three-bedrooms home is contemporary Western, providing a unique and special home.

Carson and Shelley invite you to their home during the Gladiola Flower Club Home Tour on December 2nd, from 2-5 p.m. Tickets are \$5 each, and may be purchased at the door.

Mr. & Mrs. Eric Cudd, Hwy. 15 West, then Hwy. 207 North; Rev. & Mrs. Neely Landrum, 1017 Linn Dr.; and Mr. Frank Dominguez, 601 S. Haney.





Lullabies, Legends & Lies

by Parson Smith, the Prime Minister of Laughter

Several of our readers asked for more strange signs.

Your wish is my command...

English translation beneath a Chinese sign at a toilet for the disabled in Beijing: Disabled peoply purpose

At a steep flying-fox ride over a dam near the Great Wall of China, outside Beijing: People of horrifying height and liquor heads not permitted

In a tailor's shop in Seville: Order now your summer

suit, because is big rush we will execute customers in strict rotation.

In a hotel in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania: A room with a view of the sea or the backside of the country.

Outside a Hong Kong tailor shop: Ladies may have a fit upstairs.

In a Bangkok dry cleaner's: Drop your trousers here for best results.

In a shop window in Suva, Fiji Islands Ears pierced while you wait

Outside a Paris dress shop: Dresses for street walking.

In a clothing store in Brussels: Come inside and have a fit.

In a Rhodes tailor shop: Order your summers suit. Because is big rush we will execute customers in strict rotation.

Similarly, from the Soviet Weekly: There will be a Moscow Exhibition of Arts by 15,000 Soviet Republic painters and sculptors. These were executed over the past two years.

In a Vienna Hotel: In case of fire do your utmost to alarm the hall porter.

A sign posted in Germany's Black forest: It is strictly forbidden on our black forest camping site that people of different sex, for instance, men and women, live together in one tent unless they are married with each other for that purpose.

In a German (Leipzig) Elevator: Do not enter the lift backwards and only when lit up.

In a Belgrade (Yugoslavia) lift: To move the cabin push button for wishing floor. If the cabin should enter more persons, each one should press number of wishing floor. Driving is then going alphabetically by national order.

In a Rumanian Hotel ele-

vator: The lift is being fixed for the next days. During that time we regret that you will be unbearable.

In a hotel in Madrid: If you wish disinfection enacted in your presence please cry out for the chambermaid.

In a Zurich hotel: Because of the impropriety of entertaining guests of the opposite sex in the bedroom, it is suggested that the lobby be used for this purpose.

In a Sorrento Hotel: Contact the concierge immediately for information please do not wait last minutes when it will be too late to arrange any inconveniences.

In an advertisement by a Hong Kong dentist: Teeth extracted by the latest Methodists.

In a Rome laundry: Ladies, leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having a good time.

In a Swiss mountain inn: Special today -- no ice cream.

In a Swedish furrier: Fur coats made for ladies from their own skin.

In a German Hospital: No children allowed in the maternity wards.

Until the next time,
God bless.

Gladiola Flower Club News

The Gladiola Flower Club met on October 18th at 3 p.m. at the Bunkhouse Restaurant with Norma Jean Mackie serving as hostess.

Chairman Muriel Boyd presided. Roll call was answered with "my pet peeve."

Home tour plans were finalized. The tour will be held on December 2nd from 2-5 p.m. Homes will be: Mr. & Mrs. Carson Womble, 1106 S. Bernice; Mr. & Mrs. Eric Cudd, Hwy. 15 West, then Hwy. 207 North; Rev. & Mrs. Neely Landrum, 1017 Linn Dr.; and Mr. Frank Dominguez, 601 S. Haney.

Nut sales were collected and will be ordered.

The program was presented by Dorothy Buzzard, on winterizing your yard.

The next meeting will be the Thanksgiving Social on November 8th at 6 p.m. at the First State Bank hospitality room.

Those present were: Dickie Allen, Muriel Boyd, Dorothy Buzzard, Betty Davis, Margarette Evans, Ann Flowers, Estelle Jackson, June Jackson, Norma Jean Mackie, Pam Schnell, Gwen Smith, Kathleean Sutton, Judy Yarbrough, Ann Allen, Sabrina Landrum and Helen Holt.

Mesothelioma

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

FAMOUS ARTISTS

ACROSS

- Imitator
- Public Enemy's music
- Lacks refinement
- Back of neck
- Golfer's warning
- Phony
- Mary Kate to Ashley
- "___ of March"
- Plaudit and pomp
- Undercover
- Row of vagrants
- Mindless
- Drag behind
- Coil shape
- Russia, France and U.K. alliance in 1907
- Computer character in "2001: A Space Odyssey"
- French painter and developer of pointillism
- "Best ___ plans"
- Best Supporting Oscar nominee in "Sunset Boulevard"
- Formerly the National Cash Register Company
- David's weapon of choice
- And elsewhere
- Slanting characters to the right
- Accompanies wisdom?
- Co-founder of cubism
- From a family of sculptors and inventor of mobile
- Vigor

DOWN

- Not in favor
- Least powerful chess piece
- Homer's "The Odyssey," e.g.
- A leading Impressionist painter
- French sculptor noted for works of human form
- Narrow mountain ridge
- 100 centavos in Mexico
- Famous for illustrations of everyday life in America
- Tangerine plus grapefruit
- Two items of the same kind
- "Is" in Paris
- Conclusion
- Stupefy
- Grind teeth
- Trinitrotoluene
- Found in flocks
- Basic scheme of architectural design

These games are brought to you by the Hansford County Reporter-Statesman

CROSSWORD

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Good Health Naturally

by Darlene Hopkins
I live in Hooker Ok. I am a mother and housewife by profession and a Master Herbalist by choice. I obtained my Herbalist and Master Herbalist Degrees from the School of Natural Healing in Springville Utah. Dr. John Ray Christopher started this school in 1953. I teach classes on Natural Health in Colorado, Kansas, Texas and Oklahoma. If you have a question, you may e-mail me at theherbaldy01@yahoo.com.

So far we've talked about the most important things, Diet, enzymes, exercise, and fresh clean water. All are important for good health.

What are we trying to gain from our Diet??? An AKALINE body! Life Begets Life- If we are eating 6 Vegetables and 2 fruits, we are eating 80 % Alkaline. If we are eating 1 protein and one starch we are eating 20% acid. Did you know that disease can not live in an alkaline system?

We need to not cook our foods at such high temperatures because they loose their enzymes. Exercise is so important it helps our cells to be healthy and strong, so, when we put enzymes, vitamins, and minerals [food] into our bodies, they will accept them and use them to heal and grow.

Next, I will talk about why it is important to cleanse the body. The traditional herbalist view of disease is that it is due to blockage. Dr Christopher said if you are sick you are constipated, if you are sick there is a blockage somewhere. Not necessarily the bowels

If you have Eczema there is a reason why. Your body is not eliminating correctly. You eliminate naturally through the lungs, the pores of the skin, the kidneys and the bowels. The entire purpose of the Cleansing Program is to eliminate mucus from the body, which will make it easier to heal.

Supreme cleanliness is the first step towards a health body; any toxins in us will retard our progress towards recovery.

Cleansing in the natural healing field is also called detoxifying, since we will talk of detoxing, lets first define toxin - something that impedes a normal function of the body; causes stagnation, and congestion.

What keeps toxins from accumulating? The circulatory system, lymph system, lungs, pores of the skin, kidneys, and the bowels and of course the liver. These all discard Toxins. Blockage (constipation) of any of these systems can ultimately result in retention of toxins

We protect our bodies by producing mucus, a slimy material secreted by the mucus membrane. Mucus entraps microorganisms, which in turns helps protect the reproductive, digestive, respiratory, and urinary systems.

Mucus is very important to the body. We need it to exist. There are different types of mucus, some that are healthy and some that are not. As the discarded mucus and food particles pass through the intestines, moisture is removed. As more moisture is removed, the mucus becomes sticky and gluey. In passing, it leaves a coating on the intestinal wall. Layer after layer of gluey feces builds up over the years. (90 % of all disease stems from the bowel.) This coating causes constipation, resulting in a reduction in the absorption of nutrients through the intestinal wall and is a good place for parasites to begin. Mucus is the source of polyps, tumors, cysts etc. It is also the cause of allergies, disease pain and ultimately death. This mucus we need to cleanse periodically.

If we are eating fresh tree ripened fruits and fresh veggies, our bowels will be working properly and we won't have near the mess. Fruits and vegetables that are not ripened properly will cleanse but are acidic to the system. We want more alkaline bodies. The best way to do this is through proper diet, not a pill.

Grapes and apple juice are some of the greatest mucus-cleaners. They help the body, remove mucus and toxins, giving vital nutrients in the proper balance for rejuvenation and healing.

The most powerful method of removing unwanted mucus from (the body), the intestines, the organs, and lymph glands is the combined cleansing effect of non-mucus forming diet and fasting. Juice cleansing is also known as juice fasting, but fasting with only water is very helpful as well.

I would really like to answer questions you have. They can either be addressed in this article or I will just e-mail you back which ever you prefer.

The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman

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Advertising
Open Display rates are \$4.00 per column inch. Classified Ads are \$6 for the first 25 words and 10¢ per word for each additional word. (Additional charge for boxed classifieds.) There is a \$1 charge per week if billed.

Member of
Gruver Chamber of Commerce
Spearman Chamber of Commerce
Texas Press Association and Panhandle Press Association

WYI

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SJHS/SHS Choir Fundraiser

The Spearman Junior High and Spearman High School choirs are taking orders Amish Bakery Treat's varieties of jams, jellies and butters. Available flavors include: strawberry, blackberry, peach, blueberry, cherry, red raspberry, black raspberry, jalapeno, strawberry rhubarb, apricot, apple butter, grape and no-sugar added strawberry. The cost is \$5.00 for a 16-ounce jar. The farm-fresh flavors and aromas of these delightful jams and jellies are charming. Spreading a spoonful on hot toast or waffles for breakfast will brighten your whole day! The deadline for orders is Friday, November 16, 2007. To place an order, or for more information, contact Ken Shore, choir director, at 806-659-2584.

Gladiola Flower Club Home Tour

The Gladiola Flower Club Home Tour will be held on December 2nd from 2-5 p.m. Tickets are \$5 each and may be purchased at any of the featured homes. Homes will include: Mr. & Mrs. Eric Cudd, Hwy. 15 West, then Hwy. 207 North; Rev. & Mrs. Neely Landrum, 1017 Linn Dr.; Mr. & Mrs. Carson Womble, 1106 S. Bernice; and Mr. Frank Dominguez, 601 S. Haney.

Your Car Could Save a Life

Donate your unwanted vehicle to the American Cancer Society
The end of the year is right around the corner. And for many people, part of wrapping up 2007 means looking for last-minute tax deductions. The American Cancer Society would like to remind you of a wonderful opportunity that may not only be of help to you with your 2007 tax deductions, but will also raise critical funds needed to help the American Cancer Society achieve our mission. The American Cancer Society's Vehicle Donation program, a year-round fundraiser for the Society, allows you to donate your used car, truck, van, motorcycle, or recreational vehicle to the American Cancer Society. In turn, the vehicle is auctioned off and the proceeds help fund cancer-fighting programs and lifesaving research. By donating your unwanted vehicle to the American Cancer Society by Dec. 31, 2007, you can take the allowed deduction on this year's taxes. Please consult your tax advisor for details. There is no "catch" to this program. The vehicle does not have to run. The Society only requires that the vehicle have inflated tires and all vital parts in place. To add to the simplicity of the program, the American Cancer Society arranges for the vehicle to be picked up at no charge to you. Call the American Cancer Society at 1-877-999-CARS (2277) and tell them you'd like to donate your vehicle. Or visit cancer.org/donatemycar for more information.

'08 High Plains Irrigation Conference & Trade Show

The 2008 High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show will be held Jan. 16, 2008 in the Amarillo Convention Center. The conference will be presented by Texas Cooperative Extension and the Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association. CEU's will be offered for Pesticide applicators, certified crop consultants, certified irrigation designers.

Gruver Elementary Collecting Register Tapes

Gruver Elementary is again participating in the Lowe's Supermarket Register Tapes for Education program. Please help us earn free educational equipment by collecting register tapes from Lowe's. Only tapes dated September 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008 are eligible. You can deposit your tapes in boxes in the Gruver Elementary Lobby, Gruver Library, Gruver City Hall, Nite & Day Beauty Salon and Hitchin' Nails. Jo Alice Clawson is also collecting tapes at 711 Womble, or they may be mailed to PO Box 488, Gruver. Please call 733-2247 if you have tapes you would like to have picked up, or for more information.

You're Never Alone - Narcotics Anonymous Group

Each year individuals struggling with drug and alcohol addiction make the resolution to quit using drugs. For many of them it is a resolution that they cannot keep. Narcotics Anonymous can help. Open meetings are held on Monday and Thursday nights from 8-9 p.m. at the First Christian Church (29 S. Bernice in Spearman) for the "You're Never Alone" group of Narcotics Anonymous. Anyone interested is invited to attend. Drug addiction can leave you feeling helpless and out of control - we can help.

Spearhead AA Group

The Spearhead AA Group meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Pittman-Shieldknight building. Alcoholics Anonymous* is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other to help solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety. For information, call 662-1111.

Al-Anon

If you are concerned with someone else's drinking or addiction, the Al-Anon program can help you. Each Al-Anon Family Group has but one purpose - to help families and friends of alcoholics and addicts. The Spearhead Al-Anon Group meets every Tuesday night at 8 p.m. in the Pittman-Shieldknight Building, 511 SW 11th Avenue, Spearman. For more information, call 806-330-0349.

Panhandle Crisis Center Outreach Office

Panhandle Crisis Center (PCC) has an Outreach Office and Resale Store at 306 Hancock, in Spearman. In case of emergencies, please continue to call the hotline, 1-800-753-5308. To schedule an appointment with a worker in Hansford County, call 659-3391 to leave a message, or call the hotline number above. Panhandle Crisis Center serves victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Call for more information regarding PCC's services. Hours for the Resale Store in Spearman are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

ON THE AGENDA

- Spearman Fire Department meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Spearman Volunteer Fire Department.
- Gruver Fire Department meets the 1st, 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month.
- American Legion and Auxiliary Post 254 meets the 1st Monday each month at 7 p.m. at the Senior Citizen Center in Perryton.
- Gruver Chamber of Commerce meets the 1st Tuesday each month at 12 noon at the El Vaquero.
- Hansford County Commissioners Court meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 10 a.m. at Hansford County Courthouse.
- Stationmaster's House Museum Board of Directors meets the 2nd Monday each month at 2 p.m. at the Stationmaster's House Museum.
- Spearman ISD Board of Trustees meets the 2nd Monday each month at 7 p.m. in the Spearman High School Library.
- Hansford Hospice meets on the 2nd Monday each month at 7 p.m.
- Palo Duro River Authority meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. at the P.D.R.A. office.
- Genealogy Club meets on the 2nd Tuesday each month at 7 p.m. in the home of Velma Sanders, 1015 Linn Drive, in Spearman.
- Women's Division of the Spearman Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meets the 2nd Wednesday each month at noon.
- Gruver City Commission meets the 2nd Wednesday each month at 5 p.m. in Gruver City Hall.
- Spearman Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meets the 2nd Thursday each month at noon.
- Pringle-Morse CISD Board of Trustees meets the 2nd Thursday each month at 7 p.m.
- Spearman City Council meets the 3rd Tuesday each month at 7 a.m. in the City Hall Chambers at City Hall.
- Women's Division of the Spearman Chamber of Commerce meets the 3rd Wednesday each month at noon.
- Gruver ISD Board of Directors meets the 4th Tuesday each month at 6 p.m. in the Board Room at Gruver High School.
- Hansford County Hospital District Board of Directors meets the 4th Wednesday each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room at Hansford Hospital.
- Hansford County Historical Commission Board of Directors meets the 1st Monday of January, April, July and October at 2 p.m. in the Zulu Museum building.

Panhandle Farm & Ranch Symposium Set Nov. 29th

by Kay Ledbetter

AMARILLO - The 23rd annual Panhandle Farm and Ranch Management Symposium will be Nov. 29 at the Amarillo Civic Center, said a Texas Cooperative Extension agent. The event will be in conjunction with the Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show.

The Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show is scheduled for Nov. 27-29. Exhibits will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Nov. 27-28, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 29. A \$2 admission fee will be charged for the first time this year, with all proceeds going to benefit area FFA organizations.

Registration for the farm management symposium will begin at 8 a.m., said Leon Church, Extension agricultural agent in Potter

County and moderator for the event.

The program will start at 8:30 a.m. with Dr. Brent Bean, Extension agronomist in Amarillo, speaking on weed issues and potential options for no-till or minimum-till wheat and sorghum production.

Other topics will be: -- Chemical modes of action, Jack Lyon, retail account manager for DuPont.

-- Future of the bioenergy industry in the Texas High Plains, Dr. Steve Amosson, Extension agricultural economist, Amarillo.

-- Pesticide laws and regulations, Levon Harmon, Texas Department of Agriculture.

Three pesticide license continuing education credits and three certified crop advi-

sor credits will be offered; one in integrated pest management, one in laws and regulations and one general.

Church said.

For more information, contact Church at 806-373-0713.

You are invited to a Birthday Card Shower honoring Selma Reneau

7401 Seville Dr., Room 106, Amarillo TX 79121
on Saturday, November 24, 2007
from 2:00-4:00 p.m.
in the home of Betsy Ward

13215 Co. Rd. 16, 9 1/2 miles West of Spearman



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Gordon's Bridal Registry

Couples Currently Registered

- Jennifer Lawrence & Aaron Winegarner - 11/17
Misha Davis & Duane Dorsey
Camille Smith & Scott Prewett
Tarren Forbes & Ty West
Vanessa Biggs & James Watkins

Baby Registry

- Colby & Sandi (Rich) Wheeler - TB&
Nicole Worley & Antar Outley
Amber Com. - 11/17
Justin & Grace (Davis) Calvert
Michael & Jamie McCloy
Crystal Boyd & Jason Gonzales
Jimmy & Misti (Hand) Gayton
Amber Backus & Mark Gonzales

Gordon's 659-2141
314 Main Spearman

Save Precious Time for Family & Friends!

Let the Catholic Women's Guild do your holiday baking!

Women's Guild Bake Sale

Wed., Nov. 21st • Lowe's Marketplace
9 a.m. until sold out

Pies Cakes Breads
Lots of Goodies Cookies
Shop Early for Best Selections!

Tong's Chinese Restaurant

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All-You-Can-Eat Buffet Specials

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|---------------------|--------|
| Tuesday - Steak | \$7.99 |
| Thursday - BBQ Ribs | \$6.50 |
| Friday - Shrimp | \$6.50 |
| Saturday - Catfish | \$6.50 |
| Mon., Wed. & Sat. | \$5.50 |

Buffet Hours: 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. & 5:30-Close

Celebrate

Gifts for all your celebrations!

Bridal Registry

Shower Dates

- Jennifer Lawrence & Aaron Winegarner - 11/17
Bethany Harris & Nicholas Peterson - 1/5
Vanessa Biggs & James Watkins

Baby Registry

- Sandi (Rich) & Colby Wheeler - TB&
Nicole Worley & Antar Outley
Amber Comp - 11/17
Jennifer (Gwin) & Seth Brady
Amber Backus & March Gonzales

Celebrate

203 Main St. Spearman, TX
(806) 659-3350 1-800-663-8026

Pesticide Applicator Training Programs Set Nov. 29 and Dec. 4

by Robert Burns

OVERTON - Private pesticide applicators will have the opportunity to earn five continuing education units at upcoming training sessions on either Nov. 29 or Dec. 4. Both training days will be conducted at the Texas A&M University System Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Overton.

Two of the continuing education units will be integrated pest management; 1 1/2 in laws and regulations, and 1 1/2 in general.

Though pesticide applicator program at the Overton Center is usually "standard fare" every year, new topics have been selected to meet the changing needs of agri-

Billy Higginbotham, Texas Cooperative Extension fisheries and wildlife specialist.

New topics this year will include information on carbon credits and forest management, weed and brush control in pastures, and what's legal and what's not in feral-hog control.

Higginbotham said some "tried-and-true" topics will also be on the program, including research updates on pasture and livestock management, and a review of laws and regulation relating to pesticide use.

Carbon credits may be the newest topic on the program, Higginbotham said. East Texas landowners are currently being contacted by brokers offering to pay them for signing a contract not to harvest their timber until 2011. It's a legitimate business contract, said Dr. Eric Taylor, Extension forestry expert, but there are both pros and cons about entering a carbon credit contract which landowners need to be aware.

As the feral hog population grows in Texas - and concomitantly the damage they do to crops, pastures and home lawns - the more critical control of the animal is becoming, Higginbotham said.

Texas has an estimated 2 to 3 million feral hogs. "That's a conservative estimate," Higginbotham said. "Some believe this estimate may be shy of the real number, but we have no means at this time to determine the statewide population."

Higginbotham noted that considering all the damage feral hogs do, however many there are in Texas, it's too many.

Although it's legal to hunt feral hogs year around, there are some things that are illegal, such as using a feral hog intoxicant, he said.

Dr. Gerald Evers, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station forage management specialist, will discuss alternatives to commercial nitrogen fertilizer for pastures. With the price of commercial nitrogen fertilizer at an all-time high, Evers will discuss poultry litter, nitrogen-fixing crops such as legumes, and other alternatives to commercial nitrogen fertilizers.

Both training sessions will begin with registration at 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at the Overton center's classroom.

The presentations will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at about 2:15 p.m., with an hour break for lunch at noon.

Participants may attend both the Nov. 29 and Dec. 4 sessions and earn ten continuing education credits, Higginbotham said.

Registration for either training will be \$25 per person and includes lunch and refreshments. Registration will be at the door only. To reduce costs to participants, no credit cards payment or telephone registrations will be taken this year, Higginbotham said. Payment may be made either by check, money order or cash.

License holders must either present a valid pesticide applicator's license or their Social Security number to receive credit for the training, Higginbotham noted.

The Overton center is located 1 mile from downtown Overton on State Highway 3053.

Coming from south of Overton, take State Highway 135 into town. At Overton's single red stoplight, take a left, go across the railroad tracks and turn right immediately after the Brookshire's grocery market. Look for the large white sign on the right side of the road identifying the Overton Center.

Coming from the north, take State Highway 3053 exit from U.S. Interstate 20. Look for signs and a row of glass-pane greenhouses approximately 8 miles south. Maps and more detailed driving instructions can be found on the Internet at <http://overton.tamu.edu/maps.htm>.

For more information contact Higginbotham at 903-834-6191 or by e-mail: bhigginbotham@tamu.edu.

Amarillo Dairy Forum Scheduled During Annual Farm Show

by Kay Ledbetter

AMARILLO - The dairy industry in the High Plains has had a sevenfold increase in the past six years, so making it a part of the annual Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show is a natural, Texas Cooperative Extension and farm show officials said.

The industry has grown from about 20,000 dairy cows to more than 140,000 dairy cows in the Panhandle since 2001, said Dr. Ellen Jordan, Extension dairy specialist. Working on these dairies are approximately 1,400 owners, managers and employees.

To meet the growing demand for information, the Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show hosted the High Plains Growth Forum last year and has changed the event name to the Amarillo Dairy Forum this year, said Deni Billmyer, farm show marketing manager.

The Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show, which runs Nov. 27-29, includes a Dairy Pavilion with 30 to 40 exhibitors from around the U.S., he said. Admission to the show, including the meetings, is \$2 per person.

"The area around Amarillo

and Clovis, N.M. is becoming one of the largest dairy developing areas in the United States," Billmyer said. "Dairy is farm-and-ranch related, and to combine it with the crop-and-beef show was appropriate."

Jordan said High Plains dairy operators are growing more of their own feed, so they need much of the same information other crop producers need, as well as information specifically related to dairy.

Billmyer said the conference is geared toward the owners/operators as well as herdsmen.

The show will be split into three sessions over two days, all being held in the Grand Plaza of the Amarillo Civic Center.

The session "Cultural Issues Concerning Dairy Workers," with Dr. Mireille Chahine, assistant professor and Extension dairy specialist from the University of Idaho, is scheduled for 10 a.m. "Heat Effects on Dairy Calf Growth," with Dr. Glenn Holub, Texas A&M University assistant professor, is set for 2 p.m. Both sessions will be given on Nov. 27.

On Nov. 28, "Integrating Distiller's Grains in Dairy Rations" will be presented by Jordan at 2 p.m. and "Factors Affecting Today's Dairy Market," presented by Dr. David Anderson, associate professor and Extension economist for livestock, will begin at 3 p.m.

"We wanted to find topics that were related and also wanted to include topics that might not have been discussed already in this area," Billmyer said.

He said the dairy forum is an ongoing, developing program, one which farm show officials would like to make much bigger. Officials are considering the possibility of adding two days to the end of the Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show in order to accommodate the extra programming.

"We're also hoping to get people from other parts of the United States in here for the conference and then they can tour the area," Billmyer said. "Perhaps they will be interested in opening an operation or extending their operation with other family members in this area."

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Local Fire Professionals Receive Free TxRRC Safety Training provided by Golden Spread Sales Co.

On Thursday, November 8th, area propane fuel providers will host a propane safety-training course for all area firefighters at the O'Loughlin Community Center at 6 p.m. in Spearman. The Railroad Commission is the state agency in charge of propane safety in Texas. Through its Alternative Fuels Research and Education Division the RRC works closely with propane marketers statewide to develop safety education classes and consumer awareness materials for the

safe use of propane in various applications. Mr. Thomas Petru, the director of propane safety training in Austin will teach the 3-hour class. Propane (LP-Gas) is the world's most widely used alternative fuel. Currently, Texas produces and supplies one-third of the nation's supply.

Mr. Petru teaches these classes for Texas fire departments that are seeing an increase in propane use in their areas. "Many new homes and businesses are being built outside of natural

gas pipeline areas and any that require gas-powered equipment and appliances all can be easily serviced with propane," states Petru. "It is portable and can be used anywhere. It's even used in aerosol cans like shave cream and hair sprays. I don't know of any other fuel that can be used in so many ways. It is an amazing fuel."

"Propane is a safe energy source, but it does have a

different characteristics from other fuels. Our fuel dispensing equipment and delivery vehicles all have various safety devices that are much different from our other liquid fuels," states Kevin Bynum of Golden Spread Sales Co. in Spearman. "I think it's great that Chief John Kunselman here in Spearman and all the other area fire professionals are taking advantage of this excellent training class from

the Railroad Commission. It's top notch!" adds Bynum. "We are proud to help. Our area firefighters all play a vital role in safety for us and we want to help support them with this safety training. This is just another way to say thanks."

Propane safety topics range from home barbecue cylinders to residential tanks and commercial bulk fuel installations. Participating

firefighters receive hands-on experience with propane equipment, local delivery vehicles, plus classroom instruction. Attendees also receive continuing-education credit for taking the class.

For more information about the benefits of using propane call the RRC's toll free number 1-800-64-CLEAR, or visit www.rrc.state.tx.us and click on Propane.

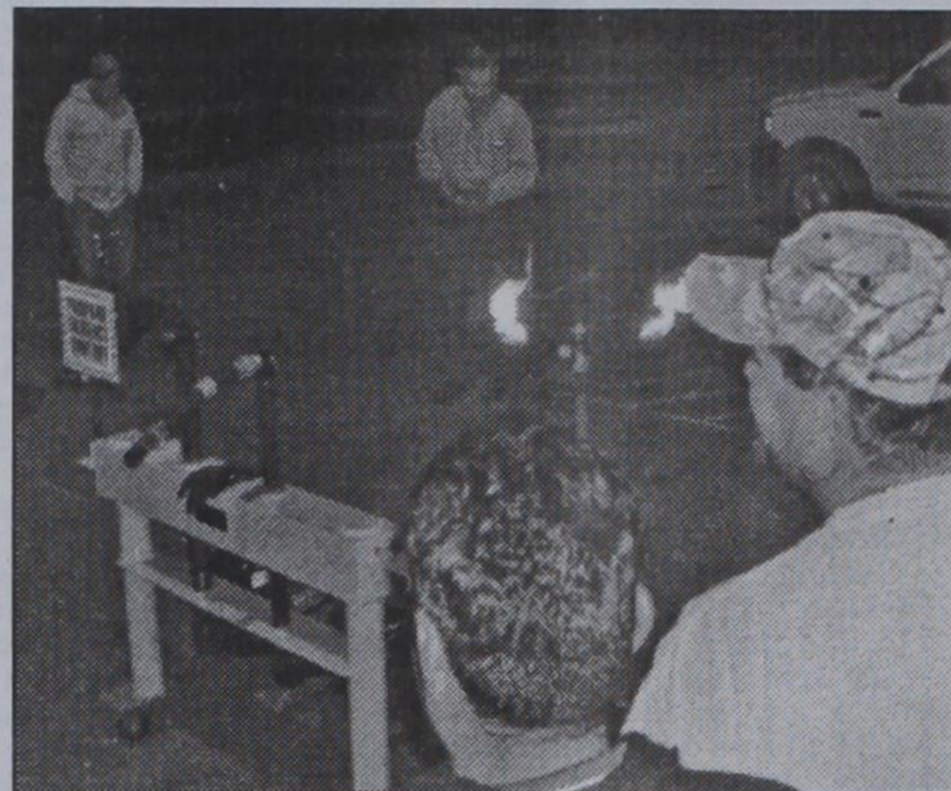
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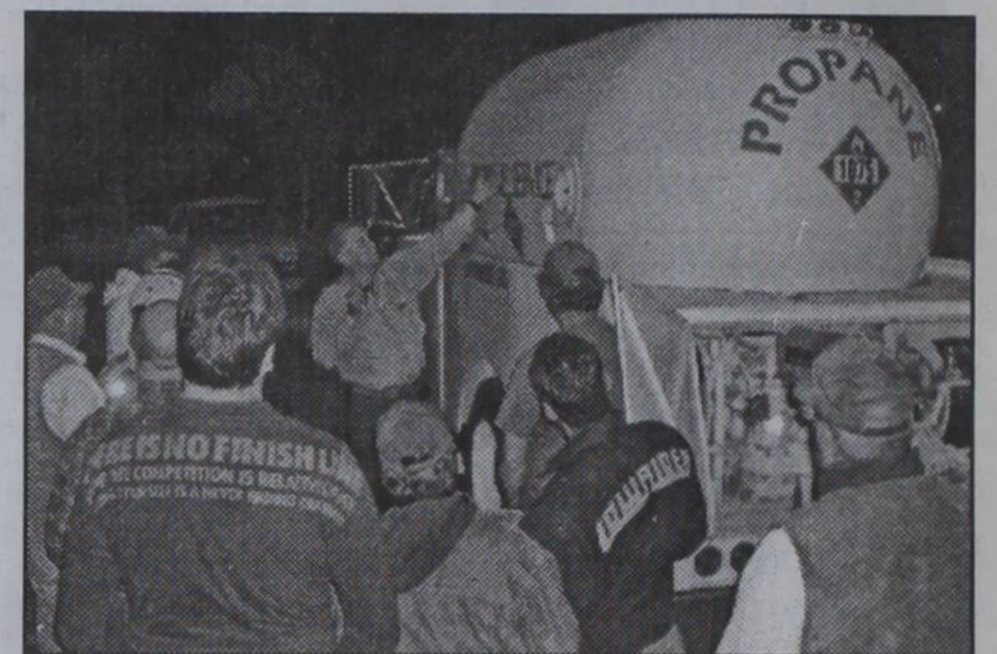
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RRC's Thomas Petru explains the safety features of propane equipment to area fire professionals in Spearman on November 8, 2007.



Kevin Bynum (center) of Golden Spread Sales Co. hosted the RRC Propane Training Class with Thomas Petru, RRC Trainer (lower center), and members of the Spearman Volunteer Fire Department and area fire professionals.



RRC's Thomas Petru explains the safety features on a local propane delivery truck to area fire professionals.

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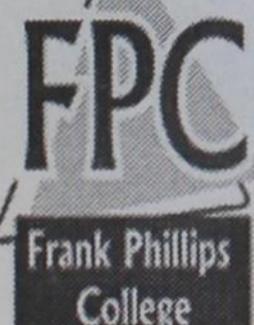
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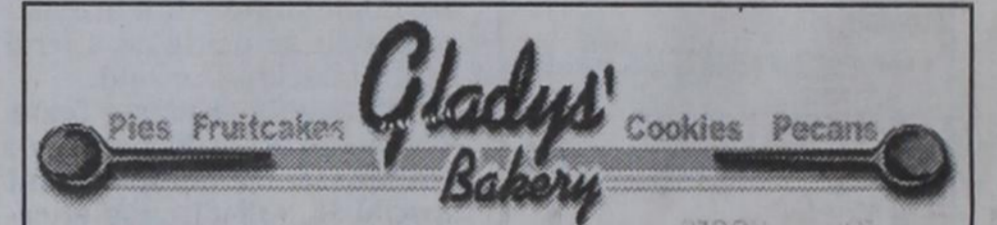
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Economical Management Offers Life to Playas

by Kay Ledbetter

Of the more than 25,000 playa wetlands in the plains, at least 70 percent have been altered from their natural state through plowing or sedimentation, said officials at the Playa Lakes Symposium held in Amarillo on Oct. 23-24.

The overall message of the symposium was this represents a substantial loss of valuable resources to landowners, because if properly managed, a playa lake can enhance property value, as well as benefit wildlife.

Dr. Loren Smith, zoology department head at Oklahoma State University, said a comparison of cropland and rangeland playas will show most cropland playas have lost a majority of their depth due to sedimentation, where grassland playas have minimal sediment fill.

Sediment deposition is caused by water erosion, not wind, Smith said. Restoration will require focusing on the watershed and keeping topsoil in place. The first step should be to establish a buffer strip around the playa.

"If we don't do anything in the next 20 years, most playas will cease to be productive," Smith said.

Gene Miller, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist from Canyon, agreed, saying the greatest benefits for native wildlife, wetland health and water conservation can be achieved by the establishment of large native prairie buffers.

To encourage this watershed management, he said it will take programs that are attractive to landowners and allow voluntary participation.

Each landowner has to

find a place somewhere on the line between managing only for wildlife and only for farming and ranching that works for them, said Ken Cearley, Extension wildlife specialist in Canyon.

"We're constantly faced with making a living off that land, and most of the time playas are just in the background," Cearley said. "It's our choice to give a playa a priority or not. Farming and ranching are both first in mind when we talk about agriculture, but wildlife are also a part of the mix and should be an integral part of production on the land."

Sound stewardship of the land is the bottom line, as well as what is economically feasible, he said.

Landowners should consider how much value a well-maintained playa might add to their land because of the wildlife it attracts for food and cover, Cearley said. Most advertisements for land in newspapers now mention deer, turkey and quail for hunting or observation purposes.

Some playas are prettier than others, and may offer more return, he said, suggesting landowners start by taking inventory of the land, pinpointing the positive aspects.

Getting an aerial photograph of the location through Texas Natural Resource Information Service, GoogleEarth.com or other locations with user-friendly global positioning satellite technology can help, Cearley said.

Know how much personal involvement it will take, especially when getting into hunting and other recreational type uses that may require leases and visitors to the area, he advised.

"Set your goals and priori-

ties," Cearley said. "Then figure out a way for the land to reach its full potential."

To reach maximum potential, a buffer of native grasses at least two to three times the area of the playa basin needs to be established, he said. Fencing may be necessary to control grazing.

Different grazing pressures result in different wildlife utilizing the plant life for food and cover, he said. Light grazing favors pheasants, while intense grazing would attract animals looking for short-grass cover, such as prairie dogs, burrowing owls and shorebirds.

Some playas must continue to be used for livestock water, Cearley said. In those cases, it might be necessary to fence portions of the playa and understand the grazing portion will be under more pressure.

Fencing may not be needed when the playa is among row crops, he said. But management is still an issue, including leaving stubble in place as long as possible, allowing the waste grain to be used as feed for pheasants and other birds.

Several government programs are available to assist landowners with playa preservation, including CP23A, the Wetlands Reserve Program and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, said DeDe Jones, Texas Agricultural Extension risk management specialist.

Jones provided an outline of the three programs:

- CP23A is a special incentive Conservation Reserve Program for restoring playas on land with a dryland cropping history of at least four years. The money must be used to establish a buffer that is at least 50-feet wide and up to four times the wetlands' acreage. Cost-sharing of up to 90 percent is available, but none for fencing.

Contracts are for 10-15 years and there is a one-time sign-up bonus of \$10 per acre and an annual long-term maintenance payment of \$4 per acre.

- Wetlands Reserve Program has three options, but basically provides incentives to stop cultivation of areas that once were playas. Cropping history is not required. It provides a 10-year restoration cost-share agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service paying 75 percent of

eligible expenses, including fencing, earth moving and grass planting.

- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program involves a 50 percent to 75 percent restoration cost-share agreement with the contract running between five to 15 years. Grazing is allowed.

Jones said estimated net income from the CP23A is often more than the returns from dryland wheat and sorghum in the High Plains, so it may appeal to producers in this region.

The attractiveness of the Wetlands Reserve Program depends on the ability to generate enough wildlife revenues to offset restoration costs and crop and pasture income losses, she said.

The Wildlife Habitat program can be more economical at lower restoration cost levels and/or longer contract lengths, Jones said.

"Every playa has to be handled on a case-by-case basis to see which option works best," she said.

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Continuation of November 12 column on snakes.

June 24, 1996

From Ollie Jarvis

"Some years back Billy Jarvis and another man were away from the pickup when they discovered a batch of baby rattlesnakes. They went to the pickup to get a shovel to use to kill the small snakes. As they got back, a female had her mouth open, and the baby snakes were rushing in. She was then able to make it down a nearby hole to safety."

Ollie said both men were excited about what they had seen when they came back to the house. We don't know, however, if the little snakes were subsequently digested or disgorged."

July 1, 1996 From Dwayne TeBeest Dwayne TeBeest called after he read the story from Ollie Jarvis as it made him remember a similar experience.

"He and his brother-in-law, Bob Clawson, now of New York, were horseback when they saw a group of baby rattlesnakes near a

gopher hole. They weren't far from the pickup, so they got a shovel to kill the snakes. As they got back the mother rattlesnake was there, her mouth was open, and the little snakes were racing in. She got in a hole after they were swallowed. Dwayne and Bob dug out the snake, and killed her, and then cut the little snakes out and killed them."

July 15, 1996 From the Gruber Library "Rattlesnakes" by J. Frank Dobie "One of the chapters is entitled Do Rattlesnakes Swallow Their Young?"

He had written in four Texas newspapers on this subject in 1942 and had quoted the same authority that I used, Raymond Ditmar, a world-renowned herpetologist. Several people wrote to tell of their experiences of seeing a rattlesnake swallow its young. The stories were very similar to the TeBeest and Jarvis stories. In any of the stories did anyone see the baby rattlesnakes crawl out when the danger was passed? Most killed the rattlesnake, cut it open and then killed the baby snakes."

To be continued.

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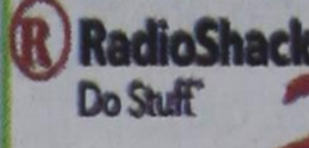

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