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Thursday, May 6, 2004

Baird Student Council "Steps Up To The Plate"

by Walter Williams

The Baird High School Student Council received the Sweepstakes award at the State Convention held at the Arlington Convention Center, April 22-24. This year's theme, introduced by Texas Association of Student Council (TASC) President Amanda McDonald, was, "Step Up To The Plate."

TASC was created in 1937 to promote leadership and responsibility among high

school students. Approximately 4500 students were in attendance at the conference from cities and town all across the state. According to Governor Rick Perry, local councils empower students for success by "preparing them to embrace tomorrow's challenges and opportunities." Similar to the ballplayer who spends numerous hours in preparation before stepping up to the plate, student leaders are trained and prepared to accept responsibility

at school, home, and throughout life.

Conference activities started with the dynamic presentation by internationally acclaimed speaker and basketball trainer, Kevin Singleton. He reminded students that modern culture accepts what is popular as being right. During the life of Christopher Columbus, the world was believed to be flat, but a few brave and daring

Continued inside
Please see Council



Melba Defosses (Right) and Helen Curtis (Left) are shown at Melba's recent retirement celebration held at Baird First Baptist Church.

photo courtesy of Athena Sheffield

Happy Mother's Day Melba Defosses!

by Margaret Hetrick

Each year this paper likes to feature a local mother in our Mother's Day edition.

This is always a very difficult task, as there are so many great mothers in the community.

But what about a mother who not only raised three fine children of her own, but also was like a mother to many other children? Wouldn't that be the perfect feature mother?

When I learned of Melba Defosses' plans to retirement from childcare, I knew she would be the right person.

Melba met me at her door with one of her last "children" in tow, a cute and bright little boy named Rowdy.

Rowdy snuggled into a comfortable chair with Melba as she showed me two lovely albums presented to her at her retirement reception, held on Friday, April 30.

The reception at the Baird First Baptist Church, was given to her by parents of the many children who had spent happy hours in her childcare center.

Letters and notes of appreciation and many photos grace the album's pages, which mirror 35 years of her childcare service.

A neighbor wrote of watching the children come and go over the years, and even recalled when a tor-

nadic cloud brought Melba and her children in care to seek refuge in her storm shelter. She recounted when Melba knocked at her door with two loaves of freshly baked bread after the loss of a family member.

Yes, many memories have found their place in the albums.

One young man even thanked Melba for not washing his mouth out with soap -- maybe in retrospect, he thought it-might have been called for now and then!

A true citizen of Callahan County, Melba grew up in the Oplin community, before moving to Baird at age 11.

She graduated from Baird High, as did her own three children, Steve, Donna and Rick.

Her children went on to receive higher educations and now live in Colorado, Abilene, and Austin.

They are part of the reason for Melba's decision to give up her childcare center.

"I want to spend more time with my family," she said.

Melba has touched the lives of so many people in and around Baird through her childcare center.

But why should I say more when the words of one of her "children", Amber Clark, age 12, can say it bet-

ter?
"Melba, all those years we spent together,

Everyday at your house no matter what the weather, Loving me dearly and teaching me manner,

Being a friend by giving us kids "nanners",

Always willing to take someone new.

Doing all the things for us you could ever do,

Everything you did for us kids you kept,

Forget, no, us kids will never forget.

Oh Melba we appreciate you so,

So much do we love you, you'll never know,

So much like an extra mother to me,

Extraordinary in everything,

See ya Melba, I love you."

By your biggest fan and other daughter, Amber Clark

Happy Mother's Day

Melba Defosses!

National Day Of Prayer Is May 6. Local churches ask that we all pray for our Nation and Our Community. A group will meet at noon on the Courthouse lawn.

Notice

Persons wishing to comment to a live person on changes to the State Help Programs which would reduce the number of State Local Help offices from 381 to 162 are invited to express their views on this Hotline: 1-800-252-9600.

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Pictured Left to Right: Lesley Tumbush, Misty McDowell, Blake Manning, Kevin Singleton, Jay Calvo, Lance Fiedler at the convention center.

A Mother's Day Wish

by Texas First Lady Anita Perry

I hope every day, but especially this Mother's Day Weekend, Texans take a moment to thank the women who shaped their lives, whether they are mothers, grandmothers, aunts or friends that helped to guide them as they grew.

This weekend flowers, greeting cards and brunches will be given in special recognition of moms. As we take part in this tradition, I'd like to ask Texans to take a moment and also remember the moms for who this day might not be quite as special.

For many mothers in our state, the celebration of this day can be a painful reminder that their lives and possibly the lives of their children are clouded by domestic violence. Sadly, statewide research show that 74 percent of Texans have been abused, or know of someone who has suffered abuse. More chilling is the fact that two Texas women every week are killed through acts of domestic violence. Many more are physically or emotionally abused.

Focus group after focus group shows that the first person survivors talk to about an abusive relationship is a family member or friend.

However, many Texans, about 35 percent, who learn of a friend of family member's violent circumstances, do nothing, as they don't realize who they can help or don't want to get involved. I have spoken to many sisters, mothers and daughters who said they just didn't recognize the signs of a loved one's abuse or paid too little attention until it was too late.

When a friend, family member or a co-worker we know needs outpatient surgery, we offer to drive them home from the hospital. When a family suffers a loss or illness, we bring food to their home. But all too often, when a friend or co-worker shows up with a bruise or acts unexplainably withdrawn, we don't want to interfere. Domestic violence is not just a private family matter. It is a crime with serious, dangerous repercussions for men, women, children and the entire community.

That's why our state will soon launch a second phase of an awareness campaign to change the situation - this time focusing on friends,

Continued Inside
Please see Wish

Applications Due Soon For Booth Space At Antiques Market/Trade Days Tea Time Appraisal Fair Scheduled June 12

The Antiques Market/Trade Days committee of the Baird Chamber of Commerce is reminding everyone of the deadline for participation in the community's biggest annual event.

Applications for booth space for the June 11-13 event should be turned in within the next two weeks for the best selection of booth locations, and Appraisal Fair tickets should also be purchased as soon as possible. Booths will be located outdoors on both sides of Market Street, in the Arches and the Boydston building. The deadline for booth reservations is May 31.

The Tea Time Appraisal Fair is scheduled again this year. Hosted by professional appraisers Donald King Cowan, ISA, and C. L. "Sam" Webb of Dallas, the Appraisal Fair will get underway at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 12th at the Ac-

Continued Inside
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Cases Investigated

Warnings - 42
Complaints - 44
DWLD - 2
Public Intoxication - 1
Criminally Negligent
Homicide - 1

No Driver License - 1
Possession of Controlled
Substance - 2
Accidents
There was 1 accident
investigated during this
time span.

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County
(Baird) Star
Classifieds**

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B19

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B52

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B19

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B22

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B19

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**Confidential Notice
To Grad Parents**

This is among friend, but sometimes graduating seniors are so busy with the last minute activities that they fail to write and turn in the biographical material we ask for to be included in the annual graduation editions of this newspaper.
Invariably, we are deluged with inquiries from parents after the edition is printed and delivered, asking us "Why wasn't my child's story and picture included?" We always hate to report that no information was turned in from that child.
We prepare simple forms and distribute to the schools for the graduates to complete and turn in with their photographs.
It is a much better record when all are included. Wouldn't it be something if the graduates of 2004 were 100 percent represented?

(As a tiny, commercial side note, parents are also reminded that we offer a "Congratulations" space to be included in the graduation edition to let youngsters know that their parents are proud of them. Those who would like to participate in this program are invited to contact Jo at 254-629-1707.)

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Nimrod Power Outage

To our co-op members: This article refers to the power outage near Nimrod on March 4, 2004.

(Reprinted from Texas Co-op Power, May 2004 edition)

Whoever said there are two sides to every story may have been a little short-sighted. There are hundreds of sides to this story...here's mine.

The day started out a little hectic. I had worked late the night before attending the youth tour contest. Now there were newspaper articles to write, photos to get to the publisher, and parents who needed all the details of the trip to Washington, D.C. I headed to the Comanche office around 10 a.m., unaware a change in the weather was on its way.

Once I arrived, I sensed something was different about the day. Those who have worked storms before knew what was coming. I, being a rookie, hadn't anticipated what was ahead. At noon, Shorty Hatley came in and told everyone that the storm was close by. Within minutes it was black outside and the rain was coming down in sheets. Small hail fell, but it was the least of our worries.

As soon as the worst had passed, every co-op employee dropped what they were doing and began the task of repairs. Everyone in the offices helped man the phones. The backup generator at the Cisco tower had failed. We had lost radio communication with the Eastland office. Shorty and Alan Lesley headed out for the Cisco tower. Word came that the worst hit was in the Nimrod area.

Before I knew it an hour had passed. I needed to get back to my office in Eastland. As I walked towards the warehouse, I saw men in raincoats running to gather extra supplies for their trucks. Diesel engines were rattling all around me. Zack Rice grabbed his hardhat and gear. I could see him making mental notes of what to do next. Mary Johnson rushed past me with an armload of rain gear and extra flashlights. It was only 1:30 p.m., but she's seen what storms can do. The crew-cab pickups began pulling out of the yard with bucket trucks and diggers following close behind. Each man will do all he can to ensure they all go home safe when this is over.

I headed back to Eastland. I made a scheduled stop at the DeLeon High School only to find them in the dark as well. Everyone teased me about working for an electric company and why couldn't I "just fix it." One teacher remarked, "This means my crock-pot isn't working. What am I going to do for supper now?"

I stick my head into the cafeteria where the students have been gathered. No worries there. They seem happy to be out of class. I give them a thumbs-up on my way out. Closer to Gorman, I see power-line poles snapped off at the ground, twisted irrigation equipment and sheets of metal tangled in the barbed wire fences.

Back in Comanche, reality sets in. Fifteen Brazos EC

transmission structures have been damaged or destroyed. Ronnie Robinson is monitoring the situation closely. He makes the decision to call the 800-plus members who will be affected with the news that it will be at least midnight before the power is restored. It's now 5 p.m. -- it's understood that no one is going home.

So many phone calls. To those who offered to bring food and showed your support, I say thank you. To those who offered a complaint or a word of criticism, again I say thank you. That's what we were there for.

Now it's less than an hour before darkness falls. Linemen are helpless as they wait on word from Brazos. All of them are aware of someone like the widow who lives down the road or the new mother and child who will spend a long night without power. At 9 p.m. supper arrives at the office. Kay Daniel is sent home for the night, knowing a long and hectic day awaits her tomorrow.

Shortly before midnight, the decision is made to send the crews home in shifts. It's been a hurry-up-and-wait situation. Duke Ausburne, a 1st class lineman who has worked all day and half the night, glances back over his shoulder on the way out and says, "Call me at home if you need anything tonight." A kind offer, but one that will go unheeded. It's just Julia Hunter and I now. Julia (who I always refer to as Jewels) works in the metering department and I am in member service. Around 12:30 a.m., Julia's husband, Duane, arrives with dry clothes and a smile of encouragement. He

puts on a pot of coffee and we get ready for a long night.

There's a lull in the phone calls between 2 and 4 a.m. That's when Julia shares where she was when the storm hit. She was working in the southern part of Eastland County. She sought shelter and found a house with an open carport. She pulled in and noticed an elderly man waving at her to come inside. She waited out the storm in the elderly couple's kitchen and monitored the company radio in her pickup. The worst passed and she needed to go. The couple expressed concern about her leaving while it was still raining so hard, but the radio had called for her - she had to go.

She headed towards Nimrod on a farm-to-market road and came upon some twisted metal sheets in the roadway. She looked to her left and saw an old man trying to get his cows back into a pen. She moved the metal out of the road and ran to help the old man. He said the metal had knocked the panels over and he couldn't see well enough to fix it. Julia told the old man to go and get something to tie the panels up with and she would get the cows back in. There was a loud crash as debris broke a living-room window of the house. The man returned with a bundle of twine off of a round bale.

Together, they pulled the panels up to a pole and he wrapped the twine around and around. The old man held out the two ends and said, "I can't see good



enough to tie it." Julia took the two ends and tied it secure enough to hold through the night. She helped the old man to the porch and heard him say as she was leaving: "Thank you, little lady." I'm sorry you had to get all wet." Julia, you are a jewel.

It's 4 a.m. and word comes from Brazos that a second dozer has arrived to help drag the trucks and equipment into the muddy locations. Labin Scott, who has been at his desk since noon the day before, has been in touch with them all night. At 5:30 a.m. Jim Golden calls in. He's leaving DeLeon, headed for the site to assess the progress. Headlights start turning into

the yard -- the crews are already coming back. At 7:30 a.m., Kay (Smith) Daniel is back with donuts and birthday cookies for Bobby Reed. Happy birthday, Bobby! at 8 a.m. I've been here 24 hours and am feeling fatigued. A friend from a co-op to the east checks in to share damage reports. They had heard we were hit hard. At 10 a.m. Diana Golden arrives from Comanche to relieve me -- she's a sight for tired eyes. By 11 a.m., I'm home. Food sounds good -- sleep sounds better.

To Jewels: I'll be your sidekick anytime.

To Jim Golden: This was the last big storm before you

retired. So, the next time the wind is howling outside and the lightning flashes all around, just leave those boots by the back door and your cap on the hat-rack. You will almost be able to hear Eddie say, "Let's go, boys."

Thank you to everyone at the co-op who went the extra mile and came home safe. A special thanks to all the members who endured that night with us.

As for me, I've pulled my first all-nighter. I'm one of them now. They say it gets in your blood - they're right.

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Stop Stroke - The Leading Cause Of Long-Term Disability In Texans

Every 45 seconds, someone in the United States suffers a stroke.

Every three minutes, someone dies.

Almost five million Americans today are stroke survivors and as many as 30 percent of survivors are permanently disabled, requiring extensive and costly care. Although stroke is the number three killer of Americans - striking an estimated 700,000 men and women each year and killing 164,000 - most people still fail to recognize stroke as an acute emergency event. Stroke claims the lives of more than 9,800 Texans every year.

A stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is blocked by a clot or bursts. When that happens, part of the brain cannot get the blood and oxygen it needs, leading to disability and even death.

This May, during American Stroke Month, ask yourself - are you at risk for the leading cause of serious, long-term disability? Before you dismiss this risk based on gender, think again. More than 60 percent of stroke deaths each year occur in women. Researchers have found that women have more severe first strokes at an older age than men and remain more disabled. Although most people think that stroke affects only older people, roughly 28 percent of stroke victims are younger than 65 years.

Although recent medical breakthroughs have led to new treatments, such as tPA, or Tissue Plasminogen Activator, most Americans do not recognize stroke as an emergency, and this lack of awareness can lead to brain injury and disability. For example, in order for tPA to work, it must be administered within three hours of a stroke onset. Receiving timely emergency care is critical to both stroke survival and recovery.

Stroke is projected to cost Americans more than \$51 billion annually in direct healthcare costs and lost productivity in the workplace. Stroke can cause devastating damage including paralysis, and can lead to such serious disabilities as aphasia - the inability to use or comprehend words; visual impairments; dysphagia - difficulty chewing or swallowing; and motor and sensory deficits.

Stroke recovery depends

greatly on quick recognition and treatment as well as comprehensive rehabilitation, yet more than half of the men and women who suffer a stroke will die within eight years.

Although strokes are not entirely preventable, there are several controllable risk factors that can greatly reduce the chance of stroke. Controlling high blood pressure, cholesterol levels and diabetes, not smoking, and engaging in regular physical activity can help lower an individual's risk of suffering a stroke.

By providing resources to healthcare professionals to help improve stroke treatment, educating the public on stroke's risk factors and promoting guidelines for proper care of stroke survivors, the American Stroke Association, with your help, is fighting to stop stroke this Stroke Month.

FIVE SIGNS OF STROKE

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body

- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding

- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes

- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination

- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause

Risk factors for stroke you can change

High blood pressure - High blood pressure usually has no specific symptoms and no early warning signs. That's why everybody should have his or her blood pressure checked regularly.

Tobacco use - The nicotine and carbon monoxide in tobacco smoke reduce the amount of oxygen in your blood. They also damage the walls of blood vessels, making clots more likely to form.

High blood cholesterol - A high level of total cholesterol in the blood (240 mg/dL or higher) is a major risk factor for heart disease, which raises your risk of stroke.

Physical inactivity and obesity - Being inactive, obese or both can increase your risk of high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, diabetes, heart disease and stroke.

Excessive alcohol - Drinking an average of more than one alcoholic drink a day for women or more than two drinks a day for men can raise

blood pressure and may increase risk for stroke.

Some illegal drugs - Intravenous drug abuse carries a high risk of stroke. Cocaine use has been linked to strokes and heart attacks. Some have been fatal even in first-time users.

Risk factors for stroke you can't change

Increasing age - People of all ages, including children, have strokes. But the older you are, the greater your risk for stroke.

Gender - Stroke is more common in men than in women. However, women account for more than half of all stroke deaths. Women who are pregnant have a higher stroke risk. So do women taking birth control pills who also smoke or have high blood pressure or other risk factors.

Family history and race - Your stroke risk is greater if a family member has had a stroke. African Americans have a much higher risk of death from a stroke than Caucasians do. This is partly because blacks have higher risks of high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity.

Sheldon Goldberg At Alzheimer Assoc. Seminar, Luncheon May 12

Sheldon Goldberg, President and CEO of the national Alzheimer Association will be in Abilene on Wednesday, May 12, for a special seminar and luncheon to be held at McMurry University.



This special event is open to the public. It is designed to educate the general public as well as caregivers and professionals about the disease of Alzheimer's, research that is underway and current methods for identifying and screening for the disease.

The seminar "Alzheimer's Hope for Today, Research for Tomorrow", is being sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association - North Central Texas Chapter and Sears Methodist Retirement System, Inc. The seminar will be held at the Mabee Center on the McMurry University Campus and will begin at 9 am with presentations by Dr. Sam Brinkman, Abilene, and Dr. James Simpkins, Fort Worth. Sheldon Goldberg will be the keynote speaker at the luncheon. Cost for the seminar and luncheon is \$15 including CEU's available for SW's, LPC's and LMFT's. SW Provider N. CS2963. For reservations, please contact the local

Giant Quilt Featured On Cover Of New Texas Messenger Edition

A fantastically beautiful full color photo by Editor Margaret Hetrick of public school students admiring the giant quilt made by New York students, which has been on display at the courthouse in Eastland graces the cover of the current issue of Texas Messenger.

This edition is full of information about Eastlanders, businesses large and small, and a whole lot more. Copies are available at the Telegram.

Purpose of the Texas Messenger is to distribute far and wide information of the pluses Eastland has to offer. Each issue features specially prepared material and pages are made available to entities which want to tell the public what each offers in way of services to the public. Hundreds of copies are mailed around the state and nation.

Pages have been made available at no cost to the

public schools, Extension Service, Chamber of Commerce, E.E.D.I., the 11th Court of Appeals, the Industrial Foundation, Ministerial Alliance, City Hall, Eastland County Commissioners Court, and others.

Preparations for the next edition are underway with some really remarkable features and photos, so entities who wish to be included are urged to get their

national network of chapters, the association offers a broad range of programs and services for people with the disease, their families and care partners, and represents their interests on Alzheimer-related issues before federal, state and local government and with health and long-term care providers.

Goldberg has a 30-year career in association leadership and post-acute healthcare management. A psychologist by training, Goldberg's expertise includes business, advocacy, fund-raising and management in large, urban, multi-sited settings.

Prior to assuming his position at the Jewish Home in 1998, Goldberg spent 16 years as president and chief executive officer of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA). Under his leadership, AAHSA grew its national membership of 1,200 to 6,000 non-for-profit healthcare and long-term care organizations across the nations.

With half of the nation's continuing care retirement communities in bankruptcy in 1982, Goldberg is credited with rescuing the industry by creating an accreditation program and banking vehicle that helped secure \$10 billion for the development of non-profit senior living facilities from financial service partners on Wall Street.

During his AAHSA tenure, Goldberg also established the International Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, AAHSA Assurance Ltd., a re-insurance facility established to lower property and casualty insurance

material to the Telegram offices as soon as possible to be included.

Publishers indicated that unless more local participation comes forth, the publication may be terminated.

The 1928-29 detailed map of the Square and the County Judge History Chart, both by Wanda Skinner, are worth the price of the magazine. The per-issue cover price will go \$5. if there is another issue.

premiums for non-profit long term care providers, and the Continuum Care Accreditation Commission (CCAC) a national accreditation commission for long-term care and service providers.

For the past four years, Goldberg has been chairman of the board of AARP Services Incorporated, the organization's business venture side. He is a former chairman of the National Assembly of Voluntary Health and Social Welfare Organizations and former member of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO). He held a B.S. in educational psychology from the University of Wisconsin.

About Sears Methodist Retirement System

Sears Methodist Retirement System was the first aging-service system in the nation to be accredited for across-the-board excellence by the prestigious Continuing Care Accreditation Commission (CCAC) in Washington, D.C. Named for two West Texas ranching families, Sears Methodist first opened its doors to 30 residents in 1965 in Abilene, Texas. Today, the nonprofit faith-based organization has grown to serve more than 1,200 residents in West Texas and the Panhandle on nine campuses divided among Abilene, Amarillo, Lubbock, Odessa and Waco. A new full continuum of care community, Wesley Court Methodist Retirement Community in Abilene, is slated to open in fall 2004. The Sears System's continuum of care services include independent-living executive homes, cottages and apartments, assisted living services, traditional nursing care centers, Alzheimer's and related dementia care centers, Medicare skilled nursing care, home health, personal assistance services, physical and occupational therapy, pharmacy services, and a long-term care teaching facility located on the Texas Tech University campus. For more information, visit www.sears-methodist.com.

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11th Court of Appeals

Eastland, Texas
Proceedings (En Banc)
April 29, 2004

Affirmed
Mary Churchwell and David Churchwell v. City of Big Spring, Texas, and Big Spring Animal Control, Howard. (Memorandum Opinion by Justice McCall). (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

David Pedraza Figueroa v. State of Texas, Harris. (Per Curiam Opinion) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

Maretta Lorene Erwin v. State of Texas, Scurry. (Per Curiam Opinion) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

Motions Submitted & Granted; Appeals Dismissed

Juana Rivas v. Urban Land Company et al, Ector. Appellant's motion to dismiss appeal. (Per Curiam Memorandum Opinion) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

Callaway Safety Equipment Co., Inc. v. Mike Hickman, Ector. Appellant's motion to dismiss appeal. (Per Curiam Memorandum Opinion) (Panel consists of:

Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).
Motions Submitted & Granted

Nelson Romero v. State of Texas, Dawson. Appellant's pro se motion for extension of time to file rehearing.

Franklin David Medlin v. State of Texas, Dallas. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file motion for rehearing.

David Pedraza Figueroa v. State of Texas, Harris. Appellant's counsel's motion to withdraw.

Billy Gene Littlepage v. State of Texas, Palo Pinto. Appellant's motion for permission to file late brief.

Maretta Lorene Erwin v. State of Texas, Scurry. Appellant's counsel's motion to withdraw.

Texas Motoplex, Inc. v. John Phelps and Bryce Hawk, Fort Bend. Appellant's agreed motion for extension of time to file reply brief.

Mahmoud Aly Ghanem v. State of Texas, Harris. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Ernest Lee McCarty v. State of Texas, Midland. Appellant's fourth motion for extension of time to file brief.

Daniel Lee Flores v. State of Texas, Gaines. Appellant's

motion for extension of time to file brief.

Timothy Frye Patterson v. State of Texas, Taylor. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Dru Allen Ewing v. State of Texas, Palo Pinto. State's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Daniel Glenn Parker, Jr. v. The State of Texas, Eastland. State's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Raymond L. Williams v. McGuire Industries, Inc., Ector. Appellee's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Fabian Chavera v. State of Texas, Howard. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.

In the Interest of F.A.R., a child, Midland. Appellee's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Jacob Theodore Monroe v. State of Texas, Taylor. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Ernest Ray Applin v. State of Texas, Jones. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Perry Jeffery et al v. Robertson Sales Service,

Inc. et al, Gaines. Appellant's second motion for extension of time to file brief.

Dana Marie Maschino v. State of Texas, Brown. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file notice of appeal.

Motions Submitted & Granted in Part

Kenneth Lee Lincicomé, II v. State of Texas, Dawson. Appellant's pro se motion for extension of time to file brief.

Jeffrey Balawajder v. Richard G. Belanger et al, Walker. Appellant's pro se motion to correct record and abate briefing schedule.

Motions Submitted & Overruled

Ellie Burton Underwood, Jr. v. State of Texas, Taylor. Appellant's motion for rehearing. (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

Jimmie Mark Payne v. State of Texas, Taylor. Appellant's motion for rehearing. (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

Benita Garrison, Lakerrie Owens, and Tracey Stanley v. Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Dallas. Appellants' motion for rehearing. (Panel consists of:

Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

Cases Submitted
Brian Carlson v. State of Texas, Brown.

Promise Operating Company, Inc. v. Wilford C. Senn and Wanda Joan Senn, Scurry.

Cortney Deon Wilson v. State of Texas, Harris.

Larry Smith v. State of Texas, Harris.

Larry Joe Jordan v. State of Texas, Jones.

Travis Jerome Rain v. State of Texas, Harris.

Deborah Ann Ferrell v. State of Texas, Erath.

Danny Allen Haynes v. State of Texas, Taylor.

Cubic Energy, Inc. f/n/a Roseland Oil & Gas, Inc, Palo Pinto v. Regal Petroleum Service, Inc. et al.

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Moran ISD Booster Club To Host Outsider's Volleyball Tournament May 8

Moran ISD Booster Club is hosting an Outsider's Volleyball tournament Saturday, May 8th at the Moran ISD gymnasium beginning at 9 a.m. Entry fee is \$15.00 per team. Games will be played 5 against 5. It is a double elimination tournament with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies being awarded. There will be a concession stand available serving hotdogs, cold drinks, and snacks. For more information please contact Linda Hebel at 325-945-3019 or Holly Martin at 325-945-3101.

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National Federation of Music Clubs Men's Fellowship and Rally May 15th National Music Week May 2-9

The National Federation of Music Clubs was designated May 2-9 as National Music Week. This year's theme is "Music, An Instrument for World Peace". The National Music Week observance gives us an opportunity to focus the attention of all America on music as a dynamic means of communication between people and a channel of personal expression. Music, now more than ever a national need, can serve as a great force for maintaining peace and harmony among people, whether used nationally or internationally.

The Harmony Club of Abilene is affiliated with the National Federation of Music Clubs and the Texas Federation of Music Clubs. While members primarily live in Abilene, there are currently members from Cisco, Eastland and Cross Plains who participate in Club activities.

The Club recently started an instrument fund and is accepting donations of good used band and orchestra instruments that can be repaired (if necessary) at nominal expense and then donated to school music programs. Former Eastland

DeLeon Chamber of Commerce 1st Annual Golf Tournament

De Leon Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture will be holding their 1st annual Golf Tournament June 5th at Par Country Club-Comanche, Texas at 8 a.m.

They are now accepting entries for their tournament at Par Country Club. They will be having Hole-in-One, Longest Drive, and Closest to the Hole contests and a Betting Hole. This is a four person scramble. They would appreciate that your teams be made up of A,B,C, and D players. They will be awarding trophies and door prizes, lunch, drawings, and lots of fun! So come on and let them hear from you soon.

Sponsorship for a hole will be \$100. Sponsorship for a hole and four person team will be \$295. Teams- \$55 per player- 4 players per team. Mulligans- \$5.00 each- maximum of three per 18 holes.

They appreciate you playing in their tournament and helping the Chamber of Commerce with their fund raiser.

Remember to Renew Your Subscription to the Newspaper

Answers to Crossword Puzzle

PART	GRETA	BACH
ALTE	AUXIN	OPTE
STPAUL	MINNESOTA	
TOE	MOBS	EVOKED
	SPRATS	EMERY
DAILIES	TAR	
ASTAR	WON	STOA
CHEYENNE	WYOMING	
EERS	EON	ALMEE
	LEO	SIFTERS
CAIRO	NANCIS	
OWNING	DATS	OPA
LAN	SINGMICHIGAN	
TREE	ATALL	REIN
SERS	TENSE	KENO

resident, Melmadoris Surface, was among the first to donate the Bantau-Surface violin to the Abilene school orchestra program. Also a "Friends of Music" fund has been established to help defray the cost of instrument repairs. Harmony Club also awards scholarships to deserving music students that will enable them to attend camps, workshops or schools to further their music education. If you have an instrument that you would like to donate or if you would like to become a "Friend of Music" by contributing to the repair fund, please contact Nettie Wilson of Eastland or Carol Stuard of Cisco for more information. And please enjoy celebrating National Music Week!

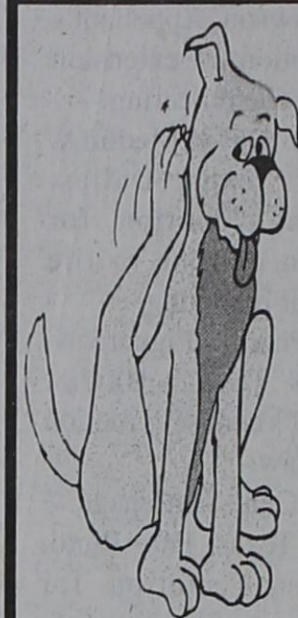
There will be a men's fellowship and rally at Lone Cedar Country Club on Saturday, May 15th. There will be hamburgers and drinks served starting at 6 p.m., following by praise and worship. The featured speaker will be Tommy Maxwell, former All American at Texas A&M and NFL player. Tommy played for the Baltimore Colts (Superbowl winners over Dallas in 1970), the Oakland Raiders and Houston Oilers. Tommy is the founder and president of Coaches Outreach—a ministry to high school coaches that involves weekly bible studies, special seminars for coaches, and other Christ centered activities designed especially for coaches.

There will be no charge for the meal or the evening activities. An offering will be taken in support of this wonderful ministry.

There is also a golf scramble scheduled for 1:00 at Lone Cedar. This will be a fund raise for Coaches Outreach with all proceeds going to fund summer retreats for coaches and their wives. The cost is \$45.00 per man, to include 18 holes and cart. There will be three man teams with prizes for the first three teams. Players will be rated A thru D and an attempt will be made to make the teams as equal as possible. This should be a wonderful day of fun and fellowship. All men and boys are invited to the evening activities. If you wish to participate in the golf, please call Lone Cedar

at (254) 647-3613, Sam Harris at 653-2364/653-2363, or Glen Swift at 629-1537.

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Commissioner
Susan Combs

In an effort to give a healthy edge to Texas kids, we've lightened lunch loads and cut back on the fat in school meals with a new policy released by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

This far-reaching policy helps promote a healthier food environment in our public schools by limiting the number of grams of fat and sugar Texas school-children are served each week. We also restricted portion sizes for chips, cookies, bakery items and frozen desserts, and are phasing out deep-fat frying as a means of on-site food preparation.

This policy also targets French fries, which typically pack a lot of fat. Some kids were having fries and a drink for lunch, rather than a well-rounded meal offered by the school, and this just doesn't cut it for good health. Serving of fries are now limited to three ounces each, and students may only purchase one serving at a time. In elementary schools, French fries can only be served once a week, and in junior high and middle schools, three times a week.

In developing this policy, we consulted parents, teachers, school administrators, healthcare professionals and members of the food industry. We all have a stake in the issue because we all want to ensure that our children lead healthy lives. The new policy encourages schoolchildren to eat a wide variety of foods to help with both their mental and physical development.

The policy becomes effective Aug. 1, 2004, for all schools participating in the federal child nutrition programs, but there are phase-in periods for certain parts of the policy.

Attracting Growth: The Lure of East Texas

It's not just big bass attracting folks to the small town of Jasper deep in the pines of East Texas. It's also the resilience of a community coming together to celebrate its heritage while growing tourism, jobs and new business opportunities.

This rural community of 7,600 is revitalizing downtown as an arts and historic district. The new Jasper Airport Industrial Park is creating jobs at an aircraft manufacturing facility and a helicopter repair center. The Jasper Higher Education and Technology Center is providing job-skill and computer training.

Glorious azaleas bedecking the town's historic homes welcome visitors to Jasper's Annual Azalea Festival in March. A 114,000-acre freshwater reservoir and hiking and birding trails welcome outdoor adventurers. Creative financing packages, infrastructure development assistance and tax abatements welcome businesses bringing new jobs to the community.

In the smallest to the biggest little towns in rural Texas today, you'll find the spirit, grit and imagination on which this great state is built. That's the Texas Yes! story—for all of Texas.

For their persistence and community spirit, we salute the hardworking town of Jasper as a Texas Yes!

Stenholm Continues Fight For Retirement Benefits For Survivors Of Military Retirees

Local Lawmaker
Supports Discharge
Petition Aimed At
Securing Vote In Full
House

Washington, D.C.—U.S. Congressman Charlie Stenholm (TX-17) this week added his name to a discharge petition drive which, if successful, would force the Leadership of the U.S. House of Representatives to schedule a vote on bipartisan legislation to end the Survivor Benefit Penalty and provide benefits to survivors of military retirees. These benefits were earned by military retirees for their family members, but the benefits are not being delivered as originally intended.

The legislation at the heart of the discharge petition is H.R. 548, the Military Survivor Benefits Improvement Act. More than one million military retirees pay premiums for years and anticipate that on their death, their spouse will receive 55 percent of their benefit. But when their spouse reaches 62 and becomes eligible for Social Security, the benefit drops to 35 percent, forcing 225,000 survivors—most of them elderly widows—to lose one-third of their benefits. This was not the original intent of the benefit program designed for survivors.

Stenholm already is a cosponsor of H.R. 548, as are more than 300 of his colleagues in the House of Representatives. But even with more than 130 Republicans supporting the bill, the Republican Leadership has not brought it to the floor for a vote and has blocked Democratic efforts to include it in this year's budget resolution. If just 218 of the cosponsors

take the next step and sign the discharge petition, then they will have the opportunity to vote for the legislation.

"We must provide our military men and women and their families with the compensation and benefits

that are commensurate with the sacrifices we ask them to make in defense of our nation," Stenholm said. "The troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan today are tomorrow's veterans. We must ensure that the honor and respect we give them

now when they are in the news continues long after they have returned home and resumed their normal activities."

"More than one million military retirees and their families will eventually be affected by the Survivor Benefit Penalty," Stenholm said. "This bill deserves a fair and open debate on the House floor."

Carbon City-Wide Garage Sale

will be Saturday, May 15th. Maps will be available at Carbon Trading Center Hwy 6. If you are having a sale and want to be on the map of sales call 639-2002 Carbon City Hall. If you would like to use Sidewalks down town just let us know.

Read The Classifieds

Eastland Chamber of Commerce 1st ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

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(No mulligan may be used to save a stroke on prize holes)

TEAM NAME _____

Players _____

Address _____

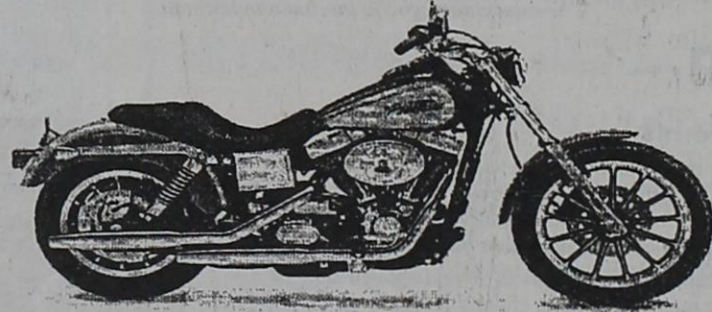
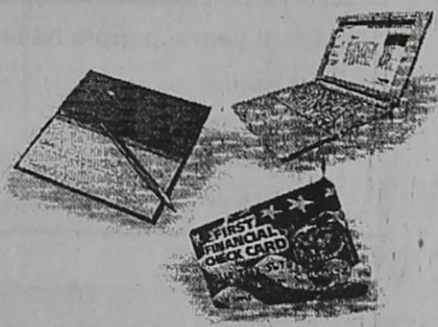
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Thunderstorms affect relatively small areas when compared with hurricanes and winter storms. Despite their small size, ALL thunderstorms are dangerous! The typical thunderstorm is 15 miles in diameter and

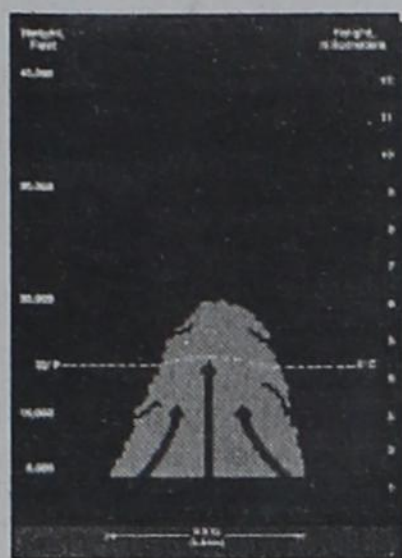
lasts an average of 30 minutes. Of the estimated 100,000 thunderstorms that occur each year in the United States, about 10 percent are classified as severe.

1,800 thunderstorms occur at any moment around the world. That's 16 million a year!

What Are Thunderstorms? What Causes Them?

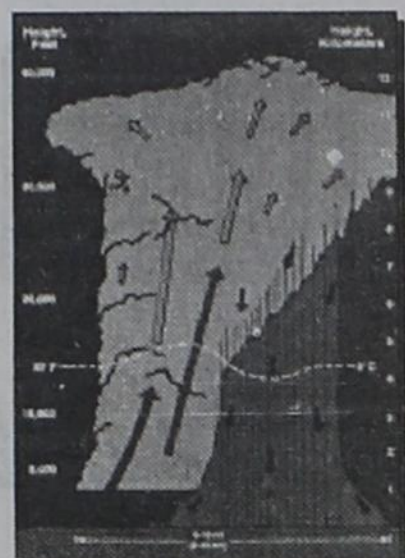
- The National Weather Service considers a thunderstorm severe if it produces hail at least 3/4-inch in diameter, winds of 58 mph or stronger, or a tornado.
- Every Thunderstorm Needs:
 - Moisture – to form clouds and rain.
 - Unstable air – warm air that can rise rapidly.
 - Lift – cold or warm fronts, sea breezes, mountains, or the sun's heat are capable of lifting air to help form thunderstorms.

Life Cycle of a Thunderstorm



Developing Stage

- Towering cumulus cloud indicates rising air.
- Usually little if any rain during this stage.
- Lasts about 10 minutes.
- Occasional lightning.



Mature Stage

- Most likely time for hail, heavy rain, frequent lightning, strong winds, and tornadoes.
- Storm occasionally has a black or dark green appearance.
- Lasts an average of 10 to 20 minutes but may last much longer in some storms.



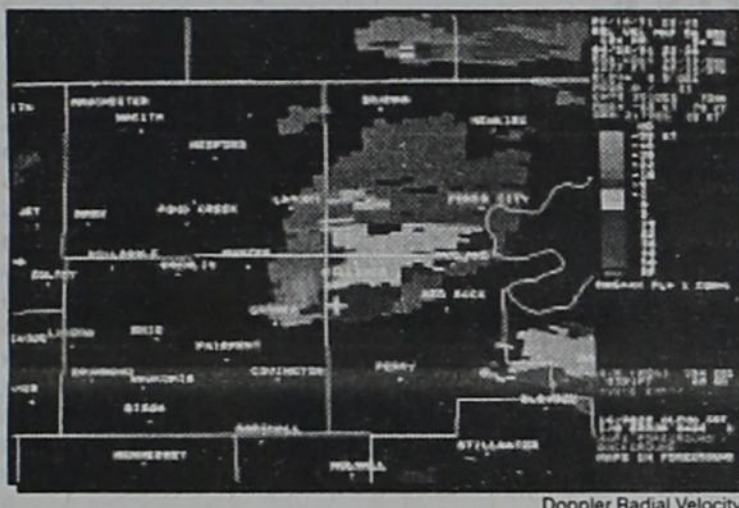
Dissipating Stage

- Rainfall decreases in intensity.
- Can still produce a burst of strong winds.
- Lightning remains a danger.

Weather Radar Watches the Sky

The National Weather Service has strategically located Doppler radars across the country that can detect air movement toward or away from a radar. Early detection of increasing rotation aloft within a thunderstorm can allow life-saving warnings to be issued before the tornado forms. In the figure below left, Weather Service Doppler radar detected strong

rotation within the storm where red colors (winds moving away from the radar) and green (winds blowing toward the radar) are close together. The photograph at below right shows a violent tornado in northern Oklahoma at the same time the radar image was taken.



Doppler Radial Velocity



Jim Ladue

Tornado Myths and Truths

- MYTH:** Areas near lakes, rivers, and mountains are safe from tornadoes.
- TRUTH:** No place is safe from tornadoes. A tornado near Yellowstone National Park left a path of destruction up and down a 10,000 foot mountain.
- MYTH:** The low pressure with a tornado causes buildings to "explode" as the tornado passes overhead.
- TRUTH:** Violent winds and debris slamming into buildings cause most structural damage.
- MYTH:** Windows should be opened before a tornado approaches to equalize pressure and minimize damage.
- TRUTH:** Leave the windows alone. The most important action is to immediately go to a safe shelter.
- MYTH:** If you are driving and a tornado is sighted, you should turn and drive at right angles to the storm.
- TRUTH:** The best thing to do is to seek the best available shelter. Many people are injured or killed when remaining in their vehicles.
- MYTH:** People caught in the open should seek shelter under highway overpasses.
- TRUTH:** Take shelter in a sturdy reinforced building if at all possible. Overpasses, ditches, and culverts may provide limited protection from a tornado, but your risk will be greatly reduced by moving inside a strong building.

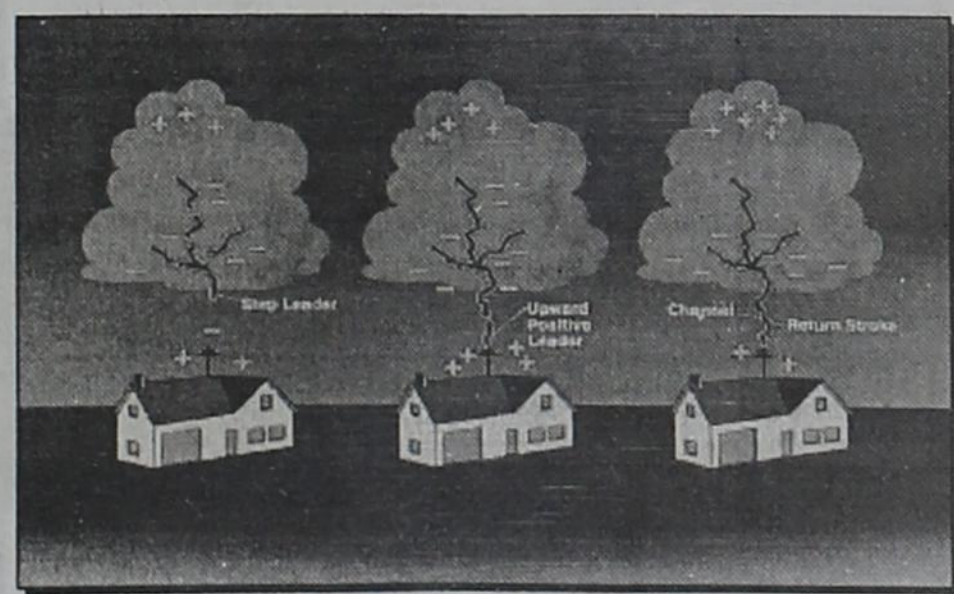
Frequently asked questions about tornadoes can be found on the Internet at www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/index.html.

Lightning...

How Lightning Forms

Lightning results from the buildup and discharge of electrical energy between positively and negatively charged areas. Rising and descending air within a thunderstorm separates these positive and negative charges. Water and ice particles also affect charge distribution.

A cloud-to-ground lightning strike begins as an invisible channel of electrically charged air moving from the cloud toward the ground. When one channel nears an object on the ground, a powerful surge of electricity from the ground moves upward to the clouds and produces the visible lightning strike.



NOAA



Johnny Aulry

Lightning Facts

- Lightning causes an average of 80 fatalities and 300 injuries each year.
- Lightning occurs in all thunderstorms; each year lightning strikes the Earth 20 million times.
- The energy from one lightning flash could light a 100-watt light bulb for more than 3 months.
- Most lightning fatalities and injuries occur when people are caught outdoors in the summer months during the afternoon and evening.
- Lightning can occur from cloud-to-cloud, within a cloud, cloud-to-ground, or cloud-to-air.
- Many fires in the western United States and Alaska are started by lightning.
- The air near a lightning strike is heated to 50,000°F – hotter than the surface of the sun! The rapid heating and cooling of the air near the lightning channel causes a shock wave that results in **thunder**.

How far away is the Thunderstorm?

- Count the number of seconds between a flash of lightning and the next clap of thunder.
- Divide this number by 5 to determine the distance to the lightning in miles.

Tornadoes...

Although tornadoes occur in many parts of the world, they are found most frequently in the United States. In an average year, 1,200 tornadoes cause 70 fatalities and 1,500 injuries nationwide. You can find statistical information on tornadoes at www.spc.noaa.gov.

Tornado Facts

- A tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground.
- Tornadoes may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms within the funnel. The average tornado moves from southwest to northeast, but tornadoes have been known to move in any direction.
- The average forward speed is 30 mph but may vary from nearly stationary to 70 mph.
- The strongest tornadoes have rotating winds of more than 250 mph.
- Tornadoes can accompany tropical storms and hurricanes as they move onto land.
- Waterspouts are tornadoes which form over warm water. They can move onshore and cause damage to coastal areas.

When and Where Tornadoes Occur

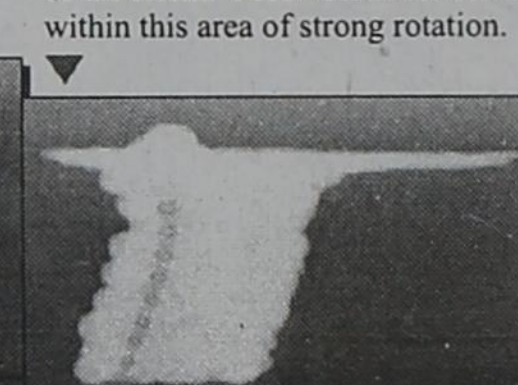
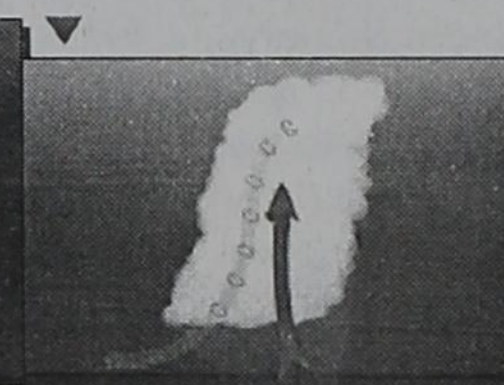
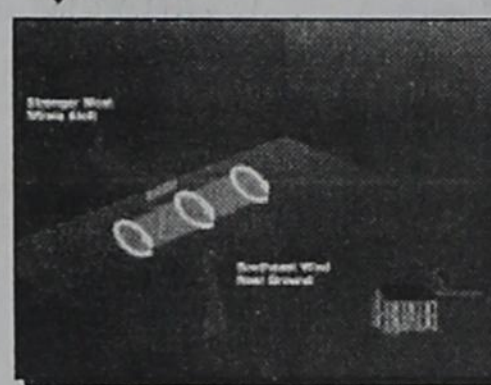
- Tornadoes can occur at any time of the year.
- Tornadoes have occurred in every state, but they are most frequent east of the Rocky Mountains during the spring and summer months.
- In the southern states, peak tornado occurrence is March through May, while peak months in the northern states are during the late spring and summer.
- Tornadoes are most likely to occur between 3 and 9 p.m. but can happen at any time.

How Tornadoes Form

Before thunderstorms develop, a change in wind direction and an increase in wind speed with increasing height creates an invisible, horizontal spinning effect in the lower atmosphere.

Rising air within the thunderstorm updraft tilts the rotating air from horizontal to vertical.

An area of rotation, 2-6 miles wide, now extends through much of the storm. Most tornadoes form within this area of strong rotation.



NOAA

Tornadoes Take Many Shapes and Sizes

Weak Tornadoes

- 88% of all tornadoes
- Less than 5% of tornado deaths
- Lifetime 1 – 10+ minutes
- Winds less than 110 mph



Charles Doswell III

Strong Tornadoes

- 11% of all tornadoes
- Nearly 30% of all tornado deaths
- May last 20 minutes or longer
- Winds 110-205 mph



Mary Hurley

Violent Tornadoes

- Less than 1% of all tornadoes
- 70% of all tornado deaths
- Lifetime can exceed 1 hour
- Winds greater than 205 mph



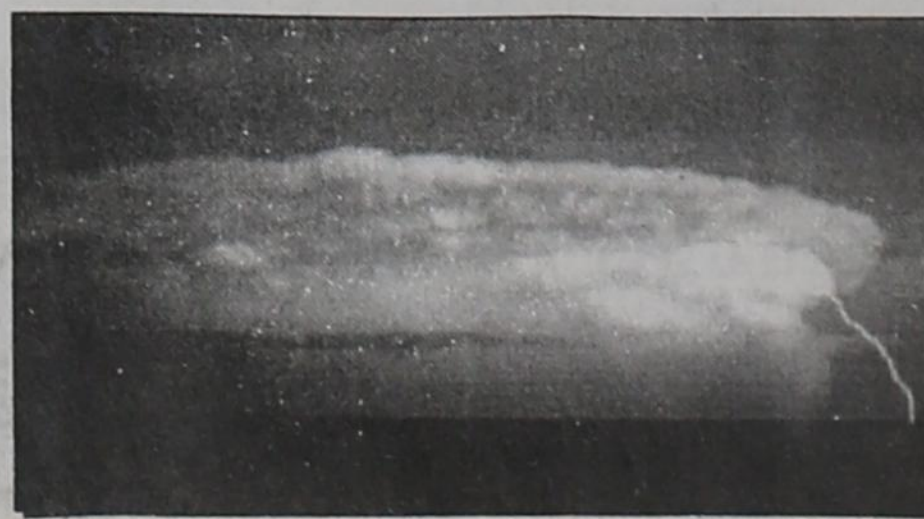
Peter Willing

In recent years, people have been killed by lightning while:

- ✓ boating
- ✓ swimming
- ✓ golfing
- ✓ bike riding
- ✓ standing under a tree
- ✓ riding on a lawnmower
- ✓ talking on the telephone
- ✓ loading a truck
- ✓ riding a horse
- ✓ playing soccer
- ✓ fishing in a boat
- ✓ mountain climbing

Lightning Myths and Truths

- MYTH:** If it is not raining, then there is no danger from lightning.
- TRUTH:** Lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain and may occur as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall. This is especially true in the western United States where thunderstorms sometimes produce very little rain.
- MYTH:** The rubber soles of shoes or rubber tires on a car will protect you from being struck by lightning.
- TRUTH:** Rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires provide NO protection from lightning. The steel frame of a hard-topped vehicle provides increased protection if you are not touching metal. Although you may be injured if lightning strikes your car, you are much safer inside a vehicle than outside.
- MYTH:** People struck by lightning carry an electrical charge and should not be touched.
- TRUTH:** Lightning-strike victims carry no electrical charge and should be attended to immediately. Contact your local American Red Cross chapter for information on CPR and first aid classes.
- MYTH:** "Heat lightning" occurs after very hot summer days and poses no threat.
- TRUTH:** "Heat lightning" is a term used to describe lightning from a thunderstorm too far away for thunder to be heard.



Robert Prance

30/30 Lightning Safety Rule

Go indoors if, after seeing lightning, you cannot count to 30 before hearing thunder. Stay indoors for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder.

Congressman
Charles W. Stenholm
 17th Congressional District
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WTO Announcement Regarding Cotton

The big news this week was the World Trade Organization (WTO) announcement.

I'm sure everyone by now is aware from press reports that the WTO dispute settlement panel on cotton reached an interim decision. And I emphasize interim. The document is over 400 pages long, and it had not been reviewed by the time it was already circulating in the press. In fact the interim decision was supposed to be confidential until it was released, but it got leaked and, therefore, there are a lot of comments on that particular dispute settlement panel's decision that have turned out to be slightly erroneous.

Also, reports indicate the Bush Administration intends to appeal this WTO decision, and we support that action. In fact, Agriculture Secretary Veneman and Trade Representative Zoellick were in front of the House Agriculture Committee on Wednesday of this last week, indicating they certainly intend to appeal it.

If, and I emphasize if, when we get through looking at this interim decision, and we're allowed to suggest changes to the panel and if it still warrants that it needs to be appealed, then we will appeal it and that means it will be early next year, at the earliest, before any final resolution of this case.

However, there are certain principles that we believe are important to state at this moment. Under WTO rules, countries are permitted to support their farmers in ways that are the least trade-distorting. WTO rules govern the amounts countries may provide their farmers, and the United States abides by these WTO rules, and it has been in accord with the WTO's rules on agriculture.

World trade in agriculture is highly competitive and barriers, such as high tariffs, are rampant. Countries regularly deny access to U.S. farm products for many reasons, including non-scientific barriers for U.S. beef, grains, fruits and vegetables.

A perfect example of that is Japan and 36 other countries now denying access to our beef because of potential BSE. There's no scientific proof that there's any problem with BSE in the United States, Canada or Japan. Japan actually has had more problems with BSE than Canada, but today they deny our beef. We hope they lift that ban soon.

We have said repeatedly that gaining access for U.S. agricultural products is the most important objective of ongoing WTO negotiations. Our agricultural tariffs are low, the average is 12 percent, while worldwide agri-

cultural tariffs average 62 percent. Changes in agricultural trade policy should come through the give and take of negotiations, not through decisions that do not appear based on WTO rules.

Now here are a few general points for everyone to consider. It's not the end of the world that a panel of WTO lawyers allegedly came to the conclusion that our cotton program is not up to WTO standards. Also, I would emphasize this has much more to do with our agricultural policies than just cotton.

We will not really know what Brazil gained from the case until we fully analyze what is reported to be a lengthy decision, at over 400 pages, and resolution of the appeal of the case. But what is clear is that it has drastically complicated WTO negotiations. Brazil is trying to gain by litigation what they could not get through negotiation. As a major agricultural exporter, it seems to me that Brazil and the whole world has much to lose by delaying a WTO framework agreement.

However, there are certain principles that we believe are important to state. The case that Brazil has brought is broader than cotton, as I noted earlier, in that it involves the export credit guarantee program and how various subsidy programs are reported. Brazil has attacked

every aspect of the U.S. cotton program, and many of these arguments extend to many other commodity programs in addition to cotton.

I'm not sure, when the smoke clears on this, what Brazil will have won, if they have won anything. But we will see, certainly we will be standing shoulder to shoulder with the Administration in saying we're not going to let a WTO panel dictate what agricultural policies the U.S. should follow.

We will, though, live by WTO rules.

China, Canada Resume Importing Some U.S. Beef

On a more positive note related to trade, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency recently announced changes to import requirements to permit a wider range of meat and meat products to enter Canada.

The new import requirements will give U.S. exporters the ability to ship products (like boneless and bone-in meats) from cattle and bison younger than 30 months and sheep and goats younger than 12 months of age.

Canada also will permit veal calves and temporary rodeo and show animals to be imported.

And on another positive note related to U.S. beef, China has agreed to resume the importation of tallow, semen, and embryos from U.S. cattle.

These products represent about \$16 million of the \$100 million beef trade with China. This is more encouraging news for American beef producers.

I am optimistic that as we continue to share and present scientific evidence of our

Treasury, IRS Warn Of Identity Theft Scheme Involving Bogus E-mail, Web Site

WASHINGTON-The U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service today warned taxpayers of an e-mail-based scheme that attempts to trick taxpayers into revealing personal information such as social security numbers, driver's license information and bank and credit card numbers.

In this ploy, unsuspecting consumers receive an e-mail, claiming they are under investigation for tax fraud and are subject to prosecution. The e-mail informs recipients they can "help" the investigation by providing "real" information and directs them to an official-looking Web site, <http://deptreas.org/irs/7634/>, where detailed personal information must be provided to dispute the charge.

Identity thieves can use an individual's personal data to take over their financial accounts, run up charges on their credit cards, apply for loans, credit cards or other services in the victim's name and file fraudulent tax returns.

At the request of the IRS and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA), the Internet service provider that was hosting the Web site has shut the site down. The scheme is being investigated by TIGTA, which addresses

food safety initiatives. China, Canada, and other countries will realize how serious we are about resuming trade.

threats to federal tax administration.

The bogus IRS web page and the e-mail in this instance contained several grammatical errors, rendering them immediately suspect. However, new versions of the scam could surface in the future, including more effectively-written text and a different destination Web site.

The IRS does not use e-mail to contact taxpayers about issues related to their accounts. Official taxpayer contact usually includes a letter on IRS stationery in an IRS envelope. IRS letters also contain a contact phone number.

Taxpayers who believe they have received suspect communication are encouraged to call TIGTA's toll-free fraud referral hotline at 1-800-366-4484. Taxpayers can also contact the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. An IRS representative will be able to verify the taxpayer's account status and determine whether a communication is legitimate.

Additional information on identify theft and other fraud may be found on the following Web sites: www.consumer.gov/idtheft <<http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft>> and www.tigta.gov <<http://www.tigta.gov>>



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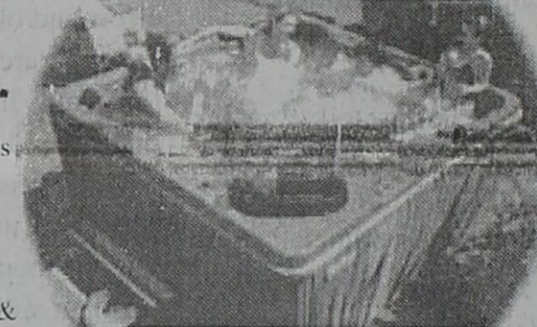
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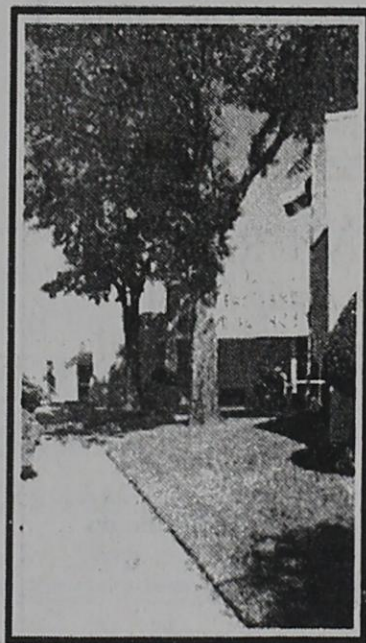


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The Idle American

By Dr. Don Newbury

Mother Hubbard Re-Visited

The preacher was promoting his next message, calling it "my 'Mother Hubbard' sermon." He claimed it to be akin to the "Mother Hubbard" dress-one that covers everything but touches nothing.

Thus beginneth a potpourri of hither and yon topics.

Thankfully, the ballyhoo of Times Square's 100th birthday is mercifully ending. I cringe at the mention of Times Square. It sounds too much like algebra, a subject like unto a foreign language 50 years ago. My teacher promised that it would help me in countless ways later in life; I'm still waiting to begin counting.

Phones continue to ringeth. When the call with a taped message begins with "This is NOT a sales call," I'm 99% sure that's exactly what it is.

Read about the giant butterflies down in South America 18 inches long and wingspans of 10 inches? Some bubbas in Texas will want to know when they'll be flying over, if there are bounties on them and what the daily hunting bag limit will be.

Well, hello Dolly! After her appearance on the Today Show, 97-year-old Dolly Kelton of Highland Park is now nationally renowned. Much of the civilized world is aware of her being arrested, handcuffed and delivered to jail upon failure to pay a traffic citation. Triggering the arrest was a second offense for an expired registration sticker.

Highland Park officials bowed and scraped hours later, admitting that she had not committed a capital offense. There were plenty of red-faced apologies, with promises that the policy would be reviewed. When she exercised her right to a phone call, which son do you figure she called: the plastic surgeon or the judge?

Luxuriating in the trip to New York for the TV appearance, Mrs. Kelton viewed the whole incident in high good humor. (Someone held her cane while they took finger prints.) She said that the arresting officers were merely doing their jobs, admitting that she was a bit tardy paying the citation and getting a fresh sticker.

Loved Dallas Coach Don Nelson's line about NBA officials' ignoring traveling violations. "If they'd called it that way when I was playing, I'd still be playing," he deadpanned. Well, with a

half-dozen such violations levied in the Mavericks' final game in the play-offs against Sacramento, the officials are catching up. Now maybe the refs can turn their attention toward tossing the ball fairly nearly straight up in jump ball situations, with insistence that jumpers wait until its downward flight to tip the ball.

There it was, a head scratcher headline in the DALLAS MORNING NEWS: "Steroids should not be taken lightly." What then, heavily?

That massive national "whoosh" heard was the coast-to-coast exhale by accountants who have signed-off on yet another year of ciphering tax returns for the Internal Revenue Service.

An acquaintance who had ongoing problems with the IRS for years finally decreed that his will be re-written, with this instruction: "Upon my demise, I would like my remains to be cremated, placed in an urn and sent to the IRS with this inscription: NOW YOU HAVE IT ALL."

I salute the no-name Texas Rangers, whose enthusiasm, effort and obvious delight in the game are making baseball fun again. It's hard to believe that several of them are only a dozen years removed from playing Little League ball. One of them hitting the ball hardest and farthest on a mighty regular basis is Midland's Laynce Nix. His uncle, Ross Williams, remembers one of Laynce's "pre-Little League" observations.

The Nixes bought a car equipped with an automated verbal warning system. One

day, Laynce heard the announcement, "Your door is ajar."

"It's not a jar, Daddy," he corrected, "It's a door."

Dr. Newbury is an author/speaker/columnist in the Metroplex. His column appears in 100 Texas newspapers. He has written three books, his latest being *A Few Geese Short of a Gaggle*. Orders and comments by phone at 817.447.3872 or by e-mail, press@speaker.doc.com

From Whence Came I

By Wanda Lee Beck Skinner

You probably read the letter to the editor asking for help in location someone who died in Eastland many years ago. I did and I began a search of my resources. I am going to tell you a few of the tools I used to find some information about this person. I first went to the cemetery books from 1979

and found the man buried in the Desdemona cemetery. I check the Ranger City Hall and the Eastland County Clerk's death index and found no death certificate. However I did find a birth for the man's son who was a junior. It gave some information and was helpful because it allowed me to know the Mother moved to Arkansas. Another big clue. I looked in the Ranger Directory for 1928-1929 and found her living there as a widow. I also advised the person they might get some information from the microfilmed newspapers at the Austin Library. I did find some information on the death in the Justice of the Peace office in Ranger. The

Thursday, May 6, 2004 person was operated on just about a week before he died. So the newspaper search would need to begin then to see if there was anything about the surgery in the paper.

I just want to remind you that genealogy is an ongoing thing and you must not give up on the clues you find. This can be bad if your filing cabinets are like mine and running over with information. I urge you once again to search for directories of the towns your relatives lived in because they give the place a person worked and the resident address and the number of children who were students in the time period. Very valuable information.

Happy Hunting. Send me queries and information for this article.

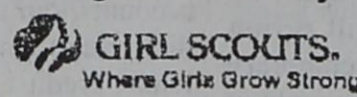
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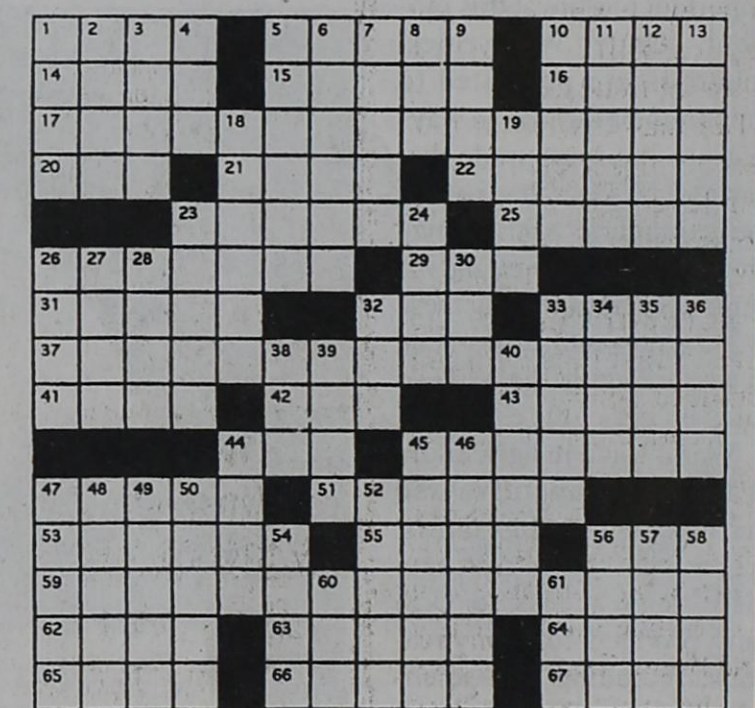
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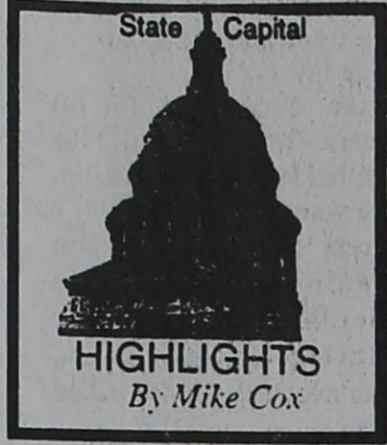


- ACROSS
- 1 Go separate ways
 - 5 Garbo
 - 10 Composer of the Brandenburg Concertos
 - 14 Tell me, prevaricate
 - 15 Plant hormone
 - 16 Sheriff Andy Taylor's boy
 - 17 Capital city
 - 20 Digit
 - 21 Hordes
 - 22 Summoned
 - 23 Couple who "ticked the platter clean"
 - 25 _ board
 - 26 Chicago Tribune and New York Times
 - 29 Thick, sticky liquid
 - 31 _ is Born;
 - 32 Came in first
 - 33 Greek portico
 - 37 Capital city
 - 41 Suffixes for profit and auction
 - 42 Seemingly endless period
 - 43 Evangelist McPherson
 - 44 Sign of the Zodiac
 - 45 Sieve users
 - 47 Capital city
 - 51 Girls' names: var.
 - 53 Having
 - 55 Orator's spot
 - 56 Ration book agcy.
 - 59 Capital city
 - 62 Elder
 - 63 Not _ in no way
 - 64 Control
 - 65 Indian weights
 - 66 Unable to relax
 - 67 Vegas activity
 - DOWN
 - 1 Over
 - 2 Choir member
 - 3 Like a juicy peach
 - 4 Word with spoon or time
 - 5 In abundance
 - 6 Ballroom dances
 - 7 Live
 - 8 Can
 - 9 Last of the Stuart monarchs
 - 10 Breast
 - 11 Buy a pig in _
 - 12 Quoter
 - 13 Impetuous; willful
 - 18 Diamond man
 - 19 Word with for or what
 - 23 Murders
 - 24 Pack away
 - 26 Freshwater fish
 - 27 Arthur of the courts
 - 28 Brain passage
 - 30 Nonspecific one
 - 32 Scalp tumor
 - 33 Actor Jimmy
 - 34 2:10 or 4:20
 - 35 Singleton
 - 36 Periods of time
 - 38 Born
 - 39 One of two twelves
 - 40 Stupid and clumsy
 - 44 Burt's ex
 - 45 Escargots
 - 46 Frozen dripping
 - 47 Young animals
 - 48 Cognizant
 - 49 Central
 - 50 Begins one's day
 - 52 Promoter
 - 54 Insect
 - 56 Type of arch
 - 57 Agony
 - 58 Part of A.D.
 - 60 Communications corp.
 - 61 Vex

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HIGHLIGHTS
By Mike Cox

Statewide committee cracks down on insurance fraud

AUSTIN - The insurance industry says fraudulent claims are getting to be a pain in the neck in Texas.

To combat the problem of phony claims, including fake neck injuries from minor traffic accidents, the industry has formed a group called the Texas Committee on Insurance Fraud, according to the Insurance Council of Texas.

"The smell of money is luring more and more people to fake injuries, set fire to their homes, stage car accidents and even stage their own death to illegally obtain money from insurance companies," said Craig Sparks, chairman of the new organization. The task force plans to lobby for tougher insurance fraud penalties in the next regular session of the Legislature. The committee also intends to push for stronger prosecution of people, groups or even companies caught perpetrating an insurance fraud.

For its part, the Texas Department of Insurance has started funding special prosecutors for district attorneys in the major metropolitan areas. Dallas County DA Bill Hill recently became the first prosecutor in the state to take on an attorney whose sole responsibility will be insurance fraud cases.

The reason why all this matters: higher claims paid translate into higher premiums.

To report suspected insurance fraud, call the state's Insurance Fraud Hotline at 1-888-327-8818.

Education/tax bill goes to House...

Over the weekend, the House Select Committee on Public School Finance sent its substitute for House Bill 1 and House Joint Resolution 1 - the proposed school

finance legislation - to the full House for debate. Approved 21-7, the package caps property taxes at \$1.05 per \$100 valuation, raises the state portion of the sales tax to 6.75 percent and expands sales tax to previously exempt items such as newspapers and bottled water, and imposes a business payroll tax of 1.25 percent or \$500 per full-time employee.

The measure also would legalize and tax video slot machines at seven existing horse and dog tracks and three Indian reservations. That would produce an estimated \$1.5 billion in revenue while the other taxes would amount to an additional \$2.8 billion. At the same time, the property tax cut would provide \$4.7 billion in relief. As one legislator said, the committee's product should only be taken as a first draft.

Tom Phillips retiring... Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Tom Phillips, 54, announced his retirement last week. Appointed by Gov. Bill Clements in 1988,

Phillips won't be going straight to the rocking chair, however. He said he'll start teaching in the fall at the South Texas College of Law in Houston. Phillips' successor will be appointed by the governor.

DPS effort may not get rave reviews...

The Department of Public Safety has announced a crackdown on illegal drug use at rave parties. A rave party is an all-night dance with music, light shows and often illegal drugs. Particularly popular in the summer, these events often are staged in open fields and they attract illegal drugs like bugs to an outdoor light bulb. The DPS has no beef with dancing or loud music, but it hopes to educate Texans on the dangers of drugs such as Ecstasy, Ketamine, LSD, nitrous oxide, methamphetamine and the old standbys marijuana, cocaine and alcohol. For more information on this issue, check the agency's Web site at www.txdps.state.tx.us.

Medicare Drug Card Sign-Up Starts This Week

Cards Could Offer Relief From High Prescription Medicine Costs

Washington, D.C.-U.S. Congressman Charlie Stenholm (TX-17) announced that the sign-up for Medicare prescription drug discount cards began Monday, May 3rd, 2004, as part of the Medicare legislation signed into law last December. The cards will be ready for actual use on Tuesday, June 1st.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is making the cards available as an interim step until January 1, 2006, when the full prescription drug benefit will take effect. In the meantime, the cards could offer savings of about 10 to 25 percent on prescription drugs, according to HHS.

"This is a very important first step towards making prescription medicines more affordable for seniors," Stenholm said, "but much more still needs to be done to bring down the overall cost of drugs. For example, it is critical that we allow reimportation of drugs from Canada, and we must allow Medicare to negotiate with the drug companies to secure deeper discounts for seniors."

Drug companies offering the cards can charge Medicare beneficiaries an annual enrollment fee of up to \$30, and it is expected they will offer savings on at least one drug in each of 209 categories of commonly used medicines.

HHS in March approved 28 private companies to offer 72 different discount cards to

Medicare beneficiaries. Stenholm encourages seniors to wait to sign up for the prescription drug discount program to see if drug prices fall in coming weeks, as a result of the drug card implementation.

In addition, Medicare beneficiaries with annual incomes less than \$12,569 per year for individuals or \$16,862 for couples will be eligible for a \$600 annual subsidy for their prescription drug costs and will not have to pay the enrollment fees.

Beneficiaries will be able to go to the Medicare website (www.medicare.gov) or call 1-800-MEDICARE to make card-to-card comparisons of prescription drug prices. By inputting their area of residence, the drugs they take and their income, beneficiaries will be able to see which cards are available, what drugs they cover, as well as prices and annual fees. Beneficiaries also will be able to determine if they qualify for the \$600 subsidy.

HHS does not yet have information on all 72 cards that will be available. Information on the rest of the cards is expected to be available by mid-May.

"There already have been incidences of fraud surrounding these cards," Stenholm said. "Seniors should be wary of offers that

sound too good to be true. Folks should never provide information to door-to-door salesmen or during unsolicited phone calls. Drug card sponsors must use approved application forms, and the individual cards will carry the Medicare-approved logo." Stenholm reminds seniors that any fraud or questionable behavior should be reported immediately to 1-800-MEDICARE.

Seniors may have only one Medicare-endorsed discount card at a time. However, they may switch cards once-between November 15th and December 31st, 2004-to select a different card for use in 2005.

The Medicare law also stipulates that beneficiaries who use the discount cards must have basic access to local pharmacies. In rural areas, an average of 70 percent of card-carrying enrollees must live within 15 miles of a participating pharmacy.

The prescription drug discount program is authorized under the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003. The cards are intended to provide interim help towards prescription drug costs from June 1st until the full Medicare drug benefit begins in January 2006.

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Celebrate Freedom And Your Health This Cinco de Mayo

On May 5, 1862, outnumbered Mexican forces defeated the French army in the Battle of Puebla, setting the stage for Mexico's eventual triumph over France. This year, as Texans celebrate Cinco de Mayo, we celebrate the strength and determination of the Hispanic spirit. It is also a perfect time to come together as a community to celebrate life, give thanks for our health and educate ourselves on health risks.

Cardiovascular disease is the number one killer of Hispanic men and women. Roughly one out of four Hispanic males - and one of every three Hispanic females - will die from heart disease and stroke.

Hispanics are less likely to engage in regular physical activity, more likely to be overweight or obese, and almost twice as likely to develop type 2 diabetes - all major risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Studies have shown that Hispanics are also more likely to have high cholesterol. Since close to 50 percent of Hispanics in Texas are uninsured, many men, women and children do not receive regular medical screenings.

Being overweight or obese is not only a risk factor of heart disease - it also increases your risk for certain

types of cancer, stroke and arthritis. Maintaining a healthy weight and being physically active every day is the best way to prevent serious health conditions.

On the plus side, you don't need a membership to a fancy gym or any special skills or training to be physically fit. For example, walking is a great way to be active. This can be as easy as walking to the grocery store or walking the kids to school instead of driving. The key is to start out slowly and stay committed. The benefits of physical activity far surpass the effort involved. Physical activity helps you maintain an ideal weight while improving circulation, boosting energy and helping manage stress levels.

The importance of making healthy food choices is critical. All the exercise in the world isn't going to help you lose weight unless you decrease your calorie intake. Make sensible choices, eat a diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol and eat in moderation. Also, a few small substitutions can cut out a lot of the unhealthy fat without sacrificing taste. For example, instead of flour tortillas that contain lard, try corn tortillas that are made with almost no fat. Instead of refried beans, enjoy borracho beans, and

choose to flavor your food with salsa, pico de gallo, cilantro and jalapeno peppers instead of high fat sour cream, cheese and guacamole.

As you and your family celebrate Cinco de Mayo and commemorate the momentous battle in 1862, do your part within your community to fight heart disease and stroke. After all, eating well and exercising is your best defense.

Heart Healthy Chicken and Tortilla Casserole
10 corn tortillas
1 teaspoon acceptable vegetable oil

1 medium onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
14.5-ounce can no-salt-added tomatillos, drained (or substitute red tomatoes, if desired)

2 cups low-sodium chicken broth
1 fresh jalapeno pepper, seeded and diced (about 1 tablespoon)

1/8 teaspoon black pepper
Vegetable oil spray
2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cooked and cubed

1 cup shredded low-fat Monterey Jack cheese (about 8 ounces)

1/2 cup light sour cream
Preheat oven to 350°F. Cut the tortillas into quarters and place them in a single layer on an ungreased baking sheet.

Bake for 10 minutes or until they are crisp. Set aside. (Baking helps to deepen the flavor of the tortilla.)

In a large skillet, heat the vegetable oil over medium heat and sauté the onion and garlic for 2 to 3 minutes or until tender.

Place the tomatillos, broth, jalapeno and black pepper in a blender. Blend until smooth.

Add this mixture to the onion mixture and simmer, uncovered, for 15 minutes over medium heat. Set aside.

Spray a 9 x 13-inch baking dish lightly with vegetable oil spray. Place half of the tortilla quarters on the bottom of the

Thursday, May 6, 2004
dish, followed by half of the chicken, half of the tomatillo mixture and half of the cheese. Repeat layers.

Bake, uncovered, for 40 minutes. Remove from oven and spread sour cream on top. Serve warm.

Cook's Tip: The green tomatillo sauce (or salsa verde) in his recipe can be used over enchiladas, chicken, fish or even as a dip for baked tortilla chips.

Serves 8; 1 slice per serving
Calories: 320
Protein: 37g
Carbohydrates: 24g
Total Fat: 8g
Saturated 3g
Polyunsaturated 2g
Monounsaturated 2g
Cholesterol: 80 mg
Sodium: 246 mg

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From Page One
Wish

A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

family and co-workers who are in a position to assist victims of domestic violence.

In 2002, with the aid of a \$2 million grant from the Office of the Attorney General, the Texas Council on Family Violence launched an unprecedented 16-month, bilingual public awareness campaign to give women trapped in violent relationships, many of whom are mothers, the information they need to seek and obtain help.

"Break the Silence, Make the Call" resulted in a 69 percent increase in English-language calls to the National Domestic Violence Hotline and a staggering 93 percent increase in Spanish-language calls in its inaugural month. For many women, placing that first call to the National Domestic Violence Hotline was an incredibly important first step in seeking and receiving life-changing assistance for themselves and their family.

In the coming weeks, you'll see and hear new public service announcements, imploring all Texans to get involved by breaking their silence, making the call to 1-800-799-SAFE or TTY 1-800-787-3224, when a loved one or friend is in need.

This Mother's Day, take time to honor mothers - and honor all Texas women by raising our consciousness to help all mothers celebrate this day as they should: in a home filled not by fear, but love.

From Page One
Market

quisitions building on Third Street.

Limited time and space require that Appraisal Fair tickets by purchased in advanced. Tickets are \$20 per appraisal, and are available at the Chamber office, Henson's Antiques and the Baggage House Restaurant.

For information call Baird Chamber of Commerce at 325-854-2003.

Rejoice, dear hearts—something deemed wonderful is coming our way!

It has been proclaimed in these places that the weekly One-Time Great Paper, will now be distributed in the following towns:

Albany, Anson, Baird, Buffalo Gap, Clyde, Merkel, Tuscola and Tye.

The subscribers in these towns of the One-Time Great Paper will now be able to read such exciting "local" news as how to pit an avocado and what delightful things you can do with the seed, reprinted from a California member newspaper of the parent giant Strips-Coward chain of money-hungry publications.

There may also be a liberal sprinkling of advertisements from merchants in the Big Town to lure shoppers to that metropolitan center in the continuing effort to suck the life blood out of the local, tax-paying merchants in these small communities where living is a lot easier, and the danger of being mugged is much less.

One could surmise that business must be so dreadful in the Big Town resorting to such tactics would even be considered.

How ironic that the One-Time Great Paper recently ran a feature extolling the virtues of "not stealing from your neighbor's industrial and/or commercial base," and then to barge in with this where they are not wanted.

The good citizens in these towns respect their local publications and look to them for LOCAL NEWS which includes LOCAL ADVERTISING, and to out-of-town regional papers for state, national and international SOLID news without fluff.—By HVO

Baird First United Methodist Church News

National Day of Prayer
A group will be meeting on the courthouse lawn, at noon, to pray for the leaders of our Nation and our community. Please join us. God bless those who pray. Rejoice!

Prayer Day
We need all the help we can get next Saturday, May 8th to help with various little chores around the church that need our attention. Everything from general spring cleaning, to painting and minor repairs. Please block off some time for your church next Saturday. A chili and cornbread lunch will be served.

We hope to see many of you here.

The Treasure Principle
Through the Texas Tech, Wesley Foundation we are being given an opportunity to put the Treasure Principle into practice. St. Paul's U. M. C. is sponsoring a Texas Tech fund raiser for the Wesley Foundation's on campus ministry. This is to be done through a barbecue dinner to be held at St. Paul's on May 9, 2004, at 6:00 p.m.

Special guest speaker will be Mr. Kenneth Wyatt, the artist who painted the twelve apostles. With that there will be testimonies by former Wesley Foundation members from Tech. They will share

with you how their lives were affected by this campus ministry.

The cost is \$25.00 per couple.

UMW News
The United Methodist Women met Sunday, April 18 at 4:15 in the home of Brigitte Roady with members present.

Dyanne Thompson and Bernice Varner served delicious refreshments. Dyanne gave our program on Creating Interfaith Community.

Our next meeting will be May 16. Barbara Corn will start our next study. Hope we can have all members present.

Until then, God bless each and every one.

Lanetha Walker
Youth Update

The first thing we have planned is a musical that Danny will conduct. We hope to perform for several different churches.

Another thing on the calendar is a mission trip to New Braunfels, for which we will team up with First Methodist Church in Clyde. We will also be doing some things with the Clyde youth group. We have a Six Flags youth weekend planned in July. We are looking forward to a fun-filled summer and always welcome anyone.

Kristi, John, & the Youth

infuriated just about everybody because the recommendations seemed so out-of-this-world and lopsided in just about every respect.

And as could be expected response was quick and loud—not necessarily partisan, but most self-serving. You could just about take your pick of things to pick apart:

Slot machines? Oh, well, the doors are already open what with Texas lottery. The plus-\$1 cigarette whammy? Depends on whether you're a smoker or not. Franchise cancellation? Every corporation rejoices at this but belches at the thought of a \$300 per employee tax.

We of the Texas press squealed immediately at the thought of the elimination of sales tax elimination on circulation (once tried and once failed), especially when one realizes that no mention is made of television and/or radio revenue.

Baird First Baptist Church Events

Each one of you are invited to join us at the First Baptist Church, 240 Race Street Baird, Texas

For more information on any of these events please contact the church: 854-1574

May 5, 2004 - AWANA Club award ceremony and recognition time, 6:30 p.m. if you have been involved in any of the AWANA activities this is a time to be there and see what the Children have accomplished in a very short time.

May 6, 2004 - National Day of Prayer, Be in prayer for our Nation and our Leaders

May 9, 2004 - Mother's Day

Nursing Home Service 3:30 p.m. be a blessing to the ones in the facility and you will be Blessed in return
Prayer meeting 5:00 p.m.

Sanctuary
No Beth Moore Study this p.m.

May 10, 2004 - Ladies Mission Study 6:00 p.m.

May 11, 2004 - Ladies Prayer Breakfast 7:00 a.m. every lady in the community is invited

May 11, 2004 - Senior Adult Day at Big Country Baptist Assembly - Lueders with Dr. Larry McGraw, Clay Jacobs and others. Registration 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. please contact church if interested

May 12, 2004 - Grades 1-6 camp registration due. The camps are for several different times throughout the summer at Lueders. Please contact church office.

May 16, 2004 Beth Moore Study for women "Fresh Visions from the Book of Revelations: 4:30 p.m. Prayer meeting 5:00 p.m. Sanctuary

Any reduction in the local school tax is welcome but appears to be written geared for increases down the line.

Increase in the state's share of the sales tax? One might guess that such increases would harm the state's image, but then on second thought, maybe it's already so wounded that this couldn't hurt much. (One wag wondered how far the \$1.7 million that could be saved if there were no special session might go toward solving the state's education finance problems.)

And then there's this: one wouldn't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out why there is no sales tax on the professional services of lawyers, physicians, and CPAs when there are such sales taxes on plumbing, dry cleaning, electrical work and everything else you could name.

Rep. Keffer's secretary in Austin Monday afternoon must have fielded a hundred complaint calls from newspaper people. And guesses are good that many others from other fields kept her phone and log book busy.

Faxes from our offices to him began going out last Friday to every member of the Select Committee. The publisher even foolishly suggested that a state income tax (even recognizing that it is the dirty word of the century here, and that it wouldn't stand a ghost of a chance of passage) would be the fair tax. Feature writer Viola Payne in her message to Austin said that taxng circulation could kill the local newspapers which she called the last independent voice for the people of Texas. She added: "I wish that the Legislators spent as much time trying to SAVE money on good education as they do figuring out where to get more money to spend."

Perhaps there is light at the end of the tunnel; for this bucket of wonder to pass with or without some of its procleavatives, it must be cleared by the House, a joint committee and the full Senate. Surely there is reason somewhere there.

At this writing, it remains to be seen whose ox will be gored first.
By HVO

MAY BE EVERYBODY'S OX WILL BE GORED WHEN EDUCATION SESSION WINDS DOWN

The Select Committee, charged with solving the Texas education funding problems, issued its initial report over the weekend and word late Monday was that the entire House was to act on the recommendations beginning at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

The initial report

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of the Texas press squealed immediately at the thought of the elimination of sales tax elimination on circulation (once tried and once failed), especially when one realizes that no mention is made of television and/or radio revenue.

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From Page One ...
Council

souls did not accept this. They set out to prove popular culture wrong. "The crowd is not always right," stated Singleton. "Deal with peer pressure by knowing who you are. If you are not who you want to be, work on it." According to Singleton, each student will make mistakes in life. When you do, each person has two choices, quit (take your ball and go home with crossing home plate), or, get up and try again. By using tremendous skills of dexterity and coordination in dribbling, Singleton taught the assembled Stu-Co members that success requires hard work and practice. "You can chose what you want to do, but you can't chose the consequences." He affirmed that the law of the harvest determines consequences. If that is the case, sow good things and sow often in order to some day reap a harvest of good things.

Friday, students voted on delegates for next year and attended several discussion groups dealing with Stu-Co projects like fundraisers, community service, and Red Ribbon week activities. Friday afternoon students met at Six Flags for a variety of activities and fun. La Donna Gatlin, sister of country music's famous Gatlin Brothers, and a winner of both a Grammy and dove award closed the session.

She explained to the students that life requires choices. "I loved making music with my brothers, but I loved making out with my husband, too. My brothers went on to produce hot



Student Council Members at Six Flags entrance

records and I went on to produce two kids. They got rich, I got stretch marks." But, she iterated, "you have to be true to yourself and faithful to do the right thing."

The Baird Stu-Co members were very enthusiastic about Gatlin's presentation. One student noted, "I liked the way she took ordinary things and made them relevant and easily understood."

Ms. Grimes, the Stu-Co sponsor was impressed with the Sweepstakes award as well as the zeal and enthusiasm of the members. "We have a great leadership team for next year."

She and the members are looking forward to a dynamic council when school activities kick off again in August with the beginning of a new year.

Misty McDowell, the newly elected President, was very positive about the work accomplished this year, but hopes to be more interactive with student needs next year, especially in the Elementary school, where kids are often unaware of Stu-Co projects.

Officers for the 2004/2005 year are President, Misty McDowell; Vice President, Blake Manning; Secretary, Lea Sweeney; Treasurer, Jay Calvo; Reporter Josh Glaze; Parliamentarian, Kayla Windham; Historian, Chance Rodriguez.

Mother's Day



- Keep cut flowers and arrangements looking fresh by adding warm water to the vase every day. Always keep the vase full and change the water every three to four days.
- For maximum flower longevity, recut the stems whenever you change the water. Keep the vase in a cool spot, away from direct sunlight and heating or cooling vents.

Following these simple guidelines will help Mom get the most out of her flowers. You can click on 1800flowers.com on the Web for beautiful Mother's Day arrangements, such as the Mother's Embrace Bouquet.

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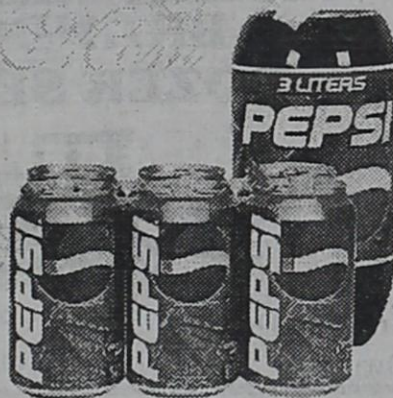


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