

THE VALLEY TRIBUNE

"Voice of the Rolling Plains"

1 10/31/2008
PHIL BAREFIELD
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Volume 47 Number 35 * Quitaque, Texas 79255 * Serving ~ Briscoe ~ Hall ~ Motley ~ Counties * Thursday, March 20, 2008

**Turkey's Annual
Spring Clean Up
Thursday & Friday
March 27 & 28**
Place Thins In Your Alley
That Needs Hauling Off



Xeriscaping is a popular aletenative to traditional landscaping in Texas.

Master Gardner To Present Program At Motley County Library

Master Gardner, Nell Rains, of Kress Texas, will present a program on Xeriscaping, More Than Dry Gardening, at the Motley County Library Annex Building on Saturday, March 29, at 2:00 P. M. Xeriscaping is landscaping for water conservation. She will talk about the philosophy of plants, water and soil, and the seven elements of xeriscaping, also known sometimes as smartscaping. Drought resistant landscaping has a lot of benefits. And these are the reasons why people prefer this kind of garden to the usual ones. If you plan to build a drought resistant landscaping today, you will enjoy these advantages:

1. It conserves water. Since all plants and flowers capable of either used to living in drier areas or keeping nutrients on their own, less water is needed. And if that is the case, you will really save on your water bill.
2. Has minimal pests. These types of plants are not really prone to pests. You need not worry about bugs and similar insects if you choose to install a drought resistant landscaping.
3. Lesser plant disease problems. If there are lesser pests, then there would be lesser contaminants and organisms to be transferred to the plants enough for it to acquire a common plant disease.

Xeriscaping does not mean no water, it means that once established, the plants do not have to be watered as often. They are drought tolerant.

We encourage you to come to learn more about the elements of saving water in your vegetable and flower beds and your lawns. Learn about mulching, use of particular plants, and watering systems.

There will be a question and answer session after the program. So bring your gardening or lawn questions with you. Ryan Martin, Motley County Extension Agent, will speak to us before the program about testing your soil and its importance. This is very important for gardeners.

The purpose of the Master Gardener program is to present current and accurate information and to be a liaison between the horticulturist and Texas Extension Services. They represent their sponsor, Texas A & M University.

You can go online to look up drought tolerant plants for the South Plains of Texas, drought tolerant plants for our zone (7) or you can check with nurseries in the area. There are numerous drought tolerant plants available for this area.

Community Easter Sunrise Service

There will be a community Easter Sunrise Service at the Caprock

Canyons State Park at the amphitheater starting at sunrise, this Sunday, March 23. Plans

are being made to meet at the park at 7:30 am. Sunrise has been

around 7:45 - 8 am. Please make plans to come and celebrate with us

our Risen Lord.

Incumbents Dudley, Farley, Henson And Oberheu Only Ones To File For Place On Quitaque City Council

The Quitaque City Council met in regular session on Monday, March 10. Present for the meeting were Mayor Clyde Dudley, council members Dennis Farley, Michelle Pointer, Janice Henson, Phil Barefield, Todd Oberheu and City Manager Maria Merrell. After attending to regular monthly council business the following items were addressed.

* Under public comment Merrell informed the council that 77% of the 2007 taxes had been collected down from last years collections of 86.10% as reported by the Briscoe County Appraisal District.

* The Volunteer Ambulance Service reported three runs since the last regular meeting. Merrell reported that the service along with the fire department will host the concession stand for the Enduro races Saturday and Sunday, March 29 and 30.

* The council next discussed the fire department meeting to be held Wednesday to clean up the fire hall and ambulance bay in preparation for Enduro weekend.

* The council was informed that the city was waiting for final paperwork on the new water tower.

* The deadline for filing for a place on the Quitaque City Council has passed. Only incumbents Mayor Clyde Dudley, council members Dennis Farley, Janice Henson and Todd Oberheu filed.

Local Girl Scout Troop Sells 1,282 Boxes Of Cookies

Troop #5227 would like to say a BIG "Thank You!" Wow we sold, 1,282 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies which has helped get our Troop started.

Thanks to our communities, families, and friends we have raised enough money to buy each girl the books she needs, her Girl Scout Brownie sash and her badges that she will earn. Each girl has already earned their cookie sales booth patch and we are working on our first Try-It patch.

We would like to encourage any girl from ages 6-9 to come out and join us at our next meeting on Monday, March 31, right after school in the Valley Cafeteria.



Tuesday, March 11 the Texas Forest Service assisted the Silverton, Memphis, Estelline, Clarendon, Turkey and Tulia Fire Departments to extinguish a grass fire on the Thornberry Ranch in northeast Briscoe County.

The Forest Service estimated that the use of equipment and supplies to fight the fire cost around \$85,000.00.

The fire was started by hunters who lighted a campfire and failed to control it.

Photo By Tom Heck

Briscoe County Filing Deadlines For Renditions And Exemptions

You Can Now Exempt 1 Passenger Car Or Light Truck From Personal Property Taxes If It Is Used For Business & Personal Reasons

The passage of Proposition 6, which amended the state constitution under House Bill 1022, provides for an individual to one passenger car or light truck from personal property taxes if the vehicle is used for both business and personal reasons.

Citizens must fill out an application to receive the exemption, and people who want that exemption to apply for the 2007 tax year must fill out the form at the appraisal office by April 1, 2008.

To qualify for the exemption individuals need to fill out an application form from the appraisal office that includes such basic information as the owner's name, the vehicle identification number, the name and description of the business, and a short description of how the vehicle is used for the production of income. There are two main questions to answer, Do you use this vehicle in the production of income? And do you use it for personal reasons?

The law allows for one vehicle tax exemption per individual, so a husband and wife who both work for their own small business could exempt two vehicles total.

For taxing years 2008 and beyond, exemption applications must be filed between January 1 and April 30 each year. It is not automatically renewed.

Application forms are available at the appraisal district of at the Courthouse in Silverton. If you have any questions about this exemption or want to request that we mail you an exemption you can call our office at 806-823-2161.

The deadline for filing all other exemptions and renditions is April 15.

Hall County Commissioners Vote Down Accepting Historical Commission Grant For Courthouse Restoration

The Hall County Commissioners Court met in regular session on Thursday, March 13 for their regular monthly meeting. Present for the meeting were County Judge Jack Martin, Commissioners Milton Beasley-Pct 1, Terry Lindsey-Pct 2, Buddy Logsdon-Pct 3, James Fuston-Pct 4 and County Clerk Raye Bailey. After attending to regular monthly court business the following items were addressed:

* A motion to accept the grant in the amount of \$291,374.00 from the Texas Historical Commission for Courthouse restoration failed. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Beasley-Nay, Commissioner Lindsey-Nay, Commissioner Logsdon-Yea, Commissioner Fuston-Nay, Judge Martin-Yea

* A motion passed to offer the full cafeteria plan for participation in the AFLAC program to all county employees.

* A motion passed by unanimous to not renew the website maintenance contract from Joe Roberts.

* A motion passed to appoint J.R. Helm and Debbie Helm to the Hall County Historical Commission.

* A motion passed granting easement to Darrell D. Collins for low pressure water pipeline on County Road 26 right of way, in Precinct 3.

* A motion passed to have the County Attorney John M Deaver, II and County Treasurer Janet Bridges to work on auditing the Hall County Jail commissary fund.

* A motion passed to table reviewing and updating Hall County Personnel Handbook until the April meeting.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Quitaque VFD Needs Your Help

Quitaque Volunteer Ambulance and Fire Department Services are asking for your help. On Saturday and Sunday, March 29 and 30 we will be hosting the concession stand for the Enduro races. We are asking for your donation of brownies, rice krispie bars, or cookie bars to help with our concession stand. Desserts can be taken to Albert at Merrell Food or bring them by the Fire Department Bay.

On Saturday will be at the bay from 9 a.m. till late that night and all day Sunday till late afternoon. Come by and enjoy a grilled burger with the ever famous homemade ballpark sauce. We will be serving burgers from 11 a.m. Saturday until late. On Sunday we will start with breakfast burritos at 6 a.m. and burgers thereafter until the crowd stops coming late that afternoon.

If anyone would like to volunteer their time to work in the concession stand please let us know or just show up at any time. We can always use the help.

ON THE QT

By Patsy Herrington

And now - all of a sudden its Daylight Saving Time and Easter is almost here! I guess I'll have to put up my Valentines still sitting around given to me by grandkids and get ready for others. It's hard getting up when it's still dark at 8 a.m. Until last year DST began the first Sunday in April until good 'ol Congress made it a month earlier. The extra light is nice sometimes, but why don't they leave it alone! Studies have shown that the energy saved is slight.

Mary and Steven Mahaffy, sister and husband of Dean (Mrs. Butch) Hamilton, spent a week with Dean helping her catch up on a lot of things.

We the Women met last Tuesday with 20 present. Those attending were Delene Tyler, Betty Campbell, Jacquelyn Ham, Barbara Bogart (Caprock Telephone Co-op), Kathy Purcell, Patsy Herrington, Jean Cathy, Diana Brooks, Joyce Price, Jean Mullin, Ann Irwin, Clara R. Davidson, Maxine Clark, Jill Johnson, Arlene Hinkle, Jan Brummett, Christine Brummett, Pat Rucker, Carla Helms, and Ann Chadwick. One of the things voted on by WW was to buy our Deputy Sheriff, James Hart, a bullet proof vest for protection (he works by himself at night) and will cost \$750.

Patsy Brown Rhoderick of Amarillo and Loretha (Mrs. J.C.) Rhoderick of Silverton were down for a visit and a meal eating out with Benny and Butch Brown this week.

Elaine Harmon with Jessie and Odis Reagan, went to the dentist at Amarillo Tuesday.

Lex Herrington came down from Floydada to the farm here and also visited with his mother, Patsy Herrington.

Yes, Easter is much earlier this year. It's always on the Sunday following the first full moon of the vernal equinox. (yes, I didn't know what it was either) We'll be all bundled up in our coats and gloves at their Sunrise Service instead of our Easter finery (probably). Easter won't be this early again until 120. Quoting Jon Mark Bellue of the Amarillo Globe, the song this year will be "In your Easter mittens, with all the frills a-fitten".

I'm still looking forward to Easter, thought, with all of the pretty, dressed up, frilly children and Easter egg hunts with my grandchildren, and big dinners with my loved ones.

Joyce King Price, employee of Caprock Canyons State Park, reports that the Park is full and overflowing for the next two weekends.

The weather Saturday was utterly beautiful after the horrific wind storm Friday. There was a large grass fire on CRP land between Quitaque and Silverton on the Plains last Friday, which was contained.

Debbie Cagle's grandson, Dustin of Amarillo, is off for Spring Break and visiting his grandmother here.

Mike Pigg and Barbara Mayfield are excited about winning a cruise from United Supermarkets on the Monopoly game. They are going to Grand Cayman, Montego Bay and Cozumel, and are leaving in April.

Valley School is out most of this week, and excited kids are going everywhere.

Monday morning early it rained from 0.8 to 1.2 inches here in Quitaque and surrounding area, and more to come we hope. It was greatly appreciated.

I plan to visit my tow girls, Kim and Lisa, for Easter and six grandchildren there in Austin.

Happy Easter everyone!

WorkInTexas.com Teams With JobCentral To Enhance Opportunities For Texans

WorkInTexas.com, the proven Texas job-search Web site, is bigger and better than ever. Through a partnership with JobCentral.com, a national job-search clearinghouse, WorkInTexas.com has boosted the number of openings available to Texas job seekers to more than 125,000, a jump of more than 25 percent. JobCentral.com is operated by DirectEmployers Association, a nonprofit consortium owned and managed by 375 Fortune 500 companies, increasing the number of professional-level positions on WorkInTexas.com as well.

"WorkInTexas.com job seekers have a more comprehensive look at the available jobs in Texas, especially those from many of America's top companies," said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Executive Director Larry Temple. "The jobs we obtain from JobCentral.com are listings that we wouldn't have otherwise."

Bell Helicopter, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Continental Airlines, RadioShack and Rolls-Royce are among the Fortune 500 companies that list with JobCentral. The state incurs no cost to obtain these listings.

TWC and the state's 28 local workforce development boards developed WorkInTexas.com to provide a comprehensive online employment resource, matching employers of all sizes and types with qualified candidates. More than 255,000 Texas employers currently are registered to post jobs on WorkInTexas.com, and 1.2 million Texans have found jobs since the Web site launched in June 2004.

WorkInTexas.com provides many services to Texas employers and job seekers, including real-time job matching, job posting, resume customization, labor pool and job-availability researching, job-skill assessment tests and more - all online, free of charge and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Dessert & Design March 27 In Silverton

Dessert and Design-Please join us in a fun and educational event. Learn trendy home decorating ideas and enjoy free dessert. It will take place on Thursday, March 27 at 5:30p.m. in the Pioneer Room at City Bank-Silverton. Free and open to everyone. If you have any questions please contact Missy Reynolds-Briscoe County Agrilife Extension Agent (806)823-2521.

The life that conquers is the life that moves with a steady resolution and persistence toward a predetermined goal. Those who succeed are those who have thoroughly learned the immense importance of plan in life, and the tragic brevity of time.

- W.J. Davison

You can't hold a man down without staying down with him.

- Booker T. Washington

WARNING PHONE SCAM IN AREA

The Amarillo Police Department has received numerous calls from senior citizens who are being contacted by telephone and advised that they need to apply for a new Medicare card because the old one is now obsolete. The caller claims to be from National Medical Care and he demands personal and banking information. If questioned about why he needs personal information, the caller says that he must have it to verify your information.

MediCare does NOT call citizens on the phone and demand information. This is a common form of scam called "Phishing". It is possible that hundreds of area citizens receive these types of calls every day. A caller identifies him/herself as a credit card, banking or other business representative. They will identify a problem with your account and offer to fix it if only you will supply the proper information. If you do provide that information, your identity can be used, without your permission, in just a matter of minutes.

Never provide identifying or personal information over the phone or internet unless you know who you are giving it to. Don't listen to a long explanation about why you must give the information. Simply hang up the phone. Don't give in to threats.

The most important work you and I will ever do will be within the walls of our own homes.

- Harold B. Lee

But words are things, and a small drop of ink falling like dew upon a thought, produces that which makes thousands, perhaps millions, think.

- Lord Byron

MEMBER 2008

TPA
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

West Texas Press Association
EST. 1926

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Tri-County Meals
Meals Delivered By Community Volunteers

806-455-1053 ~ P.O. Box 421, Quitaque, TX 79255
Serving free hot meals to the homebound residents of Turkey, Quitaque, Silverton & Flomot

Monday, March 24	Wednesday, March 26	Friday, March 28
Frito Chili Cheese Pie	Turkey & Dressing	Stew
Corn	Sweet Potatoes	Cottage Cheese
Roll	Green Beans	Pears
Dessert*	Dessert*	Cornbread
Milk	Roll/Milk	Dessert*
		Milk

* Diabetic Desserts Available

This Week's Menu Sponsored By:
The Valley Tribune ~ Voice of the Rolling Plains

SUNRISE SERVICES

For EASTER

THE CHURCHES OF QUITAQUE INVITE EVERYONE TO JOIN THEM AT THE

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE SUNDAY, MARCH 23RD 7:30 AM

AT CAPROCK CANYONS STATE PARK AMPHITHEATER

ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!

FIRST NATIONAL BANK
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March 20
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FLOMOT NEWS

By Earlyne Jameson

OVERHEARD

Spring has come to us again this year with promises anew. We still have hopes ahead of us that our dreams may all come true!

In Observance Of Easter Colorful Decor At Do Gooders Club

The Do Gooders' Club met Tuesday afternoon, March 11 at the Community Center in Flomot. They were greeted with beautiful decor in observance of Easter.

In the absence of president, Mrs. Brenda Browning who was ill, Mrs. Anna Beth Clay conducted the business session. Mrs. Suzie Shannon read the minutes of the previous meeting that were approved. This civic club has been the one to keep the Community Center inside as well as outside in A-One condition. They have made it available for the many special events held in Flomot. They had a clean up day.

Mrs. E.J. (Mary Ann) Browning of Rising Star has given the club a red, white and blue pieced quilt top and all the materials needed for the club's 2008 Flomot Homecoming quilt on which chances will be sold. The members plan to put it in a quilting frame at their next meeting, April 1st and begin their quilting B's.

Mrs. Nada Starkey and Mrs. Cally Sperry, hostesses presided at an Easter designed service. The table was laid with a pink and white pastel cloth centered with a basket of colorful eggs and a white bunny rabbit perched on top. Adding to the decor, colored Easter eggs were intermingled on the table. They served canapes, chocolate cookies and decorated cake with fruit punch.

Those attending were Mesdames B. Rogers, Suzie Shannon, Tommie Jo Cruse, Anna Beth Clay, Nada Starkey, Cally Sperry, Connie Franks, and Kathy Shorter. Guests were Gage and Cash Sperry.

Dr Renee Laegraid of Hastings, Nebraska and Mrs. Marisue Powell of Mott Creek Ranch visited Mary Ellen "Dude" Barton, Saturday.

Leah Cruse of Canyon visited overnight Sunday with her parents, Brenda and Darrell Cruse.

Shonda and Roger Lee, her sister had husband, Penny and Bud Taylor of Floydada enjoyed entertainment in Plainview, Saturday.

Mrs. Janice Hughes visited last Sunday and again Tuesday in Floydada with son and family, Roger and Tiffany Hughes, Tara and Reagan and new baby son, Brody Wayne.

Tim and Melissa Kendall and sons, Jere and Jacob visited the weekend in Midland with his brother and family, Mr. and Mrs. Cory Kendall, Chancey and Connor.

Donnie Rogers attended the agricultural meeting Saturday morning held at the Traveler's Inn in Roaring Springs.

Gwen and Tim Mandrell and daughter, Peyton of Lubbock visited Sunday with her parents, Mary Jo and Doyle Calvert and brother, Glen Calvert.

Wilburn Martin visited Saturday and Sunday in Borger with daughter and husband, Marilee and Fred Cooper. They attended the annual meeting of the Texoma Federal Credit Union Saturday night held at the Frank Phillips College in Borger.

Clois and Kathy Shorter attended to business in Lubbock, Friday. En route home, they enjoyed the presentation of LAZARUS and the preceding play musical held at the Ragtown Gospel Theater in Post.

Cally and Will Sperry and children, Savannah, Blayne, Gage and Cash left Monday, March 17 to attend the Houston Livestock Show. They will not return home until Friday. Blayne is showing his pig in the show.

RAIN!!!!

Rain was welcomed Sunday night and early Monday morning. Clois Shorter of Flomot reported 0.92 and Lawrence Allen



COOK'S CORNER

BY LAURA TAYLOR

Easter is this Sunday and here are a few favorite recipes for

Honey and Pepper Pork Roast

1 medium orange
One 12-ounce bag whole cranberries

3/4 cup honey
One 1-1/2 pound boneless pork loin roast

1/4 cup honey
2 tbsp. Dijon-style mustard
2 tbsp. crushed mixed peppercorns

1/2 tsp. dried thyme, or 1-1/2 tsp. fresh thyme, minced
1/2 tsp. salt

To make the relish, quarter and slice unpeeled orange, removing seeds. Coarsely chop orange and cranberries in a food processor or by hand. Place in medium saucepan and stir in honey. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat and cook 3 to 4 minutes. Cool. Makes 3 to 4 cups.

To cook the meat, carefully score the pork 1/2 inch deep completely around roast, taking care not to cut string holding it together. Combine honey, mustard, peppercorns, thyme and salt in small bowl; mix well. Place roast on rack in roasting pan. Spoon or brush 2/3 of honey mixture over the meat to coat.

Roast at 325 degrees 30 minutes; brush with remaining honey mixture. Roast 20 to 30 minutes longer, or until a meat thermometer registers 155 to 160 degrees. Let stand, tented with foil, 10 minutes before slicing and serving with cranberry relish. Makes 8 servings.

Candy Carrot Coins

1 pound carrots
1 tablespoon butter
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1 teaspoon water
1/4 tsp nutmeg
1/4 tsp ginger

Peel the carrots, then slice each one into rounds. Place the carrot coins in a microwave-safe bowl, cover them with water, and cover the bowl with plastic wrap. Microwave for 6 to 7 minutes or until the carrots are tender but not mushy. Drain the water and set the carrots aside.

In a small frying pan, melt the butter, stir in the brown sugar and water, and cook for 1 minute. Add the carrot coins and toss to coat with the brown sugar mixture. Cook on low for 3 to 4 minutes or until the carrots are thoroughly glazed. Serves 4.

Banana Split Easter Cake

3 sticks soft butter
2 c. crushed graham crackers
2 eggs
2 c. powdered sugar
4 to 6 bananas, sliced thinly
1 (#2) can crushed pineapple, drained
1 lg. container whipped topping

1 sm. bottle maraschino cherries
1/2 c. crushed pecans

Mix 1 stick butter with graham cracker crumbs and press into 13 x 9 x 2 inch pan. Beat eggs, remaining butter and powdered sugar for 10 minutes in electric mixer.

Spread mixture over crumbs and arrange sliced bananas on top. Spread pineapple over bananas and cover with whipped topping. Sprinkle with nuts and arrange cherries on top. Refrigerate overnight.

Happy Easter!

We may not all break the Ten Commandments, but we are certainly all capable of it. Within us lurks the breaker of all laws, ready to spring out at the first real opportunity.
- Isadora Duncan

All things are difficult before they are easy.
- Thomas Fuller

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THURSDAY'S

FRIED CHICKEN

Noon Buffet 11:00am - 2:00pm
Night Buffet
More Chicken Gizzards & Livers 5:30pm- 8:30pm

FRIDAY'S

BAR-B-QUE & CATFISH

Noon Buffet 11:00am - 2:00pm
Night Special
Catfish Dinners
Fixin's & Salad Bar 5:30pm -8:30 pm

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ALL DAY

Call In Your Order & Have It Hot & Ready For Pick-Up When You Arrive

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ACROSS

- TXism: "belly" —
- the bar"
- cruise ships use — of Galveston
- "one-armed bandits" (— machines)
- TX Don Henley co-wrote "Take — the Limit"
- TX Strait's "Marina Rey"
- with "The," '80 film by TX rancher Chuck Norris
- actor Roberts of "Raggedy Man" with TX Sissy
- TXism: "plain as your face"
- dir. to Houston from Corpus
- Oldsmobile named after this Ransom
- TX Tejano group: "Little Joe" — Familia"
- TXism: " — horse of a different color"
- European mountain flower
- TX soda in slang
- luxury sailing crafts
- TXism: "mad as —-eyed cow"
- TX Hagman ABC film: "Getting Away From —"
- really strong protective structure (2 wds.)
- orange — tea
- TXism: " — your lips" (smile)
- TX Orbison (init.)

DOWN

- guns an engine
- TX pee- — football
- the season to be jolly"
- used on CSA flag, aka "St. Andrew's Cross"
- TX artist V.T. Hamlin character: "Alley —"
- Gov. Dewhurst
- distributes the cards
- former infamous "Chicken Ranch"
- 59 ship jails
- TXism: "at the drop — hat"
- he took title from TX George Foreman in '74
- Rangers drafted this Robb in '87
- If white is below red on TX flag, it's — down
- TX-born Hooper directed '82 film " — gelist"
- fishin' method (2 wds.)
- this John is Dist. 18 Rep. in TX House
- 5th quarter in a Mav. game? (abbr.)
- seafood stews
- "marketing" or "phone" beginning
- TX-born JoBeth's "Me, Myself —"
- TXism: "fast as small town —"
- this Oliver directed "JFK" (init.)
- TX sculptor Elisabet
- so, Dallas suburb on hwy. 67
- TX Pride's "She's Just An — Turned Memory"
- in Morris Co. on 67
- TX Delmer who won '90 Heisman at the Wheel"
- TXism: "he — a grip like a snappin' turtle"
- what TX Longoria does for a living
- TXns dance — —-step
- TXism: "cowboy" (jukebox)
- TX band " — at the Wheel"
- " — on the side of caution"
- Hawaiian "howdy"
- incapable of having children
- this Fred was UT coach (77-86)
- gunfighter Ben who died in Austin (init.)
- TX-born Busey film: " — of Piracy"
- TX Willie tune: "On the —"
- to assault with a knife
- camera optics
- childhood game
- "Enchanted Rock" sound
- "R" of NRA

Four Rules For Life: Show up. Pay attention. Tell the truth. Don't be attached to the results.
- Angeles Arrien

It is astonishing what foolish things one can temporarily believe if one thinks too long alone.
- John Keynes

There can be no transforming of darkness into light and of apathy into movement without emotion.
- Carl Jung

Turning 80 Is Really Great!



Please Join Us As We Celebrate Geneva Martin's 80th Birthday

Saturday, March 22nd, 2008
3 to 5 p.m.

At The Flomot Community Center
No Gifts...Cards Would Be Appreciated

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Low-Income Families Should Dig For Bigger Tax Refund

A check for almost \$5,000 could be coming to certain low-income families this tax season, but many eligible people may never realize this opportunity, financial experts say.

"People who didn't earn enough to owe any taxes may choose not to file," said Dr. Joyce Cavanagh, Texas AgriLife Extension Service family economics specialist. "But if these people file anyway, they may be eligible for an Earned Income Tax Credit of up to \$4,716."

Likewise, some people just scratch the surface of a tax return when doing their own calculations, not realizing that higher refunds are possible for those who dig deep into the oft-confusing tax code, she said.

The Earned Income Tax Credit was created by Congress in 1975 to help reduce poverty, and currently is available for households with incomes up to \$38,000, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

Cavanagh said in Texas last tax year, about \$4.8 billion in Earned Income Tax Credit went to more than 2 million families. The total nationwide was more than \$40 billion.

"Still, there are about 15 percent of the eligible families who don't receive this credit because they don't file a tax return," she said. "For a lot of them, the tax system is intimidating, and people just don't know how to figure it out."

But free help is available in many communities through April 15, the tax filing deadline, according to Nancy Granovsky, AgriLife Extension family economist and financial planner. She noted programs such as VITA, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and AARP Tax-Aide programs, both of which use trained, certified tax preparers to help people file.

"These free programs can help put significant incomes back into the household," Granovsky said. "They are worthy efforts that put money back into pockets and help state and national economies."

In addition to preparing a tax return, volunteers may be able to help most people by filing electronically, a method both Granovsky and Cavanagh recommend.

"People who are expecting a big refund may rush to file because they need the money," Cavanagh said. "By filing electronically through these volunteer programs, a person with a checking or savings account can have the refund deposited directly into their bank account and have it in less than two weeks."

Granovsky cautioned that some businesses offering advances on refunds are actually making loans with high interest rates. It may make more sense to simply wait for money to be put into one's bank account and not be faced with owing interest or paying fees, she explained.

She said splitting one's refund, spending part and saving the rest, could be a big boost for personal finances.

To locate free tax preparation assistance, call 800-829-1040 to find out about VITA; and 800-829-1040 for Tax Counseling for the Elderly. The AARP Tax-Aide site, with a href="http://www.aarp.org/money/taxaide/">http://www.aarp.org/money/taxaide/ <mailto:JACavanagh@ag.tamu.edu> . The IRS Web site about free preparation is at http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=107626,00.html <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=107626,00.html>

The Internal Revenue Service reminds all who seek free tax-preparation assistance to bring the following items to a meeting with volunteer preparers:

- * Proof of identification.
- * Social Security cards for you, your spouse and dependents and/or a Social Security number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration.
- * Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents. Current year's tax package, if you received one.
- * Wage and earning statements, forms W-2, W-2G and 1099-R, from all employers.
- * Interest and dividend statements from banks (1099).
- * A copy of last year's federal and state returns, if available.
- * Bank routing numbers and account numbers for direct deposit.
- * Total paid for day care provider and the day care provider's tax identifying number, the provider's Social Security number or the provider's business Employer Identification Number.
- * To file taxes electronically on a married-filing-joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.



THE PATRIOT

Valley School News

Become A Wildlife Watcher

Newswise — Take the time to connect with nature and enjoy wildlife in your community this spring by participating in the National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) Wildlife Watch, part of the National Wildlife Week celebration from April 19-27.

This year's annual event marks the 70th anniversary of National Wildlife Week. It provides an opportunity for people of all ages to get outside and observe the wonders of nature by joining in the Nature Quest™ Wildlife Watch. Taking part is easy and it's free. Just visit www.nwf.org/watch to download a wildlife watch list for your state. The lists include plants and animals. When you are finished, you can share your sightings online with Wildlife Watchers from around the country and chat about your discoveries.

If you don't know where the best watching sites are, there is even a link on the web site to NatureFind, where you can identify green places and spaces in your area where wildlife is likely to be found. Who knows, you might be lucky enough to spot a bald eagle, a red fox with her kits, an elusive spring peeper frog which you often can hear but rarely actually see, a tiger swallowtail butterfly, or the brilliantly colored scarlet kingsnake.

If you enjoy Wildlife Watch, consider participating in a variety of other wildlife watching programs offered by the National Wildlife Federation including Nature Quest™ FrogWatch USA™.

Hill, Barrett and Schnitker Seek Unopposed Reelection To Turkey-Quitaque CISD Board Of Trustees

The Turkey-Quitaque CISD Board of Trustees met for their regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 18. Present for the meeting were members Dusty Hill, Brad Schnitker, Curtis Scrivner, Max Meyer, Susan Young and Belinda Barrett. After attending to regular monthly business the following items were addressed:

* A motion passed to renew the U.S.D.A. National Food Lunch Program.

* A motion passed for a Call of Election on May 10, 2008 for three full term trustee positions. The positions up for reelection are Dusty Hill, Belinda Barrett and Brad Schnitker. As of the filing deadline of March 10 the three incumbents were the only ones to file for the three positions.

* A motion passed to change the school calendar to reflect that Monday, March 24 will be an instructional day instead of a Bad Weather day.

* Principal Jon Davidson received a satisfactory appraisal and his contract was renewed for 11 month, with a unanimous vote.

* Coach Tyler received a satisfactory appraisal and his contract was renewed for 10 months, with a unanimous vote. With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Yeah! Spring Break

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A STATEWIDE SCREENING PROGRAM IS BEING OFFERED

The Legislature passed a law in 1985 that requires all sixth- and ninth-grade students to be screened for spinal deformities. Early detection of abnormal spinal curvature can prevent serious health problems. This is a problem that may begin during the early adolescent years (from 10 - 14 years of age), with an estimated 1 in 10 adolescents having some degree of abnormal curvature. Curves that are detected early may only require periodic observation by a specialist. Moderate curves may require the wearing of a brace, which is usually supervised by an orthopedic specialist. In most cases, the need for major surgery for this deformity can be eliminated through early detection.

Spinal screening for Turkey - Quitaque ISD school children has been scheduled to begin on Monday, March 24, 2008.

Children will be screened for two types of spinal deformities; scoliosis and kyphosis. Scoliosis is a condition in which the spine is twisted, causing misalignment of the upper body or lower back. This condition can worsen and lead to much pain, as well as complications of the heart and lungs. Kyphosis is an exaggerated rounding of the spine. Progression of these two conditions can often be arrested if detected early.

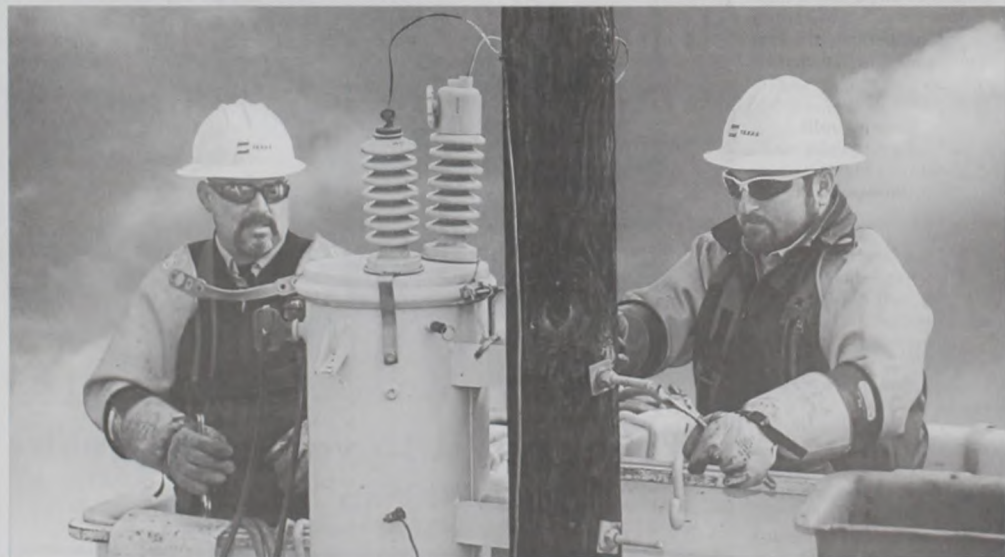
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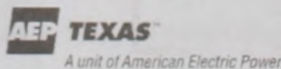


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KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

UNITED STATES SENATOR • TEXAS

D.C. Gun Case Has Implications for All Americans' 2nd Amendment Rights

By Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

The right to keep and bear arms is secure in Texas, but in our nation's capital it has been taken away.

In 1976, the Washington City Council passed the nation's toughest gun control law, banning handguns completely and requiring rifles and shotguns to be registered, stored unloaded and locked or disassembled.

The D.C. murder rate was declining before this law; in the next 15 years it jumped 200 percent.

Besides being ineffective, the ban is simply incomprehensible. Under D.C. law, business owners have the right to use a firearm to protect their store cash registers, but they cannot use the same firearm to protect themselves and their families in their homes.

Federal law enforcement officers protecting citizens and officials in the district with firearms cannot use similar protection in their homes.

This prohibition has been challenged in court, and the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed that the district's ban was not only unreasonable but unconstitutional.

On March 18, for the first time since 1939, the U.S. Supreme Court will rule on the issue of Second Amendment rights when it hears arguments in District of Columbia v. Heller. The court's decision will have major implications for all Americans.

I have filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court with my colleague Jon Tester from Montana - along with Vice President Dick Cheney as president of the Senate, 53 other U.S. senators and 250 members of the House - for the respondent, who simply wishes to exercise his constitutional right to protect himself. It has the most congressional signatures on any amicus brief to the Supreme Court.

The founding fathers knew what they were doing when they put the right to keep and bear arms in the Constitution. It was not an accident. In 1775, the American Revolution began because ordinary farmers decided to fight back against foreign tyranny. Many, if not most, in George Washington's regiments used their own guns.

The Second Amendment says, "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." It is clear that our founders did not use the term "militia" to suggest that gun rights could be used only in an organized army. But gun control advocates have made this argument for years.

If the framers' purpose had been a collective right, they would have been satisfied with Article I, Section VIII of the Constitution, which gives Congress the power to call forth the militia to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrection and repel invasions.

Instead, to ensure that gun ownership was recognized as an individual right, they included it in the Bill of Rights, a compilation of such other individual rights as freedom of speech, freedom of religion and a fair trial. The location of these words provides strong evidence for the founders' vision.

Thomas Jefferson once wrote, "The natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and government to gain ground." In debate on the Bill of Rights, James Madison wanted the American people to have the right to be armed in order to prevent the kind of tyranny that dominated the rest of the world, especially Europe.

The U.S. Supreme Court has the perfect case to affirm an individual's Second Amendment right to self-defense. Though gun-control advocates have questioned this through the years, Congress never has.

From the Freedman's Bureau Act of 1865 to the Property Requisition Act of 1941, Congress reaffirmed the solemn position of the U.S. as a defender of one's right to protect his being and his home with an operable firearm. I hope the Supreme Court will affirm the individual right to self-defense with a firearm so that it is clear and unambiguous.

It is an opportunity, perhaps, of a lifetime.



Palo Duro Basin 2007 Oil & Gas Production Update

By Tom Musser

Briscoe County: One well was test pumped during 2007, but production has not yet been reported. In 2007 Briscoe County had one well in the Silverton (Canyon) Field being test pumped and two shut-in wildcat wells.

Floyd County: Produced 1,968 barrels of oil in 2007. Floyd County has three producing oil fields, the Arick Field, the Stanley Gray (Canyon) Filed, the Wildcat Field and one shut-in field well, and ten shut-in wildcat wells.

Hale County: Produced 2,799,680 barrels of oil and 1,293,396 mcf of casinghead gas in 2007. Hale County has four producing oil fields, the Anton-Irish Field, the Anton_Irish (Wolfcamp) Field, the Anton-Irish (Wolfcamp, Upper) Field, the Lutrick Field and one non-producing field with an injection well, the Arick (Wolfcamp) Filed. In 2007 Hale County had 164 producing oil wells, 113 injection wells, 28 water supply wells, 90 shut-in field wells and 1 shut-in wildcat well.

Motley County: Produced 31,142 barrels of oil in 2007. Motley County has six producing oil fields, the Birnie (Congl., Oil) Filed, the Gupton (Canyon) Field, the Matador (Wolfcamp) Filed, the Roaring Springs Field, the Roaring Springs west Field and the Wolf Flat (Cisco) Field. In 2007 Motley County ad 17 producing oil wells, 4 injection wells, 14 shut-in wells and 5 shut-in wildcat wells.

Swisher County: In 2007 swisher County had one shut-in well.

The meaning of life is creative love. Not love as an inner feeling, as a private sentimental emotion, but love as a dynamic power moving out into the world and doing something original.
~ Tom Morris

It is astonishing what force, purity, and wisdom it requires for a human being to keep clear of falsehoods.
~ Margaret Fuller

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If you take care of the small things, the big things take care of themselves. You can gain more control over your life by paying closer attention to the little things.
~ Emily Dickinson

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Program Helps Texans Refresh Local Waterways

(AUSTIN, Texas) — With spring right around the corner, the Texas Waterway Cleanup Program stands ready to help Texas rivers and lakes get well-deserved face-lifts. This statewide effort provides free cleanup supplies, educational materials, and promotional support to help Texans beautify and improve the quality of their local waterways.

The program, a partnership between Keep Texas Beautiful and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, focuses on helping groups of any size host environmental education activities and cleanups of freshwater areas including lakes, rivers, creeks, and wetlands across the state. Participants include schools, government agencies, youth and scout groups, neighborhoods, businesses, or any group of concerned Texans. "The Texas Waterway Cleanup offers such an easy way for people to beautify their communities that everyone should participate," said Keep Texas Beautiful President Steve Hazlewood. "The program supports a wide range of activities and distributes, at no cost to the participant, many of the necessary tools for volunteers to help improve the water quality and aesthetic appeal of their state."

Registrants in the program receive FREE cleanup supplies such as trash bags, disposable gloves, litter pickup tools, hand sanitizer, sunblock, scout patches, and volunteer giveaway items, as well as promotional support. Last fall, volunteers supported 142 cleanup and water quality events across the state, with more than 11,500 volunteers collecting more than 264,000 pounds of debris from and around Texas waterways.

To get more information on the Texas Waterway Cleanup Program, register an event, or find out if there is a cleanup scheduled near you, visit www.ktb.org or call 1-800-CLEAN-TX.

Breeding Heat-Tolerant Cotton

Some plants like it hot. Cotton with superior heat tolerance can be a profitable crop for warmer climates, so Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists are identifying tolerance-specific genetic selection tools to assist breeding efforts.

Unfortunately, it's nearly impossible to differentiate between heat tolerance and heat avoidance simply by examining the quantity and quality of final crop yields. Heat avoidance refers to characteristics that enable a plant to withstand the heat with similar, but less reliable, results—for example, by shifting the bulk of metabolic activity to cooler, evening periods.

At the U.S. Arid-Land Agricultural Research Center in Maricopa, Ariz., ARS scientists are investigating the process known as "dark respiration." This research could make it easier to differentiate between heat-tolerant and heat-avoidant plants.

Dark respiration is a continuous process in which mitochondria within a plant's cells oxidize carbohydrates to create energy. Cotton plants make more starch during the day than they require for growth. The excess starch is stored in plant cells' chloroplasts, where photosynthesis occurs. At night, that starch is broken down via respiration and other metabolic processes and used to support new growth, such as cotton bolls.

To determine the relationship between efficient nocturnal carbon use and heat tolerance, plant physiologist Steven Crafts-Brandner and plant geneticist Richard Percy—now with the ARS Southern Plains Agricultural Research Center in College Station, Texas—selected three upland and three pima cotton cultivars, choosing a mix of heat-tolerant and heat-susceptible plants. They have been monitoring the cultivars' rates of dark respiration and photosynthesis throughout the day.

Percy and Crafts-Brandner have already made some significant observations. For example, the cultivars with the greatest heat tolerance generally have lower rates of dark respiration and more efficient use of carbohydrates. If ongoing studies support these observations, the scientists may be able to use these traits to improve the cotton breeding program.

ARS is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific research agency.



Cotton Market Woes: Industry-wide Concerns Merit Prompt Attention By The CFTC

Lubbock-based Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. has sent a letter to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission requesting immediate assistance to restore order to the cotton futures market and help reestablish the ability of that marketplace to be a viable price discovery mechanism for the cotton industry.

"For months the markets for many soft commodities, including cotton, have been increasingly targeted by speculative market interests looking to diversify their portfolios," says PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett. "Speculative interest is an important component of any commodity market that facilitates its primary function of being a price discovery mechanism. Unfortunately the events of the past two weeks have clearly illustrated that too much of a good thing can also cause bad things to happen."

Verett notes that the situation has been problematic for virtually every segment of the cotton industry, including producers that quickly found themselves unable to sell current crop cotton or contract 2008 cotton acreage.

"The cotton market is essentially a ship without a rudder at this point," says Verett. "Everyone recognizes that steps need to be taken to restore balance to the market and reconnect it to the actual buying and selling of cotton in the world marketplace."

"As the regulatory agency charged with overseeing the U.S. cotton futures market, we have asked the CFTC to move quickly to assist the industry in this endeavor and restore confidence in it as a viable price discovery and risk management tool."

It is hard to imagine the cotton industry facing such a watershed situation when cotton prices seem headed in exactly the direction cotton producers and many allied industry members have been waiting to see — UP.

Unfortunately for those that found themselves in the eye of this unexpected storm, market fundamentals and a suddenly positive supply/demand outlook didn't initiate the market's recent action. Instead, the rapid upward leap was fueled by the Wall Street equivalent of pumping pure nitrous oxide into the carburetor of your favorite 20-year old farm truck. In the end you get to go really fast for little while, but eventually the wheels just fall off and you find yourself stuck in a ditch.

Hardest hit have been cotton merchants and others who held what they thought were relatively stable market positions but instead found themselves riding the crest of a market tsunami. In the end a complicated and unanticipated confluence of events created the current mess that is the New York cotton futures market.

Restoring the cotton futures market to a functional price discovery and risk management mechanism will require the assistance of the CFTC to augment what is already an industry-wide effort to find lasting solutions and create an even better market place for the cotton trade.

Cotton Inc To Offer Free Cotton Marketing Workshop; Reserve Your Spot Today

Get your calendars out and plan to attend this year's "Cotton Price Risk Management and Pricing Strategies Seminar" sponsored by Cotton Incorporated, in cooperation with Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.

The free seminar is designed to help producers develop and sharpen their individual cotton marketing skills and develop market-based strategies for managing price risk for the 2008 marketing season.

This year's workshop will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Towers, located at 801 Avenue Q in Lubbock. The workshop will run from 8:30 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided to all workshop participants.

Workshop topics include: "Why are options on cotton futures critical to your business?"; "What can options do for you and how?"; and, "Actionable hedging strategies."

Instructors for this year's seminar will be retired Texas A&M Extension Economist Dr. Carl Anderson and Mr. Mike Stevens of Swiss Financial.

The program will also include a 2008 Production Cost Outlook by Dr. John Robinson of Texas A&M University; a Market Outlook by Cotton Marketing Specialist Dr. O.A. Cleveland; a presentation on hedging Counter-cyclical payments by Kelli Merritt, from CropMark, Inc., in Lamesa; and a session on practical application of the skills and information provided during the workshop by Cotton Specialist Mike Stevens.

For information about the conference contact Jeanne Reeves at Cotton Incorporated (919-678-2370) or Shawn Wade at Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. (806-792-4904).

Registration is required for the conference and participants can register by telephone or email. Telephone registrations should be directed to Kay Wriedt (919-678-2271). Email registrations should be addressed to: kwriedt@cottoninc.com

PCG's 2008 Seed Cost Calculator

An updated version of the 2008 Plains Cotton Growers Seed Cost Calculator is now available. Growers interested in comparing prices for their 2008 planting seed options can download the calculator at <http://www.plainscotton.org>.

The 2008 version includes 129 conventional, Roundup Ready, Roundup Ready FLEX, Liberty Link, Bollgard and Bollgard II and Widestrike varieties, as well as numerous stacked gene versions of these technologies that will be available for sale in West Texas in 2008. Should information on additional varieties become available, an update to the spreadsheet will be developed and posted on PCG's website.

The PCG calculator is an interactive Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that allows producers to calculate an estimated cost per acre, for both seed and technology, based on published suggested retail prices.

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For Info. Phone Lonnie (806) 217-1313 Or
Or Five Star Auctioneers: Jim (806) 864-3611 Or Jimmy (806) 864-3362
The Following Will Be Sold At Public Auction:

TRACTORS —

- 1—1983 John Deere 4450 Diesel Tractor, Cab, A/C, Htr., O/R Trans., T.H., 18.4x38 Rubber, Duals, S.N. 7289
- 1—1976 Allis Chalmers 7060 Diesel Tractor, Cab, A/C, Htr., D.H., 18.4x38 Rubber (Cracked Piston) S.N. 3011
- 1—1984 John Deere 4020 L.P.G. Tractor, W.F., 3-pt., 16.9x34 Rubber, S.N. 81734
- 1—1966 Case 930 L.P.G. Tractor, Cab, W.F., 3-pt., 18.4x34 Tractor, S.N. 8295505
- 1—1959 John Deere 730 L.P.G. Tractor, W.F., 3-pt., 15.5x38 Tractor

EQUIPMENT —

- 1—John Deere 3955 3-pt. 5 Btm., Switch Plow
- 1—Sterling G/N 5 Btm., Mouldboard Packer
- 1—John Deere 71 3-pt. 6 Row-40" Flex Planter S.S.B. Tool Carrier, 6 Hole G.W.
- 1—Hamby 3-pt. 6 Row-40" Hyd. Rod Weeder Rig, S.S.B. W/2" Bar Behind, G.W.
- 1—Hamby 3-pt. 4 Row-40" Hyd. Rod Weeder, D.S.B., G.W.
- 1—Hamby 3-pt. 6 Row-40" Middle Runner, D.S.B., L.T.M., 6 Hole G.W.
- 1—Roll-A-Cone 3-pt. 6 Row-40" Cultivator, D.S.B., G.W.
- 6—Cole Planter Units Mounted On Hamby D.S.B. Tool Carrier, G.W.
- 4—Cole Planter Units Mounted On Double Diamond Toolbar
- 2—John Deere 400 3-pt. 20" Rotary Hoes

- 1—Hamby 3-pt. 7 Row-40" Lister W/Row Markers, D.S.B., G.W.
- 1—Noble 3-pt. 21" Field Cultivator W/Lift Harrows
- 1—Kent D.T. 21" Field Cultivator, Front Fold
- 1—Roll-A-Cone 3-pt. 15" Chisel/Sweep Plow, T.S.B., G.W.
- 1—John Deere 3-pt. 13 Shank Chisel/Sweep Plow, D.D.B., G.W.
- 1—Big Ox 3-pt. 7 Shank V-Ripper
- 1—3-pt. 4 Row Knifing Rig, D.D.B.
- 1—Graham 3-pt. 11 Shank Box Beam Hoeme
- 2—Graham D.T. 9 Shank Hoemes
- 1—3-pt. 5 Shank Sweep Plow, G.W.
- 1—3-pt. 4 Shank Toolbar
- 1—John Deere 825 3-pt. 3 Btm. Spinner Mouldboard
- 1—John Deere BW D.T. 14" Tandem Disk
- 1—Krause D.T. 14" Tandem Disk

PEANUT EQUIPMENT —

- 1—Bush Hog - Lilliston 9004 D.T. Peanut Combine, S.N. 272
- 1—LFT 3-pt. 4 Row Peanut Digger
- 1—Paulk Model 2200 3-pt. 2 Row Peanut Digger
- 1—Paulk 3-pt. 2 Row Peanut Digger
- 1—Lilliston 1500 D.T. 2 Row Peanut Combine

CENTER PIVOT SPRINKLERS

- 1—Valley 7 Tower Center Pivot Sprinkler

- 1—Valley 5 Tower Center Pivot Sprinkler

LOCATED: From Sale Site 3/4 Mile North, Then 1/4 Mile East (North of House)

SPRAYERS, ROPEWICK —

- 1—Lee Spider S.P. 3 Seal Spot Sprayer, Kohler 18 H.P. Gas Eng., 2 Wheel Hydrostat Drive
- 1—D.T. 125 Gal. Sprayer
- 1—PMT 6 Row Ropewick

PICKUPS —

- 1—1986 Dodge 150 Ram 1/2 Ton Pickup, V-8, A/T, S.W.B. (Not Running)
- 1—1986 Ford F150 1/2 Ton Pickup, 300 Eng., A/T, L.W.B. (Not Running)
- 1—1985 Chevrolet 1/2 Ton 4x4 Pickup (Engine Out) S.W.B. (Needs Repairs)
- 2—1979 Ford 1/2 Ton Pickups, V-8, A/T, L.W.B. (Not Running)
- 1—1996 Chevrolet 1/2 Ton Pickup, V-8, A/T, A/C, L.W.B. (Not Running)

TRAILERS, TANKS —

- 1—20' Flatbed Trailer W/S Jts. 23/8x30" Steel Tubing, 68 Jts. 3/4"x24" Sucker Rods, 10 Jts., 6 Column Pipe, 4-Hyd. Cylinders, Part Roll Woven Wire, 1—Single Shank Chisel Plow (Will Be Sold As One Unit)
- 1—500 Gal. Propane Tank, 200 PSI
- 1—575 Gal. Butane Tank

NOTE: Any Announcement Sale Day Takes Precedence

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National Agriculture Week March 16-22

Have you thanked a farmer? The first day of spring, March 20, is your opportunity to celebrate the strength and stability of American agriculture.

The backbone of our society has remained as an unwavering supplier of food, fiber and fuel to not only our nation, but also the world. In a time of depression, in a time of war or in a time of disaster, our nation's producers have kept their products on grocery store shelves.

"Farmers account for approximately 2% of the U.S. population," said Rodney Mosier, executive vice president of the Texas Wheat Producers Board & Association. "It is astonishing that such a small percentage feeds the rest of our population."

With each generation, we see producers working harder and harder. Today, one producer feeds more than 144 people. New technology means farmers are more environmentally friendly than ever before. Agriculture remains the leading U.S. export, providing vitality and sustainability to a healthy economy.

There is an entire industry dedicated to providing plentiful and safe food. From beef and pork to cotton and wheat, agriculture is working harder than ever to meet the needs of Americans and others around the world.

As we welcome our newest season, recognize the role of agriculture and celebrate it. Agriculture is growing our tomorrows.

Organized by the Agriculture Council of America, Ag Day "honors agriculture for providing safe, abundant and affordable products, a strong economy, a source of renewable energy, and a world of job opportunities." For more information about how you can help celebrate American agriculture, visit www.agday.org.

Profile of the Farmer

More than three million people farm or ranch in the United States. Individuals, family partnerships or family corporations operate almost 99 percent of U.S. farms. Over 22 million people are employed in farm or farm-related jobs, including production agriculture, farm inputs, processing and marketing and wholesale and retail sales.

According to the 2002 Census of Agriculture, 50 percent of the farmers are 55 years of age or older, up only three percent from 1997. Average age of the principal operator is 55.3.

Forty-one percent of U.S. total land area is farmland (938.28 million acres). In 1900, the average farm size was 147 acres, compared to 441 acres today.

The top five agricultural commodities are cattle and calves, dairy products, broilers, corn and soybeans. U.S. farmers produce 46% of the world's soybeans, 41% of the world's corn, 20.5% of the world's cotton and 13% of the world's wheat.

Farmers and ranchers are independent business people who provide for their families by growing and producing food and fiber. They use modern production techniques to increase the quality and quantity of the food they produce. In the 1960s one farmer supplied food for 25.8 persons in the U.S. and abroad. Today, one farmer supplies food for 144 people in the U.S. and abroad.

The Changing Face of Agriculture

Farmers and ranchers are producing meat lower in fat and cholesterol. This has resulted in retail cuts that are 15 percent leaner, giving consumers better value for their dollar. For example, a pork tenderloin now has only one more gram of fat than a skinless chicken breast, one of the true fat "lightweights." Also, much leaner beef cuts are being produced than 20 years ago, resulting in 27 percent less fat reaching the retail case than in 1985.

Research and advancements in biotechnology are now in the marketplace with tastier fruits and vegetables that stay fresh longer and are not damaged by insects.

A new technique called "precision farming" boosts crop yields and reduces waste by using satellite maps and computers to match seed, fertilizer and crop protection applications to local soil conditions.

Farm equipment has evolved dramatically from the team of horses used in the early 1900s. Today's four-wheel drive tractors have the power of 40- 300 horses. This makes for a large capital investment, as farmers pay anywhere from \$97,000 for an average 160 horsepower tractor to \$170,000 for a four-wheel drive model.

As the amount of mechanization and horsepower in farm machinery has increased, the time needed to complete tasks has decreased. Combines, huge machines used to harvest grains such as corn, soybeans and wheat, have dramatically changed agriculture. In the 1930s, before the machines were available, a farmer could harvest an average of 100 bushels of corn by hand in a nine-hour day. Today's combines can harvest 900 bushels of corn per hour-or 100 bushels of corn in under seven minutes!

The efficiency of U.S. farmers benefits the United States consumer in the pocketbook. Americans spend less on food than any other developed nation in the world. On average in 2004, Americans spent only 2% of their disposable income on meat and poultry, compared to 4.1 percent in 1970.

AG ECONOMY REMAINS STRONG

AMARILLO, Texas Panhandle-Plains Land Bank CEO Robert R. Williams, Jr. issued the association's 2007 report following delivery of the Farm Credit System financial reports this week.

Williams report includes end of year volume numbers which were again significantly above projections for the year. He explained, 2007 has been another very strong year for the association as we close the books at \$353.7 million in total volume. The driving force this past year has been retail volume, or real estate loans we make in the panhandle and south plains. Our participation portfolio continues to be a good income source and provides portfolio diversity; however, retail growth is a better indicator of how our local agriculture economy is doing. Williams said, Each of our offices enjoyed an excellent year reflecting a good crop and overall strong commodity prices. These factors are pushing up land values and keeping credit quality very good.


As is the nature of West Texas agriculture, Williams recognized that some areas had to deal with late season hail and lack of moisture; however, the area overall enjoyed a very good year. Good quality, productive land is in high demand, and that drives up values, explained Williams. Even at these higher prices, agriculture land is a good investment providing an acceptable return. Our market analysis finds that rural recreation tracts are holding in value as well.

Reflecting the good year, the board of directors announced the 2008 patronage at their January meeting. This year's cash payment to stockholders will total \$2.835 million. Checks will be available at regional customer appreciation meetings being held the week of March 3rd through the 7th at the 4 credit office locations of the association. Customers should contact their loan officer for meeting details.

The association also announced the hiring of an additional loan officer at the Amarillo office. Blain Eubank joined the Amarillo team this past summer. He returned to the association having worked in the Pampa office some years ago.

Panhandle-Plains Land Bank provides long-term credit to farmers, ranchers, and agribusiness in 17 counties of the Panhandle and South Plains. Offices are located in Amarillo, Pampa, Perryton, and Plainview. It is under the direction of a stockholder-elected board of directors. Members include Larry E. Fairchild of Adrian; Dennis Babcock of Groom; Randy Darnell of Amarillo; Ronnie N. Hopper of Petersburg; Don James of Plainview; Rusty Henson of Quitaque; Steve Rader of Canadian; Daniel Krienke of Perryton; Wayne Garrett of Gruver; and Steve Brown of Floydada.

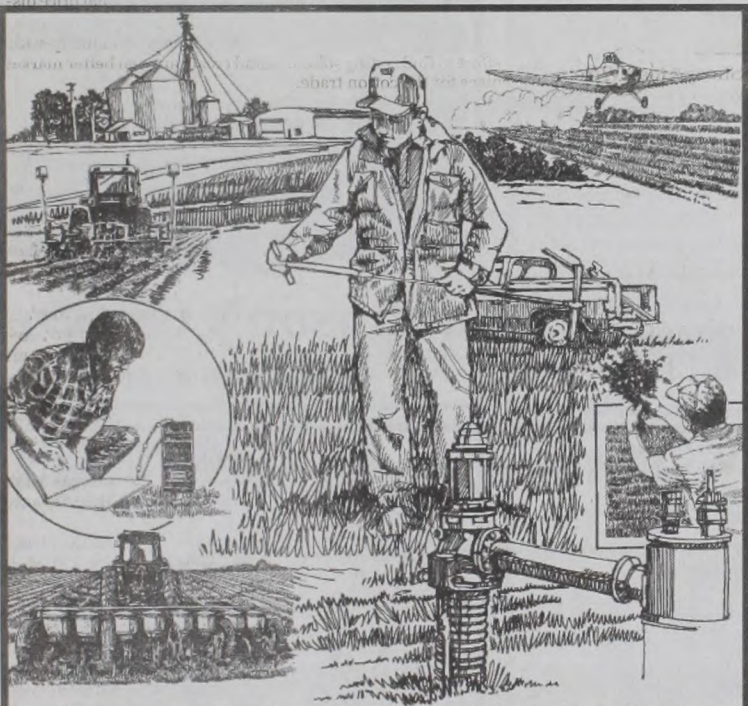
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The Valley Tribune
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Agriculture: Celebrating Its Horsepower

From a team of horses in the early 1900s to tractors with the power of 40 to 300 horses today, American farmers provide consumers with more and better quality food than ever before. In fact, one farmer now supplies food for about 144 people in the United States and abroad compared with just 25.8 people in 1960.

The efficiency of American farmers pays off in the price American consumers pay for food as well. U.S. consumers spend roughly 9 percent of their income on food compared with 11 percent in the United Kingdom, 17 percent in Japan, 27 percent in South Africa and 53 percent in India. This great value is due in large part to improved equipment efficiency, enhanced crop and livestock genetics through biotechnology and conventional breeding, and advances in information management.

All Americans are asked to enjoy and admire the wonders of American agriculture as National Agriculture Day is celebrated on the first day of Spring.

Equipment Changes Boost Farm Output

Today's farmers work nearly three-and-one-half times more land than their predecessors from 1900. Their needs are different, the crops are different and the rules governing production practices are different.

"There is an on-going consolidation in agriculture that results in fewer farmers farming more acres," says Doug DeVries, Sr. Vice President Agricultural Marketing for North America, Australia and Asia at John Deere in Moline, Ill. "Their needs for equipment are changing. Their expectations for what the equipment will do for their farming operation are also changing."

DeVries adds that John Deere has had three of its largest product introductions ever in the last four years - despite tough economic times. "We've almost revamped our entire product line to provide more efficient production solutions for farmers," he says. "When we sell a planter, we're really selling the ability to plant a crop. Farmers want solutions in the form of bigger, faster equipment that provides them with better information about their farming operations."

Information Management Aids In Food Safety, Production Efficiency

John Deere also provides technology services to farmers that include wireless information transfer and satellite guidance systems for driving equipment. With JD Link™ farmers can have information about their equipment and production operations transferred directly from the equipment in the field to a Web site for easy access later. This can greatly improve their efficiency and increase the life of their equipment by ensuring more timely maintenance.

GreenStar™ AutoTrac is a satellite guidance system introduced to farmers by John Deere in 2002 and expanded in 2003. This assisted steering system is extremely accurate (within 4-inches pass to pass accuracy) and guides the tractor in a straight line down the row. The operator still turns the tractor at the end of each pass, and must also steer around obstacles such as trees, ditches, and waterways. This technology helps farmers by reducing fatigue and benefits consumers by reducing input costs so the end product costs less when it reaches the retail shelf.

Overall, new technology, such as Field Doc, an agronomic data collection system that uses KeyCard software and three common GreenStar components, provides farmers with better, more timely information to ensure quality, efficient crop production. The information infrastructure also allows growers to track their crops and the production processes used to produce those crops better. A key factor as biotechnology and traceability of specific crop varieties become even more important in food production.

Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible, but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary.
 ~Reinhold Niebuhr

New Uses Benefit Consumers, Farmers Alike

Research and technology advancements have also resulted in new uses for commodity crops like corn, soybeans and various grains. Use of products like ethanol and soy-diesel will reduce American dependence on fossil fuels and improve air quality throughout the United States and the world. Ethanol is the largest industrial use of these commodity crops, but soy-diesel and other uses are emerging every year. According to DeVries, resins from corn and soybeans are used in some of the panels that go into John Deere equipment. "We've really just seen the tip of the iceberg in the use of renewable resources," says DeVries. "The more we can use commodity crops in industrial applications, the better off we'll all be."

Programs, Technology Preserve Environment, Advance Productivity

American agriculture can also be celebrated for its efforts in environmental conservation. Farmers and ranchers provide food and habitat for approximately 75 percent of this nation's wildlife. The current farm bill has provisions for farmers to create environmental habitats that will ensure protection of the land and water resources of this country.

Farmers use computer and satellite technology to map their fields for production inputs. This increases yields and reduces crop inputs like fertilizer and crop protection chemicals. "Most farmers use some form of mapping process in their operations," says DeVries. "What we at John Deere have done is provide them with advanced technology through Field Doc and JD Office™ to efficiently use those maps and track their production information to help make wise, data-driven decisions about their farming operation."

With today's technology, farmers are better able to match seed characteristics and production practices to soil type and climate conditions. The result is higher yields with lower input costs from more efficient use of chemicals, fertilizers and tillage. Ultimately, that results in more food at a lower cost for consumers.

Today's farmers understand the importance of improving the quality and quantity of food available to the world. According to the US Census Bureau, it is estimated that there will be 7.5 billion people in the world by the year 2020 (we're currently at 6.2 billion). It's agriculture's job to find a way to feed those people. Advancements in crop technology, equipment technology and information management will make that possible. American farmers and others involved in the agriculture industry have met and will continue to meet this challenge again and again.

Elections are won by men and women chiefly because most people vote against somebody rather than for somebody.
 ~Franklin Adams

Biotechnology Increases Capacity, Product Quality

Biotechnology is another factor in the efficiency of American farmers and their ability to provide more, higher quality food and livestock. Biotechnology provides benefits similar to traditional plant and livestock breeding, but does so in a more controlled environment and with faster results.

Advancements made in plant biotechnology provide consumers with better quality products in many areas. And those benefits are just beginning. There are many products in the biotechnology research pipeline that will provide better livestock feed resulting in leaner meat for consumers. Many of these same products will lessen the environmental impact of livestock production, by reducing waste and/or the chemicals found in animal waste.

Pharmaceutical companies are actively working with farmers to develop crops that can go directly from the field to pharmaceutical production - eliminating some of the processing steps that occur in today's operations. This research will significantly reduce the costs required to produce many life-saving drugs.

"The most peaceful thing in the world is plowing a field. Chances are you'll do your best thinking that way."

~Harry S. Truman

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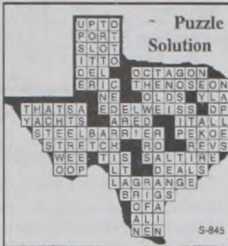
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34-2tc

POLITICAL CALENDAR

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Things That Make You Go Hmmm...

By Laura Taylor

In honor of all you farmers out there, an you know who you are, here is my salute to you for National Agriculture Week.

Dayvorce

A farmer walked into an attorney's office wanting to file for a divorce. The attorney asked, "May I help you?" The farmer said, "Yea, I want to get one of those dayvorce's." The attorney said, "Well do you have any grounds?" The farmer said, "Yea, I got about 140 acres." The attorney said, "No, I don't have a Case, but I have a John Deere." The attorney said, "No you don't understand, I mean do you have a grudge?" The farmer said, "Yea, I got a grudge, that's where i park my John Deere." The attorney said, "No sir, I mean do you have a suit?" The farmer said, "Yes sir, I got a suit. I wear it to church on Sundays."

The exasperated attorney said, "Well sir, does your wife beat you up or anything?" The farmer said, "No sir, we both get up about 4:30." Finally, the attorney says, "Okay, let me put it this way. 'WHY DO YOU WANT A DIVORCE?'" And the farmer says, "Well, I can never have a meaningful conversation with her."

Mother-In-Law

A newlywed farmer and his wife were visited by her mother, who immediately demanded an inspection of the place. The farmer had genuinely tried to be friendly to his new mother-in-law, hoping that it could be a friendly, non-antagonistic relationship. All to no avail thought, as she kept nagging them at every opportunity, demanding changes, offering unwanted advice, and generally making life unbearable to the farmer and his new bride.

While they were walking through the barn, during the forced inspection, the farmers' mule suddenly reared up and kicked the mother-in-law in the head, killing her instantly. It was a shock to all no matter their feelings toward her demanding ways.

At the funeral service a few days later, the farmer stood near the casket and greeted folks as they walked by. The pastor noticed that whenever a woman would whisper something to the farmer, he would nod his head yes and say something. Whenever a man walked by and whispered to the farmer, however, he would shake his head no, and mumble a reply.

Very curious as to this bizarre behavior, the pastor later asked the farmer what that was all about. The farmer replied, "The women would say, 'What a terrible tragedy' and I would nod my head and say 'Yes, it was.' The men would then ask, 'Can I borrow that mule?' And I would shake my head and say, 'Can't it's all booked up for a year.'"

HHHMMM.....

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This Week In Texas History!

Mar 24, 1957
The Panhandle blizzard continued, killing eight people and stranding thousands. Snow drifts were between seven and 10 feet deep in places.

Mar 24, 1883
Some 325 working Panhandle cowboys refused to work and went on strike demanding higher wages. They wanted \$50 a month for cowboys and cooks and \$75 a month for trail bosses.

Mar 24, 1825
The Mexican Congress passed a colonization law requiring all immigrants to become Mexican citizens.

Mar 25, 1957
The Panhandle blizzard ended. It killed 10 people and stranded 40,000 on area highways, damage estimates were in the millions of dollars.

Mar 25, 1950
Frank "Bring 'Em Back Alive" Buck died in Houston. He was born in Gainsville in 1888, Buck provided zoos with over 100,000 birds and animals in his lifetime. He also had his own circus.

Mar 25, 1843
17 unlucky Texans from the Mier expedition drew black beans and were then executed by the Mexican Army.

Mar 26, 1918
Gov. William P. Hobby signed legislation giving women the right to vote in Texas.

Mar 26, 1861
The Secession Convention ratified the constitution of the Confederate States of America.

Mar 26, 1846
Fort Polk was established at Point Isabel, nine miles from the mouth of the Rio Grande River.

Mar 27, 1917
Three days after the first earthquake hit, another quake hit near the center of Carson County. It was more severe and registered 4.7 on the Richter scale. It struck at 7:56 p.m. and was felt over a 5,000 square mile area.

Mar 27, 1864
William Quantrill was arrested in Bonham. He and his men were able to escape and rode out of Texas at Preston, near the Oklahoma border.

Mar 27, 1836
340 Texans, along with Col. James Fannin were marched out of Goliad by the Mexican Army. Where they were executed on orders of Santa Anna. Only a few lucky Texans were able to escape the Palm Sunday massacre.

Mar 28, 1969
Dwight David Eisenhower died in Washington at the age of 78. Born in Denison, he was the first native born Texan to serve as president.

Mar 28, 1958
Elvis Presley arrived at Fort Hood to begin 25 weeks of military training.

Mar 28, 1862
1,200 Confederate soldiers, along with the Fourth Texas Mounted Volunteers, were defeated by Union forces at the Battle of Glorieta Pass near Santa Fe.

Mar 29, 1836
As the Mexican Army approached San Felipe, Gen. Sam Houston along with his 1,300 soldiers who had arrived the day before, rounded up all guns and provisions, then torched the community, and continued the eastward retreat.

Mar 30, 1981
John Warnock Hinkley Jr. of Highland Park, attempted to assassinate President Ronald Regan in Washington.

Mar 30, 1870
Texas was readmitted to the Union following Reconstruction and the Civil War.

Mar 30, 1836
Gen. Sam Houston's Army reached Groce's Plantation as the "Runaway Scrape" continued.

Government-Made Crises

by Jacob G. Hornberger

A fascinating aspect of government intervention is how it induces people (1) to get embroiled in the crisis environment that the intervention produces, and (2) to feel a vested interest in coming up with a solution to the crisis.

Consider price controls, an intervention that governments traditionally turn to in response to their own debasement of the currency. As prices rise in response to monetary debasement, people begin screaming at businesses for raising their prices, not realizing that rising prices are in reality just a reflection of the falling value of the dollar due to government's inflation of the money supply.

Responding to the screams, government officials make it illegal for businesses to raise their prices. Yet, inevitably, there are those businesses that violate the law, if for no other reason than to simply survive.

What happens then?

There's a crisis involving price-control violators, and nearly everyone not only gets embroiled in the crisis but also joins the crowd in trying to come up with a way to make the price controls succeed. Everyone from newspaper editors to television commentators to the man on the street starts exclaiming that something needs to be done to stop the criminals. "They're gouging us! They're stealing from us! The law is the law! Enforce the law! Increase the punishments!" Snitches pop up everywhere, reporting price violators to the police.

Then along comes a free-market advocate who says, "Hey, how about just repealing the original intervention — the price controls — along with all the subsequent interventions? How about simply operating under the economic laws of supply and demand?"

Immediately, he is met with a cavalcade of criticism: "Why, that's just crazy! We're at war! You want us to just surrender to the price violators? You're so impractical! Join the crowd! Help us find a way to make the price controls succeed!"

Or consider another example — immigration controls. Some central-planning bureaucrats in Washington come up with an arbitrary number of Mexican immigrants who may enter the United States, and they enact that number into law. The problem, however, is that the artificial number is far below the number of immigrants who enter the United States in response to the natural laws of supply and demand. Immediately, there are illegals who are entering the country in excess of the arbitrary number set by the bureaucrats.

People then become embroiled in the crisis and involve themselves with helping come up with a plan to make the intervention succeed. "We need to do something to stop the illegals!" becomes the battle cry. A host of new interventions come into existence to deal with the crisis. Laws against the transportation of illegal aliens. Laws against harboring them. Laws against hiring them. Laws against renting to them. Fences and walls. Militarization. Checkpoints. Searches. Spying. ID cards. Every day, someone calls for a new intervention to deal with the ever-growing crisis.

Then some free-market advocate comes along and says, "Hey, I've got an idea. How about simply repealing the original intervention — the immigration controls — along with all the subsequent interventions? How about simply operating under the economic laws of supply and demand?"

Immediately he is hit with the same cacophony of hoots and jeers encountered by the free-market advocate who calls for the repeal of price controls to deal with the price-control crisis: "We can't do that! That wouldn't be practical! You would have us surrender to the illegals? We just have to crack down harder. Enforce the law! Increase the punishments!"

As Ludwig von Mises pointed out, one government intervention inevitably leads to more government interventions because of the problems arising from the previous interventions. The inevitable trend is more and more government intrusion in people's economic affairs, with omnipotent government and loss of liberty at the end of the road.

Such interventions as price controls and immigration controls are good examples of this phenomenon. The solution to interventionist crises lies not in enacting more interventions but instead in repealing the interventions. By restoring the free market, we not only rid ourselves of needless government-made crises, we also restore freedom, peace, harmony, and prosperity to our lives.

Jacob Hornberger is founder and president of The Future of Freedom Foundation (www.fff.org).

In a time of drastic change it is the learners who inherit the future. The learned usually find themselves equipped to live in a world that no longer exists.

~ Eric Hoffer



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Area Wide March Sales Tax Allocations

City	Current Sales Tax Rate	Net Tax Payment This Period	Comp. Tax Payment Prior Year	% Of Change	2008 Tax Payments To Date	2007 Tax Payments To Date	% Of Change
Quitaque	2.00%	\$2,173.70	\$2,465.82	-11.84%	\$9,422.90	\$8,701.79	8.28%
Silverton	1.75%	\$2,705.87	\$3,180.79	-14.93%	\$10,190.37	\$11,102.82	-8.21%
Turkey	2.00%	\$2,825.09	\$1,811.09	55.98%	\$8,623.51	\$7,823.48	10.22%
Memphis	2.00%	\$20,126.99	\$19,528.75	3.06%	\$61,410.24	\$63,975.57	-4.00%
Lakeview	1.00%	\$275.05	\$362.37	-24.09%	\$543.17	\$616.70	-11.92%
Estelline	1.25%	\$2,087.64	\$1,319.45	58.22%	\$4,726.56	\$4,736.11	-0.20%
Matador	2.00%	\$4,572.05	\$4,395.09	4.02%	\$16,187.43	\$16,331.35	-0.88%
Roaring Spgs	2.00%	\$1,318.73	\$1,365.89	-3.45%	\$4,927.29	\$6,007.65	-17.98%

This Table Compiled By The Valley Tribune From Information On The Texas Comptroller's Website (*) indicates a change in rate in the past 14 months.

Comptroller Susan Combs Reports Continued Growth in State and Local Sales Tax Revenues

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs this week announced state sales tax revenue in February totaled \$1.79 billion, up 8.8 percent compared to February 2007.

"For the first half of fiscal 2008, state sales tax collections are up 7.1 percent over fiscal 2007," Combs said. "Although growth is slower than the two previous fiscal years, increases in state sales tax revenues continue at a steady pace."

Combs delivered \$436.1 million in March sales tax payments to Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts, a 9.9 percent increase compared to March 2007. So far this calendar year, local sales tax allocations are up 7.1 percent compared to the first three months of 2007.

State sales tax revenue for February and March payments made to local governments today primarily represent sales that occurred in January.

Comptroller Combs sent March sales tax payments of \$293.2 million to Texas cities, up 9.2 percent compared to March 2007. Calendar year-to-date, city sales tax allocations are running 6.8 percent higher than last year. Texas counties received sales tax payments of \$26.8 million, up 10.5 percent compared to one year ago. Calendar year-to-date, county sales tax allocations are 7.2 percent higher than last year.

President Declares Emergency Disaster For Texas

The head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that the President yesterday declared an emergency exists in the state of Texas and ordered federal aid to supplement state and local response efforts in the area struck by wildfires beginning on March 14, 2008, and continuing.

FEMA Administrator David Paulison said that the President's action makes authorizes FEMA to coordinate all disaster relief efforts which have the purpose of alleviating the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population, and to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in the counties including Briscoe, Floyd, Hall, and Motley.

Specifically, FEMA is authorized to identify, mobilize, and provide at its discretion, equipment and resources necessary to alleviate the impacts of the emergency. Emergency protective measures, limited to direct Federal assistance, will be provided at 75 percent Federal funding.

Paulison named Kenneth G. Clark as the federal coordinating officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

A man who uses a great many words to express his meaning is like a bad marksman who, instead of aiming a single stone at an object, takes up a handful and throws at in hopes he may hit.

~ Samuel Johnson

How far would Moses have gone if he had taken a poll in Egypt?

~ Harry S. Truman

Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.

~ Arthur C. Clarke

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