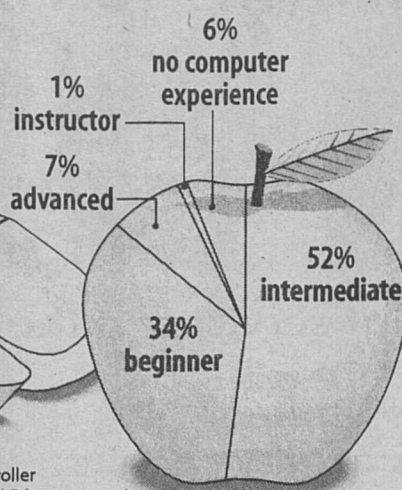


Keeping an Eye on Texas

Tech-savvy teachers fill Texas classrooms

Texas teachers are computer savvy according to a 1999 *Education Week* survey. In fact, 60 percent of Texas teachers have an intermediate or higher level of technology expertise. In addition, 91 percent of Texas classrooms are linked to the Internet.

Computer skills of Texas teachers in 1999:



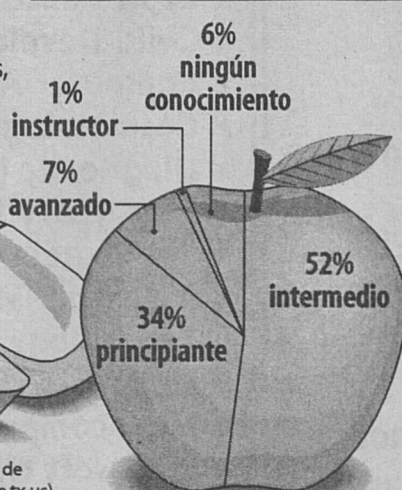
SOURCES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (www.window.state.tx.us) and *Education Week*.

El bienestar de Texas

Los salones de clase de Texas, llenos de maestros conocedores de la tecnología

Según una encuesta llevada a cabo por *Education Week* en 1999, los maestros de Texas son conocedores de la tecnología y computación. De hecho, el 60 por ciento de los maestros de Texas tienen un nivel intermedio o avanzado de experiencia en este campo. Además, el 91 por ciento de los salones de clases en nuestro estado están enlazados a Internet.

Niveles de conocimiento de computadoras de los maestros de Texas en 1999



FUENTES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Contralora de Cuentas Públicas de Texas (www.window.state.tx.us) y *Education Week*.

FARM BUREAU NEWS

The grassroots input of Texas Farm Bureau continues this summer through the organization's statewide Policy Development meetings.

"The purpose of the meetings is to surface issues of concern to farmers and ranchers. There are an abundance of issues ranging from education and government intervention to property rights and water rights," said Colorado County Farm Bureau (CCFB) President Charles Harbich.

The annual Policy Development meetings are held in all of FB's 13 districts.

After policy development, issues may be adopted as policy at local CFB conventions.

In Nov., delegates to Texas FB's convention will debate and vote on

issues of both state and national interest.

State resolutions approved will become state policy for 2001.

Approved national resolutions will be forwarded to the American Farm Bureau annual convention in January.

"The entire process - from district policy development meetings to the conventions - is extremely important to FB," Harbich said. "This is when farmers and ranchers can help decide the future direction of not only the largest farm group in Texas and the United States, but also the agriculture in general," the local CFB leader added.

Policy Development meetings are scheduled through Aug. 31.

Teacher attends summer institute

Colorado County Farm Bureau (CCFB) sent one teacher, Mike Keenon, to the 2000 Summer Institute held at Tarleton State University, July 10-14. Keenon is a teacher at Eagle Lake Middle School (ELMS).

Participation in the Institute is a good way to increase teachers' knowl-

edge about agriculture and spark their enthusiasm for using FB's Ag in the classroom material.

Many of these teachers, working with their county FB, are using the ideas gained at the Institute to show their students how agriculture touches their lives on a daily basis.

Parking, dates among changes for HLS&R

The view from Houston's South Loop is the first sign of the enormous changes surrounding the Astrodome, progress that also signals changes for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (HLS&R). As the Harris County Stadium and the Harris County Exposition Center are built over the next two years, the HLS&R has adopted new plans of operation and new event dates.

Visitors to the 2001 Show will be able to enjoy free parking and free transportation to and from the Astrodome from more than 10 Rodeo Express shuttle locations, up from only six locations in 2000.

Due to the construction, parking spaces at the Astrodome during the Show will be extremely limited and will be used for exhibitors, show support and limited advance reserved parking.

Twilight Rodeo performances on Saturdays and Sundays will begin at 4 p.m., with no 11 a.m. performance on Saturdays. Weekday performances begin at 7 p.m.

To accommodate for the loss of the Saturday matinee performances, the Rodeo will begin three days earlier in 2001. Performances and the livestock and horse shows will all begin Tuesday, Feb. 13, and continue through Sunday, March 4.

Ticket prices, across the board,

will increase by \$1. Season passes to the livestock show, horse show, carnival and exhibits remain \$20 (they do not include NCHA Finals and Rodeo performances).

The World's Championship Bar-B-Q Contest will kick off the schedule, as it has in the past, opening Thursday, Feb. 8, and continuing through Saturday, Feb. 10.

The Rodeo Parade downtown and the Rodeo Run will be a highlight on Feb. 10.

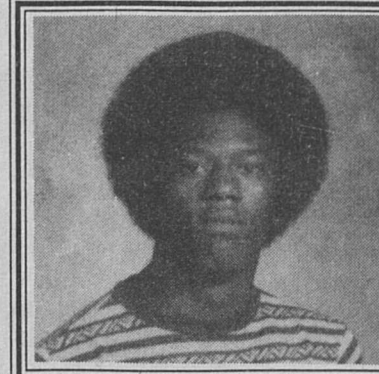
Contestants from around the state will compete in Go Texan events Feb. 10-11.

A similar schedule is anticipated for the 2002 HLS&R, with rodeo performances Feb. 12 through March 3. Following the 2002 Show, the HLS&R will move into the new Harris County Exposition Center and the RODEOHOUSTON™/NFL stadium.

To take advantage of possible better weather and school spring breaks, in 2003 the Rodeo dates will move to the end of Feb. with Rodeo performances beginning in the new stadium on Feb. 28 and continuing through March 16.

In both 2004 and 2005, dates will begin in March with the 2004 Show running March 5 through March 21, and the 2005 Show running March 4 through March 20.

The HLS&R is a 501(c)(3) charity that supports education throughout Texas, and nearly 2 million visitors attend the annual event.



Lordy! Lordy!
Look Who's
40!
Happy Birthday
August 11th

Youens & Duchicela Clinic

402 Youens Drive Weimar, Texas 78962
Board Certified Family Practice

is pleased to announce the association of

Olga I. Duchicela, M.D.

for Family Practice

Available by appointment. Walk-ins welcome.

Please call 979-725-8545

Robert A. Youens, M.D.
Susan L. Kraemer, M.D.

Jorge A. Duchicela, M.D.
Olga I. Duchicela, M.D.

Record number of blue-winged teal set stage for later opener

Good news for Texas waterfowl hunters... with record numbers of blue-winged teal heading for Texas and a 16-day season approved for late Sept., the table appears to be set, predict state and federal wildlife officials.

Waterfowl breeding population survey results just released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) indicate blue-winged teal numbers reached an all-time high of 7.4 million birds this year.

The high-water mark eclipses last year's 7.1 million estimate and represents a 69% increase above the long-term average.

Green-winged teal also showed a marked rise in numbers, up 21% from last year and at nearly 3.2 million birds the population stands 80% above the long-term average.

Overall, duck breeding population numbers fell slightly from last year's record high of 43.4 million to almost 42 million birds. Duck numbers remain 27% above the long-term average and state waterfowl biologists believe Texas should receive a liberal federal framework with which to set the upcoming general waterfowl hunting seasons.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) Commission at its Aug. 31 public hearing will set the general duck and goose seasons.

Teal season received approval from USFWS in late June and will run Sept. 15-30, which biologists say could dramatically increase hunter success.

"We gave up opening on a Saturday and closing on a Sunday in order to take advantage of the full 16-day framework," said Vernon Beville, director of the TPW migratory game bird program. "And it appears we were on the same page as our hunters, because 90% of the public comments we received were in support of the later season."

By delaying the 16-day teal season opener until Sept. 15 rather than the second Saturday (Sept. 9), hunters will likely see more birds migrating into Texas, predicts Beville. Teal harvest data collected by the department show hunters average fewer than two birds a day before Sept. 14 and more than two per day after Sept. 14.

Beville also noted that the later season means that land managers who pump water to attract teal will likely be able to rely on that managed water to carry into the general waterfowl season. "With an early teal season, those folks would usually have to pump again in Oct.," he said.

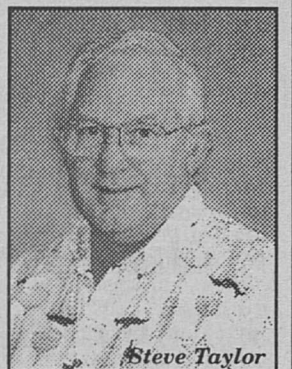
Texas wingshooting enthusiasts may rejoice over the upcoming teal season but will have to wait at least another year to see additional opportunity to hunt sandhill cranes. A proposal to extend crane hunting along the Texas coast was not accepted by the USFWS in late June, so sandhill crane zones and season dates will remain about the same as last year.

"We thought we came up with a proposal that had a lot of merit and we're disappointed it didn't pass," said Beville. "We will continue to pursue this just like we did for four years on the extended teal season. We don't see that an expansion for crane hunting as having a negative impact on the resource."

MERCURY LINCOLN
Ford Lincoln Mercury

VONDERAU
MARINE • EL CAMPO

Evinrude, Johnson, Mercury, Honda, Shoalwater, Dargel, Shallow Sport, Carolina Skiff and Hawk Bass & Bay Boats



Kawasaki ATV • Mule

VONDERAU

1912 N. Mechanic • (979) 543-2753 • 1-800-441-5554
vonderau@wcnet.net • www.VonDerAuFLM.com

WCI

Wharton County Internet

\$13.95

• Unlimited e-mail accounts
• Unlimited access
• No contracts

979-532-0533

Sign-up at the location nearest you:

East Bernard: Radio Shack
Wharton: 213 N. Richmond Road
(C.E. Muegge Real Estate building)
El Campo: NAPA Auto Parts Store

About Town...

• A correction on last week's story about the attacking bees... Jim Hamilton is no longer the owner of Hamilton Pest Control. As he says, he's just the employee. The business is now owned by former-employee Kris Matura.
• Ask Doug Schwemm how to get a hammer caught in the pocket of your jeans.

Don't Forget...

Building & Business Owners Organizational Meeting
Thursday Night!
7 p.m. • Eagle Lake City Council Chambers
Presented by the Eagle Lake Main Street Program.

Pharmacy & Your Health

EAGLE LAKE DRUGSTORE

Steve K. Balas, RPh

702 South McCarty • Eagle Lake • 234-2502

• Patient Counseling • We Accept Master Card, VISA, Discover & American Express • Insurance Plans: Blue Cross, NPA, PCS, Pro-Serve, Sanus, PAID, Texas Medicaid
24 Hour Emergency Phone: 234-3834

Consider Health Measures Before International Travel

If your summer travel destination requires a passport, you may want to visit your physician at least 6 weeks prior to the departure date. One's vaccination history should be compared to the current government guidelines. For example, the yellow fever vaccine is required for travelers to parts of Africa and South America. Hepatitis A vaccine should be considered for underdeveloped countries. Cholera vaccine usually is not recommended unless the traveler will be working or living in less than sanitary conditions. For those visiting parts of Africa and India, the meningococcal vaccine may be recommended. Saudi Arabia requires a certificate of meningococcal vaccination for entrance into certain cities. Plague vaccine is recommended for travelers going to certain southeast Asian countries.

Travelers can obtain this type of information from their state and local health departments, and from the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta. The CDC maintains an excellent web site at www.cdc.gov/travel. The CDC can be reached toll-free at the International Travelers' Information line: 877-FYI-TRIP.

SPORTSMAN'S RESTAURANT

201 Boothe • 234-3071

What A Catch!
Friday & Saturday Night Special!

1 Lb. Fried Catfish

\$9.99

Includes cole slaw and fries

No sharing. No "doggie" bags when eating in.

To Go Orders Welcome
Limited Time Offer!

Offer good Friday and Saturday nights 5 to 7 p.m. only!

Be Sure to Check Out Our Specials Every Night!