

2019

Home & Garden

IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



Eric Boniol - See story page 12.
Caldwell, Texas

BURLESON COUNTY FARMER Eric Boniol checks out tomato plants on his two acre farm in the Hix community near Caldwell. Boniol and his family moved from Dallas to live out his dream of living on a farm.



Van Durrenberger - See story page 7.
Giddings, Texas

ONION HARVEST -- Van Durrenberger of Giddings is shown in the middle of uprooting ripe onions at his home garden. Van and his wife, Dora, owned Durrenberger Flowers on Hwy. 290 in Giddings for 33-1/2 years. They are still gardening and planting flowers in their yard in the northeast part of town -- now for a hobby to give to others instead of trying to make a living.

Supplement of:

Giddings Times & News

170 N. Knox Ave. • Giddings, Tx 78942
979-542-2222
www.giddingstimes.com

Burleson County Tribune

306 W. Hwy. 21 • Caldwell, Tx 77836
979-567-3286
www.bctribune.com

The Bellville Times

106 E. Palm St. • Bellville, Tx 77418
979-865-3131
www.bellvilletimes.com

Valigura builds dream home in Caldwell

Returns to his hometown to stay

Caldwell native Mike Valigura made quite a career for himself as a homebuilder in Austin, but he always sensed that he would someday come home.

The lure of returning to Caldwell got stronger as time passed, and he saw his opportunity at The Oaks Subdivision off Country Club Road and got busy.

Valigura is now living in his dream house at 506 Bent Oak Ct., his own design, in the subdivision -- finished in December, just in time for Christmas.

"When there were only three houses in this subdivision, I purchased the remaining lots from the developer because it seemed like a very good idea to build a few houses in Caldwell, as much of my family and friends live here," Valigura recalled.

Even though he was living in Austin at the time, he ended up building nine houses in The Oaks.

"It is funny because I think in the back of my mind, I was saving a couple of lots for myself, just in case I ever wanted to move back to Caldwell," he said. "However, a mixture of fate and circumstances ended up making that decision for me."

Valigura said it turned out to be one of the best things that could have happened because he didn't realize how much he missed living in Caldwell.

"I am closer to my family and my daughter who goes to school at Texas A&M in College Station, and I am having a great time getting reacquainted with old friends," Valigura said.

Valigura started his career work-

ing for the largest independent homebuilder in the country, Nash Phillips-Copus.

"It was a great place to work, and I learned a lot. After NPC, I worked for a couple of other builders in Austin but eventually decided to start my own company in 1989 called Capital Homes," he said.

Over the years, he built several hundred homes, including projects here in Caldwell, Somerville, Giddings and Cameron.

"I really enjoy the whole process of homebuilding, from the design of the plan and the intricacies of the details to the actual construction and then closing with the homeowner," he said.

Valigura said he designed and built his own dream home. Knowing he will probably spend the rest of his life in it, the house is built

with space and storage in mind, he said.

It has an open floor plan with lots of natural light, an open living room and a large kitchen with a surplus of cabinets. It also has a roomy office and two sizeable bedrooms.

The main bathroom has a European style walk-in shower with no door and seven shower heads.

"My daughter thinks it is hilarious, and we call it my personal car wash," he said.

Valigura also designed a custom desk and cabinets built right onto his office wall by a trim carpenter so he would not have to buy a desk.

There are even more cabinets and storage in the rest of the house, including a big storeroom that holds accessories like tools, clean-

See VALIGURA, page 6

Citizens
State Bank

Local People... Local Decisions...

csbtx.bank

EQUAL HOUSING
LENDER

Member
FDIC



MIKE VALIGURA STANDS next to this porte cochere at his home at 506 Bent Oak Ct., in Caldwell. Valigura, a Caldwell native and home builder, recently moved back to town. -- Tribune photo by Roy Sanders



THIS APARTMENT ABOVE the garage is for Mike Valigura's family members and company who wants to visit. Valigura recently returned to his hometown to stay. -- Tribune photo by Roy Sanders

Zero-turn Mower Super Store

Grass is Growing!

KAWASAKI OF CALDWELL

FULLY STOCKED
OVER 100 MOWERS TO CHOOSE FROM
ROCK BOTTOM PRICES
0% FINANCING AVAILABLE W.A.C.

PAYMENTS
AS LOW AS
\$77.15
PER MONTH

ONE DAY ONLY SALE
SATURDAY, MAY 11TH



**185 State Highway 36 North
Caldwell, Texas 77836
979.567.7777**

**Mention this ad for an
extra \$100.00 off
a new zero-turn mower
purchase.**

**Hotlinks will be served
from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.**

www.KawasakiOfCaldwell.com

It's not just "land," it's your dream.

Fixed and variable interest rates available

You finally found it, that perfect piece of land. Let our team of experts guide you through the process of making your dream a reality. Whether you are buying a farm, refinancing a current mortgage, expanding your operation or making long-term improvements, we offer a wide range of products and competitive rates. And as a cooperative, our patronage dividend program has returned more than half a billion dollars over the last decade.




Together we're better.
Partnership that really pays.

LA GRANGE 456 N. Jefferson
877.688.5500 | 979.968.5750

BELLVILLE 8 East Palm
877.966.5500 | 979.865.2219

BRYAN 3000 Briarcrest Drive
877.775.0404 | 877.775.0404

 capitalfarmcredit.com | NMLS493828





MIKE VALIGURA STANDS in front of his home at 506 Bent Oak Ct., in Caldwell. Valigura, a Caldwell native and homebuilder, has enjoyed returning to his hometown. -- Tribune photo by Roy Sanders

Are you dreaming of a Fall 2019 Wedding?

Let us help you turn your dreams into memories with a special rate for Fall 2019!

DOUBLE CREEK CROSSING



-PHOTO CREDIT SAN ANGEL-

590 FM 1362 North, Caldwell • 979-200-9555 • www.doublecreekcrossing.com

VALIGURA

FROM PAGE 2

ing appliances, custom cubbies for the washing machine and dryer and anything else he might want to put there.

The attic is also designed for maximum storage space and has two different entries in the house.

Valigura thinks what makes this house particularly unique is the porte cochere he designed that is attached to the house.

"I can park under it and go in the house when it is raining or drive through and park in the detached garage," he said. "I also have an apartment above the garage for family and company that might want to visit and stay for a while."

Valigura said the decision to build in his hometown was a good one.

"Caldwell is a great place to

build a home and now that I have finished my own house, I plan on starting another one in the same neighborhood," he said. "It is easy to work with the city and communicate with the officials. It is also a great place to live because of the good schools, affordable utilities and taxes and, most of all, a friendly population."

Valigura said he is very happy here and plans to stay the rest of his life.

"My advice for anyone considering purchasing a house in Caldwell is to hurry!" he said. "People are realizing what a gem of a town this is, and there is an energy that seems to be driving prices upward. Caldwell is a great location, good schools, good people and affordable living. What else could you want?"



MIKE VALIGURA STANDS in the living room of his home, completed last year, in Caldwell. The Caldwell native has returned home to stay and is enjoying the house. -- Tribune photo by Roy Sanders

Your Complete Home & Auto Care Center

- Discount Auto Parts • Quality Tires
- Lawn & Garden Power Equipment
- Small Engine Parts & Accessories
- Plumbing Supplies • Water Heaters
- Hardware • Home Appliances

WILDE AUTO PLUS

155 Hwy. 36 S. • Caldwell



www.wildeautoplus.net

- FULL-SERVICE Auto Repair
- FULL-SERVICE Small Engine Repair

979-567-4462

979-567-3842

Our mission is to help as many people as possible by providing World-Class service to ensure a pleasant experience. We serve our customers with honesty, integrity, and quality.

Urban Custom Construction

*Home Repairs & Remodel

*Handyman Services

*Decks & Carports

*Barns & Sheds

Mason Urban

979-540-8267

Owner, Insured Contractor

1039 Walnut ~ Lincoln, TX 78948

LENNOX

Weaver's Refrigeration



**1101 Foundation Dr.
Caldwell, Texas 77836**

Phone 979-567-3257

Fax 979-567-7442

SHAWN JENNINGS

**License # TACLB27935C
& TECL25557**

Lifetime of love for gardening shared by Giddings couple

Van and Dora Durrenberger of Giddings know a lot about plants and flowers. After over 65 years of being married, they are high school sweethearts who also know how to work together to make their relationship blossom.

And of course, they are still gardening and planting flowers in their yard in the northeast part of town -- now for a hobby and to give to others instead of trying to make a living for themselves.

Durrenberger Flowers was in business for over 33 years on Hwy. 290 East in Giddings, where O'Reilly Auto Parts store and the now-closed-down Pawn Shop are located.

The floral shop was opened in

1964, with Dora selling a variety of live and artificial flowers. Van worked there too, after-hours and weekends when not working full-time at the post office. After he retired from the post office in 1989, Van worked at the nursery full-time for nearly 10 more years.

"We started out when Van built a little glass greenhouse, growing flowers and vegetables at our house for family and friends as a hobby. He then built a bigger greenhouse with more flowers and vegetables. That is how we got started before we opened the floral shop," Dora recalls.

Floral shop opens

Van went looking for land for

his wife to open a floral shop in the early 1960's and met with Mike Gruetzner, who sold him two acres on Hwy. 290. Another one-half acre was later purchased from Parker Hog Buyers to build more greenhouses. Walter Droemer Construction of Giddings was hired to build Durrenberger Flowers, and Clarence Hamff worked for Droemer Construction doing a lot of the work. Clarence Schulze helped build the counters and cabinets.

"We built a brand-new metal and brick building, then added a greenhouse years later. We got all the way up to a total of 11 greenhouses. A lot of hours I worked there were after I got off work from

my full-time job, at night, and on the weekends, as the business started booming," Van remembers. "Dora was inside the floral shop selling live and artificial flowers, and I was outside trying to grow just about everything that would grow in Lee County."

For example, they had 12 varieties of tomatoes, along with everything from peppers to eggplants. They also sold seeds to people who wanted to grow vegetables in their own gardens. "There were 15 or more employees at one time, loading and unloading trucks seven days a week, even on Sundays to separate out all of the

See GIDDINGS, page 9

Family Owned & Operated

WCTRACTOR

SINCE 1939

Lean, Mean Working Machine

WM25 Package
starting at
\$19,695

Tractor | Loader & Bucket
Backhoe | Shredder

plus





1-888-8TRACTOR

www.WCTRACTOR.com

BEAUMONT | BRENHAM | BRYAN | DAYTON | NAVASOTA | SEALY

Financing available with approved credit. Pictures for illustrative purposes. Offer expires 5/31/2019

Frameless Showers • shower Doors
• Tub Enclosures • Custom Mirrors &
Windows • Glass Tabetops, Shelving, Etc....

AIG Mirror & Glass, LLC

ac.aigproductions@gmail.com

281-995-3819

Bellville, Texas

Follow us on FB and Instagram @algmirror

Swartz Spetic

William Swartz • Owner
3557 William B. Travis Ln,
Brenham

979-421-8209 Office

979-661-6042 Cell

swartzseptic@gmail.com

swartzseptic.com

In-Shop & Portable • General Welding
• Welding & Sandblasting • Hand Rails
• Farm & Ranch Entrances • Pipe Fences
• Ornamental Fencing

C.L. Gajeske Services, LLC

Charles Gajeske

979-836-3499

979-251-0478 (cell)

cgajeske@yahoo.com



RUSSELL'S HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING INC.

1732 CR 208 ~ Giddings, TX 78942



979-540-2161

For all your heating
& air conditioning
needs...
give us a call!



Van Durrenberger weeding his garden at his home in Giddings.

CESAR & ALEX MERAZ C & Son Construction



P.O. Box 884
Caldwell, TX
77836

Foundations,
Driveways, Sidewalks,
Patios,
Slab Underpinning,
Bob Cat &
Excavator Work

35 Years
Experience

CESAR

979-567-4836 Home 979-324-1664 Cell

ALEX

979-204-7817 Cell
ALEXANDROMERAZ@HOTMAIL.COM Email

OUTSTANDING

FREE ESTIMATE

**Dozer Work
Trash Clean Up**

BONDED & INSURED

**Fencing
Stump Removal**

SIMON
832-723-2915

JESSE
832-452-6434

GIDDINGS

FROM PAGE 7

varieties we offered," said Van.

There was so much business, Van and Dora purchased two large trucks to haul plants for their wholesale routes -- starting in Bastrop and then to Austin on one route, and Elgin to Temple on the other route. "Thousands of plants were on each truck, from bedding plants to vegetable plants," he stated.

Durrenberger Flowers opened its doors for business in 1964, but added greenhouses and started selling a lot more items in 1970. There was a front page story written and two-page ad about Durrenberger Flowers featured in the Giddings Times & News on October 15, 1970. The ad listed a wide variety of things for sale -- flowers, plants, seeds, potted roses, hydrangeas, fruit trees, bark and mulch, all types of oak and other trees, weedeaters, and even bird

baths (the couple still has numerous bird baths and bird houses of their own in the backyard of their home).

In 1971, the man who sold Van and Dora the property, Mike Gruetzner, built Gruetzner's Furniture store on Hwy. 290 across from Bage's Grocery. The Gruetzner's building is still intact today, where Jodie and Trisha Kalmbach own and operate Whistle Stop Antiques a block west of Sonic Drive-In.

Business booming

Durrenberger Flowers really took off in the early 1970's. "Once we got known, we had business from everywhere," said Van.

Dora said she remembers dealing with a polite, young, and energetic salesman who helped them drum up a lot of business. His name is Emil Paula Jr., who is still alive today. He was a salesman in the 1970's with Eastern Seed Co. of Schulenburg, which furnished Durrenberger's with supplies and

helped sell their plants to other areas.

Going full-time at the store, Van worked there for the next nine or so years until he and his wife were just "plumb worn-out" in 1998, after owning the business for 33-1/2 years.

They leased the building to a business for less than two years, then sold the building and land to

the pawn shop on February 14, 1999 -- "a Valentine's Day to remember."

Planting gardens

Asked about how they learned so much about flowers, plants and gardening, Dora said they "learned by trial and error, and lots of years of experience. But we also went to the Texas Nursery & Landscape See GIDDINGS, page 10



Jason B. Locke

PO Box 567
Giddings, TX 78942

979.716.9112
jblocke02@gmail.com



**Competitive
Rates**

**Experienced
Lenders**

**Call us today.
979.542.1200**

**Are you ready?....
To purchase your new home.**



NMLS 807342

*The first thing people see
is the outside of your home.
Let us help you create that perfect landscape.*

**We carry everything
for your landscaping needs!**

Our helpful staff can assist with any gardening questions you may have.

PLANTS 'N THINGS
plants-n-things-brenham.com

Your One Stop Shop For All Of Your Lawn & Garden Needs!

3900 Hwy. 36 S. Brenham
Open Mon.-Fri.: 8:00-5:30
Sat.: 8:00-5:00 • Sun. 10:00-4:00

979-836-9471

GIDDINGS

FROM PAGE 9

Association conventions to learn more. We met suppliers and made a lot of contacts," she recalls.

"When to plant a garden is a little different every year. It depends on how hot and how wet it is to decide when to start the garden," said Van, who added that even at the age of 87 years, he had to plant cucumbers five different times recently, since the cold weather and frost got the first four crops.

Van said potatoes are planted in February, but March is normally the best time to plant Spring gardens. He still grows the following in his Spring home garden: Irish potatoes, cucumbers, onions, yellow and green beans, and okra. In the Fall, he plants green beans, turnips, radishes, and spinach (an abundance of spinach grew this year), he noted.

What do the Durrenbergers do with all of those vegetables?

Well, it's kind of like the slogan for Blue Bell ice cream: "Eat all we can, and sell the rest." But in the Durrenbergers' case, it's kind of the opposite: "We give away a lot of it, but eat some of it too," said Dora.

Getting started in life, business

Van and Dora met at Giddings High School and became sweethearts in the late 1950's, and have been together ever since. They decided to get married and did so in October, 1953 -- Van was 21 years old and Dora was 19. "There were only 11 grades to graduate back then, and I was one of the youngest in my class and was able to skip a grade," said Dora.

Little did the couple know at the time, they would be newly-married and not be able to see each other for 14 months, as Van was drafted into the Army and sent overseas to Goepping, Germany in January, 1954. "There was no coming home to visit," the couple said, but they

made it work and stayed married.

It was nice to finally come back home in 1955, and after two years in the Army, it was Van's turn to decide his career. He started working at Droemer Construction, and for a short time at OK Sales Chevrolet dealership, before settling in as a postal worker under Postmaster Maggie Bobo. He worked at the post office from 1955 until 1989.

Dora worked over 10 years until 1962 for OK Sales before having her first son, Jeffery. Dora then stayed at home with her newborn, still working nights doing bookkeeping for OK Sales, which was owned by F.E. Schkade, then later by his sons -- Edmund, Albert and Clarence.

"I'll never forget when I was pregnant with my second son, Marcus, and I told Lorine Petersen she was going to have to learn the bookkeeping -- and fast! And she did learn to do it by herself. We still joke about that to this day when we talk to each other," Dora said with a giggle.

Life after retirement

After selling the Durrenberger Flowers business in 1998, it was time for the couple to find other things to do. "I looked at Van one day and said, 'What are we going to do now?' One thing we decided was to watch 'The Price Is Right' show together every morning at 10 a.m. Being together and retirement have never been boring for us."

Not being bored also includes 20 road trips over the years to Branson, Missouri to watch shows on the grand stage. According to Van, the best show they enjoyed was Mel Tillis. And the worst? Kenny Rogers.

The Durrenbergers haven't been to Branson the last couple of years, but 87-year-old Van said he is ready to go again if he can talk Dora into going with him on the long drive (and he will drive).

Van quickly whipped out his recently renewed driver's license, saying he will be anxiously waiting for the next time Dora gets ready to go. And very soon, he hopes.

Farm & Ranch
Plumbing

Grocery & Imports
Propane



SEASONAL SAVINGS

on STIHL Hand Held Power Equipment, BOB-CAT & SNAPPER Lawn Mowers!



SNAPPER



Your Kawasaki, Briggs & Stratton,
Kohler and Honda Certified Technicians!

Clearance Section
with Discounts up to
50% OFF
on Store Close-Outs

2nd Generation Owners ~ Michael & Jackie Sacks



Friendly & Knowledgeable Staff

Your One Stop Shop for Lawn & Garden,
Grocery, Hardware and Farm & Ranch





Financing the Future of Our Community ~ One Affordable Loan at a Time ~

Chappell Hill Bank is a full-service, community bank with competitive rates,
and most importantly, personal service.
Located in downtown, historic Chappell Hill.

SUPERB CUSTOMER SERVICE SINCE 1907.



CHAPPELL HILL BANK

MODERN BANKING WITH OLD FASHIONED COURTESY

CHAPPELL HILL, TEXAS 77426 (979) 836-6070
WWW.CHAPPELLHILLBANK.COM
5060 MAIN STREET



The dream of a city boy becomes reality

Boniol moves from Dallas to become farmer in Burleson County

One day a grandmother was driving down a farm road with her granddaughter when they came across a car in the ditch with a couple taking photos of cows.

The grandmother said, "Oh, my goodness. City slickers."

The granddaughter asked, "City slickers? What's that?"

"People who pull over on the side of the road to take pictures of cows," the grandmother said.

The granddaughter remembered her grandfather had more pictures of cows on his cell phone than pictures of his grand kids.

"Granddaddy takes pictures of his cows. Is he a city slicker?"

The grandmother thought a minute about the photos on her husband's cell phone. If you asked to see his camera roll, you're likely to see the mama cow who had twins, the bull that got pink eye, the calf that fell into a groundhog hole and got its front legs stuck and maybe one of the calf born with three legs and, thus, named "Tripod." And perhaps you'd see a photo or two of the grand kids -- but one thing's for sure, they'd all be posed with a cow.

So, the grandmother explained, "City slickers take pictures of cows from outside the fence."

Farmers take pictures from inside the fence."

Burleson County resident Eric Boniol has gone from being a "city slicker" to being a "regular" at the farmer's market in downtown Caldwell, selling eggs, vegetables, fruit and other goods -- all produced on his farm on F.M. 2000 in the Hix community.

Prior to moving to the Caldwell area about eight years ago, Boniol lived in Allen, a city in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex area, working in management for car dealerships.

"Dallas was the area where I grew up -- I grew up in Irving. The only time I was ever gone from the Dallas area was when I went to college in Waco."

He is a graduate from Baylor University where he met his wife Jennifer.

The couple have three children: Hope, Asher and Sarah Grace.

After graduation, he worked at two different Mazda dealerships, but "felt a calling to move down here."

The family moved into the Hix community.

Boniol said that the family's new life is a "night and day difference" from their life in Dallas.

He said, "One of my best friends had a big 1,000 acre ranch south

of Bonham in a town called Randolph. When I was a kid, me and my best friend in Irving used to go up there and visit him and stay some of the summers up there."

"It was an absolute blast!"

"I always thought to myself why couldn't I have grown up in this setting? I grew up in the city -- with no acreage or anything -- in a neighborhood. About the only country you're ever going to see you would have to drive about an hour in any direction just to get to the edge of the city."

"So, just to be able to do the things that we do now has just been a blessing from the Lord -- to finally be able to fulfill some of the things that I dreamed about as a kid," he said.

Boniol said that the move brought about a major change for his wife and children, too.

"Moving down here was different for us, but it is something that we love. And, the Lord just put it on us to start this farm."

Boniol and his wife both work full time from their home. He consults in the automobile industry, and she consults "in the HR (human resource) world."

"We work on the farm in the mornings, after work at night and on the weekends," Boniol said.

Boniol said that gardening has always been a "passion" of his.

"In our house in Allen, we had 4,000 square feet of outdoor garden. So, I had all kinds of different flowers and shrubs -- all kinds of different horticulture."

He said that in Allen in addition to landscaping plants, he grew strawberries and potatoes in a small portion of the garden in his backyard.

However, going from a home garden to a two-acre farm was a new venture for Boniol and his family.

Boniol said that most of his knowledge of farming has come by reading farming information from Texas A&M University, online information, insight from local farmers and ranchers and from "trial and error."

Boniol said that Texas A&M has "a lot of good resources" and also offer low cost or free courses in horticulture.

Boniol's farm produces more than enough eggs, vegetables and fruit for his family, so he regularly sells produce at the local farmer's market.

"We started at the farmer's market, selling eggs only. We've been listening to folks over the years, so we grow a lot of the things that

See BONIOL, page 14

Brooke Schrader,
Realtor®, Broker® Associate
979-203-7009
bschrader@kw.com



"Where Texans Feel At Home"

www.texaslonestarteam.com

Offices in Brenham, Caldwell
and College Station

KW BRAZOS VALLEY
KELLERWILLIAMS REALTY



Kristen Orostieta,
Licensed Realtor®
281-898-8231
Kristen@oroteam.com



Rebecca Cook,
Broker® Associate, Team Leader
979-251-1784
cook.realestate@yahoo.com

Jennifer Fletcher,
Realtor®, Broker® Associate
979-224-2841
jennifer@jenniferfletcher.com





BURLESON COUNTY'S ERIC Boniol raises goats for sale. Boniol is pictured with this kid and it's "momma" on the family farm near Caldwell in the Hix community. -- Tribune photo by Denise Hornaday

"The Villa" at Pecan Haven

2000 sq. ft. Italian style home. 2 bedroom - Sleeps 4-6 people. Spacious backyard, volleyball, washer pitching, outdoor TV & kitchen area. Perfect for outdoor entertaining, birthday parties, reunions, wedding showers, rehearsal dinners and football weekends.



1220 CR 222
Caldwell, Texas 77836

979-777-7171

Check us out
on Facebook

- RV SPOTS AVAILABLE -



RHODES BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC.

DIAMOND — EIGHTY EIGHT

SERVING CENTRAL TEXAS SINCE 1974

979-596-1451
WWW.RBSTX.COM
THORNBERRY DR. & AVE. E
PO BOX 39 · SOMERVILLE, TX 77879



**METAL BUILDING
SPECIALIST**



Area Wide Pro Plumbing, LLC

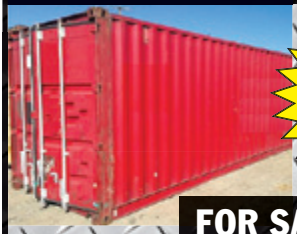
M-38825

We Aim For Customer Satisfaction!

- Commercial & Residential
- Licensed & Insured
- Up Front Pricing
- Drain Cleaning
- Sewer Line Repair
- Repairs & Remodels
- Inline Camera Inspections
- Emergency Calls
- Senior Citizen Discounts

Lee County & Surrounding Counties
JOSH BORJACK 979-542-2797

STORAGE CONTAINERS



Great for hunting cabins, deer stands, hurricane shelters, barns, motorcycle storage, or just storage with security.

**FOR SALE OR RENT
10 Ft. to 45 Ft.**

**RENT TO OWN AVAILABLE
WE BUY CONTAINERS!**

METRO CONTAINERS, LLC

979-836-7500 • 409-748-0380
ERIC@METROCONTAINER.NET METROCONTAINER.NET



Xtreme

Roofing

Commercial • Residential

- Asphalt Composition Shingles
- Flat Roofs
- Metal Roofs
- Siding
- Gutters

(979)877-0875 Sealy, TX
www.extremeroofingtx.com










BONIOL

FROM PAGE 12

people want in the area.”

Boniol said they grow tomatoes, peppers and “a lot of melons -- that demand has come from what people look for in the area. There’s a lot of folks who really do appreciate home-grown stuff.”

Boniol said that his family farm has also expanded from selling eggs to goat sales.

“Most of our goat sales are commercial that we take to the Waco sale barn. But, we have a lot of clients in the area that do want goats that we sell -- to get them processed or process them themselves.”

“So again, that’s something that has been ‘learning as you go’ and using the resources that are available,” he said.

Boniol is still expanding his farm and ranch.

This year, he has “gotten into growing and selling plants and

trees.”

He also is planning on the future by hoping to begin raising cattle and bailing hay.

Boniol said, “In five years, I see us being about double of where we are right now.”

“There’s really a need in the area to pick up a lot of the things that a lot of the men and women in the area have done to create our farming culture here.”

“It’s gonna take some folks to really step in and not only hold that up but build that up for the future for Burleson County,” Boniol said.

BURLESON COUNTY’S ERIC Boniol checks on some of his chicken after a storm blew through the area on Friday, May 3. Boniol sells eggs at the local farmer’s market. -- Tribune photo by Denise Hornaday



THESE ARE YOUNG CHICKENS living on a farm owned by Eric Boniol and his family. Boniol’s chickens produce over 30 dozen eggs every week. -- Tribune photo by Denise Hornaday

Exner Contracting LLC



~New Construction

~Remodels

~Roofing

COMPOSITION & METAL

Insured
Free Estimates

PHONE:

979-255-8586



Email:

exnercontracting@hotmail.com



Vegetable Garden Planting Guide

Vegetables	Seed/Plants Per 100 ft.	Planting Depth (in.)	Distance		Avg. Crop Height (ft.)	Spring Planting As To Avg. Frost-Free Date	Fall Planting As To Avg. Freeze Date	Days to Maturity	Avg. Harvest Season (Days)	Avg. Crop (per 100 ft.)
			Between (inches) Rows	Plants						
Asparagus	1 oz/66 plants	1-1½, 6-8	36-48	18	5	Feb 3-Feb 7	Not Recommended	730	60	30 lbs
Beans, Green Bush	½ lb	1-1½	24-36	3-4	1½	Mar 17-Apr 14	Aug 1-Sept 15	45-60	14	120 lbs
Beans, Green Pole	½ lb	1-1½	36-48	4-6	6	Mar 17-Apr 14	July 28-Aug 11	60-70	30	150 lbs
Beans, Lima Bush	½ lb	1-1½	30-36	3-4	1½	Mar 17-Apr 14	Aug 15-Sept 15	65-80	14	25 lbs shelled
Beans, Lima Pole	¼ lb	1-1½	36-48	12-18	6	Mar 17-Apr 14	July 28-Aug 11	75-85	40	50 lbs shelled
Beets	1 oz	1	14-24	2	1½	Feb 3-Feb 17	Sept 1-Oct 1	50-60	30	150 lbs
Broccoli	¼ oz	½	24-36	14-24	3	Feb 3-Feb 17	Aug 15-Sept 30	60-80	40	100 lbs
Brussels Sprouts	¼ oz	½	24-36	14-24	2	Feb 3-Feb 17	Aug 15-Sept 30	90-100	21	75 lbs
Cabbage	¼ oz	½	24-36	14-24	1½	Feb 3-Feb 17	Aug 15-Sept 30	60-90	40	150 lbs
Cabbage, Chinese	¼ oz	½	18-30	8-12	1½	Feb 3-Feb 17	Aug 11– Aug 25	65-70	21	80 heads
Carrot	¼ oz	½	14-24	2	1	Feb 3– Feb 17	Sept 1-Sept 30	70-80	21	100 lbs
Cauliflower	¼ oz	½	24-36	14-24	3	Not Recommended	Aug 15-Sept 20	70-90	14	100 lbs
Chards, Swiss	2 oz	1	18-30	6	1½	Feb 3-Mar 3	Aug 15-Sept 15	45-55	40	75 lbs
Collard	¼ oz	½	18-36	8-16	2	Feb 3-Mar 3	Aug 25-Sept 22	50-80	60	100 lbs
Corn, Sweet	3-4 oz	1-2	24-36	12-18	6	Mar 17-Apr 28	Aug 11-Aug 25	70-90	10	10 dozen
Cucumber	½ oz	½	48-72	24-48	1	Mar 17-Apr 28	Aug 25-Sept 8	50-70	30	120 lbs
Eggplant	¼ oz	½	24-36	18-24	3	Mar 31-Apr 28	July 28-Aug 25	80-90	90	100 lbs
Garlic	1 lb	1-2	14-24	2-4	1	Feb 3-Feb 17	Not Recommended	140-150	—	40 lbs
Kale	¼ oz	½	18-36	8-16	2	Feb 3-Mar 3	Aug 25-Sept 22	50-80	60	100 lbs
Kohlrabi	¼ oz	½	14-24	4-6	1½	Feb 3-Mar 3	Aug 15-Sept 20	55-75	14	75 lbs
Lettuce	¼ oz	½	14-24	2-3	1	Feb 3-Mar 31	Sept 1-Sept 30	40-80	21	50 lbs
Cantaloupe	½ oz	1	60-96	24-36	1	Mar 17-Apr 28	July 28-Aug 11	85-100	30	100 fruits
Mustard	¼ oz	½	14-24	6-12	1½	Mar 17-Apr 28	Aug 15-Sept 30	30-40	30	100 lbs
Okra	2 oz	1	36-42	24	6	Mar 31-Apr 28	July 28-Aug 25	55-65	90	100 lbs
Onion (Plants)	400-600	1-2	14-24	2-3	1½	Jan 6-Feb 17	Aug 15-Sept 15	80-120	40	100 lbs
Onion (Seed)	1 oz	½	14-24	2-3	1½	Jan 20-Feb 3	Sept 8-Sept 22	90-120	40	100 lbs
Parsley	¼ oz	½	14-24	2-4	½	Feb 3-Mar 17	Aug 15-Oct 6	70-90	90	30 lbs
Peas, English	1 lb	2-3	18-36	1	2	Jan 20-Mar 3	Sept 15-Nov 3	55-90	7	20 lbs
Peas, Southern	½ lb	2-3	24-36	4-6	2½	Apr 1-Jun 30	Aug 15-Sept 1	60-70	30	40 lbs
Pepper	¼ oz	½	24-36	18-24	3	Mar 24-May 12	July 28-Aug 25	60-90	90	60 lbs
Potato, Irish	6-10 lbs	4	30-36	10-15	2	Feb 3-Feb 17	July 28-Aug 11	75-100	—	100 lbs
Potato, Sweet	75-100 plants	3-5	36-48	12-16	1	Mar 31-May12	Not Recommended	100-130	—	100 lbs
Pumpkin	½ oz	1-2	60-96	36-48	1	Mar 24-Apr 14	Aug 11-Aug 25	75-100	—	100 lbs
Radish	1 oz	½	14-24	1	½	Feb 3-Apr 14	Sept 22-Nov 17	25-40	7	100 bunches
Spinach	1 oz	½	14-24	3-4	1	Jan 20-Mar 10	Sept 15-Nov 3	40-60	40	3 bushels
Squash, Summer	1 oz	1-2	36-60	18-36	3	Mar 24-Apr 14	Aug 4-Aug 25	50-60	40	150 lbs
Squash, Winter	½ oz	1-2	60-96	24-48	1	Mar 24-Apr 14	Aug 11-Aug 25	85-100	—	100 lbs
Tomato	¼ oz/50 plants	½, 4-6	24-48	18-36	3	Mar 17-May 12	Aug 11-Aug 25	70-90	40	100 lbs
Turnip, Greens	½ oz	½	14-24	2-3	1½	Feb 3-Mar 3	Aug 25-Nov 3	30	40	50-100 lbs
Turnip, Roots	½ oz	½	14-24	2-3	1½	Feb 3-Mar 3	Aug 25-Nov 3	30-60	30	50-100 lbs
Watermelon	1 oz	1-2	72-96	36-72	1	Mar 17-Apr 28	July 28-Aug 11	80-100	30	40 fruits

Round Top State Bank

- Farm & Ranch Lending
- Traditional Banking Services
- Mortgage Lending
- Home Equity
- ATM at each location
- Commercial and Consumer OnLine Banking

• **ROUND TOP**
301 N. Washington 979-249-3151

• **GIDDINGS**
1442 E. Austin 979-542-7872



• **JARRELL** (Eagle Bank - a Branch of Round Top State Bank)
12345 N. IH 35 512-746-2531

• **ROUND ROCK** (Eagle Bank - a Branch of Round Top State Bank)
2250 N. A.W. Grimes Blvd. 512-218-3903

• **LA GRANGE**
2010 Hwy. 71 West 979-966-0556

• **LEXINGTON**
8681 St. Hwy. 77 979-773-2227

TOM BAKER INSURANCE AGENCY
Full Service Agency Located at Round Top
State Bank - Tommy Baker III, Agent
Not a Deposit. Not FDIC Insured.
Not Insured by any Federal Governmental Agency.
Not Guaranteed by the Bank.
979-249-2126

ROUND TOP STATE BANK
INSURANCE AGENCY
Your local Germania Agent - Tim Huebner
Not a Deposit. Not FDIC Insured.
Not Insured by any Federal Governmental Agency.
Not Guaranteed by the Bank.

ROUND TOP STATE BANK
Your Hometown Bank Since 1912
www.roundtopstatebank.com

ROUND TOP FINANCIAL SERVICES
Full Service Brokerage - Reece Cernoch, Broker
and Tom Baker III, Broker
Securities and insurance products are not FDIC or NCUA insured, not bank or credit guaranteed, may lose value, not insured by any federal government agency, and not a bank or credit union deposit. Securities and insurance products offered by LPL Financial and its affiliates, member FINRA/SIPC. LPL Financial and Round Top State Financial Services are independent entities.

Don't let bugs ruin your summer fun in the yard

Mosquitoes are often the biggest party crashers of the summer.

The torrents of rain that fell and above-average temperatures are perfect conditions for a bumper crop of buzzing bugs. It's not welcome news. Illnesses caused by mosquitoes, fleas and ticks more than tripled in the United States since 2004, according to a report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And more people now have concerns about the West Nile and Zika viruses.

If you're hosting a family reunion, party or just a simple backyard barbecue, you'll need a battle plan. Removing standing water on your property from plant saucers, clogged gutters and garden containers (potential breeding sites) is as important as stringing party lights and stockpiling ice.

There's an array of products marketed to help deal with mosquitoes and other annoying flying critters:

sprays, herbs, zappers, citronella, coils, lanterns, candles, oils, dunks, fogs, torches, table-top diffusers, wipes, lotions and one-time yard treatments.

Consumers have mixed feelings about various types of repellents, and research shows similarly mixed results. Solutions that work for some don't work for others.

Although some people continue to have reservations about DEET (especially in regard to children, pets and pregnant women), Consumer Reports testers have addressed many of these concerns and report that the chemical is safe and effective when used as directed.

Event planners and caterers say bug control strategy is now a standard item on client checklists.

When a party is out-of-doors, everyone wants to know how to handle the mosquitoes, and hosts don't want their guests eaten to death. Citro-

nella votives and torches around the party space can help control the insects.

Hosts can also minimize mosquitoes by being mindful of any floral decorations (they shouldn't smell too sweet) and avoiding certain hors d'oeuvres (platters of ripe cheese left out in the sun will attract mosquitoes, especially with soft cheeses such as brie and limburger).

Mosquitoes and no-see-ums are party poopers that can shut a bash down. Some strategies to use effectively to deter mosquitoes are fans around the party area and herbs that work naturally to repel them. Cool washcloths scented with lavender can be passed out to guests as a natural bug repellent. Also, spray the area a few days before an event.

It's always a smart idea to tell guests in your invitation that your gathering is going to be outdoors. You can also email or text people

the day of the party to confirm. Guests can then choose whether to wear long-sleeve shirts, long pants or socks.

Telling people in advance lets people plan their own strategy for dealing with the mosquito issue. They will really appreciate the advance notice for a lot of reasons.



TRANQUILITY LANDSCAPES

Brenham, TX

Landscaping • Irrigation • Maintenance





We bring tranquility to your environment.

Tranquility Landscapes, located in Brenham, TX, is a full-service landscaping and irrigation company. We provide service to both commercial and residential clients. We provide the highest quality available with honesty and integrity.

2315 South Market Street - Brenham, TX 77833
Office: Tel: (979) 830-9119 Fax: (979) 251-9987
tranquilitylandscapestexas.com *Certified Veteran Owned Business*

It's Time For Spring A/C Checks

Goodman®

Air Conditioning & Heating

Heating & Air Conditioning

Amana

LENNOX

TRAECO

HEATING &

AIR CONDITIONING



TACLB012733C
TECL9249

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • SALES • SERVICE
ICE MACHINES • SHEET METAL FAB

979-542-5328

----- Gardening tips for beginners -----

Gardening is a rewarding hobby that many enthusiasts credit with helping them to peacefully escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Though gardening can be both relaxing and rewarding, it's not as easy as it may seem, and the more time and effort a person devotes to his or her garden the more likely it is to be successful.

Gardening can be a little daunting for beginners who have little or no experience planting flowers or vegetables. But gardening need not be so intimidating, especially for those beginners who adhere to the following tips aimed at helping novice gardeners start their gardens off on the right foot.

* Determine what you should plant. Where you live will go a long way toward determining what you should plant. While you can plant anything you can get your hands on, the United States Department of Agriculture as well as Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada have determined specific plant hardiness zones that indicate which plants are most likely to thrive in given locations. Maps of these zones can be found at www.usda.gov and www.agr.gc.ca. By adhering to the maps, gardeners can significantly increase their chances of growing successful gardens. When in doubt about what to plant, consult a local gardening center or seek advice from a professional landscaper.

* Think location when beginning your garden. Beginners with large yards have the luxury of choosing the right location on their properties to start

planting. When choosing a spot, consider how much sunlight a location gets on a daily basis and the spot's proximity to a water supply. If planting flowers, try to avoid planting in areas with heavy foot traffic so the flowers are less likely to be stomped. If you're planting flowers to accent walkways, then consider erecting a barrier around the flower bed to safeguard the flowers from foot traffic.

* Get started before you plant. Preparing the soil a few weeks before you start planting can help the plants thrive down the road. Add some organic material, such as compost or fertilizer, to the soil roughly three weeks before planting. This helps the soil retain water and nutrients, which will help your garden thrive.

* Time your planting. When you plant is sometimes as important as what you plant. Some climates allow for year-round planting, but many do not. When buying seeds, the packaging might suggest what time of year to plant the seeds. Adhere to these suggestions or your garden might not grow much at all. In addition, keep in mind that many seedlings need significant light throughout the day in order to grow, so choose a time of year with ample daylight.

* Don't forget to mulch. Mulch can be as aesthetically appealing as it is effective. Mulch retains soil, helping roots to grow stronger, while deterring bugs and preventing weed growth. And many gardeners find mulch adds visual appeal their garden, and does so



in a very inexpensive way.

* Clean your tools. Beginners rarely recognize the importance of cleaning gardening tools before putting them away. At the end of each gardening session, clean your tools thoroughly, as soil left on your garden tools can play

host to potentially harmful microbes that might kill your plants.

Gardening can be a labor-intensive yet gratifying hobby. By sticking to a few simple rules, beginners can develop a thriving garden to reward all of that hard work.

BUDGET BLINDS & **iD**
INSPIRED DRAPES

Style and service for every budget!

Shutters, Shades, Drapes, Wood and Faux Wood Blinds
and much more!

Free In-Home Consultation

Office: 979-542-0700 www.budgetblinds.com/giddings



The SPRING PLANTING SEASON Has Arrived...




Quality Building Materials Since 1907

Farmers Lumber Company

We have everything you need ... EVERYTHING!

515 East Travis Street, La Grange, TX 78945
979-968-3161
www.farmerslumber.com

Hours: Monday - Friday - 7:00 am to 5:30 pm; Saturdays - 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

* Vegetable Plants

* Flowers

* Trees

* Shrubs

* Exotic Plants

* Mulches

* Fertilizers

* Herbicides

* Soils

* Amendments

Texas Crop and Weather Report to start May 2019

Sorghum acres to decrease despite excellent conditions

The Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension Service has released its Texas Crop and Weather Report to kick off May 2019.

Sorghum acres are expected to decrease amid excellent growing conditions, due to an ongoing trade dispute, according to an Agrilife expert.

Dr. Calvin Trostle, AgriLife Extension agronomist from Lubbock, said the U.S. Department of Agriculture prospective plantings report estimated 1.35 million grain sorghum acres to be planted in Texas in 2019. Texas sorghum producers planted 1.55 million acres in 2018 following a USDA projection of 1.6 million acres for the state.

Trostle said the 13 percent projected decrease is related to the ongoing trade dispute with China. Texas has typically produced around 25

percent of U.S. sorghum exported to China, about \$209 million annually.

"Many Texas producers are concerned that the trade dispute could cut up to \$1 per bushel off of domestic prices," he said. "We send so much sorghum to China, the sooner the dispute is resolved the better."

Trostle said the fact that nearly all the state, including parts of the High Plains that were experiencing drought conditions, have a good, deep soil moisture profile bodes well for growers. He doesn't want to jinx the 2019 growing season, but said conditions look excellent so far.

Some producers are still hesitant to plant sorghum because of disastrous sugarcane aphid infestations in 2014 and 2015, Trostle said. But he said plant hybrids introduced to combat the pest, earlier planting dates, proper crop monitoring,

treatments and beneficial insects have mitigated much of the pest's impact since.

"Their impact has been sporadic the last few years," he said. "Around 25 percent of Texas sorghum acres are planted with sugarcane aphid-tolerant varieties and growers are more vigilant in their monitoring. That has reduced their impact to the point some producers believe we have them whipped. But producers still need to be wary because Mother Nature can humble you."

Trostle said sorghum plants in South Texas have reached at least the six-to-seven leaf stage with some fields flowering. Sugarcane aphids were noted in those fields with a few adults and newborns at low levels.

"That's a dramatic change," he said. "Probably over half the acres in South Texas were recommended for spraying at this point in 2014."

Along the Coastal Bend, Trostle said sugarcane aphids have been scouted in Johnsongrass, but no reports of the pest in sorghum fields. Most sorghum in Central Texas has emerged, and High Plains sorghum plantings were expected to begin in earnest soon.

"This is one of those one in eight years or one in 10 years that makes farmers eager to get their summer crop in the ground," he said.

AgriLife Extension District reporters compiled the following summaries for the 12 Texas A&M Districts:

CENTRAL: Rainfall totals were 3-7 inches in many areas. Some flooding in bottoms and fields was reported. Most corn and vegetable crops continued to struggle. Producers were unable to plant cotton and soybeans. Livestock were in good condition. Corn was growing rapidly due to timely showers. Nearly all counties reported good soil moisture. The vast majority of counties reported good overall crop, rangeland and pasture conditions.

ROLLING PLAINS: Conditions were favorable for producers. Ben-

eficial rainfall covered most of the district with totals ranging from 1-4 inches. Rains helped boost pastures and rangeland as grasses continued to emerge. Some area producers reported rust in wheat fields and were deciding on the benefits of spraying fungicide to protect yields. Overall winter wheat conditions were good to fair. Livestock were also in good condition, and supplemental feeding had just about come to a halt. Farmers were beginning to prepare fields for the upcoming planting. Soil moisture levels were adequate.

COASTAL BEND: Rain showers delivered needed topsoil moisture. Corn and sorghum looked good and were progressing well. Most cotton looked good, but a lot of replanting occurred due to wind damage. Some wheat was near harvest. Some rice was still being planted. Producers were controlling weeds in all crops. Forage conditions in rangelands and pastures continued to improve rapidly with good moisture and warmer weather. Cool-season annuals were beginning to dry down, and warm-season grasses were beginning to grow. Fertilizer applications were being made on hay fields. Livestock were in great shape.

EAST: Thunderstorms continued to provide almost optimal pasture and hay field conditions in several counties. Rainfall varied from a quarter of an inch in Polk County to 5 inches in Cherokee County. Pasture and rangeland conditions were fair to good, with Marion and Panola counties reporting mostly excellent conditions and Anderson and Tyler counties reporting poor conditions. Panola County producers worked to make an early harvest of hay. Ponds were full, and some flooding was reported in Marion County. Subsoil and topsoil conditions were mostly adequate. Anderson County reported about 70 percent of cotton fields were underwater. Straight line winds downed some timber. Tornado recovery in

See REPORT, page 19







Metal & Shingle Roofs • Metal Buildings
Pole Barns • Gutters • Windows
Painting • Siding
"FULLY INSURED"





979-247-4587
TOLL FREE: 877-840-3896
VINCENTSROOFING.COM

REPORT

FROM PAGE 18

Cherokee County continued. Cattle were in good condition. The cattle market improved. Fly numbers continued to rise. Wild pigs were very active, and damage reports increased.

SOUTH PLAINS: Subsoil and topsoil moisture levels continued to be less than adequate due to minimal moisture fall, dry and windy conditions. Some counties received half an inch to 2 inches of rainfall. Pastures, rangelands and winter wheat needed additional moisture. Producers continued with spring planting. Wheat was looking good. Cotton planting was expected to start soon, and corn planting continued. Cattle were in good condition.

PANHANDLE: Producers received rainfall. Moisture allowed pivots to shut off for a few days. Winter wheat fields improved, and many fields reached flag-leaf stage. Corn planting has begun in some counties. Cattle conditions improved as green-up continued.

NORTH: Counties reported receiving 2-7 inches of rain. Soil moisture was adequate for most counties with a few reporting surplus moisture. More precipitation was in the forecast. Pastures were full of weeds, and producers were unable to get equipment into fields to spray due to wet soils. Wheat maturation was about 10 days behind normal. Cool-seasonal temperatures kept warm-season grasses from growing.

Pastures were full of green winter forages, but producers were having issues getting ryegrass and wheat cut and cured. Corn and sorghum started well, and producers hoped to limit insect and disease damage. Cotton and soybeans should be planted soon. Cattle looked better each day with abundant winter grasses to graze on. Calves were scouring a little. Flies were beginning to stress livestock. Feral hogs were active and damaging to many pastures and hay meadows.

FAR WEST: Temperatures were in the low 90s with lows in the upper 40s. Precipitation amounts ranged from 1-4 inches. Severe hail caused damage to trees and buildings. Recent rains improved topsoil and subsoil moisture levels. Soil temperatures were barely warm enough and dropped considerably with inclement weather. Corn and sorghum emerged and looked good. Pecan tree leaves were fully developed and will be putting on catkins soon. Pecan nut casebearer pheromone traps were set. Watermelons were planted. Pastures greened up considerably, but weed management was expected to be necessary in some areas. Producers began to work lambs and ship them to market.

WEST CENTRAL: Rainfall ranged from 1-6 inches. Stock tanks were full. Some parts of the district received hail damage. Spring planting continued. Most oat and wheat pastures were grazed out or baled for hay. Weeds continued to be abundant, requiring control in most cases. Livestock body condi-

tions continued to improve. Cattle demand continued to be strong with steady prices on stocker steers, while stocker and feeder heifers, packer cows and feeder steers were \$3 higher per hundredweight.

SOUTHEAST: Areas received half an inch to more than 3 inches of rain. Plant growth was good. Some pastures were wet while others were relatively dry. Rangeland and pasture ratings varied widely — from excellent to poor — with good being most common.

SOUTHWEST: Rain was hit or miss with some counties getting zero rainfall and other areas receiving 2 inches of rain. Areas with rainfall and warmer nighttime temperatures were improving row crop and pasture conditions. Livestock were in fair condition.

SOUTH: Northern and eastern parts of the district reported mild weather conditions with adequate soil moisture levels. Southern areas reported mild weather and

short soil moisture levels. Western parts of the district reported up to 1 inch of rain, wet weather conditions and adequate moisture levels. Cotton planting continued. Wheat fields were maturing and turning color. Harvest was expected to begin soon. Corn fields continued to develop. Ranchers were planting haygrazer. Pasture and rangeland conditions continued to improve following recent rains. Native rangeland and pastures were providing plenty of forage for livestock. Very little supplemental feeding of cattle was reported, and some producers started to haul water. Cattle were doing well. Some farmers replanted cotton, and others were waiting to replant. Irrigated Coastal Bermuda grass was producing hay bales. Most of the vegetable crops were planted. Pecan trees were green with fully developed leaves. Corn, sorghum and onions made good progress. Cotton ginning was complete.

Gaeke Construction
is committed to
INGENUITY, QUALITY, TRUST,
and constant pursuit of
EXCELLENCE.

GAEKE
CONSTRUCTION
Company, Inc.

Ph. 979-542-2943 - Highway 290 East - Giddings

Mc
RUSTIC

Rustics • Rugs • Furniture • Mattress
Art • Gifts • Hides & Skins • K2 Coolers

Like us on Facebook at Rockin' Mc Rustic

Over 10,000 sq ft

17223 HWY 36 Somerville, TX • 979-596-1777 • 979-220-0364

TEXSTAR
SEA CONTAINERS
Instant Storages!
Available sizes are 20's & 40's
You pick'em, we place'em!

Satisfaction Guaranteed!

CALL TOLL-FREE AT **866-468-2791**
SAN ANGELO, TX



Folks are gathered around the bar for a cold drink and conversation at one of the June Fest celebrations.

SEPTIC PUMPING SERVICE

**Lee County Ace
Septic Solutions**

979-542-2413

Cultured German Settlers Found Hard Times In Their New Land

But Help Was On The Way

By **HERBERT KOLLATSCHNY**
Times Staff Writer

In 1834 the Klebergs and the von Roeders left their homeland, Germany, and established Cat Spring a small Austin County community. They were educated people who were used to all of the modern conveniences that their homeland offered. They were accustomed to the nicer things in life such as the theatre, music, schools and fine colleges.

Lieut. Ludwig von Roeder was a decorated military man and head of an old family of nobility. One of his sons Otto studied law and son-in-law Robert Justus Kleberg completed his juris doctorate

degree before leaving Germany.

Other immigrants such as the Kloss, Trenckmann and Engelking families were also educated people. Herman Nagel was a medical doctor and Earnest Gustov Maetze gained his education at the University of Breslau. He became a member of the German Parliament and prided himself in once having debated the great Bismarck. Maetze later established a very well respected school in Millheim. He was later elected to the State Senate where he served several terms.

All of those folks settled in the Cat Spring-Millheim area, which at the time was a wilderness. They

See GERMAN, page 22



This sign stood at the entrance of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society property for many years.

Schrader Construction Co., Inc.

Clearing & Grubbing • Excavation • House & Building Pads
Hydra-Axing • Lakes & Ponds • Roads • Stabilization
Site Work • Subdivisions, Etc.

RUSSELL SCHRADER

PRESIDENT

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 14

Kenney, TX 77452

(979) 877-8463 Cell

(979) 830-5292 Office

Email: schrader.construction.inc@gmail.com

(979) 830-5244 Fax



Fayette Country Homes

www.fayettecountryhomes.com

LIKE US ON
facebook



FOLLOW US ON
Instagram



(979) 743- 6192 / Fax 979-743-6136

MHDRET00032896



GERMAN FROM PAGE 21

certainly weren't used to making a living out of the land. But they were forced to.

Other than Dr. Herman Nagle none of their former occupations helped them make a living in their new land. Meat was plentiful in the wild game that was abundantly available. But they had to hunt, butcher and process it themselves. It was a hard way of life. And vegetables had to be grown in the field or garden, as there were no stores.

When Stephen F Austin was given permission to open this area for settlers in the 1820s, folks from the South loaded their belongings including slaves and came to Texas. They received their land grants and settled the best of the river bottoms and made great crops.

Later when the Germans arrived they were more or less forced to take the deeper sandy-land soil grants. That land was better suited for ranching than farming. That coupled with their lack of knowledge about farming resulted in crop failures.

Because of inability to make good crops those educated Germans were referred to as book farmers or Latin farmers by their less learned but successful farmers.

But help was on its way. On June 6, 1856 at the church in Cat Spring forty men met at two-o'clock in the afternoon and organized the



The Cat Spring Agricultural Society Pavilion was built in 1902 and continues to serve the folks of Cat Spring and the surrounding area.

Agriculture Society of Austin County. It was later changed to the Cat Spring Agriculture Society.

And they found their leader in the Rev. Joseph Arnst Bergmann a Protestant preacher. He emigrated from Silecia and arrived in Cat Spring in March of 1850. He preached his first sermon in Cat Spring on Easter Sunday, March 31, 1850 in a tent. Holy

Communion was also offered.

Bergmann was also a very educated man. He was fluent in five languages but he also had a great common knowledge and understanding. Bergmann was the spokesman at the June meeting and explained what an organization like the one he proposed could do. So they decided to organize.

They subscribed to the magazine Southern Cultivator. In it there were stories about new and better way of farming and ideas about certain crops. But the magazine was printed in English and most of those early settlers spoke only German. There again Bergmann fit in. He translated some of those stories into German and

See GERMAN, page 23

Rental Solutions

"For All Your Rental Needs"

5940 Hwy 290 (979) 542-0555
Giddings 78942 Fax: (979) 542-0550
Email: goldCR@gmail.com
www.RentalSolutionsOnline.com

Come Check Us Out!



Please visit Rental Solutions for all your rental needs! So whether you're in the oil field, construction, or a home owner, Rental Solutions has the equipment you need for your worksite or that do-it-yourself project. At Rental Solutions...5940 Highway 290 East in Giddings...when you need construction or industrial equipment, call Rental Solutions at 979-542-0555. Rental Solutions in Giddings is a family owned and operated rental company with every kind of rental equipment including generators, forklifts, manlifts, light towers, dozers and many other construction and industrial equipment. And, you'll find the equipment at Rental Solutions well maintained and ready to go when you get it. Rental Solutions services Lee, Washington, and Burleson counties and their customers are always top priority. In fact, their service is what keeps people coming back over and over again. Please stop by their location in Giddings, you'll be treated like family with old-fashioned quality service.

GERMAN

FROM PAGE 22

gave reports on certain topics in the magazine to the members at meetings.

Some of his topics were in building reservoirs for storage of water and also for raising fish. How to grow a hedgerow for fencing, as there was no wire. He devoted one whole day in teaching members how to graft and bud trees and what variety was best suited for this area.

Along with subscribing to the magazine the society also kept in close touch with the patent office in Washington DC. From the patent office they received different types of seeds, plants and trees. In return they were to report back to the patent office how well these plants and seeds produced.

As the years went on members explained at meetings their successful experiences and passed them on to their neighbors. You have to remember there were neither County Agents nor Veterinarians at the time. So it was important to pass on successful cures and methods.

The Agricultural Society became a true success story and may have been the forerunner of the county fairs. As each year at their celebration they featured exhibits of livestock as well as crops. The livestock shown were the best of their breeds. This was an attempt to educate producers in ways they could improve their herds by producing better livestock. And it

was also a pride thing as prizes were awarded to the best of breeds. That preceded the Austin County Fair by more than 70 years and could very well have prompted county fairs.

Vegetable and field crops were judged in the same manner. The vegetable exhibits continued for many years before they were discontinued in 2017.

According to the minutes there was a time that the Ag Society contemplated buying better bulls to compete on the open range and improve the quality of those cattle. However, that fell through because they didn't feel they could convince owners of scrub bulls that were already on the open range to eliminate them.

The introduction of more modern ways of farming, and with the inception of County Extension Agencies, caused the need for the educational part of the society to grow dimmer.

However, another culture brought along by those early pioneers, and passed on to their followers was the joy of celebrating. And oh how they liked to celebrate. In the minutes of the meeting in May of 1858 the plans for the July 4 celebration was decided upon. It was decided that the band should start playing at noon and continue until the next morning or as long as the gathering lasts.

To help with their celebrating, first the Society built a platform, and in 1902 the Pavilion, which provided for a big part of their



Vegetable exhibits are being judged at an Annual June Fest.

social life.

The building of the Pavilion was the big step. That's when the Society contracted builder Joachim Hintz to build this Pavilion. Hintz a German immigrant arrived here when he was 14 years old and learned the building trade.

Hintz built a similar 12-sided dance hall for the Bellville Turnverein in 1897. At the Sept. 7, 1902 meeting Hintz's architectural drawings were approved by the Ag Society. At the Sept. 27, 1902 meeting the Pavilion site survey was accepted. The building was completed in three months and

continues to serve the folks of Cat Spring as well as all of Austin County.

Meetings were held every month except during the Civil War when so many members were off to war. Once the war ended they started meeting again and those monthly meetings continue to this day. The Cat Spring Agricultural Society is the oldest such organization in Texas and one of the oldest in the nation.

It's the gathering place for not only Cat Spring folks but for everyone in the surrounding area.

Auto • Home • Business Insurance

SIEGELER
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

"Personal Service Is Our First Policy."

"Celebrating 52 Years of Service!"

Michael T. Siegeler, C.I.C.
"Serving The Entire Area Since 1967"

Phone: (979) 542-3449
or Fax: (979) 542-0469
www.siegins.com

172 W. Austin St. (Hwy. 290)
Giddings, Texas 78942

CAA

BS Dirt Hauling LLC

Sand, Gravel, Select Fill, Backhoe Work,
Cattle Guards, Culverts, etc.
Road Building & Bulldozing

Ben Schimank (979) 540-0734



THE RIGHT RESIDENTIAL TOOLS.

If you're looking for professional-grade cut quality and performance in a premium residential zero-turn rider, look no further than Exmark's Quest® mower lineup. Once in the seat, you'll experience more commercial-grade features, comfort and durability, for less.

exmark.com



QUEST MOWERS STARTING AT

\$3,299

Based on QZE702GEM42200 with 42" deck and an Exmark 702 V-Twin engine. See your dealer for more details.

**ATTRACTIVE
RETAIL FINANCING
GOING ON NOW**

Visit exmark.com or your dealer
for complete financing details.

KLEIBER TRACTOR AND EQUIPMENT

1701 W. Travis St.
La Grange, TX 78945
979-968-3187

www.kleibertractor.com