

WATERSHED WEEK IN REVIEW



Pop Quiz

Match the 2 Boxes in the Middle with one of the Surrounding Boxes



C3

C4



B I N G O							
15	27	42	55	72			
10	29	41	56	73			
7	26		52	64	FREE 147 SPACE		
13	21	36	59	61			
8	23	32	58	74			

Answer on page 2 in David Hillis' Mason County Science Corner

Commissioners Discuss Collier Sand Plant Proposal

Collier Materials has announced plans for a new sand dredging operation on the Llano Arm of Lake LBJ, one mile upstream of the RR 2900 bridge in Kingsland.

This week, Llano County Commissioners and concerned citizens discussed the proposed plant in an online-commissioner's meeting. Several citizens expressed concerns about the proposed aesthetic impacts to Lake LBJ and increased truck traffic that would be generated on CR 309 between the plant and Highway 71. (CR 309 runs just east of Packsaddle Mountain).

According to Collier, the proposed plant is to be similar to a similar Collier facility in Jarrell. No comparison has been given to Collier's facility in the City of Llano's water supply reservoirs.

To date, only an agreement between the landowner and Collier Materials has been reached. No permits have been issued for the facility from LCRA, TCEQ, or TPWD.

More from Burnet Bulletin

Why do some grasses grow in the winter, but others in the summer?

By David Hillis

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If you have gone walking through some Mason County pastures this past month, you may have admired the fresh green growth of some of our warm-season grasses. Indiangrass, Little Bluestem, Sideoats Grama, Silver Bluestem, and many other native grasses are putting up vigorous new leaves among the dried dead leaves they produced last year. Although our summer rains have been disappointing so far this year, these perennial grasses are able to put on new growth right now because they have deep root systems that tap the moisture deep in the ground from our abundant spring rains. They also have some special adaptations that allow them to grow well on our long, hot summer days.

Last winter, you may have noticed cool-season grasses—such as Texas



Wintergrass (also called Speargrass), Texas Bluegrass (photo left), Great Plains Wildrye, and Heller's Rosettegrass—as bright green patches in otherwise brown pastures. Many of these cool season grasses grow best under and around oak trees in Mason County. But why do these grasses grow in the winter, and

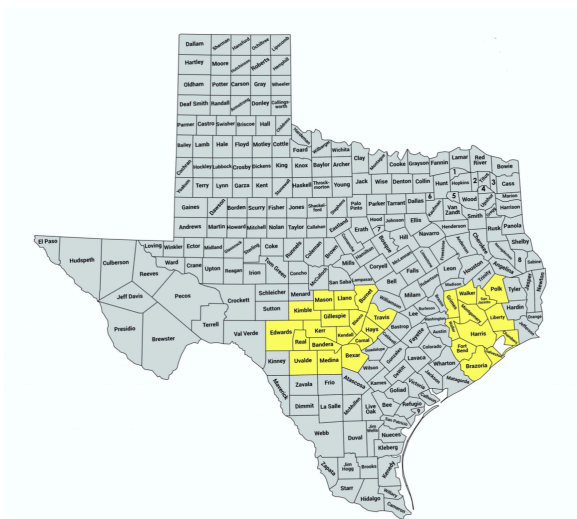
die back in the summer, whereas our warm season grasses do just the opposite? [continue reading](#) [more on C3/C4](#)

Texas for Responsible Aggregate Mining (TRAM) is a new statewide coalition of member groups seeking to work with lawmakers, state agencies, and good-faith industry operators to create state standards for Best Management Practices (BMPs) in Aggregate Production Operations (APO) and adopt those standards into law.



adopt best management practices that are required in other states. As a result,

the expanding APO industry is having an increasingly negative impact on the health, safety, property rights, property values, natural resources, and long-term viability of neighboring communities.



The “Livers of the Rivers”

Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute has developed an on-line learning tool about Texas freshwater mussels. Mussels, often called the ‘Livers of the Rivers’ are a critical component of freshwater ecosystems, filtering water and cycling nutrients. Similar to oyster beds in salt water systems, mussel shells create important microhabitats for other organisms such as microinvertebrates. Mussels also provide an important food source for birds, fish, and otters. Native Americans harvested mussels for meat, tools and jewelry.

Today, many Texas freshwater mussels are in decline due to habitat loss and degradation caused by impoundments, sedimentation, dewatering, sand and gravel mining and chemical contaminants. The Llano watershed is host to three species of freshwater mussels of particular concern: Texas Fatmucket, Texas Fawnsfoot, and Texas Pimpleback. These three species are proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

The new online tool offers land stewardship tips for landowners wishing to help protect mussel habitats.

