

Quarry committed to preserve wildlife

BY JEN BIUNDO

jen@haysfreepress.com

BUDA -In nearby Creedmoor, the Texas Disposal Systems landfill doubles as a wild game preserve, home to herds of zebras, gazelles and a giraffe. Now, a Buda limestone quarry may become a way station for migrating bats.

The Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC), a non-profit organization dedicated to helping corporations preserve natural

habitats, will partner with Industrial Asphalt, Inc. and the KBDJ quarry and rock crushing operating near Ruby Ranch in Buda.

Industrial Asphalt will initiate wildlife habitat enhancement projects on the quarry, which will continue throughout the next year as the site works toward WHC's Corporate Wildlife Habitat Certification/International Accreditation Program. The company also is preparing to conduct an inventory of the plants and animals that inhabit the site.

"Industrial Asphalt and KBDJ believe it is possible to do business in a manner that is ecologically sensitive," said Jill Shackelford, president of Industrial Asphalt. "While the State of Texas and its transportation future depend on quality grade limestone like the aggregate produced at our KBDJ site, we are committed to preserving and protecting the wildlife and the natural beauty of the property."

Industrial Asphalt has installed three bat houses at the quarry to attract some

of the 100 million bats that migrate each spring from Mexico to Texas, stopping to roost and breed in Central Texas. Bats provide seed dispersal and cross-pollination for many plant species and control insect populations.

The company will also create buffers to preserve natural vegetation and control invasive plant species such as the kudzu vine, which compete with native species for water.

See **QUARRY**, pg. 2D

Rock crusher and W.H.C. work together for wildlife

From **QUARRY**, pg. 1D

"The Wildlife Habitat Council will celebrate in its 20th anniversary in 2008 with more than 100 corporations voluntarily managing their facilities on more than 2 million acres of land for the benefit of wildlife and conservation education," said Robert Johnson, WHC president. "Our corporate members are the leaders in industry who have gone beyond regulatory compliance and integrated responsible environmental management into the core values of everyday business practices."

For more information, visit WHC online at www.wildlifehc.org.