

The Muleshoe Journal office will close at noon Friday, Dec. 31 in observance of the New Year's holiday. Please celebrate safely!

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Muleshoe Journal

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Muleshoe, Texas

50¢

December 30, 2004

Beware of costly phone scam

An ugly phone scam is making its way around the country.

Phone companies are advising customers to NEVER, EVER dial area codes 809, 284 and 876.

Consumers should not respond to e-mails, phone calls or Web pages which tell them to call an "809" area phone number.

It could cost the consumer \$2,400 or more and it's difficult to avoid if you're unaware of it.

It's already costing victims thousands of dollars, according to the National Fraud Information Center.

HOW IT WORKS

There are lots of different permutations of this scam, but basically, here's how it works:

You will receive a message on

Dialing wrong area code could cost big \$\$\$\$

your answering machine or your pager, which asks you to call a number beginning with area code 809.

The reason you're asked to call varies.

It can be to receive information about a family member who has been ill, to tell you someone has been arrested, died, to let you know you have won a wonderful prize, etc. In each case, you are told to call the 809 number right away.

Since there are so many new area codes these days, people unknowingly return these calls.

* If you call from the U.S., you

will apparently be charged \$2,425 per-minute.

* Or, you'll get a long recorded message. The point is, they will try to keep you on the phone as long as possible to increase the charges. Unfortunately, when you get your phone bill, you'll often be charged hundreds and maybe thousands of dollars.

WHY IT WORKS

The 809 area code is located in the British Virgin Islands (The Bahamas).

The 809 area code can be used as a "pay-per-call" number, similar to 900 numbers in the U.S.

Since 809 is not in the US, it is

not covered by U.S. regulations of 900 numbers, which require that you be notified and warned of charges and rates involved when you call a pay-per-call number. There is also no requirement that the company provide a time period during which you may terminate the call without being charged.

Further, whereas many U.S. homes that have 900 number blocking to avoid these kinds of charges, do not work in preventing calls to the 809 area code.

The phone company recommends that no matter how you get the message, if you are asked to

call a number with an 809 area code that you don't recognize, just disregard the message.

Be wary of e-mail, or calls, asking you to call an 809 area code number.

It's important to prevent becoming a victim of this scam, since trying to fight the charges afterwards can become a real nightmare. That's because you did actually make the call.

If you complain, both your local phone company and your long distance carrier will not want to get involved and will most likely tell you that they are simply providing the billing for the foreign company. You'll end up dealing with a foreign company that argues they have done nothing wrong.

Make job improvement skills, habits a New Year's resolution

IOWA CITY, Iowa - Job seekers should make a New Year's resolution in 2005 to improve career skills. Having the basic skills needed to learn and grow on the job can boost your salary and give you an advantage during the job hunt, according to researchers at ACT.

Researchers compared starting salaries for various jobs from the Bureau of La

Continued on pg. 2

Local Weather

Thurs.. Partly Cloudy ... 60/29

Fri.Partly Cloudy... 60/36

Sat.Partly Cloudy ... 62/31

Sun. Showers ...56/32

Mon.....Mostly Cloudy ... 54/30

Tue....Partly Cloudy ... 57/22

WedPartly Cloudy 50/22

Give It A Thought

New Year 2005 — Another year that has quickly passed us by, a year that has caused us laughter and tears. We've experienced new life coming into the world and felt saddened by losing loved ones. The world is what we make of it, so let's make it a better place. Have a safe, healthy and happy New Year.

Words to ponder from Beverly

Missed your paper?

Call Yolanda Martinez at 272-4536, between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

For the love of the game

Eubanks still supporting girls basketball after eight decades

By Leah Bell
General Manager
ads@muleshojournal.com

Just over 80 years of enjoyment of basketball isn't enough for Theron Kimbrough-Eubanks. She'll be a fan of the game till the day she dies according to the 90 and 1/2-year-old fan.

"My love of basketball began when I was in the third grade," said Eubanks. "The other girls and I would play catch at recess, tossing the ball in goals positioned around the playground."

She grew up the youngest of 12 children in the YL Community. "I was a 'tomboy' because I had three big-old husky brothers who made sure I was," she said. "I was the only athletic one in the family."

In the 1930s, she got the chance to play on her first high school team in Lazbuddy (the spelling has since been changed) though it was against the wishes of her parents.

"Mom didn't want me to 'expose' myself. Our suits were black satin 'britches' that came just past our knees," said Eubanks. "In those days, women didn't show much more than their noses," quipped the spry senior. She also played one season in Muleshoe after her graduation from Lazbuddy.

"Coach Haskins, who was also the school superintendent and the geom-



Eubanks keeps track of Lady Mules — Nothing - not the years nor the changes in the game - has dimmed Theron Eubanks' love of basketball. Below, Eubanks is highlighted with her high school team.

etry teacher, let me graduate from Lazbuddy, but suggested that I attend Muleshoe schools to better my knowledge of geometry," she said. "So, I did. Although 'X' is still an unknown to me."

In her high school days, basketball had different rules and was structured quite differently than today. The outdoor court was divided into three territories and players assigned to a certain area were penalized if they stepped outside their area. Eubanks played jumping center (or returning center as they called it in the 30s) and was responsible for getting the ball to her for-

ward. Four people, two from each team, remained in each territory throughout the game which was about the same amount of time as today's game.

Out of bounds penalties came when any player stepped across the trench filled with lime boundary markers.

And three bounces on her part constituted a penalty.

"The rules and regulations are much different now. Not to mention, a lot more skin shows now," she laughed.

When Eubanks moved to Muleshoe, girls basketball was played on a court divided into two sections. "Muleshoe was much more progressive than any of the other towns in the area we played," said Eubanks.

She admits that basket-

ball was her game. "I tried tennis, but I wasn't any good at it." She received several awards for best player of the game or tournament in her years playing.

These days, Eubanks settles for being a fan. She still loves women's basketball — especially the Lady Mules and the Lady Raiders of Texas Tech.

"I appreciate my friends who take me to the games," she said. "Barry Cowart and Jana Grumbles both take me to see the girls play." Eubanks goes to the game as often as possible. She still enjoys cheering and "hollarin'" for the players, but her true

Continued on pg. 2



The Journal takes a look back at 2004

Compiled by the Journal staff

Muleshoe saw a lot of changes and stories worthy of front page coverage in the Muleshoe Journal in 2004. Here are some of those events:
January — The Muleshoe Journal sold to

Chris and Joye Bradford of Dimmitt. The Bradfords also own the Castro County News and Olton Enterprise.

Decorators Floral & Gifts was sold by Betty Wuerflein to Rebecca Reynolds in January. Mrs. Wuerflein unexpectedly passed away recently.

The first baby born at Muleshoe Area Medical Center was Teresa Silva. Her parents are Silvino Jr. and Maria Elena of Bovina.

February — The capital murder trial of Larry

Continued on back page



HOME OWNED AND HOME OPERATED

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Internet Workshop to be held

Local small business owners can learn how to move into the world of E-Commerce at an upcoming workshop in Muleshoe. The Bailey County Extension Office of Texas Cooperative Extension is sponsoring the workshop, Main Street Texas Online, to be held at Muleshoe High School on January 18-20, from 5 until 9 p.m. Specialist faculty from Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas A & M University, Dr. Pam Brown, will serve as instructor for the project.

"The course is geared to very small businesses, with fewer than 20 employees and to home based businesses," said Curtis Preston, Bailey County Extension Agent. "The workshop is based on materials developed in Minnesota called Access E-commerce.

The course material is relevant to those who are wondering what electronic commerce is all about, those who are thinking about developing an electronic commerce website and those who have a website and want to improve it."

Preston said participants in training in other states have included owners of existing retail and service businesses, people wanting to start an Internet business, people operating businesses from their homes, retired persons seeking new challenges, farmers and people considering alternative employment.

The class is meant to help participants: learn to use the Internet as a business research tool to find new markets or suppliers or to check out the competition; decide if a web presence is right for a particular business; learn the process of planning a website; learn techniques to effectively promote a website; learn how to incorporate the Internet into a business plan.

The only skills necessary to take the class are basic computer techniques, including keyboarding and mouse operations. Participants should also be able to use an Internet browser.

The workshop fee is \$60 and includes all course materials. Supper will be served each evening. For more information on Main Street Texas Online contact Curtis Preston or Mandi Seaton at Bailey County Extension Office, 306 West Second, Muleshoe, TX 79347, 806-272-4583. Limited space is available, so please RSVP by January 14, 2005.

Judge's scholarship established

The Texas Justice Court Judges Association (TJCJA)

has created a scholarship in the name of Judge Herman Morrison who passed away unexpectedly. His memory is being honored with this educational subsidy.

He had been a charter member of the organization and served as the regional director of TJCJA. To be eligible for the Judge Herman Morrison Memorial Scholarship, students must be related to a member of the Texas Justice Court Judges Association.

For more information, contact Gayla Gear at Muleshoe High School 272-7304 or call the office of the Justice of the Peace at 272-4300.

Estate Planning Seminar to be held

The Texas Cooperative Extension is sponsoring four two-day Estate Planning Seminars Jan. 25-26, 2005 in Robstown. This seminar is designed to help families reduce their estate taxes and make effective estate planning decisions will be offered. They are scheduled from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. each day. There is a registration fee. For more information, call Sharon at (979) 845-2226 or e-mail her at s-wehring@tam.u.edu.

'Wild at Heart' offering free oil changes to the elderly

"Wild at Heart" men's ministry of New Covenant Church is offering free oil changes to the elderly, disabled

Eubanks, from page 1

passion is the game itself — the plays, rules, finesse, all of which make up a basketball game.

"You don't get too old to go to a game till you die. I love basketball. It was a game I grew up on and was privileged to play. I can't explain it better than that," Eubanks said.

She plans to keep going to games as long as she is physically capable of doing so.

She enjoys high school and college games much more than the professional women's league. "There are too many politics. It's all about the money, not the love of the game," she said.

She offers this advice to high school players today: be honest with yourself and your team and respect your coaches with your life.

She would have considered a career in coaching had she gone to college but "it just wasn't an option for me. With 12 children, there

was no money plus dad didn't think a girl should have a career." She also entertained the idea of being a nurse but didn't follow that path for the same reasons. She worked for Bailey County Electric as a cashier and receptionist for 15 years, retiring in 1967.

Eubanks shared her enthusiasm for basketball with her husband, J.T., who passed away in 1993, and passed that same love along to her children and grandchildren. The couple had two sons, Doyle who is deceased, and Max who lives in Blossom. She has eight grandchildren and "too many great-grandchildren to count."

and single mothers with children this holiday season. The ministry is designed to fulfill the gospel's call to take care of those less fortunate than ourselves.

To qualify, one must be over 60 years of age, be disabled or be a single mother with children living at home. The oil change will be provided by a local business and will be free.

If you, or anyone you know of needs their vehicle services and meet the criteria, call (806) 965-2787 and a certificate will be sent to them.

EMT class starts in January

Bailey County EMS will be hosting an Emergency Medical Technician - Basic (EMT-B) class beginning in January. The class will cost \$400 plus the price of a text book, approximately \$65. The class must have a minimum of 10 students. Tuition assistance is available. Contact Chris Thompson at 272-4390 for more information.



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New Year's from front page

bor Statistics with skill levels needed to perform them. They discovered that starting pay for entry-level jobs could differ by as much as \$14,000 a year for workers from the lowest to the highest skill levels.

Business leaders report that having high skill levels improves job seekers' attractiveness to employers. Here are some skills to keep in mind, and jobs that require high levels of each skill:

Applied mathematics ? Applying mathematical reasoning to work-related problems

•Jobs that require this skill: Accountant, building inspector, computer software engineer, materials scientist

Applied technology ? Understanding technical principles as they apply to the workplace

•Jobs that require this skill: Electronic drafter, engineer, instructional coordinator, technical writer

Listening ? The ability to listen to and understand work-related messages

•Jobs that require this skill: Academic dean, correction officer, design drafter, branch manager

Locating information ? Using information from such materials as diagrams, floor

plans, tables, forms, graphs and charts

•Jobs that require this skill: Baker, building inspector, editor, engineer

Observation ? Paying attention to details in workplace instructions and demonstrations

•Jobs that require this skill: Contract administrator, electrical design engineer, laboratory assistant, food service manager

Reading for information ? Comprehending work-related reading materials, from memos and bulletins to policy manuals and governmental regulations

•Jobs that require this skill: Database administrator, electrician, human resource specialist, paralegal

Teamwork? Choosing behavior that leads toward positive workplace relationships and accomplished work tasks

•Jobs that require this skill: Caseworker, department manager, electrical engineer, nurse

Writing? Composing effective work-related messages and summaries

•Jobs that require this skill: Counselor, education specialist, insurance agent, retail store manager

Go to www.act.org/workkeys to find a location.

Hospital Report

The Muleshoe Area Medical Center reports the following patients:

Dec. 16: Joyce Coffman, Joseph H. Harbin, Lawson C. Herington, Robert E. Servatius, Ceferino Sierra Jr., Casandra S. Torres, Kelly D. Turney

Dec. 17: Joyce Coffman, Ricardo Gallegos, Joseph H. Harbin, Connie D. Height, Lawson C. Herington, Robert E. Servatius.

Dec. 18: No report

Dec. 19: No report
Dec. 20: Amanda Burton, Nelda Crawford, James M. Griffin, Joseph H. Harbin, Connie D. Height, Lawson C. Herington, Winnie Jacobs, Leo W. Jones, Pablo P. Monreal, Baby Murrieta, Robert E. Servatius, Missy F. Shultz, Linda Stovall.

Dec. 21: Amanda Burton, Nelda Crawford, Joseph H. Harbin, Winnie Jacobs, Leo W. Jones, Baby Murrieta, Paula Renteria, Robert E.

Servatius, Missy F. Shultz, Linda Stovall.

Dec. 22: Lenora Evans, Joseph H. Harbin, Lucille Harp, Gerry D. Pierce, Ramona Sanchez, Robert E. Servatius, Baby Shultz, Missy F. Shultz, Linda Stovall.

Dec. 23: Amanda Davila, Trahuilino Estrada, Lenora Evans, Joseph H. Harbin, Lucille Harp, Naomi A. Owen, Gerry G. Pierce, Ramona Sanchez, Robert E. Servatius, Linda Stovall.

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Best wishes for a wonderful New Year!

Obituaries

WINNIE HAZEL JACOBS

Services for Winnie Hazel Jacobs, 93, of Muleshoe, were Friday, Dec. 24, 2004 at First Assembly of God with the Rev. Jack Stone officiating. Burial was in Muleshoe Memorial Park Cemetery.

Mrs. Jacobs died Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2004 in the Muleshoe Area Medical Center. She was born April 28, 1911 in Rose Hill to William Virgil and Sarah Annie Long. She married Buddy Omer Jacobs in Blanket on Aug. 4, 1934. He preceded her in death, Sept. 24, 1983. Besides her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a son, Virgil Jacobs in 1986; a grandson, Marshall Todd Magby in 1961; three sisters; and two brothers.

Mrs. Jacobs moved to Muleshoe in 1947 from Blanket. She was a homemaker and a member of First Assembly of God Church, Muleshoe. She was also a member of Women's Ministries of that church.

Survivors include a daughter and her husband, Nell and Lee Magby of Muleshoe; a sister-in-law, Lillie Mae Brown of Comanche; seven grandchildren, Stephen, Carlton, Randy and David Jacobs, Russell and Derick Magby and Tracy Farris; 21 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to First Assembly of God Church, P.O. Box 707, Muleshoe, TX 79347.

KATHERINE ROGERS

Services for Katherine Rogers, 90, of Muleshoe, were Friday, Dec. 24, 2004 at First Baptist Church in Muleshoe with Dr. Stacy Conner of Muleshoe officiating. Burial was in Muleshoe Memorial Park cemetery.

Mrs. Rogers died Dec. 20, 2004 in Harmonie House Nursing Home in Amherst. She was born Aug. 11, 1914, in Charlie. She married Van H. Rogers

in Clovis, N.M. on March 29, 1936.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 1991; six brothers, Jim, Walter, Logan, Luther, Fred and Eual Hall; and three sisters, Ollie Matney, Cleo Tinney and Irene Holder.

She had lived in the Muleshoe community since 1929, moving from Charlie. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Muleshoe and was a homemaker.

Survivors include two sons, Clinton Rogers of Muleshoe and Richard Rogers of League City; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Vista Care Hospice, 4418 Olton Rd., Plainview, TX 79072.

SUSIE HOWARD

Services for Susie Howard, 75, of Muleshoe, were Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2004 at Calvary Baptist Church with the Rev. Jeff Coffman officiating. Burial was in Bailey County Cemetery.

Mrs. Howard died Dec. 25, 2004, in Muleshoe Area Medical Center. She was born March 5, 1929 in Clarksville, Ark. She married Johnny Howard in Guyman, Okla., on Dec. 5, 1967.

She was a life-long resident of Muleshoe, moving from Sudan. She was very active in the Calvary Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Margaret Lee in 1969, and four brothers.

Survivors include her husband of Muleshoe; a son, John Howard of Muleshoe; five sisters, Jeri Tittle of Lubbock, Bessie Lamb of Colorado City, Betty Johnson of Chico, Rosalee Zeissel of Amarillo and Pat Green of Marble Falls; three brothers, Floyd Collins of Ore City, George Collins of Lubbock and Tommy Collins of Chesapeake, Va.; and three grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Calvary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 378, Muleshoe, TX 79347.

YUVETTE GAGE

Services for Yvette Gage, 72, of Eunice, N.M., were Monday, Dec. 27, 2004

at First Baptist Church, Sudan, with the Rev. Robert Roecker and Jeff Procter, both of Sudan, officiating. Burial was in Sudan Cemetery.

Mrs. Gage died Dec. 22, 2004, in Odessa. She was born Nov. 4, 1932, to E.W. and Jessie Parmer in the Sudan community.

She married Thomas Gaston "Skinny" Gage in Clovis, N.M., on June 16, 1950.

She was preceded in death by her husband on April 18, 1990; a daughter, Melinda Mae in 1958; and two sisters, Jessie Verner and Flora Gunn.

Mrs. Gage had been a resident of Eunice since June, 2004 moving from Lewisville. She was a long-time resident of the Sudan community. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Sudan; a 1950 graduate of Sudan High School; and a graduate of Jessie Lee's Hair Design School. She owned and operated a beauty shop in Sudan for a number of years and was a den mother for the Cub Scouts.

Survivors include three sons and their wives, Ernest

Paul and Debbie Gage, Wendell Duane and Tera Gage, all of Eunice, N.M. and Donald Keith and Nelda Gage of Lewisville; two sisters, Mary Lena Maxwell of Sudan and Zexia Pearl Wellmaker of Abilene; two brothers, Christy Parmer of Sudan and S.A. Parmer of Littlefield; four grandchildren; Cory Lee Gage of Tulsa, Okla., Thomas Brand, Bailey Denise and Brady Vance Gage, all of Eunice; and three great-grandchildren, Nichole, Houston and Alexandria Gage, all of Tulsa, Okla.

Memorials may be made to one's favorite charity.

GEORGE W. ISAKSEN

George W. Isaksen, 69, of Amarillo, died Dec. 21, 2004 in Amarillo. He was born April 12, 1935.

Mr. Isaksen was in the U.S. Marine Corps and served in the Korean War. He was preceded in death by his wife, parents and sisters.

Arrangements and cremation were by Rector Funeral Home, Amarillo.

Survivors include a sister, Lucille Lacey of Spring Valley, Calif.; a stepson, Allen

Huggins of Farwell; one step-daughter, Bernadine Marts of Muleshoe; five grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

BENNY FRANCES WIEDEBUSH

Services for Benny Frances Wiedebush, 82, of Muleshoe, were Monday, Dec. 27, 2004 at the Ellis Funeral Home Chapel, with the Rev. Rick Ketterling of Carlsbad, N.M., officiating. Burial was in Muleshoe Memorial Park Cemetery.

Mrs. Wiedebush died Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2004.

She was born Feb. 1, 1922 to Arthur and Annie Dunn in Hall County, Texas.

She married Rudolph Wiedebush in 1938 and moved to Muleshoe. She was a homemaker and a member of Trinity Church in Clovis.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; and two sisters, Wanda Ingle and Renee

Weimer.

Survivors include her children, Jeri Wiedebush and wife Dianne of Muleshoe, Terri Douglass and her husband, Andy, of Clovis; five grandchildren, Joey Craig, Kristi Berry, Drew Douglass, Blake Douglass, all of Lubbock and Chris Weaver of Muleshoe; and five great-grandchildren.

The family suggests donations be made to Meals on Wheels, 300 S. 1st., STE No. 110, Muleshoe, TX 79347.



JACOBS



WIEDEBUSH



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The Fair Store
120 Main 272-3500

Births

GRACYN HOPE SHULTZ

Joe Ky and Missy Shultz of Sudan announce the birth of their daughter, Gracyn Hope Shultz, born at 4:11 p.m., Dec. 20, 2004, at Muleshoe Area Medical Center.

She weighed 8-pounds, 10-ounces and was 21-inches long.

She has two siblings, Ky Lee and Ashton.

Maternal grandmother is Josephine Fisher of Muleshoe.



SHULTZ

Great-grandparents are J.B. and Bea Noland of Hereford.

Stone attends seminar

Muleshoe Justice of the Peace Deb Stone were certified at the recent Twenty Hour Justice of the Peace Orientation Seminar held Dec. 14-17 in Austin.

The seminar was sponsored by the Texas Justice Court Training Center, a division of Texas State University, San Marcos, with offices in Austin. The seminar is the first of three held for newly elected Justices of the Peace so they can fulfill their Continuing Judicial Education requirements of "Obtaining 80 hours of training within one year of taking office" as set forth in Article 27.005 of the Texas Government Code. The seminar addressed topics such as the role of the judge and judiciary, court structure of Texas, code construction, legal terminology, due process, trial procedure and judicial ethics.

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438 Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI
 This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Joshua, intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

OTHNIEL'S TRIUMPH
 RECEIVING OTHNIEL'S SIGNAL, THE MEN ON THE HEIGHTS ABOVE THE GIANTS' CITY FLASH THEIR HIGHLY POLISHED SHIELDS.

AW FOR THEIR EYES - LET THE SUN WORK FOR US!
 I CANNOT SEE! THE SUN BLINDENED ME!
 DAGON, HELP ME! I CANNOT SEE!

LET NO MAN MOUNT THE TOP OF THE WALLS TILL MY NEXT SIGNAL!

AND NOW THE ARCHERS AND SLINGSHOT MEN OTHNIEL PLACED BELOW THE SHIELD BEARERS LET FLY A DEADLY VOLLEY!

Next Week
 DESTRUCTION!

SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

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Senior Citizen News

The Senior Citizens enjoyed the holidays and most are back to enjoy good meals and good times at the Center.

Tuesday is designated as game day at the center beginning at 9 a.m.

Some of the younger generation are learning "42." Nelda's grandson, Jordan, learned the game over the holidays and he is spending a few days with his grandparents and says, "I'd like to

play "42" at the Senior Center.

Other games are enjoyed too, as well as putting puzzles together, using the exercise equipment, joining the exercise video at 10:00 each day or watching T.V. and watching movies. Many have said, "After the holidays I must start exercising." Well, it's after the holidays - let's all groan together at the Center and get slim and trim! Many en-

joy just walking around the spacious center.

The menu for the upcoming week is:

Monday, Jan. 3: BBQ chicken, butter beans, greens, tossed salad, cornbread and bread pudding

Tuesday, Jan. 4: Roast turkey, sweet potatoes, green beans, tossed salad w/d, wheat roll, cranberry dessert

Wed., Jan. 5: Taco salad

w/meat, lettuce, cheese, onion; pinto beans, picante sauce, tortilla chips, apricots

Thursday, Jan. 6: Oven fried chicken, corn, turnip greens, coleslaw, cornbread and pineapple gelatin

Friday, Jan. 7: Beef stew, baked beans, broccoli, coleslaw, cornbread, chocolate pudding

The blood drive was a great success.

Between 53 and 57 pints were donated.

The United Blood Services were really pleased and appreciate the Mulshoe people so very much. They especially liked using the spacious Oneita Wagnon Senior Center and

expressed a desire to come back.

Memorials and many other occasions may be sent from the Center. Call 272-4969 or write to Oneita Wagnon Senior Center, P.O. Box 292, Mulshoe, TX. 79347.

Awards handed out at Senior Center



World Class Grant Writer — Buster Kittrell presented a plaque and wall recognition to Ann McElroy for her work in writing grants for the center.



December birthday celebration — Those celebrating on Dec. 9 were, left to right: Barbara Blackman, Louise Allen, Maria Martinez, Nona Clements, Joe Costen, Kline Buhrman, Gladys Black, Kay Gray and Elinor Yerby.



Dedicated worker — Nelda Merriott, program director, presents a floral arrangement to Nancy Kidd in appreciation for her dedicated work to the center.

At a recent awards presentation at the Oneita Wagnon Senior Center, several people were honored for their service to the center and to those helping with the Area Pioneer recognitions.

Nelda Merriott, program director, recognized Nancy Kidd for her tireless dedication to the search for a building to house a senior center in Mulshoe. Kidd approached Dr. and Mrs. Charles Pummil about donating the present building, which they did. She also approached the Mulshoe Industrial Foundation about funding - which they did, plus numerous contributions as project chairman.

Buster Kittrell, past president of the Bailey County Senior Citizens, presented a plaque and wall recognition to Ann McElroy which read, "World Class Grant Writer, Ann McElroy. Our lives have been enriched by improvements you have made possible." Her successful grant applications have truly made our "World Class Senior Center" possible.



Outstanding President Award — Left to right: Nona Clements and Wanda Kittrell, board members; Salomon Madrid, president of the Bailey County Senior Citizens; and seated, Buster Kittrell, past president, holding the plaque he received, along with the president's gavel.

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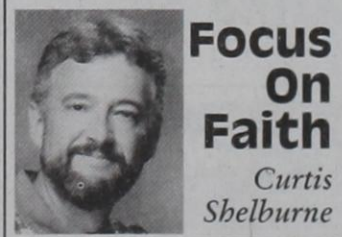
Christmas Lasts Longer Than You Might Think

I'm afraid that in the first column I write after Christmas Day each year I'm beginning to sound like Johnny One-note, but I'll risk it again as I remind you that Christmas is not over once Christmas Day is over.

Now I can easily see why tired to the bone shopkeepers and mall-weary shoppers

"five golden rings" and the "partridge in a pear tree" but was it "seven maids a-milking and "nine drummers drumming"? I forget.

I love Christmas and just about everything about it. And that includes Santa Claus and Jingle Bells and all sort of lights and candles and tinsel and egg nog and the whole thing. And I'm a bigger kid than anybody in my family, I think. I love Dickens' Christmas Carol and during Christmas I often read the story to the kids or anybody I can get to listen. I've got on video tape the 1940-something movie version and the George C. Scott version, and I'll watch any of those (and the Patrick Stewart version and now even the Kelsey Grammar version) so often that my family just rolls their eyes whenever they see me putting the tape in.



Focus On Faith
Curtis Shelburne

would heave a sigh of relief late in the evening on Christmas Eve and send up a prayer of thanksgiving that they've managed to survive the Christmas shopping season for one more year.

But, in point of fact, in the Christian calendar, the season of preparation for the Birth, Advent (which has to do with the "coming" of Christ) leads us right up to December 25 and the Christmas season is just beginning on Christmas Day. And the season lasts for (you guessed it!) twelve days.

If Christmas for you is just Santa Claus and Jingle Bells and largely artificial light, well, I can understand if you want to just forget about the real "season" and only think about the twelve days when someone trots out the song.

Okay, I remember the

I love Christmas! And I'm convinced that for people of faith who know and celebrate the real Reason for the season, even the lights and the tinsel and everything from reindeer to mistletoe really take on new and deeper colors of joy because of the Joy of His Birth. Maybe that's why I hate to see the real season short-changed, and I plan to whistle Christmas carols for the whole twelve days—even if I'm whistling in the wind and hardly anybody is listening!

Curtis Shelburne is minister of the 16th & D Church of Christ in Mulshoe.

Sports

Lady mules easily handle Hereford

By Delton Wilhite
Sports Writer

The Lady Mules used a 19-0 final period to thrash the Hereford Lady Whitefaces 49-27. Hereford used a 2-3 zone to pack the lane to stop the inside game of the Lady Mules. The Lady Mules answered by getting hot from outside the 3-point arc.

The Lady Mules had five different players, sink eight treys to shoot the Lady Whitefaces out of their packed zone defense. Hereford could not stay with the quick Lady Mules in the man-to-man defense.

Hereford took advantage of the Lady Mules inability to hang on to the ball in the opening period and took 6-11 lead with 28 second left in the opening period. Lindsey Wood sank her first of two treys on an in-bound play to cut that lead to 9-11 as time ran out.

The Lady Mules seemed to regroup at the quarter break and began to handle the ball. Brandi Wood got position for an offensive rebound and found Kasey Wood open on the baseline for a 15-foot jumper to tie the game.

K. Wood and L. Wood each dropped in treys on the Lady Mules next two possessions to give the Lady Mules the lead for good. Hereford finished off an old fashion three-point play to cut that lead to three points before Chelsi Hawkins drained a three from the corner.

Hawkins added a 17-foot baseline jumper and K. Wood got the assist. Hereford cut the Lady Mule lead to 23-19 by the intermission.

Kelsi Friskup dominated the lane as the second half began. She stuck back an offensive rebound to open the half and Amber Cowart found Friskup open on the blocks. Hereford went on a four-point run as the period came to a close to trim the Lady Mule lead to 30-27.

K. Wood opened the final quarter with a bucket and B. Wood nailed a trey from the top of the key as the first minute of the period came to a close.

K. Wood ran to the corner on a fast break. She got her feet set and waited for L. Wood to deliver the ball. She sank her third of three treys on the night to push the Lady Mule lead to 38-27.

B. Wood pulled down a defensive rebound and threw a perfect half-court pass to Friskup. Friskup out-raced the defense for an easy layup.

Kate Leopard got in the 3-point act with the Lady Mules, final trey of the night from the corner.

K. Wood set the scoring pace for the Lady Mules with 15 points and B. Wood and L. Wood each added nine. Friskup and Hawkins made six points each, Leopard three and Cowart chipped in one.

The Lady Mules opened the Lubbock Caprock Holiday Tournament against the Lubbock High Lady Westerners. They played a nine AM December 29 at the Tiger Pit in Frenship.

A win pits the Lady Mules against the winner of Petersburg and Canyon Randall at 7:30 December 29 at Estacado. A loss would move the Lady Mules to a 1:30 match at Monterey's New Box.

Mules edge Hereford Whitefaces, 56-53

By Delton Wilhite
Sports Writer

The Mules out lasted the Hereford Whitefaces 56-53 just prior to taking their holiday break. The Mules had opened a 48-40 lead at the end of three periods but the Hustlin' Herd chipped away at that lead an out scored the Mules 8-13 in the final frame.

Arsenio Geter and Brady Black controlled the paint most of the night and Geter scored 13 of his game high 14 points in the first half. The Herd jumped in front 1-4 early in the contest.

Brady Black picked off a Hereford pass a midcourt

and drove for a layup to cut the margin to one. Tyler Black found Tyler Sheets open in the corner on a delayed break to put the Mules on top 6-4 with 5:24 left in the first period. The Mules never relinquished the lead after that.

Trevor Turnbow hit a 10-foot baseline jumper and Geter scored twice in paint as the Mules pushed their margin to 12-6. B. Black drove the lane for a bucket as time wound down in the first period with the Mules leading 14-10.

Kory Atwood gathered up a loose ball on the offensive end and took it to the hole

strong as the second period began. Geter scored eight of the Mules' 17 second period points. Turnbow made his first of three 3-pointers as the Mules took a 31-26 lead to the dressing room at the half.

Turnbow sandwiched a fast-break layup between two treys in the third period.

The Mules repeated their 17-14 second period performance in the third period to take a 48-40 margin into the final period.

B. Black made it a ten-point margin as the final frame began. Geter drew the defense inside and kicked the ball out past the

arc to Trent Black for a trey. The Herd went on a 7-1 scoring frenzy before the Mules spread the floor and drained the final minute and half off the clock.

Geter led the Mules with 14 points and Turnbow had 13. B. Black added 10 points and Sheets and Chris Kindle each made five. Atwood dropped in four points, T. Black three and Landon Wilson chipped in two.

The Mules first game of the Caprock Holiday Tournament was against the Plainview Bulldogs at noon December 29 at Estacado.

JV Lady Mules pull out overtime win

By Delton Wilhite
Sports Writer

The JV Lady Mules missed four free throws in the final 16 seconds and the Hereford Lady Whitefaces made three to send their game to overtime last Tuesday night. The game was tied at 46-46 and Gini Sheets long 3-pointer was waved off.

The Lady Mules hit five-of-six charity tosses in the four-minute overtime to out last Hereford 53-50. Hereford scored first and Sheets answered with a drive from the wing to keep the score tied.

The Lady Whitefaces took the lead with a bucket with 2:32 left and missed a pair of free throws that would have put some distance between them and the Lady Mules. Cholor Hernandez cut the lead to one with a charity toss.

Kyra Kimbrough made all four of her free throws in the final minute to seal the deal for the Lady Mules.

Sheets drove from the wing to open the contest and Kimbrough made a pair of charity tosses before

Hereford could get on the board. Madison Myers pulled up and hit a 15-footer on a break to put the Lady Mules up 6-2.

Hereford hit a trey to stay close before Kimbrough picked a Lady Whiteface's pocket and drove for an easy two. Hernandez spun to her left and sank an eight footer to give the Lady Mules a 10-5 margin.

Hereford hit its second trey before Shayla Hall finished a break and was fouled shooting. She converted the free throw for an old fashion three-point play to end the first period with the Lady Mules in front 13-8.

Hereford went on a five-point run to start the second period and tie the game at 13-13. Sheets stole a pass and drove to break the tie and Hernandez drove the lane from the free throw line to give the Lady Mules a 17-14 cushion.

The Lady Mules out scored Hereford 9-3 in the final five minutes of the half.

Continued on pg. 9

JV Mules lose barn burner to Hereford

By Delton Wilhite
Sports Writer

A thirty-minute wait for officials last Tuesday night may have been enough to drag down the JV Mules. The Hereford Whitefaces out lasted the Mules 44-47 in the Mules final game before the holiday break.

When the game got under way Hereford broke the ice first and Cory Wallace drained a trey for the Mules. Jarad Flores answered the Herd's second bucket with a 3-pointer. The Herd scored twice before Wallace hit his second trey of the contest.

Rudy Gonzales put the Mules on top 11-10 with a put back and Cade Smith tied the game with a pair from the charity line. Garrett Riley scored on a give-and-go from the wing as the period ended with the teams tied 15-15.

Dustin Barker finished a break for the Mules as the second period began. T.J. Brantley scored in the lane to knot the game at 21-21. Gonzales stole the ball under the Hereford bucket and drove the floor.

His layup did not fall but Flores followed the play and stuck back the rebound to put the Mules up by two with four minutes left in the half. Hereford went on an eight point scoring run to take a 23-29 lead by the intermission.

The Mules trimmed one point from the Herd's lead in the third period and took off two more in the final quarter but could not pull the game out.

Flores led the Mules with nine points and Gonzales and Wallace each made eight. Brantley put in six points; Smith and Riley made four each, Eric Washington added three and Barker chipped in two.

The Mules return to action January fourth in Friona and go to Lubbock January 7 to take on the Lubbock Monterey Plainsmen. The Mules return home January 11 for a rematch with the Tulia Hornets.

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Go Mules! Fight Mules! Win Mules! Go Mules! Fight Mules! Win Mules!

Nursing Home News

Thursday morning Nancy Lemons delivered ceramics for the residents to paint in craft class. Ten residents participated.

Friday afternoon Janet Denton entertained the residents in the day room with music and song.

Janet's two little daughters also entertained.

Thursday evening the residents and their families had supper together.

Sinclair did a great job of entertaining. We had a surprise visit from "Old St. Nick!": (Melvin Griffin) St.

Nick gave each resident a gift as well as gifts to the children that were visiting. We really do appreciate all the families and friends that attended.

The Christmas Card was a great success. We will soon be getting our ice ma-

chine. We appreciate so much Joyeline Costen and all of you that participated in the project.

Tuesday morning Bro. Gary and Judy Hubbard of the United Methodist Church of Earth directed a special Christmas candle light service.

Tuesday afternoon Pat Clark, Delores Garrett, Eva Nell Dale, Mary Jo Burge and Josie Ovalle shampooed and se the ladies' hair.

Barbara Wilhite donated several items for the residents' nail care.

Mandy Seaton delivered bags that the 4-H girls had made and filled with toiletries for the residents on Wednesday.

Wednesday morning Buster and Wanda Kittrell and Harold and Mary Jo Burge served coffee, hot chocolate and doughnuts to

the residents at Coffee Time. Harold read riddles and an inspirational piece.

Sherry Wisian, Brady Mason and Buster Kittrell directed the devotional.

Glenda Jennings and Jackie Scoggins directed the Sing-a-Long on Wednesday afternoon.

Ann Williams brought sacks of Christmas goodies for the residents this week.

Skylar Smith delivered the Jan. 5 Activity Calendars that were made by April Smith's computer lab students at MHS on Tuesday afternoon.

Norma Eaves visited the residents and gave nail care Tuesday afternoon.

Visiting Bill Lambert last week were his daughter and son-in-law, Mary Lou and Gene Vandergrift, also his brother Woody Lambert and sister Frieda.

Pat Young gave Cynthia

Crawford a perm Monday and also visited with Mollie Johnston.

Merry Christmas to you and yours from the residents and staff of Park View.

Area students graduate for fall semester

Three students from Muleshoe received their degrees from Lubbock Christian University on Dec. 11, 2004.

They were: Mitchell T. Mason, who graduated with a bachelor of arts in mathematics.

Stacy Danae Armstrong, who graduated with a bachelor of arts in biology.

Scotty Lee Mills, who graduated with a master of education in secondary education.

Two Muleshoe area students graduated from Angelo State University in

the fall commencement exercises, held Dec. 18 in San Angelo.

Gary Judd Glover, with a bachelor of arts

Eric J. Posadas, with a bachelor of business administration, who graduated cum laude.

Twenty-three bikes given away during Navidad en mi Pueblo 2004

More than 1,500 attend eighth annual event

The eighth annual Navidad en mi Pueblo was held Sunday, Dec. 19, from noon to 5 p.m. at the Bailey County Civic Center where center manager Kevin Smith said that between 1,500 and 2,000 people attended this year's event.

There were four groups that entertained this year's crowd that included: Group Amenaza, los Reveldes del Norte, Grupo Fantasia Nortena and Viento Musical Duranguense. There were 23 bike winners, including the following: Freddy Morales, Jannesa Morales, both of California; Fabiola Perez, Roxana Salazar,

Eric Reza, all of Bovina; Lidia Villeseas, Carlos Hernandez, Issac Hood, Sergio Salas, Cristian Godinez, Carmen Lopez, Chamell Regalado, Pablo Rogalado, all of Muleshoe; Ruben Rodriguez, Sudan; David Perez and Paulia Hernandez, both of Springlake; Alondra Posada, Manuel Ortega, Araceli Quiroz, all of Clovis, N.M.; Juliza Guerrero, Olton; and Elizabeth Pereda and Angel Garcia, both of Farwell.

Lelie Guitron of Needmore won the 1995 Ford Taurus from Hamilton Big Country Ford in Clovis. Six pinatas of candy and

cake were for those attending and came from Paneria Sanchez and Paneria la Gloria. More than 700 gifts were handed out by Santa, (Juan Pablo Sustillas who did a great job).

The staff of KMUL (Noe and Viola Anzaldua, Martha Alvarado, Juan Jose Blancas, Amelia Reza, Noe Torres, Lalo Elizalde and Roy Anzaldua) expresses appreciation to everyone who helped make this year's event a success, including those who volunteered and made donations (both individuals and businesses).

Area producers resume harvest Christmas brought drier weather

By Shelley E. Huguley
For the Journal

The message posted on Olton Farm Supply's sign said it best, "We're dreaming of a dry Christmas."

The anticipation of the 2004 harvest was dampened by a series of snow and rain events throughout November and December, leaving producers and ginners alike wondering when they would get back in the field and begin ginning again.

Thanks to a slight reprieve in the wet weather, producers were back in the field by the beginning of December, most days, and Olton CO-OP Gin was running 24 hours a day.

"The farmers were harvesting the cotton at an expedient pace, making about 200 modules a day," said Olton CO-OP Gin manager Chris Breedlove. "We started the night crew about the first of December and leased four more module trucks, bringing our fleet to ten. We wanted to get the modules out of the field as quickly as possible and onto the gin yard."

Olton CO-OP Gin is ginning about 1,500 bales per day.

And while Breedlove guesstimated

that most producers would be finished stripping by Christmas, he said that after all the stripping is complete it will probably take the gin another 30 days to gin all of the cotton.

"Before all of this weather hit, we were hoping to gin around 100,000 bales and beat our record of near 90,000 bales in 2003. But the adverse weather has changed the weight and quality, so we're not sure what to expect in the end," said Breedlove. "We're just glad they're getting it harvested."

While cotton yields looked very promising in October, in spite of low micronaires due to insufficient heat units, the weathered, strung-out cotton had farmers seeing lower grades and yields.

"There's a lot more color in the cotton," described Breedlove.

"The grades have come down a little, which is normal, but I think producers are just glad to be getting it harvested and into modules."

The adverse weather also put today's high-performing cottonseed varieties to the test.

Some dryland producers have found the Beltwide 30 variety to be strung out of the boll pretty badly.

New Year's driving resolutions

While you're making your New Year's resolutions, DPS has a suggestion: add "Improve Driving Habits" to your list. Driving can be one of the most dangerous activities you engage in during the day, so taking a few moments to think about your driving is a good idea.

Here are some good driving habits to employ:

- Make sure everyone is buckled up.
- Drive sober.
- Use your turn sig-

- nals.
- Do not tailgate.
- Obey the speed limit.
- Do not speed up, block lanes, slam or tap on brakes.
- Report extreme cases of reckless driving to the appropriate authorities.
- Do not retaliate, gesture or make eye contact.

During the New Year's weekend, DPS will have all available troopers on Texas roadways. Troopers will be looking for speeders, seat belt viola-

tors, reckless drivers and drunk drivers from New Year's Eve through midnight on Jan. 2.

"Please resolve to drive responsibly this year," said Col. Thomas A. Davis, Jr., director of the DPS. "Wearing seatbelts and obeying the speed limit can save lives. And anyone planning to consume alcoholic beverages should have someone else—who hasn't been drinking—drive them home."

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Agricultural News

Emergency Farm Loan applications being taken

Applications for Emergency Farm Loans for losses caused by excessive rain, flash flooding, hail, high winds and lightning that occurred on Oct. 5, 2004 are being accepted at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office located on 111 E. Ave. D., Muleshoe, Texas, Farm Loan Manager Joyce M. Thompson has announced.

On Dec. 3, Secretary of Agricultural, Ann M. Veneman Designated one county as primary, that being Bailey, and four contiguous counties as secondary: Cochran, Hockley, Lamb and Parmer.

Also an adjacent state and counties therein — New Mexico, Curry and Roosevelt — are to be eligible for FSA Emergency Loan assistance.

Thompson said farmers may be eligible for loans of up to 80 percent of their actual losses or the operating loan needed to continue in busi-

ness or \$500,000, whichever is less.

For farmers unable to obtain credit from private commercial lenders, the interest is 3.75 percent.

"As a general rule, a farmer must have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of production to be eligible for an FSA emergency loan," Thompson said. Farmers participating in Federal Crop Insurance program will have to figure in proceeds from those programs in determining their loss.

Applications for loans under this emergency designation will be accepted until, Aug. 3, 2005, farmers should apply as soon as possible. Delays in applying could create backlogs in processing and possibly over into the new farming season," Thompson said.

FSA is a credit agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Cotton news

The week leading up to Christmas often is a quiet one, and this year was no exception. Trading volume at the New York Board of Trade was mostly thin as market participants looked forward to the holiday. Meanwhile, a somewhat disappointing export report offered no support.

Net export sales of U.S. cotton totaled 155,300 bales in the week ended Dec. 23. According to USDA, the figure was 34 percent less than the previous week and a 38 percent decline from the four-week average. China was the major buyer for the week with smaller quantities sold to Turkey, Mexico, and Thailand. Sales of 20,900 bales for delivery in 2005-06 were primarily for Mexico and Thailand.

Shipments of 215,600 bales were 17 percent more than the previous week and 35 percent more than the four-week average. Primary destinations included China, Mexico, Turkey, and Indonesia.

On the spot cotton scene, Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas producers sold 47,780 bales online in the week ended Dec. 23 compared to the previous week when 41,925 bales were traded. Prices received by producers selling their cotton online ranged from 33.43 to 35.04 cents per pound versus the previous week's range of 34.88 to 35.87 cents per pound.

Meanwhile, the National Cotton Council said U.S. textile mills used cotton on a seasonally adjusted annualized rate of 6.36 million bales in November. The rate was slightly higher than the November 2003 figure of 6.32 million bales of consumption. The new number was well within the expectation of most market analysts.

"The consumption numbers seem reasonable and in line with most expectations," said one observer. "Mill use is on pace to reach USDA's 6.2 million bale domestic use figure for the 2004-05 season."

On the global front, the industry has been focusing on the ever-growing world cotton crop since the beginning of the 2004-05 season, and little has been said about cotton consumption. Between USDA's release of its first 2004-05 estimates in May and its December figures, world cotton production rose by 11.5 million bales while consumption was boosted 4.3 million bales. World production now is estimated at 114.02 million bales while consumption is pegged at 103.29 million. The prospect for more world cotton consumption continues to look promising.

Reports from China, India and Pakistan indicate cotton yarn and fabric output is hitting monthly records thanks to the huge investments made in all segments of the countries' textile sectors. Since the increase in crude oil prices earlier this year, analysts have noticed a shift from polyester to cotton, but it may take several months for the shift to be reflected in higher USDA consumption figures.

In other news, the Texas cotton harvest continued to gain momentum. According to the Texas office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, harvesting of the Texas crop reached 60 percent as of Dec. 12. The figure was up eight percent from the previous week but well behind the same time last year when 82 percent of the crop had been harvested and the five-year average of 87 percent.

Despite inclement conditions during October and November, producers remain pleased with better-than-average yields. Some dryland farmers have reported yields of approximately 960 pounds per acre, up considerably from the usual 240 to 360 pounds per acre. Modules are lining fields, and although gins are operating at full capacity, there is a backlog of seed cotton on many gin yards.

This week, adverse weather conditions once again brought harvest operations to a halt as snow fell on most of the Texas High and Rolling Plains. Continued cold conditions and intermittent snow will persist through Christmas Day keeping producers out of the field. Most High Plains cotton farmers were able to eat a Thanksgiving dinner at home this year because of the weather, and it appears they will be home for Christmas as well.

High Plains Vegetable Conference is Jan. 11

LUBBOCK - Vegetable growers, processors, market gardeners and master gardeners can renew their production and marketing skills and gain new insight on biotechnology, africanized bees, retail marketing and other topics at the Jan. 11 High Plains Vegetable Conference in Canyon.

"The conference will feature more than seven hours of presentations and discussions with experienced growers, researchers, Extension specialists and agribusiness representatives," said Russ Wallace, Texas Cooperative Extension vegetable specialist at the Texas A&M University System Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Lubbock. "The speakers will deliver science-based information designed to help growers who are interested in sustainable vegetable production."

The event begins with registration at 7:45 a.m., at West Texas A&M University's Alumni Banquet Facility at North 3rd and 25th Streets. Registration costs \$25 per person before Dec. 31, 2004 and \$30 per person at the door. This fee covers all handouts and materials, and lunch. Door prizes donated by agribusiness exhibitors will be awarded during the day.

"Our speakers will cover several interesting topics. There will also be time to visit with agribusiness exhibitors," Wallace said. "Those who attend can qualify for continuing education units and certified crop advisor credits approved by the Texas Department of Agriculture, and Master Gardener certification credits."

Morning sessions will focus on pesticides and safety issues and vegetable technology. Speakers will address herbicides and weed control, fungicides, West Nile virus, the Texas Department of Agriculture's pesticide regulations, biotechnology and the watermelon breeding program at Texas A&M University.

Afternoon sessions will address marketing and management concerns. Speakers will address africanized bees, retail farm markets, drip irrigation, the Texas Department of Agriculture's Go Texan program, personnel management, labor regulations and estate planning.

Conference sponsors include Extension, the High Plains Vegetable Growers and Shippers Council, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, West Texas A&M University, and the Texas Department of Agriculture.

For registration or exhibit information contact Wallace or Wendy Durrett at (806) 746-6101.

LUBBOCK - South Plains producers can update their skills in everything from crop production to pest management and earn continuing education units at any of six upcoming Texas Cooperative Extension conferences in January and February. "These conferences are de-

South Plains agriculture conferences slated

signed to provide farmers with the latest information on ways to improve their operations," said Bob Robinson, Texas Cooperative Extension Region I Program Director. "Each conference is designed to help producers in that particular region by providing a look at the latest research information and new production techniques."

Conference dates and locations are:

* Jan. 13: West Plains Cotton Conference at the Women's Building (1921 Black Gold Road) in Levelland. Conference begins with registration at 8:30 a.m. Three continuing education units will be offered. Call the Extension office in Hockley County at (806) 894-3159 for more details.

* Jan. 26: Caprock Cotton Conference at the Plains Baptist Assembly south of Floydada runs from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with at least four continuing education units offered. Call the Extension office in Floyd County at (806) 983-4912 or in Crosby County at (806) 675-2347 for details.

* Jan. 28: Llano Estacado Cotton Conference at the Bailey County Coliseum in Muleshoe. Conference begins with registration at 8:30 a.m. Five continuing education units will be offered. Call the Extension office in Bailey County at (806) 272-4584 for more details.

* Feb. 10: The Hale and Swisher County Cotton Conference in Plainview begins with registration at 8:30 a.m. and runs until 4 p.m. Five continuing education units will be offered. Call the Extension office in Hale County at (806) 291-5267 or in Swisher County at (806) 995-3726 for more details.

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Letters to the Editor

Get back to working for the "common" good

The common good is a wonderful term, rich in meaning, for the history of mankind. Until a little while ago, there was a centuries old custom of holding the land around a village in common. No one owned it. It was underwood to be available to the whole village to graze their milk cow or goats upon it and they helped each other look after their stock. It was called the commons, for the good of the village.

In the eighteenth century, England had an enclosure movement in which the British Parliament allowed the dukes and barons of the aristocracy to suddenly take over for private use the "commons" of forests, wild game and grazing that the village had shared in and depended upon for sustenance. What had been for the common good became the private property of the elites.

Much rapacious robbing of our "commons" is going on today under the guise of privatization. In some situations privatization can be a good idea. In the majority of cases, however, privatization means decrease the public service and increase private profits. Public water works have been privatized in some American cities with accompanying horror stories. Big corporations are now vying for control of water sources and delivery in much of the world. They are saying water is the gold of the 21st Century for whoever controls it.

The current move to privatize Social Security is one of the worst attacks on the common good of the American people facing us today. If it succeeds, I believe that Wall Street and the individuals who could afford to invest wisely anyway will be the only ones to profit by it. The average American and working poor will suffer for it.

Social Security has been the most efficient and successful government program since 1935 that we have ever had. It is currently solvent for many years in spite of all the heavy borrowing that has been done from it since LBJ. Let us leave it alone and keep it secure for the common good of all.

As citizens let us wake up and think and work and pay for the common good. Let us put the word "public" back to a high priority in all levels of government. If we do not we shall eventually lose all the good that we have, while some private concerns grow obscenely rich.

Rev. Alvin Petty
Friona

Consequences for bad driving help support trauma system

Access to emergency health care services is something everyone wants and expects. That's especially important during the holidays when more people are traveling to visit loved ones. It is reassuring to know that emergency rooms and trauma centers in Texas hospitals are staffed 24 hours a day, every day of the year, with highly skilled staff and the latest in lifesaving and diagnostic technology. Health care — like food, clothing and shelter — is one of life's basic necessities, and everyone in the community benefits from the "standing ready" status of emergency departments.

But unlike grocery stores and other businesses, hospitals are required by law to provide their services regardless of a patient's ability to pay. With Texas having the highest uninsured population in the nation, uncompensated care provided by hospitals is growing. Yet in approximately two-thirds of designated trauma facilities, there has been no public financial support for this function. The other designated trauma facilities receive local tax dollars as part of a hospital district.

With Rep. Dianne White Delisi's (R-Temple) leadership, the Texas Legislature in 2003 recognized the importance of preserving access to emergency care across the state, and created the Designated Trauma Facility and Emergency Medical Services Account to help offset these facilities' costs to provide uncompensated trauma care. The money comes from court fees and surcharges on the licenses of drivers cited for driving drunk or without a license or insurance, as well as for certain traffic violations. In August 2004, the 234 eligible Texas hospitals received a total of \$18.2 million to offset more than \$222 million reported in uncompensated trauma care provided in fiscal year 2003.

Some people are questioning why ticketed drivers are being assessed stiff financial penalties for their violations. In fact, some want the Legislature to repeal the program and eliminate the surcharges. The Legislature did the right thing in 2003, appropriately penalizing those who create much of the

burden of uncompensated trauma care. Let's look at the facts:

In 2001, uninsured trauma patients accounted for 29 percent of all trauma patients, according to a survey conducted by the Texas Hospital Association. Uninsured trauma patients consumed 30-44 percent of expensive services.

Of the 3,675 people killed in traffic accidents in 2003, some 1,709 deaths (47 percent) were the result of alcohol-related accidents, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, for 2003, major trauma patients can be grouped into the following categories:

40 percent, motor vehicle accidents; 34 percent, falls; 10 percent, assault; 1 percent self-inflicted injuries; 1 percent, fire/burns; and 14 percent other/unspecified.

The Texas Department of Public Safety reports that 216.276 billion vehicle miles were traveled in Texas during 2001, an increase of 2.8 percent from 2000. In 2001, a total of 340,554 individuals were injured in motor vehicle traffic accidents.

Motorcycle accidents and fatalities are growing, with a 16.8 percent increase in fatalities from 2000 to 2001. Some 67 percent of fatally injured motorcyclists were not wearing helmets at the time of the accident.

Yes, the penalties are stiff, but wouldn't it be great if the Driver Responsibility Program actually worked and reduced the number of traffic accidents and discouraged drinking and driving? Then, maybe fewer people would die from traffic accidents. And, those paying the surcharge may feel better knowing that their mistakes are helping preserve the state's trauma and emergency health system.

All of us enjoy the benefit of access to emergency services, especially at this time of year. Yet designated trauma facilities and emergency services providers need more resources to serve the ever-growing demand for care, and to be "ready" regardless of who needs help. While the first payment was modest, the trauma/EMS fund is expected to generate more than \$100 million in fiscal year 2005. If you follow the traffic laws, you won't have to pay one penny more for your driver's license. This seemed fair to the Legislature in 2003, and Texas hospitals agree!

Dan Stultz, M.D., CHE
Chairman Texas Hospital Association

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison's Capitol Comments



New Year will bring important developments

New Year's is not just a time for ringing out the old year and ringing in the new. It is a time to reflect on how far we have come over the past twelve months, and where we are going. This past year saw some obvious highlights, not the least of which was the sight of a young Afghan woman casting the opening ballot in that nation's first democratic elections. Some thought it would never happen, yet Afghanistan is heading in a new direction toward peace and prosperity after years of violence and oppression. In 2005, we are on track to see the same momentous occurrence in Iraq. This storied land, home to the world's most ancient civilization, will see its first free and fair elections as her people establish a democracy. Will there be setbacks and problems? Possibly. But what we do know is this: for decades, this was a nation that knew only tyranny and dictatorship, without hope and without freedom. For the Iraqi people, this New Year offers unpre-

cedented and enormous promise. The ouster of a Saddam Hussein regime known to support terrorism is due to the brave men and women in our armed forces who are fighting alongside stalwart Iraqis to defend liberty. We should stand shoulder to shoulder with the friends of democracy in Iraq in the upcoming year. I think our efforts will bear significant dividends in the years ahead and deal a blow to terrorists worldwide.

I also believe 2005 will bring welcome developments in our own country. If there is one government program which looks to the future, it is schooling, because public education has laid the foundation of democracy in America. Implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act will continue to provide incentives, funding, and accountability to our public school system. I have also supported grants to many Texas institutions to help our state recruit and retain highly skilled educators to prepare our children to excel tomor-

row. We are already seeing gains in education for our children.

Texas' colleges and universities will continue making strides as well. I have worked to increase our share of federal research, and hope to see our ranking among the states in R&D funding improve in the coming year. That will translate into more discoveries and advances as well as stronger economic growth in our state.

One of most important legislative initiatives we shall see in 2005 will be a plan to improve and strengthen the Social Security program and preserve it for future generations. As the Baby Boomer generation retires, the system will be placed under tremendous strain and will eventually become insolvent unless we take steps soon.

Any legislation I support will be based on two bedrock principles. First, the United States will fulfill its promises to present beneficiaries and those who will be retiring soon. Reform will also allow recipients to voluntarily invest a portion of their Social Security payroll tax payments into personal accounts which will provide a better return on investment and offer beneficiaries ownership over their retirement security. This subject requires serious study and discussion before Congress takes action, but I am hopeful we will make progress in 2005 to strengthen Social Security.

Buster says "I'm what you call a party animal!"

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Agricultural News

Rains bring increase in mastitis

With the fall rains, there has been more mastitis than usual. In all probability, at least a portion of that mastitis has been caused by environmental streptococcal. Improved milking procedures and teat dipping have controlled Strep agalactiae; however the environmental streps are different. Strep agalactiae is a contagious organism primarily spread during milking, while the environmental streps are found in the cow's environment. They usually aren't spread during milking, so improved milking procedures don't help with the environmental streps. The most common type of environmental strep is strep uberis.

Environmental streps can live everywhere. They've been

isolated from the bedding, soil, rumen, feed, lips, teats, mammary gland and the list goes on and on. And they are somewhat sneaky when they get in the mammary gland.

Unlike many mastitis pathogens that cause a rapid rise in somatic cell counts when a cow becomes infected, strep uberis hides from the somatic cells so they respond much slower to the infection.

From work that Joe Hogan at Ohio State has conducted, about half the mastitis infections caused by environmental streps occur during the dry period. Since this period is about 60 days compared to in excess of 300 days for lactation, over 5 times as many infections occur during the dry

period as during lactation.

Dry cow therapy really helps with infections early in the dry period, but does not help with those infections that start immediately pre-calving. It is critical to keep the area dry cows are in as clean and dry as possible. That's been difficult with all the rain we had in 2004, but if cows are on pasture, make sure that its pasture and not a mud lot.

The upside to environmental streps is that they do respond to treatment. About half of the cows that are infected will spontaneously cure and the other half respond pretty well to lactating cow therapy.

Although strep uberis pathogens hide from the somatic cells, they do not bury deep into the tissue like staph aureus, instead they stay in the milk ducts. Thus when treatment is given, that therapy can reach the bacteria. But as usual, prevention is better than treatment.

Contributing Extension Dairy Specialists:
Ellen Jordan and Michael Tomaszewski.
Texas Agricultural Extension Service, TAMU

Congratulations to the winners of our Santa Paws Contest! And thanks to all who entered.

Bark! The Hairy Angels Sing
(Far left) Winner "Zuzax" owned by Valerie Schriefer of Clovis
Runner Up "Teacup" owned by Rion Whiting of Lubbock

Have A Meowly Christmas
(Immediate right) Winner "Lucy" owned by Amber & Patrick Keele of Muleshoe
Runner Up "Gracie Lou" owned by Alice Liles

Fur, Feathers, Fins & Fun
(Left) Winner "Maybelline and her babies" owned by Wendell Robison of Muleshoe
(Below) Runner Up "Lizzy & Danny" gerbils owned by Mrs. Fisher's Class at DeShazo Elementary

Winners get a stocking full of gifts for the pets and owner!

Carolyn's Christmas Creations
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JV Lady Mules from pg. 6

The Lady Mules only made 18-of-42 free throws during regulation but sank five-of-six in the OT.

Hernandez led the Lady Mules in scoring with 16, Kimbrough made 12 and Sheets had 11. Hall put in eight points; Myers four and Irma Torres chipped in two.

The Lady Mules will return to action after the holiday break in Friona January 4 and open district play in Littlefield on Jan. 7.

The Idle American: Earbobs and second chances

By Dr. Don Newbury

Too much is expected, I think, of today's youngsters if we think they're going to recognize terms we tossed about conversationally a half-century ago. They're apt to manage "Of-course-I-know-what-you're-talking-about" smiles, but they are bluffing for sure. They hope such words will go away and never be heard again. Bluffs are big in every generation.

If you disagree with this observation, you likely are bluffing. It's like the guy who argues that if you believe you have no faults, you can add one more to the list.....

Anyway, this was a generational thing. The young undertaker had been trained to cope with all situations that could reasonably be anticipated, but so are teachers, doctors, lawyers and the rest. No matter how intense and detailed the training may be, teachers readily admit that many real-life situations encountered up the way will fall into

the vast crevices of the unexpected, unknown and/or unexplored. Such situations are simply facts of life to be faced straight on, then usually tossed aside with a laugh.

I digress. The young undertaker smiled confidently when the woman dropped off a pair of brooches. Her mom, whose body was soon to lie in state at the funeral home, had loved them so. They had jeweled initials of her name, and her "Sunday dress" seemed always to be capped off with the heavy jewelry....

"Mother loved these brooches, and I just know would want them on," the daughter said. When she handed them to him, his hand dropped like a plane hitting an air pocket. (Thrown, they would have been lethal weapons.)

"These are really heavy," he thought, but he assured her the brooches would be included as adornment was finalized.

The "search engine" in his mind was purring. "What in

the world are brooches?," he pondered. At mortuary school, they mentioned that some folks would insist that favorite "ear bobs" should be on grandma's ears....

Aha!, he thought. Wheels turned as his thoughts tumbled about. Maybe "ear bobs" clip on and brooches are for pierced ears, he reasoned. He remembered that the woman was glancing at her mom's ears, so maybe that was a clue, too.

A few hours later, she was back to make sure her mom looked "just right" for the upcoming viewing. "I think the brooches would look better on her dress than her ears," she observed, sighing as if recognizing instantly that it was a generational thing.

"You get another chance," she said, and sailed off on a quick errand while the young mortician made amends. He resolved that in the future when he didn't know, he'd simply ask. That's a good thing.....

Similarly, the young radio personality was fairly burst-

ing with desire to use a "brand new" word: "verbatim." He THOUGHT he knew its meaning. Alas, he got it backwards.

That's right. He guessed at it, his bluff verbalized. "I don't recall the exact words," he purred, "But verbatim, the victim said....."

A young preacher faced a hairy situation. Church fathers gathered to discuss the issue. Several hours deep into deliberations, a deacon asked, "What did they teach you to do at seminary in situations like this?"

"At seminary, they taught us NEVER to get into situa-

tions like this," he admitted.

Yep, after the "play-likes," theories and case studies comes real life. And a mighty big heap of it falls between the cracks.....

Paul Harvey will have a field day with Martha Stewart's recent announcement of her plans to write a book about her incarceration. Initially, she feigned desires to begin her prison stretch ASAP so she could be out in time to plant her spring garden.

Just as we thought! Now we know "the rest of the story." Martha understands publishing deadlines, press runs, book promotions and

sales cycles.

Lessee, if she's out of the brig in February, finishes her book in April, completes proofing by July, has them in hand by September and then reviews/interviews/signings in October; guess what? Why that will be just in time for St. Nick.

Yeah, this falls into the "dog bites man" category. You can bet Martha's not bluffing, and that's the truth.....

Dr. Newbury is an author/speaker/columnist in the Metroplex. He invites feedback by phone at 817-447-3872 or by email, newbury@speakerdoc.com

What's the law?

Living will allows you to determine the treatment you receive

Q. I want to make it clear that I do not wish to be kept alive by a machine. Can I write my own living will? Is there any special language I should use?

A. As you seem to understand, the best way to insure that your wishes regarding the decision to be kept alive by life support is to make sure you clearly spell out what you want to happen in the event you have a terminal condition. You can do this by a document you prepare, but I strongly suggest you use the form the state of Texas has prepared. An "Advanced Directive," commonly called a living will, allows you to specify the treatment you would want in the event that you had a terminal condition. The document is a simple to understand form, and is available free from my website, the address of which is at the end of this column.

Q. My lease ended and I went month-to-month. My landlord says I still must give 60 days notice before I leave. Is this legal?

A. As a general rule, when parties have a month-to-month tenancy, either party may end the relationship by giving thirty days notice. On the other hand, parties may always agree

to extend or shorten this time period.

My guess is that your lease has a clause saying that after the lease period ends, you become a month-to-month tenant. It probably also says that even if you became a month-to-month tenant, you still had to give 60 days notice. In my opinion such clauses are unfair and deceptive, but unless you want to litigate the matter with no guarantee of success, you should give 60 days notice.

Q. I have been working as an Independent Contractor for a company since Sept '02. I was an employee with them prior to that. I was just served with a garnishment notice for a credit card debt I owe. Since I am not an employee of the company, how can they garnish my wages? I thought wage garnishment was illegal in Texas? If you were an employee, there could not be any wage garnishment. The Texas Constitution prohibits wage garnishment for debts like credit card debts. Unfortunately for you, you are not an employee. A writ of garnishment is an order from the court to a person that owes the debtor money to withhold the money and pay it to the creditor. Wage garnishment is a type of garnishment. In your case, they are not garnishing your wages; they are garnishing the money you are owed for doing work. This is a debt subject to garnishment, and not within the prohibition against wage garnishment. The only way I know to avoid the garnishment is to make arrangements to pay the creditor.

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Construct Awning
Contract Number 055XXR1005**

Sealed proposals to contract an awning at the Bailey County Maintenance Section Office, located on US 84 1.9 miles West of SH 214, Muleshoe Bailey County, Texas, will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation located at 135 Slaton Road, Lubbock, Texas.

Proposals will be received until January 19, 2005 @ 10:45 A.M.

Then publicly opened and read. Proposals, plans and specifications for this project will be furnished without charge to any Contractor desiring to submit a bid. No pre-qualification is required. Contact Cat Soto at 135 Slaton Rd., Lubbock, Texas, telephone (806) 748-4446 for proposals or any questions.

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Forgetfulness: Not all memory gaps are serious

By LINDA ANDERSON

AMARILLO - What do you do if you find your 83-year-old mother's car keys in the refrigerator?

What if your elderly father suddenly starts neglecting his personal hygiene?

What if they forget your children's names?

A Texas Cooperative Extension expert suggests the first step should be: Don't panic.

Many adult children might assume their forgetful parents are showing the first signs of Alzheimer's disease, but that's not necessarily so, said Andrew B. Crocker, Extension program specialist in gerontology and health.

"A person's feelings may affect his behavior," Crocker said. "Feelings of loss, worry, anxiety, vulnerability and helplessness may be the most common. Illness, pain and medication may also significantly affect a person's thinking and behavior."

Changes in behavior and even changes in memory might have simple explanations, he said. Try to find out what those explanations are. "Ask your mother if she knows where her car keys are," Crocker said. "When they are discovered in the fridge, ask why. There may be a perfectly good explanation. Maybe they ended up in there accidentally when (she was) unloading groceries."

For example, Crocker told of his own grandmother, who keeps her car keys in the re-

frigerator because she read an article that said the cooler temperatures give longer life to the batteries inside the "clicker" that opens the car doors.

"Someone who didn't know this would think that she's crazy," he said. If a parent starts avoiding taking a bath or getting a shower, try to find out why. Does he have arthritis that makes the process of undressing and bathing painful? Are the knobs in the tub difficult for him to turn? Is he worried about falling? Has he recently lost a loved one - spouse, sibling or close friend - and is too grief-stricken to think about bathing?

As for forgetting a grandchild's name, everyone forgets a loved one's name now and then, Crocker said. Most of the time that's just human nature; it gets serious if they forget the grandchild.

In each one of these instances, he said, the key is to ask questions.

"Communication is so important. You should want to try understanding the root cause of the problem," he said.

"If the explanation doesn't quite make sense, this should be something that makes you want to look at other things that might be happening."

These other things might include delirium, which may have easily remedied physical causes, Crocker said. Symptoms are rapid onset, short attention span and "dis-

turbance of consciousness," he added.

As many as 30 percent of older adults might experience delirium and many might not know they have it, he said.

"Delirium is characterized by an altered and fluctuating level of consciousness," Crocker said. "It can be caused by almost any medical illness or drug. Often a specific cause cannot be identified."

Because it has such a rapid onset, determining when it started is usually fairly simple.

As many as 30 percent of delirium cases can be traced back to medications, Crocker said, so changing medications may completely eliminate the problem.

"Many times delirium may occur by a change in environment, such as moving out of one's home into an assisted-living facility or moving to a new town," he added. For these reasons, "delirium may be largely or completely reversible."

But an older parent's forgetfulness is more likely to cause their adult children to worry about the onset of dementia, Crocker said.

"The two most common types of dementia are vascular dementia and Alzheimer's disease," he said. "Alzheimer's disease is usually characterized by an inability of nervous signals to be transported across a synapse. Vascular dementia is usually caused by a stroke."

Symptoms of dementia are:
- Gradual onset,
- Increased risk with age,
- Gradual progression, and
- Change in attention span.

"Dementia affects about 4 million people in the United States," Crocker said. "About 1.5 percent of people have dementia by age 65 and about 30 percent develop it by age 80."

Although most dementia is not reversible, some cases that have been linked to over- or under-active thyroids are, he said.

If a parent's forgetfulness starts coming more and more frequently, Crocker said, and the adult children are concerned about delirium or dementia, communication is still the place to start.

"Talk first and try to find out what's going on," he said. "Is it a broader issue linked to an illness or to a difficulty completing a task? Is it an emotional issue? Try to determine if there have been any signifi-

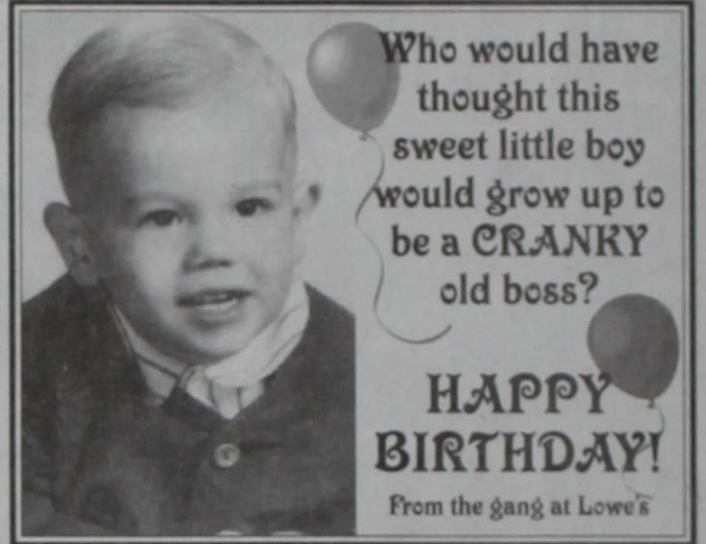
cant changes in life since your last visit, such as the death of a close friend.

"If you feel there is a problem, I think the first trip is to the family physician for an evaluation. Make sure that hormones, body chemistry and so forth are normal. Make sure the person is not over- or under-medicated."

And if you do find yourself dealing with a parent who may be slipping into demen-

tia, he said, "the other important thing is to pick your battles. Pick and choose what's important and leave the rest alone. You can't fix everything." In other words: Don't sweat the small stuff.

For more information on this and other issues of older adults, visit Extension's Family and Consumer Sciences Web site at <http://fcs.tamu.edu/> and click on the link to Family Life.



Review from front page

Kitchens, accused of slaying three people, was delayed until early spring.

Also, Gail Hargrove, PA at Dr. Bruce Purdy's Family Clinic, announced in February she would be leaving Muleshoe to accept a position in Lubbock.

Jail construction was ahead of schedule according to the Feb. 19 issue of the Journal.

March — Muleshoe continued to be plagued by "bad checks" in early March.

April — Sheep dog trials were held in Muleshoe in April.

The Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce annual banquet plans were in full swing in April.

Leah Bell was named the general manager of the Journal in the April 15 edition of the paper.

Sara Benham signed with the University of Denver with a basketball scholarship and Chase Winkler signed with Howard College on a rodeo scholarship.

The Chamber named at their annual banquet the following winners: Business of the Year - Burton Service Center; Employee of the Year - James "Granny" Elder; Man of the Year - David Tipps; Woman of the Year - Kay Mardis; and Farm Family of the Year - Wedel family.

May — Olton Co-Op Gin opened a warehouse in Muleshoe located where the former corporate offices of Muleshoe Pea & Bean were housed on the north end of Main Street.

Charlene Bartholf was named the Muleshoe Journal "Mother of the Year 2004."

Muleshoe juniors and seniors had a ball at the prom. The theme: "You Can Only Imagine."

Carolyn's Christmas Creations held the first annual Red Hat Society Spring Fling at the country club. Eight Societies showed up "red-y" to party!

Osterkamp Dairy found a home in Muleshoe in May 2004.

MISD discussed taking over the Head Start program in Muleshoe. Parents and community members were divided over the issue.

Area schools had graduations in May. Preparations continued for Muleshoe's annual Tour de Muleshoe Bike Ride sponsored by the Heritage Foundation.

June — The Bailey County Extension Office hired Mandy Seaton and Muleshoe Animal Clinic hired another doctor, Josh Lackey in June.

Deb Stone was hired as Justice of the Peace in Bailey County following the unexpected death of Herman Morrison.

Jeopardy! winner Ken Jennings contin-

ued his reign over other contestants. Jennings has family ties in the area.

July — Park View Nursing Home named a new director of nursing in July, Frances Hopper-Pool.

A counterfeit money ring was detected in Muleshoe.

Lightning destroyed the childhood home of an area farmer, Mac Brown.

August — Muleshoe experienced a growth spurt in business, including the opening of Donut Hole, Movie Gallery and several area dairies.

Garrison Myers won the Trey Bilberry Memorial Scholarship Buckle at the High Plains Jr. Rodeo Assn. Rodeo in Clovis.

School was back in session in August. 'Nuff said.

Illegal dumping south of Muleshoe was exposed in the Journal.

September — Larry Kitchens was found "not guilty" in the murder of Derwin Beauchamp.

Show lambs and panels were nabbed from the high school FFA barn. Police are still investigating.

A fire at a Lazbuddie elevator landed two in the hospital. One fatality resulted.

Co-owner of M-Pyre Auto Sales Randy Van Leuven met Nolan Ryan courtesy of an on-line contest.

October — The Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce's website was "up and running" in October. However, the site is a "work in progress" according to Stacy Thompson, site designer.

A local couple, Larry E. Jr. and Teresa Taylor were hired on as extras in a film being shot in Clovis.

Charlie Stenholm made a visit to Muleshoe in October.

November — Muleshoe citizens met to start planning the county's first Relay For Life event scheduled to take place in April 2005.

Master Carver Craig Kirkwood visited Muleshoe during an autograph event at Carolyn's Christmas Creations.

The Mules lost to the Snyder Tigers to finish their 2004 football season.

Jessica Withrow signed a letter of intent to run track for Abilene Christian University in Nov.

December — Kay Graves told Journal readers why she loves working for charities in an in-depth interview in early December.

The Journal saw a record number of "Letters To Santa" in 2004.

Cindy Purdy was chosen to head the Texas Association of School Boards Risk Management Fund Board.

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