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Muleshoe Journal

Volume 86, No. 17

Muleshoe, Texas

50¢

April 28, 2005

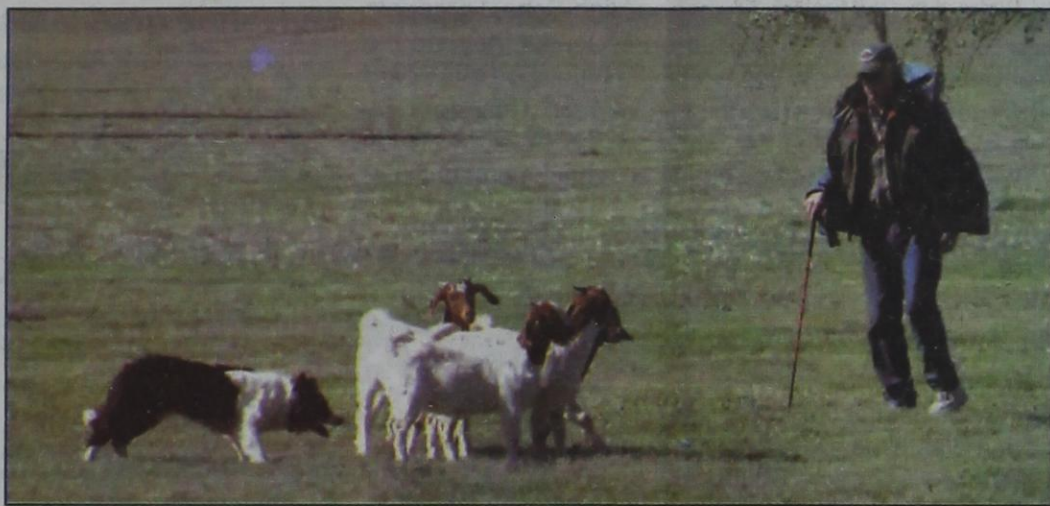
Bellringer trials draw competitors, spectators

Competitors from several states arrived in Muleshoe Friday to take part in the 11th annual Bellringer Stockdog Trials in the city park.

Held by Richard Belvin, the annual event matches handlers and stockdogs against each other and the clock in an attempt to determine who is the best.

However, during Friday's competitions, the dogs and handlers found themselves fighting the weather conditions and the clock as stiff winds sent the competitors in search of any windbreak that still left them in view of the field.

Photos by Larry Thornton



Attorney says: No special election for hospital district

By Larry Thornton
Managing Editor

The Muleshoe Area Medical Center will not be holding a special election.

At Thursday's regular meeting hospital district CEO Jim Bone presented the board members with a communication he had received from the hospital board's legal council, John Actkinson of Farwell, concerning vacancies on the board.

"I have reviewed the enabling legislation creating the Muleshoe Hospital District," Actkinson's letter stated. "This statute sets the law in regard to how the hospital district is managed. It is very specific in that to fill a vacancy on the board of directors, the remaining board members do that by vote and appointment. There is no provision for scheduling an election to fill a vacancy in the board."

At a special meeting held on April 13, the hospital board approved a motion by Lary Hooten calling for a

special election to fill the Place 2 vacancy.

During the discussion that followed Bone's announcement Thursday, Bone explained that sometime after the May 7 election date the reconstituted board — composed of Hooten, Ronnie Dent, Mike Miller and Marilyn Riley, would have to select an individual for the vacant seat.

Hooten's motion that a notice be placed in the newspaper, letting the public know about the vacancy and informing individuals interested in being appointed to the board to contact the hospital's administration office was approved.

In other business, the hospital board:

- Listened to words of encouragement from Don and Ann McElroy.

- Approved the minutes from the March 17 regular meeting, and the April 13

Continued on page 3

Muleshoe man seeks return of \$643,000 in civil suit

By Larry Thornton
Managing Editor

A civil suit filed in Bailey County District Court seeks to do what the United States Federal Court System has

yet to do, return thousands of dollars swindled from a Muleshoe resident.

In October 2002, W. B. Slayden of Muleshoe was approached by Jim Graves of Claude with a simple proposition, invest his money in a Missouri business and receive a large return on his investment.

But what Slayden wasn't told was that Graves was apparently involved with a group of corrupt businessmen who were in the process of fleecing more than 600 investors of millions of dollars.

On Oct. 9, 2002, Slayden invested \$590,000 in Resort Hotels, Inc., purchasing

"leisure leases," in the Dogwood Inn at Branson, Missouri.

'They wouldn't leave or take no for an answer...they just fast talked us.'

— Joan Chilton

This purchase was followed by a series of other such transactions — a total of seven more, for a total investment of \$643,060.

But it doesn't end there, Graves — acting as the agent for Resort Hotels, Inc., made similar presentations to other

Muleshoe-area residents as well, accumulating investment funds totaling more than \$1 million.

Doyle Shearer of Portales says he lost \$332,000 to Graves and the Missouri schemers.

"It was kind of my life savings," Shearer said in a telephone interview Friday, adding that he doubted any of his money would ever be returned.

Roy and Anita Harper of Muleshoe may have been among the "lucky" ones dealing with Graves. They only lost \$35,000. Some of the individuals who were "taken

in" by Graves, and his associates, talked about their investments but asked that the amounts involved not be disclosed.

Joan Chilton of Lubbock, and her sister, were among these investors. Chilton said she was reluctant to get

'They cashed our check, and that was it...He knew it was going under.'

— Anita Harper

involved from the very beginning, only investing her money after her sister

invested a much larger amount.

"They wouldn't leave or take no for an answer," Chilton said, describing a meeting with Graves and a female associate of his at Chilton's sister's house. "And they were so demanding... they just fast talked us."

"He said you could get your money out after a year," she said.

According to Chilton, Graves identified himself as a sheriff, and said, "He was carrying a gun with him all of the time."

Chilton also said they paid taxes on the money

Continued on page 10

Local Weather

Thurs.
Pt. Cloudy... 79/44

Fri.
Pt. Cloudy... 77/37

Sat.
Pt. Cloudy... 70/33

Sun.
Pt. Cloudy... 72/40

Mon.
Pt. Cloudy... 77/44

Tue.
Mt. Cloudy... 77/47

Wed.
Pt. Cloudy... 80/44

Give It A Thought

Knowledge is a force greater than gravity. Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

Words to ponder from Beverly

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

Former Muleshoe Journal owner, publisher remembered

Former owner and publisher of the *Muleshoe Journal* and the *Bailey County Journal* Larry B. Hall was honored during funeral services held at the First United Methodist Church of Muleshoe.

A native of San Angelo, Hall came to Muleshoe in September 1961, when he purchased the *Muleshoe Journal*.

In 1963, the *Muleshoe Journal* was joined by a sister publication, the *Bailey County Journal*, a Sunday edition which Hall also published. Home delivery of the local newspapers began with the first edition of the *Bailey County Journal*.

Hall continued as

publisher of both newspapers until the publication company was sold to Scot and Lisa Stinnett in 1994.

In August 2002, publication of the *Bailey County Journal* was discontinued.

Known for his love of reading and a voracious appetite for history, Hall became a valued part of the community, at one point donating a framed copy of the United States Constitution to the Muleshoe High School.

Lifelong friend Sam Damron, formerly of Muleshoe, described Hall as a "wonderful person," made so by his sense of humor



LARRY B. HALL

and his belief in God.

"He was the brother that I never had," Damron said.

Damron recalled one of the many trips he took with Hall, recounting one adventure to Naples, Fla., in which Hall ordered a 25-

pound lobster.

"He sat there and ate the whole thing," Damron said with a laugh.

Damron also recalled that while they were at the restaurant they encountered a group from Southern Methodist University, from which Hall graduated in 1948.

Damron said the groups' table was soon moved over next to theirs.

"He never met a stranger," Damron said, "if he did, I never knew it."

Hall succumbed to injuries received during an early morning fire on April 10.

According to officials with the Muleshoe Police

Department, a dispatcher received a 911 call from the Hall residence around 5:30 a.m.

After arriving at the Hall residence, Police Officer Todd Cogdill and neighbor Joe Gear found Larry Hall and his wife Sammie attempting to exit the burning residence.

With their assistance, the Halls were moved to safety and were treated by local ambulance personnel prior to being transported to the Muleshoe Area Medical Center. Larry Hall was later flown to University Medical Center of Lubbock.

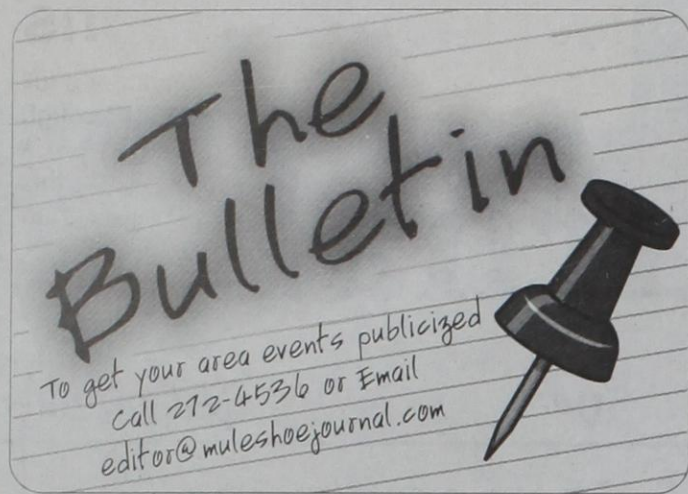
Turn to page 5 for obituary information.

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“Carrying On” County history

Pre-orders for the reprint of the Bailey County history book “Early Bailey County History” are being taken now by members of the “Carrying On” Committee of the Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.

The price for the pre-ordered hardback books is \$45. After July 1, the price will be \$50 per book.

The book, originally printed in 1978, was compiled in two years by seventh and eighth grade students in the Muleshoe Junior High Historical Society.

If you would like to order a book, contact Stacy M. Thompson at 272-3652 or send your checks to: Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, “Carrying On Committee,” P.O. Box 356, Muleshoe, Texas 79347.

July 4 vendors being sought

July 4 activities in Muleshoe have been moved to one centralized location — Main Street. Businesses and vendors are being asked to set up outside businesses on Monday, July 4.

Anyone interested in having a booth on Main Street for July 4 in Muleshoe should contact Carolyn Johnson at 272-5911 or Jim Ella Clemmons at 272-4726. A minimal fee is being charged for each booth participating.

The “Carrying On” committee of the chamber will be running this year’s softball tournament at the new city park July 2-4.

Saturday, July 2 will feature co-ed play and men only will take the field Sunday, July 3. All finals will be played on Monday, July 4.

Other tournament plans haven’t been finalized as of yet, but teams interested in playing should contact Stacy M. Thompson at 272-3652 for more details.

Those interested in being a food vendor at the new city park on July 4 should also contact Stacy. No outside vendors will be allowed to set up at the park July 2-3, but the chamber concession stand will be open. There will be a minimal fee for food vendors setting up on the fourth.

For other inquiries about “Fun In Muleshoe On The Fourth,” contact Jan Thompson at the chamber office, 272-4248.

Head Start applications available

Applications are now being accepted for the 2005-06 Head Start program in Muleshoe. The applications are available at Kinder Steps, 224 W. Ave. H, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. til 5 p.m., or by calling (806)272-5801 to set an appointment. The deadline for enrollment is May 13.

Documentation required for enrollment include: Birth certificate, Social Security card, updated shot record, income verification, Medicaid from the current month, and if applicable proof of TANF, food stamps or SSI.

Muleshoe High School Talent Show

Muleshoe High School will be sponsoring a talent show featuring MISD students of all ages at the Kerry Moore Auditorium on Thursday, April 29, at 7 p.m. Admission is \$2 for students and \$3 for adults.

Friona chamber holds garage sale

The Friona Chamber of Commerce have announced that a city-wide garage sale is being held Saturday, May 7, from 8 a.m. til 2 p.m., at the Friona Community Center. For additional information, contact the chamber at 806-250-3491.

Congressional Art Competition

Congressman Randy Neugebauer has announced he is accepting entries for the 2005 Congressional Art Competition. The competition is open to all high school students. Students must submit their entries to their schools’ art department or the appropriate teacher. The teacher or department will then send one digital photograph of the work, along with a release form, to Neugebauer’s office no later than Friday, May 13. All submitted works will then be evaluated by a panel of impartial judges from the 19th District based on creativity and conformity to House regulations.

U.S. Congressman Vito Fossella is the co-chairman of this year’s competition. The artwork must meet certain requirements, which can be found on his website (www.house.gov/fossella). Any additional questions regarding the competition should be directed to Ryan Crumpler in Neugebauer’s Lubbock office by calling 806-763-1611 (toll free at 888-763-1611).

Support sought for Project Graduation

Parents of the Muleshoe Senior Class of 2005 need your help to make Project Graduation safe, fun and memorable for our graduates.

Donations are being accepted to help with expenses such as games, food and prizes for a celebration in Amarillo. Transportation and sponsors will be provided. This will be a substance-free, non-alcohol, drug-free event.

Donations will be acknowledged in the newspaper in one of three levels: Gold Sponsor — donation of at least \$100; Silver Sponsor — donation of at least \$50; Bronze Sponsor — donation of at least \$25. Donations of any amounts will be appreciated.

Donations for “2005 Project Graduation” or questions may be addressed to: Lavon Hunt, The Donut Hole, 1106 W American Blvd. Muleshoe, Texas 79347, or by calling 272-3668; Jody Wood, 1502 W. Ave. C, Muleshoe, Texas 7934, or by calling 272-7549; or Tom Ladd, Earl Ladd & Sons, 602 W. American Blvd., Muleshoe, Texas 79347, or by calling 272-3308.

Scholarship donations sought

The Muleshoe Independent School District would like to make sure that every Muleshoe High School graduate has the opportunity to pursue an education beyond the high school level. Four years ago, the Muleshoe ISD Board of Trustees took a bold step toward this goal by establishing the Muleshoe Opportunity Scholarship Trust.

The MOST scholarship funded is through contributions,

Muleshoe business receives ‘Best of the West’ award

Carolyn’s Christmas Creations of Muleshoe was honored as “One of the Best Places to Work in the South Plains” at the fourth annual “Best of the West” awards ceremony held at the Hilton Inn Towers in Lubbock on April 19.

Buck and Carolyn Johnson, owners of Carolyn’s Christmas Creations of Muleshoe, attended the event, which is sponsored by Texas Workforce and KCBD-TV.

Carolyn’s Christmas Creations was recognized as an honor roll nominee in four different categories: Community Oriented Employer, Family-Friendly Employer, Supporter of Local Chamber of Commerce Activities Employer and Supporter of Texas Workforce Employer.

Kurt Kizer, anchorman for KCBD- TV served as master of ceremonies for the event.

The awards ceremony is held annually to recognize the South Plains outstanding businesses in a 15-county area, including Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry and Yoakum counties.

Carolyn’s Christmas Creations was the only business to be honored from Bailey County and the only business to be recognized in four different categories.

“We were honored to be recognized as one of ‘The Best in the West’,” said Carolyn Johnson after the gala.

“Everyone at Carolyn’s works hard to make it a unique store. It’s thrilling to have that hard work recognized and rewarded,” she added.

Muleshoe Journal USPS 367820
 Established February 23, 1924. Published by CJB Publications, Inc.
 Every Thursday at 201 W. Ave. C, P.O. Box 449, Muleshoe, TX 79347.
 Periodicals Postage paid at Muleshoe, TX.
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Muleshoe Journal, P.O. Box 449, Muleshoe, TX 79347.
 We are qualified members of:
 Panhandle Press Association, National Newspaper Association,
 West Texas Press Association and Texas Press Association © 2005

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honorariums, gifts, and memorials. “We are inviting you to be a part of offering a successful beginning to our seniors by making certain that every individual who graduates from MHS has a scholarship,” MISD Superintendent Gene Sheets said. “Your donation of any amount, large or small, will be appreciated. Even a small amount, when pooled with others, can make a difference in the lives of our graduates.”

A fully tax-deductible donation can be made to: MOST Scholarship, c/o Muleshoe ISD, 514 West Ave. G, Muleshoe, TX 79347.

Old yearbooks wanted

Former Muleshoe students or anyone with old yearbooks, including parents who still have their kids’ old yearbooks, are invited to contribute them to the Muleshoe Heritage Center. They will be placed in the Depot for people to take a mental stroll down memory lane.

To donate, call the Depot, (806) 272-5873, Monday through Friday from 1 to 5 p.m. and ask for Delores. Or mail them to the Heritage Depot, P.O. Box 201, Muleshoe, Texas 79347. At this time, yearbooks from 1950, 1951, 1952, 1962, 1970 and 1975-1979 are still needed.

Muleshoe graduates sought

The Ex-Student Association is looking for 1924-1985 graduates and former students for an all school reunion to be held on July 2, 2005.

Continued on page 3



NOTICE OF PROPOSED INCREASE IN ENVIRONS GAS RATES

On February 25, 2005, Atmos Energy Corporation (“Atmos” or the “Company”) filed a Statement of Intent with the Railroad Commission of Texas (the “Commission”) to increase its gas rates in the unincorporated area (“Environs”) surrounding the Cities of West Texas Service Area (the “Cities”). This proposed increase in gas rates willing to apply to customers residing inside the city limits of the West Texas Service Area.

In its filing, the Company proposes to change its Environs base rates and service charge tariffs to the same level as those current rates previously approved by the Cities for customers inside the city limits. The service charge rates have been in effect inside the city limits since April 10, 2003 and the base rates have been in effect inside the city limits since May 1, 2004. The Company proposes to change the Environs rates effective April 1, 2005. The Commission may suspend the proposed effective date for up to 150 days.

The proposed changes will affect all classes of Environs tariff customers, including Residential, Commercial, Industrial, State Institution, and Public Authority customers. The Company’s Air Conditioning Customers, who currently take service under a separate tariff, will instead be served under the Residential tariff. There are approximately 17,306 Atmos Environs tariff customers (15,071 Residential, 1,916 Commercial, 182 Small Industrial, 16 State Institution, and 121 Public Authority). The proposed changes in Environs base rates are expected to increase the Company’s annual revenues by approximately \$440,274. The Company also proposes to implement and apply a new Weather Normalization Adjustment clause to the bills of customers in weather-sensitive classes (Residential, Commercial, State Institution, and Public Authority).

The typical monthly residential customer bill (assuming consumption of 6 Mcf) and the typical monthly commercial customer bill (assuming consumption of 30 Mcf) will be affected as follows by these changes:

	Current Bill (1)	Proposed Bill (1)	Difference
Residential Customer using 6 Mcf:	\$13.99	\$15.12	\$1.13
Commercial Customer using 30 Mcf:	\$43.05	\$43.10	\$.05

(1) (a) Includes average PGA of \$4.96 per-Mcf as of December 31, 2003.

Atmos estimates that the proposed changes to its nonrecurring charges will increase its Other Revenues in the Environs by approximately \$30,377 annually. The proposed changes are as follows:

Description	Current Charge	Proposed Charge	Increase
DURING BUSINESS HOURS:			
Turn on new service (with meter set)	\$23.50	\$32.00	\$8.50
Turn on service (shut-in test required)	\$19.00	\$23.50	\$4.50

Description	Current Charge	Proposed Charge	Increase
DURING BUSINESS HOURS (cont’d):			
Turn on service (meter read only required)	\$10.50	\$15.00	\$4.50
Miscellaneous service calls	\$10.50	\$11.25	\$0.75
Reconnect delinquent service or Service temporarily off at customer’s request	\$29.50	\$37.50	\$8.00

Description	Current Charge	Proposed Charge	Increase
AFTER BUSINESS HOURS:			
Turn on new service (with meter set)	\$35.25	\$48.00	\$12.75
Turn on service (shut-in test required)	\$28.50	\$35.25	\$6.75
Turn on service (meter read only required)	\$15.75	\$22.50	\$6.75
Miscellaneous service calls	\$15.75	\$16.88	\$1.13
Reconnect delinquent service or Service temporarily off at customer’s request	\$39.00	\$56.25	\$17.25

The various changes in base rates and nonrecurring charges proposed by Atmos would increase the Company’s total revenues in the Environs by approximately \$470,651 on an annual basis, or 9.7%. The proposed change in revenues is a “major change” under state law. The new Environs rates will not exceed 115% of the average of all rates for similar services in all municipalities served by Atmos Energy within the same county.

Affected individuals may review a copy of the proposed filing during normal business hours (9 am until 5 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays) at 1) the local offices of Atmos in its West Texas Division; 2) Atmos’ Lubbock office, located at 5110 80th Street; or 3) the Railroad Commission.

Customers affected by the proposed Environs rate changes may file written comments or protests with:

Docket Services Section
 Legal Division (Re: Docket No. 9573)
 Railroad Commission of Texas
 P.O. Box 12967
 Austin, Texas 78711-2967

Bulletin... continued from page 2

Pioneer history book available.

The Muleshoe Senior Citizens' Pioneer History book is now available at the Oneita Wagnon Senior Center. The cost is \$25 per copy.

Muleshoe AA meetings set

Those looking for help with problem drinking can do so at open AA meetings being held at 7 p.m. each Saturday at 121 W. Ave. C. For information about these meetings or AA in general, call Bobby F. at 272-8948 or 272-4433.

Chamber seeks event information

The Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture website is being developed and needs the help of community members. Site designer Stacy Thompson needs local and area people to let her know about upcoming events of any nature in Muleshoe. Thompson suggests that events should be called in at least one month in advance for the calendar to be effective. Churches, organizations, clubs, schools, business, individual, etc. events will be publicized on the site if received in time to do so. Call your events in to Thompson at 272-3652 or contact by email at thompsn@fivearea.com.

'Relay for Life' fundraisers

Several of Muleshoe's "Relay for Life" teams are holding fundraisers for the April 29 event.

"Lips and Hips," the Medical Records Department at Muleshoe Area Medical Center has a "Tree of Hope" at the hospital. Individuals wishing to help their fund-raising effort may purchase a purple or pink ribbon for the tree for \$1.

"Kids Against Cancer" will be hosting a "Kids Fun Day" on April 24, from noon until 5 p.m., at the old city park.

"Ace Satellite" will be holding a three-on-three basketball tournament on April 23, at the Muleshoe High School Gymnasium. There is a \$50 entry fee, and the registration deadline is April 21. Call Gabriel at 272-3215, Jerry at 272-3148, or email acesatellite@hotmail.com for additional information.

The "United Super Team" will be holding a car wash on Saturday, April 23, beginning at 2 p.m.

Lazbuddie class to hold team roping

The Lazbuddie Senior Class will be holding a team roping on May 15 at the David Allen Indoor Arena.

Books open for the event at noon, and the roping will begin at 1 p.m. The arena is located three miles east of Muleshoe on Hwy. 84.

Contact Allen Scott at 806-272-3701 for additional information.

Missions at Immaculate Conception

Pope John Paul II named this "The Year of the Eucharist." Would you like to have an encounter with Christ, or get to know him better?

Father Leonard and Sister Veronica, a missionary from Nayarit, Mexico, cordially invite you and your family to rejoice with Christ in Missions at Immaculate Conception of Muleshoe.

Missions start Monday, May 2, through Friday, May 6, at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

El Papa Juan Pablo II ah llamado este ano, el ano dela Eucarista. Quieres tener un encuentro con cristo y conocerlo mejor?

El Padre Leonardo y la Hermana Veronica, misionera de Nayarit, Mexico, les invitan muy cordialmente a usted y a su familia a regocijarse con Cristo en las misiones. El encuentro sera en nuestra iglesia Imaculada Concepcion de Muleshoe. Las misiones comienzan el Lunes 2 de Mayo y continuan hasta el Viernes 6 a las 7 p.m. todas las tardes.

Flag football

A meeting will be held at the Five Area meeting room on May 5 for anyone interested in playing in or officiating at an adult men's flag football team. For more information, contact Woody Villa at 272-5398.

Aloha volunteers

The Muleshoe Area Hospital District is honoring its Park View volunteers at a "Hawaiian Luau Brunch" on April 28, at 10 a.m. in the nursing home's dining room.

Safety Notes

An estimated 1,356 children died of either abuse or neglect in 2000.

Read the Journal for the best in local news!

Local letter carriers to collect food donations

On May 14, letter carriers in Muleshoe, Lubbock, Plainview and more than 10,000 other cities and towns across America will handle more than mail as

they walk and drive their appointed rounds. They will also collect evidence of the generosity of their postal customers taking part in the 13th annual food drive of the National Association of Letter Carriers.

The letter carriers will pick up donations of canned goods and other non-perishable food items left by residential mailboxes and in post offices and deliver them to local food banks, pantries, and shelters.

It's the largest one-day food drive in the United States, resulting in the delivery of more than half a billion pounds of donations

over the past decade.

The letter carriers in Muleshoe, however, will extend their collection drive, which benefits the South

Plains Food Bank, for a full week, from May 14 through 21.

Last year's drive in this area gathered more than 75,000 pounds.

Hospital board takes action

Continued from page 1 special meeting.

- Authorized the hospital administration to request bids for electric hospital beds to be purchased with a matching grant MAHD has received, but also noted that prices for the beds would be considerably lower if the hospital waited until Covenant was purchasing beds for its facilities.

- Discussed problems with the hospital's boiler room. One recommendation the hospital received was for the existing equipment be thrown out and replaced with new equipment, which would cost the district from \$350,000 to \$500,000. A second contractor indicated portions of the existing system could be upgraded at a cost of almost \$45,000.

- Postponed a decision on discontinuing the hospital district's involvement in the Farwell Clinic.

- Approved a motion to write off bad debts totaling \$34,886.95.

Hospital Report

The Muleshoe Area Medical Center reports the following admissions:

- April 12 — Aaliyah Rey.
- April 13 — Ramona Sanchez, Samuel Shelton and Vonda Reed.
- April 14 — Sawnie Branscum, Veronica Eubanks, Ben Gramling and Sandra Navejar.
- April 15 — No report.
- April 16 — No report.
- April 17 — Sara Street.
- April 18 — Luis Guerrero, Jim Kee, Elmer Langford, Barbara Puckett, Kathy Vandevender and Donald Jones.
- April 19 — Violet Koehn, Laura Koehn and Jenna Rasco.

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J'Layne Niehues & Layne Kemp
Brandi Whalin & Steve Miller
Jana Johnson & Brandon Thomason
Mitzi Palmer & Jon Colby Miller
Brandi Harrison & Jamey West
Terah Sheets & Nate Ott

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BAILEY COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me. He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.
 — Psalm 101:3,7

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Obituaries

Edna Earle Cagle Lewis

Funeral services for Edna Earle Cagle Lewis, 85, of Morton were held Monday, April 25, 2005, at Ellis Funeral Chapel in Morton, with the Rev. Hollis Shewmake officiating, followed by graveside services at Morton Memorial Cemetery.

Lewis died Saturday, April 23, 2005, at Levelland Covenant Hospital. She was born on June 19, 1920 in Wood County, the daughter of W. L. and Ola Mathis Cagle.

She graduated from Morton High School in 1939. On May 28, 1942, she married G. D. Lewis. He preceded her in death on July 6, 1997.

Lewis is survived by three daughters and sons-in-law — Penny Elaine and Steve Schlabach of Lubbock, Janet Sue and Larry Smith of Ropesville and Gwin Dean and Kelly Jamerson of Midland; a son and daughter-in-law — Tommy Wynn and Angie Lewis of Morton; a sister — Genevea Huff; and a sister and brother-in-law — Nancy and Edward Dewbe of Morton; 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Leura Evelyn Freeman

A graveside service for Leura Evelyn Freeman, 83, of Muleshoe was held Tuesday April 26, 2005, at Forrest Lawn Cemetery in Ruidoso, N.M., with the Rev. Doug Brown officiating.

Freeman died Wednesday, April 20, 2005, at Covenant Hospital after a lengthy illness. She was born July 30, 1921, in Crosby County, and married Harold Morton Freeman in Bector, on Aug. 20, 1938. He preceded her in death on Dec. 27, 1977.

Freeman and her late husband owned and operated Shady Rest Grocery in Muleshoe during the 1950s and also owned and operated Freeman's Dairy Mart in the 1960s, before moving to Ruidoso. She moved back to Muleshoe in 1997.

Survivors include LaQueta (Skeeter) Freeman of the home; a son and daughter-in-law — Hershel and Laurie Freeman of Whidbey Island, Wash.; a daughter and son-in-law — Vickie and Ronnie Gamer of Muleshoe; a brother and sister-in-law — J.B. and Louise Wall of St. Vrain, N.M.; four grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.



LEURA EVELYN FREEMAN

Lucille Wills

Graveside services for Lucille Wills, 86, of Muleshoe were held Monday April 25, 2005, at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Wills passed away on April 22, 2005, in Farwell. She was born on Oct. 17, 1918.

She graduated from Aquadulce High School. She was a homemaker, and a long-time resident of Muleshoe and a Methodist. Her husband Ray D. Wills preceded her in death.

Wills is survived by her son and daughter-in-law — Quentin and wife Cheryl of Muleshoe; and two granddaughters.

Larry B. Hall

Larry Blair Hall, age 78, died Monday evening, April 18, 2005, in the burn unit of the Texas Tech University Medical Center in Lubbock following a severe injury when his home in Muleshoe, Texas, was devastated by fire on Saturday, April the 9th. Mr. Hall, known as Larry, was born on May 17, 1926, in San Angelo, Texas, the son of Lydian Hall Woods and the grandson of Roscoe A. Hall and Euphemia Baker Hall. He was reared in his grandparents' home in San Angelo, Texas.



LARRY BLAIR HALL

The brothers and sisters of his mother, Lydian Hall Woods, were her three brothers, Frank Vosburg Hall, Louis R. Hall and Mortimer R. Hall; and her two sisters, Maude Hall Blaire and Sixie Hall Greenleaf.

He is survived by his wife, Sammye Carroll Hall of Muleshoe, Texas; his son, Perry Baker Hall and wife, Maggie Hall, and granddaughters, Hallye Elizabeth Hall and Emily Blair Hall, of Tyler, Texas; his daughter, Lawren Lydian Hall of Galveston, Texas; his stepdaughter, Leslie Lashelle Wilson of San Antonio, Texas, and his stepson, Linsey Lamont Lewis of Wimberley, Texas. His wife, Sammye, survived the fire with an injury to her shoulder, but she is in good condition.

Mr. Hall graduated from San Angelo High School in 1944 and then briefly attended San Angelo Junior College, Culver Military Academy and Wentworth Military Academy prior to going to Southern Methodist University in 1948 and, after serving a term in the U.S. Army including a tour in South Korea, he graduated from Southern Methodist University with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1955.

Subsequently he moved to Muleshoe, Texas, in 1961 where he became the owner and publisher of the Muleshoe Journal and Bailey County Journal which he operated until he sold the newspaper in 1993, and he has continued to reside in Muleshoe with his wife, Sammye, until his death.

Mr. Hall had many interests in life including, but not limited to, fishing, hunting and dancing, he was an ardent fan of both the SMU and the Texas Tech sports teams, he was the chief cook for the annual Red Raider Day in Muleshoe and was a Red Raider season ticket holder, and he immensely enjoyed his friends in both San Angelo and Muleshoe.

In addition to his wife and children, he was survived by his cousins Jack Blaire of Warren, Pennsylvania, David Greenleaf of Fort Worth, Texas, Corinne Hall Ebner of San Antonio, Texas, Roe A. Hall of Fort Hancock, Texas, and Pat Hall of San Angelo, Texas, and his nephews, Peter Rolland Woods of San Diego, California, and Mortimer Woods and Roscoe Woods of Socorro, New Mexico.

He was predeceased by his cousins Joan Blaire Carter of Warren, Pennsylvania, Sal Hall of San Angelo, Texas, Harold Greenleaf of Liberal, Kansas, and Michael Greenleaf of Wilmington, Delaware, and by his brother Jamie Woods of Socorro, New Mexico.

Both of his paternal and maternal predecessors fought in the American Revolution, his paternal predecessors fought in the Civil War, and his maternal predecessors fought in the Texas Revolution.

Funeral services are scheduled in Muleshoe at the First United Methodist Church, at 507 West 2nd Street, at 2 p.m., on Friday, April the 22nd, and graveside services are scheduled in San Angelo at the Fairmount Cemetery in Avenue N in San Angelo at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April the 23rd.

Friends and family attending the graveside services in San Angelo are invited to visit with each other at 215 West Twohig Avenue in San Angelo, which was Larry's childhood home, at 12 noon on Saturday, April the 23rd.

Memorials may be sent to Park View Nursing Home or the Muleshoe Area Medical Center in Muleshoe, Texas.

Club News

The Student-Community Action Club met April 18, at 7 p.m., at Brady Black's house.

Club president Niclas Green called the meeting to order and asked Charissa Conner to give the opening prayer in place of Barry Morris.

Secretary Kory Atwood, read the minutes, and Jordan Bonds gave the treasurer's report.

Green read a card from Ruby Green thanking SCAC for her honor as February Citizen of the Month.

Amber Cowart then introduced the April Citizen of the Month, Michele Barton. She spoke to the club members about her wishes for students to continue being a part of their community and helping out whenever they can.

Old business discussed included a successful month working at the Food Pantry. Green mentioned that



'CITIZEN OF THE MONTH' MICHELE BARTON

members need to be sure to turn in dues.

New business discussed was the choosing of new members. Everyone read applications and voted for new members to be inducted. Results will be announced as soon as Mr. Mardis tallies up all the votes.

The next meeting will be held at Hillary Tipps's house at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Thank God for the Good News of His Grace!

If I could somehow know that I had but one more opportunity to stand before Christ's people and share God's word, I would like to think that final sermon would be centered on the good news of God's grace.

What grace?
The grace of God as expressed through Christ Jesus and His death on the cross.
Grace that is freely given.
Grace that is truly a gift and can only be accepted as such.

If I had only one sermon left in me, one final opportunity to speak, with all my heart I hope it would be a message focused on the cross of Christ and centered on the good news of His grace. No other message is worth preaching.

That, after all, is what it means to be not a "minister of the law" but a "minister of the Gospel," the "good news" of God's grace.

It's a sad but telling commentary on our fallen natures that we humans tend to react to such good news with cynicism and mistrust and, even at times, hostility.

Stephen became the first Christian martyr because he preached the gospel of grace which holds that since the grace of God is a free gift—not wages that can be earned or a commodity that can be bought—all people, Gentiles and Jews, stand on level ground at the foot of Christ's cross.

And what a tribute to God's grace that Saul of Tarsus, who had held the garments of those who stoned Stephen, would later in one blinding instant find his passion for the law transformed into a passion for the Savior, and he would become the greatest minister of the gospel of God's grace this world has ever known.

Focus on yourself and your attempts at "righteousness" and the end result is despair and death. Focus on the Savior and the end result is life and joy and hope.

The message of the Gospel. May that Good News be ever on our lips and may its joy fill every corner of our lives.

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



Focus On Faith
Curtis Shelburne

Grace that is free but that is far from cheap.

Grace that is freely available to you and to me but that cost the Giver more dearly than mortal minds can fathom.

If mortals like us were big enough, strong enough, wise enough, to reach up into the night sky with a paper cup and scoop up a drink of the Milky Way's liquid light, maybe we'd be big enough, strong enough, wise enough to catch with our minds some idea of the enormity of the sacrifice God's Son made to leave the right hand of the Father, to put on the poor garment of humanity, and finally to bear on His own now-human shoulders all the sin of the world.

But we're not that big. Small as we are we can barely begin to catch a glimpse of what Christ has really done for us all, but even that glimpse should be enough to make us fall down at His feet and worship.

ELECTION NEWS

Muleshoe ISD will hold an election on May 7, 2005 to fill the District 3 seat on the Board of Trustees. Early voting will begin on April 20 and run through May 3 in the school Administration office at 514 West Avenue G.

Regular voting will be held on Saturday, May 7 in the high school cafeteria from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Candidates for the District 3 seat are Mary Toscano, Rene Torres and Daniel Guzman.

Thanks for reading!

Sports

Lady Mules softball team captures playoff berth against Littlefield

By Delton Wilhite
Sports Writer

Both teams knew how important the game was when the Lady Mules and Littlefield Ladycats squared off on the Littlefield softball diamond Monday afternoon, April 18. The winner got a ticket to the post season tournament and the loser

had to sit and watch.

The two teams had won on their home fields in the first two rounds of district. Now in the third and final game of the regular season both teams pulled out all the stops.

"It was evident from the opening pitch that both teams understood the

importance of this game," said Lady Mule coach Jody Holcomb. "We finally pushed across a run in the top of the fourth inning but Littlefield stormed back with three runs."

"We were able to take advantage of some pitching problems they had develop in the fifth inning and put the

game out of reach. It is not clear at this time who we will face in our first game of the playoffs."

Every Lady Mule scored at least one run in the top of the fifth as the Lady Mules added 13 runs to their side of the score board. Abby Lawrence and the Lady Mules only allowed one base runner in the bottom of the fifth and snuffed out any hopes of a comeback by Littlefield.

Madison Smith doubled in the fourth inning for the Lady Mules and scored on a RBI single by Kristen Ambriz.

Littlefield took advantage of a base on balls and three hits to score three runs in the bottom of the fourth and briefly take the lead from the Lady Mules.

Sarah Sexton was hit by a pitch for a free pass to open the bottom of the fifth for Muleshoe. Erica Sanchez had a bunt single and Heather Holcomb singled to right field to load the bases.

Lawrence singled to right to score Sexton and Sanchez and tie the game at 3-3 with no outs. The game began to unravel for Littlefield as Monica Posadas, Jenna Rasco, Smith, and Ambriz all got free passes from the Ladycat pitching staff.

Ashley Dickson blasted a line drive to deep right-center field for a double and pickup three RBIs. Sexton walked and Sanchez doubled to right center to score Dickson and Sexton. Holcomb, Lawrence and Posadas each walked.

Rasco and Smith went down swinging for the first two outs of the inning. Ambriz drove in the Lady Mules final run with a single to center. Her hit scored Lawrence and put the Lady Mules up 14-3.

Lawrence scooped up a ground ball and fired to Rasco at first for the first out of bottom of the fifth. She walked the next batter but

made the grab on a pop up for the second out.

Lawrence gathered in her second come backer of the inning and went to Rasco for the final out of the regular season. That play clinched a playoff berth for the second year in a row for the Lady Mules.

The Lady Mules will play Borger in at Canyon on Friday, April 30, at 5 p.m.

Mules post season hopes destroyed

By Delton Wilhite
Sports Writer

The Levelland Lobos slammed the door shut on any hopes the Mules may have had for post season play Saturday afternoon. Levelland used home runs in both the second and third inning to down the Mules

14-4.

Landon Wilson walked the first Lobo he faced on four straight pitches. Levelland moved the runner into scoring position with a sacrifice bunt and he scored on a dropped fly ball by Cody Clark.

Clark chased down the

ball found Eddie Alvarado for the cut off. Alvarado whirled and threw a strike to Jarad Flores at third of the second out. Wilson retired the side by fielding a pop fly back to the mound.

Levelland's first home run was a second pitch line drive over the left field fence by the lead off hitter. Barry Morris fought off a bad hop at second base for the second out and Alvarado had to pick a pop fly out of the sun for the final out. The Lobos led 2-0 after an inning and a half.

The Lobos blasted a three run homer in the third inning to take a five run advantage and added four more runs in the top of the fourth.

The Mules did not score until the bottom of the fourth inning. Geoff Sirkel drove the first pitch to the fence in left center for a standup double. Robby Bomer doubled to left to score Sirkel and get into scoring position.

Juan Nunez singled to center to score Bomer and went to second on the throw home. Nunez stole third and came home on a sacrifice by Garrett Behrends. Cody Clark got a free pass on four straight pitches in the dirt. Clark scored on a pitch Jarad Flores drove to the left field fence for a double.

The Lobos pushed five runs across after the Mules had recorded two outs in the fifth inning. The Mules could not generate a run in the bottom of the fifth and the game was ended by the 10-run rule.

The Mules completed their season at Lubbock Cooper Tuesday afternoon.

Wood qualifies for regional tennis tourney April 27-28

By Delton Wilhite
Sports Writer

The Muleshoe High School tennis team competed in the District 2-3A tournament in Levelland and Lindsey Wood qualified for the Region I Tournament April 27-28.

L. Wood defeated Lindsey McKinnon of Littlefield 6-1, 6-4 and eliminated Kori Stark of Levelland 6-4, 6-4. Amy Banda of Levelland defeated L. Wood in the Championship match 7-6, 4-6, and 2-6.

L. Wood defeated Lauren Swaringen of Brownfield for second place 7-5, 6-1 to qualify for the regional tournament.

The boys doubles team of Tyler Wood and Ely Villa finished third in boy's doubles. They defeated

Allison/Limon of Brownfield 6-3, 6-1 and eliminated Cariens/Paxton of Levelland 6-0, 6-0.

They took third by defeating Sierra/Withrow of Littlefield 3-6, 6-2, and 6-1 and earned a playback opportunity for second place. Kimberling/Lane of Levelland defeated T. Wood and Villa 6-7, 6-2 and 4-6.

Andrew Padilla and Brad Henry lost in the first round of boy's singles and Shalisa Ladd lost in the first round of girl's singles. Brittini Carter and Calli Hancock were defeated the first round of girl's doubles as was Kelsey Beggs and Shanna Remppe.

"I was very proud of how well the kids competed in Levelland", said Muleshoe tennis coach Shanna Simms. "They showed a lot of class and tenacity in their matches. Levelland has a very strong team and we left everything we had on the court. This is a great bunch of kids and represents Muleshoe High very well."

Colby Carpenter and Adam Zamora competed in boy's singles and Jamie Hall and Lindsey Hall played in girl's doubles of the junior varsity tournament.

Safety Notes

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- Because they see others doing it.
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- Because it makes them feel stronger, smarter or better than the person they are bullying.

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

Sports

Mules qualify for UIL Regional meet

By Delton Wilhite
Sports Writer

Eight Mules qualified for the UIL Regional Track and Field Meet in Odessa on April 29-30. The Mules will compete in 11 events that include all three relays. The top three places advance in each event.

The Mules finished second in the District 2-3A Meet in Levelland on April 15 on the campus of South Plains College. The Mules posted 136 points and Lubbock Cooper took the meet with 236 points. Levelland was third with 110, Littlefield finished fourth with 88 and Brownfield was fifth with 55.

The Mules won three gold medals with Brady Black taking gold in both hurdle races and Eric Washington had gold medal leap in the long jump.

"I was really proud of the way our kids competed this year," said Mule track coach Joe Pat Wright. "We have some kids advancing that when the season started we did not think could make it. This is our best showing in district in several years and I think we have some that can get to Austin."

Joe Bryan Claybrook got the Mules started with a fourth place finish in the 3200-meter run with a time of 11 minutes 14.94 seconds. Robby Bomer placed second in the high jump by clearing six feet six inches and Derek Purdy was eighth at 5' 6".

Myles James cleared 12' 0" for third place in the pole vault. Washington and Landon Wilson took the gold and silver medals in the long jump with leaps of 20' 0.75" and 19' 11.25".

Wilson also took silver in the triple jump with a combined distance of 41' 2" and Rudy Gonzales was fourth at 40' 4". Irwin Lewis had a sixth place toss of 40' 5.5" in the shot put and Geoffrey Sirkel was ninth with a 37' 9.75".

Caleb Heinrich was third in the discus with a throw of 131' 0", Kory Atwood placed sixth at 113' 0" and Sirkel was seventh with a 108' 2".

Jarad Flores ran seventh in the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.96. Gonzales took the silver medal in the 200-meter dash with a 24.57. Cody Clark and Daniel Caraveo placed sixth and seventh in the 800-meter run with times of 2:16.63 and 2:16.64 respectively.

Black's gold medal times in the 110- and 300-meter hurdles were 15.78 and

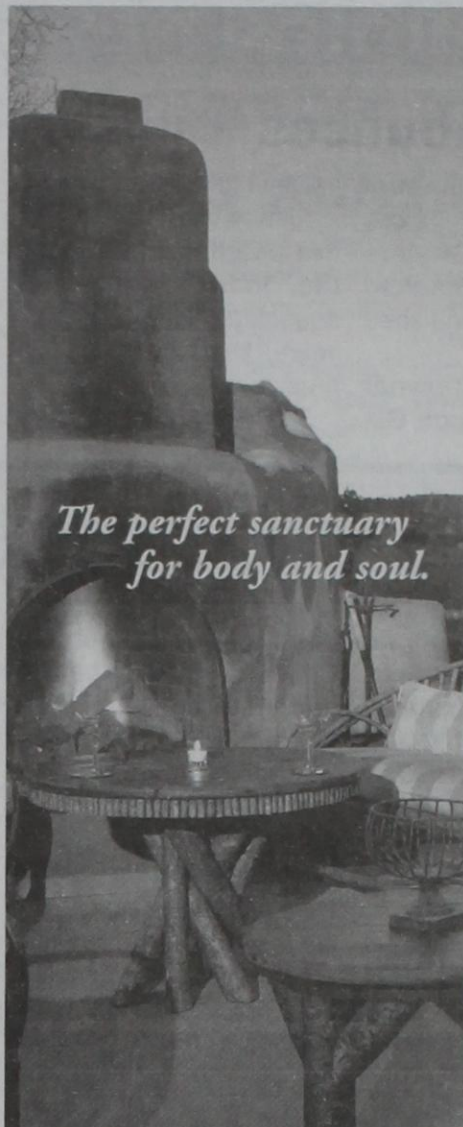
41.27. Dustin Barker finished fifth and sixth in the hurdle races with times of 17.93 and 47.24.

The Mules ran second in all three of the relay races. The 100-meter team of Washington, Gonzales, Wilson and Brant Hamilton had a time of 45.15. The same team had a 1:35.12 in the 4 X 200. The 4X 400 team of Washington, Black, Wilson and Hamilton ran a 3:34.12.

Hamilton was released to run in the district meet this past week after suffering a broken thumb in the Mule's Baseball Tournament.

Claybrook took seventh in the 1600-meter run with a 5:20.22 and Caraveo was ninth with a 5:34.39.

The Mules hope to compete in a practice meet before going to Odessa.



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JV Lady Mules fall to Levelland Loboettes, 29-3

By Delton Wilhite
Sports Writer

The Junior Varsity Lady Mule softball team had a tough outing against the

Levelland Loboettes Saturday, April 16. Levelland out scored the Lady Mules 29-3.

Levelland jumped out to

a quick start with eight runs in the first inning. The Lady Mules left three on base and did not score a run in their half of the inning.

Muleshoe recovered on defense in the second inning and only gave up a single run. Jasmine Devenport snagged a pop foul behind the plate for the first out. The Lady Mules gave up back to back base hits before Devenport threw a runner out trying to steal second. Kaitlyn Wills held her ground, her concentration and the ball for the tag at second.

Brittany Ambriz scooped up a ground ball at short

stop and made the throw to Cholor Hernandez at first for the third out of the inning.

Natasha Daniel and Wills both showed patience at the plate and drew walks in the bottom of the second inning. Jacy Lawrence advanced the runners with a sacrifice bunt. Hernandez picked up a Daniel with a bunt down the third base line and reached on an error.

Wills and Hernandez both scored on a throwing error to give the Lady Mules their three runs.

The Lady Mules did not threaten again in the contest. Levelland was the final game of the season for the JV Lady Mules.

Ladies Golf Assn. News



The Muleshoe Ladies Golf Association met at noon Wednesday, April 20, for lunch, golf and cards. Ann McElroy called the meeting to order for 11 members and one guest. The next meeting will be May 18, that day will also be the Memorial Tournament.

Sheryl Engleking reported on High Plains, at Dimmitt. Among those who went were Analita Haley, Pat Kirk, Helen Templeton and Engleking. Muleshoe received three points, Pat Kirk — low gross, Sheryl Engleking — low net. The next High Plains is at

Clovis Chaparral Golf Course, May 11.

After the business meeting there was a table of cards and three teams of golf. The winning team was Janetta Precure, Pat Kirk and Lavern Winn. The guest was Melody Hettinga.

Members present were Ann McElroy, Helen Templeton, Marlene Martin, Anita Black, Claudine Elliott, Debra Noble, Kay Field, Elinor Yerby, Lavern Winn, Tammy Black, Neets Foster, Janet Clayborn, Jennie Bamert, Pat Kirk Analita Haley, Janetta Precure and Sheryl Engleking.

Annual Muleshoe bike tour set

The 11th annual Tour de Muleshoe Bike Ride will be held June 11 beginning at 9 a.m. from the First Assembly of God Church Activity Center at 521 South First Street.

Pre-register for the drawing of \$500 cash prize by June 5. Late registration will be accepted the day of the race between 7-9 a.m.

Participants may choose between riding the 100 K, the 40 mile or the 10 mile bike tour. Each of the rides will have rest stops along the way.

All riders and those who register are eligible for a drawing immediately after the ride for unique business door prizes.

Riders will also receive a packet to be picked up the day of the race containing a free water bottle, ride number, route map, a collector T-shirt and a meal ticket for a free spaghetti lunch.

Extra meal tickets may be purchased at the site or with pre-registration — \$4 for adults and \$2 for children under 12 years of age.

All ride proceeds will go to the Muleshoe Heritage Foundation.

Business sponsors this year's event are Five Area Telephone Coop, Bailey County Electric Coop, Muleshoe State Bank, First Bank of Muleshoe, Minsa Corporation, United Supermarkets and Leal's Restaurant.



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JV Mules place second at District Track meet

By Delton Wilhite
Sports Writer

The Junior Varsity Mule track and field team placed second with 131.5 points behind Lubbock Cooper's 151.5. Brownfield was third with 118.5, Littlefield fourth with 90 and Levelland was fifth with 87.5.

Garrett Riley and Adam Zamora took the gold and bronze medals in the high jump by clearing five feet 10 inches and 5' 6" respectively. Garrett Behrends placed fourth in the long jump with a leap of 17' 3".

Behrends, Riley and Colby Carpenter took gold, silver and bronze in the triple jump with distances of 38' 0.75", 36' 5.5" and 36' 2.75". Lorenzo Nunez, Logan Caddell and Abraham Flores placed ninth, tenth and thirteenth in the shot put with tosses of 32' 5", 32' 1.75" and 29' 5.5".

Caddell, T.J. Brantley and Bradley Branscum took fifth, sixth and eighth in the discus with tosses of 102' 11", 98' 5" and 91' 6". The 100-meter relay team of Behrends, Jakob Vega, Riley and

Branscum placed fourth with a time of 47.81 seconds.

Adam Zamora and Colby Carpenter took silver and bronze in the 800-meter run with times of 2:19.04 and 2:20.95.

Joaquin Ruvalacaba ran fifth with a 2:25.14. Riley and Kendall Johnson had silver and bronze times in the 110-meter hurdles of 18.16 and 18.72.

Wiley Fulmer finished fifth in the 100-meter dash with a 12.92. The 200-meter relay team of Behrends, Vega, Riley and Branscum finished fourth with a 1:41.16. Doc Fulmer was fourth in the 400-meter run with a 58.27.

Ruvalacaba tied for fifth in the 300-meter hurdles with a 48.98. Vega had a gold medal time of 25.08 in the 200-meter dash. Carpenter took silver in the 1600-meter run with a 5:28.74 and Gilbert Mojica was sixth with a 5:46.61.

The 400-meter relay team of Zamora, D. Fulmer, Behrends and Cory Wallace had a bronze medal time of 3:53.24.

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Agricultural News

TIGA announces 'Distinguished Ginner of the Year'

At the 43rd annual meeting of the Texas Independent Ginners Association, Jim Bradford was named "Distinguished Ginner of the Year."

Bradford is part-owner and manager of North Gin

in Dimmitt.

"Jim is very deserving of this award. He has served the industry and our association well for many years," said Ken Ross, TIGA president.

Bradford has served

TIGA as president and continues to be active in the association as well as many other organizations including Texas Cotton Ginners Association, Plains Cotton Growers and the Texas Tech Century Club.

Bradford is well known in the industry for his service to his customers. According to Dan Taylor, of Buster's Gin, "a visit to his ginning facilities reveals his dedication to servicing his customers, providing them with state of the art equipment and the most advanced technology available."

COTTON MARKET WEEKLY REPORT

Cotton futures settled mixed on Thursday at the New York Board of Trade as spread trading dominated with front-month May at a premium over July. USDA's weekly export sales report provided support for the market as both sales and shipments were strong.

USDA reported net export sales of U.S. cotton totaled 269,000 bales in the week ended April 14, six percent more than the previous week and 43 percent higher than the four-week average.

For the first time since the first two weeks of January, Turkey was the major buyer of U.S. cotton. Smaller quantities were sold to China, Indonesia, and Mexico. Net sales of 5,000 bales for delivery in 2006 were mainly for Indonesia and South Korea.

Export shipments reached a new marketing year high at 432,200 bales, a 27 percent increase from the previous week and 24 percent more than the four-week average. Primary destinations were China, Turkey, Pakistan, and Indonesia.

In the spot cotton market, online sales by producers in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas increased in the week ended April 21 as sales totaled 12,273 bales compared to the previous week when 8,945 bales were traded.

Average prices received by producers in the most recent week ranged from 37.58 to 43.88 cents per pound compared to 38.35 to 42.50 cents per pound the previous week.

In other news, the Bush Administration said Wednesday it will formally notify the World Trade Organization that it plans to fully comply with its ruling involving U.S. cotton subsidies that resulted from a complaint filed by Brazil calling the subsidies "unfair" to the world market. The U.S. has until July 1 to comply with the ruling which would impact Step 2 export payments and cotton export credit programs.

Many in the industry believe the changes initiated by the WTO will not fully affect the U.S. cotton industry until the 2006-07 crop, however, traders certainly will keep a watchful eye on the situation.

Meanwhile, USDA reported 11 percent of the 2005-06 U.S. cotton crop had been planted as of April 17. Although the figure was down from the same period last year when 15 percent of the crop was planted, the department noted that planting progress still is in

line with the average plantings of 12 percent. Cotton planting in the U.S. has started to gain momentum under mostly favorable conditions.

USDA indicated Texas growers were right on schedule with 18 percent of their projected crop now in the ground.

Planting is virtually complete in the Texas Coastal Bend, and work is well advanced in the Upper Coastal Bend area. Remnant ginning continues

in some areas of Texas, but all gins should be finished by the end of the month.

Fieldwork continues at a steady pace on the Texas High and Rolling Plains.

Above-average temperatures persist in the areas increasing the soil moisture evaporation rate. Many fields already have been prepared for planting, and a slow, soaking rain would be welcome to improve topsoil moisture levels.



Bailey County Ag Fair

Agricultural industry leaders took time for area students Thursday at an Ag Fair held at the Bailey County Coliseum. Pictured above, the students learn about the horse industry, while cattle is the featured topic below.



Talent show set for Thursday
Muleshoe High School will be sponsoring a talent show featuring MISD students of all ages at the Kerry Moore Auditorium on Thursday, April 29, at 7 p.m. Admission is \$2 for students and \$3 for adults.

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Muleshoe Cattle Market
The Muleshoe Cattle Market is brought to you each week by Muleshoe Livestock Auction, located east of Muleshoe on U.S. 84. Muleshoe Livestock conducts sales every Saturday, beginning with hogs, sheep and goats at 10 a.m. and cattle following at approximately noon.

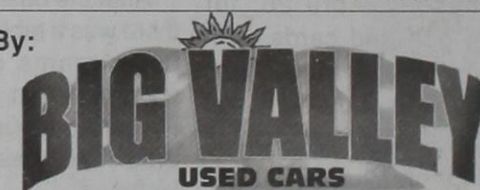
REPRESENTATIVE SALES
SAT., APRIL 23, 2005
1722 head of cattle, 88 hogs and 318 sheep and goats for a total of 2,128 livestock sold at the April 23rd sale. Excellent set of cattle offered this week. Market exceptional with good demand and good bidder participation on all classes of cattle.

FOR INFORMATION ON SALES OR TO CONSIGN CATTLE-272-4201

Seller, City	#	Type	Wt.	CWT or PH
Ruben Saveedia, Albuquerque	6	Hol. str	326 lbs.	at \$133.00
FM Farms, Brownfield	2	Char. str	263 lbs.	at \$177.50
Gary Birkenbach, Littlefield	3	Mxd. str	303 lbs.	at \$167.50
Butch Green, Muleshoe	3	RWF bulls	338 lbs.	at \$167.50
F&G Cattle, Tahoka	6	Mxd. str	368 lbs.	at \$152.50
Alan Clark, Friona	1	Char. bull	485 lbs.	at \$132.50
Luke Albus, Morton	1	Red bull	570 lbs.	at \$122.00
L.W. Shafer, Muleshoe	3	Char. bulls	542 lbs.	at \$125.00
L.W. Shafer, Muleshoe	7	Char. bulls	694 lbs.	at \$106.00
Drum Farms, Snyder	5	Blk. str	606 lbs.	at \$121.00
Drum Farms, Snyder	21	B&BWF str	728 lbs.	at \$116.00
Drum Farms, Snyder	43	B&BWF str	849 lbs.	at \$105.50
Owen Young, Levelland	4	Red str	680 lbs.	at \$117.00
Owen Young, Levelland	3	Mxd. str	763 lbs.	at \$113.00
JCL, Inc., Sudan	9	Mxd. str	732 lbs.	at \$114.75
3M Cattle, Muleshoe	49	Mxd. str	736 lbs.	at \$115.00
3M Cattle, Muleshoe	60	Mxd. str	835 lbs.	at \$107.00
Y Ranch, Datel, NM	91	Blk. str	856 lbs.	at \$107.00
Tim Campbell, Muleshoe	26	Mxd. str	923 lbs.	at \$99.50
Max Drum, Snyder	7	Blk. hfrs	340 lbs.	at \$153.00
Max Drum, Snyder	6	Blk. hfrs	473 lbs.	at \$129.50
F&G Cattle, Tahoka	9	BWF hfrs	417 lbs.	at \$131.00
Gary Birkenbach, Littlefield	6	Blk. hfrs	430 lbs.	at \$131.00
Abel Estrada, Muleshoe	4	Blk. hfrs	454 lbs.	at \$129.00
Brenda Jesko, Muleshoe	6	Blk. hfrs	563 lbs.	at \$121.00
Monty Henson, Brownfield	3	Blk. hfrs	588 lbs.	at \$113.00
Cade Hooten, Muleshoe	8	Mxd. hfrs	622 lbs.	at \$113.00
Cade Hooten, Muleshoe	17	Mxd. hfrs	704 lbs.	at \$104.00
Jesus Hernandez, Muleshoe	39	Mxd. hfrs	656 lbs.	at \$108.00
Jesus Hernandez, Muleshoe	60	Mxd. hfrs	749 lbs.	at \$104.25
S&K Cattle, Lubbock	60	Mxd. hfrs	714 lbs.	at \$102.00
S&K Cattle, Lubbock	17	Mxd. hfrs	811 lbs.	at \$96.75
Roger McCray, Denver City	1	Blk. pair		\$1375.00
Johnny Barrier, Vernon	1	Blk. pair		\$1075.00
Tanner Blournt, Plains	2	Blk. pair		\$985.00
Marvin Speer, Morton	1	Yell. cow P7		\$850.00
Sudan Feedyard, Sudan	3	Mxd. cows P7		\$860.00
Sudan Feedyard, Sudan	2	Blk. cows	1205 lbs.	at \$58.25
Sudan Feedyard, Sudan	5	Mxd. cows	984 lbs.	at \$56.00
Luke Albus, Morton	1	Blk. cow	1150 lbs.	at \$60.00
Roger McCray, Denver City	1	Blk. cow	1330 lbs.	at \$58.75
Weaver Farms, Muleshoe	1	Char. bull	2135 lbs.	at \$75.00
Ike Wilcox, Muleshoe	1	WF bull	1760 lbs.	at \$74.75

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Ag Notes

Rural Texas covers approximately 80 percent of the state's total land area, encompassing 213,297 square miles out of the state's 267,277 total.



Sgt. Kylie Stephens, Pfc. Bunyard and Spc. Hardin during their plane trip overseas.

Daughter of Muleshoe resident returns from 'War against Terror'

By Larry Thornton
Managing Editor

Sgt. Kylie Stephens, U.S. Army Reserve, has returned to the states after serving a year of active duty in Afghanistan and neighboring Uzbekistan.

Stephens, the daughter of Teresa Taylor of Muleshoe, is part of the 841st Army Reserve, headquartered in Tulsa, Okla., in which she serves as an administrative specialist and postal worker. Stephens was activated in January 2004, and after a brief deployment at Ft. Sill, Lawton, Okla., was deployed to Uzbekistan in April 2004.

She returned to the states

on April 6.

The military base in Uzbekistan is the staging area in the "War against Terror" in Afghanistan, Stephens explained.

Kylie and her husband of four years, Richard, were in Muleshoe Monday, April 18, visiting prior to returning to Ada, Okla., where they are criminal justice majors at East Central State University.

Of the things she remembers the most, Stephens said among the worst was the heat, the cold and the dust. She said she'd spent the last year walking on either dirt or the gravel, with which the military base

at Uzbekistan and the base in Afghanistan is surfaced.

Although the major portion of her overseas duty was in neighboring Uzbekistan, Stephens said she spent the recent Christmas Season in Afghanistan, assisting with the Christmas package and mail rush.

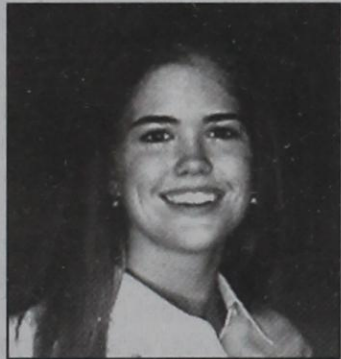
Kylie is a 1998 graduate of Drumright High School, Drumright, Okla., while her husband is a 1997 graduate of Byng High School, Byng, Okla.

Stephens said she has few fond memories of the past year, except for the friends she made.

Although she wasn't on patrol while in Afghanistan, she said there was a constant danger from the rocket attacks on the base.

And while she didn't have much contact with the populace from either country, she said the living conditions and poverty were astonishing.

"What we consider to be poor here," Stephens said, "is rich to them."



GINNI METCALF

Metcalf named as All-American

The United States Achievement Academy announced today that Ginni Metcalf of Coahoma has been named an All-American Scholar.

Ginni, who attends Coahoma High School was nominated for this national award by Aaron Custer. She is the daughter of John Wayne and Ginger Metcalf, also of Coahoma, and the granddaughter of Helen Metcalf of Coahoma and Ike and Gail Wilcox of Muleshoe.

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Employee of the Month

Business of the Month

Education

Deshazo honor rolls released

DeShazo Elementary's honor rolls for the fifth six-week period have been released. Among the students honored were:

"A" Honor Roll

Third Grade

Judd Baker, Bailey Bales, Johnny DeBruin, Matthew Dickerson, McKenna Dunham, Emily Flores, Marion Gutierrez, Eli Leal, Mercedes Morin, Arthur Recio, Eliot Reyes, Diana Salcido and Shaylee Winchell.

Fourth Grade

Adrian Estrada, David Flores, Stephanie Infante, Ryan Johnson, Daniela Mendoza, Carlos Nunez, Mari Quintana, Cas Stevens, Sheridan White, Sarah Whitworth, Elisa Wiseman and Caleb Wood.

Fifth Grade

Matthew Ambriz, Lucia Bustillos, Tyler Cain, Merced Campos-DelRio, Adrienne Fulton, Alyssa Leal, Aldo Mendoza, Manuel Muniz, Belinda Pacheco, Caitie Sowder and Ashley Thomas.

"AB" Honor Roll

Third Grade

Ace Alvarez, Isaac Ballenger, Rosa Burciaga, Alexis Cortez, Marissa Cortez, Edwin Delgado, Daniel Diaz, David Diaz, Esmeralda Flores, Destiny Garcia, Hadlea Geissler, Savana Hanaway, Raegan King, Javier Martinez, Dalia Melendez, Anthony Mendoza, James Mendoza, Zachary Mumau, Ryan Nikkel, Adrienne Precure, Arnaldo Que, Jose Quintanilla, Michael Railsback, Donann Remppe, Ramon Rodriguez, Isaias Salas

Erica Strawn, Liliana Vasquez, Javier Velasquez, Jordan Villalobos, Keelee Whitaker, Keenan Wilson, Brendon Wright and Cristian Zaragoza.

Fourth Grade

Alexia Acosta, Luis Barcenas, Morgan Burris, Chris Cage, Brenda

Ceballos, Desiree Cisneros, B'Anca DeLeon, Osmar Diaz, Tiffany Eagle, Felipe Espinoza, Alexa Fuentes, Tessa Garner, Maria Govea, Shelbi Harrison, Autumn Heller, Marissa Hernandez, Jessica Kube, Stefani Lopez, Chris Lozano, Martin Marrufo, Alex Mendoza, Ramon Mendoza, Francy Montes, Garrison Myers, Priya Patel, Brenna Quiroz, Jonathan Ramirez, Frank Recio, Yanira Regalado, Tina Rey, Aaron Reyes, Sam Sirkel, Ross Steinbock, Jose Vargas and Alondra Villarreal.

Fifth Grade

Angel Alvarez, Issac Baca, Douglas Bartholf, Baylee Bessire, Robert Brewster, Marielena Campos, Devon Cantrell, Betsy Careaga, Mateo Castillo, Sabrina Chavez, Hector Granados, Rabby Gregory, Weston Griswold, Louis Guzman, Jodee Hall, Rashelle Hall, Michael Martinez, Dominique Mata, Patrick Mendoza, Ricky Morin, Keiry Nava, Madeline Precure, Norma Ronquillo-Salazar, Katie Scott, Alexis Sosa, Jordan Stroud, Cassidy Torres and Stephanie Vasquez-Posada.

Education

School board member travels to Austin, speaks with legislators

Bob Craig of the Texas State Board of Education recently arranged for two state senators to visit with school board members from the Muleshoe area at Austin.

Taking part in the meeting, Rene Torres of Muleshoe met with Sen. Robert Duncan of Lubbock and Sen. Kel Seliger of Amarillo. He also met with Education Commissioner Shirley Neeley.

The meeting was described as being "for school board members only," and as being between "elected official and elected official."

After the meeting, Torres said it was a good presentation with time for question and answers with the senators.

Torres said he appreciated the senators taking the time to meet with the school board members. "It shows that they care about what school board members think, and that they want their input on the school finance bill," Torres said.

Because the school funding bill is still in the developing stages, Torres said there were not a lot of specifics that the senators could give the board members yet.

But, they said their goal was to bring down property taxes from \$1.50 per \$100 valuation to \$1 per \$100 valuation by enacting a statewide property tax.

Torres said he felt the senators were very concerned about education, and they would do everything they could to help rural school districts.

The current proposed bill equalizes the local enrichment for districts up to 90 percent.

Muleshoe ISD officials are pushing for the legislators to consider going to 98 percent equity for the enrichment tier of school funding.

This is huge for Muleshoe and all property poor school districts, according to Superintendent Gene Sheets

If the enrichment tier is equalized to 90 percent, the state would contribute revenue and MISD would receive an additional \$7,300 per penny of local taxes, according to Sheets.

If the state equalizes the enrichment tier to 98 percent, MISD would receive an additional \$567,000 per penny of local taxes raised.

State officials are estimating there will be about \$43 Million for new instructional facilities, which reportedly will be distributed to the poorest school districts first.

It would depend on how many property-poor districts applied for this facility money, as to whether Muleshoe would get any of the money at this level of funding, Sheets said at the April 18 MISD board meeting.

"We are hoping the legislature will increase the facility funding in the final version of the bill," Sheets said. "We had a very productive meeting with Rep.

Warren Chisum that evening."

Chisum, a proponent of HB2, said he would do all he could to help rural school districts.

"Although this was a very bad bill for schools, we are hoping he has realized that there needs to be some drastic changes in that bill before it would be good for public schools," Sheets said. "We talked to him about some possible changes that could be made to make it a better bill. He was receptive to considering the ideas when the bill comes up again before the House."

Sen. Shapiro has announced that the Senate Education Committee would allow more time for public hearings and amendments to be filed on the Senate Education bill (CSHB2). The tentative date to vote the bill out of committee is April 26.

This is getting very close to being too late to get anything done before the session ends at the end of May, according to school officials, who also say there will be a mad rush in May to get everything settled for school finance, according to Sheets.

Sen. Robert Duncan discussed the Teacher Retirement System, which was described as a sound, robust pension for Texas educators that is essential to attract and retain the career-path educators, he said.

That means that the TRS must include retirement annuities that can respond to increases in the cost of living, along with health care benefits that are compatible with the medical needs of retirees, according to Sheets. However, the current program structure reportedly cannot meet that expectation.

"The good news is that we can address these problems today with modest sacrifice," Sheets said. "The bad news is that if we ignore the problem or procrastinate in making adjustments, the necessary sacrifices in the future will be drastic and painful."

According to Sheets, the potential for dramatic adjustments can be mitigated and perhaps avoided if action is taken during this legislative session with the following adjustments to TRS Care:

1. Slow the retiree population growth.

As discussed above, enrollment growth because of early retirement imposes a severe strain on the system. Because the early retiree population is considered to be a "high cost" population for health care spending any effort to keep those experienced active teachers in the classroom would help stabilize the financial position of the plan.

2. Coordinate benefits.

The benefit plan must be carefully structured to appropriately coordinate with medical coverage available to older retirees (Medicare) and other insurance options, including co-insurance, that may be available to early retirees.

3. Reasonably adjust contribution assessments.

The state contribution must be increased in proportion to the adjusted assessments made to school districts, active teachers, and retiree premiums.

"We are always concerned that proposals to adjust retiree eligibility and insurance coverage often inspire a sort of panic and skepticism among those likely impacted," said Sheets.

The possession of accurate and straightforward information is key for teachers to be confident our goals are true and carefully developed, according to the superintendent.

These necessary adjustments will require some sacrifice. However, they are key if the school district wants to avoid diverting critical dollars from the classroom, teacher pay raises and enhanced retiree benefits, he said.

"It was a very good day at the capitol. It was very good for the senators and our representative to see that our school board cared enough to come to Austin and visit with them about the proposed legislation," Sheets said.

"They know we are concerned that there doesn't seem to be enough money to fund the mandates that they are including in this legislation. Hopefully, they will listen and modify the current legislation," he said.

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Scheme swindles area residents... Continued from page 1

they received from Ozark Ticket and Travels, even though she said Graves told her not to pay the taxes.

In the end, Chilton said, she came to believe Graves was "trying to get every dime my sister had."

While there are numerous time share investment companies in operation, according to documents received by the *Muleshoe Journal* from the Securities and Exchange Commission, the federal agency charged with monitoring such security companies, and the U. S. Attorney's office for the Western District of Missouri,

the companies associated with Resort Hotels, Inc. — Branson City Limits, Inc.; Ozark Ticket and Travel, Inc.; and Universal Financial Leasing, Inc. — were part of a massive "ponzi scheme" that bilked \$30 million dollars from elderly investors in 30 states through its nationwide sales agents, including James E. Graves, dba Senior Benefits Services.

A ponzi scheme is an illegal pyramid scheme in which early investors are paid off with money received from later investors in an effort to make the scheme

appear more legitimate until the whole scheme collapses upon itself or is shut down by federal officials.

According to SEC documents, Muleshoe has the dubious honor of being home to the scheme's hardest hit victim, W. B. Slayden.

"We trusted him up until this thing broke," Slayden said, but when federal officials took action against Resort Hotels, Inc., Slayden said Graves "dropped him like a hot potato," refusing to answer Slayden's telephone calls or letters.

The *Journal* attempted to reach Graves for comment, at his business number but was unsuccessful. However, according to documents related to Slayden's Bailey County civil case, Graves has replied to the allegations lodged against him, admitting being an agent for Resort Hotels, Inc., but denying knowledge of the company's illegal activities or participating in those activities.

"I didn't have any knowledge of such," Graves reportedly responded to a request from Slayden's attorney, Wyatt Brooks of the law firm Burdett, Morgan, Williamson & Boykin of Amarillo, that Graves admit knowledge of wrongdoing by others associated with the company.

But while Graves denied such knowledge, information received from the Harpers of Muleshoe at least suggests Graves' dealing with them differed from how business was normally conducted with Resort Hotels, Inc., possibly because he knew more than he has admitted.

"They cashed our check, and that was it," Anita Harper said. "He knew it was going under."

She explained that they didn't even receive the "sales contracts" that were characteristic of the "ponzi scheme" Todd Walker of Resort Hotels, Inc. normally sent to its victims, and suggested that Graves pocketed their \$35,000 and didn't even bother sending it in to Resort Hotels.

According to federal documents, the scheme was apparently handled in the following manner:

The aforementioned companies, their

representatives and their associates, offered fraudulent securities in the form of time-shares, for which the investors were to receive payment when the hotel units were rented. SEC documents state the sales presentation Graves and other Resort Hotels sales agents made claimed the investors would receive "at least" an 11 percent annual return on their investments.

After Graves and the other sales agents filled out a contract with the investors it was sent to Todd Walker, a Florida attorney and the president of Resort Hotels, Inc. Walker is also a business associate of Patrick Ballinger and Dennis Weaver, who reportedly orchestrated the security investment scam, and who have already plead guilty to federal charges related to the scam.

Walker would execute the contracts at his end and return them to the investors. However, instead of renting out the property as the contracts stated, the old investors were paid out of funds received from newer investors, but only at the beginning of the business relationship.

According to Slayden, checks totaling \$56,273.50 were sent to him by Resort Hotels' business associate Ozark Ticket and Travel between November 2002 and July 2003. During this same period, Graves had apparently induced Slayden to add \$53,060 to his initial investment of \$590,000.

It should be noted that according to the SEC, the companies weren't registered to sell securities, and also Graves — according to Brooks — wasn't registered to sell the securities in Texas.

In March 2004, the SEC received a \$30 million judgment against the companies involved, however, according to local investors; they have yet to receive any restitution.

At this time, Slayden appears to be the first of the victims to seek restitution from Graves, who was not listed in the related federal cases.

A May 4, 9:30 a.m., hearing has been set concerning a motion for summary judgement against Graves at the Bailey County Courthouse.

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Lamplight By Larry Thornton

A surprise visit during the middle of winter had cheered the grandparents' hearts. Their daughter found the time to fly in from southern Florida accompanied by one of their two grandchildren, a darling little girl who probably couldn't tell you what excited her most about the trip... seeing her grandparents or the Appaloosa gelding she had to leave behind several months earlier when she returned to the Sunshine State at the end of summer vacation.

Whether the horse actually remembered her, I couldn't tell you, but I'm sure that in the mind of the little girl her valiant steed not only remembered her but also loved and cherished her in return. After hugging and petting the animal, scratching its muzzle and stroking its mane, the little girl halted the gelding and led him around his paddock, ignoring the frigid winter temperatures that were so different from those back home.

After awhile it was time to feed the animal. She did this just as she had during the summer when her grandparents presented the horse to the novice rider. However, before she went back into the house her grandfather reminded her to make sure the water tank didn't need re-filling. Just a few seconds later, the youngster rushed to her grandfather with panic in her eyes. "Grandfather," she said, "the water tank is full of broken glass!"

Puzzled, the grandfather allowed her to lead him back to the paddock, where he found the thick layer of ice on the water tank had been shattered during the night by the thirsty horse.

It's easy for me to picture the event above because I know the people involved, but can you imagine how startling it really must have been to this youngster who's encounters with ice had previously been in a glass or freezer?

As fallible human beings, we have to understand that the way we see or perceive things is often tainted by our wants and desires and also our experiences.

Many years ago, the Bible tells us about the prophet Samuel delivering a message to King Saul in the 15th Chapter of 1 Samuel.

God had instructed the Israelites under King Saul to attach and utterly destroy the Amalekites "and everything that belongs to them." However, Saul and his army disobeyed. While they destroyed the Amalekites, and took their king hostage, the Bible says, "But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs — everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed." — 1 Samuel 15:9, NIV.

When Samuel confronted Saul with his disobedience, Saul explained that the best of the Amalekite's livestock were spared for sacrifice to God. Of course, there are some who say that Saul's expressed intention of honoring God with a sacrifice was an afterthought, specifically after being caught with his hand in the "cookie jar," but it really doesn't matter if he intended to keep some of the wealth or not. The fact is that he'd disobeyed God.

"Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord?" Samuel asked in verse 22 of the same chapter. "To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams."

Like the little girl and the horse trough, it doesn't matter what our "earthly experience" has taught us. If we're not doing our best to look at situations through God's eyes, as explained to mankind through his holy word and interrupted through by the Holy Spirit, than whatever we think we perceive is wrong.

There are many who have allowed their experiences, desires and society to lead them away from the God-inspired truth of his word. They tend to forget that God is omnipotent... and omniscient. They forget that God knows not only what is in our hearts, but also what is in our future. If God had wanted his word interpreted with a "more modern view," wouldn't his word have reflected it in such a way from the beginning?

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Sunday, May 1st 1:30-5:00

Saturday, May 14th 9:00-5:00
Sunday, May 15th 1:30-5:00

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This is a partial list of items in first sale. Watch your paper for a list of items to be sold in the May 14th and 15th sale.

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Notice to Citizens of Muleshoe Area Hospital District

The Muleshoe Area Hospital District is hereby serving notice that the Position 2 seat on the Board of Directors is vacant and that the board is legally responsible for appointing a qualified person to fill the vacancy.

Qualifications to serve are: 1) the person live in the hospital district, and 2) the person is a registered voter. Consequently, the board is seeking an expression of interest from any qualified citizen in the district who would like to be considered for appointment to fill the vacant Position 2 seat.

The term is for two (2) years. There is no pay for board service. Those interested should send their name, address, voter registration number, and declaration of intent to be considered for appointment to fill the Position 2 vacant seat on the board to Board of Directors, Muleshoe Area Hospital District, 708 South First Street, Muleshoe, Texas 79347.

Declarations will be accepted by mail, or by hand delivery to Administration, Muleshoe Area Medical Center, until the close of business on Monday, May 10, 2005.

It would also be helpful to the board in their consideration if each applicant might include any personal and/or professional information reflecting the applicant's interest in board service.



Fancy footwork at the senior center

Photo by Larry Thornton

Muleshoe residents joined in for a little fancy footwork at the Oneita Wagnon Senior Center Friday as Rosalee Musgrave of Lubbock's line dancers demonstrated that a combination of a pretty tune and a snappy step were both fun and great exercise. Turn to page 14 for Senior Citizens News.

Commissioners authorize TPDC contract

The Bailey County Commissioners Court authorized Judge Sherri Harrison to sign a contract with an inmate procurement company during Monday's special meeting.

Sheriff Richard Wills appeared before the court Monday to report that the county jail population had improved lately, with more than 40 beds occupied by prisoners from Lubbock, but also recommended the county contract with Texas and Pulse Diversified Consultants, Inc.

The sheriff explained the company is sort of an "inmate headhunter," which is only paid if the company locates a jail facility that needs to place prisoners at another facility.

"He's only paid if he finds the inmates to fill the beds," the sheriff said.

The company, which will receive 10 percent of the

prisoner housing costs, has previously done business with jail facilities to the south of Bailey County, and reportedly also has contacts with the U.S. Marshal's office, which could also benefit the county.

Judge Harrison agreed with the sheriff's recommendation, noting that the contract supplied by the procurement company

would fill a gap that's currently not being filled.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved a resolution replacing former Judge Marilyn Cox as the county's Tex Pool representative with Judge Harrison.

- Approved the disposition of county salvage property that didn't receive a bid at the recent auction.

Ag Notes

Twenty-nine percent of agricultural producers in 2002 were women.

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Thank You!

Words aren't enough to thank the many people responsible for making the 55th Annual Chamber Banquet a success, but we hope this recognition in some small way serves to let each and every one of you know just how much your support is appreciated. We've tried to include everyone involved but so much goes on in such a short amount of time that mistakes can happen. If your name has been inadvertently left off, please understand that we do appreciate you. We look forward to next year and wish everyone a very successful 2005!

Donor (# of items donated)	Winner	Donor (# of items donated)	Winner	Donor (# of items donated)	Winner
Alco Store	Dewey Moore	United Supermarkets (7)	Garry Shipman	Burriss Collision Center (3)	Leah Bell
Antiques & Fine Things	Kay Mardis		Sherri Harrison		George Nieman
Art Loft	Jimmie Kay Moore		Jimmie Kay Moore		Muleshoe CoFC
Five Area Cooperative & West Plains			Hugo Vasquez	Muleshoe Valley Inc.	Jason Box
Telecommunications	Hugo Vasquez		Rose Sain	Burton Service Center	Muleshoe CoFC
Fry & Cox	Leah Bell		Amy King	Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture (4)	Pat Young
Carolyn's	Ronald Scott	Williams General Store (2)	Stacy M. Thompson		Melody Hettinga
The Connection Warehouse	Kenneth Henry		Bobbie Harrison		Melody Hettinga
Decorators Floral and Gifts	Ronnie Holt		Wanda Hooten		
Dale Oil Co.	Dawn Williams	Western Drug & Something Special Gifts (6)			
Higginbotham-Bartlett Co.	Jeff Boehning		Sherri Harrison		
Lambert Cleaners (2)	Rose Sain		Jimmie Kay Moore		
	Phil Kent		Larry Ayers		
Leal's Restaurant (2)	Pete & Melody Hettinga		Sherri Harrison		
	Dawn Williams		Sharon Grant		
Muleshoe Animal Clinic (3)	Wanda Hooten	Sheree's Attic (2)	Sally Messenger		
	Sherri Harrison		Janice Bradshaw		
	Wanda Hooten	Poppy's Copies	Ronda Box		
Muleshoe Tire Co.	Gene Sheets	Lasting Impressions	Tisha Boehning		
Muleshoe Journal (4)	Sherri Harrison	Leah Bell (3)	Yolanda Vasquez		
	Jeri Chapman		Carolyn Johnson		
	Lary Hooten	Adrian Photography (2)	Muleshoe CoFC		
	Melody Hettinga		Carolyn Johnson		
Mohawk Auto Parts (2)	Stacy M. Thompson	Ana's House of Beauty	Pete Hettinga		
	Jay Messenger	Complete Feed & Seed	Bode Box		
Muleshoe Motor Co. (2)	Rodger Buhrman	Donut Hole	Steve Phillips		
	Joe Bob Stevenson	Family Hair Salon	Lary Hooten		
The Honey Comb	Bailey Bales		Hal Wood by Lary Hooten		
Muleshoe Metal Art	Sharon Bills	Dent & Co.	Gene Sheets		
Movie Gallery (2)	Cindy Davidson	Sonic/McDonald's (6)	Cindy Davidson		
		Discovery Toys (A. Young)	Jordan Pool		
		Earl Ladd & Sons			
		Hugo Vasquez			
		Construction/Lumber	Terral King		

Speakers
Chief of Police Don Carter
Bailey Co Sheriff Richard Wills
Volunteer Fireman J'Don Kube
EMS Director Chris Thompson (No "J")
Local U.S. Marine Eddie Alvarado

Others
• Volunteer students from Muleshoe Jr High who helped serve
• Cooks, decorators and cleanup crew
• Five Area Telephone for letting us use their sound system, cooker and extra tables
• MISD and Aramark for the facilities and equipment
• United Supermarkets for helping with food and volunteers
• Muleshoe Journal for the wonderful insert and program
• Mike Jones for your help in many ways

Congratulations to the winners of the annual banquet awards - Kenneth Henry, Dawn Williams, Wilson Drilling Co., Leon Seales & the Don Bryant family.

Chamber News

By Leah Bell

July 4th activities and feedback about the annual banquet held on April 16 were the main topics discussed by board members at last week's Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture regular monthly meeting.

Attending were Heather Foley, Tadd Young, Jan Thompson, Jim Ella Clemmons, Freddy Santos, Carolyn Johnson, Jake Davis, Noelia Flores, Stacy M. Thompson, Mark Beard, Jeff Coffman, Leah Bell and Terral King.

The meeting opened with a special presentation from Five Area Telephone Cooperative General Manager Sandy Vandevender who proposed making the chamber building and deck a "WI-FI hotspot," which means making the location a source of free Internet for those who have wireless laptop connections. According to Vandevender, the

connection would be good for "up to so many feet" depending on how much power its allocated and would give people passing through Muleshoe a reason to stop — to check Emails and visit the chamber and other local Websites. In return, all that is asked of the chamber is to use the opportunity to say the service is being donated by Five Area Telephone.

The Board later voted to approve making the chamber a "WI-FI hotspot." Young, who works as an Internet technician for Five Area, will have the initial "hotspot" service ready for testing within a few weeks.

In other business, no finalized financial report or manager's report was available.

Foley asked for feedback from the banquet. Most board members expressed they had heard positive comments from the public about the banquet. Only two negative comments

were reported: length of time and steaks too big (or not cooked to preference). Board members will next year remind everyone before the meal that food not cooked to a specific taste can be "traded in."

Other items discussed included moving all portions of the event to one location, either in the cafeteria or at the civic center.

Santos volunteered to chair the banquet committee for 2006 and plans will soon be under way.

The chamber newsletter has undergone some design and content changes. Stacy Thompson updated the group about those changes.

Board members will soon begin a "Membership Drive" to be chaired by Stacy Thompson. Members will be contacting the community in the next few months.

July 4th in Muleshoe already has a theme — Fun In Muleshoe On The Fourth!

Finalized at last week's meeting were plans for the parade route (down Main Street to US Hwy. 84, left on Hwy. 84 to Hwy. 214, left on Hwy. 214 past the courthouse), entertainment by the Fun Bros. and a mariachi band, all events centralized to downtown including vendors and other activities, brisket cookoff on the chamber lot, carnival at the new city park and an increased fireworks budget.

Representatives from the Fun Bros., mariachi band and the carnival will be contacted this week to finalize dates and times.

Anyone interested in having a booth set up on Main Street for July 4 should contact

Carolyn Johnson at 272-5911 or Jim Ella Clemmons at 272-4726.

The Carrying On Committee of the chamber will be running this year's softball tournament at the new city park.

Saturday, July 2 will feature co-ed play and men only will take the field Sunday, July 3. All finals will be played on Monday, July 4.

Other tournament plans haven't been finalized as of yet, but teams interested in playing should contact Stacy M. Thompson at 272-3652 for more details.

Those interested in being a food vendor at the new city park on July 4 should also contact Stacy Thompson. No outside vendors will be allowed to set up at the park July 2-3, but the chamber concession stand will be open.

Board members present set up a work day to clean the chamber deck and flowerbeds and have decided to hire

someone to continue their upkeep. Charles Harvey will be contacted as he has shown interest in doing the job.

At this time, the Employee and Business of the Month were chosen and the meeting adjourned.

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Education



April 11 Students of the Week
The Watson Junior High School Students of the Week for the week of April 11 are, from left to right: Front row — Breann Baca, Brooke Lennon and Maria Quintanilla; back row — Alonso Salcido, John Michael Salinas and Cristian Godinez.



April 25 Students of the Week
The Watson Junior High School Students of the Week for the week of April 25 are, from left to right: Front row — Marshal Head, Anabela Regalado and Sylvester Daniel; back row — Maribel Tafolla, Marisela Casanova and Guadalupe Hernandez.

Bridal Selections For

Brandi Whalin
of Muleshoe
bride elect of
Steve Miller
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Remember, even a small amount, when pooled with others, can make a difference.

OUR GOAL IS TO RAISE \$20,000 BY MAY 27, 2005

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of C.J. FEAGLEY, Deceased, were issued on March 28, 2005, in Cause No. 2387, pending in the County Court of Bailey County, Texas, to: SAM E. FEAGLEY. All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: **JOHNNY ACTKINSON** Attorney at Law P.O. Box 286 Farwell, Texas 79325. *Published in the Muleshoe Journal April 28, 2005.*

PUBLIC NOTICE

Muleshoe ISD is now accepting applications for a secretary to work at the Watson Junior High Campus. Persons interested in this position should contact Jean Richardson, superintendent's secretary for an application. *Published in the Muleshoe Journal April 28, 2005.*

TRUCKS FOR SALE

For Sale - 1977 Ford F-150 Supercab pickup with top. Also, a 1980 Ford 4 door Crown Victoria. 806-647-5517.

TRUCK FOR SALE - 1991 Peterbilt tractor and hopper bottom trailer. Call Cory Langford at 806-647-4633.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ARLINE B/ PHELPS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ARLINE B. PHELPS, Deceased, were issued on April 8, 2005, in Cause No. 2384 pending in the County Court of Bailey County, Texas, to: ANN CAMPBELL, R E B E C C A SRYGLEY, MATTHEW BERNARD PHELPS The addresses of such persons are: 5806 Mt. Rockwood Circle Waco, Texas 76710, 4552 Westchester Waco, Texas 76710, 201 CR 138 Hutto, Texas 78634 persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. *Published in the Muleshoe Journal April 28, 2005.*

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Tractor For Sale: JD 4020 LP, no cab, dual hydraulics, starts & runs good. Call 285-3006.

For Sale: Two 9 x 7 wooden garage doors with windows and openers. All hardware included. Call 806-638-5491.

Misc.
Want to purchase mineral and other oil/gas interests. Send details to: PO Box 13557, Denver, CO 80201.

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Location: Cochran County, Texas

Description: 720 Acres, More or Less.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will sell at a Trustee's Foreclosure Sale to the highest bidder or bidders, for cash, at the East Door and foyer of the courthouse in Morton, Cochran County, Texas, on Tuesday May 3, 2005, at 10 am. FSA's minimum bid is \$173,134. For specific information contact the FSA Farm Loan Manager, Vanessa J. Studdard, 703 Ave I, Levelland, TX 79336 at 806-894-9683, or visit the website: <http://www.resales.usda.gov/>

The USDA Farm Service Agency is an equal opportunity lender and provider. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

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Part time jailers and a part time cook needed. Inquire at Bailey County Sheriffs Office, 405 W 2nd, Muleshoe.

Waitress, cook and dishwashers needed. Part-time and full-time positions available. Apply in person at Dinner Bell Restaurant. No phone calls!

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Let us be your Local News Source call 272-4536

GARAGE SALES

Huge Indoor Garage Sale at Bargain Barn, 216 Main, across from Higginbothams. Open Tues. - Sat., 10 am - 5 pm, Irregular Hours. Clothes, household items, furniture and lots more.

Garage Sale: One mile West of Clay's Corner. Friday, April 29, 9 - 5, Sat., April 30, 9 - 2. Couch, chairs, 2 desks, dishes, lgts of clothes, 1 kids bike.

YARD SALE

Yard Sale: 1610 W Ave D., Saturday, April 30, 8:00 am - ???, Dishwasher, bed & linens and other items to numerous to mention.

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BEDDING PLANTS Local grown at **Kress Tyler Roses** DVJ Greenhouse Hwy 84, Farwell 505-760-9570

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3BR/2-1/2 BA/2 Car GA. Brick home, 603 4th St., Earth, TX. Well kept home boasting great floorplan w/ roomy kitchen, cozy den, workshop and cement storm cellar. Only 1 block from pool.

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- Lot for Sale - 67 x 122 Parkridge Addition.
- New Listing: Nice 3 bedroom, 1 3/4 bathroom, Cent. H&A. large livingroom with wood burning stove, single car garage, carport, storage building, fenced back yard, all on corner lot.

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For Sale: 318 E. Elm, 3 bedroom, 2 bath House, Completely furnished, 2800 sq. feet, fireplace, Cent. H&A, carport, storage shed, fenced backyard, pecan trees. Call Day 272-4703 or evenings 272-4064.

Moving! Need to sell a 3 BR/2 bath 18x80 1999 Clayton mobile home. Call 806-773-2254.

House for Sale: 302 E. Date, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, LR, Den, 20 X 20 workshop, 1500 sq. ft. Updated. Call 272-4423.

House for Sale: on approx. 2 acres, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage, 2 room & bath guest house, large shop building and storm cellar. Call 806-946-3633 or 806-946-8283.

For Classifieds, Call Yolanda at 272-4536!

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- VERY NICE 3-2 1/2-2 Brick Home, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, 2272' lv. area, basement, splkr. sys., 2 stor. bldgs. MUCH MORE!! Price Reduced!! \$155K!! HL-2

LENAU - COUNTRY CLUB AREA

- 2-1-2 carport Home, floor furn, heat, win. evap. air, stor. bldg., fenced yd.!! MORE !! \$33.5K !! L-1
- 3-2-1 Home, floor & wall furn. heat, win. air, built-ins, FP, fans, 1424' lv. area, cov. patio, fenced yd.!! \$49.5K!! L-2
- 3-2 Brick Home, Cent. A&H, metal roof, soffit, & fascia, storm win. & doors, stor. bldg., fenced yd., corner lot!! \$41.5K!! CC-1

HIGH SCHOOL AREA

- 3-1-1 carport home, crn lot, cent. A&H, therm win & drs, metal trim. More!! \$47K!! HS-8
- REMODELED 3-2-5-2 Home, Cent. A&H, built-ins, gas FP, fans, parkway flooring, 1852' lv. area, fenced yd. Stor. Bldg.!! \$69.5K!! HS-1
- VERY NICE 3-2-2 Brick, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, fans, thermal windows, IN CONTRACT grill, privacy fence, workshop/storage!! MORE !! \$69.9K!! HS-2

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• VERY NICE 2300' bldg., cent. A&H, 175' frontage on Hwy. 84 & 70!! MUCH MORE!! PRICE REDUCED \$72.5K !!

• GREAT BUSINESS LOCATION - 19,360' building, paved parking, 3.44 acres, Hwy. 84/70 !! LET'S LOOK TODAY!!

• 4.2 acre tract at edge of town, 40' x 60' metal insulated bldg., 2 other sheetrock bldgs., chain link fenced area, numerous uses!! \$59,500!!

• SUDAN-NICE 3-2-5-2 Brick Home, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, 3200' LV area, cov. patio, 2 stor. bldgs. MORE!!! \$95K!!

RURAL

- S. OF FARWELL - 4-3-2 Brick Home, 69.6 acre tract, cent. A&H, built - ins, 4560' lv. area, 350' basement w/ vault, 2940' garage/workshop, 2000' loft over garage, 6' well, barns, & corral!! MORE!! \$339K!!
- CIRCLEBACK - 174.54 acres, FM 298, good productive farm, lays well!! REASONABLY PRICED!!
- 4Bdrm. 2 bath on 8.7 acres at edge of town, Cent. A&H, DW, workshop/storage, stock shed/pens!!
- PRICE REDUCED - 108 acres or 7 acre tract on Hwy. 70, approx. 2100' off area, 16,900' comm bldg. w/loading dock, 3,400' warehouse, new well, 2,800' runway!!!
- 3-2-2 Brick Home on 5.67 acres, approx. 2647' lv. area, Cent. A&H, DW, FP, 7 fans, jacuzzi, horse barn, sod house, workshop/storage, other bldgs., MORE!! \$150K!!

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- **Lamb County** - 1077 acres, 13 wells, 9 center pivots, soils suitable for peanuts and potatoes. Nice home, shop and other out-buildings.
- **Parmer-Castro Co. Line Near Lazbuddie** - 320 acres, 2 sprinklers, 2 wells. Good livestock farm.
- **Bailey County** - 361 acres on pavement, 2 circles, 4 wells, 235 all-imp. bldgs, 64 acres of C.R.P. Good set of working pens. A GOOD LIVESTOCK FARM! \$450 per acre.
- **Parmer County - Lazbuddie Area** - 1,595 acres, 3 half-miles of electric wells, good allotments, best soil.
- **Earth Area** - 125 Acres, center pivot with 2 wells. Lays good. Good soil.
- **Southeastern Bailey County** - Near Lamb, Hockley, Cochran County lines. 357 Acres 2 Sprinklers, 7 Wells, allotments. Excellent livestock place.
- **Bailey County** - 300 Acres of C.R.P. Good stand of grass. 3 payments left. Nice rate of return on investment.

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Senior Citizen News

On Tuesday, April 19, a group from the South Plains Association of Governments of Lubbock came to view the Oneita Wagnon Senior Center and have lunch and a program with the seniors.

Included were Pete Lara, director of SPAG, his secretary, and Chris Ramirez, specialist. Attending also were members of the Advisory Board of the Area Agency on Aging from other senior centers.

During the program, Ann McElroy talked about securing grants, Kenneth Henry spoke of the successful Area Pioneer

Project and Amelia Madrid spoke on reaching all of our senior citizens with an invitation to our center.

Nelda Merriott talked about the various fundraisers of the past year, all of which were well supported by the community, and other events of interest at the center.

The Senior Citizen Dance, held every Tuesday at 7 p.m., is a relaxing night out for the seniors. Sandy Vandevender, our favorite disc jockey, spins old two-steps and waltzes that set toes to tapping. Everyone catches up on visiting while enjoying the pot luck supper.

One man remarked, "I'm raising my grandkids and I need this night out."

All seniors are welcome and we especially appreciate those folks who drive 30 to 70 miles to attend this weekly event.

The senior citizens ask everyone to mark their calendars for the big pancake breakfast on Saturday, May 14. Join us for breakfast, view the Area Pioneer Project and look at the progress being made at the senior center.

Good news for those senior citizens who are early risers. The senior center is now opening at 7:30 a.m. You may walk, use our

exercise bikes or treadmills, or exercise to the video "Walk Away the Pounds." And the coffee pot is always on.

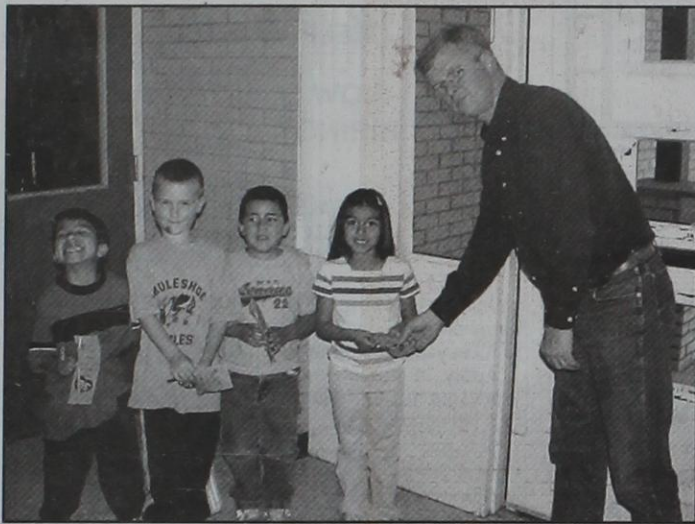
This week's menu is: Monday, May 2 — Mexican beef and potato stew, mixed vegetables and pina colada pudding.

Tuesday, May 3 — Meatloaf with tomato sauce, mashed potatoes, zucchini, coleslaw, cornbread and dry Jello® salad.

Wednesday, May 4 — Beef enchiladas, Mexican corn, pinto beans, tossed salad with 1,000 island dressing and angel food

Thursday, May 5 — Pepper steak, rice, peas and carrots, hot roll and pumpkin pie.

Friday, May 6 — Crispy fish, oven-fried potatoes, spinach, coleslaw, cornbread and cookies.



'Project Texas Children'

The Bailey County Welfare Board recently distributed "Project Texas Children" tags to children at Dillman Elementary. Pictured on the right, Earl Behrends of the welfare board presents, from left to right, a very happy Nikolas DeLeon, Dagen Dunham, Donovan Gutierrez and Desiree Gutierrez with the ribbons.

Cowley joins Castro County Sheriff's Office

By Davie A. Browder
Castro County News

Matt Cowley said he couldn't think of a better place than Castro County to start his career in law enforcement.

A native of Earth, Cowley, now in his mid-20s, said he has a lot of relatives in this area, "so it's not like moving to a new town where you don't know anybody," he said.

Cowley is the son of Janis Morrison of Muleshoe.

"I know a lot of people around here and because of that, this was my first choice as a place to work."

Cowley, who's been on the job about a month, said he's been around law enforcement officers much of his life, so he decided he wanted a career in the field and went back to school to get it.

He was hired by Sheriff CD Fitzgearld just days out of the law enforcement academy in Amarillo and is still partnered with other deputies while he learns his way around.

Interacting with the public is the best part of his new job, he said.

"I like helping people," Cowley said. "I've known several people in this business, so I did my best, went back to school and got this job."

"Growing up in Earth, I worked in a body shop and knew a lot of the cops there. I have some friends with that are PD officers here."

That, combined with the nearness of family, and the ways of people in the Panhandle, have combined to make Castro County an easy fit for Cowley.

"This is a totally different environment than a big city," he said. "Everybody chips in to help everybody else. If you need help, there's always someone who's willing to stop and help you."



DEP. MATT COWLEY

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