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Muleshoe Journal



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Muleshoe, Texas

50¢

December 27, 2007

MAHD approves dialysis contract

By Larry Thornton
Managing Editor

The Muleshoe Area Hospital District took the final steps needed to bring a first to Bailey County, West Texas, and the entire Lone Star State Thursday as it approved a contract to establish a dialysis unit at Park View Nursing Care Center.

"This will be one of the best things we've done for Park View," MAHD board president Ronnie Dent said.

Dent also commended Sandy Sandlin, Park View's administrator, for the job he'd done "pulling everything together" on the project.

While the board and MAHD staff commended board member Zona Gatewood for her part, crediting her with the initial idea to bring a dialysis unit to Muleshoe.

MAHD CEO, and Muleshoe Area Medical Center administrator, Ray Mason explained that Gatewood has been encouraging the hospital

district to look at providing such services for the residents of the district.

When it became clear that the hospital lacked the room for a dialysis unit, Mason said, Sandlin's reaction was: "Why not at the nursing home?"

From there, Sandlin made contact with representatives of companies — such as AccessCare Dialysis, LLC, with whom Thursday's contract was approved — that might be interested in placing such a unit at Muleshoe, with the added benefit of providing the service to residents at the local nursing home.

When John Hedrick of AccessCare made a presentation to the hospital board in late November, he said, "There is a business opportunity, and there is a service that needs to be provided... We want to offer access to care for people in their home town.

Hedrick, at that time, pointed out that 70 percent

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Santa returns to Muleshoe

Santa Claus paid another early visit to Muleshoe Thursday, Dec. 20, visiting youngsters at local day cares and various businesses around the Bailey County seat. Pictured above, one of the young ladies at Little Feet, Big Dreams visits briefly with Santa while her classmates anxiously await their turn.

Photograph by Larry Thornton

Business owners face commandment problems

By Larry Thornton
Managing Editor

Exodus 20:15, which says, "you shall not steal," should have a special meaning to the operators of a Christian bookstore.

However, according to information received from the Muleshoe Police Department, the proprietors of such a store that opened recently in Muleshoe apparently haven't read that portion of "the Good Book."

Jeremy L. Samstad, 25, and Jennifer L. Merritt, 23, also reportedly known as Jennifer Samstad, were recently arrested on outstanding warrants from Lubbock County alleging property crimes.

Reportedly, the charges faced by the couple stem from the purchase of a travel trailer and a motor vehicle with "bogus" or insufficient checks.

However, other charges are still pending in regards to a local fraud investigation and similar type activities in New Mexico.

Also, according to Muleshoe Police Chief Brian Frieda, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been contacted about the couple as well, due to similar crimes that may have occurred in other states, including Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Wisconsin and Tennessee.

Reportedly, in August 2007, the couple was allegedly charged with the possession of a stolen tractor-trailer rig in Oneida, Tenn., following the investigation into an insufficient check that Samstad had issued to pay for repairs to the vehicle.

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Hospital board to look at rural health center funding

By Larry Thornton
Managing Editor

The Muleshoe Area Hospital District's board of trustees approved a contract with Consolidated

Financial Resources, Inc., appointing the company as the district's financial advisors, subject to the approval of MAHD's legal advisors, during its regular meeting on Thursday, Dec. 20.

The action came after a presentation by Denise Null of Consolidated Financial Resources of Greenville, and Tom Shirey of CFR.

CFR is a public finance company and financial advisor, said Null. "We bring financing to you," she added.

Ray Mason, MAHD's

CEO and administrator of Muleshoe Area Medical Center, explained that for some time now the hospital district has looked at expanding the medical center which currently houses Dr. Bruce Purdy, that would allow the hospital district to place all of its doctor's under one rural health clinic, allowing a "larger capture" of federal medical payments.

It was noted by MAHD representatives that placing the doctors under the same roof would bring in an estimated \$200,000 per

year in Medicare funds.

According to Mason, the various options the hospital district has considered in the past haven't panned out, and that going with a company such as CFR could be the solution. "I'm pleased that there are more opportunities than we had before," he said.

An estimated \$1.5 million would be needed to expand the clinic, another \$200,000 would be needed for new equipment

During Thursday's presentation, it was pointed out that one of the

possibilities open to the hospital district through CFR involved restructuring the district's capital debt, with the intent of lowering the high interest rates on the bonds issued to fund the construction of Park View Nursing Care Center.

While the board appeared interested in the possibilities that restructuring the nursing home's bond issue would bring, Park View administrator Sandy Sandlin expressed concerns about stretching out the debt service on the nursing

Continued on page 10

Local Weather

Thursday

Pt. Cloudy..... 47/18

Friday

Mt. Sunny..... 47/25

Saturday

Pt. Cloudy..... 53/27

Sunday

Sunny..... 59/28

Monday

Mt. Sunny..... 54/22

Tuesday

Pt. Cloudy..... 45/20

Wednesday

Sunny..... 44/24

Give It
A Thought

The Word became
flesh and made
His dwelling
among us...

John 1:14

Words to ponder from Beverly

Missed your paper?

Call the carrier Bobby Flores at 806-891-3950 (leave a message) or call the Journal at 272-4536, between 8:00 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Santa's Christmas Gift

By Larry Thornton

Part 6 – Conclusion

Robbie stood there in the hallway with an incredulous look on his face. "Yeah, right," he said finally.

The news that this person standing in front of him was an elf just didn't seem believable. Sure, the guy was short, but the elementary was full of "short people."

Sure the guy was dressed in the type of clothing the stories described elves as wearing, but so was Robbie.

And sure, the guy had pointed ears, but... well, that was something Robbie was going to have to give some more thought.

A hurt expression covered Sandy's face.

"You don't believe in elves?" he asked Robbie.

"Well, no, not really."

"And you probable don't believe in Santa Claus either," he added.

Robbie shook his head. "Robbie, shouldn't you be in the auditorium with the other kids?" asked Mr. Angleton as he walked down the hall.

"We were just talking for a moment," Robbie said.

"We?" asked the principal.

"Yeah, Sandy and me."

"Sandy who?" Robbie gestured toward Sandy, or rather where Sandy was just a moment earlier.

"Sandy... Sandy... there is no Sandy," Robbie mumbled in a bewildered tone.



"Apparently," Mr. Angleton said, an expression of concern on his face. "Are you feeling okay?"

Robbie nodded slowly as he looked around for the elf. "I guess I'd better get changed and get into the auditorium," he said softly.

"Yes, that's probably

best," said the principal as he continued down the hall toward his office.

As Robbie turned and walked the rest of the way to the restroom, he glanced into the classrooms he passed but didn't see anyone, or anything indicating Sandy had fled inside.

When he reached the restroom, he slowly peeked around the corner, expecting... no, hoping to see the "elf," and have the assurance that this new acquaintance had somehow been able to dart inside unseen by the principal.

Nothing. The restroom, and the stalls, were empty except for Robbie's backpack. What was even worse, his clothes and shoes were missing also.

* * * * *

At the airport, the police escorted Janus from the patrol car through a side door, but left the wolf secured in the back of the other vehicle.

"Stand right there, and empty your pockets," the officer behind Janus said.

Not knowing what else to do, Janus complied with the instructions, dragging the normal assortment of "elf gadgets and gizmos" from his pockets: A multi-function pocket tool that would make the owner of a Swiss Army knife envious; a Swiss Army knife that would make the owner of the multi-function pocket

Continued on page 3



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Adult Learning Center closed

Muleshoe's Adult Learning Center, in the WorkSource office, 203 S. Main, will be closed from Dec. 20 through Jan. 8.

FBC blood drive

The First Baptist Church of Muleshoe, 220 W. Ave. E, will be hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, Jan. 9, from 3-6:15 p.m.

Call Donna at 272-5125 to make an appointment to donate. You must be 17 years of old, in good health, and have a picture ID to donate.

Nursing home volunteer training

South Plains Association of Governments' Area Agency on Aging will hold an orientation on Friday, Jan. 11, for nursing home volunteer advocates. The special session will be from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at 1323 58th St., Lubbock.

Individuals must be willing to attend several classes of comprehensive training in a three month period. Training emphasis is on advocacy for long-term care residents; advocates will learn the importance for quality of care and life through a program called the Ombudsman.

Volunteers must commit to weekly visits and submit monthly reports. All volunteers will receive liability insurance coverage; also, mileage reimbursement is available for anyone traveling from out of town for trainings. Volunteers are especially needed at several nursing facilities in 12 surrounding counties of the region as well as in Lubbock.

Special training sessions will be scheduled in communities throughout the next year. Call the Area Agency on Aging at 687-0940 or 1-888-418-6564 to pre-register or to receive more information.

Alzheimer's disease support group

The Bailey County Alzheimer's Disease Support Group will be meeting on Thursday, Jan. 10, at noon, at Park View Nursing Home. Steve Friskup, pastor of Muleshoe Cowboy Fellowship, will present the program. Lunch will be served.

For more information contact Debbie Crabtree, Bailey County Aging Services, 272-3647, or Mandi Seaton, Bailey County extension agent — Family and Consumer Sciences, 272-4583.

Bailey County USDA begins making diasaster payments to farmers

Bailey County Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Executive Director Kim Hanlin recently said that FSA has been authorized to immediately begin making disaster payments.

"These payments are for approved Crop Disaster, Livestock Compensation, and Livestock Indemnity Program applications," said Hanlin, Bailey County executive director. "Payments made in Texas represent a portion of nearly \$1 billion dollars in disaster assistance to be issued through FSA nationwide, to date."

The Livestock Compensation Program 2005-2007 (LCP) provides benefits to livestock producers in designated disaster counties who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed

costs directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, including losses resulting from blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007.

The Livestock Indemnity Program 2005-2007 (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers in designated disaster counties for livestock deaths caused by natural disasters that occurred between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, including losses because of blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007.

The Crop Disaster Program (COP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered losses to the 2005-2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions so long as the actual crop lost was planted or prevented from being planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year for which to receive benefits and may receive benefits for multiple crop losses if all were in the same crop year.

Sign-up for LIP and LCP began on Sept. 10, 2007 and sign-up for COP began on Oct. 15, 2007; no sign-up deadlines for these disaster assistance programs have been set. For more information about disaster payments, contact the Name County FSA at Phone or visit the national FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Kindle refiles for Precinct 3

Joey Kindle, incumbent Precinct 3 Commissioner, announced Friday, Dec. 21, that he has refiled for his seat as a Democrat.

The county election slate for 2008 includes the positions of Precinct 1 Commissioner, Precinct 3 Commissioner, County Tax Assessor, Sheriff, County Attorney, District Attorney and Constable.

Previously, the only individuals to file were incumbent Floyd "Butch" Vandiver, who refiled for Precinct 1 Commissioner; incumbent Melba Clark who refiled for County Tax Assessor; and who has filed for Jeanine Backus for County Attorney.

Individuals have until Jan. 3 to file for the county positions.



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Honors



Officers honored

Muleshoe Police Chief Brian Frieda presented commendations for meritorious service to Sgt. Shane Kirk, pictured above on the left, and Lt. Benny Parker, on the right, for efforts performed at the house fire on Aug. 15. The commendations were presented at the police department Christmas party.



Citizens honored

Police Chief Brian Frieda, pictured above on the left, presented Mike and Terri Hahn of Muleshoe with a community service award for their efforts in assisting the Muleshoe Police Department and the FBI in the investigation of a non-custodial kidnapping in Muleshoe. The award was presented at the Christmas party of the police department.

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Santa's Christmas Gift... continued from page 1

tool envious; a ball of heavy twine for tying; a neck scarf for cold days up north; a roll of red and green Christmas ribbon, and a large bow made from the same ribbon; a foot tall doll in a pink dress that needed the eyebrow over its left eye repainted; a train car that needed a wheel replaced before it could be approved for packaging; a small puppy collar... the pile of items on the desk kept growing and growing, and the eyes of the officer kept getting bigger and bigger.

"I thought you searched him before you put him in the patrol car," the sergeant said as he watched Janus lay a little-league baseball bat on top of the other items that had already been placed on the desk.

"I thought I did also," said the officer. "I patted him down and didn't feel a thing."

As Janus pulled the last object out of his left pocket — a small golden Christmas ornament, he gave a sigh of relief. "Finally," he said.

"How did you get all this stuff in your pockets?" the sergeant asked the prisoner.

"Like this," Janus said, closing his fist tighter around the Christmas ornament he suddenly disappeared.

"Where'd he go!" the officer and his sergeant shouted, almost in unison.

Distracted as they looked around, and under the desk, the police officers didn't see the door open and then close.

Out in the hall, Janus kept the magical ornament clutched tightly in his fist as he hurried toward the exit door.

Just before he reached the door, it opened, allowing two other police officers deep in discussion to enter and pass the elf without seeing him.

Janus darted through the door before it could swing shut.

Once more in the cold sunshine of the afternoon, Janus looked around and was about to flee, when he suddenly stopped and turned around. There, parked just behind the car which brought the elf to the security office was the patrol car with the wolf locked in the back seat.

For a moment, Janus considered turning again and running, but for what may have been the first time ever, he thought about someone else other than himself.

"He's just a wolf," he said to himself. "He can get away." But down deep inside, Janus knew this wasn't so. He knew one of the humans' dog pounds would be the best the wolf could hope for, and Janus couldn't even imagine what would happen to the wolf if the humans learned he could talk.

Slowly, at first and then with increased speed because he wasn't certain how much longer the magic from the charmed Christmas ornament would keep him invisible, Jan ran toward the patrol care imprisoning the wolf.

When he opened the door, the wolf turned his head toward the opening and sniffed. Even though he couldn't see the elf, he could smell his presence.

"Thanks," the wolf said as he leaped from the car.

Normally a very patient goose, Elwood became increasingly impatient as he awaited the return of Sandy from whatever chore he'd gone off on. He paddled over toward the shore, where several Canadian geese had congregated, but they apparently were nervous at his large size and took to the air complaining loudly.

"Thilly birdth," he muttered to himself before turning and paddling back out to the center of the lake. "Thethe thity birdth are thcare of their own thadowth."

A little while later, Elwood took to the air, circling first over the lake and the park, and then sailing high over the city itself.

Far below, the normal daytime activities of the city were taking place as the humans did whatever it was that humans living far from the North Pole did. Although Elwood didn't have the eyesight of an eagle, he was certain that life in the city, wasn't for him.

He sailed along, dipping down occasionally to get a better look at something he'd seen from overhead before climbing back into the sky with great sweeps of his wings.

After flying for about an hour, Elwood saw a familiar figure walking along a street.

"There you are, Marvin," the snow goose said as he pulled his wings in and landed in front of Sandy, only... it wasn't Sandy. It was a kid... a rather wide-eyed kid at that, dressed in clothes similar to the elf's and carrying a backpack.

And if the look of fear that was on the kid's face could have gotten any worse than at nearly being landed on by an absolutely humongous snow-white goose, it did when the goose said, "You're not Marvin."

If he had been just a little less frightened, Robbie might have dropped his backpack and ran away, but it was as if his feet were frozen into place, his knees locked in place. "Who's Marvin?" was all Robbie could do or say.

"Marvin, the elf," the enormous goose replied. "He'th thort like you, and ith wearing clotheth like you." "You mean... Sandy?" "Thath him, Marvin the elf," said Elwood.

Robbie, for the first time in his life looking up at the head of a goose who was not only towering above him but also speaking, shook his head. "I don't know. He disappeared, and took my clothes."

"Why did he do that? Weren't you wearing them?" asked the goose.

"Uh, no. I was wearing these."

"You took Marvin'th clothes?"

"No, these just look like his clothes."

The goose looked at Robbie for a long pause before slowly nodding his head in understanding. "Then where'th Marvin?"

Before Robbie could try to answer the question, Sandy the elf, panting heavily as if he'd been running for several blocks distance, suddenly appeared next to Elwood and Robbie. "Here I am," he said.

Both Robbie and the goose turned to look at Sandy. If the goose was surprised by the elf's sudden appearance, he didn't show it. As for Robbie, as strange as the day afternoon was going, it somehow made sense that an "elf" who could disappear in thin air should be able to materialize in the same fashion.

"I thought I told you to wait for me at the lake?" the elf said to the goose, a touch of irritation in his voice.

"I got bored waiting," said the goose.

"Well, next time..." Sandy started to say.

"Where's my clothes?" asked Robbie.

Sandy looked over at the boy with a puzzled expression on his face. "I don't have you clothes," he said.

"Well, who could have taken them?" Before Robbie had even finished the question, however, he already had the answer.

Mike Brown. It was just the type of trick the school bully would play, and if it wasn't for his meeting Sandy, followed by Sandy's disappearance a few minutes later, Robbie would have immediately realized what happened to the clothes.

"Personally, I think you look pretty good," the elf offered.

"You would," Robbie shot back at him, forgetting for a second that he was arguing with a "mythical" creature who was standing next to an "impossible" creature.

Robbie suddenly paused for a moment before saying anything else. "I saw you two in Holloway Park the other night!"

Sandy shrugged. "Could be."

"And you disappeared than also."

"Uhh?" asked Sandy.

"In the park. You were gone when my family returned to the park," said Robbie.

"Oh, that. We just went over into the trees. I thought you meant I disappeared like at the school when the adult came down the hall."

"Right... how'd you do that?"

Sandy held up a small gold Christmas ornament. "We carry these in case we need to hide quickly," the elf said. "Speaking of which, we need to get out of here before too many others see us."

Turning to the goose, Sandy said, "Elwood, meet us back at the saddle."

With a large nod of his head, the large goose turned and dashed down the street, flapping his wings until he finally got airborne.

Then, as the goose climbed steadily into the sky, the elf turned back to Robbie, and said, "Where can we go to talk?"

A few minutes later, the elf-attired pair arrived at the Jeffers home.

"Mom, I'm home," Robbie called as usual upon entering the house.

"Hello, dear," she called back from another room.

"Mom, this is Sandy, we'll be up in my room... going over our lines for the play."

"That's fine, Robbie," Mrs. Jeffers said as she came to door from the living room. "Hello, Sandy, have we met before?"

"Uh, no, maam," said the elf. "I've only been here a short time."

Robbie's mother smiled before returning to whatever she was doing elsewhere in the house. "Those are cute costumes, boys," she said. "Very believable. Robbie, there are snacks in the refrigerator."

"Thanks, Mom," Robbie said. "Maybe in a little while."

Once they were in his room, Robbie turned toward Sandy with an expectant look on his face.

Understanding that this was his time to speak, Sandy blurted out, "I need you to go back to the North Pole with me."

In what appeared to be a new habit of late, Robbie's mouth dropped open.

"It won't take long," said Sandy. "Just a day or two, then I'll have you back here."

"Why?" asked Robbie.

Sandy explained the problem with the gift for Santa and the Winter Festival.

"I'm still not sure I believe you're an elf, I know I don't believe in Santa Claus and his flying reindeer," said Robbie.

Sandy nodded in understanding. "You're right. You've obviously been dealing a lot with adults my size, with pointed ears, who can disappear at will, and fly around on giant geese."

"I see you're point," said Robbie. "But even if you are an elf, that doesn't mean Santa exists also."

"If seeing is believing, than why not go with me to the North Pole?"

"...And you still haven't explained how my going to the North Pole will help you give a gift to Santa Claus, if he does exist," Robbie continued.

Sandy gave a deep sigh, collecting his thoughts, and said, "The biggest concern of Santa's is that people, children actually, will stop believing. I figure if I can bring him a kid who no longer believes in him, but

who can believe again it'll be the greatest present ever."

It had finally come out, the reason for Sandy's trip to the south, everything. And now for the first time, with the explanation bouncing

around between Robbie's ears, Sandy realized the problems with his plan, and maybe why Santa hadn't taken such steps himself.

"If it's as simple as that," Robbie said even as

Continued on page 5

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Christians Can Celebrate With Deep and Genuine Joy

I hope you're having a great Christmas. If our hearts are really prepared for it, it can be such a wonderful time.

I know. A lot about the way our society "celebrates" Christmas is nothing to celebrate. In fact, as Andrew Greeley writes, some aspects of the sometimes-not-so-holy "holy-day" might make us tempted to run from the whole thing:

"It might be easy to run away to a monastery, away

"Of course," Lewis writes, "the time will come when such a child can no longer effortlessly and spontaneously enjoy that unity." One day, Lewis says, the child will realize that the spiritual aspects of Easter are different from the festive aspects, and he will have to put one or the other aspect first and choose what is most important. We all get to that point. Do we major on egg-hunting or on the Resurrection? Or, for us at Christmastide, do we major on Santa Claus or on God in the flesh at Bethlehem?

In making the choice, people tend to make two mistakes.

One serious mistake is to choose rightly to major on the real reason for the season but to decide that necessitates also adopting a dour pseudo-piety that says, "Out with lights and Christmas trees and all the other festive trappings of the holiday. Humbug!"

But the other mistake is even worse—to refuse to celebrate such days as religious holidays at all and focus only on egg hunts and Rudolph.

As Lewis writes, "If the child puts the spiritual first he can still taste something of Easter in the chocolate eggs; if he puts the eggs first they will soon be no more than any other sweetmeat. They will have taken on an independent, and therefore a soon withering, life."

Christians who know the real meaning of the holy days should celebrate everything that is good about them with more joy than other people and not less. If we truly love Christ more than Christmas, then we're free to love Christmas with a freedom and genuine joy we could never have otherwise. God is so good!

It's nonsense to thank Santa for God. It may be very good sense indeed to thank God for Santa!

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



Focus On Faith
Curtis Shelburne

from the commercialization, the hectic hustle, the demanding family responsibilities of Christmastime. Then we would have a holy Christmas."

He warns, though: "But we would forget the lesson of the Incarnation, of the enfleshing of God—the lesson that we who are followers of Christ do not run from the secular; rather we try to transform it. It is our mission to make holy the secular aspects of Christmas just as the early Christians baptized the Christmas tree. And we do this by being holy people—kind, patient, generous, loving, laughing people—no matter how maddening is the Christmas rush."

By George, I think he's got it!

C. S. Lewis wrote similarly, observing that a small child cannot really separate "the religious from the merely festive character of Christmas or Easter." Lewis appreciated both the poetry and the piety of the little boy reported to have gone about on Easter morning muttering a poem he'd made up about "chocolate eggs and Jesus risen."

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Lazbuddie Elementary Student Spotlight

The following students, pictured on the right, were recently honored by Lazbuddie Elementary School:

Avery Timms, the daughter of Chris and Jill Timms and is 5 years old; Ginsyn McGehee, the daughter of Kevin and Malessia McGehee; Priscilla Salazar, the daughter of Jaime and Elizabeth Salazar; Ashley Scott, the daughter of Lee and Carolyn Scott; Micah Vera, the daughter of Oracio and Teresa Vera; and Lacey Jesko, the daughter of Terry and Janene Jesko.



Don't forget your photographs!

Do you have any blank spots in your photo albums? Could they be at the newspaper?

Photographs that have been submitted for publication in the *Muleshoe Journal* may be picked up during regular business hours.

At this time, a large number of photographs have been accumulated, and may include your missing photographs.

Alzheimer's support group to meet

The Bailey County Alzheimer's Disease Support Group will be meeting on Thursday, Jan. 10, at noon, at Park View Nursing Home. Steve Friskup, pastor of Muleshoe Cowboy Fellowship, will present the program. For more information contact Debbie Crabtree, Bailey County Aging Services, 272-3647, or Mandi Seaton, Bailey County extension agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, 272-4583.

BAILEY COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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Gabriel by Max Lucado

(The following is excerpt 1 of 4 from An Angel's Story.)

In this classic Christmas story, Max Lucado pulls back the curtain and imagines the cosmic drama that accompanied that very first Christmas...from the perspective of an angel.

"Gabriel."

Just the sound of my King's voice stirred my heart. I left my post at the entryway and stepped into the throne room. To my left was the desk on which sat the Book of Life. Ahead of me was the throne of Almighty God. I entered the circle of unceasing Light, folded my wings before me to cover my face, and knelt before Him. "Yes, my Lord?"

"You have served the kingdom well. You are a noble messenger. Never have you flinched in duty. Never have you flagged in zeal."

I bowed my head, basking in the words. "Whatever You ask, I'll do a thousand times over, my King," I promised.

"Of that, I have no doubt, dear messenger." His voice assumed a solemnity I'd never heard Him use. "But your greatest work lies ahead of you. Your next assignment is to carry a gift to Earth. Behold."

I lifted my eyes to see a necklace—a clear vial on a golden chain—dangling from His extended hand.

My Father spoke earnestly, "Though empty, this vial will soon contain My greatest gift." ...Handing me the necklace, He explained, "This vial will contain the essence of Myself; a Seed to be placed in the womb of a young girl. Her name is Mary. She lives among My chosen people. The fruit of the Seed is the Son of God. Take it to her."

"But how will I know her?" I asked.

"Don't worry. You will."

I could not comprehend God's plan, but my understanding was not essential. My obedience was. I lowered my head, and He draped the chain around my neck. Amazingly, the vial was no longer empty. It glowed with Light.

"Jesus. Tell her to call My Son Jesus."

From An Angel's Story

(originally published as Cosmic Christmas)

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BAILEY COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE

Santa's Christmas Gift... continued from page 3

Sandy himself realized it, "why does Santa deliver his presents at night?"

All Sandy could do was stand there and slowly shake his head.

Downcast, Sandy turned and walking over to a chair in the corner of Robbie's room, sat down heavily.

Robbie moved over to the bed and plopped down on it.

"Why didn't I think of that before I left the North Pole?" the elf muttered as he stared up at the ceiling. Once again, his plans had been ruined, destroyed. He was worse off than when the idea came to him under that tree... now he had to get back home, and explain why he'd left in the first place.

After a few minutes of silence, Robbie sat up and looked over at the elf. "What will you do now?" he asked.

Sandy shrugged. "Go home, I guess."

"By yourself?"

"Well, me and Elwood."

"The goose?"

Sandy nodded.

After a few more minutes of silence, Sandy leaned far enough forward in the chair that his feet touched the floor. "I guess I'd better go meet Elwood," he said.

"Want me to walk you back," Robbie offered. Although this new acquaintance had yet to be termed a friend, Robbie was troubled by the heartache that was evident on Sandy's face.

Sandy shrugged. "I can make it," he said.

Robbie stood up. "I'll tell Mom I'm walking over to your house for a few minutes... But I'm not doing it in these clothes."

A few minutes later, attired in clothing that didn't scream "weird guy inside," Robbie and Sandy had left the Jeffers' house and was headed over to Holloway Park with Sandy.

* * * * *

Several hundred miles away, Janus and the wolf stopped briefly to catch

their breath. Although the airport and its buildings were completely out of sight, neither wanted to waste any time in the area.

Neither wanted to be locked up by the police again, but they also didn't want to return home without Sandy either.

"Any idea which way we should go from here?" Janus asked.

"If he were in the area, I'd be able to sniff him out," said the wolf, "And if we come across some other animals, I can ask them if they've seen anything. But without one way or the other, I'm as lost as you are."

There was a time such an announcement would have brought sharp, sarcastic words from Janus, but now he remained silent.

For days now, his only companion had been the wolf, and although they hadn't spoken about much of importance, the troublesome elf felt closer to this furred creature than he'd ever felt toward another.

"Maybe we should head back north?" Janus said after a moment.

Unbeknownst to either the wolf or the elf, several miles away, in the control tower at the airport, several flight controllers were gathered around a radar screen.

"Any idea what it is?" the supervisor asked as he peered over the shoulder of the man seated in front of the screen.

"No idea," said the seated flight controller. The others, who had briefly left their own screens to peak at that of their co-worker, merely shook their heads.

"I've contacted the military bases," one of the controllers said, "and they're about to scramble their jets."

"It's almost like 'the phantom'," said one of them. The others only grunted their agreement. Being adults, and "sensible-minded" adults at that, none of them wanted to talk about the "radar phantom" that appeared periodically... on Christmas Eve to be exact, streaking across radar screens across the nation, and around the world.

Although this peculiar phenomenon had been covered in their flight

controller schools, it wasn't something they were comfortable discussing, and when a memo reached them years earlier that suggested an investigation into the matter indicated it was merely a minor glitch in their computer software, the individual controllers just glanced over at each other and rolled their eyes.

They new not to say too much, and also new of the FAA's official policy that any suggestion that related the "computer glitch" to a rotund, red-coated visitor from up north would result in an immediate reprimand.

But, now, here it was happening in advance of Christmas Eve.

"Just keep an eye on it," the supervisor said, "and remember that military intercept jets may be moving into the area."

Back on the ground, Janus and the wolf had covered only a short distance headed north when the familiar tinkling of sleigh bells caught their attention. Looking over their shoulders, they only had a couple of seconds before Santa's sleigh came to rest where they'd been standing.

Santa Claus gave a deep laugh. "Imagine picking up hitchhikers so far from home, boys," he said to his reindeer.

* * * * *

Although the sunshine of earlier had begun to leave the sky, with dusk fast approaching, Robbie and Sandy arrived back at the park suspecting nothing out of the ordinary. In fact, it wasn't until they'd entered the trees when the elf expected to find Elwood and his saddle and found nothing that Sandy began to worry.

The giant snow goose was nowhere to be seen, and neither was the saddle.

"Elwood!" Sandy called out. "Elwood!"

Still nothing.

Walking through the trees toward the lake on the other

side, Sandy continued to call for his traveling companion. Occasionally, Robbie would join in. "Elwood," he shouted a little sheepishly at first.

Still nothing.

In fact, it wasn't until they were standing on the other side of the trees that they encountered the reason for Elwood's absence. There, between the lake and the tree line was a great red sleigh pulled by a team of reindeer.

"Santa's here," Sandy said. "How..."

If you can imagine the expression on Sandy's face at discovering the fast moving transportation his boss normally reserved for Christmas Eve, you might guess that it wasn't anything compared to the incredulity that covered Robbie's.

"Santa's here..." the elementary student muttered in disbelief as he sat down on a small drift of snow.

"Hello, Sandy," said the North Pole's top citizen as he walked into view from the other side of the sleigh.

"Santa, what are you doing here?" the elf asked. A second latter Janus and a wolf walked into view from the other side of the sleigh as well.

"What are all of you doing here?" Sandy added.

"We came after you," Santa said. "Who's your friend?"

Sandy glanced over to the side, where Robbie sat dumbfounded in the snow.

"Uh, this is Robbie," Sandy said. "He's a 'nonbeliever'."

"Was a nonbeliever, I suspect," said Santa as he strolled forward, took Robbie's hand and pulled him to his feet.

"Hello, Robbie," Santa Claus said, "Merry Christmas."

"Merry Christmas to you... Santa," Robbie replied. "Are you the real..."

"The real Santa? Yes, I am. And you, are you really a nonbeliever?"

Robbie's head seemed

Continued on page 6

FBC blood drive set for Jan. 9

The First Baptist Church of Muleshoe, 220 W. Ave. E, will be hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, Jan. 9, from 3-6:15 p.m.

Call Donna at 272-5125 to make an appointment to donate.

You must be 17 years of old, in good health, and have a picture ID to donate.



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Publication of Obituaries

Obituaries printed in the Muleshoe Journal are printed free of charge and contain the following types of information:

Date and details of funeral and place of burial; date and place of birth and parents names; date of marriage;

Limited biographical information, including the highest level of schooling achieved, service in the Armed Forces, profession (and retirement information if applicable); names of relatives who have preceded the person in death;

Names of survivors (including husband and wife, parents, in-laws, brothers, sisters, grandparents (only the number of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren) will be included; and where memorials may be directed.

We will be pleased to run a one column black and white photo at no charge. A larger photo or a color photo will cause the obit to be paid.

Please keep in mind that everything must be submitted by your funeral home.

Requirements for college news releases

If your college student is graduating or has made the Dean's or President's list, in order for that information to appear in the *Muleshoe Journal*, we must receive notice from the respective educational institution.

Your son or daughter must sign a release so the information can be sent to us.

Have them visit their bursar's office to sign a form indicating they wish to share their good news!

Once permission to share information has been granted, the college or university should send the info via email to: editor@fivearea.com.

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Lazbuddie robotics place at BEST meet

The Lazbuddie robotics team won 21st Place BEST Team in Lubbock at the state competition on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1.

The team competed against 50 other teams, placing 44th in the robot race.

The BEST competition consists of four categories:

- A project summary notebook submitted in advance of Texas Best.
- An oral presentation in front of judges which included a power point presentation, an explanation of the engineering process, community outreach, school involvement, school promotion, and school spirit involvement.
- A table exhibit and interviews.
- A spirit and sportsmanship review.

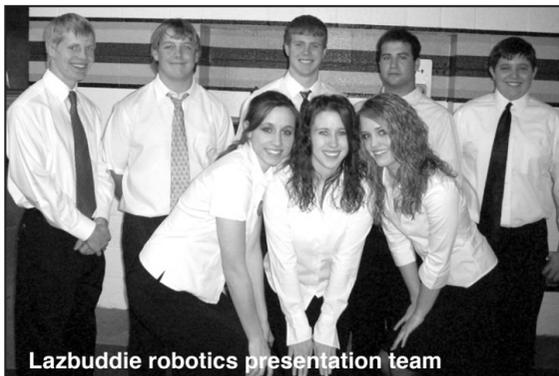
Lazbuddie's team members include: Jacob Schacher, Chase Timms, Brittny Schacher, Chelsee Nichols, Rochelle Smith, Megan McGuire, Jason Davis, Esteban Pacheco, Joaquin Campos, Trevor Coker, Devlin Thompson, Riley Smith, Kayle Jesko, Kinzi Schacher, Katie Chavez, Lydia Campos, James Baca, Dylan Haney, Logan Mason, Matthew Samarron, Colton Weaver, Shelby Martin, Amy Howard,

Jessica Howard, Keeley Burris, Arthur Gomez, Jordan Hernandez, Tasha Barnes, and Todd Nichols.

The oral presentation team was Brittny Schacher, Rochelle Smith, Chelsee Nichols, Jason Davis, Chase Timms, Jacob Schacher, Kayle Jesko, and Colton Weaver. The research paper for the engineering notebook was written by Chelsee Nichols.

Drivers of the robot at state were Colton Weaver, Matthew Samarron, Todd Nichols, Joaquin Campos, and Arthur Gomez.

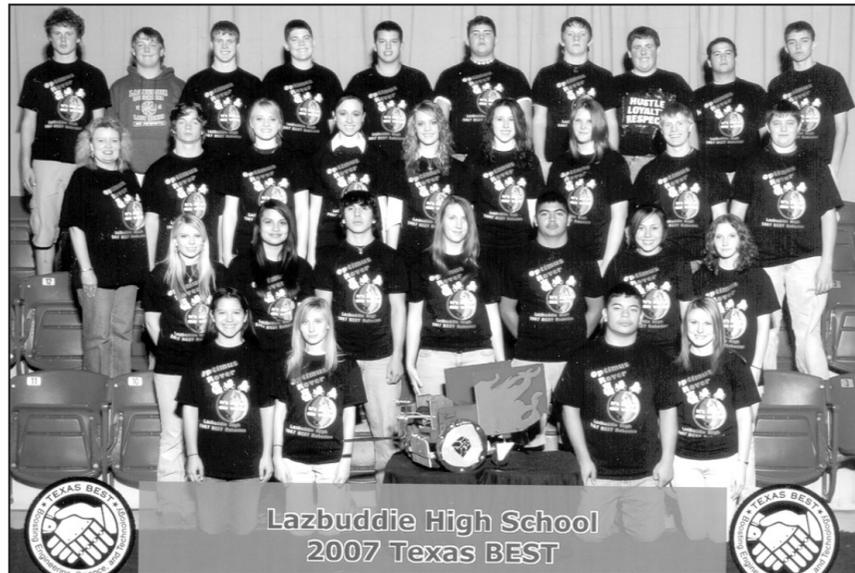
The team is coached by Debbie Weir, science teacher at Lazbuddie.



Lazbuddie robotics presentation team



Lazbuddie robotics driver team



Lazbuddie High School 2007 Texas BEST

Santa's Christmas Gift...

Continued from page 5
as if it didn't know if it didn't know whether to nod or shake as he stood looking up at the large man who had just pulled him to his feet. "I'm not sure," he admitted truthfully.

"Well, when you figure it out, drop me a letter," said Santa.

Robbie slowly, hesitantly nodded in agreement.

"Well, Sandy," said Santa, "I hate to meet your friend and run off, but we've got a lot of work left up north." With another smile at Robbie, the big man turned and headed back toward the sleigh, leaving Sandy to say his farewells.

"Are you going to ask him?" Robbie asked.

"Ask him what?"

"Ask him why he delivers his presents at night when no one can see him."

Sandy thought for a moment before shaking his head.

"Then I'll ask him," Robbie said.

Before Sandy could say anything, Robbie had already darted around him and ran after Santa, catching up to him as he climbed into the sleigh and sat down.

"Santa... Santa," he called up to the man in red from the ground at the side of the sleigh.

"Yes, can I help you?"

"...Sandy and me were wondering why you don't deliver your presents in the daylight so people can see you and believe in you?"

Santa looked down at Robbie, smiled, and said, "Because it's not important that they see me. It's not even important that they believe in me," Santa said.

"What is important is that they believe in the One who gave the greatest gift to mankind," he added.

Puzzled, Robbie asked, "What's that?"

"Why, Jesus the Christ child," Santa said. "Even if you can't believe in me, don't make the mistake of not believing in the Son of God. Merry Christmas, Robbie."

Then, gathering up his reins in one hand, Santa shook them, and the reindeer leaped into motion.

The last thing Robbie saw of the sleigh and its occupants was Sandy extending his hand outward in a quick wave. Robbie waved back.

Then, turning back toward the trees, Robbie said to himself, "Wait until Marge hears about this!"

* * * * *

Some time later, far to the north, Santa's sleigh touched down at the North Pole. "Well, you've had your adventures," Santa said, "We'd best get back to work."

The wolf, Elwood, Janus and Sandy followed Santa

off the sleigh while other elves began unharnessing the reindeer.

On the ground, Janus reached out and laid his hand against Sandy's arm.

Sandy looked down at the hand and then up at Janus' face.

"I'm sorry... Do you think we can try to be friends?" Janus said with a hesitant smile.

Surprised, Sandy nodded and smiled back.

Then, before either elf could pitch in to help with the reindeer, the wolf nudged at Janus' side.

When the elf looked at him, all the wolf said before bounding off into the evening snow was, "My name's Snow Shadow."

The End

The Muleshoe Journal hopes you have enjoyed this year's Christmas serial story, and wishes you the best in the New Year.

Safe walking tips offered

After a snow or ice storm, pedestrian traffic increases significantly.

Every one is a pedestrian, but there are things you can do to be a smart pedestrian — especially during the winter months.

Before you take one step onto that slippery sidewalk, consider the following safety tips:

- If the sidewalks and walkways are impassable and you have to walk in the street, walk against traffic and as close to the curb as you can.
- Proper gear is a must. Wear a brightly-colored scarf or hat, or reflective gear, and don't forget gloves, and shoes or boots with nonslip soles.
- Snow that has accumulated into drifts can muffle the sounds of approaching motor vehicles. Wearing hats and scarves that cover your ears can also distort or even eliminate these sounds. Keep warm, but make sure you can hear what's going on around you.
- If you can, shop before the storm hits! If you have to shop, don't buy more than you can easily carry. Remember, the streets may be slippery and carrying heavy packages can impair your balance.
- When traveling with babies or small children, make sure they are dressed in brightly-colored or reflective clothing. If you have to push a stroller or walk in the street, the child should be in front of you and as close to the curb as possible.
- Because of road conditions, motorists may not be able to stop at traffic signals or slow down for pedestrians. Before you step off of the curb into the street, make sure that any approaching vehicles have come to a complete stop.
- Bending your knees a little, and taking slower steps can greatly reduce your chances of falling. The snow and ice can turn familiar territory into an alien landscape for pedestrians and motorists.

Due to the early news deadline for this week, there aren't any local sports stories. Watch for Muleshoe sports action in next week's paper.

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Markets have opened and are leading to economic success in many of Texas' major industries.

From prosperous agriculture and technology industries, all the way down to consumer savings — free trade has been good for all of Texas.

Adam Smith also said, "Free trade means that consumers are able to buy goods at the costs arranged by the best efforts of producers, wherever the producers happen to be producing." We are seeing this in Texas.

Because our state has so much to offer in exports, we have much to gain from free trade agreements.

In 2006, Texas exported over \$150 billion in merchandise, including chief exports: petroleum and coal; computers and electronics; and chemical and manufacturing machinery.

Today the products of our thriving farms and ranches are feeding people worldwide.

Texas agriculture exports to the world in 2006 brought in an estimated \$3.8 billion



Capitol Comment

By U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison

in revenue.

Our state's exports have continued to expand to take advantage of other recent U.S. Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), such as bilateral agreements with Chile and Singapore.

The U.S. Department of Commerce reports that, between 2002 and 2006, Texas exports rose by \$55.5 billion, or 58 percent, representing the largest dollar gain of any state.

Texas also has a geographical advantage over other states, with our seaports well-positioned to directly benefit from continued expansion of global trade.

The economic benefits of free trade to Texans are not limited to cattle ranchers, dairy operators, or manufacturers.

The positive impacts of free trade on our state's agriculture industries translates into financial gains for the over 45,000 Texans involved in the cultivation, processing, storage, and transportation of Texas farm and ranching products.

In 2003, jobs associated with manufactured goods accounted for over five percent of all private sector jobs in the state.

More than 21,000 companies exported goods from locations in Texas in 2005. And for all Texans, a healthy free trade system means access to a wider range of higher quality products at better prices, and the security of a stimulated economy.

To build on the proven benefits of free trade, Congress is weighing further opportunities to expand commerce through trade agreements, with countries like Peru, Colombia, and Panama.

An agreement with Peru that passed the Senate in early December will increase the trade of some of our most vital exports to the country, benefiting Texas ranchers, cotton farmers, poultry and egg producers, and dairy farmers, along with manufacturers of petroleum and coal, chemicals, computers and electronics, and machinery.

The U.S. should continue to seek opportunities to open up markets through trade agreements with countries across the world — not only for commerce, but for security.

While the economic stability of our state and national economies is a primary objective of FTAs, they also serve the broader purpose of building and improving international relationships.

In a time when the dangerous political and economic maneuvering of dictators like Venezuela's Hugo Chavez could influence the security of U.S. interests, we must seek partnerships with nearby countries, like Peru, Colombia, and Panama.

Free trade helps these countries thrive under dynamic economies, which, in turn, will contribute to their stability.

Bridal Shower



JO BETH GILLELAND

Gilleland, Drake shower held

Jo Beth Gilleland, the daughter of Amy and Gary Gilleland, was honored at a bridal shower on Sunday, Dec. 16, at the home of Debbi Hutto.

The prospective bride is engaged to Colin Drake, the son of the Rev. Leslie Drake and Dr. Nollaig Whyte.

Hostesses for the event included Carol Cox, Diana Harrison, Hollye Hooten, Liz Tipps, Debbi Hutto, Jo jinks, Jan King, Kay Leopard, Cindy Purdy Lindy Schuster and Lenda Trussell.

Among the gifts she received was a creamer, pottery and sugar pieces, and shipping expenses of the gifts to England.

Among the guests in attendance were: Amy Gilleland of Elgin, Okla.; Julie Hatfield and Landry Hatfield, both of Keller; Jaclyn Gilleland of College Station; and Bettye Wallace, Jana Goss, and Miranda and Tatum Goss, all of Canyon.

Nursing home volunteer training offered

South Plains Association of Governments' Area Agency on Aging will hold an orientation on Friday, Jan. 11, for nursing home volunteer advocates. The special session will be from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at 1323 58th St., Lubbock.

Special training sessions will be scheduled in communities throughout the next year. Call the Area Agency on Aging at 687-0940 or 1-888-418-6564 to pre-register or to receive more information.

Births



ALLIE "CLAIRE" KERBY

Allie Kerby

Rhett and Kylee Kerby of Brownfield announce the birth of their daughter, Allie "Claire" Kerby.

Allie was born at 1:24 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 28, 2007, in Covenant Lakeside in Lubbock. She weighed seven pounds, 12 ounces, and was 21 inches in length.

She has one brother, Truett Kerby, 2.

Allie's grandparents are Leslie and Susan Kerby of Muleshoe, and Bobby and Alycia Ward of Levelland.

From the desk of the governor...

By Gov. Rick Perry
State of Texas

As families across Texas gather to celebrate Christmas and other religious holidays, Anita and I send our best wishes.

At this special time of year, when those of us who celebrate Christmas remember God's gift of his son to the world, we can all pause to take stock of the many blessings we enjoy not just as human beings, but as Americans and as Texans.

I believe our cup overflows with blessings here in Texas. We are, first and foremost, fortunate to live in a free society. As Americans, we can speak our minds, even when we don't agree. We can select our leadership with our own vote, and we can worship where and how we please. Sadly, even in this modern age, many countries still deny their people these freedoms.

This Christmas, we recognize the sacrifice of the men and women serving overseas in our Armed Forces, separated from their families as they protect these rights and promote freedom around the world. Many of our troops call Texas home and I pray that God keeps them safe. To those in a remote foreign post, know that my family, your fellow Texans and

the American people are praying for you.

To those public servants who serve along and inside our Texas borders, thank you for keeping us secure year round. Protecting us against terrorism and violence, these men and women are also the first to arrive when disaster strikes.

We are all very grateful for the abundant rains this year that eased the drought for our farms and ranches. For the first time in memory, every major river basin in the state is full.

And when floods swelled in some of areas of our state, our first responders and rescue teams' efforts kept many people safe and began the rebuilding process.

And although this fall the Texas coast bore the brunt of one hurricane, we dodged a much larger one. In both cases, our first responders, private sector partners and volunteers across the state were ready to serve.

There is no doubt that Texans work hard and our thriving economy not only puts food on the family table, but gives them the chance to chase their dreams.

Though the U.S. economy has cooled a bit, Texas still created jobs nearly twice as fast as the national economy. In fact, we created nearly a million net new

jobs in the past four years. With our favorable taxes, fair laws and business-friendly environment, Texas is widely regarded as the best place to relocate a company or start a new one.

This year almost one third of Fortune's 100 fastest-growing companies call Texas home. And if you ask me, there is no better place to be or come from.

For here bravery is almost a genetic trait in Texans. Not only do Texans show grit on distant battlefields or in the aftermath of a storm, but also on a more personal level when dealing with cancer.

I look forward to the day when we will find a cure to this dread disease, and I believe it will come sooner as a result of the cancer research approved by voters this past November.

So I am thankful for what God has provided for our nation and for Texas over the last year, and I pray that goodness and mercy will follow into the next. Anita and I hope this holiday season will be a time of peace and joy for you and your family.

May the blessings of the season be with you today and throughout the new year. From our family to yours, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and God bless you.



COUNTRY west texas TRADER

"Your Best Source For ...
... Finding Great Values
... Convenient Shopping
... Wide Coverage Area

Have your advertising message read by over 50,000 readers.

The *West Texas Country Trader* goes into subscriber copies of these ten Panhandle newspapers each week:

<i>Muleshoe Journal</i>	<i>Morton Tribune</i>
<i>Canyon News</i>	<i>Plainview Daily Herald</i>
<i>Olton Enterprise</i>	<i>Tribune (Lubbock)</i>
<i>Idalou Beacon</i>	<i>Free pickup in Tulia & Hale Center</i>
<i>Every United Supermarket in Amarillo</i>	

Your advertisement would be inserted in all ten newspapers for just \$6-\$10 per column inch!

Reach New Customers!

Increase Your Visibility!

Grow Your Business!

Get More For Your Money!



"Your Best Source For ...
... Finding Great Values
... Convenient Shopping
... Wide Coverage Area

Call or Email the Muleshoe Journal today to find out more about this great advertising opportunity! We can help!

272-4536 or advertising@muleshoejournal.com

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INFLATABLE BOUNCER
 Safe - Affordable Fun For Kids!
 BEST PRICES AROUND
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 2 Hrs. \$50 - 4 Hrs. \$75 - 6 Hrs. \$100
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 Birthday Parties • School Functions • Special Events
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The Fair Store
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NOW DOING CERTIFIED STATE INSPECTIONS!
ADVANCED LUBE & CAR WASH
502 N. 1st, Muleshoe
 OPEN AT 8:30 AM
 Need an affordable oil change or detail car wash?
 We pick up and deliver free of charge within the city limits! Call 272-5842 for service!
 "Your One Stop Shop" for Oil Changes, Car Washes & Detail, U-Haul Rental, Boxes, Drinks & Snacks!

Advertise in this space for \$9-\$1.25 per week!
 Call Leah or Tanya for details!
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Advertise in this space for \$9-\$1.25 per week!
 Call Leah or Tanya for details!
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Advertise in this space for \$9-\$1.25 per week!
 Call Leah or Tanya for details!
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THE SEWING ROOM
 Alterations-Dressmaking-Home Decor
 Baby Bedding-Jeans Hemmed
778-1829
 Gail Aukerman
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 Family owned for over 35 years
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Our New Year's resolution is to...
Newspaper Fun!
 www.newspaperfun.com
 ...include younger brothers and sisters in more activities!
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Ring in the New Year!

Happy New Year, everyone! Will you have a small, quiet family celebration or a large party with friends and neighbors? Some people wait for midnight to strike while munching on treats at home. Others love going out to a restaurant to eat, dance, listen to a live band and enjoy the crowds and noise. It's all fun!

Okay! Okay! So **you** caught me ringing the bells to wish everyone a joyful New Year...get over yourself already and get this puzzle done!

Study the shapes of the word blanks to the right. Read the clues and fill them in:

- when the clock strikes _____ we give a rousing cheer
- we hang up our new _____
- plays music
- small pieces of colored paper thrown
- long strips of colored paper trailing down through the air
- tooting
- drinks, food
- rattles, shakers
- moving in rhythm to music
- floating down from nets above the crowd

refreshments
 calendars
 midnight band
 confetti
 dancing balloons
 streamers
 noisemakers

A happy, healthy New Year to you and your family.

What Time is it? There is a three-hour time difference between our east and west coasts. When the clocks in New York state strike midnight and New Yorkers are welcoming in the new year, what time is it in California?
 New York: 12:00 p.m.
 California:

The New Year is a time to visit and think about:
 Use this color key to fill in the puzzle: R = Red Y = Yellow

and

Free Puzzle! "December Days"
 Join our free reading club: www.readingclubfun.com
 Play the mini game, read Forest's diary, then go to the puzzle area to print my new **December Days word search puzzle.** Have fun!

Making New Year's Resolutions! Everyone is talking about their New Year's **resolutions**. Do **you** know what a "resolution" is? It is a promise to break an old habit or to start something new. It is a promise to work on something to get a result. For example: "If I play with my dog every day, then I will keep him from being lonely." **Match the first half of the phrases below to the ones on the right that finish them:**

If I:
 1. do my chores swiftly
 2. do odd jobs
 3. keep a diary
 4. exercise more
 5. read a lot
 6. practice

Then I:
 A. will be in better health
 B. will have more time to play
 C. will earn more money
 D. will get better
 E. won't forget things
 F. learn new words and new ideas

If I:
 1. save my money
 2. treat others well
 3. do my homework
 4. keep my room clean
 5. take care of my things
 6. keep clean, comb my hair

Then I:
 A. will get better grades
 B. can buy myself nice things
 C. will have them for a long time
 D. will be treated well by others
 E. will look my best
 F. can find my things

CLASSIFIEDS

Deadline is Monday at 5 PM to place a Classified ad. Call 272-4536.

MISCELLANEOUS

Rex Lowery Painting
Painting in the Muleshoe area over 40 years!
FREE ESTIMATES
Cell: **789-9142**

Our classified section appears in its entirety on the Muleshoe Journal website at www.muleshoejournal.com.

HOUSE FOR SALE BY OWNER

3/2/2 Brick home, built-ins, lg. enclosed patio, sprinkler sys., fenced yd., lg. metal building, close to Dillman school. 806-655-2563. .fnch12-13

1,200 sq. ft. brick home, central refrigerated air, single car garage, 2BDRM/1BA. Call 806-272-4388. .ch12-13

7 yr. old grade Quarter horse gelding. Neck reins, works pens and gates. Ropes wheat pasture cattle. \$1,200.
Call 272-5852 after 5:00 P.M.

Extra nice 2006 Fleetwood Mobile Home - 16' x 80' - 3 BR/2 Bath, master bath - walk in shower and tub, nice porch, Energy Saving Heat Pump. Must be moved from current location. Call 806-825-2782. .ch12-20

CHERRY 4-POSTER Victorian bedrm. set, bed, dresser/mirror, nitestand, still boxed. Worth \$2795, sell \$990. 806-549-3110. .ch12-27

NEW WAY TO BUY MATTRESS & FURNITURE, CHEAPER, FASTER, BETTER. 806-438-0081. .ch12-13,12-27

FOR SALE

DINING room table & chairs. Traditional victorian style, \$225. Used once. 806-549-3110. .ch12-27

CUDDLER RECLINER & 1/2, huge, brand new, microfiber, warranty-compare to Lane \$799. Sell \$499. 806-549-3110. .ch12-27

Dinette set & 4 chairs, solid light wood. Boxed, bring truck, \$149. 806-549-3110. .ch12-6,12-27

BRAND NEW queen pillowtop mattress set with warranty, can del., \$150. 806-549-3110. .ch12-27

Cal. King-KING pillowtop mattress set, slightly used. Sacrifice \$275. Can del. 806-549-3110. .ch12-27

ZERO ACHES, NEW Visco memory foam, no motion. Can del., \$499. 806-549-3110. .ch12-27

BRAND NAME new full or twin mattress set, \$100. All new. Can del. 806-549-3110. .ch12-27

AIR NUMBER bed, dual control, pick your number, NEW \$899. 806-549-3110. .ch12-27

ULTRASUEDE pillow plush sofa & loveseat, slightly used, can take \$545. 806-549-3110. .ch12-6,12-27

WROUGHT IRON canopy bed & rails. Still boxed. Sell \$179. Can del. 806-549-3110. .ch12-27

SACRIFICE COMPLETE dark finish 5-pc. bedroom set and comforter. \$495. 806-549-3110. .ch12-6,12-27

HELP WANTED

Help wanted - All areas of work at local feedyard. Good pay and benefits. Will train if necessary. Call 806-946-8668 days or 806-946-3334 nights. .ch12-27

Full/part time physical therapy assistant needed. \$30/hr. and up depending on experience. Benefits available. Runningwater Draw Care Center, Olton, Texas. 806-285-2677. .ch12-27

FOR RENT

516 W. Ave. E. 2BDRM/1BA, no appliances. Newly painted inside. \$420/mo., \$375 depo. plus first mo. rent. 210-867-8911. .fnch10-25

3 bedroom, 1-3/4 bath brick home. Single car garage, fenced back yard. For more info, call 806-481-3846. .fnch11-22

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT - 302 W. 2nd Street, Muleshoe. Perfect for one or two-man operation. \$200/mo., utilities paid. Share space w/Muleshoe Journal. References required. Call 272-4536 for details or come by to see, M-F 8 AM to 5 PM. .fnch10-18

HELP WANTED

HOSPITAL COOK
Parmer County Community Hospital is seeking candidates for a full time Cook. Prefer 2+ years experience in reading individual menus relating to meal preparation. Experience in healthcare or similar environment preferred. Competitive wage and benefit package. To schedule an interview, please stop by for an application or send resume to: PCCH-Human Resources, 1307 N. Cleveland, Friona, TX 79035. .ch12-27

Experienced cook needed at La-Tea-Da Tues.-Sat., 8:30-2:30. Must know how to cook tea-room type food. Looking for a permanent employee. Applications will be thoroughly verified. Please come by after 2:00 Tues.-Sat. for application, 104 E. American Blvd. No phone calls please. .fnch11-15

Part time certified occupational therapy assistant needed. \$28/hr. and up depending on experience. Runningwater Draw Care Center, Olton, Texas. 806-285-2677. .ch12-27

Lamb Healthcare Center is seeking a full time night RN Charge Nurse. Call 806-385-6411, ext. 214 for more information or pick up an application at 1500 S. Sunset, Littlefield. .ch12-20

RN & LVN POSITIONS OPEN
Parmer County Community Hospital is seeking candidates for the positions of LVN and/or Registered Nurse/Charge Nurse. Positions are full time and requires excellent verbal skills, basic computer knowledge and skills, phone skills and ability to professionally interact with the medical staff and public. Prior Charge Nurse experience preferred for RN position. Must be able to work all shifts. Mail resume to, or stop by for application: Parmer County Community Hospital, Human Resources, 1307 Cleveland, Friona, TX 79035. .ch12-27

SECURITY OFFICERS \$7.50/HR Full/Part Time Friona, Texas Area Vacation/401K Stock Options/Uniform No criminal record/Pre-drug screening.
Apply at Security Officer/Cargill Meat Solutions, 1530 West Highway 60, Friona. 806-295-8357. EOE/M/F/D/V. .ch12-27

SALES PEOPLE NEEDED! Guaranteed salary plus commission, paid vacation, no experience necessary. Bilingual a plus. Apply in person at Big Valley Auto of Muleshoe, 1112 W. American Blvd. or call 272-7777. .fnb-16

Support Medical of Muleshoe is looking for a FT customer service rep. Some medical experience/background preferred but not required. Must have basic computer skills. 40 hrs./week, health insurance provided. Apply at 103 S. Main, Muleshoe. .fnch12-20

HANDYMAN SERVICES

Coming Soon!
Make your handyman lists now!
HANDY ANDY
"All Phases of Home Repair"
• Fences • Decks • Gates • Steps
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REAL ESTATE

Bailey County, South of Muleshoe — Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home with fireplace, sunroom, barn and outbuildings on 10 acres. Excellent condition. \$135,000.
Visit our website for all listings at www.streetsrealestate.com
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ERA Courtyard REAL ESTATE
• 3BR-1BA-1GA, 309 Worth Street, Sudan. Home with app. 1284 sq. ft. living area on a double lot w/separate detached 2 car garage. Nice house with lots of potential. \$34,500.
Monty Edwards, Agent
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AK Ranch - 1425 acres, 35 miles SW of Muleshoe, 35 miles SE of Farwell. Located on Highway 1731. Has beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage home and 40x60 metal barn. 6 pastures, 4 domestic wells and a 20 acre pond. Excellent wildlife hunting deer, quail, ducks, geese and dove. Very scenic property. Call for more details!!!!
Country Home on Highway - Nice 3 bedroom, 1-3/4 bath home, central air & heat, built-ins, enclosed sunroom, utility, 2 car garage, 40x80 Quonset barn, all on 5 acres, priced to sell!!
New Listing - Approx. 2100 sq. ft. 3 bedroom, 1 bath home, large family room with fireplace, livingroom, utility, new carpet, carport, storage buildings, fenced back yard, priced to sell!!
Price Reduced - Cute remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 bath home, Cent. A&H, fireplace, 1 bedroom upstairs, deck, pond, sprinkler system, storage building, apartment or office building in back. This home will not last long, call today!
NEW LOWER PRICE - Nice 3 bedroom, 1-3/4 bath brick home, large utility, fireplace, sunroom, built-ins, Cent. A&H, sprinkler system, 2 car garage, fenced back yard, all on corner lot.
Spacious - 4 bedroom, 3 bath brick home, built-ins, refrig. air/central heat, 2 living areas, utility room, sunroom, built-in grill, fireplace, dining room, sprinkler system, fenced back yard, 2 car garage. Plus more!
WE NEED HOUSE LISTINGS!!
New Listing - 160 acres on highway includes very nice 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home. Refrigerated air and central heat, built-ins, fireplace, large utility and 2 car garage. Has circular sprinkler, 2 wells, 70'x100' hay barn, 24'x25' storage building and more.
Just Listed - 318 acre N. of Muleshoe, 2 electric circular sprinklers, 4 submersible wells, very productive farm.
Just Listed - 320 acres NE of Lazbuddie, 2 electric circular sprinklers, 4 submersible wells, 1 domestic well, 2 large metal barns.
708 Acres South of Muleshoe - 5 - 8" irrigation wells, 4 circular sprinklers. Excellent for peanuts, potato crops, dairy permitted. Highway frontage. Call for details.

WE NEED FARM LISTINGS!!
Office: (806) 272-5380
Toll Free: 1-888-999-3846

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REAL ESTATE

• **Irrigated farms** — Spade, Earth, Levelland, Plainview.
• **Levelland** — 3 nice brick homes for horses w/arena.
• **Lubbock** — 5A tracts (one well), also 107A tract.
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SPRINGLAKE, TEXAS - 3 bdrm., 3 bath, basement, brick with metal roof, 3581 sq. ft. +, family room with fireplace, large game room with fireplace, formal living room, dining room, kitchen, utility, lots of storage, double garage, central heat/air.
EARTH, TX - 2 bdrm., 1-3/4 bath, brick, 1,800 sq. ft. +, family room, dining room, kitchen, utility, single garage, central heat/air, updated nicely.
IN THE COUNTRY - Lazbuddie School District - 3 bdrm., 2 bath brick home on 6+ acres, family room with fireplace, dining room, kitchen, utility, lots of storage, central heat/air, nice metal barn, horse barn and corral with pipe-rail fence.
LAMB COUNTY GRAIN FACILITY - Elevator with 2 boot pits, office, scale, warehouse with load dock, over 1.5 million lbs. of upright storage, cleaner and dryer, pavement.
COCHRAN/YOAKUM CO, TX - 2400 acres including 625 acres expiring CRP. Good area to develop irrigation.
PARMER CO. - 960 acres, good dairy location or irrigated farm.
PARMER CO. - Exceptional two-story country home south of Farwell situated on 11,411 surveyed acres. 4 bdrms, 3 1/2 baths, two car garage, lots of storage/closet space, central heat, 81/2 ft. ceilings. You will not believe the hardwood floors in this home!!
CASTRO/HALE CO. — Choice section, strong water, 1/2 mile sprinkler & irr. wells, pavement.
LAMB CO. — 480 acres full dev., pvmt. and quarter divided by Hwy. 70.
CHECK OUR WEBSITE for data and pictures of many farms, ranches, feedyards, dairies and choice dairy locations with permits and acreages with homes
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REAL ESTATE

Vic Coker Land Co.
Agricultural Real Estate
• **Lamb County** - 708 acres north of Littlefield. 4 Center pivot sprinklers, 8 wells. Very good water. County road all the way around section. Good Allotments & direct payment.
• **Lamb County** - NW of Earth. 933 acres, 6 sprinklers, 12 wells. Exceptionally clean, well manicured farm all in one tract. Good direct payment.
• **Parmer County** - NE of Bovina. 596 acres with brick home. One center pivot with 50 g.p.m. well. 100 additional acres of cultivated and improved grass. Three bedroom, 3 bath brick home with fireplace. 40'x100' barn with 20' shed & pens.
• **Bailey County** - 160 acres non-irrigated in southwest part of Bailey County. State line. 150 acres in cultivation. Good direct payment. Good wildlife area.
• **Parmer County** - 480 acres northeast of Farwell on FM 3333. 3 sprinklers, 3 wells, good direct payment.
• **Great Hunting** - Mule Deer, Quail, Dove, Pheasant. 1256 acres in Lamb County. 580 acres irrigated with center pivot sprinklers. 13 wells. 530 acres of CRP. A lot of depreciable assets and good cash flow.
• **Lamb County** - Northwest of Littlefield. 5 labors, 5 pivots, good allotment. Growing alfalfa and wheat for hay. A lot of depreciable assets.
• **Lamb/Castro County Line** - 316 acres north of Earth, 2 central pivots, 4 wells. Very productive.
• **Castro and Lamb Counties** - 637 acres in 3 tracts in Dodd area. Some pavement. 4 sprinklers, 5 wells. Very good direct payment. A clean, well groomed farm.
******* RURAL RESIDENTIAL *******
• **Lamb County** - Pleasant Valley Area - Recently refurbished 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home on 6 acres. Large barn. On pavement.
• **Lazbuddie Area** - 3 bedroom, 2 bath on 4.75 acres. Pavement. Various outbuildings & pens.
• **Lamb County** - Earth - Beautiful, red brick home. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 4 park garage, lots of storage, fenced back yard, sprinkler system, \$130,000. Too nice to pass up.
316 Main Street • Muleshoe, Texas
Office: 806-272-3100 Home: 806-965-2468
Website: www.vicoland.com

REAL ESTATE

Cleavinger & Associates
Real Estate Just Became A Breeze™

Beautiful Homes:
4 bed / 4.5 bath / 2 garage — \$299,000
Enjoy country living in this beautifully updated 4400 sq/ft home sitting on 6 acres. The home features an isolated master bedroom with a jetted bath tub, great open family room with vaulted ceilings, hard wood floors/carpeted bedrooms, an office, and beautiful entertaining pool. The gourmet kitchen features a custom cast stone vent, 2 kitchen sinks, custom cabinetry, and stainless steel appliances.
3 bed / 3 bath / 2 garage — \$130,000
This is a very well maintained country home with many updates and additions. One completely remodeled bathroom, a large master bath, three hot water heaters, a beautiful 40 X 12 redwood deck with hot tub and an above ground swimming pool. Close to school and about 15 miles from Muleshoe.
Irrigated Farms:
1149.15 Acres with a Dairy Permit — \$2,415,000
Beautiful productive farmland operated by the same farmer for many years. The farm has great water. Dairy permit for 3308 head.
1120 Acres with a Dairy Permit — \$2,800,000
10 Wells! 2 beautiful homes! This farm is well cared for and a playa lake takes some of the east half section but it lies well for a dairy. A 4000 head dairy permit is in place and according to the permitting office, could easily be increased for additional cows.
186 Acres in Parmer County — \$390,600
8 tower sprinkler packaged for 900 gallons per minute. 1 well with turbine pump and 75 horse power electric motor. 1: 4 inch 30 horse power submersible.
473 Acres and 3/2/2 Home — \$1,005,000
Three separate quarter sections all with newer Reinke seven tower sprinklers and equipped with LEPA nozzle. One sprinkler has a 450 gallons per minute package, one is packaged for 550 gpm, and one is packaged for 650 gpm. We have bases and yield information. House on property is a beautiful well maintained 3/2/2 with lots space and storage.
Great Commercial Property:
311 W. American Blvd. — \$150,000
An established business that carries everything for your farm animals needs. Currently, this business carries hay, Hi-Pro feed for large and small animals and a wide variety of animal care essentials. It is located in an area surrounded by feed yards, dairies and farmsteads.
623 W. American Blvd. — \$250,000
A thriving business in a progressive rural city. The business currently includes tree and plant sales, landscaping projects of all sizes, yard sprinkler planning and installation, and yard and tree spraying. Also included are approximately 700 growing trees on five acres south of Muleshoe that will be maintained by the current owners for five years. The land does not convey. Great opportunity.
1202 W. American Blvd. — \$90,000
Prime location off main thru way. The surrounding retail businesses include McDonalds, Ford Dealership, various restaurants and retailers. A definite high traffic, visible area.

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• 3-2-1 Home, corner lot, Cent. A&H, built-ins, storm windows & doors, fenced yd., workshop/storage. \$47,500!!
• 2 NICELY REMODELED DUPLEX UNITS & 1 NEW Duplex unit!! PRICED TO SELL!!
• NEW 3-2-2 Brick Home, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, spktr. sys., fenced yd.!!
• BEAUTIFUL CUSTOM BUILT 3-2-2 Brick Home, built-ins, FP, isolated master, safe rm., patio, nicely landscaped, spktr. sys., fenced yd.!!
• NICELY REMODELED 3-2-2 Brick, new Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, 3125' lv. area, spktr. sys., fenced yd., MORE!!
• VERY NICE 3-2-2 Brick, Cent. A&H, built-ins, fireplace, utility, new paint, carpet, tile, atrium doors, blinds, 7 fans, cov. patio, stor. bldg., fenced yd.!! MORE!! \$145,000!!
• VERY NICE 3-2-5-2 Brick Home, Dual Fuel Heat Pump, built-ins, FP, basement, cent. vac. & humidifier systems, auto. spktr., workshop/storage, fenced yd., corner lot!! \$169,500!!
HIGH SCHOOL AREA
• Very NICE 2-1-2 brick, Cent. A&H, built-ins, new paint, carpet, wood laminate, kitchen & bath countertops, fenced yd.!!! MUCH MORE!! \$85K!!
• NICE 3-2 1/2-1 Home, Cent. Elec. Heat Pump, built-ins, fenced yd.!! \$65K!!
COMMERCIAL
• ANA'S BEAUTY SHOP — Approx. 1120' bldg., with or without furniture & fixtures!! PRICE REDUCED!!
• 3 office units on 40.6' x 140' lot across from courthouse!! \$33,000!!
• VERY NICE CHURCH BLDG. WITH PARSONAGE - MAY BE SOLD SEPARATE!! PRICE Reduced!!
• GOOD INCOME PROPERTY-LONG TERM LEASE- Approx. 8,075' office bldg. w/ approx. 20,000' paved parking area!! PRICE REDUCED \$350K.
• NICELY REMODELED - 800 sq. ft. Bldg., Cent. A&H, updated electrical & plumbing. PRICE REDUCED \$39.5K.
• 4.2 acre tract at edge of town, 40' x 60' metal insulated bldg., 2 other sheettiron bldgs., chainlink fenced area, numerous uses!! \$59K!!
• Approx. 1274' Building, 75' x 140' lot, U.S. Hwy. 84!! \$39.5K!!
• 100' x 140' tract, corner lot on Hwy. 84, 1760' Bldg., 1076' Bldg., 308' storage, & 2-56' x 22' metal canopies w/paved area!! \$49.5K!!
WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS & WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Mule on the move



Larry Puckett of Leo's Blacksmith helps take Pete down.



Chamber board president Tadd Young watches as volunteers Larry Puckett, and Bailey Co. Electric employees John Kelly, Cody Morris, John Villalobos and Joel Sinclair take Pete off the platform.



Buzzed driving is drunk driving

Submitted by Mandi Seaton, Bailey CEA-FCS

The holiday season can be one of the deadliest and most dangerous times of the year due to an increase in impaired driving. In December of 2006, 1,076 people were killed in traffic crashes that involved at least one driver or motorcyclist with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher.

That's why Texas Cooperative Extension, Bailey County is joining with National, State and local highway safety officials to remind everyone who will be celebrating during the Holidays that Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving and to never forget to plan a safe way home before the festivities begin.

The consumption of alcohol, drugs and driving don't mix. If you've had way too many or just one too many, it's not worth the risk of killing yourself or someone else. Don't ever get behind the wheel of a vehicle when you are impaired, states Bev Kellner, Texas Cooperative Extension Specialist, Passenger Safety.

Following these easy steps, a driver can enjoy a safe and festive holiday without jeopardizing their life and the lives of the others who may be on the road:

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin;
- Before drinking, please designate a sober driver and give that person your keys;
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely
- Use your community's Sober Rides program;
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to contact your local law enforcement;
- And remember, if you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

Saving lives on our roads is a top priority and we need everyone's help to do it. This holiday season; don't let your year end in an arrest — or even worse, death. Make smart decisions. Plan ahead, so you can assure a safe way home.

Whether you've had way too many or just one too many, it's not worth the risk.

For more information, please visit www.StopImpairedDriving.org or Mandi Seaton, Texas Cooperative Extension Agent — Family and Consumer Sciences, 806-272-4583.

Where's Pete?

New York City has its "Lady Liberty," Egypt has its "Sphinx," and the ancient city of Rhodes had its "Colossus," all great statues that have stood watching over them, silent and impressive, and here in Muleshoe stands the greatest of them all, Ol' Pete, the mule."

However, recent visitors to the Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture may have noticed that the most widely traveled mule statue in the Lone Star State has been absent from his perch. Where is he?

Well, the truth is that just as have the statues that hold second, third and fourth place, "Ol' Pete" was in need of some repairs, so with the help of a few stalwart citizens, the Mule that made the trip to Washington, D.C., a few years ago was transported to Shipman's Body Shop for some long overdue repairs.

Back in January 2001, "Ol' Pete" made a long road trip to attend Pres. George W. Bush's inauguration. He not only attended the Black Tie & Boots Ball, but he represented a part of Texas along with "Bevo from the University of Texas" in the Celebration Parade.

However, this past April, "Ol' Pete" was doing his best in representing the Muleshoe community when he was vandalized with eggs. Unfortunately, this wasn't noticed soon enough and after the hot summer months, his coat had deteriorated terribly.

On Friday, Nov. 14, members of the chamber board, along with volunteers from Bailey County Electric Coop., loaded "Ol' Pete" up and took him to Shipman's for repairs. He's expected to be back in place watching over Muleshoe in the near future.

MAHD board discusses finances...

Continued from page 1
home for another seven years.

The hospital district's current debt service is about \$555,000, SSS1 said, who also said CFR thinks it can accomplish everything the district needs done, without raising taxes, and still save about \$145,000 per year.

Specifically, MAHD board member Wayne Pierson pointed out that it would free up about \$145,000 in the district's cash flow.

"What you bring to the board is an education as to what our options are," Pierson said prior to his motion, seconded by board member Bob Donaldson, to approve the contract with CFR.

"We know we can make it happen for you," SSS1 said, adding that CFR wouldn't receive any payment until the funding is done.

In other business, the MAHD board:

- Approved a contract with Que Financial Management to handle the hospital's billing for "self pay" customers, which "takes a lot of staff time to follow up on the accounts.

Mason explained that the action would "free up" the hospital's staff, allowing it to focus on Medicare, medicaid and insurance company payments.

"We all feel this would be a great benefit to our hospital," Mason said.

"It's like adding another

Dialysis unit... Continued from page 1

of dialysis patients are also diabetics, and said it was a disease that affects more than just the patient because family members or caregivers are usually needed to transport the weakened patients home from the place of treatment.

When the unit is up and running toward the end of the first quarter of 2008, it was noted area patients will have to travel significantly shorter distances for treatment. In fact, Sandlin pointed out that the transport of residents at Park View will drop from 72 miles to about 200 feet.

"When we have the only nursing home in the state with a dialysis unit it would be a big marketing opportunity for us," Sandlin said at the Nov. 27 meeting.

As part of the agreement with the hospital district, AccessCare will pay the

installation expenses, operating costs, and medical insurance for the dialysis unit. But the nursing home retains the right to use the rooms adjacent to the unit for establishment of a special wound care unit at a later date.

The period of time covered by the contract is seven years, with a one year non-compete on the part of the hospital district should the contract be terminated.

The contract also called for the unit to be called the Park View Dialysis Center, and will include a memorial to individuals who have previously succumbed to renal disease.

J&J Christian...

Continued from page 1

Prior to moving their business to 109 E. Ave. B, in Muleshoe, the business, J&J Christian Bookstore, was apparently located in the Clovis, N.M. area.

staff," Sharon Novak, the hospital district's chief financial officer, said.

• Approved sending \$47,258 in past due accounts to Retail Merchants of Lubbock for collection. Novak also commended MAMC employee Missy Royal and Retail Merchants for the work they've done to recover funds on the hospital's past due accounts.

"Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck...."

Proverbs 1:8-9, NIV

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EDITORIALS are the opinion of the newspaper. They are written by staff members of the Muleshoe Journal. They are not signed because they express the position of the publisher, owners and the newspaper staff.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are written by readers of the newspaper. They are brief expressions of opinion, most concerning issues of local interest. Letters must be legible. They may be edited for content, length and space, or number of endorsements. All letters must be signed by the writer and must include a daytime telephone number for verification. Third party and unsigned letters will not be published.

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