

Muleshoe Journal

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Wheels Request Comes Up Flat

By Larry Thornton
Managing Editor
Bailey County's Meals on Wheels program came up flat Monday, with a request that a dollar donation be added to municipal water bills unsupported by council members and municipal staff. County Judge Sherri Harrison and Shelby Carpenter, Meals

on Wheels director, presented Monday's request to the council, seeking the same voluntary donation the Oneita Wagnon Senior Center has been receiving since 2003. However, all three members of the council present for Monday's meeting — Mayor Pro Tem Irene Mason and Councilmen

Eric McElroy, while supporting the purpose for the Meals on Wheels program, were opposed to the \$1 water bill add on. "We're just trying to get a hot meal to the people," Judge Harrison said. The local program



began in 1984, and in 1985 a request was made that Bailey County act as a "flow through" recipient to allow it to receive some federal funding. While the SPAG funds are mailed to the county treasurer, the funds go into a separate

account managed by Carpenter. The judge explained that new guidelines received from South Plains Association of Governments require specific menus to be used, without substitutions, and specifically cannot include canned fruits or vegetables. "It has to be fresh or frozen," the judge said.

With the increased costs of preparing the meals, using the SPAG menus, the Muleshoe Area Medical Center was faced with discontinuing its contract with Meals on Wheels. "They actually dictate the menus to you?" Parker asked. Of the 55-60 current
Continued on A3



Photograph by Stacy Conner

The Mules "upend" Melissa's quarterback during Friday's semi-finals game.

'Dream Season' Ends

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter
As the Mules began to wake after a less than restful night of sleep and began to rub the sleep from their eyes Saturday morning. They had to be wondering if it had all been a dream. But as the minutes passed they finally began to realize they had completed only what could best be described as a dream season.

opener they went undefeated through the balance of the regular season and laid claim to sole possession of the District 1-2A Championship. They were the underdogs in each of their four playoff games and reached the Texas State Semi-Finals to the surprise of the prognosticators and many Mule fans. Mule coach David Wood described his team as "a great group of over achievers."

When the Mules first began organized practice in August and the preseason picks were beginning to come out the Mules were picked as the third place finishers of District 1-2A at best. Some even had the Mules not making the post season because of the projected strength of teams like Littlefield, Bushland, Childress and Lubbock Roosevelt. But the Mules proved them all wrong and after losing their season

"We just could not stop them tonight," continued Wood. "We tried every trick in the book to keep it close but when you run out of tricks you just had to go with the flow." "It seemed like the flow had started to go our way when we came out in the second half and took the lead. We hoped we could hold it on momentum but
Continued on B1

Court Still Considering Options

By Larry Thornton
Managing Editor
Bailey County's commissioners court postponed its decision on refinancing the 2003 certificates of obligation used to finance the construction of the law enforcement center during Monday's

regular meeting. However, after receiving a presentation from Vince Viaille of Specialized Public Finance, it was suggested by County Judge Sherri Harrison that he return for the court's Jan. 12 meeting with a contract for consideration and

possible approval. At the court's Nov. 21 meeting, a presentation from Steve Perry of Wells Nelson & Associates of Dallas received a somewhat tepid response from the court — possibly because it was received by telephone after Perry

wasn't able to attend the scheduled meeting due to weather conditions. During Monday's SPF presentation, the court's members showed increased interest due to fact that the company had an office in Lubbock, and Viaille
Continued on A3

MISD Accountability Report Reveals Mixed Blessing

By Larry Thornton
Managing Editor
Muleshoe's school board received an 87-page accountability report from Assistant Superintendent Carl Krug during Monday's

regular meeting. The report, which included information about form the state-required "Academic Excellence Indicator System" and the federally-required

"Adequate Yearly Progress," is intended to address weaknesses in the school district's performance. According to the AEIS report, the local school district achieved

a "recognized" rating from the Texas Education Agency, the only district to receive the rating within a 50 mile radius, according to Superintendent Dr. **Continued on A3**

April's Christmas Doll

(As part of the Muleshoe Journal's effort to bring a bit of cheer to its readers during the Christmas season, the following serial story by Larry Thornton is being published.)

parents, and Arika the golden-haired doll with the pink sparkling dress.

As she stepped off the bus, April's stomach growled ferociously. The elderly gentleman who sat next to her on the bus had given her a candy bar, which she reluctantly accepted out of hunger. Although her mother had warned her on many occasions about accepting gifts from strangers her growling stomach won

her over. The elderly gentleman had also questioned April about her mother, whom he had heard her tell the bus driver was already on board, but April did her best to respond politely without giving him the information he sought. When she answered her father's questions



in a similar manner, her father said she was being "diplomatic." She didn't know exactly what he meant, but figured it was the best way to handle the gentleman's questions also. Once she was off the bus, April stepped out of the path of foot traffic and looked around. She was trying to decide where to go when she suddenly felt a hand on

her shoulder. "This is her, officer," the elderly gentleman said. "She got on by herself in Oklahoma." Seeing the police officer standing next to the elderly gentleman, April tried to pull away, dropping her backpack in the process and almost dropping Mrs. Bea. "Hold on, girl," the officer said as he came to the gentleman's aid by picking April up by the waist. "No body's

going to hurt you." "Let me go! Let me go!" April screamed. * * * * Up on the North Pole, Santa Claus was marshalling his forces in an effort to learn what could have happened to Mrs. Bea and Morris. All semblance of a quiet inquiry had flown out the window with the realization that someone might have forcibly taken Morris
Continued on A6

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OPINION

Will Pearl Be Remembered?

My heart cried this past week, as I read that many groups of Pearl Harbor Survivors are now disbanding due age and afflictions that make it so difficult for them to gather.

I'm not surprised by their decisions, after all it's been 70 years since the "date that will live in infamy" occurred. Seventy years, and a lot of water under the bridge.

Our youngsters know about wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and some may even remember their grandparents and



great-grandparents talking about other military actions that took place between now and the "second war to end all wars," but the numbers who directly relate to the events and individuals of that era are dwindling as rapidly as those who experienced them first hand.

Maybe my heart is burdened by memories of an uncle, who while not a Pearl Harbor survivor, was a member of the regular army prior to Pearl. A retired chief warrant officer who was among those to hit Omaha Beach later, and who passed away while attending a reunion of his D-Day comrades several years ago.

Or memories of another uncle, brother of the first, who was part of the security detail guarding the Enola Gay after it returned from Hiroshima.

There are other family and friends who have already gone on, or will undoubtedly head in the same direction in the next few years, all of whom were impacted by the events of Dec. 7, 1941, and in turn impacted my life as well.

And while my faith tells me I will see many of them again, I still mourn their passing and celebrate their memories.

With their passing goes a significant portion of our nation's history, and while much of it has been documented, inevitably there are pieces that are lost and will never be remembered.

Is it important for the annals of history to record how another uncle from rural Oklahoma, and his fellow military police used a small herd of horses they came across to herd their German prisoners, or how my grandfather was among the local carpenters who built the POW compound for German prisoners at Tonkawa, Okla.?

Maybe not, but I feel it's important that we not lose sight of our heritage, either as a nation, as a community, or as individuals.

The events of Dec. 7, 1941, and the years that followed, are as important in determining who and what we are as anything happening in the last decade.

On Veterans Day and Memorial Day, we remind ourselves not to forget our military dead and survivors, but let's not forget them the other 363 days of the year either.

Around Muleshoe...



Announcements from non-profit organizations in the Muleshoe area.

To post an announcement send an email to editor@muleshoejournal.com

MEDC Retirement

Muleshoe Economic Development Corporation, and the City of Muleshoe is hosting a retirement party for Janet Claborn on Friday, Dec. 16, from 2-4 p.m., in the Bailey County Electric Community Room, 610 E. American Boulevard.

Christmas Trees Don't Have To Be Perfect To Be Beautiful

My earliest Christmas memories are mostly wrapped around our family's Christmas trees.

I remember Mom making creamy hot chocolate and my sister stacking the spindle of the old record player with an inch-high pile of vintage vinyl Christmas music by Nat King Cole, Perry Como, Tennessee Ernie Ford, and the Norman Luboff Choir.

Most years the tree had already been bought at (where else?) Amarillo's Boy Scout Troop 80 Christmas tree lot. I was a member of Troop 80 and thus expected to help sell trees each year.

My younger brother was not, but he was a wheeler-dealer sort who liked selling trees and often, as I recall, managed to pawn off more trees than most of the bona fide boy scouts.

Jacob (I mean, Jim) always felt Jacob of old settled for far too little when he sold his hungry brother Esau that bowl of stew and only got a birthright for it. Jim would've held out for hard cash and then the birthright at the end as a balloon payment.

We'd lean the tree in the garage for a day or a few on its amputation-site stump in a bucket of water while it waited to be lit and glorified.

Anchoring the tree in the stand was a chore. Jim and I would crawl under the scratchy boughs and slide around on our wood floor to turn each screw just the right



Focus On Faith
Curtis Shelburne

amount. It was never straight the first time.

Then my 15-year-old sister, the unquestioned head honcho of the process, would ascend to perform the task of highest honor as she put on the lights (bubble lights, snowball lights, and all), a job in later years graciously bequeathed to me.

Then we would hang the ornaments, a tedious task but nothing like as bad as the final stage in the process: hanging the icicles.

I don't see those long, thin, silvery strands of foil or plastic, those "icicles," on trees much anymore. I hope never again to have to put them on one of mine.

According to my sister, they had to be hung with great care, one at a time. Ten million or so came in a box. You'd drag one out of the box and carefully place it over a tree branch. It was essential, my sister assured us, to start at the back near the trunk and make sure the icicle hung straight down on both sides of the branch.

Straight down. No clumps. Which is why Jim's preferred method of grabbing a paw-full of icicles and launching the whole wad in the general direction of the tree was sternly forbidden.

No. One at a time. Until you froze there,

died there, decayed there, and Christmas never came, and it was spring and you were still hanging icicles. One at a time.

I don't know what we thought would happen — apart from sure death — if we didn't hang the icicles exactly right.

Would Santa's sleigh suddenly crash in flight and the FAA later determine and publish for the whole world full of weeping giftless children to see that the cause was icing — not on the sleigh but improper tree icicling by

two Shelburne boys at 125 N. Goliad, Amarillo, Texas, whose wanton and reckless disregard had killed Santa?

I'm sure we never did it "right." But I remember wandering into the living room as a little lad clad in those great PJs that came complete with feet, lying down almost under the tree, looking up through its branches, and drinking in the beauty.

By God's grace, Christmas trees don't have to be perfect to be beautiful. Neither do lives.

It's A Great Time To Be A Mule!

We have had a very good first semester this year in Muleshoe ISD! We have been successful in athletics and in the classroom. Let me give you just one example from each category.

We just finished a very successful football season. The 2011 Muleshoe Mules finished the season with a 12-2 record and as 2A Division 1 State Semi-Finalists. Don't you know there are a lot of other schools that would love to have that record this year.

The Muleshoe Mules lost to the Melissa Cardinals Friday night in a very hard-fought football game 49-36 in the State Semi-Final game. The Cardinals are a very good team, and I think they will beat Hempstead this Thursday in Arlington in the finals.

The 2011 Mules brought us a football season with a larger number of exciting



football games in one season than I have ever seen. It seemed like every playoff game was almost heart-stopping with excitement, not to mention the Littlefield game. They gave us a lot of great memories.

This team had a lot of heart. They beat teams in games in which they probably should not have won. But because of their determination, they never gave up in any game.

This team showed great heart all year, and much of that is due to the leadership from the seniors on the team and their coaches. Because of the great coaches we have, they played together as a team with great discipline and beat other teams with better overall athleticism.

We are very proud

of our 2011 Muleshoe Mules Football Team! We appreciate all of the fans who followed the team and supported the Mules throughout the season.

The other example involves our junior high counselor, Hollye Hooten. Mrs. Hooten invites a group of sixth graders to lunch each week.

She invites a different group of sixth graders each week. They get a personal invitation and leave early to go to the cafeteria to get their meal.

The students meet her in the jr. high conference room and eat and visit with Mrs. Hooten. She has an agenda to follow. She tells about the office personnel, and each student introduces themselves and tells about their family.

They talk about Watson Junior High, and each student has to tell something positive about school.

Mrs. Hooten's goal is to get to know the students on a more personal level and help these sixth graders adjust to being in junior high school. The students are very excited to be included in this luncheon.

Mrs. Hooten's luncheon is just one example of the way our faculty and staff reach out to our students to help them feel more comfortable with school and to help them be more successful at school.

We are blessed to have such wonderful teachers and coaches who help our students be successful in the classroom and on the playing field.

They are building the future, one student at a time.

It's a great time to be a Mule!

Chamber Announces Employee Of The Month



The Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture recently honored Kay Taylor of the Muleshoe Independent School District as the November Employee of the Month.

Pictured on the left, from left to right, are Steve Myatt, Billy Moore, Gina Wilkerson, Kay Taylor, Scott Simons, Brandon Thomason and Mark Anthony.

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School Board... Continued from A1

Gene Sheets.

Concerning the AYP, the report indicated the students at each of the district's individual campuses met the federal AYP requirements, but Krug said, as a whole, the school district failed to meet the federal AYP requirements because it had "too many special education students."

The superintendent explained after the meeting that only three percent of the students in the tested grade levels can be exempted from the tests, and the remainder are required to be tested at grade level.

"It's almost impossible for special education students to pass these tests," he said.

According to AYP requirements, should the school district not meet the standard next year, a mandated "school improvement" plan will be set in

place.

In other business, the school board:

- Recognized Ryan Johnson and Isaiah Guerrero, MHS choir members who have advanced to the area level auditions for the All State Choir.

- Discussed the district's enrollment report, noting that the increase at Dillman Elementary will help the school district's funding.

- Received a financial report in which Business Manager Daniel Harper noted tax collections are doing well, and said the district has currently expended about 36 percent of its \$16,560,642 budget.

- Approved a contract with Randall Field, PC, as the district's auditor for the next three fiscal years. Although the contract is for a three-year period, the school board still approves it on a yearly basis.

- Approved an "Option 4 Weighted Average Daily Attendance" agreement with the Spur Independent School District. According to Superintendent Sheets, the action doesn't benefit MISD, but will benefit the Region 17 Service Center's technology consortium.

He explained that the funds received from Spur ISD would be subtracted from state's payments, with any difference going to the consortium.

- Held the first reading to the Update 92 policy changes, with the most significant part setting the school district's "reduction in force" policy.

The superintendent said a RIF is not foreseen at MISD, noting that when the state reduced the school's funding the district did not fill some of its vacated positions.



Chamber Business Of The Month

The Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture recently honored Alex's Tire Service as the November Business of the Month. Pictured above, from left to right, are Gina Wilkerson, Scott Simons, Ace Hanaway, Alex Aguirre Jr., Dominique Herrera and Mark Anthony.

Health Tip

Do you know that over half of all cancers are preventable by your behavior?

For example, small changes in eating will have a big impact on health. Just don't take that second helping or skip the dessert

Look for messages in the Muleshoe Journal to help you do your part in preventing cancers with those you love.

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Commissioners Court... Continued from A1

was suggesting a significant reduction in the certificate's interest rates was possible.

Viaille said the reduced rate, approximately 2.45 percent compared to WN&A's 2.96 percent, for a projected savings for the county of about \$28,000 per year for the life of the certificates, or a total of about \$342,000.

As with WN&A's presentation, the re-issuance of the certificates would not extend their debt service, and the related

contingency fees, estimated at \$65,000, would be paid out of the sale proceeds, and wouldn't be owed in the event the certificates weren't purchased.

In other business, the court:

- Received the annual forfeiture report from Dist. Attorney Kathryn Gurley, in which she noted there were about \$19,000 in the DA's forfeiture account, which will primarily be used for specialized equipment and training for area law enforcement officers

and departments.

- Received the annual report from Bruce Gibson of the Community Supervision and Corrections Department. Gibson and his department was praised by the county judge for their work.

- Approved adding a \$5 fee to certain civil cases filed in county and district courts.

"Do we have any choice?" Precinct 3 Commissioner Joey Kindle asked prior to the motion and vote on the state-mandated

increase, which will be used to fund the Eighth Court of Appeals.

- Approved a motion to allow employees of the law enforcement center to accrue additional vacation, sick and holiday hours until the facility is fully staffed.

- Approved the county treasurer's October report and received the November report.

- Set county holidays for the upcoming calendar year.

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Meals On Wheels... Continued from A1

meal recipients, Carpenter said all are residents of Bailey County, and of those about six pay for the meals they receive. The monthly cost is about \$4,500

She noted that one of the requirements for receiving the federal funds through SPAG — a total of about \$1,300 per month — was that the recipients couldn't be required to pay anything toward the meal. Without the SPAG funding, some of the recipients could be required to pay at least a portion of the monthly expense.

When the city first included the \$1 senior center donation on the water bill — an idea that was first presented and supported by former Council person Sharon Grant, City Manager David Brunson said many wondered how long it would be before another civic organization made a similar request, and while there are a lot of good organizations in Bailey County he wasn't sure this was the way to address the problem.

Mason said she thought it was a tragedy that someone is dictating the menus for the recipients, but added, "I'm not so sure the answer is putting it on the water bill."

thought there are many, including himself, who would be willing to help.

"I think there is money to be had," he said, "but I'm not sure this is the right way to do it."

While the city manager said, "I'm concerned if we add it to the water bill, we'll be taking away from something else."

McElroy expressed a similar view.

In other business, the city council:

- Approved an ordinance deannexing 3.5 acres from the city limits. The city manager

explained that the land was originally annexed several years ago, and has never received municipal utilities.

- Approved an ordinance to tax tangible personal property in transit.

The ordinance was originally presented to the council last month, but a decision was postponed until additional information could be received by the council.

- Noted that 1,342 canned good were collected by municipal employees and donated to the Bailey County Food Pantry.

MEDC Retirement

Muleshoe Economic Development Corporation, and the City of Muleshoe is hosting a retirement party for

Janet Claborn
Friday, Dec. 16th
2-4 p.m.
in the Bailey County Electric Community Room,
610 E. American Boulevard.

MAKE A CHILD'S HOLIDAY.

TOYS FOR TOTS

This year you can make the season bright for an underprivileged child in your community by donating a new, unwrapped toy to the **Toys For Tots** program.

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Senior Citizen News

By Laverne Winn

We salute the Muleshoe Mules football team. You have represented your school in willingness to give all you can for what you believe in. God go with each of you.

The weather has certainly been winter time. We hope all have stayed warm and well. The Oneita Wagon Senior Center is a great place to come to stay warm, visit with friends and have a good cup of hot coffee.

Monday, Dec. 19, the advisory board of the Aging Frontier Project for Bailey, Cochran and Parmer Counties will be meeting at the center

beginning at 6 p.m. This project is associated with the TTHSC in Lubbock.

Tuesday, Dec. 20, is Bunco playing day. Call a friend and come in to have a good time.

Calvert will also be here to take blood pressures, We do appreciate their services.

Wednesday, Dec. 21, Kathy Karr with the Bailey County Extension Office, will be presenting her nutrition program.

Kathy is a joy to listen to and we appreciate her taking time to visit with us.

Thursday, Dec. 22, the United Blood Services

of Lubbock will be in the center from 2-8 p.m. Please make plans to give if you can to a much needed supply.

Friday, Dec. 23, the center will be open so come on in and enjoy the fish and chicken strips.

Menu for Dec. 19-23:

Monday, Dec. 19 — Taco salad, salsa chips, salad and peach cobbler.

Tuesday, Dec. 20 — Ham and beans, greens,

salad, cornbread and apple crisp.

Wednesday, Dec. 21 — Grilled steak, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad and strawberries with angel food cake.

Thursday, Dec. 22 — Roast pork, sweet potatoes, succotash, salad, wheat rolls and banana pudding.

Friday, Dec. 23 — Fish or chicken strips, gravy, beans, coleslaw, cornbread and fruit salad.

MEDC Retirement Reception Set

Muleshoe Economic Development Corporation, and the City of Muleshoe is hosting a retirement party for Janet Claborn on Friday, Dec. 16, from 2-4 p.m., in the Bailey County Electric Community Room, 610 E. American Boulevard.

Nursing Home News

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas around Park View Nursing Care Center thanks to all the volunteers who came to deck the halls and hang the stockings.

From the front door to each hall, Christmas cheer is in evidence. Garlands, wreaths and animated figures add to the holiday spirit.

Residents' stockings have been hung on each door in anticipation of Santa's visit. Everyone is invited to visit Park View to join in the spirit of Christmas.

Residents, families and friends will celebrate the annual Christmas party on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 4:30 p.m. with refreshments, gifts and

a visit from Jolly Ol' St. Nicholas.

This party is a highlight of the month when the joy of Christmas is evident on the faces of all at the party.

The December birthday party for residents will be Thursday, Dec. 22, at 3 p.m.

Those celebrating birthdays this month are Glenn Rutlege and Dorothy Bowers. Their Family and friends are invited to attend the party to help celebrate the birthdays.

Another annual event is the Christmas Card Project begun many years ago as a way of

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BAILEY COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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Do not be afraid Zechariah your prayer has been heard Your wife
 Elizabeth will bear you a son and you are to call him John
 He will be a joy and delight to you and many will rejoice because of his birth for he will be great in the sight of the Lord

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 Pastor Domingo Luna -
 272-4542
 S.S. 9:45 am, W.S. 11 am &
 6 pm; Wed. 7 pm

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 Father Sergio Leal
 Sun. W.S. 10:30 am

Growth Gr. 1:30 pm;
 Wed. 7:00 pm

LUTHERAN
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
 Lariat, TX • David Symm, Min.
 S.S. 10:30 am; W.S. 9:30 am

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST
 507 W. 2nd St.
 S.S. 9:45; W.S. 11:00;
 Praise & Prayer 6 pm;
 First Sunday of Month
 4 pm Parkview Nursing Home Service

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 Dr. Stacy Conner
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 Interim Rev. Troy Smith
PRIMITIVE BAPTIST
 621 South First
 Elder Bernard Gowens, Min.
PROGRESS BAPTIST
 Progress, TX
PROGRESS SECOND BAPTIST
 Arthur Hays, Min. - 1st & 3rd
 Sundays

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 Reydon Stanford, Pastor
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 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.

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LARIAT CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Wesley Roach, Min.
 S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. &
 6 p.m.; Wed. 7:30 p.m.
LAZBUDDIE CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Nathan Crawford, Min.
 S.S. 9:30 am; W.S. 10:20 am
 & 5 pm; Wed. 7 pm
MULESHOE CHURCH OF CHRIST
 22nd & W. American Blvd.
 S.S. 9:30 am; W.S. 10:20 am
 & 6 pm; Wed. 7:30 pm
16th & AVE. D CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Curtis Shelburne, Min.
 272-4619
 S.S. 9:30 am; W.S. 10:30 am;

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 Fernando Sanchez, Pastor
 272-6888

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 Bro. Larry Thornton
 17th & West Ave. D
 S.S. 10 am; W.S. 11 am
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TRINITY BAPTIST
 314 E. Ave. B - Bennie
 Wright, Min.

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 Steve Claybrook, Pastor
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BAILEY COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE

The Birth Of The Christ Child

The birth of the Christ Child...

That came about, not because here was a couple that planned to get married and expected to raise children, but for a much more noble cause than that. Joseph, the expectant father was a son of David. And Mary the mother was a daughter of Nathan who also a son of David.

So we read in the book of Luke about an angel that appeared unto a little Jewish woman who was a virgin, and he told her that she was highly favored and blessed among women. That troubled her for that was an unusual salutation. It's easy to understand why she was highly favored, especially when the greeting came from an angel of the Lord.

Here's what the angel said unto her — line upon line and word for word. "Fear not Mary; for thou hast found favor with God."

"And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shall call his name Jesus."

"He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of

Something worth saying...
By Glen Williams

his father David."

"And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

Now there's other things written by Luke and others before this brief conversation, but I'm only going to copy a part of verses 34 and 35. "Then said Mary unto the angel, 'How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?'"

And the angel answered and said unto her, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee and the power of the highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

There are three statements in this that I have a question about. I don't mean that I question the truth and validity of it, but the meaning. What in truth was the assignment to which Christ was born?

His birth was designed as a immediate instrument to redeem

and save sinners and to build good families.

The birth of Christ was designed as an effort to build good families. And it was also designed as an instrument to redeem and save sinners of which rearing good families is a major part.

The true statements to which I referred are as follows:

The Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.

And he shall reign over the House of Jacob forever.

Of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Now this raises a question as to the extent of his life, and of his death. And Paul, in the Ephesians letter seems to raise a question of Christ's life and death. That question would be "did Christ's life and death pertain to and affect the entire human race, or a part of the human race?"

Note the following:

He spoke to the Ephesians on bended knees "that he would

grant you, according to the riches of his glory to be strengthened with might by his spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints

"...What is breadth, and length, and depth and height: and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with the fullness of God."

This doesn't speak of physical measurements, but spiritual. And I would say that it doesn't get so low, or so high, so wide or lengthy but what it measures out of balance.

I wrote this about two weeks ago, but because of the ice and snow we didn't try to get this to the paper. This is the afternoon of the 11th. I listened to a television service of a church in Lubbock this morning. And the pastor discussed the very scriptures I have written on here.

He built his remarks on and around those three scriptures I had mentioned. As well as I can remember that is the only time I have heard them discussed.

And I enjoyed it.

Death Notices

Federico DeLeon

Earth resident Federico DeLeon, 82, died on Sunday, Dec. 1, 2011, at his residence. He was born on Oct. 29, 1929, to Francisco and Natividad DeLeon in Falls City. Graveside services were held on Dec. 14, at Earth Memorial Cemetery.

Nursing Home... Continued From A4

providing funding to purchase items that make residing at the center more enjoyable.

The project lets people donate the money they would spend on sending their cards and their names are added to the list to be published later in the month.

Donations may be left at Muleshoe State Bank, First Bank or at Park View.

Donations mailed should be sent to Park View, 1100 West Ave. J, Muleshoe, 79347.

Residents enjoy keeping up with news through the local media.

The *Muleshoe Journal* is delivered every Wednesday afternoon and residents look forward to reading the news about local events.

They also enjoy listening to Ch. 6 on the big-screen TV.

These two media services allow residents a view of life outside

Park View.

Residents will be treated to Christmas carols several times this month.

Calvary Baptist Church will come on Dec. 12 at 6 p.m., and Dillman Elementary will provide music at 10 a.m. that day.

The youth from the Mennonite Congregation will come on Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. to carol.

Kathy Carr will come on the 16th to cook a scrumptious dish for sampling.

Other weekly activities that are always on the schedule will also provide entertainment and activity for residents.

Come visit Park View any day to share in the activities of the center. You are always welcome to visit and volunteer.

Residents and staff send wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to family and friends.

MISD Christmas Band, Choir Concerts Held

Muleshoe High School and Watson Junior High's band and choir students performed for friends and family during concerts Sunday.

Pictured on the right are members of the Muleshoe High School Band. Pictured below are members of Watson Junior High's Beginners Band.



Health Tip


Quitting smoking or chewing tobacco at any time will substantially reduce your risk of cancer going forward as your body will heal from the effects of smoking or chewing.

Share the information with someone you care about.

Thanks for reading!

Luke 1:13-15

U B K G W R H T E B A Z I L E T R W I B W G P E K
 F D K E T Y B M E W R A N Z J R T I Q A X U N A H
 H I N T H E S I G H T F Y O B E A M O P C O K A T
 Q F C P G T S B I X Y V Y O S X T U D J S I S S O
 P O B Z E M S A G S W C F S L W O D N R J N B R L
 U V R H K J T I S U E K J Z K U C M O Y E U H U A
 Y G V D Y A I H B E A F R A I D I Y Y E D O J X L
 P O B Z E M S A G S W C F S L W O D N R J N B R L
 I E U R A Z T I O I T M F I U J H A Y S F A D H
 T D G R Z J C R K P L H U W A Z E I G Y S B E O Z I
 F E X X W L A A T D F E L N P A R L L L B N F E M
 B B B W C I S H S S K L D O R X L V J L O I T F W
 R L L U U L F C U C I E Q D B Y L D L T Y B H Y B
 K U L M N P O Y E U W V M G O N O I J S B T K E A Y
 U I P F Z O T Z E Q T B U D M A W I S Z C O L N B
 R W P R U I E H Z U D I R T P J Y A J O B K O C W
 D E W A W D R E Y A R P R U O Y N E K R I M R F K
 T H S N S O B M A X F O J M Y N A K W B F E D G T
 F O G K F O E S U A C E B N Y C M G T U Z B X E D
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AGRICULTURAL NEWS

Some Well Owners, Operators Need To Make Initial Readings 2012 Water Use Reporting

The High Plains Underground Water Conservation District reminds owners and operators of certain wells or well systems that it is time to make initial readings to determine a "starting point" for 2012 groundwater use reporting.

Recent High Plains Water District rule amendments now require flow meter readings or readings from alternative measuring methods to be recorded from Dec. 15 to Jan. 15 of each year. This information is needed to report annual water use to the district by March 1 of the following year.

"In preparation for reporting in the 2012 calendar year, well owners and operators first need to determine if they are going to use flow meter readings or alternative measuring

methods for their information," said Gerald Crenwelge, field data collection group supervisor.

Alternative measuring methods may be used for existing wells in lieu of flow meters during the transitional period from Jan. 1, 2012 to Dec. 31, 2015.

The three approved alternative measuring methods include electricity consumption, natural gas consumption, and nozzle packages/hour meter readings on center pivot systems.

Once the reporting method is determined, Crenwelge said well owners and operators have the option to provide their initial information now via a printed form available on the district's web site or they may choose to wait until a new database

with reporting on the Internet is activated.

Parts of the database will become active within the next 30 days and additional parts will become active in stages after that for recording and reporting of meter readings.

"Well owners and operators are encouraged to visit the High Plains Water District web site at www.hpwd.com on a regular basis for announcements about the district's new reporting database and instructions on how to submit data," Crenwelge said.

We hope this new database will make it as easy as possible for well owners to provide required data to the district. In addition, it will help us track those who have reported information and those who have not," he

said.

The metering/reporting requirements apply to all groundwater use within the High Plains Water District including agriculture, livestock and dairy operation, manufacturing, municipalities, oil and gas production, public water supply systems, and steam-electric generation.

It is important to note that the reporting requirements do not apply to wells producing less than 17.5 gallons of water per minute (25,000 gallons per day) or wells that are used solely for domestic use. However, wells that are part of a well system that has a total aggregated capacity to produce more than 17.5 gallons of water per minute (25,000 gallons per day) are included.

Additional

information regarding the reporting requirements and alternative measuring methods are found in the Rules of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District and the district's Meter Specifications and Approved Meter List Manual. Both are available as PDF files for viewing/downloading on the water district web site.

"The High Plains Water District Board

of Directors approved a 50/50 Management Goal which establishes a desired future condition for the Ogallala Aquifer within the district. This goal is to have 50 percent of the saturated thickness of the Ogallala Aquifer available for use 50 years in the future (2060). We encourage persons with questions to call the Lubbock office at (806) 762-0181," said Jim Conkwright, general manager.

NRCS Announces Sign-Up Period For Conservation Stewardship Program

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) today announced that the ranking period cut-off date for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is Jan. 13. Producers interested in CSP should submit applications to their local NRCS office by the deadline so that their applications can be considered during the first ranking period of 2012.

"CSP is one of our most popular conservation programs, and we expect to receive many applications," NRCS Chief Dave White said. "I encourage all farmers and ranchers who are interested in applying to contact their local NRCS office as soon as possible so they can meet the deadline."

CSP is offered in all 50 states, and the Pacific

and Caribbean areas through continuous sign-ups. The program provides many conservation benefits including improvement of water and soil quality, wildlife habitat enhancements and adoption of conservation activities that address the effects of climate change.

Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.

A CSP self-screening checklist is available to help potential applicants determine if CSP is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, contract obligations and potential payments. It

is available from local NRCS offices and on the CSP web page.

As part of the CSP application process, applicants will work with NRCS field personnel to complete the resource inventory using a Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT).

The CMT determines the conservation performance for existing and new conservation activities.

The applicant's conservation performance will be used to determine eligibility, ranking and payments.

In 2010 alone, nearly 21,000 applicants enrolled in CSP, putting additional conservation on 25.2 million acres, about the size of the state of Kentucky, to improve water and

soil quality, enhance wildlife habitat and address the effects of climate change.

Visit the NRCS website at www.nrcs.usda.gov or contact your local NRCS office for information.

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Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Dimmitt City Hall Meeting Room (West Entrance)

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Foreign Landowners Required To Report Agricultural Holdings

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of United States agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. All individuals who are not US citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction

to FSA within 90 days of the closing.

Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, realtors, attorneys, and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.



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Although the Muleshoe Journal tries to be accurate in the news stories and releases it publishes, the newspaper recognizes that errors occasionally occur.

An effort will be made to correct typographical errors, or misstatements of facts, in news stories voluntarily submitted for publication as soon as possible — if brought to the newspaper's attention in a timely manner, but

will not include rerunning the news story or related photographs.

Corrections necessary from inaccurate or illegible information provided to the newspaper will not be published free of charge.

Paid publication items — whether advertisements, obituaries or items that don't meet the criteria for free publication — may be rerun if the original publication includes significant error.

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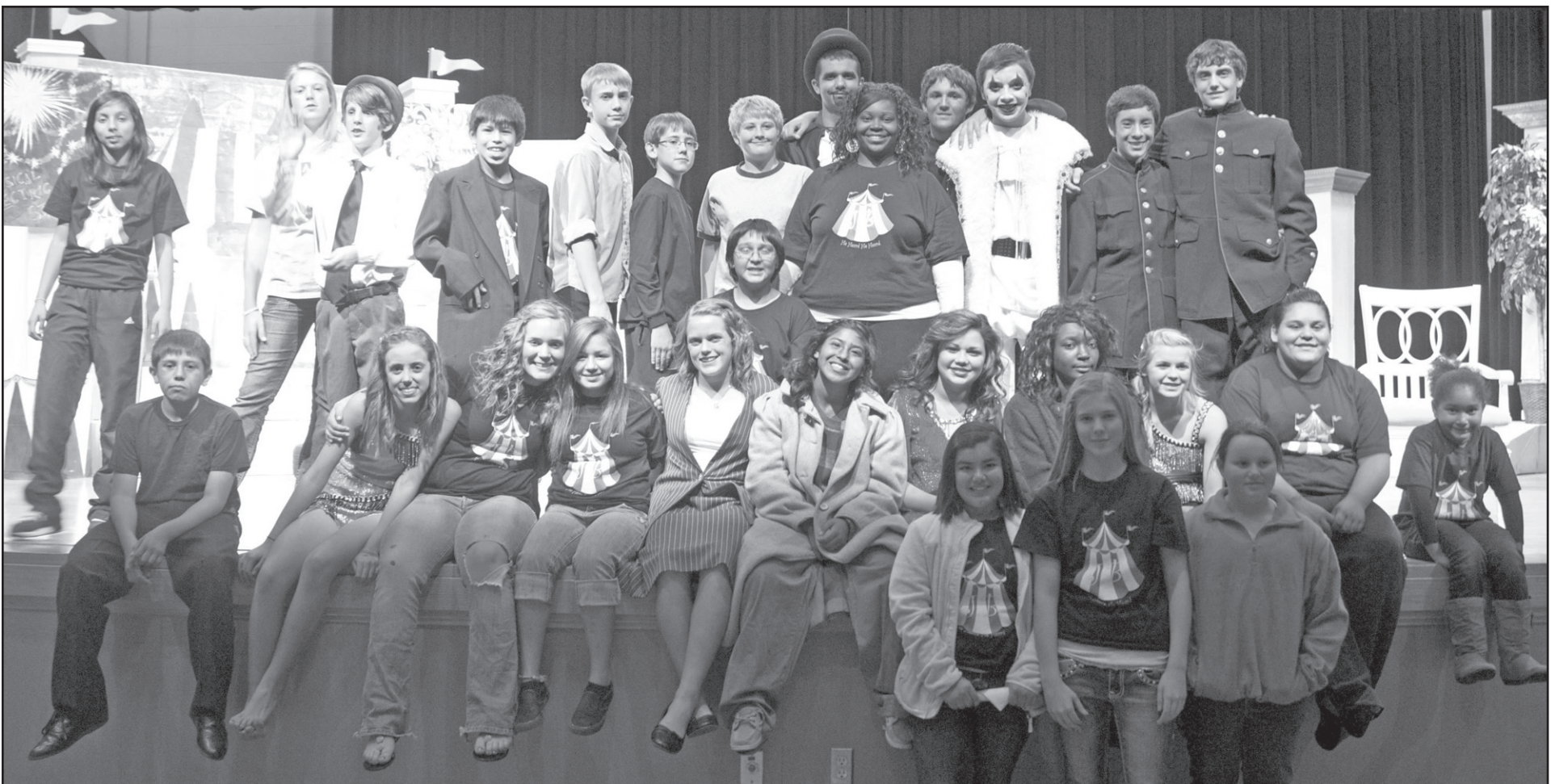
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The Sudan Buzz



Sudan OAP Places First At District JH OAP Competition

By Cheri Sain
Sudan Correspondent

The Sudan One Act Play placed first at the District Junior High One Act Play competition at Farwell.

The play, "JB" was directed by Vicki Jurado. Assistant directors were Jonathan Robertson and Janice Warren.

Makeup and set were stylized by Neal Kleman.

Sudan's Carson Phillips won best actor. Other Sudan cast members winning awards were Joe Luis Melendez and Chris Burrell received Honorable Mention All Star Cast. Ashton Shultz

and Cristian Martha were selected on the All-Star Cast.

Cast members included Joe Luis Melendez, Cristian Martha, Carson Phillips, Ashton Shultz, Chris Burrell, Briffen Ames, Maddi Soles, Kylee Coleman, Raemi Goen, Preston Bradley, Ashton

Bartley, Marcos Lopez, Ross Steadman, Ricky Medrano, Ariel Porras, Shaylee Johnson, and Eliana Herrera.

Crew members are Megan Capers, Nereida Trillo, Araeli Cornejo, Erin Larson, Isabel Chacon, and Aleisha Light.

Alternates included

Daniela Tinajera, Leo Castillo, Patricia Azua, Sara Richards, Ambrosia Nelson, and Ezra Herrera.

This is the second year that Sudan has

placed first in the Junior High One Act Play Division with two different directors.

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Sudan Cowboy Wins Seventh Round At Wrangler National Finals Rodeo

It took them a while to warm up at the 10-day, \$6 million Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, but Erich Rogers — a former Indian National Finals Rodeo champion from Round Rock, Ariz., — and Kory Koontz of Sudan, finally entered the winner's circle on Wednesday, Dec. 7.

As the last team to go in the field of 15, they stopped the clock in 3.7 seconds to earn \$17,885 apiece.

"Winning a round here makes the hair stand up on your neck," said Koontz, 40.

"When you see those fast runs in front of you and then you come out and beat them, you can't help but get excited," he said.

After failing to record a clean time in the rodeo's first five rounds, the duo had switched from their own horses to some they leased specially for the event, and have earned \$34,615

thus far.

While Koontz is competing here for the 18th time, this is Rogers' first appearance at rodeo's super bowl.

"It's been amazing," said Rogers, 25. "I'm still kind of in shock that we're here — everybody dreams of roping in this rodeo. I've thought about taking that victory lap so many times."

Rogers and Koontz have already decided to rope together in

2012 and make another attempt at a world title, since they have a slim chance at the 2011 gold buckles.

"I turned 40 this year, but Erich brings out the youth in me," said Koontz.

"He has the hunger and the desire and the drive to go out and work hard and win," he added.

Competition continued on Thursday, Dec. 8, and concluded on Saturday, Dec. 10.

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Sudan ISD Speech Tournament Participants

Students from the Sudan Independent School District took part in Amarillo High School's "Shut Up and Speak" Tournament over the weekend. The participants, pictured above, included: Back row — Andrew Ames, Alex Hernandez, Joaquin Azua, Kristina Thorn, Jacob Markham, Charly Schafmeyer, Ryan Fred, Doug Ames, Kendan Drennan, Adam Martin, Deric McCurry and Luke Tiller; and front row — Brianna Azua, LaShea Weaver and Jacob Drennan.

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April's Christmas Doll

Continued from A1
and Mrs. Bea.

Christmas Eve was just over the horizon, but Santa pulled several of the elves from their assigned duties to assist in the search. Walruses sunning on passing ice floes were questioned and polar bears awakened from their deep winter sleep were queried, but no one knew what could have happened to the missing elf and doll.

In the final hours of the search, Santa's helpers left no stones unturned no matter how thick the ice on top of it was. Santa Claus was pacing impatiently outside the reindeer stable, when Percy, his chief assistant, stopped by to deliver the most recent report of the search's progress.

"Nothing... It's just no use continuing," Percy said with a slow shake of his head. "We've talked to everything north of Alaska's north slope. Nobody and no thing has any idea where they could be."

"We even checked with the winter witches," Percy added, shrugging his shoulders when Santa's eyes sharpened at the mention of Christmas' most powerful enemies in decades.

"They say they don't know anything about the disappearances." As Percy finished his report, a light breeze made the tiny bell on the tip of his felt cap tinkle.

"But where else can we search?" Santa asked, placing his fists on his hips and staring out across the vast white expanse of the North Pole.

As Santa stood there in silence, the light breeze strengthened and within only a few seconds had turned into gale force wind that whipped nearby snow drifts into a mini-blizzard. Long used to the antics of passing northern winds, Santa ignored the dancing ice crystals until a cold voice called down from overhead.

"Evening, Santa," the North Wind said with a deep chuckle, "You're looking a bit... wind blown today, is something the matter?"

Morris' interview with the police department psychologist hadn't been going very well. Although the doctor wore an understanding expression on his face, the young elf soon realized how little the psychologist knew about the world.

Not only was the psychologist unaware that moonbeams were the best things to polish the little silver bells and buttons which the elves adorned their clothing with, he didn't know the first thing about feeding magic reindeer.

"All of Santa's elves make toys," Morris said, repeating himself for what seemed to be

the third time. "We do other things also, like me — I have to sweep the first work shop — or Percy — he has to keep tallies on all the toys being made and stuff like that. But we all make toys. If we didn't we wouldn't be elves."

The psychologist nodded his head, the "kind" expression on his face barely moving as he did so.

"And you make the toys for... Santa at the North Pole?" he asked.

Morris nodded his head.

"Tell me, Mister..." the psychologist said, drawing out the last word as if expecting Morris to "fill in the blank."

"Morris," the elf said.

"...Mr. Morris," said the psychologist. "Is that your first name or your last?"

"It's my only name," Morris said. "Elves don't need last names."

"I see," said the doctor in a slightly patronizing tone of voice.

The questions continued on, and on. Morris told him about the winter witches and many of the other wonders of the North Pole. He even answered questions about Santa Claus and his sleigh. With each response, the psychologist would jot down some notes before continuing to the next topic.

Finally, the police doctor closed his notebook and stuck his pen back into his shirt pocket.

"Are we through?" Morris asked. "Can I go, now?"

The psychologist frowned and shook his head slowly. "No Mr. Morris, I think it would be best if you stayed with us a little while."

"Unless you reach the understanding that Santa Claus and magic dolls don't exist, that the North Pole is covered by ice rather than an elven village, and that being abnormally short doesn't make you an elf, you'll probably be with us a long time," he added.

"But what about Christmas?" Morris asked. "Mrs. Bea left before Santa finished his list."

The psychologist turned and walked to the cell door where he pushed the button to call a guard to open the door. Morris followed him, pleading for release. The psychologist ignored his pleas. As the guard turned the key, locking Morris in the room again, a tiny tear ran down the cheek of Santa's youngest elf.

As the patrol car pulled into the police station's garage, April whispered to Mrs. Bea, "Can't you do something?"

The officer driving the car glanced at April in his rearview mirror at the sound of her voice, but turned his attention back to his driving without saying anything.

"Shhh... Morris is

in this building," Mrs. Bea whispered back in the funny way she did without moving her lips, and which made April's head tingle, when adults were around.

After parking the car, the officer led her inside the station, around and through crowds of people and police officers. At a tall desk, the driver spoke to an officer with stripes on his arms.

"Here's the kid off the bus," the driver said.

The officer wearing the stripes nodded his head and continued chewing on the cigar in his mouth. "Take her up to Juvenile," he said. "Somebody is headed over from the youth shelter to take her off our hands. She talking?"

The driver shook his head, "Just to her doll."

"Kids," snorted the officer with the stripes.

The officer led April through another portion of the building, and up an elevator to a large office with the words "Juvenile Division" painted on the front doors.

"You just wait here and be good," the officer said, "and I'll go get you something to drink. Okay? You like fruit juice?"

April nodded and took the seat indicated by the officer.

"Now what?" she asked Mrs. Bea when

they were alone except for a couple of people behind desks at the far end of the room.

Mrs. Bea concentrated real hard, wrinkling her ceramic brow as she did so, and then said, "Go back out through the glass doors."

April looked around to see if anyone was watching. When she was sure they weren't, she slid out of the chair and tip-toed across the floor and out the door.

Out in the hall, Mrs. Bea relayed a series of directions to April. "Turn here... go through that door... get on the elevator, push number four... someone's coming, hide behind that plant."

The directions seemed endless, but eventually, Mrs. Bea said, "Wait a minute. I can feel him, he's nearby."

April found herself in front of another set of glass doors, this one bearing a long word "interrogation" which she hadn't encountered before in any of her elementary reading books.

Pushing the left side door open slowly, she peeked around. The only person she could see was the back of the balding head of an officer behind a tall desk similar to the one where the officer wearing the stripes had been.

At Mrs. Bea's urging, she reluctantly went inside, taking care that the door closed without making any noise. When the officer glanced briefly over

his shoulder, April was safely out of view, with her back pressed up against the front of the desk.

Following Mrs. Bea's mental instructions again, April tip-toed around the end of the desk and down the adjacent hallway. A series of doors, each with a number, lined both sides of the hall. Cautiously, April moved down the hall. "Where is he?" she asked the doll. "Keep walking," the doll replied. Eventually, they reached a room with bearing the number "27."

"He's inside this room," Mrs. Bea whispered excitedly. April tried to turn the door knob without success. "It's locked," she gasped. "Turn that little knob above it," Mrs. Bea suggested. April slid the doll further up under her left arm to allow use of both hands and turned the small knob and the door knob at the same time.

When the door latch

clicked, April slowly pushed the door open. Inside she found a small man, dressed like an elf, who was sitting on a chair in a far corner of the room, crying.

"Morris!" Mrs. Bea exclaimed.

The elf's mouth dropped open in surprise as he looked up at the magical doll he'd left the North Pole in search of. "How did you get here?" he asked.

"We don't have time for explanations," the doll said. "Follow us."

Once more April followed Mrs. Bea's instructions as she, and Morris, fled through the police station.

It was several minutes, and several close calls, before they reached the outside street.

"What will we do now?" Morris asked.

"Go that way," Mrs. Bea replied. "If I remember correctly, there's a big park we can wait in."

"Wait for what?" Morris asked.

"Santa Claus, of course," the doll said.

(Watch for next week's conclusion if April's Christmas Doll!)



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SPORTS NEWS

'Great' Mules Team Ends Season

Continued from A1
they are a very good football team."

"I would take a thousand seasons like this one. The kids make it all worthwhile and never gave up. Week in and week out, they always left it all out on the field. The effort and desire was there by the kids but tonight we just came up on the short end of the scoreboard."

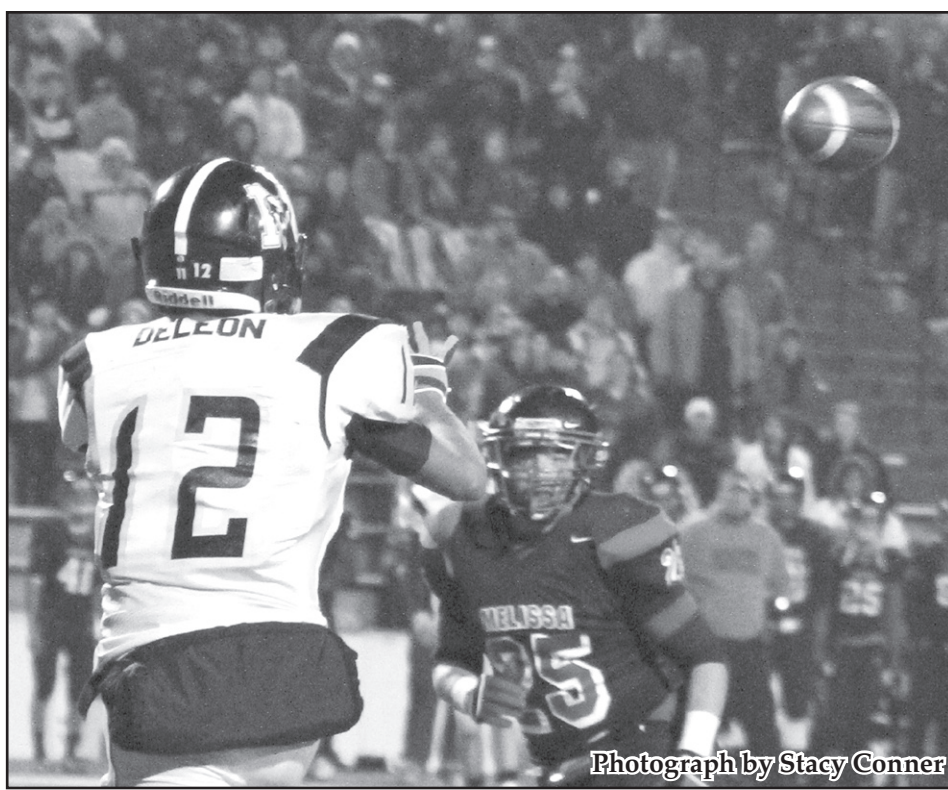
"We can measure and weigh these kids. We even know how strong their legs and arms are and how fast they can run. But we have not been able to measure the size of their heart. About the time I thought I knew how much heart they had they would surprise me again."

"The fans were with us every step of the way and the kids appreciated their support. They always knew the fans would be there for them. That support played a big part in our success and the kids and coaches all want the folks to know how much we all appreciate them."

The Mules could not pull a fourth upset out of their vast bag of tricks Friday night when they met the Melissa Cardinals in Sweetwater's Mustang Bowl. The Mules trailed 21-14 at the intermission but when they returned to the field after the half they marched 70 yards in five plays.

Issac Baca took the option pitch from Beau Avila and scooted the final nine yards for a touchdown. The Mules faked the point-after kick. Avila popped up from his kneeling position and went up the middle for the two-point conversion and a 22-21 Mule lead.

The Mules could not hang on and the Cardinals rolled to a 49-



Photograph by Stacy Conner

Mule Ryan DeLeon awaits the ball prior to Friday's injury.

36 win. The Cardinals will play Hempstead in the State Championship game in Cowboy Stadium Friday night.

Melissa scored twice in the third quarter and early in the fourth period to take a 42-22 lead with 11:22 left in the game.

The Mules are well known for playing all 48 minutes of a game and the defensive line put heavy pressure on the Cardinal punter after the snap sailed back to the five where the punter picked up the ball and managed to get off a very short punt to the Melissa 10.

I. Baca was there and scooped up the ball on the first bounce and scooted 10 yards to score and breathed new life into the Mules. Saul Elizalde's PAT cut the deficit to 42-29.

A long run back gave the Cardinals field position near mid field. They milked the clock to leave the Mules little time as they marched 48 yards on eight plays before scoring on a 15 yard run.

The Mules were able to string together one more drive. They drove 67 yards on 10 plays

with Junior Baca scoring on the Hammer play. Juan Guerrero booted the final point of the game.

Melissa scored first on their 14-play 69-yard opening drive that consumed the first five minutes of the opening quarter.

The Mules answered after missing a field goal at the end of the opening period by driving 63 yards in 10

plays. I. Baca refused to be denied and broke two tackles before entering the end zone on a run up the middle. Elizalde tied the game at 7-7 with 11:36 left in the half.

Melissa scored quickly on a five-play 43-yard drive to retake the lead at 14-7 with 10:16 showing on the clock.

The Mules found an answer and worked their way 63 yards down the

field in 10 plays. Avila found Ryan DeLeon open on the Melissa 10. DeLeon pulled down and secured the ball before he looped around two defenders for a 17-yard TD pass and run. Elizalde again tied the score with almost eight minutes remaining in the half.

The Cardinals worked their way down field on an eight-play 75-yard drive to score and take a 21-14 lead at the intermission.

Beau Avila was 23 of 38 passing for 304 yards and one touchdown and was intercepted twice. Issac Baca rushed 11 times for 58 yards and two TDs. He also caught five passes for 57 yards.

Junior Baca had three carries for four yards and a score. He also made three receptions for 36 yards. Ryan DeLeon had six catches for 92 yards and one touchdown. Saul Elizalde made six catches for 91 yards and threw one pass for 13 yards.

Austin Ross had one

reception for 30 yards, Eric Orozco made two catches for five yards and Caleb Wood had one reception for six yards.

Joel Regalado led the Mules on defense with 18 talks and one special team tackle. Issac Baca made 15 stops on defense, recovered one fumble, broke up a pass and scored on a blocked punt return.

Matthew Ambriz made 10 tackles, one being for a loss, one sack; one special team tackle and blocked a punt. Ryan Johnson had nine tackles and Junior Baca made eight.

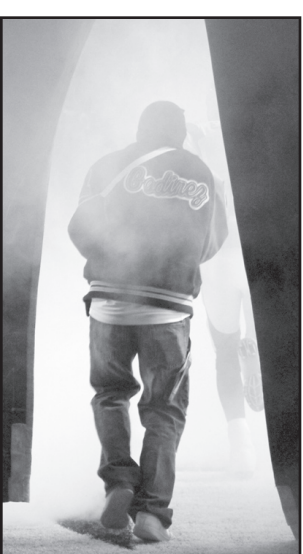
Juan Guerrero made eight tackles, a sack and broke up a pass. Shaun Atwood recorded six tackles, one for a loss and a sack. Beau Avila made seven tackles. Carlos Sosa and Blake Edwards were the head hunters for the Mules with two special teams tackles each.

Now the Mules will check in there equipment and move on to other sports as those seasons arrive.



Photograph by Stacy Conner

Mule Matt Ambriz blocks a punt during Friday's game.



Last Time...

Mule Al Godinez follows his teammates from the Mule tunnel for the last time in his high school football career, during Friday's semi-finals game against the Melissa Cardinals.

Photograph by Stacy Conner

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SPORTS NEWS

No Points For Lady Mules' Strong Defense

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

The Lady Mules clamped down on the defensive end of the floor Tuesday night against the Lady Cubs in Brownfield.

They held Brownfield to 19 points in the first half and 17 in the second for a total of 36 points.

But the Lady Mules may have been so heavily invested in their defense they forgot to score.

They trailed 19-16 at the half but fell behind 32-20 after three quarters. The Lady Mule defense became even tougher and held the Lady Cubs to only four points in the final eight minutes.

But the 12 point head start the Lady Cubs had going into the final frame was enough for them to hang and defeat the Lady Mules 36-28.

Four Lady Mules scored a hoop in



Coach Val Acree speaks to his team during the game against Brownfield. Photograph by Rachel Mata

the opening period. Adrienne Precure, Ivana Agundis, Dominique Mata and Samantha Reyna all found the range.

Brownfield managed to hit one free throw more to take a scant 9-8 lead.

The Lady Mules repeated their eight point scoring feat in

the second period. Alyssa Leal made two hoops, Linda Sanchez and McKenna Dunham dropped in a basket each.

They trailed 19-16 at the intermission.

The Lady Mules stumbled out of the dressing room after the half and only Mata and Reyna could find

the range.

Brownfield took advantage with 13 points to take a 32-20 lead into the final quarter.

The Lady Mules all but shut down the Lady Cubs in the last quarter. Brownfield only made one hoop and two of nine free throws.

Dunham added a hoop and Precure made a free throw.

Leal score a basket and then dropped in a 3-pointer as the Lady Mules again scored eight points.

Leal set the scoring pace with nine points in the game. Dunham, Reyna, and Mata added four points each. Precure dropped in three points.

Sanchez and Agundis chipped in two points each.

The Lady Mules open district competition Tuesday, Dec. 13, when they host the Abernathy Lady Lopes. Tip off is



The Lady Mules prepare to throw in the ball during the Brownfield game. Photograph by Rachel Mata

And The Final Contest Winner Is...

I would like to give a "big" pat on the back to our Muleshoe Mules.

You all played a great season and I look forward to another great season next year!

Next, I would like to thank all of you who participated in both the Football Contest and Playoff Picks, it has been really fun talking with those of you who came in to drop off your weekly picks.

Last but certainly not the least, I would like to express my appreciation to Lowe's Marketplace, Maple Coop Gin, Danny's Catering, Clay's Corner Gin, Five Area Telephone Cooperative, Irrigation



By Rhea Gonzales

Pumps & Power, Springlake Potatoes and Barrett Produce, without these sponsors this contest would not be possible. Thank you for your continued support!

Here is a run down of last weeks playoff winners: Melissa, Hempstead, Lake Travis, Munday, Chapel Hill, Tenaha and Midway.

We had two contestants, Darin Bratcher and Claire Brown pick five of seven games correctly. the combined tie-breaker

score was Darin 66 and Claire 62.

Actual score was 85. So, this week's winner of the Playoff Picks \$25 Pizza Hut gift card will be Darin Bratcher. Congrats Darin on your win!

Here are the end of season Playoff Pic's totals: Butch Green 9, Sherri Harrison 13, Shelbi Harrison 14, Gerald Bond 10, Scott Brown 20, Debbie Weir 15, Conner Harrison 13, Hilbert Wisian 16, Roberto Ramirez 7, Ruben Mata 5, Josh Garza 14, John Paul Garza 13, Anna Lopez 13, Gabriel Toscano 6, Sue

Bond 11, Darin Bratcher 21, Fernando Toscano 18, Claire Brown 21 and Raymond Villalobos 8.

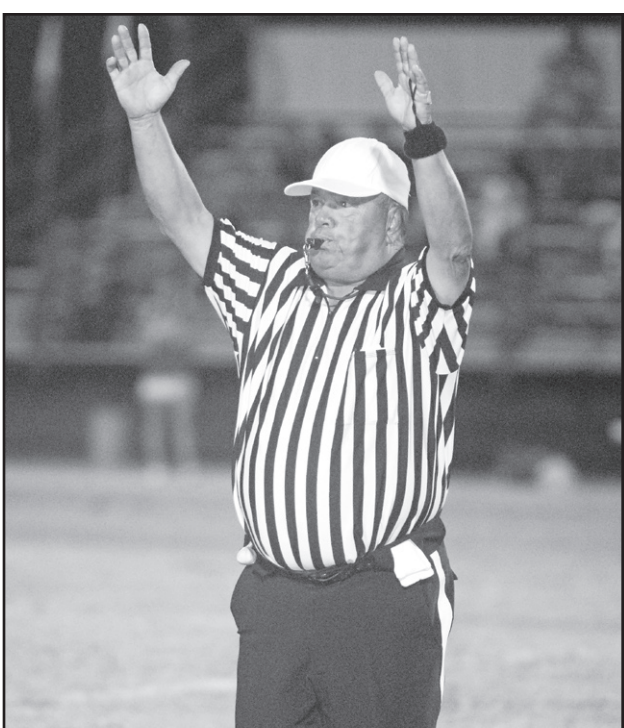
We had a tie in the Playoff Picks for the Tailgate Prize, so the total of all the tiebreaker scores was used to determine the winner.

The two contestants who were in the running were Darin Bratcher and Claire Brown!

Darin's total combined tiebreaker score for the whole season on Playoff Picks is 236, Claire's is 223, the actual total is 294.

So, this year's Tailgate Prize goes to Darin Bratcher.

Thank you, Darin, for your dedication to the contest and Congrats!



Seasons' End

Local referee Sammy Gonzales hangs up his whistle after 50 years. Story on B3.

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scheduled for 6:30 p.m. The Lady Mules will travel to Idalou Friday, Dec. 16, to battle the high powered Lady Cats.

That tip off is also scheduled for 6:30 p.m. The Lady Mules will

return home to host the Tulia Lady Hornets Dec. 19 before taking their Christmas break.

They will be joined by the Mules as they open their district season after playing only two non-district games.

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Local Referee Hangs Up His Whistle

By Ryan Thurman
Plainview Herald

A young man was sitting at his home in Muleshoe when two of his football coaches showed up at his door. They were on their way to a basketball game and needed some help officiating after one of the members of their crew had fallen ill.

That young man was Sam Gonzalez, and that first trip to Morton wound up being the first of more than 17,000 games he would end up officiating in his 50-year career wearing the zebra stripes.

But after half-a-century of throwing flags

and calling penalties, the 67-year-old official has decided to hang up his whistle.

Gonzalez began reffing games while he was still in high school and quickly developed a love for it.

That love for the games and for the players and coaches is what he said kept him going almost a decade past the time when most officials are retiring.

"I'm very lucky," he said. "God blessed me."

Included in those blessings is that Gonzalez is getting to go out on his own terms.

"I never worried about my knees and feet," he

said. "If they were going to give out, they were going to give out."

But they never did. In fact, Gonzalez's retirement hasn't truly kicked in yet as he was working a basketball tournament in Tahoka this weekend.

He rounded out his high school football career earlier this season when he called the Motley County-Groom area round playoff game in Turkey.

Even though it is being called a "retirement," Gonzalez plans to stay active as a junior high official.

The past four years, Gonzalez has officiated

out of the Amarillo Chapter of Texas Association of Sports Officials after spending most of his career in the South Plains chapter in Lubbock.

Gonzalez said that he moved to the Amarillo chapter after he stopped receiving as many assignments, saying he was "blackballed by the Lubbock chapter" due to what he felt was discrimination.

He said he felt like the Lubbock chapter did not adequately respect his experience.

But that is one of the few negative memories Gonzalez has about officiating. Most of his

50 years was spent watching talented athletes perform and developing friendships with legendary coaches. Gonzalez was with legendary Texas Tech Lady Raiders basketball coach Marsha Sharp almost every step of her career.

Gonzalez said he remembers officiating games when Sharp played at Tulia and at Wayland, and then when she was a coach at Lockney and finally Tech.

"Officiating has been such a blessing to me," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez also likes to

count among his friends renowned Plainview coaches Carl Irlbeck and Greg Sherwood, and said two of his favorite people are other fixtures of Plainview, former Herald editor and radio voice Danny Andrews and longtime radio announcer Tom Hall.

Now that he won't be spending two to three nights a week on football fields or gym floors, Gonzalez said his primary concern will be to stay busy and spoil his two grandchildren in Borger, Kathryn Dawn and Lauren Jaiden, as often as he gets the opportunity.

CLASSIFIEDS

Deadline is Monday at noon to place a classified ad. Call 272-4536.

LEGAL/PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF CONSTABLE/SHERIFF'S SALE (REAL ESTATE)
BY VIRTUE OF A Writ of execution issued out of the Potter County District Court of Potter County, Texas, in a certain cause numbered Cause # 099667-00-E.

On the 7th day of November A.D. 2011 styled: Amarillo Trailer Sales & Rentals, Inc., D/B/A Area Trailer Sales and Rentals (c/o Reuben L. Hancock, 7480 Golden Pond, Suite 300, Amarillo, Texas 78121 V vs. B and W Enterprises, LLC, to me as bailey County Sheriff directed and delivered, I have levied upon this 5th day of December A.D. 2011 and will between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. of the first Tuesday in January A.D. 2012, it being the 3rd day of said month, at 300 South 1st Street bailey County Courthouse of said Bailey County, proceed to sell at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash in hand, all right, title and interest, if any, which the defendant had on the 5th day of December A.D. 2011, or any time thereafter, of in and to the following described property: PROPERTY 13900 WD & FW JOHNSON SECTION 21 BLOCK Z, ACRES 1 (NWCORN) PROPERTY 43003 A290/291A WD & FW JOHNSON SECTION 21, BLOCK Z, ACRES 4, (NMCORN) PROPERTY 71069 2009 CMH MANOR HILL 30 X 48 MOBILE HOME SERIAL #CW2012598TXA LABEL #HWC0400423 said property is levied on as the property of ROBERT POTTER and will be sold to satisfy the judgment for \$40,317.02 Dollars. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND on this 5TH day of DECEMBER A.D. 2011. RICHARD WILLS SHERIFF BAILEY County, Texas by Richard Wills Sheriff. *Published in the Muleshoe Journal December 8, December 15, and December 22, 2011.*

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then

CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/ Div: Lubbock Contract 0052-02-033 for REHABILITATION OF EXISTING ROAD in BAILEY County will be opened on January 04, 2012 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 38740 State Office

----- Constr./Maint. Division 200 E. Riverside Dr. Austin, Texas 78704 Phone: 512-416-2540

----- Office(s) Lubbock District District Engineer 135 Slaton Lubbock, Texas 79408-0771 Phone: 806-745-4411

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin. *Published in the Muleshoe Journal December 15, and December 22, 2011.*

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1530 SHWY 385 - Historic Home on the edge of Dimmitt, home of an accomplished musician. This home would make a charming bed & breakfast or just a quaint place to reside. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, with much room to expand, parlor/living room, dining room, office/workroom, wonderful gardens and outbuildings.

COYOTE RIDGE - mule deer, bobwhite & blue quail, sandhill crane & varmint hunting, 2 subs. for domestic water. 2500 ac. +/-, 220.6 ac. CRP, balance native grass. Please call for details!

LONGVIEW 531 - Bailey Co., TX. - 531 ac., 388.7 ac. in CRP, native pasture, wells, on pvmt. south of Muleshoe.

PROGRESS 80 - Bailey Co., TX. - 80 ac., expired CRP, well, pvmt., excellent homesite west of Muleshoe.

1200 SOW FARROW TO FINISH OPERATION - Moore Co., TX. - New 5 yr. lease with major hog company. Two separate units, can be divided - Please contact broker for info package and price.

CASTRO CO., TX., on pvmt., 1808 ac. +/-, permitted for 7,200 cows (4,000 milking), preon. pens w/permit, sprinklers, irr. wells, employee housing, barns.

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- **New Listing** - Nice 2 bdr., 1 bath brick home, central heat, appliances, large utility, single care garage, fenced backyard, Only \$60,000. Call for an appointment today.
- **Lazbuddie-New Country Listing on Highway**- Spacious Spanish Style brick home, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, built-ins, central A/H, sunroom with indoor grill, fireplace, office, large utility, lots of storage, patio, 2 car garage, plus a lot more, all on approx. 10 acres, call for an appointment today!!

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Sudan - 104 Ormand, 2180sf 3BR, 2BA, 2GA home, lots of space, nice yard, close to school, low cost/sq.ft. at \$65,500
Sudan - 406 Wilson, 3BR, 2BA, 1GA. Very nice Brick Home. 1291sf at \$52,500

Muleshoe - Investment Opportunity, (SELF STORAGE UNITS) - 509 West American Blvd. 44 units, plus office rental, 100% leased on 100 X 140 corner lot. W HWY 84. Asking \$174,500

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Cottle County - Paducah Area - 470 acres on pavement. 326 acres in CRP. Balance in native pasture. Excellent hunting. Good Wildlife cover & feed.

Bailey County - 654 acres of C.R.P. Half just renewed for 10 years. Half has one year remaining on current contract. Near Wildlife refuge.

Bailey County - 349 acres just accepted into the C.R.P. SAFE (prairie chicken) program for 15 years. Cover crop in place. Good return on the investment.

Castro/Parmer Counties - Dodd area. 303 acres, 2 pivots, 4 wells, good soil, lays good. On pavement.

RURAL RESIDENTIAL

Southwestern Castro County - Brick home on 16 acres. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage. 40'x 60'x 18' steel barn and other outbuildings.

Lamb County - Earth Area - **PRICE REDUCED:** Nice 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home on 3 acres with fenced yard, nice storage building and on pavement. Fireplace, 2 large living areas, formal dining room, large office. VERY NICE!

Vic Coker, Broker Cell 806-946-7242
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- VERY NICE 3-2-2 Brick Home, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, approx. 2336' lv. area, auto. splkr, fenced yd, MORE!! \$125K!!
- VERY NICE 3-3-2 CP Home, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, approx. 2653' lv. area, covered deck & patio, workshop/store cellar!! Auto. splkr. (front yd.) \$140,000!!!
- NICE 3-2-2 Home, corner lot, built-ins, Cent. A&H, workshop/storage plus storage building!! 1974' lvg. area!! \$96K!!
- 3-1 Brick Home, enclosed garage, Cent. A&H, DW, Refrig., utility, workshop/storage!! MORE!! \$76.5K!!
- Remodeled 3-2-1 Det. Garage Home, Cent. A&H, built-ins, hdwood & tile floors, 4 fans, fenced yd., approx. 1520' lv. area!! \$80K!!!

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- 2 Nicely Remodeled Duplex Units & 1 NEW Duplex Unit!! **Price Reduced!! \$410K!!!!**
- NICELY REMODELED 3-2-2 Brick, new Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, 3125' lv. area, splkr. sys., fenced yard, MORE!! **REDUCED \$195K!! MAKE OFFER!!**
- Nicely Remodeled 3-2-2 Brick, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP w/wood pellet insert, corner lot, fenced yd., auto. splkr., + lot w/stor. bldg.!! 2159' lv. area!! **\$179K!! REDUCED!**
- **VERY NICE 3-2-2 Brick Home**, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, approx. 2749' lv. area, lots of storage, nice courtyard & landscaping, workshop/storage/fenced yd., Much More!! Reduced-\$175K!
- **VERY NICE 3-2-2 Brick Home on corner lot**, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, remodeled bathrooms, nice carpet & tile, sunroom, fenced yd., auto. splkr., approx. 2216' liv area!!! \$125K!!
- 2-2-2 Brick Home, corner lot, built-ins, approx. 1695' lv. area, fenced yard., wkshp/stor., storm cellar!! \$67K!!
- 3-2-2 Brick, Cent. A&H, built-ins, approx. 2310' lv. area, 2 Franklin wood stoves, storm shelter, fans, fenced yd., man. splkr.!!! \$120,000!!

RURAL

- VERY NICE CUSTOM BUILT 3 Bedroom, 3 Bath, 2 car garage home, at edge of town on 80 acres!! Geothermal heat & air, built-ins, FP, ash cabinets, approx. 2544' main lv. area plus 625' finished basement w/safe & storage, splkr system, beautiful trees and landscaping, circle sprklr, 5 wire barbwire fence, 36' x 48' metal insulated bldg w/2 12' doors!! MUCH MORE!!
- VERY NICE 4-3 doublewide (2006) on 7.38 acres, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, fenced yd., 25' x 40' Metal Bldg. septic system, domestic well, on pavement close to town!! \$152K \$130K!! **MAKE OFFER**
- NICE 4.8 acre homesteads, deed restricted!! \$17,500!!
- LARIAT AREA - 3-1 Home, Cent. heat, 5 acres, 1989' lv. area (2 story), 2880' quonset barn, out bldgs., **Reduced \$39K!! POSSIBLE OWNER FINANCE!!**
- 3-2-2 HOME ON 2 AC. (2860 FM 303)- APPROX. 2146' lv. area, DW, ceiling fans, thermal windows, lg. conc. patio, workshop/storage!! \$89,000!!
- West of Sudan 3-2-2 Brick Home on 5.57 acres, Cent. A&H, built-ins, approx. 2688' lv. area, fenced yd., 40' x 80' quonset barn!! MUCH MORE!! \$135K!!
- NICE 3-2-2 Home on 11 acres at edge of town, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, freshly painted interior, thermal windows & doors, plus 1 bdrm house, workshop, storage, greenhouse, plus 3 garages, barns & outbuildings!! \$155,000!!
- FM 1760 @ edge of town, nice 3-2-2 carport home on 3 acres, Cent. A&H, built-ins, approx. 2253' lv. area, fenced, horse barn w/crofts, hay & tack room!! \$105K!!!!
- Remodeled 3-2 Home on 20 acres, Cent. A&H, built-ins, basement, nice yard, auto. splkr., wkshp., stor. bldg. approx. 2145' lv. area!! \$150K!!

LENAU • COUNTRY CLUB

- 3 Bdrm, 2 bath, 2 carport, Cent A&H, Dishwasher, WB Stove, approx. 2156' lv. area, 217 E. Elm. \$60K!!
- 3-2-1 CP Brick Home, corner lot, fenced yd., DW, FP, tile & carpet, alarm sys., man. splkr., 2 cp & 2 stor. bldg.!! \$80K!!

COMMERCIAL

- Building w/approx. 3300' plus 1040' upstairs, Cent. A&H, 2 restrooms, MORE! **\$39,500!! MAKE OFFER!!**
- Approx. 1080' metal bldg. w/off. & 3 bay garage/workshop area plus chain link fenced area!! **\$39,500!!**

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