

Muleshoe Journal

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Muleshoe, Texas

50¢

December 8, 2005



Holiday gathering a success

Muleshoe area residents turned out for the annual Christmas parade Saturday, Dec. 3, braving chilly temperatures for a chance to see this year's Christmas floats decked out in holiday lights and decor.

This year's parade theme was "The Spirit of Christmas."

Three awards were given by the Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture to the best of the 15 organizations and individuals participating in this year's parade.

Organizations entering the winning floats were the MHS Band and Choir, which took the award for the Best Theme category; Five Area, which received the award in the Best Lights category; and the Jennyslippers and Girl Scouts, who took Best in Show.

Continued on page 14.



Best Theme Presentation

Photograph by Larry Thornton

Bailey County newspaper hits the world wide web

The Muleshoe Journal websites went international Friday, as Bailey County's newspaper became one of the few Texas weekly newspapers with a presence on the world wide web at www.muleshoejournal.com.

At a future date, subscribers will be able to receive their newspaper by email, if they so choose — a distinct advantage for out of state readers who are connected to the internet, and are tired of waiting through the one or two week lag time of receiving their newspaper through the mail.

But there are already a number of advantages for subscribers, including:

- On-line classified ads
- Area obituaries
- Sports highlights
- News highlights
- Opportunities for advertisers to link their

A warm spot on a chilly night

Muleshoe Boy Scout Troop 620's firepit and toasted marshmallow and chocolate treats, pictured on the right, drew a large crowd during Saturday's holiday activities at the Muleshoe Heritage Center.



Photograph by Larry Thornton

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.)

Part 2

Down in central Oklahoma, April was awakened from her nap by someone calling her name. Sitting up, she rubbed her eyes and looked toward the bedroom door. It was closed.

"Are you awake?" said a strange little voice.

April started and looked at the window on her left, expecting to see someone standing there. But no one was there. The afternoon sun was shining through,

and thousands of dust particles were swirling through the light, dancing about Mrs. Bea, which April had placed on the bed next to her earlier when she'd laid down for her nap.

"April, something's happened," Mrs. Bea said.

April's heart jumped into her throat when she realized who had been calling her name.

"April," Mrs. Bea said, "Morris is in trouble, and we have to go to him."

April continued to stare, her mouth open wide enough to catch a fairly large moth had it been dark outside and she out in it. Finally, she swallowed... hard.

"You're talking," April said,



her voice a loud, excited whisper.

Mrs. Bea smiled warmly, which was another surprise for April since it was the first time the girl recalled seeing a doll move in this fashion.

"But we've talked before," the doll replied.

When April didn't say anything, Mrs. Bea continued. "Don't you remember last night's dream?"

April thought for a moment, and suddenly her mouth dropped open again.

"Tthh...tthh," Mrs. Bea clucked. "If you continue doing that, something could fly in there."

April's mouth slammed shut.

"That's better," the doll said. "We'll discuss your dream later. First, we have to help a friend."

"Who?" asked April.

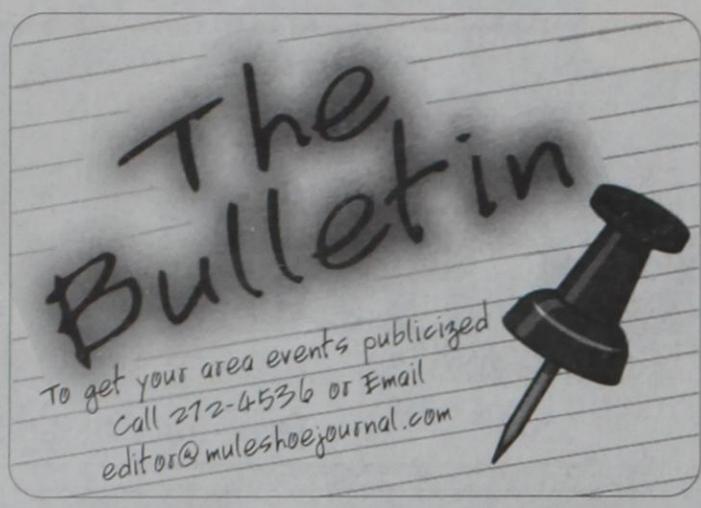
"An elf," said Mrs. Bea. When April's mouth dropped open again, the doll clucked at her, "Tthh...tthh...tthh."

It was a very nervous little girl who zipped up her school backpack, and with Mrs. Bea tucked gently in the fold her arm, tip-toed out of the bedroom and out through the back door. This wasn't the first time April had gotten up from a nap without permission, but this was the first time she'd gone outside rather than play quietly in her room.

Although she knew what she was doing wasn't right, April didn't know what else she could do.

Mrs. Bea's friend, Morris, was in trouble and there didn't appear to be anyone else who could help the elf.

Continued on page 10.



Diabetes Support Group to meet

The Bailey County Diabetes Support Group will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. in the parlor of the Bailey County Coliseum. The program will be "Healthy Eating Tips for the Holidays." This program is free of charge to everyone interested. The Diabetes Support Group meets the third Tuesday of each month. For more information contact Mandi Seaton, Bailey County Extension agent — Family and Consumer Sciences, 306 West Second, Muleshoe, TX 79347, or call 806-272-4583.

Boy Scout food drive begins

The Boy Scouts delivered plastic sacks for Muleshoe residents to donate non-perishable food to the local food bank on Saturday, Dec. 3. This Saturday, Dec. 10, beginning at 8 a.m., the scouts will be picking up the sacks of food items. Scout leaders ask that everyone out driving that morning to please watch for the scouts.

VFW Ladies Auxillary special meeting

A special meeting of the VFW Ladies Auxillary Post 8570 of Muleshoe has been set for Monday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m., at the post, 203 E. Ash Ave.

The topic of the meeting will be the proposed disbanding of the auxillary. All members interested in the organization continuing are asked to attend. Contact Phyllis Carrion at 272-8570, after 7 p.m., for additional information.

Salvation Army bell ringers

Salvation Army bell ringers will be located at Lowe's Marketplace on West American Boulevard, according to Debbie Crabtree of the Bailey County Office on Aging. Proceeds collected by the bell ringers remain in Bailey County. Crabtree also noted that Lowe's has apple and pumpkin pies available for \$5 each, proceeds of which go to Meals on Wheels.

AA meeting

Those looking for help with problem drinking can do so at open AA meetings being held at 7 p.m. each Friday at the First United Methodist Church, at 507 W. 2nd, Muleshoe. Please use the west side entrance. For information about these meetings or AA in general call 806-965-2870.

Sandcrawl Museum dinner planned

The Sandcrawl Museum of Olton will be hosting its first annual holiday dinner on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 6:30 p.m., at the Wild Plum Inn, 708 Main, Olton. The event will include live entertainment. Tickets are \$15 per person. Call 806-285-7772 or 806-285-3055 to place a reservation.

Financial seminar

First Baptist Church will be hosting Financial Peace University, a Dave Ramsey Financial Seminar beginning Jan. 29. Orientation dates are Jan. 15 and 17 at 6 p.m., and classes start on the 29 at 5 p.m. This is a 13-week study. Child care will be provided.

For more information or to reserve your seats call Tadd and Annie Young at 272-5883 or the First Baptist Church of Muleshoe's office at 272-4224, or contact Dave Ramsey at www.daveramsey.com

Annual Christmas Card Project

The annual Park View Christmas Card Project is under way. Individuals wishing to contribute may do so by making their check out to "Christmas Card Project," and sending them to Christmas Card Project, c/o Joyeline Costen, P.O. Box 202, Muleshoe, TX 79347, or Joy Stancell, c/o Park View Nursing Home, 1100 W. Ave. J, Muleshoe, TX 79347.

If you don't wish to mail your donation, it may also be left with Stancell at the nursing home, or at the banks in Muleshoe. There is a Dec. 16 deadline for donations.

EMT classes to be offered

Bailey County EMS will be holding EMT-B classes beginning Jan. 23, 2006. Students must be registered by Jan. 13. For more information contact Chris Thompson at 272-4390.

Heritage Thrift Store needs donations

Last month, hundreds of people shopped at the Heritage Thrift Store and bought thousands of articles. The articles they bought came from your generous donations.

"Because the needs of our community have recently been so great, the store is extremely low on inventory. We need everything but, in particular, there is a need children's clothes — especially sleepwear, shoes and warm clothing," a Heritage Center representative says.

Bring donations to the thrift shop, at 402 S. Main in Muleshoe, Friday or Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All proceeds from The Heritage Thrift Shop benefit the Muleshoe Heritage Center on West American Boulevard.

Thanks for reading the Journal!

Health

Do you think you're coming down with the flu?

Submitted by Mandi Seaton, Bailey CEA-FCS

Influenza, also called the flu for short, is a very contagious disease that is caused by the influenza virus. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, 2004), the influenza virus attacks the respiratory tract in humans (nose, throat, and lungs.)

Influenza is sometimes confused with what people refer to as the "stomach flu."

The main symptoms of "stomach flu" are nausea, profuse vomiting, and often diarrhea. What we refer to as "stomach flu" is not really flu because it is not caused by the influenza virus but rather by other viruses, bacteria, or parasites that cause illness.

Although children and a few adults may experience nausea or feeling "sick to their stomach" as a symptom of influenza, it is not the main symptom but rather a secondary symptom of the flu, often brought on by fever or congestion.

"Influenza is a respiratory illness not a stomach or intestinal disease" (CDC, 2004). One of the ways influenza or "flu" can be distinguished from other viruses, such as a common cold, is that flu usually comes on suddenly.

CDC (2004, 2005) suggests if you have had a sudden onset of illness that includes some or all of the following symptoms, you may have the flu: fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry (nonproductive) cough, sore throat, nasal congestion (runny or stuffy nose), or body aches.

If you do have the flu, your doctor will not prescribe antibiotics because antibiotics can only treat bacterial infections not viral infections.

If you suspect that you have the flu, however, you should see your doctor right away. He or she may be able to prescribe an antiviral drug (such as Tamiflu), which can reduce the severity and duration of symptoms and reduce your contagiousness to others.

Antivirals, however, must be given within two days of the onset of symptoms to be effective. The Center for Disease Control (2004) recommends four primary things you can do to treat your flu symptoms: rest, drink plenty of liquids, (primarily clear broths and beverages), avoid alcohol and tobacco products, and take medications to relieve your particular symptoms of flu (ask your doctor about the over-the-counter medications that may be helpful in alleviating symptoms.)

The best way to deal with the flu, of course, is to never get it and if you do, to avoid giving it to others.

Some important ways to prevent the spread of flu are:

- Practice good

Area students listed among graduates

Two students from the Muleshoe area are among the 232 graduation candidates at Eastern New Mexico University this fall.

The candidates, and their degrees, are:

- Carlton Deshawn Lewis, master of art in counseling.
- Vickie S. Burch, master of education in education.

handwashing habits. Use soap and warm running water, rubbing your hands together to remove any germs. If running water is not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains alcohol. These products can be squeezed onto the hands and simply rubbed in without water.

• Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing, and wipe your nose with a disposable tissue. When covering or wiping the nose or mouth, use paper tissue that can be thrown away after each use.

• Isolate the person who has the virus. Stay home from work. Have children stay home from school or other activities where they might expose others. (Note: Flu can be contagious from one day before the onset of symptoms until 7-10 days after

symptoms began.)

• Finally, one of the best ways to prevent influenza is to get vaccinated. There are two types of vaccines available: inactivated influenza vaccine, also known as the "flu shot," and live, attenuated influenza vaccine, also called LAIV for

short. Ask your doctor about which flu vaccine is right for you. For more information about the flu, contact your health care provider or Mandi Seaton, Bailey County Extension agent — Family and Consumer Sciences, 306 West Second, Muleshoe, TX 79347, or call 806-272-4583.

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Super Saturdays in December come with different themes and store discounts correlating to that theme. There are fun activities and holiday fun and Carolyn's will stay open till 9 PM each Saturday in December for your shopping convenience.

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MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENTS NOW!

Santa & Mrs. Claus will be in Carolyn's on Dec. 10th from 11 AM till 2 PM. As always, Muleshoe's local TV station Channel 6 will be on hand to videotape this visit. It will be shown the following day on Channel 6 and videos can be purchased. These videos make for great memories and are great gift ideas.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH - Muleshoe After Hours - Open till 9 PM

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Letter to the Editor

West Orange resident amazed by Muleshoe crew's effort

To the Editor:

"By him therefore let us of the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." — Hebrew 13:15, KJV.

As I reflect on the many blessings that God had granted my family and myself throughout the years, I must extend a public appreciation to the numerous angels God sent all the way from Muleshoe, to my hometown of West Orange, soon after the "direct hit" that Hurricane Rita dished out to southeast Texas nearly two months ago.

Our God is an awesome God, and he is still in the business of performing miracles on a daily basis! He promises to never leave or forsake us... his words are always true.

God took a group of about 20 people from the First Baptist Church of Muleshoe, pastored by Stacy Conner, and used their yielding and willing hearts and hands to

help my family, my neighbors and myself, begin to cleanup and clear out massive trees and debris, along with all of the tin which was completely blown off of my roof.

We — my family and I — knew that we could not accomplish these demanding tasks in our own strength. But with the grace of God, in his strength, he answered our prayers with the miracles he performed through the skilled workers and their heavy duty equipment... in just one eight and a half hour day.

When my pastor, Barry Bradley, told me that a cleanup crew was willing to help, my heart and spirit was overjoyed. My family and I had been working long hours in the heat and the devil kept trying to discourage our efforts by causing several malfunctions with chainsaws, and other obstacles, such as the weather not cooperating.

We knew this cleanup would take some time. However, when the Muleshoe crew rolled into our

neighborhood, they knew exactly what to do. Each individual worked so diligently and laboriously with ease. We knew this was no ordinary "run-of-the-mill" crew. This was an "extraordinary" crew touched by Almighty God, extending his love and miracles.

We had not done, and will never do, anything to deserve his miracles and favor. But we will continually strive to serve him and extend his love and kindness to others, just as we are taught by his words and teachings.

I do not know personally any of the names of the 20 or so people in the Muleshoe cleanup crew, except one person named Rhonda Smith, and her spouse. I know just saying "thank you" seems so little for everything you did, but one day, my family and I will be able to help someone... maybe in Muleshoe.

I pray that God will use me for his good purpose. I pray continued blessings upon

everyone in Muleshoe, and that God will pour prosperity and good health upon each one in your community on a daily basis.

Donna Hodgkinson,
West Orange

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are to be taken on March 26, 2006. Recognition will be
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See Xtreme Fitness staff for more details now!

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(Review the following for prize details)

What is the Challenge program? Each participant's body will be assessed for an initial baseline and to determine each individual's obtainable body goal. This goal will be unique to each individual. Every participant will be encouraged to participate in the trainer-guided semi-private training workouts offered 3 times a week. Additional fitness and dietary advice will also be available at these scheduled sessions. At the end of 12 weeks, a final assessment on each participant will be taken to derive a final result. All participants must be cleared for exercise by their physician, be 18 or over, and sign an informed consent for exercise and testing.

Why do this? You will get to get in on a great program that is not offered any other time of the year. You will be able to not incur any additional gym fees and you will obtain nutritional suggestions, cardiorespiratory guidance, two professional photographs, have fun learning new ways to stay fit, and a chance to create a healthy life-style forever!

Where do you sign up? You do not have to be a member of Xtreme Fitness. You will be offered a special incentive rate for the Challenge during the 12-week period. If you choose to be a member, you will have unlimited access to Xtreme Fitness, 308 Main, Muleshoe.

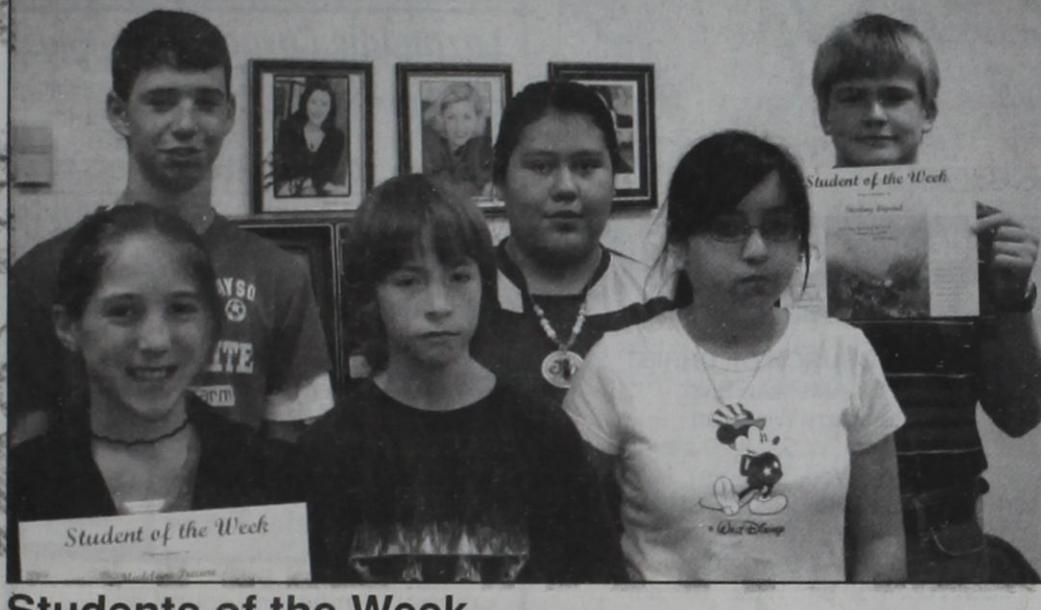
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Students of the Week

Watson Junior High Students of the Week for the week of Dec. 5 are, from left to right: Front row — Madeleine Precure, Mateo Castillo and Miranda Camarillo; back row — Sean Thornton, Gladis Ramos and Sterling Lepard.

Nursing Home News

Nancy Lemons delivered ceramics for the residents to paint in craft class Thursday morning. Residents participating were Cynthia Crawford, Gladys Wright, Mrs. Lewis, Gladys Wilson, Cathy Wilson, Diane Copley, Ruth Clements, Argilee Miller.

The Trinity Baptist Church directed the church services Sunday afternoon.

Monday morning the residents took an "arm chair" trip to Carlsbad, N.M. to see the Carlsbad Caverns. It was the first time to visit for a few but most of the group had visited Carlsbad before.

Tuesday morning Pastor Gary and Judy Hubbard from Earth, directed a Celebration of Life service for Nan Gatlin. Walt and Rose Sain and Velma Jones, Nan's family were special guests at the celebration and also Johnnie Parker.

Pat Watson, Dolores Garrett, Jan Crawford, Billie Mason, Mary Jo Burge, Eva Nell Dale came Tuesday afternoon to shampoo and set the ladies hair and give a lot of TLC.

Monday night the Angels on Earth singing group from the N.M. Christian Children's home gave a concert in Park View's Day Room.

Buck Campbell visited Park View recently.

Beverly Wagnon visited Tuesday afternoon. Beverly visited the Beauty Shop Volunteers as well as Hattie

Heathing, Lela Crawford, Marie Lane, and other residents in their rooms.

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family and friends of Clifton Finley and Truman Stroud, these fine men will be missed.

Bob Granville Park View's Ombudsman gave a program on the Gold Rush of 1849. Mr. Gransville had given the old Wagon trail to California and pick up many interesting relics bob expanded on lack one that he displayed.

Rick Hunter celebrated his birthday. He received cards, gifts, and good wishes. Rich had dinner with his mother Joyce Hunter.

Nathan Bemmer's mother and other family members were here visiting with him over the Thanksgiving holidays.

Carolyn's Creations has decorated the day room in a beautiful festive and inviting holiday style.

Happy December birthday to Marie Lane, Cathy Wilson, Hazel Ball, John Hadley, Dorothy Browers.

The December birthday party has been set for Thursday, Dec. 29, at 3 p.m.

Our resident and family Christmas party is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 22, at 4 p.m.

County Questions

(1) Who served Bailey County as its state representative from 1952 until 1967?

(2) How many county inhabitants were there in 1900?

Answers on page 12.

Muleshoe Journal

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— Isaiah 54:14

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S.S. 9:30 am; W.S. 10:20 am & 5 pm;
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Obituaries

Nona Blake Douglass

A graveside service for Nona Blake Douglass, 93, of Lubbock, and formerly of Muleshoe, was held on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2005, at Bailey County Cemetery, Muleshoe, with the Rev. Jack Stone of Muleshoe officiating.

Douglass died on Dec. 3, 2005, in Lubbock. She was born on Sept. 22, 1912, in Cecil, Ark., and married Morris Douglass in Clovis, N.M., on April 11, 1931.

Douglass had been a resident of Lubbock since 1999, when she moved from Muleshoe.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Muleshoe, the Eastern Star, Muleshoe Country Club and Bridge Groups. Nona and Morris Douglass owned and operated Morris Douglass Implement Company in Muleshoe.

She was preceded in death by her husband — Morris on July 15, 1988; a son — Belmy Ray



Nona Blake Douglass

Sports

Mules drop the Rams twice in a row

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

The Mules traveled to Portales Tuesday night and hung on to drop the Rams 37-34. The Mules and Rams met again Thursday in the opening game of the Shallowater Shootout. The Mules blasted the Rams 62-49 the second time around.

Lorenzo knocked the Mules out of the championship bracket with a 55-52 win. The Mules bounced back to bring home the third place medals by taming the Wildcats of Littlefield 53-26.

Trevor Turnbow dropped in a pair of 3-pointers in the opening frame Tuesday night as the Rams jumped out to an 11-9 lead at the end of the first period.

Cory Wallace drained a trey on a delayed break as the Mules out scored the Rams 13-10 in the second period to lead 22-21 at the intermission.

Wallace got the ball inside to Arsenio Geter as the third quarter began. Geter made a move on the blocks to push the Mule lead. Dustin Barker ripped the ball out of a Ram's hands late in the period and Geter converted a free throw to knot the game at 27-27 as the quarter ended.

Portales opened the final period with a four-point run before the Mules took a time out. The Mules came out of the brief break with snapper passes and Turnbow dropped in a deuce with five minutes to play.

The Rams took a time out and decided to try to wear out the clock with a four corners offense and hang on to a 31-29 advantage with three minutes to go. The Mule defense forced a turnover and went down the floor and set up their offense.

Geter popped out to the top of the key and found Brant Hamilton in the lane

with a bullet pass. Hamilton fought through the foul for a bucket and completed the old fashion three-point play to put the Mules up 32-31.

The Rams reclaimed the lead one final time with a bucket before Turnbow drove the baseline and canned an eight foot jumper. The basket gave the Mules the lead for good. Hamilton was fouled in the back court and made both charity tosses to put the game out of reach for the Rams.

Turnbow paced the Mules with 13 points and Hamilton had eight. Geter added seven points, Barker four, Wallace three and Garrett Riley chipped in two.

The Mules jumped out to a 15-10 lead against the Rams in their opening game of the Shallowater Shootout. The Mules led 30-21 at the half and took the second half 32-28.

Geter paced the Mules with 26 points and Turnbow had 22. Myles James, Riley and Hamilton each made four and Barker chipped in two points.

The Mules and Lorenzo were knotted at 25-25 at the half and the Mules took a one point advantage after three periods. Lorenzo got away from the Mules with an 18 point final frame.

Wallace had the hot hand for the Mules and knocked down six treys for 22 points. Geter made 12 points and Turnbow had nine. James added six and Tyler Sheets chipped in three.

If you ask Mule's coach Ralph Mason about playing a district opponent in an early season tournament he would tell you he would rather it did not happen. However the Mules met the Littlefield Wildcats for the third place medals in Shallowater.

Littlefield controlled the tip and attempted a three to open the game. James managed to poke the

rebound out of the hands of a Wildcat and chased the loose ball across mid court. James scooped up the loose ball and eluded a defender as he went in for the lay-up.

The Mules never looked back after that.

Turnbow made it a 5-2 game one minute into the game with a trey from the wing. Wallace went to his favorite corner but rather than put up a trey he made a pass inside to Geter as he broke down the lane.

Geter floated above the defense in the lane for a bucket to push the Mule lead to 13-8 with two and half minutes left in the first period. Geter connected with Hamilton for a bucket on an in bound play that end the period with the Mules up 15-8.

Geter exploded for eight in the second frame as the Mules out ran the Wildcats 15-7 to take a 30-15 advantage at the half. One Geter bucket resulted because the Wildcats had all the Mules covered for the outlet pass after Geter hauled down the rebound. Geter responded by going coast-to-coast and splitting

the defense for a lay-up.

Geter and Turnbow completed back-to-back old fashion three-point plays to answer a Littlefield trey. Littlefield made a four free shots before Eric Washington got the ball on the blocks. He felt the defender on his left and turned to the baseline for the easy bucket as the third period wound down with the Mules leading 38-22.

Riley was fouled on a put back attempt and made his first charity toss. He second was wide of the mark but Geter was there for the rebound and put it in. Washington found all his options shut down in the lane until he spotted Wallace in the corner. Wallace drained the trey.

Geter led the Mules with 22 points and Turnbow added 12. Hamilton dropped in five and Washington and Sheets had four each. Wallace had three points, James two and Riley chipped in one.

The Mules played host to the Tulia Hornets Tuesday night and then enter the Abernathy Shootout against Shallowater Thursday afternoon at 1:30.



Photo by Davie Browder

Lady Mule Kyra Kimbrough shoots during the recent game against Lockney.

Lady Mules bounce back during tournament

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

The Lady Mules dropped their Tuesday night confrontation with the highly ranked Portales Rams 54-26.

They bounced back from their opening round loss in the Nazareth Invitational Tournament to Lockney, 43-36, to defeat the Dimmitt Bobbies 59-46.

The Lady Mules made it two in a row at Nazareth by skinning the Dalhart Lady Wolves 71-44 on Friday afternoon to reach the consolation finals.

The Lady Mules gas tanks appeared to running low in their fifth game of the week. The Sunray Ladycats took advantage of the lack of energy to take the consolation game 42-31.

The Rams have two girls that signed letters of intent to play division I basketball next

season. They quickly set the tone of the game with a six-point run in the opening minutes and finished the opening period with a 17-5 advantage.

The bright spot in the game for the Lady Mules were Kasey Woods three 3-pointers as she hung 12 on the board to lead the Lady Mules. Kyra Kimbrough had five, Cholov Hernandez added four, Ashlie Dickson three and Brandi Wood chipped in two.

The Lady Mules led Lockney 6-2 after the opening period but gave up a big second quarter to the Lady Horns. That was the difference in the game.

B. Wood led the Lady Mules against Lockney with 12 points and Kate Lepard dropped in nine. K. Wood and Dickson had six each and Amberlee Steinbock dropped

in a trey.

The Lady Mules shocked the Dalhart Lady Wolves in the opening minute by controlling the opening tip. Dickson drove and dished to Kimbrough for the dink shot to break the scoring ice.

The Lady Mules did not allow the Dalhart to cross center court before mounting a 6-0 lead. B. Wood hit an eight-foot jumper after the first Dalhart turnover and Lepard led the break after the second TO.

The intense Lady Mules defensive pressure jump started their offense as they ran out to a 21-8 first period lead. The Lady Mules out scored the Lady Wolves 17-15 in the second period to take a 38-23 margin at intermission.

Lepard hit her third trey of the game in the third frame as Dalhart tried to fight their

way back into the contest.

The final period was all Lady Mules. Lepard made a pair of charity tosses to get the final eight minutes started and B. Wood added one from the line. Kimbrough picked off a Dalhart inbound pass and canned an eight-foot jumper.

A lot of the things Dickson did in the contest does not show up in the line score but her defense and ability to hit the open player with a perfect pass made a big difference.

Gabby Agundis squared up outside the arc and drained a trey as the clock went under two minutes. Agundis capped the Lady Mules' scoring with a steal and a driving lay-up.

B. Wood paced the Lady Mules with 23 points and Lepard had 19. K. Wood and Kimbrough made eight points apiece. Agundis dropped in

Continued on page 7

EMT classes to be offered

Bailey County EMS will be holding EMT-B classes beginning Jan. 23, 2006. Students must be registered by Jan. 13. For more information contact Chris Thompson at 272-4390.

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Sports

JV Mules have a 'tough time' in Portales

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

The JV Mules had a tough time in Portales Tuesday night and fell to the Rams 61-30. The loss may have had lingered with the Mules as they played host in the Muleshoe JV Invitational Tournament over the week end.

The Mules dropped their opening game Thursday night to the Floydada Whirlwinds 45-39. The Mules bounced back Friday against the Farwell Steers for a 61-26 win. The Mules held the Sudan Hornets to just nine points to take the consolation trophy 50-9.

Patrick Precure dropped in three treys against the Rams to pace the Mules with 11 points. Elias Alvarado and Cade Smith

had four points each and Dusty Clayton and Julio Bustillos made three apiece. Stephen Dominguez and Zane Matthews made two each and Colby Carpenter chipped in one for the Mules.

The Mules opened their own JV tournament with a loss to Floydada. The Mules had defeated Floydada in their season opener. Smith had the Mules lone point in the opening frame as the Whirlwinds took a 7-1 advantage.

T.J. Brantley began to come alive in the second period with three points and Smith had four. The Mule defense held the Whirlwinds to eight in the period to trail 15-8 at the intermission.

Floydada increased their lead in the third period as

the Mules missed all but one of seven charity tosses. The Mules shook finally broke out in the final period but Floydada had opened at 29-17 lead.

Precure spotted up on the arc rather than behind the line when he let the shot fly. The basket was a two rather than a three. Smith fed Brantley in the lane for his first of 12 points in the period.

Alvarado came up with the loose ball on a Floydada in bound play and took the ball to the hole. Alvarado drove the baseline and dropped in a tear drop with under a minute to play and Precure cut the Floydada lead to 43-39 with a trey.

Floydada made a pair of charity tosses as the Mules fouled to try to get the ball

back as the seconds ticked away.

Brantley paced the Mules with 19 points and Smith dropped in seven. Precure added six, Alvarado four and Carpenter chipped in three.

The Mules shut down the Farwell offense in the opening frame and poured in 17 points to open a monster lead. The Steers fought back in the second quarter and trailed the Mules 26-10 at the half.

The Mules got their offense restarted in the second half and out ran the Steers to the finish line. Brantley paced the Mules with 20 points and Smith added eight. Carpenter dropped in seven, Doc Fullmer, Zane Matthews and Dusty Clayton each made five. Julio Bustillos had four points, Colt Ellis three and Precure and Alvarado made two points each.

Sudan had problems all night finding a way to score against the Mules. The Mules owned a 25-4 advantage at intermission and continued to run away from the Hornets. Smith set the pace for the Mules with 13 and Brantley dropped in 12.

Fullmer and Matthews had five apiece, Carpenter four and Bustillos made three points. Alvarado, Precure, Stephen Dominguez and Ellis made two points each.

The Mules hosted the Tulia Hornets Tuesday night and play in the Plains Invitational Dec. 8-10. The Mules return home to meet Dimmitt on Dec. 13.

Eighth grade Mules succumb to early lead

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

The eighth grade Mules could not find a way to overcome a 9-0 start by the Brownfield Cubs. The Cubs dropped the Mules 42-21 Monday night.

Brett Poynor finally broke the scoring ice for the Mules with a free throw. Joseph Lopez stuck back Poynor's missed charity toss near the three minute mark of the first period. Austin Bamert put back a rebound before the period end with the Cubs leading 17-5.

Poynor hit a trey from the top of the key midway through the second frame. He drove the lane and dished the ball to Caleb Conner for the easy deuce. The Mules trailed 29-10 at

the intermission.

The Mules came out after the half and played tough defense to hold the Cubs to eight in the third period. Bamert powered up a put back in a crowd to get the Mules started. Poynor drained a long two from the top of the key.

Larry Richards drove the lane and scooped up a tear drop. Poynor hit his second long two of the period to cut

the Cub lead to 35-18. Richards made a steal as the period came to an end and was fouled on the lay-up. He converted one of his charity tosses.

Poynor had the only two points for the Mules in the final period.

Poynor led the Mules in scoring with 10 points and Bamert added four. Lopez and Conner each made two for the Mules.

Seventh grade Mules cage the Brownfield cubs, 45-21

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

The seventh grade Mules caged the Cubs of Brownfield 45-21 last Monday night. Tyson Turnbow was able to join the Mules for the first time this season due to an injury during football season.

Cooper Washington and Turnbow poured in 12 points as the Mules jumped out to a 12-7 lead in the first period.

Chris Babcock found the range in the second period as he scored a long two from the corner and then back up a few inches to drain a trey.

Turnbow finished a break and Washington stuck back a rebound as the Mule defense froze the Cubs to 11 points for the final five minutes of the half. The Mules led at the intermission 25-11.

The third period began with a Turnbow lob over the defense to Washington in the lane. Washington

converted and Babcock dropped in his second 3-pointer of the night on the Mules next trip down the floor.

The Cubs had a short four-point run before Washington scored the final 10 points of the period and pushed the Mule lead to 40-15.

Sergio Montejano opened the final period with the Mules first two points. Montejano had the ball inside with his scoring options cut off but found Isassis Guerra open behind the arc. Guerra canned the trey and capped the Mules scoring.

Washington paced the Mules with 23 points and Turnbow added nine. Babcock dropped in eight, Guerra three and Montejano two.

Thanks for reading the Journal!

Lady Mules...

Continued from page 6

five, Dickson four, Hernandez three and Steinbeck chipped in one.

The Lady Mules led Sunray 7-3 by scoring five points in the final 45 seconds of the opening period. The Lady Cats opened the second period with a 10-point scoring run that the Lady Mules never seemed to recover from.

Lepard had 10 points in the contest and Kimbrough added nine by going five-of-six from the free throw line. B. Wood dropped in seven, K. Wood three and Hernandez made two.

The Lady Mules hosted the Tulia Lady Hornets on Tuesday night before competing in the Abernathy Shootout Dec. 8-10.

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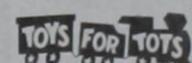
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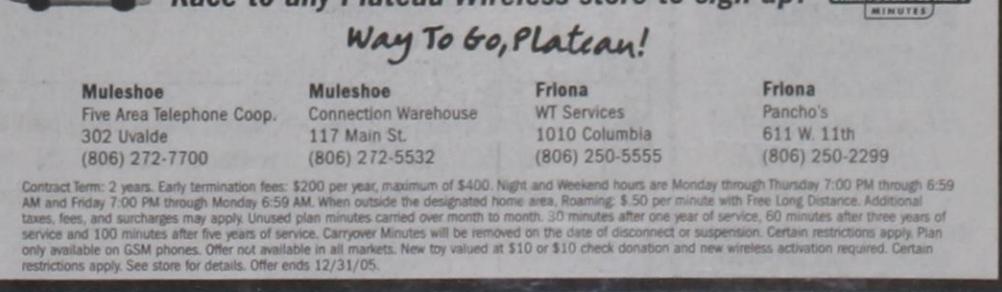
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The Art of 'Gifting'

Where's Peak? Can you find him?

I really like to make gifts!

What Can I Make?

If I have... I can make...

The holidays are here! It's great fun to surprise family or friends with gifts. If you like to make gifts, it's time to start planning and working on them. Gifts that you make and give from your home, kitchen, garden or artistic skills are from your...

and your

(Hint: There are 2 parts to this picture. Find '1★' to start the first puzzle...follow the numbers. Next, find 'A★' to start the second puzzle...follow the alphabet.)

Answers: 1, 2, 3, E, 4, B, 5, D, 6, C, 7, H, 8, A, 9, F, 10, G

Remember to ask an adult to help you find what you need.

Giving A World of Color

Hey! It's dark in here!

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

Everyone likes a dash of color to brighten up the day! You can make a wonderful gift by painting something. How about building and painting a birdhouse or feeder? Maybe you can decorate or paint someone's name on an item.

Can you find and circle these things in the tote bag that you can paint?

tote bags
lunch bags
notebooks
footstools
school boxes
gift wrap
stones
sneakers
models
shirts
aprons
hats

Wheeeeeee!

News Flash!

Who is hiding in the canvas bag that is being painted? To see who it is, check out our website: www.newspaperfun.com. Do you know a good joke? Write to tell me one at my email address: Chitter@newspaperfun.com.

Here are some ideas:

Hey, what about me?

1. rubber stamps, ink pads, paper
2. cheese, crackers, jelly
3. soaps, bubble bath, small towels
4. dried flowers
5. candies, cookies
6. coffee, tea, muffin mix
7. fruit, nuts
8. pens, envelopes, stationery

'Put Together' a Special Gift for Someone

Have you ever "put together" a gift? It's easy. Just collect a few things that go well together and place them nicely in a container, such as a bag, box or basket. Use your imagination to decorate your gift: a bow, a flower or card would add a nice touch. If you want to be a little fancy, add a piece of tissue paper or make a nest of shredded paper in the bottom of your gift container. Very nice!

News Flash!

Who is hiding in the canvas bag that is being painted? To see who it is, check out our website: www.newspaperfun.com. Do you know a good joke? Write to tell me one at my email address: Chitter@newspaperfun.com.

Hey, what about me?

1. rubber stamps, ink pads, paper
2. cheese, crackers, jelly
3. soaps, bubble bath, small towels
4. dried flowers
5. candies, cookies
6. coffee, tea, muffin mix
7. fruit, nuts
8. pens, envelopes, stationery

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Sports

JV Lady Mules stampede the Whitefaces

By Delton Wilhite

Sportswriter

The Junior Varsity Lady Mules stampeded the Hereford Whitefaces Thursday night in their opening game of the JV Lady Mules Invitational Tournament.

The Lady Mules exploded with 18 points in first period to claim the lead.

The Lady Mules could not keep the momentum going on Friday night as the Fronia Squaws knocked the Lady Mules out of the championship bracket with a 36-26 win. Plainview took the third place trophy home by dropping the Lady Mules 37-23 on Saturday.

The Lady Mules used a tenacious defense to force turnovers they converted to points as they defeated Hereford 51-24.

Amy Withrow grabbed the opening tip and drove to the hoop. She fought through the foul and completed the three-point play. Cecelia Reyna hauled down a defensive rebound and fired the ball down court to Withrow streaking for her second lay-up in 30 seconds.

Hereford scored their only three points of the quarter in the first two minutes. Kelsy Tipps was fouled on a put back and connected on one free throw and then dropped in a deuce from just inside the charity line. Withrow had back-to-



A Lady Mule shoots during the game against Hereford.

back steals and drove for lay-ups as the Lady Mules opened an 18-3 lead at the quarter break.

Morgan Smith opened the second quarter with a short shot in the lane and a 10-foot jumper on the baseline. Caitlyn Wills grabbed an offensive rebound and found a Lady Whiteface hanging on her arm as she attempt to put the ball back up.

Wills made a free throw to push the Lady Mule lead to 23-3. Reyna saw Heather Barker pin her defender in the lane and delivered the ball for a short jumper. Tipps

followed Withrow on a fast break and grabbed the miss and dropped it in to give the Lady Mules a 28-13 lead at intermission.

The Lady Mules out scored Hereford in the third frame 16-11. Reyna hit a trey as the period began and Withrow complete her second three-point play of the game. The Lady Mules shut Hereford out in the final period.

Withrow set the scoring pace with 17 points and Tipps added nine. Barker dropped in eight points, Reyna seven and Smith had six. Pyle made two points

and Ashley Scolley and Wills had one each.

Fronia jumped out to a 14-8 lead in the first quarter and went in at the half up 23-17. Reyna set the scoring pace with 15 points and Tipps added four. Smith and Barker made two each and Withrow, Wills and Pyle chipped in one each.

The Lady Mules jumped on top of Plainview 10-4 in the first quarter but the Lady Dogs clawed back to a 16-15 lead at the half. The second half was all Plainview.

Reyna led the Lady Mules with eight points and Smith had five. Tipps made four, Barker three and Pyle added two.

County Questions

In 1949, what did it cost to build the Muleshoe High School along with 11 rooms at the elementary school?

Answer on page 12.

Freshman Mules skin the Cubs

BY Delton Wilhite

Sportswriter

All the freshman Mules scored Monday night against the Brownfield Cubs in the Muleshoe Athletic and Convocation Center. The Mules skinned the Cubs 59-26.

Brian Poynor flashed out of the lane on the defensive end to pick off a Cub pass. He drove the floor and was fouled on his way up. He made both tosses from the line to ignite what turned out to be a rout.

Victor Vasquez delivered a pass to Lane Wood cutting down the baseline for a bucket. Wes

Wood hit Vasquez deep in the lane. He beat his defender and made the reverse lay-up. Vasquez finished a break to push the Mule lead to 8-1.

Poynor finished the period with back-to-back buckets to give the Mules a 12-3 lead at the quarter.

The Mules found the range from behind the arc in the second frame with Poynor, W. Wood and L. Wood all connecting on 3-pointers. The Mules owned a 29-11 advantage at the half.

The two teams battled to a 10-10 tie in the third period with Dillon Gallman making a bucket and a charity toss. Nathaniel Chavez scored

twice in the lane as the period drew to a close with the Mules leading 39-21.

Paco Sital got his first bucket on a fast break late in the final period. Ray Ramirez dropped in a trey on an in bound play with a minute left in the game.

Poynor led the Mules with 11 points and W. Wood, Sital and Vasquez added seven points each. Chavez scored six, Gallman five, Ramirez had four and Jeff Embry and Wright chipped in two apiece.

The Mules traveled to Levelland Monday night and return home Dec. 12 to host the Lubbock Cooper Pirates.

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Eufemia Garcia, Ray Garcia, Leo Garcia, Linda Flores, Yolanda Agundis, Irma Soto, Eddie Garcia, Tina Sosa, Lena Rivera and Chris Garcia

The family of Margaret Collins

would like to thank everyone for their prayers, memorials, flowers, food, cards and loving kindness shown during our recent time of sorrow. A special thanks for all the memories sent to us about eating with Mother and Daddy during their years at the Cafe downtown and at Bill's Drive-in. Thank you and God Bless.

Billie Jeter, Bobbie Harrison,
Bettie Richardson
and families



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April's Christmas Doll... Continued from page 1

As she ran across her yard and dodged the bush in the northeast corner, April considered turning back. Daddy would help Mrs. Bea, April thought to herself as she ran down the sidewalk. He didn't believe in Santa Claus, or even the Easter Bunny for that matter, but he'd help Mrs. Bea... she just knew he would.

Still, she continued running, a new tear falling from her now damp cheek with each step she took. Her father hadn't told her otherwise, but April had been told by kids slightly older than she was that parents weren't allowed to believe in Santa Claus.

April's efforts to tell herself that her father was different didn't sound convincing even to her. It wasn't long before April was inhaling sharply due to her exertions and her crying.

"There, there, little one," Mrs. Bea said, apparently unmindful of the fact that the doll was being carried by April instead of the other way around. "You'll wear yourself out. We've a long way to go yet."

April sniffled slightly as she slowed to a walk. "I'm okay. Where is Chicago?"

"It's a long way from here," the doll said.

"Farther than school or the park?" asked April, looking down at the doll tucked in her arm. "I'm not supposed to go past the school in this direction."

"Chicago is much farther than that," the doll said. "Would you like me to tell you a story as you walk?"

April nodded her head, thankful for anything that would distract her from the uncertainty she was feeling.

"Once upon a time," Mrs. Bea began.

Morris sat in the corner of a small room, his head down, his chin resting on both of his fists. He'd lost track of the time he'd been sitting there.

Although Morris had answered all the questions the security officer Harry Lipton asked, Morris could tell the answers hadn't been well received. Other elves had told him about the humans, and especially adult humans, disbelief in elves and even more surprising the existence of Santa Claus, but this was the first time he'd personally encountered it.

"Of course there's a Santa," Morris had told Lipton, "Where do you think children get their Christmas presents?"

Lipton smiled and said, "From here, or rather stores like this one, which sell them."

Morris slowly shook his head, saddened by the security officer's lack of belief. "But haven't you ever gotten a present no one you knew put under the tree?"

"Not lately," Lipton replied. "But when you were just a child..." the elf said before the officer suddenly cut him off.

"Listen, I don't care how you dress or whether you believe in Ole St. Nick," Lipton said. "You just can't go around the store talking to the toys and asking about a magical doll."

"But..." Morris said.

Lipton held up his hand. "Just hold it," he said. "We've called the police. You can tell them your story again... I've got other work to do." With that he gave some final instructions to the uniformed security officer seated behind a desk and left the room.

A few minutes later, a pair of Chicago police officers arrived, handcuffed Morris and led him down to their patrol car. Heads turned as the elf was led through the store, and puzzled children pointed in his direction and tugged insistently on their mothers' coats.

"Mommy, isn't that one of Santa's elves?" Morris heard a small blond-haired boy ask as

forward and pushed herself into the middle of the line.

"Hey," said the elderly gentleman she'd crowded in front of.

"I'm sorry. My... my mother's already on board waiting," April lied, the words almost catching in her throat.

The gentleman frowned down at her, but when his eyes took in Mrs. Bea, his eyes suddenly sparkled and the corners of his mouth turned upward.

April glanced down at the doll also, and caught a quick wink from Mrs. Bea before the doll resumed the "normal" expression she had maintained for everyone, including April, until earlier that day.

As the line moved by the bus driver collecting boarding passes, the driver glanced

Percy, Santa's chief assistant, hurriedly closed the door against the cold wind which had followed him like a puppy from the work shops and walked over to Santa Claus. As the elf moved, the silver bells which tipped the toes of his shoes jingled softly.

"Santa, there's someone else missing," Percy said.

Santa looked up from the newspaper he'd been reading. "Oh?" he said.

"Morris is gone, also," Percy said.

Santa's bushy white eyebrows arched, furrowing his forehead. "The young elf?" he said.

Percy nodded.

"How long has he been gone?" Santa asked. This time the head elf's answer was a shrug.

Santa folded his newspaper, laid it across his lap, and said, "But he could have been missing as long as Mrs. Bea?"

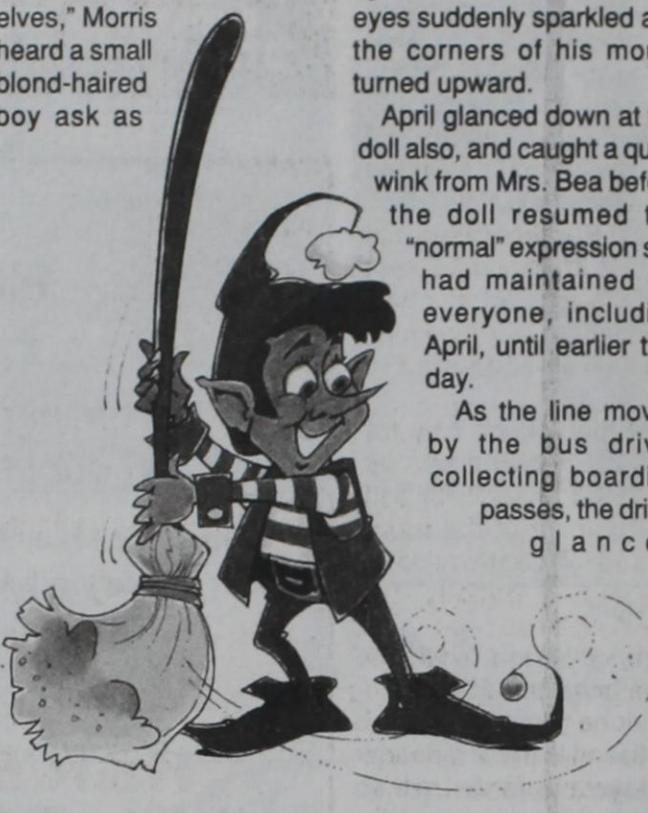
When Percy nodded again, Santa pursed his lips as he considered the new information.

The thought that Morris took Mrs. Bea didn't even enter Santa's thoughts. Just as the unbelieving mother in the Chicago department store told her son, Santa's elves don't get in trouble with the police — at least not for stealing anything — but there were several enemies of Christmas which the North Pole's inhabitants had to guard against. And this was the time of year when their mischief had to be taken most seriously.

"But..." the elderly gentleman started to say. "Please step lively," the bus driver said looking at his watch as he ignored the man behind April and turned his attention to the next passenger in line. "We're already behind schedule."

Aboard the bus, April moved quickly toward the back and took a seat by a window. Then when someone sat down in the seat next to her, she looked up into the elderly gentleman's smiling face.

(Watch for part 3 of April's Christmas Doll in next week's issue.)



he was led by.

"Of course not, Honey," the mother said, patting the child on his head. "Santa's elves don't get rouble with the police."

When Morris tried to give the child a reassuring smile, the child scooted to safety behind his mother.

Morris sighed heavily, and wondered how he'd get out of the predicament he in which he'd found himself. A little while later, Morris was ushered from the patrol car and into the small room with its small square window far above the elf's head.

The young elf had few doubts about the psychiatrist the police said would come by to speak with Morris. Since few children passed medical school, the chances of the psychiatrist believing Morris' story were so slim he didn't want to think about it.

Exactly how far April had walked while she listened to Mrs. Bea's story she didn't know, but a quick glance around told the ten-year-old girl that she was in a section of town she'd never seen before. "Is it much farther to Chicago?" she asked.

"Yes," the doll said with a tiny nod of her head, "but you can rest in a few minutes."

Just as Mrs. Bea predicted, April was able to rest a short time later. Rounding a corner, they found themselves at the local bus station.

"Get on that one," Mrs. Bea urged, indicating a bus which a line of passengers were boarding. Over the windshield of the bus was the word "Chicago."

"But I don't have a ticket," April protested.

"Couldn't you try?" asked Mrs. Bea. "Something has upset Morris terribly... I can feel it."

April stood there, watching the line as it grew shorter, and chewing on her lip. Finally, when there were just a few more passengers waiting to board, she ran



briefly down at April before turning toward the man behind her. "Rules say if the child doesn't have a ticket she's supposed to ride in your lap."

"But..." the elderly gentleman started to say.

"Please step lively," the bus driver said looking at his watch as he ignored the man behind April and turned his attention to the next passenger in line. "We're already behind schedule."

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What We Need Is Grace—Costly But Free

Getting this column written and, for what it's worth, out to you this week has been a bit complicated, but it's been a great week nonetheless.

I am in Austin this week with my wife, Her Honor the Municipal Judge, as she is taking a week of special training. I'm all for that. Training is a good thing. It's good for our city officials to be highly-trained. I'm lobbying for more of such training, not less, because, whatever the quality of the training (which I trust is high), it is obviously GREAT for the spouses of such officials to spend the week of their dear

guessing you'd crash completely in about three months. I know I worked like a Turk to get two weeks worth of work done in one. It was worth it, but . . .

One thing I didn't get done was this column. I'm trying to be "schedule-less" this week, but I've failed on this score. I've got thirty minutes or so to get this done. That's not enough.

Once it's done, it's gotta be sent to the folks who publish it. That's fine except . . . well, if you stay in a really cheap hotel, you expect few amenities and you expect what amenities there are to cost extra. Trust me, your best bet lodging-wise is a nice upper-middle range sort of hotel where they give you lots of neat free stuff to get you to choose them. You likely won't have a choice of hotel at a training conference, but if you stay in a sort of posh high-brow hotel, they charge extra for everything from the calls you make to the air you breathe to each square of toilet paper and they don't have neat things like free breakfast or, to the present point, free Internet access.

I figure that sending this out will cost me ten bucks and it won't slide through cyberspace one bit better than it would if the Internet here at the Inn of Blue Blood Bliss was free. You'll probably agree with me that this column this week is not worth the ten-spot, though I hope later in the week to write a couple or three, at a leisurely pace, that might be a tad weightier.

Zig Ziglar once used a motivational speech encouraging business folks to think about the enthusiasm and energy with which they do their work on the week before a vacation—and then try to work with that kind of drive and determination every week. Sounds like a great idea. I know what he means. But if he forgot to mention that, at that pace, you'd almost certainly shorten your life and soon take a permanent vacation six feet under, I'm



Focus On Faith

Curtis Shelburne

one's training relaxing at the hotel, reading books, drinking coffee, sightseeing, or at least doing some of their normal work away from their normal office. A change of pace and scene is a good thing. In fact, let me encourage you to call your state legislators and encourage them to require more excellent and much-needed training for, say, municipal judges.

Ah, such is life. Living itself can be hectic. And expensive. And something less than well-planned and intentional. What humans like us really need is much more important than free Internet. What we need is lots and lots of grace. Priceless. Unimaginably costly to God. But freely given and always available. Thank for his gift!

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

Cotton News...

from Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.

High Plains cotton harvest stays on track

By Shawn Wade, PCG

High Plains cotton producers have taken full advantage of favorable October/November weather conditions to make significant progress toward getting the 2005 crop from the stalk to the module.

Because of the open weather that has prevailed since harvest got underway more than six weeks ago the area is estimated to be approaching the 70 percent harvested mark entering the first week of December.

Now, producers with cotton still in the field are looking to maintain their momentum and hopefully complete the bulk of their harvest before Christmas.

So far the only delays producers have experienced in 2005 have been caused by high winds accompanying several weather systems that have passed through the area.

Fortunately delays caused by excessive wind have rarely kept producers out of the field for more than a day.

This is a significantly different, and preferable, situation for growers compared to the conditions they struggled to overcome in 2004 when multiple weather systems brought precipitation in amounts that caused significant harvest delays across the area.

Through Dec. 1 cotton quality reports from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service-Cotton Division show that the 2005 crop could possibly be one of the highest quality crops ever produced on the Texas High Plains when all production finally gets ginned and classed.

To date the Lubbock and Lamesa Cotton Classing offices have processed a combined 2,089,052 bales, nearly 40 percent of the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service 5.3 million bale production estimate for the High Plains.

A 5.3 million bale crop would establish a new production record for the area, breaking the previous

record of 4.9 million bales set in 2004.

Individually the Lubbock office has classed just over 1.6 million bales while the Lamesa office has worked through 471,039 bales of 2005 crop cotton.

USDA NASS is in the process of updating its 2005 production estimate and will release revised district estimates on Dec. 9. In addition to the revised Crop Production Report, NASS will also release a Cotton Ginnings report on the Dec. 9.

Whether or not USDA's December estimate shows an additional increase in the region's prospects will largely depend on the responses received from cotton ginners since most survey fields have now been harvested.

Size isn't the only thing setting the 2005 crop apart however. Using season average quality readings to arrive at an estimated loan value for the first third of the 2005 High Plains crop is an

eye opening experience as well.

Bales evaluated at the Lubbock and Lamesa through Nov. 24 show virtually identical quality characteristics.

Quality at the two offices is averaging Color 21, Leaf 3, Staple 35 (1-3/32nds inches), Micronaire 3.7, Strength 29 grams/Tex and Uniformity of 80 on the bales classed through Nov. 24.

Plugging these values into the 2005 Commodity Credit Corporation loan chart generates an average loan value of 56.50 cents per pound.

For the season only six percent of the bales processed at Lubbock and eight percent of the bales classed at Lamesa have received a penalty for containing bark.

Based on the available information the 2005 crop seems destined to become another milestone for High Plains cotton production that producers will strive to repeat for years to come.

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Emergency farm loan applications are being accepted

Applications for Emergency Farm loans for losses caused by hail storms on Aug. 27-28, 2005, are being accepted at the Fann Service Agency office, farm loan officer Jim. W. McCary recently announced.

Bailey county is one of eight contiguous counties in Texas recently named by Secretary of State Mike Johanns, eligible for loans to cover part of production losses caused by hail storms that occurred Aug. 27-28 of this year.

McCary said, "This designation makes family-

sized farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans from FSA."

"FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available, repayment ability and other eligibility requirements," he added.

"Applications for loans under this emergency designation will be accepted until July 14, 2006, for production losses, but farmers should apply as soon as possible. Delays in

applying could create backlogs in processing and possibly carry over into the new farming season," McCary said.

FSA is a credit agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is authorized to provide disaster emergency loans to recognized farmers who work at and rely on farming for a substantial part of their living.

Eligibility is extended to individual farmers who are U.S. citizens and to farming partnerships, corporation or cooperatives in which U.S.

citizens hold a majority interest.

The FSA office in Muleshoe is at 111 E. Ave D., and is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Wildlife Refuge News

Crane counts conducted Wednesday, Nov. 30, had 25,000 sandhill cranes on Muleshoe NWR. Grulla NWR had none.

Several thousand sandhill cranes are using Coyote Lake and another estimated 50,000 cranes were observed flying in western Bailey County.

Very few ducks are reported from Muleshoe refuge this week.

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Employee of the Month

The Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture recognized Jan Smith of the Muleshoe Post Office as the Employee of the Month for December. Pictured above, from left to right, are: Lynn Moore — chamber board member, Jan Smith, Heather Foley — chamber president, Shorty Flores — chamber board member, and Mark Beard — chamber board member.

Muleshoe Cattle Market

REPRESENTATIVE SALES

SAT., DEC. 3, 2005

1164 head of cattle, 477 hogs and 463 sheep and goats for a total of 2,104 livestock sold at the Dec. 3 sale.

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

Seller, City	#	Type	Wt. CWT or PH
Brant Lookingbill, Friona	6	Hol. bulls	292 lbs. at \$120.00
Brant Lookingbill, Friona	5	Hol. bulls	328 lbs. at \$104.00
Carl Steiner, Plainview	3	Hol. bulls	347 lbs. at \$116.00
Butch Green, Muleshoe	11	Red hfrs	479 lbs. at \$121.00
Butch Green, Muleshoe	2	Red bulls	475 lbs. at \$121.00
Lewis Ranch, Dell City	22	Mxd. strs	564 lbs. at \$116.50
Lewis Ranch, Dell City	16	Mxd. strs	492 lbs. at \$119.00
Shafer Ranch, Dell City	8	Mxd. strs	502 lbs. at \$121.00
Shafer Ranch, Dell City	19	Mxd. strs	589 lbs. at \$112.00
Kelly Harrison, Muleshoe	Char. hfr		815 lbs. at \$113.00
Ted Harrison, Muleshoe	21	Mxd. strs	713 lbs. at \$115.00
New Mexico Ranch	5	Blk. str	453 lbs. at \$137.00
New Mexico Ranch	26	Mxd. strs	614 lbs. at \$116.00
New Mexico Ranch	13	Blk. str	752 lbs. at \$108.50
New Mexico Ranch	44	Mxd. strs	641 lbs. at \$122.25
New Mexico Ranch	6	* lxd. str	686 lbs. at \$115.50
New Mexico Ranch	f, Mxd. str		728 lbs. at \$116.00
Rosie Aldape, Plainview	Red cow		1185 lbs. at \$44.25
Bill Benham, Muleshoe	Red cow bred	per hd.	\$690.00
Seth Murphy, Levelland	Red cow bred	per hd.	\$800.00
Mike or Debra Beauchamp, Bovina	2 Char. cows bred		\$785.00
4B Cattle, Muleshoe	Blk. cow		1825 lbs. at \$46.00
Jack Douglas, Littlefield	Blk. cow		1715 lbs. at \$46.00
David Knelsen, Seminole	Blk. cow		1505 lbs. at \$50.00
Bo Brown, Muleshoe	Blk. cow		1195 lbs. at \$50.00
New Mexico Ranch	4 Mxd. cows bred		\$750.00
New Mexico Ranch	7 BWF cows P6		\$800.00
New Mexico Ranch	5 Blk. cows P6		\$875.00
New Mexico Ranch	3 Blk. cows P6		\$825.00
Larry King, Levelland	Red bull		1950 lbs. at \$59.50
A&B Cattle, Muleshoe	2 Char. hfrs		814 lbs. at \$113.00

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Looking for bargains

The Watson Junior High Student Council, pictured on the right, was among the Muleshoe area residents who traveled to the Bailey County Coliseum Saturday in search of a Christmas bargain from among the many vendors who had their products on display.



Business of the Month

The Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture recognized Taqueria Guadalajara as the Business of the Month for December. Pictured above, from left to right, are: Lynn Moore, chamber board member; Cecilia

Morales, Gabby Nava and Octavio Plasencia, all of Taqueria Guadalajara; Heather Foley, chamber president, Shorty Flores, chamber board member, and Mark Beard, chamber board member.

Library News

By Dyan Dunagan
Librarian

Storytime for children ages 2 to 11 is every Tuesday from 4-5 p.m.:
Dec. 6 — Snow Day
Dec. 13 — Winter
Dec. 20 — Christmas
Dec. 27 — Happy New Year

The library has purchased:
• The Shoe Box by Francine Rivers
• The Shoe Box: A Christmas Story by Francine Rivers
• The Power of a Positive Wife by Karol Ladd
• The Power of a Positive Mom by Karol Ladd
• The Power of a Positive Friend by Karol Ladd
• Who Was Born This Special Day by Eve Bunting
• Santa Are You For Real?

by Harold Lawrence Myra
Dyan's picks of the month

Picture books:
• Silver Packages: An Appalachian Christmas Story by Cynthia Rylant
• The Shoe Box by Francine Rivers

Both of these books are wonderful Christmas Stories
Junior Chapter Books:
• The Left Behind Series: The Kids by Jerry Jenkins

We have the first four books in this series in our library. I am on book 15 and I just love them!
Come in and check these out and let me know if you want the rest of the series!

• Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

I really enjoyed this book and I think all the kids should

read this one!

• The Light on Hogback Hill by Cynthia DeFelice

This book isn't anything like what it leads you to believe it is. It is a heart warming wonderful story.

Youth Fiction:

• The Third Eye by Lois Duncan

This is a mystery story about kidnapped children. It was a book that was hard to put down. It is also an Accelerated Reader book.

Adult Fiction:

• An Act of Love by Nancy Thayer

This book is about a family with many problems and how the parents work things out thinking about what is best for the children. I got mad, I cried and I just was glad I didn't have to make

these decisions!

• Leota's Garden by Francine Rivers

Everyone should take the time to read this book. It will change your outlook on things.

Adult Non-Fiction:

• The Prayer That Changes Everything by Stormie Omartian

This book is about the hidden power of praising God. I am loving this book. She just makes you think of things you never would think about on your own.

The library provides a fun site called Tumblebooks on our website. Go to www.mapl.lib.tx.us and click on the Tumblebook button.

This provides online read-along children's books and many fun games to play as well. We think it is a fantastic tool for the children to use to learn to read.

Senior Citizen News

By Laverne Winn

Our volunteers at the Oneita Wagon Senior Center are working very hard to clean, fix up, and decorate for the Christmas holidays.

Our thanks go to Kevin Smith, Fred Clements, Marshall Cook, Kenneth Henry, and Jarrell Pruitt for cleaning, waxing and buffing our floors. They look great. We invite everyone to come by, have a cup of coffee, and visit with friends.

All you seniors who have signed to go to the Cactus Theater on Monday, Dec. 12, please be at the center by 3:30 p.m. We will leave by 4 p.m., and travel to Furr's for dinner before going to the theater.

On Tuesday, Dec. 13, American Hospice and Home Health will be at the center from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., checking blood pressure and sugar content for all the seniors interested.

The board of directors meeting will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 14, beginning at 1 p.m. here at the center. The meeting is open to the public.

Our Christmas party for the center will be Saturday, Dec. 17, beginning at 4 p.m.

Remember, all you seniors bring your white elephant gift and your favorite dish for a pot luck supper. Mark your calendar and come join us for a good time.

The Bootscooter Band

played for our Tuesday night senior dance. We appreciate their help and thank them from all the seniors who enjoy good music.

Just to remind all you seniors, we have play day

every Tuesday, and invite you to call a friend, come and enjoy. If there is someone you know that needs to get out and be with friends, call us and we will try to encourage them to come to

Wednesday, Dec. 14 —

Chicken-fried steak, gravy, potatoes, peas and carrots, roll and pineapple cake.

Thursday, Dec. 15 —

Baked ham, gravy, spinach, tossed salad, roll and frosted cake.

Friday, Dec. 16 — Fish or

chicken strips, potatoes, coleslaw, cornbread and jello.

You're Invited To
A 40th Wedding
Anniversary Party For
Bennie & Carolyn
Stancell
Sunday, Dec. 11
2-4 PM
Church of Christ
on the hill
(2201 W. American Blvd.)
No Gifts Please.

Celebrating 40 Years!

County Answers

Questions and answers selected for "County Questions" are from *Tales and Trails of Bailey County, 1918-1988*.

- Page 3 — (1) Jesse M. Osborn, (2) four.

• Page 9 — \$580,000.

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Saturday, Dec. 17th
"A Merry-achi Christmas"
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The 17th features two performances by Mariachi Mi Tierra (1 PM and 2 PM). Poncho Claus will be available to visit with the kids! Door prize drawings every hour!

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If we miss you in our collection process, please mail in your donations to:
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c/o Park View Nursing Home
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Your support goes 100% to projects at Park View.
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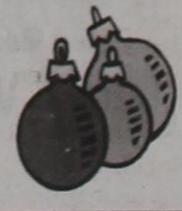
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Fivearea@fivearea.com



USDA's new website will make information more accessible

U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service launched its newly redesigned website, www.nass.usda.gov, on Dec. 5, making agricultural data more easily accessible.

"NASS continues to strive to meet the needs of all of our customers and data

users, both those inside and outside of the agricultural industry and those here in the United States and abroad," said R. Ronald Bosecker, NASS administrator. "This new web site will further our mission by providing a user-friendly and abundant resource of statistics in service to public

U.S. agriculture," he said. The site has been revamped in response to feedback from NASS customers and data users, including university and government researchers, agricultural association members, journalists, trade organizations, employees and the general public.

The NASS website is easy to use, but that it makes development team the most of the latest web technology," said Bosecker. Incorporated a variety of web based tools to enhance the sites usability and enrich its content."Whether you are a producer, a teacher, a government official, a reporter or anyone interested in U.S. agricultural statistics, you'll find that the newsite is not only informative and

interactive mapping application, an RSS news feed and XML technology. To complete the redesign effort, the site mirrors the look and feel of the official

USDA web site.NASS customers and data users are encouraged to bookmark the site www.nass.usda.gov and visit it often, as it will be frequently updated with new information.

USDA reports, such as the monthly Crop Production reports, will continue to be available online within minutes after release.

Classifieds

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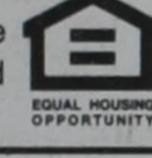
Deadline 5 p.m. Friday

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. "Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18."

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



HELP WANTED

DRIVER: Class A CDL drivers needed. Two years experience with a clean MVR. Call Douglas at 505-760-8931. 4ch11/10

Experienced cowboy needed at Dimmitt Feed Yard. Must have own horses and tack. Come by to see Scotty Edwards (806) 647-2106. 16ch11/17

Full-time tractor operator needed after Jan. 1st. Only those highly skilled in cultivating need apply. References required. Call Jimmy Wedel at 272-5901. 2ch12/01

Experienced yard personnel needed at Dimmitt Feed Yard to do repairs. Please come by and talk to Monte Cochran (806) 647-2106. 16ch12/07

Bailey Co. Sheriff's Office is hiring for full-time jailer positions. High school diploma or GED required. No criminal record. Stop by 405 W. 2nd for an application. EOE. 3ch12/08

Seeking a full-time OB/ER RN for Lamb Healthcare Center. Call 385-6411 ext. 214 for more info. or pick up an application at 1500 S. Sunset, Littlefield. 4ch12/08

Seeking a full-time night RN for Lamb Healthcare Center. Call 385-6411 ext. 214 for more info. or pick up an application at 1500 S. Sunset, Littlefield. 4ch12/08

Sonic Drive-In is now accepting applications for dependable, mature, enthusiastic, friendly crew members for all shifts, all positions. Apply in person at 1633 American Blvd. No phone calls. EOE. 3ch12/08

Castro Co. Feeders is looking for pen riders. Apply in person, 4.5 miles west of Hart on FM 145. 2ch12/08

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19ch8/25

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Used appliances for sale: refrigerator, washer, dryers, electric ranges, gas ranges and dishwashers. Call 272-3091. TFNch11/17

FOR SALE - '81 pop-up camper in good condition. Asking \$1,000. Call 272-3630 or come see at 606 W. 5th St. 4ch12/01

HOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT

2-1-2 car covered carport, storage shed on lg. corner lot at 302 W. 6th Street, Muleshoe. Interior has been gutted & ready to remodel. Asking \$24,900 (as is). Owner financing available with 10% down, or will consider renting to someone able to repair in lieu of rent. Serious inquiries only. For more info., call 830-535-4548, leave message along with your name and your number. TFNch11/03

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TO BE MOVED-3 bedroom/2 bath, central heat and air. Approx. 1,550 sq. ft. 6' X 10' all steel insulated well house. 1.5 hp sub and pipe. 100 gallon pressure tank with all switches. Two years old. 938-2313 or 773-9139. 2ch12/01

CLEANING

HATE TO WASH WINDOWS? Do you need your windows cleaned before the holidays? Also, great gift idea for those special loved ones. CALL 806-543-3324 FOR FREE ESTIMATE. LEAVE MESSAGE. 4pd12/01

WANT TO BUY

Want to purchase mineral and other oil/gas interests. Send details to: PO Box 13557, Denver, CO 80201. 2pd12/08

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Happy Holidays!

FURNITURE FOR SALE

Rustic buffet china hutch. Valued at \$575, will sell for \$325. Cabinet is 4 ft. wide x 6 ft. tall. To view, come by 1512 W. Ave. B. or call David Dominguez at 272-5431. 1inch12/08



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Just send this coupon along with your check for a 1 year subscription to the Muleshoe Journal and you'll get an extra month of service at no charge! 13 months of news for the price of 12! Yearly subscription rates are: \$26 mailed out of Bailey County; \$24 mailed inside Bailey County; \$22 carrier; and \$22 college student special. Send your checks and coupons to: Muleshoe Journal, P.O. Box 449, Muleshoe, Texas 79347. New subscribers must not have had a valid subscription to the Muleshoe Journal for the past 60 days.

GARAGE SALE

Garage Sale
8 am - ?
Saturday, Dec. 10
334 W. Ave. J
A little bit of everything
1ch12/8

WANT TO RENT

Want to rent farm ground, irrigated or not, irrigated in Parmer or Bailey Co. Can call Jacob at 806-965-2705 or 505-749-0933. 8ch10/27

HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedroom/1bath house, single car garage. 804 W 9th Muleshoe, call 806-272-4546 or 806-346-3695. 2ch11/24

HOUSE FOR SALE BY OWNER

\$40,000 AS IS, FIRM PRICE! 3 bdrm, 1 bath, carport, patio, central heat & air, large lot. 1825 W. Ave. B., Muleshoe. Cash or buyer must obtain a loan from 3rd party conventional lender. View by appointment only. Call 272-4205 for more information. 4ch12/08

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• 3-2-1 Home, floor furn, heat, win, air, built-ins, FP, fans, 1424' lv. area, cov. patio, fenced yd.!! \$49.5K!! L-2
• 3-2-2 carport, Cent. A&H, DW, wood stove, 2156' lv. area, enclosed porch \$35.5K!! L-3

IN CONTRACT

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Richland Hills, 1713 W. Ave. I — Nice stucco 2-story with separate living room, game room, covered patio, hot tub/spa. \$250,000.

Farm — 140 County Rd. 235—320 acres with 2 houses, several outbuildings. Main house beautifully updated. 2 Valley 8 tower sprinklers, 7 wells all tied together. Will not divide. \$650,000.

Farm — 160 ac., strong water area with Zimmatic sprinkler, Farmer Co. \$240,000.

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• **In Country on Highway** — Approx. 2100 sq. ft. Nice 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home, built-ins, large utility, 800 sq. ft. of master bedroom and bath with garden Jacuzzi tub, spacious closets, 2 fireplaces, large wooden deck with hot tub and pond, shop, outbuildings, 160 acres of dryland grass, great for cattle plus a lot more! Call for more details!!

• **New Listing** — Nice spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bath home, built-ins, large bedroom, central heat, great closet space, fenced back yard, shop, 2 car carport. All on corner lot near high school!

• **Just Listed** — Farmer/Castro Co. Line — 3,200 acres, 16 1/4 mile circles, 1 section system. Excellent farm ground, bases & yields. Isolated for dairy location or just production farm! Call for details. Will divide into smaller tracts.

• **Commercial lot, Excellent location** — American Blvd. 125'x140'. 168 acres dryland. MAKE OFFER!!

• **Lot for Sale** — 67x122 Parkridge Addition.

• **New Listing** — 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home, built-ins, ref. air, central heat, single car garage, carport, storage building, workshop, deck and fenced back yard.

• **Thinking about building?** Take a look at this house first. For half the cost of new construction, you can own this beautiful, spacious 4BR, 3-1/2 bath, brick home, approx. 5,000 sq. ft., built-ins, ref. air, central heat, 2 living areas, dining room, lg. utility, 2 fireplaces, office, lg. closets, lots of storage, sprinkler system, 2 car garage, nice fenced back yard, plus a lot more, all on a corner lot.

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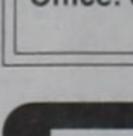
• **Amherst** — 5/2/2 on 2 acres, \$61,000.

• **Whitharral** — 3 1/2 S, New 3-2 Redi-Built, 4.5 A \$74,900

• **Spade** — 3/2/2 Brick and 3/1 Stucco (Rented) 265 acres, \$210,000.

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RICHLAND HILLS — PARKRIDGE AREA

• VERY NICE 3-2-1 Brick home, 2040 1/2' area, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, deck, 2 car garage, 12' x 16' sunroom, carpet, paint, crown molding, fenced yd., auto spkrl., stor. bldg.!! MORE!! \$15K!!

• NICE 3-2-2 Brick Home, Cent. A&H, built-ins, new roof, workshop/stor. gage, 12' x 16' sunroom, carpet, approx. 1620' lv. area, \$72.5K!!

• VERY NICE 3-2-2 Brick home, Cent. A&H, built-ins, fans, fenced yd., auto. spkrl., 2 stor. bldgs.!! MORE!! \$79.5K!!

• NICE LOTS AVAILABLE, CALL FOR DETAILS!!!!

LENUA - COUNTRY CLUB AREA

• 2-1-2 carport Home, floor furn, heat, win, evap, air, stor. bldg., 2 other sheetiron bldgs., chainlink fenced area, numerous uses!! \$59.5K!!

• Approx. 1274' Building, 75' x 140' lot, U. S. Hwy. 84!! \$35K!!

• Approx. 40' x 90' Metal Bldg. on 50' x 140' lot!! \$19,500!!

RURAL



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Parade...

Continued from page 1.

Following the parade's trip down Main Street, local law enforcement officers escorted the floats to the Muleshoe Heritage Center, where the evenings events continued with music, a "lighting ceremony" and tours of the center's buildings by the Student-Community Actions Club members.

Visiting with Santa

Lucy Hatch of Muleshoe, pictured above, was one of the children who stopped by the Heritage Center's depot Saturday morning for a little breakfast and a visit with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus.

Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce
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Open 9 AM to 9 PM Thursday, Dec. 8!
Saturday, Dec. 10 come us for
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ornaments!

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SHOES ON SALE!
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& MERLE NORMAN COSMETICS**
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In-store specials throughout the day.
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Come in and register to win door prizes
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Extended store hours
through the Christmas holiday!

All day Thursday, December 8th,
enter for your chance to win \$1,000
in Mulebucks to be given away on
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Christmas gifts & stocking stuffers on sale & in stock.
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be given away December 19.
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