

Letter to the Editor

Hospital CEO urges support of cap increase

To the Editor:
There has been a lot said about the action taken by the hospital board last month. When the hospital district was created in 1989, the tax cap for the district was 75 cents because that is the cap set by the state for hospital districts. In 2000, when the district voted for the bond election for the nursing home, the voters of the district elected to lower the tax cap to 40 cents, and that is where we have been for two years. If we are going to continue having a

hospital, we are going to have to have the ability to keep up with increasing prices of supplies, utilities, professional fees, and equipment that needs replacing, as well as an aging facility that needs some attention. The board is simply asking the public to allow the cap to be raised. When the board goes through the budgeting process they still have to have the public hearings for any increase in taxes. If they increase more than the rollback limit, the public can call for a rollback election to keep the tax increase in check.

The voters do still have some control. The board does not want to raise taxes to 55 cents, but we cannot kid ourselves; the district is going to need the ability to keep up with inflation and the cost of doing business. A lot of the tax money goes for the payment of indigent and charity care. It also helps offset the write-offs from an ever-increasing private pay base. We are seeing a lot of companies raise their deductibles and co-pays which means the insured individuals have to pay

more out of their own pockets. Sadly, these individuals don't want to pay and don't pay their portion, but expect to get the service. The tax money supports both entities; the bond issue for the nursing home and the above-mentioned items for the hospital. The hospital board needs your support when considering the issue of raising the cap to 55 cents. Please get out and vote for this very important issue.

**Ray Mason, CEO
Muleshoe Area
Hospital District**

"Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck..."
Proverbs 1:8-9, NIV

City council...

Continued from page 1
Roadriders for up to \$2,000 from the city's hotel and motel tax fund for promotional advertising of its upcoming motorcycle rally, set for March 20-21 at the Bailey County Coliseum. According to roadrider member Daniel Guzman, who appeared before the council, the number of participants in the ride would depend on the weather at the time of the rally, but he noted there were about 280 who registered for the event at last year's rally.

"It's a good club, and we really enjoy helping the community," Guzman said.

• Accepted a letter of resignation from Emergency Management Coordinator Terrell King.

"On behalf of the council, we want to thank Mr. King for all he has done," Mason said.

Individuals interested in volunteering for the position should contact

Police Chief Brian Frieda.
• Awarded a bid for one piece of municipal property to Mario Flores for the amount of \$4,555, and another bid for a piece of property, with a 1974 Matador mobile home on it, to Rosa Rey for the amount of \$5,555.

• Approved a proclamation designating April as Fair Housing Month in Muleshoe. Gallman explained that the action would enhance the city's efforts in procuring grants.

Editorial

Knowledge is not okay at any price

Hypothermia, genetics, infectious diseases, altitude sickness, pharmacology, surgery, and traumatic injuries... if you look at such a list of medical studies today, most would agree that significant medical progress is still needed in many of these areas, and for the most part they'd be right.

However, when you consider this list in response to Pres. Barack Obama's recent statements that scientific knowledge and not moral values should be the guiding light for our nation's researchers we can't help but think back to similar statements made by scientists and medical professionals who expressed a similar attitude during the first half of the last century at places such as Birkenau, Dachau and Auschwitz.

After all, it's not so great a leap from the harvesting of tissue from the aborted children of this nation to the experimentation conducted by Dr.

Sigmund Rascher or Dr. Josef Mengele upon the prisoners in the death camps of Nazi Germany.

And while many may raise an eyebrow at our comparison it's probably worth noting that we aren't the first to do so.

Back in 2004, the Australian parliamentary secretary, Chris Pyne, said embryo stem cell research was far too similar to that conducted in Nazi concentration camps.

In a news story that appeared in *The Age*, Pyne said, "The claims made for embryo stem cell research, puffed shamelessly in recent days by the press, are by and large immune to moral scrutiny... The merest suggestion that a disease may one day be cured is, it seems, enough to ward off any kind of criticism as reactionary and obscurantist."

The truth spoken across the ocean half a decade ago is still the truth today, even if the administration currently

occupying the White House has chosen to ignore it.

During the early years of this nation, southern plantation owners profited at the expense of their "enslaved property."

If anything in the history of the United States' first 200 years, other than the treatment of the continent's Native Americans, can be compared to the horror and brutality of Nazi Germany, it is the issue of slavery that so deeply divided this nation. Is it any less horrible because we can't hear the screams of medical research's current victims?

While many have suggested that this nation's historic inauguration of its first African-American president in January is another step toward righting many of the past wrongs resulting from slavery, it's becoming all too clear that the yoke of slavery is merely being switched to the shoulders of this nation's unborn.

Need Money for College?

APPLICATIONS FOR AT LEAST FOUR \$1000.00 SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE AWARDED THIS SPRING BY BAILEY COUNTY ELECTRIC ARE DUE AT THE MULESHOE OFFICE BY APRIL 6TH.

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APPLICATION FORMS HAVE BEEN SUPPLIED TO HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S OFFICES. FULL RULES OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ARE PROVIDED WITH APPLICATION FORMS.

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Obituaries

Bernard Phelps

Bernard Phelps, 86, of Waco and long-time resident of Muleshoe, Texas, died Wednesday, March 4, 2009, at his residence.

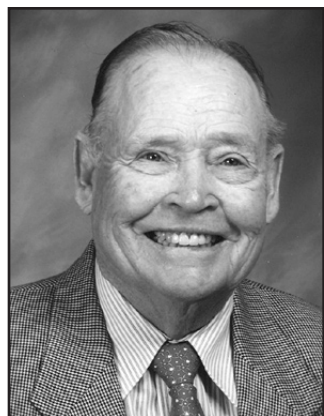
Funeral services were held on Friday, March 6, at St. Alban's Episcopal Church with the Rev. Jeff Fisher officiating.

Graveside services with military honors were held on Saturday, March 7, at Muleshoe Memorial Park with the Rev. Monty Leavell of Muleshoe officiating.

Mr. Phelps was born on Sept. 11, 1922, in Stanford, to Chesley Edward and Birdie Lee Phelps. After graduating from Haskell High School in 1940, Mr. Phelps served as an Army Air Corp bomber machine gunner in World War II.

He married Arline Birdwell on Oct. 26, 1946, in Lubbock. The couple made their home in Haskell until moving to Muleshoe in 1950.

The Phelps raised all three of their children in Muleshoe where Bernard was a well-known farmer and rancher. He was a



Bernard Phelps

progressive farmer and among the first farmers to adopt modern irrigation technology in the Texas High Plains.

Mr. Phelps was an organizing member of the Blackwater Agriculture Co-op, the Muleshoe Country Club, and served on the board of directors of the Muleshoe Co-op Gin.

Mr. Phelps was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed many years of hunting, fishing and golf with his many friends.

As a golfer, Phelps, on more than one occasion, achieved the elusive "hole in one" at the Muleshoe Country Club.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother who was a World War II veteran; a sister; a granddaughter; and his wife of 58 years, Arline.

Mr. Phelps survived by his daughters — Ann Campbell and husband, Jay and Becca Srygley all of Waco; a son — Matt Phelps and wife Carol of Austin; three grandsons — Peter Campbell of Waco, Tyler Srygley of Dallas and Ches Phelps of Amarillo; two granddaughters — Catherine Campbell of Waco and Christina Phelps of Amarillo.

The family wishes to express their appreciation and gratitude to IV Garrett, Esther Ervin, Carolyn Wilson, Omega Banks, Josie Ellis, Willie and Anthony for their dedication and loving care for Mr. Phelps.

The family also would like to express their appreciation to the staff of Providence Hospice for their care of Mr. Phelps.

The family requests memorials to be directed to the Parkview Nursing Care Center, 1100 W. Ave. J., Muleshoe, Texas 79347; or First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 505, Muleshoe, Texas 79347.

"Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man." — Proverbs 3:3-4

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Focus on Faith... Continued from page 4

from St. Paul in First Corinthians, and from his own memoirs.

Has there ever been an easy time to preach? Not for Paul. And, though none of us is a Paul, not for preachers now.

Miller noted that eight out of 10 folks who graduate from seminary now will not be preaching 10 years later.

Ministry, and life, can

be brutal. But, he said, remember your calling, and in the midst of trial, focus on ending this life and beginning the next in God's deep joy which has nothing to do with committees and meetings and pious piffle.

He didn't say, it's important for pastors and for all of God's people to "get over themselves." But I think he did.

So how do we do that? All three of the veterans I mention above are "finishing the race" as I would like to finish it. They see more clearly than ever how far short we fall.

But they also have learned that to center on such is to focus on ourselves, to end "full of ourselves" and in despair.

They've chosen to focus on God and to end this life and start the next focused on Him and filled with His deep joy.

I pray for grace to make the same choice.

Lazbuddie science teams...

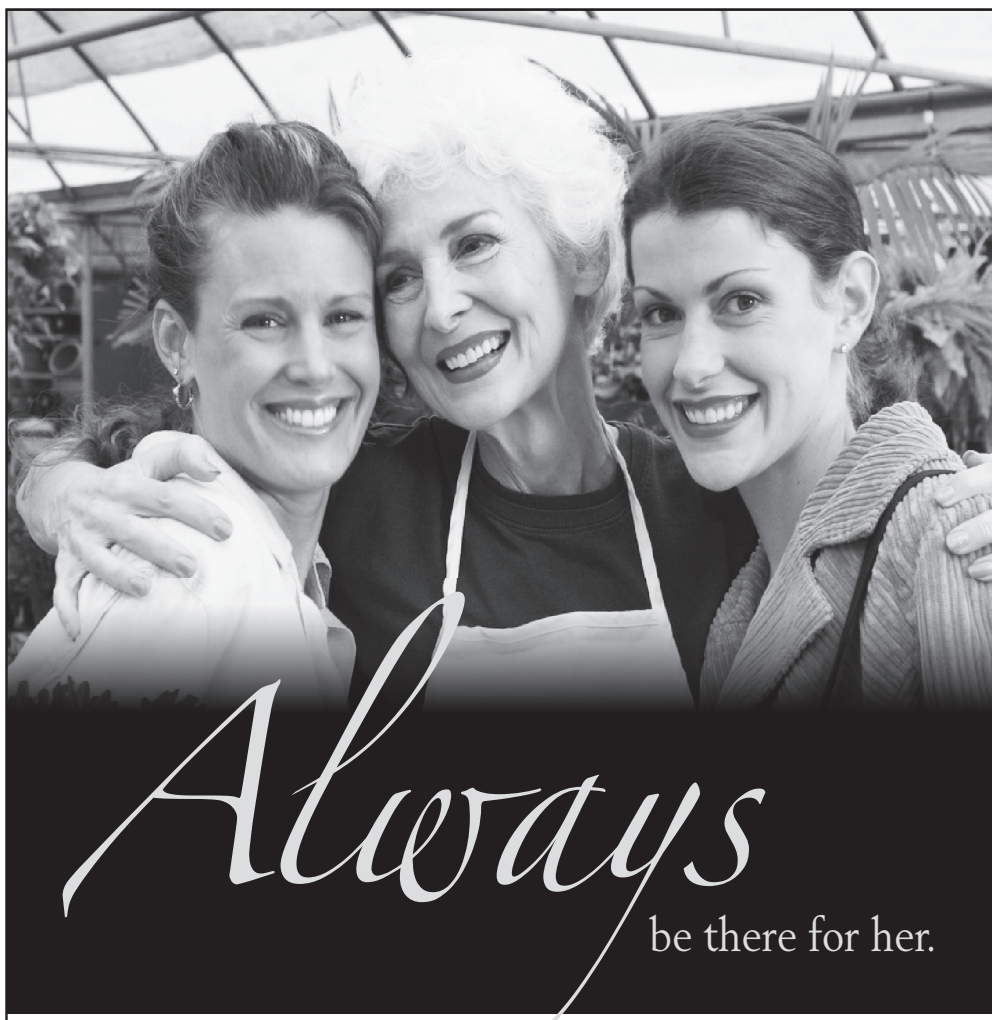
Lazbuddie ISD's Black and Orange teams took part in the Pantex Science bowl held at West Texas State A&M campus in Canyon recently. The team members, from left to right, are: Black team — Debbie Weir, Chase Timms, Jacob Schacher, Kayle Jesko and Darin Ivy; and Orange team — Debbie Weir, Colton Weaver, Jarrod Jesko, Devlin Thompson and Todd Nichols.



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Orange team



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Sports

Designing the championship ring

The Mules, Mule coaches, and Jostens representative who designed the Mule's State Championship rings are to be commended for their choices.

If you have not seen one of the rings then I strongly recommend you find one of the players or coaches that proudly wear a ring and ask for a guided tour.

The colors, use of stones and symbolism truly portray the Mule's season.

The first thing you notice is the bright white gold used in the rings and how the black onyx stone setting stands out against the white gold. In the center of the onyx stone is the outline of the State of Texas.

There are 15 diamonds set inside Texas. Each diamond symbolizes one of the Mule's 15 wins during their perfect football season.

The setting that holds the black onyx has the words "2008 2a State Champions."

The left side of the ring has a kicking Mule with the words "Mule Pride" emblazoned above the

From the Stands

By Delton Wilhite



Mule and 15-0 below it.

The right side has the player or coach's name along with a football helmet.

The player's number or the initials of the position coached appear on the helmet.

The letters "OLP" appear below the helmet. OLP is an acronym for "One Last Pushup."

The Mules knew when the season started they would have to play 15 games to have an opportunity to win a state championship.

The Friday before the

Mules played Levelland in their first game they performed 15 pushups. The next week they did 14 before hosting the Portales Rams.

Each week was another step toward their goal and the Mules continued to decrease their number of Friday pushups.

The day the Mules left for Grand Prairie to face the Kirbyville Wildcats in the state finals. They entered Benny Douglas Stadium for "One Last Pushup." They then boarded the bus and the rest is history.

If you do not ask the owner to allow you to hold the ring you may miss one last symbol. Engraved inside each ring is "Conquer the Lion."

"Conquer the Lion" was an inspirational motto for the Mules.

They felt the Littlefield Wildcats had become a Lion that they had to conquer to advance deeper into the playoffs.

Littlefield had defeated the Mules the three previous seasons.

Mule coach David Wood explains, "Littlefield was a team that had become a real obstacle for us. We named them our lion to conquer as a team. But that is not the whole story as each member of the team as well as the coaching staff had their own individual lions to conquer."

I am not sure about any one but me. But I learned a lot from the Mules this season. They are a great example to not only the students and athletes that will follow them but for each of us.

None of us are complete on our own and we all operate to some degree as a team. It could be in our work or at home with our family. We should show the same support for our team mates that the Mules did for theirs.

Maybe if we learn the lessons of team we will also "Conquer the Lion."

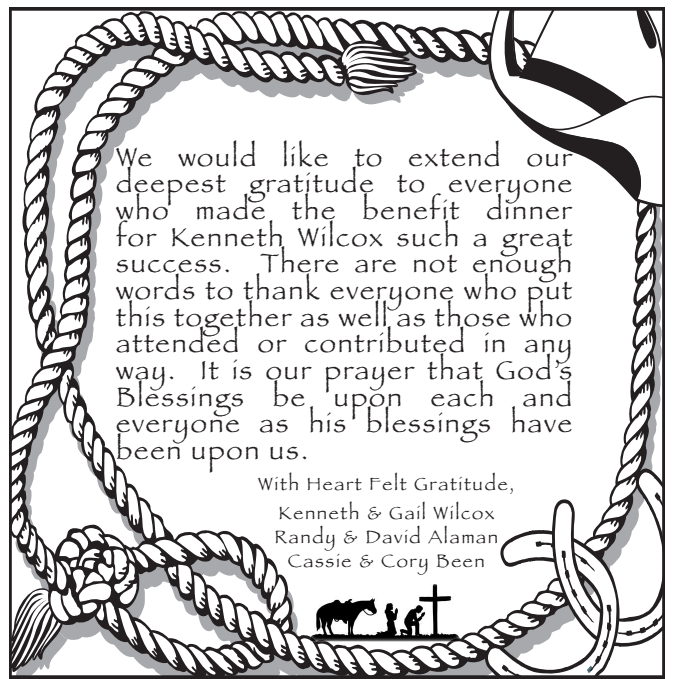
Thanks you for your leadership Mules.



Concentration

As expected, the Mules and Lady Mules have been doing well during this year's track meets. Pictured above, Lady Mule Katherine Owens displays her intense concentration as she throws the discus during a recent track meet. Photograph by Stacy Conners

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We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who made the benefit dinner for Kenneth Wilcox such a great success. There are not enough words to thank everyone who put this together as well as those who attended or contributed in any way. It is our prayer that God's Blessings be upon each and everyone as his blessings have been upon us.

With Heart Felt Gratitude,
Kenneth & Gail Wilcox
Randy & David Alaman
Cassie & Cory Been

Youth softball sign ups to be held

Sign ups for girls fast pitch softball will be in the Watson Junior High gymnasium foyer on Feb. 26, March 10, March 12 and March 26 from 6-8 p.m.

Girls, ages 7-16 as of Dec. 31, 2008, are eligible to play.

Contact Julie DeBruin at 806-946-6236 or Chris Kennemer at 806-786-0778 for additional information.



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The Sudan Buzz

Class 1A Division 1 State Champions



Buzzing away...

By Norma Burnett



As the Lady Hornets stepped off the bus Sunday afternoon there were tears of joy, big smiles, lots of hugs and cheers from the crowd that was there to congratulate them on their victory in bringing home the Class 1A Division 1 State Championship title.

The Hornets won the championship game Saturday in Austin, defeating No. 14 Roscoe 71-38.

The Hornets lost last year to Martin's Mill in the playoff game and every since that game they had the hunger and the determination to go back this year and bring home the state championship trophy and that is just what they done.

Congratulations Lady Hornets and coaches on a job well done!

On another matter, I just would like to let everyone know that I will be having total knee replacement surgery Friday, March 13, at UMC in Lubbock, and I would appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

Buzz-A-Licious" Recipes

Gwen West says that this salad is "sooo" good and that you can use red cabbage in it and it will be more colorful.

Bok Choy Salad

1 large Chinese cabbage (bok choy, regular cabbage or red cabbage), chopped into small pieces

• 5 small green onions, chopped

• 5 to 6 Tbsp. margarine

• 1/4 cup slivered almonds

• 1 tsp. sesame seed

• 3pkg. Ramen noodles (oriental flavored)

Vinaigrette

• 1 / 2 cup vinegar

- 1 / 2 cup salad oil
- 1 / 2 cup sugar
- 2 Tbsp. soy sauce
- 1/2 of the season packet from Ramen noodles

Chop cabbage and onions and refrigerate.

Sauté in margarine: almonds, sesame seed, and Ramen noodles (broken up into small pieces). Sprinkle over salad right before serving.

For vinaigrette: Mix vinegar, oil, sugar, soy sauce and season packets. Pour over salad with sautéed items just before serving.

Something to buzz about...

The City of Sudan has a lot to "buzz about" this week... just ask one of the young ladies pictured above. Sudan's Class 1A Division 1 State Champion Lady Hornets pause for a photograph after returning from Austin with the state trophy.

City of Sudan Council agenda posted

The City of Sudan will have their regular council meeting Thursday March 12, at 6 p.m. in the council chambers. The agenda is as follows:

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1. Invocation | New Business: | 16. Consider Changes to Crop Insurance Policy. Tentative action. | 22. Revisions to Personnel Policies. Tentative action. |
| 2. Pledge of Allegiance | 10. Consider Proposal from Richard and Connie Light regarding Lot 9, Block 21, O.T. Tentative action. | 17. Discuss and Consider Property Valuations Presented by Texas Municipal League - Intergovernmental Risk Pool. Tentative action. | 23. Consider Recycling Options. Tentative action. |
| 3. Approval of Prior Minutes. Action required. | 11. Consider Renewal of Amusement Permit for Maria Delgado. Tentative action. | 18. Approval of Code Enforcement Subcommittee Members. Tentative action. | 24. Consider Recommendations from Subcommittee for Code Enforcement. Tentative action. |
| 4. Public Input and Comments | 12. Discuss Property Condition and Cleanup with Alex Montes. Tentative action. | 19. Designation of old hotel property for Grant Applications. Tentative action. | 25. Consider Recommendations from Subcommittee for Planning Capital Improvements. Tentative action. |
| 5. Departmental Reports. | 13. Consider Acquisition of Purchasing Cards. Tentative action. | 20. Consider Changes to Approved Minutes of Meeting held January 8, 2009. Tentative action. | 26. Consider Action taken by Sudan Economic Development Corp. Inc. Tentative action. |
| 6. Discuss Water System Improvements. Tentative action | 14. Appoint Election Officials for May 9, 2009 Election. Tentative action. | 21. Consider 2009 Seal Coat Project Contract with Parkhill, Smith and Cooper, Inc. Tentative action. | 27. Accounts Payable and Purchase Requests. Action required. |
| 7. Proposal from Fire Department for Grant Application & Requirements. Tentative action. | 15. Designate Office Hours for City Hall during Early Voting by Personal Appearance. Tentative action. | | 28. Benediction. |
| 8. Discuss Wind Energy Program. Tentative action. | | | |
| 9. Consider Options for Residential Development on City Owned Property. Tentative action. | | | |

Sudan Happenings

March 11

- Church of Christ Ladies Bible Study, 10 a.m.
- KFC, First United Methodist Church, 4 p.m.
- Sudan City Council March 12, 6 p.m.

March 16-20

- Spring Break

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II Cor. 3:5

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State bound!

Sudan's Lady Hornets, pictured above, leave town enroute to their successful bid for the state championship. Pictured below are some of the decorations the citizens of Sudan put up to cheer their ladies on to victory.



Moon over Buffalo

The cast of Sudan's one act play, Moon over Buffalo, performed for friends and family at a dinner theater. This year's cast includes Josh Barrett, Whitney Robertson, Luke Weyrauch, Megan McAlister, Logan Lance, Mariah Steinbock, Rhett Sain and Janelle Vanderlei. The crew include Lindsey Cates, James Markham, Savannah Sain, Chance Doty and Bridgit Conley. The alterantes include Brooke Lennon, Bradley Lennon, Katherine Gutierrez, Desiree Trevino, Robert Martha, Zachary Lance, Shance Zamora, Jacob Drennan and Desiree King.

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CONGRATULATIONS ON A FANTASTIC SEASON SUDAN NETTES AND HORNETTS!

Sudan Hornets

- Chance Doty, #1
- Brock Steinbock, #2
- Ramon Perez, #10
- Chagar Swarb, #12
- Derrick Williams, #15
- Zachary Richards, #32
- Logan Lance, #25
- BJ Davis, 31
- Jae Koontz, #3
- Derek Wood, #11
- Rhett Sain, #50



Sudan Nettes

- Mariah Steinbock, #11
- Brittany Williams, #13
- Danielle Logan, #20
- Lacey Logan, #21
- Desiree King, #23
- Amy Tiller, #25
- Ce Ce Williams, #31
- Emylee Gonzales, #33
- Chelsea Locke, #15
- Skylar Sowder, #41
- Whitney Robertson, #45
- Baylee Black, #10

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Weddings

Ashford, Thorp exchange vows

Adrienne Ashford of Tucson, Ariz., and Kelly Thorp of Maricopa, Ariz., were united in matrimony on Jan. 3, 2009, at Collegiate United Methodist Church/Wesley Foundation of Ames, Iowa, with the Rev. Jim Shirbroun officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Ronald and Flonita Ashford of Muleshoe.

She received a bachelor of science in development sociology from Cornell University in 2004, and is currently a graduate student in planning at the University of Arizona, Tucson.

The groom is the son of Chris Thorp of Gibson City, Ill., and Cathy Gregerson of Urbana, Ill.

He received a



Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Thorp

bachelor of science and a masters in agricultural engineering from the University of Illinois, and a doctorate in agricultural engineering, from Iowa

State University. He is currently a research scientist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, at the Arid Land Agricultural Research Center at Maricopa, Ariz, where the couple plans to reside.

The matron of honor for the event was Amanda Payne, sister of the bride, and the best man was Ryan Thorp, brother of the groom.

Engagement



Garrett Magby and Lacy Tiller

Tiller, Magby to wed

Billy and Christal Tiller announce the engagement of their daughter, Lacy Tiller of Lubbock, to Garrett Magby, also of Lubbock.

The prospective bride is a 2002 graduate of Sudan High School and a 2008 graduate of Eastern New Mexico University. She is employed as a teacher at Lubbock Cooper ISD.

The prospective groom is the son of Debbie Magby and the late Skip Magby. He is a 2000 graduate of Lazbuddie High School, and is employed as an electrician with A-1 Service Electric.

The wedding ceremony has been set for July 18, 2009, at 6 p.m., at the First Baptist Church of Sudan, with a reception to follow.



Pack 620 receives Betty Griswold Award

Cub Scouts Pack 620 brought home several awards for Muleshoe from the the George White District Banquet in December at Levelland. Pack 620 brought home the Betty Griswold Award, which is given to an outstanding Cub Scout Pack for the district encompassing Levelland, Littlefield and Morton. Other awards recipients included Shawn Rejino, the Silver Spade Award, and Todd Newberry, the District Award of Merit, the highest honor given to an adult volunteer at the district level.

Correction Policy

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.

Baby Shower

StClair honored with baby shower

Lezli StClair, the wife of Cole StClair, was honored with a baby shower Saturday in the home of LaDonna Scott of Muleshoe.

Hostesses for the event included LaDonna Scott, Paulette Foster, Ellen Gallman, Linda Martin, Marca Morris, Vicki Morris, Vickie Burch, Terri Loudder, Sheryl

Engleking, Stephanie Foster, Debbie Weir, Sarah Black and Celie Parham.

Special guests included Sharon Gandy of Tahoka, Jana StClair of Muleshoe, Janis Woodall of Lubbock, and Brenda Black of Muleshoe.

Cole and Lezli StClair have recently moved to Friona. Cole is the



Lezli StClair manager of Attebury Grain at Black.



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MULESHOE COUNTRY CLUB MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



There are thirty (30) opening slots for Associate memberships at Muleshoe Country Club. These remaining slots will be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis. This drive starts immediately and will end on May 15, 2009. The Associate membership initiation fee of \$200.00 will be waived during this period. Membership benefits for \$70.36 monthly dues are as follows:

1. Unlimited golf for the entire family.
2. Usage of the restaurant, lounge and swimming pool for the entire family.
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Interested individuals may call Muleshoe Country Club, 806.272.4250
See Jeff or Chris in the Pro Shop

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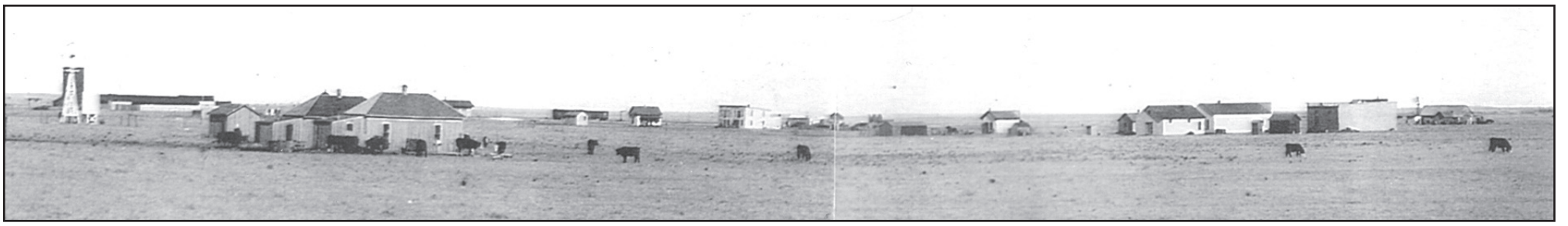


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Muleshoe, circa 1916

Roy H. Elrod Jr. (Lt. Col. USMC, Retired), formerly of Muleshoe and Bailey County, dropped by the Muleshoe Journal Monday, March 9, with the composite photograph above.

According to Elrod, the son of Roy and Nina Elrod, who was born on Bailey County in 1919, and was subsequently issued the county's fourth birth certificate, the photographs that were placed together

for this landscape shot were taken by his aunt, Faye Wallace Elrod, who later married R.B. Boyle, around 1916.

The structures, pictured from left to right, according to Elrod, are the railroad water tank; the E.R. Hart Lumber Company; two houses built by rancher E.K. Warren (At the time of the photograph, the left house was occupied by the Hoskins family, and the right by

William Kennedy who later became the Bailey County Judge); a railroad car; a one-pump gas station; and the original Gupton Hotel.

Pictured from right to left are an unidentified building; the Blackwater Valley State Bank; the M.P. Smith General Store and postoffice; the M.P. Smith house; and a house owned by M.P. Smith and rented to Roy Sr. and Nina Elrod.

Fourth grade students, Jennyslippers 'toast Texas'

The Jennyslippers presented their annual Toast to Texas celebrating Texas Independent Day, which is on March 2, in the courtroom of the Bailey County Courthouse on Thursday, March 5.

Special guests were the entire fourth grade

classes of Mary DeShazo School, and their teachers.

June Green, Jennyslipper president, gave the welcoming address. Elaine Parker, past president, announced each portion of the presentation.

Jennyslipper News

Junior Girl Scouts presented and posted the colors under the direction of Junior Girl Scout leader Phyllis Carrion. Mckenzee

Esparza posted the Texas flag, Marilyn Merendez posted the American flag and they also led the Pledge of Allegiance to each flag.

David Brunson, city manager for the City of Muleshoe, led the Toast to Texas by holding high his glass of cool Texas water and all joined him in the toast.

Glenda Jennings led the assembled group in honoring our great state and nation by singing, "America" and "Texas, Our Texas."

Brunson showed slides of a swimming pool -waterpark," exhibiting many features which will be implemented in the new pool. The youngsters oohed and aahed as each new slide came up, showing a waterslide, a lazy river which flows around and around, swimming lanes and a gradual incline (with no steps) down into deeper water.

A much larger concession area will also be available. The children were excited about the new pool and eager for its completion. Brunson explained that it will not be finished this summer, but will be ready for them next year.

Gene Sheets, superintendent of Muleshoe Independent School District, gave an interesting account of how our great state of Texas came to be free and independent. And also the gift of a free education for every child, which isn't offered in every country.

Billy Bob and Sunshine appeared (with the help of puppeteer, Glenda Jennings) to entertain the group with their Texas songs, which also included yodeling.

Presley Newton, brought his guitar, (which is the state musical instrument) and invited the group to join him in singing, "The Yellow Rose of Texas" and "The Eyes of Texas are upon You." All enjoyed his guitar playing and singing along.

The Jennyslippers treated the group to Texas cookies and punch to complete their special field trip to the courthouse to celebrate Texas Independence Day.

Celebrate National Ag Day on March 20

American agriculture is responsible for providing the necessities of everyday life ... food, fiber, and even fuel. That's the message of National Ag Day, which is celebrated March 20.

According to Kim Hanlin, executive director of USDA's Farm Service Agency in Bailey County, producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America will gather to celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture on this first day of spring.

"The National Ag Day program is committed to increasing public

awareness about American agriculture," said Hanlin.

"As the world population soars, there is even greater demand for the food, fiber and renewable resources that the United States produces," he said.

The Agriculture Council of America, organizers of National Ag Day, says that every American should understand how food, fiber and renewable resource products are produced and should value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.

Consumers should appreciate the role

agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products. National Ag Day will focus on educating Americans about the industry, so they may also acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food, fiber and renewable resource industry.

"Today's farmer feeds more than 130 people in the United States and abroad," said Hanlin. "In 1960, that number was 25.

Today, more than 15 percent of the U.S. population is employed in farm or farm-related jobs."

Each year, the National

Ag Day program gathers members of the agricultural industry in an effort to promote American agriculture.

Focused on sharing how agriculture provides almost everything the nation eats, uses and wears on a daily basis, the National Ag Day program helps educate millions of consumers each year.


The Muleshoe community is invited to join this effort to promote American agriculture to everyone during National Ag Week, March 15-21.

For more information contact your local USDA Service Center or the Agriculture Council of America.

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Signs of Spring!

The spring-like temperatures of the past week have brought out many indications that winter may be showing its heels in the Muleshoe area. The cluster of flowers above are only a part of the apparent volunteer display decorating one local yard.

Photograph By Larry Thornton

DeShazo pitbull attack...

Continued from page 1
When the teacher examination by the school's nurse didn't reveal any punctures or wounds from the teeth.

However, according to Superintendent Gene Sheets, one child was apparently struck in the face by the dog's muzzle with sufficient force to cause bruising, and another child's arm was held in the dog's mouth with sufficient force to cause bruising even though the skin wasn't broken.

According to the superintendent, there have been four incidents involving pitbulls believed to be from the Orozco residence at DeShazo Elementary during the past couple of years, enough that a teacher is normally assigned to watch for the approach of an escaped animal during recess periods.

However, Sheets said the Feb. 4 incident was the first time an animal has "made contact" with a student.

When the teacher on recess duty saw the animal approaching, she reportedly blew her whistle in an attempt to warn the students she send them inside for shelter. And when it became apparent that the children's running was only exciting the dog more, the police report states she tried to get the students to stop running. However, when one group of students complied and stopped moving, the dog apparently switched his attention to others who were still trying to get inside the school building.

"The police and animal control are trying very hard to address this situation, and I'm confident they will," Sheets said.

According to police department officials, previous incidents regarding a dog running at large on the school ground that were referred for prosecution were dismissed.

Commissioners' court...

Continued from page 1
The question down in November's county-wide election, and that he felt the state's required one-year waiting period before the issue could be placed before the voters again should stand.

Instead of waiting the year, Chavez utilized an apparent "loophole" in state statutes that allow the vote placed before voters without waiting, but to be limited to a city-wide vote. The statute would also require any package store opened following a successful election bid to be placed within that same city.

Even though the liquor election is restricted to Bailey County voters residing within the City of Muleshoe, state statutes still require it to be called by the commissioners' court. In other business Monday, the commissioners' court:

- Approved payment of county bills totaling \$333,606, along with the third amendment to its FY 2009 budget.
- Approval of its minutes from the Feb. 9 regular meeting.
- Approval of the January county treasurer's report and receipt of the February report.
- Approval of a non financial contract with Child Welfare Services.

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Muleshoe Art Assn. News

Jan Loyd, art instructor at Clovis Community College, has accepted the position of judge for the 2009 Muleshoe Art Association Spring Show scheduled for April 7 at the Muleshoe State Bank Community Room.

Entries will be received between 10 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Monday, April 6, at the community room.

The four categories available are pastel, watercolor, oil or acrylic and miscellaneous.

Interested parties may call Sandra Chancey at 946-9221, Nelda Merriott at 272-4071, or Ann Sowder at 946-3617 for details. Interested parties are welcome to attend the critique session at 1 p.m.

The March 3 meeting of the art association was at Five Area Telephone training room and the group expressed its appreciation for the use of the facilities this year.

Association president Ginnie Seifert presided over the meeting. Sandra Chancey presented minutes of the previous meeting and the financial report which were approved.

Chancey also won the door prize.

Artists of the Months of March and April are Ginnie Seifert and Jackie Hinderliter, showing at the Muleshoe Public Library.

WHY NOT SUBSCRIBE?

Remember! Letters to the editor must be signed and include a contact telephone number for verification to be considered for publication.

The Muleshoe Journal's 15th Annual Cutest Baby Contest



Winner will receive a \$50 Savings Bond for being selected 2008's Cutest Baby!

Enter any child born in 2008 who you fell in love with at first sight - children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends, etc.

Please provide phone number or address (it will not be published) so that we may contact you if we need additional information or clarification.

This year's contestants will appear in the March 26 edition of the Muleshoe Journal. A panel of unbiased judges will pick the most attractive picture to be the 2008 Cutest Baby. All baby pictures will be printed in this edition of the paper. Babies need not be born in this area. Journal employees and their families are not eligible to win.

Bring your favorite photo along with \$15 to the Muleshoe Journal office at 201 W. Ave. C, Monday-Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or mail the adjacent coupon along with your child's photo and \$15 to Cutest Baby Contest, c/o Muleshoe Journal, P.O. Box 449, Muleshoe, Texas 79347. You may pick up your baby's picture during office hours after Monday, March 31, 2008. NOTE: Postage must be paid to return photos by mail.

Entry form fields: Baby's Name, Date of Birth, Weight at Birth, Length at Birth, Place of Birth, Mom & Dad's Name, Grandparent's Name, Contact Info.

Entry Deadline: Thurs., March 19 at 5 pm

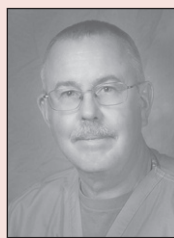
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Johanna Pettrey, CNP

Johanna Pettrey is a licensed registered nurse and certified nurse practitioner. She has been providing a wide range of primary healthcare services to adults and children in our community for the last six years. Ms. Pettrey received her bachelor's in nursing from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, and her Master's of Science as a Family Nurse Practitioner from Georgetown University in Washington, DC.



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