

# 2007: The year in review



# Muleshoe Journal



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50¢

January 3, 2008

## Dillman construction tops stories for 2007

By Larry Thornton  
Managing Editor

The year 2006 was all about building in the Muleshoe Independent School District, building... buildings, as construction under the district's multi-phase bond projects began, and building a new administration staff, with two of the district's four principals making a change.

In January, the MISD board of trustees approved the floor scheme for the Dillman Elementary expansion prior to reaching an agreement on the project's guaranteed maximum price from the district's construction management firm, Lee Lewis Construction. The GMP for Dillman was set at \$4,680,000 at the board's June meeting.

"This is going to be a busy spring," Superintendent Gene Sheets told the school board, "but it's going to be an exciting time."

The groundbreaking for Dillman was in mid-May, construction was set to begin in the following month, and the targeted completion date is set for May 30, 2008.

The school board showed its confidence in its superintendent at its February meeting by authorizing Sheets to approve certain aspects of the Dillman expansion project without bringing the issue before the board.

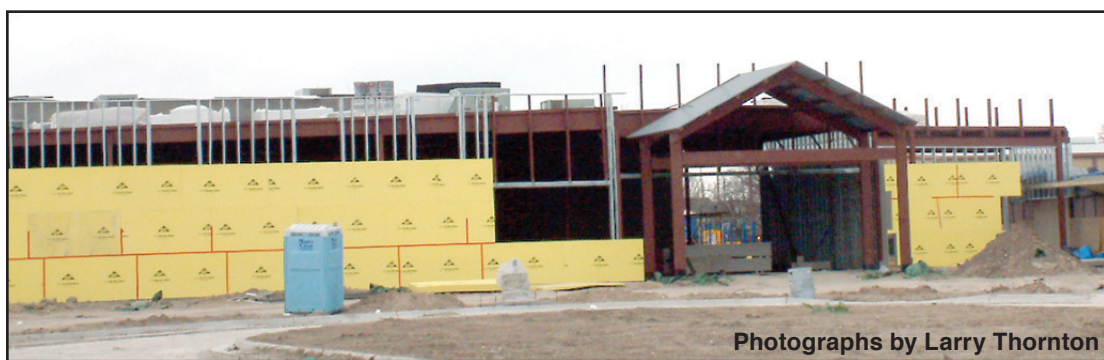


### Rough work for a cold day.

Pictured above, workers pour and work the concrete for the bus unloading zone at Dillman Elementary Thursday, Dec. 27, while a portion of the expansion project is displayed on the right.

"This is pretty much a 'no brainer' here," board president David Tipps said prior to the related motion received a vote, "We have someone here who can do it."

And in June, the school district began preparing for the second phase of its facility expansion... the expansion of Muleshoe High School. At a board meeting during the month that followed, MWM Architects —



Photographs by Larry Thornton

which designed the project at Dillman Elementary and Watson Junior High, both part of phase I — to design the high school expansion.

"They've worked very hard for us," the superintendent said, "and I'm sure they will continue working hard for us."

On Sept. 20, local educators, community leaders, and students gathered at Watson Junior High for the groundbreaking

ceremonies.

At the meeting in February, the school board found itself faced with voting to accept the resignation of Muleshoe High School Principal David Jenkins, who was retiring after 13 years.

"What happens if we don't make a motion," one of the board members quipped.

After board members Cindy Purdy's reluctant motion to accept the resignation, she recalled

what former MISD Superintendent Bill Moore said when he made the recommendation to hire the Jenkins.

"I have a good one," Purdy said, quoting Moore. "He should have said... I have a great one."

In May, the graduating Class of 2007 honored the retiring principal, and his wife Sherry Jenkins who was also retiring as an instructor with MISD,

by asking them to be the keynote speakers.

To take on the challenge of leading the education of Muleshoe's secondary students in the 2007-2008 school year, the board hired Elizabeth Ward, formerly of Granbury and Weatherford ISDs.

"Muleshoe is a place that cares about its kids," Ward said during an interview shortly after she was hired. "...That's what we're here for... its the kids."

At Watson Junior High, the resignation of Principal David Dominguez, who left to pursue his career at a larger metropolitan school district, was followed by the hiring of Alex Salazar, who came to Muleshoe from Ft. Worth ISD.

In his initial interview with the Journal, Salazar said teachers primarily impact the students in their classroom, but as principal he has the opportunity to make a difference in the lives many more students through the teachers under his supervision.

Salazar said junior high was "where the rubber meets the road."

In other MISD-related issues, March saw a bit of relief for the school district as the "black-eye" it had received over TAKS "irregularities" was cleared up in a letter from Texas Education Agency Commissioner Dr. Shirley Neeley.

**Local Weather**

**Thursday**  
Pt. Cloudy..... 48/27

**Friday**  
Pt. Cloudy..... 57/34

**Saturday**  
Pt. Cloudy..... 60/35

**Sunday**  
Pt. Cloudy..... 61/33

**Monday**  
Mt. Cloudy..... 63/29

**Tuesday**  
Mt. Sunny..... 54/25

**Wednesday**  
Snow/Shwr.... 44/22

Give It  
*A Thought*

**Making a New Year's resolution seems like a good idea until about... Jan. 3**

Words to ponder from Beverly

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

## People who 'made the news' in 2007 listed

By Larry Thornton  
Managing Editor

Quit a few people hit the pages of the Muleshoe Journal during 2007, and while there were numerous memorable achievements during the year, there were a few individuals who received additional attention.

Among the individuals featured on the front page of the Journal in 2007 were:

• Ray and Donna West of Midland — who returned to Muleshoe with their checkbook open to award the community from which Ray graduated a considerable amount of money.

In February, the Wests donated \$100,000 to the SPC-Muleshoe Nursing School.

"Education is the solution to the world's problems," said Ray West, who said he was pleased to be able to help the community.

In August, the Wests hit the front page of the

**Continued on page 3**

## MAHD ends year with 'good news' at Park View

By Larry Thornton  
Managing Editor

The year 2007 came in with a roar, and went out with... well, not a whimper, but at least with a lot less of a roar than the previous year, due in large part to good news rather than bad coming from the Muleshoe Area Hospital District.

At the end of 2006, the news that the MAHD board was looking at selling Park View Nursing Care Center ignited a bit of heat at the monthly board meetings, with some people appearing

in support of the idea and others speaking out against it.

The board authorized its president Ronnie Dent to enter into negotiations with Laurel Healthcare Providers, LLC, of New Mexico over the purchase of the facility. However, the hospital district's attorney informed the board that it would have to advertise for bids to sell the nursing home.

Although the board followed the attorney's recommendation no bids were received. Even Laurel

Healthcare didn't submit a bid after it was learned that differences in Texas and New Mexico Medicaid licensing would prevent the company from designating as many as it wanted for Medicaid patients.

Still, the district's dealing with Laurel weren't at an end. When the sale of the nursing home fell through, the hospital district's board contracted with Laurel to provide management services for Park view. As part of this service, Laurel brought its current administrator, Dr. Sandy

Sandlin, ThD, to head up the nursing home in May.

"I look forward to having this relationship with Laurel," Dent said. However, this relationship was relatively short-lived when the board voted to rescind the contact in July upon learning that Laurel was being sold to another company.

The hospital district board kept Sandlin as administrator, but voted again to put the facility back on the auction

**Continued on page 3**



### 2007 also held tragic moments

Muleshoe and county law enforcement officers joined with firefighters to combat the deadly fire on Aug. 15.

## Panda, EMS tops 2007 commissioners meetings

By Larry Thornton  
Managing Editor

Panda Ethanol reared its head a number of times at the monthly meetings of the Bailey County Commissioners Court during 2008.

At the beginning of the year, Bailey County Judge Sherri Harrison and Muleshoe Economic Development Director Janet Claborn met with officials from the Texas Department

of Transportation to discuss the resurfacing of the county road on which the ethanol plant would be located, due to the large number of tractor-trailer rigs that would be hauling in the corn and products to be converted into ethanol at what some speculate may end up being the largest ethanol production plant in West Texas.

**Continued on page 2**

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### Adult Learning Center closed

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

### FBC blood drive

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

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

### Nursing home volunteer training

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

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

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

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

### Alzheimer's disease support group

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

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

## Burglaries among city issues in 2007

By Larry Thornton  
Managing Editor

Among the top stories from the City of Muleshoe during 2007 was the rash of business burglaries that plagued the community, but the most heat received by the city council was over the construction of a softball field and not the elimination of crime.

At the end of March, a rash of business burglaries became a plague to local law enforcement as the sought the individuals who forced their way into several of the food establishments on West American Blvd.

At the April Muleshoe City Council meeting, Muleshoe Police Chief Brian Frieda said the number of burglaries had doubled according to police department records.

And when the burglaries continued through April and into May, striking some businesses more than once, Chief Frieda met with area business representatives to discuss the problem.

"Burglaries and thefts are through the roof..." said Frieda "That's why we're coming to you."

The police chief gave an overview of law enforcement and citizen interaction programs, and discussed how Muleshoe could benefit from such participation from its residents.

He encouraged those in attendance, and through them the entire community, to be observant and to pass along anything seen to law enforcement agencies.

By August, however, the police department was able to get the situation under control, and with DNA results from the stat crime labs, arrests were being made.

As for the issue of a new softball field at the New City Park, in May, Juan Chavez approached the council with a suggestion that control of the city's existing softball fields be given to the Muleshoe Softball League Association, which would charge groups and organizations wishing to use the field to pay for maintenance of the field and to raise funds for the new facility.

This issue carried over until the council's June meeting, when a motion for the city to retain control of its property carried with a 4-1 vote after City Manager David Brunson noted that the city doesn't charge for the use of the fields.

You've got control... you've got the vote... you can use it or abuse it," Chavez said sharply before the vote was taken, a remark that drew a swift response from Councilperson Sharon Grant who compared the request with someone seeking to control a park's playground equipment.

Prior to the June defeat before the city council, Chavez represented the softball league in a request for funding for the construction of a new park at the Bailey County Commissioners Court — on

## Commissioners... Continued from page 1

"It was pretty phenomenal," the judge said, referring to the meeting with TxDOT officials at which the Muleshoe delegation had announced its approval of the road resurfacing project.

Although Panda officially announced its intentions to build the plant in October 2006, prior to that TxDOT representatives had already met with the commissioners court to discuss what would be needed for the state to take over maintenance of the road.

In November, Panda formerly announced that the State of Texas had granted an air permit for the refinery.

On another front, in January, the commissioners had to deal with the selection of an interim director for Bailey County Emergency Medical Services after the resignation of former director Chris Thompson.

Paramedic William Winters was given the temporary directorship, and in April made the selection of Jackey Wayne Burris as the EMS director, at a salary of \$25,000 plus benefits. The commissioners' court also addressed the issue of wages for other EMS personnel.

At one point during 2007, the court also discussed what to do about the continued management of the ambulance service, at which time the county judge expressed a desire for the Muleshoe Area Hospital District to take over the service.

"They're into emergency medical service, not us," Harrison said.

The commissioners also had to decide what to do about the county attorney's

position after Carissa Cleavinger, who had been the county attorney resigned and closed her office in Muleshoe.

The court interviewed Scott Say, an assistant district attorney in Lamb County, and eventually contracted with Lamb County for Say to serve here.

One of the first things Say said he needed to address was the backlog of almost 300 cases that had been allowed to build up.

"It's a disservice to your residents," Say said, noting that in many cases the witnesses would move from Muleshoe before an issue could be brought before a judge for trial.

In April, Say showed his proactive side by holding a bogus check seminar with local business representatives to explain what the county attorney's office could do to help them with the ongoing problem,

"Ultimately, the only hammer I have is to threaten to throw them in jail," the county attorney said.

Among the other issues handled by the commissioners court in 2007 was the problem of tractor-trailer rigs parking at the Bailey County Coliseum's parking lot.

According to the county officials, who passed an ordinance prohibiting the large trucks from parking

there, on several occasions, the trucks parked there broke through the thin layer of asphalt paving.

The commissioners also listened to a request from Muleshoe Fire Chief Richard Ronek concerning the unnecessary fire runs his department was having to make, responding to fires that turned out to be controlled burns.

"We're wasting a lot of taxpayers' money," Ronek said.

Additional county tax dollars were being wasted, according to Precinct 1 Commissioner Butch Vandiver in October, trying to get a handle trash problem along county roads.

### NOTICE OF SCHEDULED ENTRY INTO FIELDS

Pursuant to Tex. Agric. Code, Sec. 74.117, cotton producers in the Northwest Plains Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, which consists of all of Bailey, Castro, Deaf Smith, Lamb, and Parmer counties and part of Randall County are hereby notified that Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation personnel will be conducting eradication activities in and around their fields, beginning **January 16, 2008**. All cotton fields will be mapped, and treatment will begin during the cotton-growing season. For notification prior to any chemical treatment, call 1-800-687-1212 with the exact location of your field and appropriate telephone numbers. Field entry and treatment is expected to last until all cotton is harvested in the zone. For more information regarding this program, please call the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation at 1-800-687-1212.

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

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

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

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MATH 0320.557	Intermediate Algebra	T / Th	1:00 - 2:15 pm
PSYC 2301.557	General Psychology	M / W	2:30 - 3:45 pm
READ 0320.557	College Learning Strat.	T / Th	11:00 - 12:15 pm
SPCH 1321.557	Bus. & Prof. Speech	M / W	1:00 - 2:15 pm

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# Muleshoe, Bailey County's 'people in the news'

**Continued from page 1**  
Journal again with a \$100,000 donation to the Muleshoe Heritage Foundation, resulting in Aug. 14, 2007 being proclaimed as "Ray and Donna West Day" in Muleshoe and Bailey County.

• Bobby Balderas — a 1972 Lazbuddie graduate, who was featured in the Feb. 8 issue of the Journal as the newspaper's most distant subscriber. At the time, Balderas was serving at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, Russia, as its information management officer.

• David Jenkins — who announced his retirement as principal of Muleshoe High School after 13 years of service to the Muleshoe Independent School District and its students.

"The kids know he loves them," MISD board member Cindy Purdy said on the evening the school board reluctantly accepted Jenkins' resignation. "He's like a father figure to them... He is truly a friend to everyone."

• Gilberto "Tito" Reyes, formerly of Muleshoe — who was convicted for the March 1998 murder of Yvette Barraz, a former girlfriend. In March 2007, a June 21 execution date was set for Reyes.

The sentence was carried out at Huntsville Prison. In his final words, Reyes was reported to have said, "I love you all and I'm going to miss you all."

• Kathy Boren Copeland — a 1971 graduate of Muleshoe High School who returned in April to showcase her books "Water on a Flat Rock," and "Butterflies Still

## MAHD...

**Continued from page 1**  
block, reiterating the financial drain the nursing home was having on the entire district through a presentation by Deborah Whitley of Parrish Moody & Fikes, the district's auditors, that explained the financial situation in greater detail.

"What we're doing is putting the hospital at risk," she said, referring to the views of area residents who spoke against the sale.

"If another dime didn't come in the door, the district could only stay open for two days," she said.

This time, however, the board was confronted with the fact that it's current administrator also disagreed with the sale, and said at least a portion of the problems were the result of poor billing practices at the nursing home.

But while improvements in billing were needed, and nursing home expenses were cut as far as possible, it was also pointed out that the nursing home needed a financial "shot in the arm," which suddenly appeared in the last quarter of 2007 when it was announced that a private company was interested in establishing a dialysis unit at Park View.

"This will be one of the best things we've done for Park View," Dent said at the Dec. 20 MAHD meeting at which the board approved a contract with Accesscare Dialysis, LLC, that will allow the company to place the first such unit in a nursing home in the State of Texas, with the hope of filling additional beds at the facility.

Sing."  
• Reagan Maxfield and Lynnsay Crittenden — the granddaughters of former Bailey County Judge Marilyn Cox.

In April, Lynnsay learned that a photograph she'd taken of her cousin Reagan was to featured on a soft drink label by the Jones Soda Company.

• Elizabeth Ward — the new principal of Muleshoe High School. "I can't think of a better person to recommend to you all," Superintendent Gene Sheets said at the meeting in which the school board voted to hire Ward.

"I am thrilled to be here," Ward said. "This is where we were meant to be."

• Andrew Precure — 2007 Muleshoe High School graduate, who received the Principal's Award from retiring Principal David Jenkins, along with a bottle of Andrew's favorite soft drink.

• Irene Mason — who was sworn into office as a councilperson for the City of Muleshoe, a "history making event." With Mason joining Councilperson Sharon Grant as a member of the municipality's governing body it was the first time in the city's history that more than one woman was seated on the council at the same time.

• Alex Salazar — the new principal of Watson Junior High School, who expressed

## County election candidates listed

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

As of Monday, Dec. 31, the candidates who have filed for office in the Bailey County elections include:

• Jeanine Backus, Republican, who has filed for the position of County Attorney.

• Floyd "Butch" Vandiver, Republican, incumbent Precinct 1 Commissioner, who has refiled for his position.

• Joey Kindel, Democrat, incumbent Precinct 3 Commissioner, who has refiled for his position.

• Richard Warren, Republican, who has filed for the position of Precinct 3 Commissioner.

• Gerry Pierce, Republican, who has filed for the position of County Constable.

• Daniel Patterson, Democrat, who has filed for the position of County Sheriff.

• Richard Wills, Republican, incumbent Sheriff, who has refiled for his position.

• Melba Clark, Republican, incumbent County Tax Assessor, who has refiled for her position.

Candidates had until Jan. 3 to file for the county positions with their respective party's county chair.

"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*

a great desire to work with middle school students during an interview that appeared in the Muleshoe Journal.

"At this point in my life, I feel like I can make the most impact in junior high," Salazar said. "You have to want to be in junior high to be effective," he added.

• Larry Kitchens, formerly of Bailey County, whose October 2005 conviction was upheld by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals for the Seventh District. In October, Kitchens' final appeal was denied.

• Dr. Grant Nitzel, M.D. — who along with his family, joined the Muleshoe community and the staff at the Muleshoe Area Medical Center.

"We thought a small town would be fun for raising kids," Nitzel said.

Prior to the move to Muleshoe, Dr. Nitzel served on the medical mission field in Mongolia, and as part of the teaching staff at Via Christi St. Francis Hospital of Wichita, Kan.

• Jack Stone — former pastor of the First Assembly of God in Muleshoe, whose recording of "Jesus is Enough" climbed to 19th on the Christian country music charts.

• Sixialfredo Barrera Rodriguez — a four-year-old resident of Muleshoe, whose young life was brought to a tragic end in a structure fire on Wednesday, Aug. 15.

• Tyson Turnbou, a 14-year-old Muleshoe student who brought home his fourth North Texas Junior PGA "Tour of Champions" trophy. Along with his many golf trophies, young Tyson also holds claim to two "holes in one." He is the son of Shelly and James Turnbou of Muleshoe.

• Terah Kay, the daughter of Dr. and Kyle and Bernita Sheets, who traveled to Iraq and wrote a series of columns about the country, its people and the U.S. service personnel who are trying to bring peace to the region.

"We're extremely pleased that Terah has given us this opportunity to hear about the efforts of our service men and women first hand," a Journal representative said.

• Natasia Daniel, who was crowned as the 2007 Homecoming Queen.

• Johnny Martens — a five-year-old child and the son of Peter Martens of Muleshoe, who was allegedly kidnapped by his non-custodial parent Margaretha Friesen, and is believed to have been carried over the border into Mexico.

"His name is staying on the roster until he comes home," a representative of the Muleshoe Football League said, voicing the support of Johnny's team and others involved with Muleshoe's little league football for the return of their teammate.

A week later, the investigation into Johnny's abduction "took a new twist" when his father began receiving telephone calls threatening him unless he stopped trying to recover his son.

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## Christmas Gives Meaning to Our First and Our Final Breaths

A few months ago, my wife and I and two of our sons stood beneath a giant tree in a Ugandan rain forest. The guide explained to us that what we had thought was the bark of the tree was actually a parasitic vine that had for multiplied scores of years been slowly encapsulating the actual tree. Then he pointed to a few "gaps" in the vine where we could see the tree

pastor, had written about yet again standing with a family in a hospital room, and realizing how deep is the connection between two holy moments: "our first and our final breaths."  
"As the vigil unfolds, finally, the last critical breath of musty earth-air is exhaled and somewhere unseen, the same now unfettered soul breathes its first exhilarating breath of heaven."

It's poignantly ironic, Jim wrote, that "at the other end of the same hospital, people participate in a struggle of a different kind, a labor whose fruition is a new life, taking a first critical breath that officially encumbers and indentures it into a season of humanity. . . . One soul is freed from time; the other soul is bound by it, for a time."

Just a breath or two after we left the cemetery, my family gathered for Christmas, gathered literally from across continents, and began to share smiles and laughter, good time together, fun and not a little food, and, not least, an eleven-month-old smiling granddaughter still at that wonderfully guileless age where the boxes the presents come in are as much fun for her as the gifts.

Yesterday, my firstborn called to say that he and his wife had heard the heartbeat of their unborn child. (It's fast! Another beautiful granddaughter!?)  
Jim's right. "Because a baby born in a barn grew up, tasted fully of life, and was later laid in a tomb; and because he walked out of that tomb alive again, we also can walk away from funerals and cemeteries without leaving our hope in a casket."

The new year has begun. Fine. I'm for any reason to take a day off and spend it with family. But the real hope of new life has nothing to do with calendars and everything to do with Bethlehem.

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



**Focus On Faith**  
*Curtis Shelburne*

itself. The tree and the vine were inseparable.

In this mortal life, life itself and death are like that.

A couple of Tuesdays ago, one week before Christmas Day, we got word that my sister had died. She had been in terrible health for years, so it was hardly unexpected, and it was in many ways a deep blessing. Still, when such a time comes and your universe changes, it is always a bit jarring to realize it has actually happened.

So on the Friday before Christmas, we found ourselves coveyed up with our extended family at a warm little church in Robert Lee, Texas, and then at the picturesque little cemetery eight miles out of town at the Edith Community (not much community left!) a stone's throw from the now-fallen-down cabin where my mother was born. We stood near my parents' graves and did the work of brothers laying a sister's body to rest.

Just a few days earlier—before he had any idea we'd be heading to a family funeral—my younger brother Jim, also a

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# Senior Citizen News

By Laverne Winn

Happy New Year to all. As we begin a new year our new year resolution is to have all senior citizens coming to the center for a more enriched and enjoyable life.

donated to the center by purchasing meal tickets or just a donation to honor some loved one. We are thankful for the good people of this area.

On Tuesday, Jan. 8, the ladies will be playing Bunco.

Remember to call a friend and come join in the fun. There will be prizes given to the winner.

Our senior dances will begin on Tuesday night, Jan. 8. Call a friend to be your guest, bring your favorite dish and come join in the exercise and fellowship. Even the younger ones can come as guests. Sandy will be furnishing the music.

Wednesday, Jan. 9, the regular monthly Board meeting will be held at the center, beginning at 1 p.m. The meetings are open to the public.

## Grain elevator workshop scheduled for Jan. 22

The 20th annual Texas High Plains Grain Elevator Workshop is moving to the Ashmore Inn and Suites, located at 2301 E. I-40 in Amarillo, from its longtime location at the Amarillo Civic Center.

8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and has been submitted to the Texas Department of Agriculture for continuing education credits.

Pre-registration is requested by Jan. 15. The fee is \$35 and checks should be made to: Tri-State Chapter

of GEAPS. Mail registration forms and fees to the attention of Ronda Fisher at: Texas Cooperative Extension, 6500 W. Amarillo Blvd., Amarillo, Texas 79106.

For more information, contact Cronholm at 806-291-5274.

We invite and urge you to come by the senior center any time.

The center is open every day, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

We do ask for a \$3 donation for the lunch if you are 60 and over. A \$5 donation is required if you are under 60.

We do have good meals and invite you to visit us.

### Menu for Jan. 7-11:

Monday, Jan. 7 — Chili, beans, salad, cornbread

and cobbler.

Tuesday, Jan. 8 — Meat loaf, au gratin potatoes, carrots, peas, salad, wheat rolls, fruit and cookies.

Wednesday, Jan. 9 — Grilled steak, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, wheat rolls and baked apples.

Thursday, Jan. 10 — Salmon croquette, black eye peas, salad, cornbread and cake.

Friday, Jan. 11 — Fish or chicken strips, gravy, beans, coleslaw, cornbread and fruit salad.

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**Mary**  
by Max Lucado

(The following is excerpt 2 of 4 from An Angel's Story. Read the first story, Gabriel, at MaxLucado.com. In this classic Christmas story, Max Lucado pulls back the curtain and imagines the cosmic drama that accompanied that very first Christmas...from the perspective of an angel.)

The Father whispered to me. I heard Him as if at my side. "Go, Gabriel: go and tell Mary."

On a wave of worship I flew, this time alone. I circled through the clouds and over the ground. Below me was the city where Mary was born. The Father was right; I knew her in an instant. Her heart had no shadow. Her soul was as pure as any I've seen. I made the final descent. "Mary." I kept my voice low so as not to startle her. She turned but saw nothing. Then I realized I was invisible to her. I waved my wings before my body and incarnated. She covered her face at the Light and shrank into the protection of the doorway.

"Don't be afraid," I urged.

The minute I spoke, she looked up toward the sky. Again I was amazed. I praised my Father for His wisdom. Her heart is so flawless, so willing. "Greetings. God be with you."

Her eyes widened, and she turned as if to run. "Mary, you have nothing to fear. You have found favor with God. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call His name Jesus. He will be great. He will be called the Son of the Highest. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; He will rule Jacob's house forever—no end, ever, to His kingdom."

Though she was listening, she was puzzled.

"But how? I've never slept with a man."

Before I spoke I looked up into the heavens. The Father was standing, giving me His blessing.

I continued, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, the power of the Highest hover over you; therefore, the child you bring to birth will be called Holy, Son of God. Nothing, you see, is impossible with God."

Mary looked at me, then up into the sky. For a long time she gazed into the blueness, so long that I, too, looked up. Did she see the angels? Did the heavens open? I do not know. But I do know when I looked back at her, she was smiling.

"Yes, I see it all now: I'm the Lord's maid, ready to serve. Let it be with me just as you say."

As she spoke, a Light appeared in her womb.

From An Angel's Story (originally published as Cosmic Christmas)  
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# BAILEY COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE



# Obituaries

## Rocky Horton

Rocky Horton, 44, of Texico, N.M., died on Sunday, Dec. 23, 2007, in Farwell. He was born on April 25, 1963, in Clovis, N.M., to Corky and Peggy Tinker Horton.

Horton was raised in Clovis and graduated from Clovis High School in 1982. He attended Clovis Community College where he received his Associates degree.

He married Suzahn Inman on June 6, 1992, in Clovis, N.M.

Horton owned and operated a car wash, Sparklin' Wash & Mighty Vac Pumping Service.

He was a member of the Muleshoe Cowboy Fellowship.

Horton loved to hunt, fish and ride four wheelers with his kids.

He is survived by his wife — Suzahn Horton of the home in Texico; a daughter — Rockell Horton of the home; a son — Ruger Horton of the home; a brother — Jackie Horton of Clovis; his mother — Peggy Horton of Clovis.

He is also survived by two nieces — Sydnee Horton and Holly Inman; a nephew — Tanner Horton; his father-in-law and mother-in-law — Marlon and Karolene Inman; an uncle — Jim Towns; and his brother-in-law and



ROCKY HORTON

sister-in-law Brent and Lisa Inman.

He was preceded in death by his father.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 27, at Central Baptist Church in Clovis with Steve Friskup and Dusty Leatherwood officiating. Interment will be held at Lawn Haven Memorial Gardens under the direction of Steed-Todd Funeral Home.

Casket bearers will be Marlon Inman, Brent Inman, Jackie Horton, Layne Norris, Craig Johnson, Mark Boatman, Leroy Lucero and Buddy Mullinax.

Honorary casket bearers will be Harold Johnson, Kay Harmon, Jim Hobbs and the Monday and Tuesday Mornings Men Bible Study groups.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Baptist Children's Home, P.O. Box 629, Portales, N.M. 88130.

## Simone Chavez, Sr.

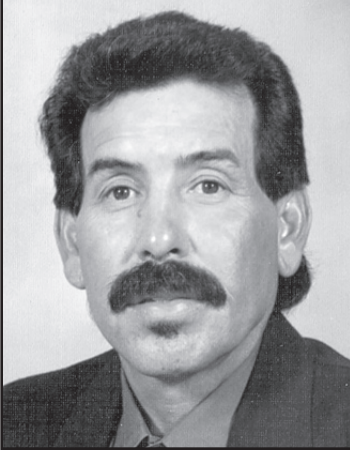
Funeral services for Simone Orlando Chavez, Sr., 63, of Earth, formerly of Muleshoe, were held on Saturday, Dec. 29, at St. Magdalen Catholic Church in Earth with Father Patrick Maher officiating. Burial followed in Earth Cemetery.

Chavez was born on July 15, 1944, in Greelee, Colo., to Leo and Annita Chavez.

He married Nicky Palacio on Jan. 21, 1974, in Plainview.

Chavez was the owner and operator of Chavez Sprinkler Service in Muleshoe, and during the Vietnam War served in the U.S. Army.

Survivors include his wife — Nicky Chavez of Earth; eight sons — Eusebio Ramos of Amarillo, Rogelio Ramos of Sikeston, Mo., Chris Chavez of Plainview, Simone Chavez, Jr., Sammy Chavez, Sonny Chavez and Rolondo Saucedo, all of Muleshoe, and Richard Chavez of Denver, Colo.;



SIMONE ORLANDO CHAVEZ, SR.,

three daughters — Janie Garcia of Earth, Hilda Contreras of Lubbock, and Nora Gonzales of Lubbock; 23 grandchildren; five brothers — Leo Chavez, Juan Chavez, Bennie Chavez and Robert Chavez, all of Muleshoe, and Rosendo Chavez of Texico, N.M.; five sisters — Beatrice Campos, Josie Ovalle, Roseanne Gloria and Racheal Lopez, all of Muleshoe, and Barbara Fuentes of Texico, N.M.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother and a granddaughter.

## Jose Alfaro

Funeral services for Jose "Barney" Alfaro, 52, of Harlingen, formerly of Muleshoe, were held on Saturday Dec. 29, at the Rudy Garza Chapel of Peace in Harlingen.

Burial followed at Ashland Memorial Park Cemetery.

Alfaro died on Dec. 26, 2007. He was born on June 11, 1956, in Crystal City.

He served in the U.S. Army.

Alfaro was preceded in death by his parents — Timoteo and Hortencia Alfaro of Amarillo; and a brother — Jose Timoteo Alfaro, Jr. of Alamoso, Colo.

Survivors include his wife — Lucinda Alfaro of Harlingen, two daughters — Rosalee Alfaro of



JOE "BARNEY" ALFARO

Amarillo and Kristie Alfaro of Harlingen; a son — Michael Alfaro of Amarillo; five grandchildren; two brothers — Johnny Alfaro of Amarillo and Robert Alfaro of Lajara, Colo.; four sisters — Virginia Fabela of San Antonio, Rosa Alfaro of Catalina, Janie Fabela of Muleshoe and Martha Alfaro of Amarillo.

## Doyle Shearer



DOYLE SHEARER

On June 24, 1995, in Portales, he was married to Judy Scheller.

During his lifetime he was a farmer, a dairyman, and for many years owned the school buses for Portales.

He touched the lives of many children who rode his buses. Doyle belonged to the School Bus Contractors Association, and had served on the board.

He was a wonderful husband, daddy, Pappa, brother and friend. He especially enjoyed fishing at Red River, and watching the Atlanta Braves baseball team.

Shearer is survived by his wife — Judy Shearer of the home; a daughter — Billie Shearer of Hobbs,

Funeral services for Doyle Shearer, 81 of Portales were held on Friday, Dec. 28, at the Third and Kilgore Church of Christ with Galen Isaacs officiating.

Burial followed in the Portales Cemetery, under the direction of Wheeler Mortuary, with Joel Shearer, Jamey Shearer, Jonathan Shearer, Kevin Shearer, Jared Shearer and Steven Butler serving as pallbearers.

Those wishing to make memorial contributions may send them to the New Mexico Christian Children's Home, 1356 NM 236, Portales, N.M. 88130.

Shearer was born on Feb. 28, 1926, in Dalhart, to Ella Dora and James R. Shearer, and died on Dec. 25, 2007, in Lubbock.

He grew up in the area of Needmore, and served in the Philippines during World War II.

On March 14, 1946, in Plains, he was married to Ioma Mae Turner. She preceded him in death on Nov. 15, 1991.

N.M.; five sons and their wives — Jimmie and Janet Lynn Shearer, Dickie and Pat Shearer, Jerry and Barbara Shearer and Larry and Janet Kay Shearer, all of Portales, and Dennis and Ketha Shearer of Hobbs; three sisters — Ethel Hitt of Lubbock, Norma Ruth Holloman of Belen, N.M., and Linda Gregory of Garland.

He also had eight wonderful grandchildren — Angela, Joel, Jamey, Jonathan, Kevin, Jared and Kimberly Shearer and Krista Butler; and was blessed to have nine great-grandchildren — Jayden, Wyatt, Emma, Riley, Ellie, Caleb and Jasmine Shearer, Christopher Butler and Kwayde Stevens.

Besides his first wife, Ioma Mae, Shearer was preceded in death by his parents; a brother — Ken Shearer; a sister — Juanita Rowland; a daughter — Betty Sue Shearer, who died May 9, 1959; and a grandson — Dustin Shearer who died on Aug. 30, 2003.

## Volunteer training offered

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

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

Volunteers must commit to weekly visits and submit monthly reports. All volunteers will receive liability insurance coverage; also, mileage reimbursement is available for anyone traveling from out of town for trainings.

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

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Happy Birthday!

Love,  
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## Christmas Gives Meaning to Our First and Our Final Breaths

A few months ago, my wife and I and two of our sons stood beneath a giant tree in a Ugandan rain forest. The guide explained to us that what we had thought was the bark of the tree was actually a parasitic vine that had for multiplied scores of years been slowly encapsulating the actual tree. Then he pointed to a few "gaps" in the vine where we could see the tree

pastor, had written about yet again standing with a family in a hospital room, and realizing how deep is the connection between two holy moments: "our first and our final breaths."

"As the vigil unfolds, finally, the last critical breath of musty earth-air is exhaled and somewhere unseen, the same now unfettered soul breathes its first exhilarating breath of heaven."

It's poignantly ironic, Jim wrote, that "at the other end of the same hospital, people participate in a struggle of a different kind, a labor whose fruition is a new life, taking a first critical breath that officially encumbers and indentures it into a season of humanity. . . . One soul is freed from time; the other soul is bound by it, for a time."

Just a breath or two after we left the cemetery, my family gathered for Christmas, gathered literally from across continents, and began to share smiles and laughter, good time together, fun and not a little food, and, not least, an eleven-month-old smiling granddaughter still at that wonderfully guileless age where the boxes the presents come in are as much fun for her as the gifts.

Yesterday, my firstborn called to say that he and his wife had heard the heartbeat of their unborn child. (It's fast! Another beautiful granddaughter!?)

Jim's right. "Because a baby born in a barn grew up, tasted fully of life, and was later laid in a tomb; and because he walked out of that tomb alive again, we also can walk away from funerals and cemeteries without leaving our hope in a casket."

The new year has begun. Fine. I'm for any reason to take a day off and spend it with family. But the real hope of new life has nothing to do with calendars and everything to do with Bethlehem.



**Focus On Faith**  
Curtis Shelburne

itself. The tree and the vine were inseparable.

In this mortal life, life itself and death are like that.

A couple of Tuesdays ago, one week before Christmas Day, we got word that my sister had died. She had been in terrible health for years, so it was hardly unexpected, and it was in many ways a deep blessing. Still, when such a time comes and your universe changes, it is always a bit jarring to realize it has actually happened.

So on the Friday before Christmas, we found ourselves coveyed up with our extended family at a warm little church in Robert Lee, Texas, and then at the picturesque little cemetery eight miles out of town at the Edith Community (not much community left!) a stone's throw from the now-fallen-down cabin where my mother was born. We stood near my parents' graves and did the work of brothers laying a sister's body to rest.

Just a few days earlier—before he had any idea we'd be heading to a family funeral—my younger brother Jim, also a

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

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# Sports

## Mules defeat Tulia, Dimmitt in district play

By Delton Wilhite  
Sportswriter

Snow may have been in the weather forecast but it was raining 3-pointers when the Mules hosted the Dimmitt Bobcats in the Muleshoe Athletic and Convocation Center.

The Mules hit nine 3-pointers and Dimmitt knocked down five in the contest.

The Mules defeated Dimmitt 60-51 for their second district win of the week. The Mules had opened their district season in Tulia the previous Tuesday and defeated the Hornets 55-46.

Tulia ran out to a 7-0 lead in the first two minutes. The Mules used 3-pointers from Patrick Precure and Garrett Riley to end the first period with a 15-12 advantage.

Brian Poynor drove in the lane and tossed back out to Precure for his trey. Riley dropped his in from the top of the key.

Tulia made up the



Photograph by Stacy Conner

The Mules battle Tulia in a recent game.

difference in the second period and tied the game at 23-23 by the intermission. Except for the opening run by the Hornets the two teams exchanged scoring punches like a pair of boxers.

The Mules fell behind in

the third period but Wes Wood made a last second shot to cut the Tulia lead to 34-33 going into the final period. Only two Hornets scored in the final frame while five Mules found the basket.

The Mules out scored the Hornets 22-12 to take the game. The Mules made six of eight from the charity line in the final period to nail the coffin shut on the Hornets. Poynor was four-for-four from the line in the

last quarter.

Nine Mules scored against the Hornets with Poynor leading the way with 12 points. Colby Carpenter was close behind with 11, Riley added nine and Precure dropped in seven.

W. Wood made six points, Lane Wood and Victor Vasquez had four each and Colt Ellis and Dillon Gallman chipped in one apiece.

Gallman made two 3-pointers in the opening period against Dimmitt after Poynor opened the game with a shot from the elbow. Dimmitt made three treys to take a 19-14 lead into the second period.

The Mules cranked up their defense and held the Bobcats to only four points in the second period.

Poynor opened the period with a bucket before Precure found the range from behind the arc for two treys.

Riley sandwiched a 3-pointer between a pair of baskets as the Mule ran out to a 29-23 lead at the half.

Precure added two more 3-pointers in the third period along with a free throw. Riley knocked down his

second trey of the game and Austin Wright drove the lane for a bucket.

L. Wood found the range from behind the arc from the top of the key. The Mules had opened at 47-37 advantage going into the final period.

Kaden Griffitt scored all 14 points for Dimmitt in the final quarter. The Bobcats flailed away at the Mules in the final period and the Mules converted nine of 16 free throws.

Precure made four 3-pointers and three of four from the line for 15 points. Riley had a pair of treys and dropped in five of six from the charity line for 15 points also. Gallman and Poynor dropped in eight each and L. Wood and Vasquez added four apiece. Carpenter, W. Wood and Wright chipped in two each.

The Mules will play off the holiday turkey in the Littlefield Wildcat Classic December 27-29. The Mules will open the New Year in Lockney Jan. 4 before resuming District 2-2A action in Bushland on Jan. 8.

## Lady Mules' district record stands at 2-2

By Delton Wilhite  
Sportswriter

Kelsey Tipps made both ends of a one-and-one foul in the final three minutes to cut the Tulia Lady Hornets lead to 46-53. The Lady Mules scored 35 in the final two periods but it was not enough to catch the Lady Hornets. The Lady Mules fell to Tulia 62-53.

The Lady Mules bounced back against the Dimmitt Bobbies to even their district record at 2-2. The Lady Mules used a strong second quarter to make up a five point deficit to tie the game at 26-26 by the intermission. They took over in the second half to defeat Dimmitt 54-47.

The second half belonged to the Lady Mules as they poured in 28 points to down the Bobbies 54-47.

The Tulia Hornet Gym proved to be a tough place for the Lady Mules to play and it took an entire half for them to adjust to the environment. Eight points was all the Lady Mules could post in the first period. Tulia raced out to a 17-8 lead after one quarter.

Tulia hit two 3-pointers and knocked down five of seven free throws in the second period to pour in 19

in the second period. Chi Hernandez kept the Lady Mules in the game with seven points as the Lady Mules trailed 36-20 at the intermission.

The Lady Mules scored 17 in the third period but only cut two off the Tulia lead. The Lady Hornets sank seven of 11 from the charity line to hold off the Lady Mule final period charge.

Sarah Johnson and Ashley Grumbles each made in a pair of buckets in the final frame and Tipps made three of four from the charity line. Morgan Smith added a bucket and a free throw for three points and Hernandez made her final bucket. The Lady Mules out scored Tulia 16-11 in the final period but it was not enough.

Hernandez led the Lady Mules in scoring with 15 points and Grumbles dropped in 13. Smith made the Lady Mules only 3-pointer in the second period for 10 points and Johnson scored eight of her 10 points in the second half. Tipps chipped in three from the charity line.

Grumbles opened the game against Dimmitt from behind the arc. The Bobbies



Photograph by Stacy Conner

pounded the ball inside to their big post player to take a 17-12 lead into the second period.

The Lady Mules did a better job of doubling down on the post players in the second period and held Dimmitt to nine points in the second period. Tipps hit a

short jumper to tie the game with four minutes left in the second period.

The Lady Mules could not put any distance between them and the Bobbies. Hernandez retied the game at 24-24 with 1:11 left in the half. Johnson hit the final

Continued on page 7



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# Sports

## JV Mules dominate Tulia

By Delton Wilhite  
Sportswriter

The JV Mules dominated the Tulia Hornets in their road district opener. The led 16-9 at the intermission and came out in the second half and held the Hornets to a single point. The Mules won the contest 43-8.

The Mules home district opener was a tougher battle against the Dimmitt Bobcats.

Tyson Turnbow's first five shots hit from behind the arc for the Mules first 15 points. Nathaniel Chavez heated up in the second period with nine points. The Mules led 27-19 at the break.

The Mules only scored seven in the third period but held Dimmitt to six.

The Mules matched Dimmitt bucket for bucket in the final period to hold off the Bobcats. The Mules went to 2-0 in district with a 54-45 win.

Brett Poynor hit the Mule's only 3-pointer in the opening frame. Cooper Washington scored twice in the lane in the second quarter as the Mules took a 16-9 lead at the half.

The Mules stayed in control and out scored the Hornets in each of the final two quarters.

Chavez and Washington

teamed up to lead the Mules with 10 points each and Turnbow added eight. Poynor dropped in five and Tyler Steinbock made four.

Sean Thornton, Josue Macias and DJ Atwood made two each and Stevie Cisneros chipped in one.

Turnbow broke his personal drought from behind the arc with five straight treys to open the game against Dimmitt.

Poynor joined in the long distance fest with a 3-pointer to kickoff the third quarter. He added a second in the final period to help seal the deal against the Bobcats.

The Mules made nine of 11 from the charity line in the last quarter as the Mules matched the Dimmitt 20 point performance in the final period.

Turnbow's five treys helped him lead the Mules with 21 points. Poynor and Chavez dropped in 11 each.

Washington scored all five of his points in the final period and Caleb Conner, Jared Skipworth and Atwood chipped in two each.

The Mules will travel to Lockney to face the Longhorns Jan. 4 before putting their 2-0 district record on the line in Bushland against the Falcons Jan. 8.



Photograph by Stacy Conner

The JV Mules' game against Tulia.

## Ladies take part in Littlefield tourney

By Delton Wilhite  
Sportswriter

The Lady Mules entered the Littlefield Wildcat Classic to try to regain their basketball focus after the mandatory five day Christmas break. The Lady Mules opened the tournament against the Idalou Lady Wildcats.

Ashley Grumbles scored 13 of the Lady Mules first period points to give the Lady Mules a 22-19 lead over Idalou. Idalou bounced back to only trail the Lady Mules by one at the intermission.

Idalou began to take over the game in the third period and then shut down Lady Mule scoring in the final period. Idalou took the game 57-44.

They bounced back on Friday to take two games. The Lady Mules caged the Lady Wolverines 41-26 in the opening game on Friday and came back in the afternoon to face the Morton Maidens.

The afternoon game was far from pretty but the Lady Mules came out on top 36-29. It took a monster final quarter to pull out the win. The Lady Mules went against the Nazareth Swiftettes for the consolation trophy.

The Lady Mules trailed at intermission 17-13 in the defensive struggle. They fought back in the third period and briefly took the lead when Chi Hernandez drove across the lane for a reverse lay up. The basket gave the Lady Mules a 19-

17 lead.

Two 3-pointers by Nazareth gave them the lead for good and they took home the consolation trophy with a 42-36 win over the Lady Mules.

Grumbles had the hot hand in the opening period against Idalou with two free throws, four baskets and a 3-pointer to push the Lady Mules to a 22-19 lead.

Sarah Johnson dropped in a 3-pointer and scored on a break as the Lady Mules raced up and down the floor. Gizell added a pair from the charity line and Morgan Smith drove the left side of the lane for a short jumper.

Johnson added two treys in the second quarter as Idalou trimmed the Lady Mule lead to a single point, 30-29, at the half. The third period was a classic battle as the two teams exchanged baskets but the Lady Wildcats took a three-point lead.

Chi Hernandez made the only basket for the Lady Mules in the final period while Idalou pumped in 13.

Grumbles led the Lady Mules with 15 points and Johnson added 11. Hernandez dropped in seven, all in the second half and Smith made five.

When the Lady Mules and Springlake-Earth had met earlier in the season it had taken the Lady Mules two over times to get past them. The Lady Mules were taking no chances on Friday as they opened with an

Continued on page 10

## Mules take Mustangs in Littlefield tourney opener

By Delton Wilhite  
Sportswriter

The Mules opened the Littlefield Wildcat Classic against the Denver City Mustangs. The first period was almost as if the Mules had not missed a day for the holidays as they scored 20 points.

The Mules downed the Mustangs 52-38 and moved into the second round of the championship bracket against the host team. The Wildcats of Littlefield used a 15-5 first period run to defeat the Mules 46-38.

The Mules trailed the Dalhart Golden Wolves 23-21 at the intermission and seemed to get something in their shooting eye in the second half. The Mules had few of their shots to fall in the second half and lost to the Wolves 50-31.

Six Mules scored in the opening period against Denver City and Patrick Precure and Brian Poynor each made a 3-pointer as the Mules pumped in 20 points. The Mustangs could only find the basket for seven points.

Precure found the mark from behind the arc for the Mules as both teams scored seven in the second period. Precure dropped in two more treys as the Mules out scored Denver City 19-14 in the third period. The Mules led 46-28 going into the final period.

They only made six of 10 free throws in the final quarter to cruise to the win.

Precure paced the Mules with 16 points. Poynor and Victor Vasquez dropped in 12 points each and Colby Carpenter added seven. Dillon Gallman and Lane Wood chipped in two each in the win.

Littlefield seemed to handcuff the Mules in the first period as they could only score five points. The Wildcats poured in 15 in their home gym. Neither team burned up the net in the second period as the Mules out scored the Wildcats 6-3 to trail 18-11 at the half.

Carpenter, Gallman and Vasquez each made 3-pointers in the third period

to out score Littlefield 16-13 and cut their lead to 31-27. Littlefield heated up the final period and out ran the Mules 15-11.

Gallman led the Mules with 12 points. Carpenter, Garrett Riley and Vasquez dropped in seven each. L.

Wood added three points and W. Wood chipped in two.

Poynor opened the Mule's final game with a 3-pointer from the top of the key. L. Wood made a steal and drove coast to coast for a

Continued on page 10

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## Lady Mules... Continued from page 6

bucket of the half to knot the game at 26-26.

The Lady Mules squeezed down the defense even more in the third period and held Dimmitt to eight points in the third period. Hernandez made moves in the lane to get her left handed shots up for a pair of baskets.

Smith drove the lane and added a charity toss as the Lady Mules began to take over the game. Grumbles added a pair from the line and Ashley Cisneros cleaned up an offensive rebound and stuck it back in to give the Lady Mules a 37-34 lead.

Johnson scored on a fast break to start the final quarter. She made both ends of a one and one before the period ended. Hernandez dominated the lane with a pair of baskets and two charity tosses.

Smith found a seam in the Dimmitt defense and drove for a lay up. She also added three points from the charity line. Tipps capped the Lady Mule run with a bucket as the Lady Mules out scored Dimmitt 17-13.

Hernandez set the Lady Mules scoring pace with 17 points. Smith dropped in 15 and Johnson added 10. Grumbles added six points, Tipps four and Cisneros chipped in two.

The Lady Mules played in the Littlefield Wildcat Classic before the year ended to play off the Christmas goodies. The Lady Mules will travel to Brownfield to face the Lady Cubs Jan. 4 before resuming District 2-2A action in Bushland Jan. 8.



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**Read the clues below to fill in the puzzle about our 49th state:**

- If you look at a map, you will see that there are 500 miles of land belonging to \_\_\_\_\_ between the states of Alaska and Washington.
- The largest Alaskan city is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Mount McKinley has the highest \_\_\_\_\_ in the United States.
- Alaska has more \_\_\_\_\_ and rivers than any other state.
- Scientists go to Alaska to study these sheets of ice.
- Native peoples of Alaska are the \_\_\_\_\_, Inupiaq and Yupik.
- The summer \_\_\_\_\_ shines about twenty hours a day in Alaska.
- Small \_\_\_\_\_ carry supplies and mail to isolated places.
- Alaska is a land of ice and snow, but it is rich in fish, minerals, and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Alaska is large. It is \_\_\_\_\_ the size of Texas.
- At one point, Alaska is only fifty-one \_\_\_\_\_ from Russia.
- The capital of Alaska.

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**3 bed / 3 bath / 2 garage — \$130,000**  
This is a very well maintained country home with many updates and additions. One completely remodeled bathroom, a large master bath, three hot water heaters, a beautiful 40 X 12 redwood deck with hot tub and an above ground swimming pool. Close to school and about 15 miles from Muleshoe.

**Irrigated Farms:**  
**1149.15 Acres with a Dairy Permit — \$2,415,000**  
Beautiful productive farmland operated by the same farmer for many years. The farm has great water. Dairy permit for 3308 head.

**1120 Acres with a Dairy Permit — \$2,800,000**  
10 Wells! 2 beautiful homes! This farm is well cared for and a playa lake takes some of the east half section but it lies well for a dairy. A 4000 head dairy permit is in place and according to the permitting office, could easily be increased for additional cows.

**186 Acres in Parmer County — \$390,600**  
8 tower sprinkler packaged for 900 gallons per minute. 1 well with turbine pump and 75 horse power electric motor. 1: 4 inch 30 horse power submersible.

**473 Acres and 3/2 Home — \$1,005,000**  
Three separate quarter sections all with newer Reinke seven tower sprinklers and equipped with LEPA nozzle. One sprinkler has a 450 gallons per minute package, one is packaged for 550 gpm, and one is packaged for 650 gpm. We have bases and yield information. House on property is a beautiful well maintained 3/2/2 with lots space and storage.

**Great Commercial Property:**  
**311 W. American Blvd. — \$150,000**  
An established business that carries everything for your farm animals needs. Currently, this business carries hay, Hi-Pro feed for large and small animals and a wide variety of animal care essentials. It is located in an area surrounded by feed yards, dairies and farmsteads.

**623 W. American Blvd. — \$250,000**  
A thriving business in a progressive rural city. The business currently includes tree and plant sales, landscaping projects of all sizes, yard sprinkler planning and installation, and yard and tree spraying. Also included are approximately 700 growing trees on five acres south of Muleshoe that will be maintained by the current owners for five years. The land does not convey. Great opportunity.

**1202 W. American Blvd. — \$90,000**  
Prime location off main thru way. The surrounding retail businesses include McDonalds, Ford Dealership, various restaurants and retailers. A definite high traffic, visible area.

**MIKE CLEAVINGER, ABR**  
**KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY**  
4747 S. Loop 289, Suite 110  
Lubbock, TX 79424  
Cell: (806) 239-5139  
Office: (806) 771-7710

## REAL ESTATE

**ERA Courtyard REAL ESTATE**  
3BR-1BA-1GA, 309 Worth Street - Sudan. Home with app. 1284 sq. ft. living area on double lot w/separate detached 2 car garage. Nice house with lots of potential. \$34,500.  
**Monty Edwards, Agent**  
(806) 786-5426

**Byrd Realty** Ronald Byrd Licensed Broker  
Crista Bass Sales Associate  
228 Main Street, Muleshoe, Texas  
[www.byrdrealestate.net](http://www.byrdrealestate.net)

**AK Ranch** - 1425 acres, 35 miles SW of Muleshoe, 35 miles SE of Farwell. Located on Highway 1731. Has beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage home and 40x60 metal barn. 6 pastures, 4 domestic wells and a 20 acre pond. Excellent wildlife hunting deer, quail, ducks, geese and dove. Very scenic property. Call for more details!!!!

**Country Home on Highway** - Nice 3 bedroom, 1-3/4 bath home, central air, fireplace, tile floors, 2 car garage, utility, 2 car garage, 40x80 metal barn on 10.5 acres, priced to sell!!!

Approx. 2100 sq. ft. 3 bedroom, 1 bath home, large family room with fireplace, livingroom, utility, new carpet, carport, storage buildings, fenced back yard, priced to sell!!!  
**Price Reduced** - Cute remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 bath home, Cent. A&H, fireplace, 1 bedroom upstairs, deck, pond, sprinkler system, storage building, apartment or office building in back. This home will not last long, call today!

**NEW LOWER PRICE** - Nice 3 bedroom, 1-3/4 bath brick home, large utility, fireplace, sunroom, built-ins, Cent. A&H, sprinkler system, 2 car garage, fenced back yard, all on corner lot.

**Spacious** - 4 bedroom, 3 bath brick home, built-ins, refrig. air/central heat, tile floors, fireplace, sunroom, built-in grill, fireplace, utility, sprinkler system, fenced back yard, 2 car garage. Plus more!

**WE NEED HOUSE LISTINGS!!**  
160 acres on highway includes very nice 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home. Refrigerated air and central heat, built-ins, fireplace, large utility and 2 car garage. Has circular sprinkler, 2 wells, 70'x100' hay barn, 24'x25' storage building and more.  
**708 Acres South of Muleshoe** - 5 - 8" irrigation wells, 4 circular sprinklers. Excellent for peanuts, potato crops, dairy permitted. Highway frontage. Call for details.

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

## REAL ESTATE

• Irrigated farms — Spade, Earth, Levelland, Plainview.  
• Levelland — 3 nice brick homes for horses w/arena.  
• Lubbock — 5A tracts (one well), also 107A tract.  
**FARRAR & ASSOCIATES**  
**806-894-7099**

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HAVE BUYERS! NEED HOME AND LAND LISTINGS!!

**RICHLAND HILLS - PARKRIDGE - HIGHLAND**  
• 3-2-1 Home, corner lot, Cent. A&H, built-ins, storm windows & doors, fenced yd., workshop/storage. \$47,500!!  
• 2 NICELY REMODELED DUPLEX UNITS & 1 NEW Duplex unit!! PRICED TO SELL!!  
• NEW 3-2-2 Brick Home, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, spklr. sys., fenced yd.!!  
• BEAUTIFUL CUSTOM BUILT 3-2-2 Brick Home, built-ins, FP, isolated master, safe rm., patio, nicely landscaped, spklr. sys., fenced yd.!!  
• NICELY REMODELED 3-2-2 Brick, new Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, 3125' lv. area, spklr. sys., fenced yd., MORE!!  
• VERY NICE 3-2-2 Brick, Cent. A&H, built-ins, fireplace, utility, new paint, carpet, tile, atrium doors, blinds, 7 fans, cov. patio, stor. bldg., fenced yd.!! MORE!! \$145,000!!  
• VERY NICE 3-2.5-2 Brick Home, Dual Fuel Heat Pump, built-ins, FP, basement, cent. vac. & humidifier systems, auto. spklr., workshop/storage, fenced yd., corner lot!! \$169,500!!  
**HIGH SCHOOL AREA**  
• Very NICE 2-1-2 brick, Cent. A&H, built-ins, new paint, carpet, wood laminate, kitchen & bath countertops, fenced yd.!! MUCH MORE!! \$85K!!  
**COMMERCIAL**  
• ANA'S BEAUTY SHOP — Approx. 1120' bldg., with or without furniture & fixtures!! PRICE REDUCED!!  
• 3 office units on 40.6' x 140' lot across from courthouse!! \$33,000!!  
• VERY NICE CHURCH BLDG. WITH PARSONAGE - MAY BE SOLD SEPARATE!! Price Reduced!!  
• GOOD INCOME PROPERTY-LONG TERM LEASE- Approx. 8,075' office bldg. w/approx. 20,000' paved parking area!! PRICE REDUCED \$350K.  
• NICELY REMODELED - 800 sq. ft. Bldg., Cent A&H, updated electrical & plumbing. PRICE REDUCED \$39.5K  
• 4.2 acre tract at edge of town, 40' x 60' metal insulated bldg., 2 other sheetrock bldgs., chainlink fenced area, numerous uses!! \$59K!!  
• Approx. 1274' Building, 75' x 140' lot, U.S. Hwy. 84!! \$39.5K!!  
• 100' x 140' tract, corner lot on Hwy. 84, 1760' Bldg., 1076' Bldg., 308' storage, & 2-56' x 22' metal bldg. w/paved area!! \$49.5K!!

**Vic Coker Land Co.**  
Agricultural Real Estate

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

• FORMER RICHLAND HILLS TEXACO - 1414' Bldg. + 1080' canopy + 16,530' asphalt paving!!  
**IN CONTRACT**  
• 70 acre tract close to town, has irrig. well (not used in several years)!! \$450,000!!  
**RURAL**  
• EARTH - VERY NICE 3-3 w/2 car detached garage/workshop on 1.158 acres on Hwy. 70. Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, island cooktop, gameroom. Approx. 3206' lv. area, pergola, nicely landscaped, stor. bldg., pecan trees!! MORE!! \$129,900!!  
• PROGRESS/LARIAT AREA - 3 bdrm. & den or 4 bdrm., 2 bath, Cent. A&H, built-ins, approx. 2270' lv. area on 7 acres, corrals, MORE!!  
• Nice 3-2 Home at edge of town on .8 acres tract, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, efficiency apt. or guest cottage, horse barn & corral!! \$119,900!!  
• 3 bdrm., 2 bath home on 30 acres, 24' x 36' workshop, 13' x 36' storage, domestic well, irrig. well!! MORE!! \$75K!!  
• NICE 4.8 acre homesites, close to town, deed restricted!! \$17,500!!  
• NICE 3-2-5 carport Home on 2 acres, Cent. heat, Cent. evap. air, built-ins, fireplace, fans, utility, cellar, large shop, stor. bldg., MORE!! \$129,500!!  
• SUDAN - VERY NICE 2-1-1 carport Brick Home, elec. baseboard heat, window evap. air, fans, large utility, approx. 1220' lv. area, cov. patio, 3 car detached carport with storage, corner lot!! \$32,500!!  
• CLAY'S CORNER — VERY NICE 3-2.75-2 HOME on 5 acre tract, Cent. A&H (Elec. Heat Pump), built-ins, FP, 1100 sq. ft. new in 2005 plus additional updating w/carpet, tile, paint, fenced yd., cov. patio, 600' workshop/storage Bldg.!! Numerous other amenities!! \$189,500!!  
• PROGRESS - NICE 3-2 Mobile Home on 1.24 acres, approx. 1876 sq. ft., Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, 5 fans, 2 carport, 1250' Metal shop, 160', 480', & 96' stor. bldgs., domestic well, fenced yd.!! MORE!! PRICE REDUCED \$69K!!  
• 3-2 BRICK HOME on 7 acres, W. Hwy. 84, built-ins, office, geothermal heat pump, whirlpool tub, basement, paved circle drive & conc. parking!! MORE!! PRICE REDUCED \$125!!



# Time is of the essence

On Dec. 11, 2007, Director of National Intelligence, Admiral Mike McConnell made an arresting plea in the editorial pages of the New York Times: "Help Me Spy on Al-Qaeda."

In an urgent op-ed, he implored Congress to provide the resources America's intelligence officials need to safeguard our country against terrorism.

The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 signaled changes in the kinds of threats posed against the U.S., and, specifically, the tactics these terrorists use to carry out their violent plots.

In today's world, terrorists employ fast-advancing technologies and communications networks to orchestrate and execute attacks. The 9/11 attack on the U.S. depended extensively on wire communications with known terrorist suspects abroad.

During the summer of 2007, Congress passed the Protect America Act, a six-month measure that has temporarily given our national intelligence agencies the tools to quickly detect terrorist activity and other threats to our national security, and to take appropriate measures to thwart these designs.

The Act, in effect, modernized the decades-old Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA).

## Mules compete at Littlefield...

**Continued from page 7**  
lay up. Dalhart answered with more fire power to out score the Mules 16-11.

The Mules cut the lead by three in the second period. W. Wood, Austin Wright, Vasquez, Riley and Poyner each scored a bucket. The Mules trailed the Wolves 23-21 at the intermission.

The Mules only scored two in the third period and added eight in the final quarter for 10 in the half. Dalhart pumped in 27 for the win.

No Mule reached double figures in the contest. Austin Wright led the Mules with seven points and Riley dropped in six. Poyner added five points; W. Wood and Vasquez made four each. Carpenter and L. Wood had two each and Colt Ellis chipped in one point.

The Mules travel to Lockney Jan. 4 to tangle with the Longhorns before starting district action in Bushland against the Falcons Jan. 8.



## Capitol Comment

By U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison

FISA prescribes physical and electronic surveillance of foreign intelligence, but has not been updated to reflect the immeasurable technological progress, such as the proliferation of easily accessible and disposable cell phones, that has been made in the 30 years since the law's 1978 enactment.

Precious time is passing and we've yet to complete comprehensive, permanent legislation to equip our intelligence community with modern and relevant tools to protect America from a smart and agile enemy who harbors no respect for human life.

The Protect America Act allows intelligence officials to more effectively collect foreign intelligence without first having to obtain a court order.

The Act stipulates that the court order would not be required for targets involving known terrorist suspects reasonably believed to be located outside the U.S. It allows surveillance of specific people — not their telephone lines.

The measure is careful to preserve civil liberties, and lawful, everyday communication between Americans would not be affected.

The out-dated and obsolete rules of FISA have mired intelligence officers in writing lengthy legal justifications, calling them away from the critical, time-sensitive task of detecting and tracking terrorist threats.

Furthermore, a cell phone being monitored could be thrown away and replaced with a new one before an agent could get court approval; or a phone card bought at the grocery store could be used and disposed of in a matter of minutes.

It is simply impractical to intercept the near-instantaneous information transmitted over cell phones or the Internet when time-consuming court proceedings are required. Such a mandate precariously delays interception of intelligence, and, in a worst-case scenario, hinders our ability to foil a terrorist plot.

To be effective, our counterterrorism efforts must be on the leading edge of

technology.

The Act extends liability protection to private sector partners, such those in the telecommunications industry, who have assisted intelligence officials in their efforts to detect terrorists.

The Protect America Act enables the intelligence community to detect just the kind of terrorist communication that led to the tragedies of 9/11.

But this temporary law will expire on Feb. 1, 2008. The threat of foreign terrorists, however, will not expire with it, which is why permanent legislation must be enacted.

In the Senate, responsible and comprehensive legislation has been drafted to bring FISA into the 21st century.

The legislation has broad, bipartisan support and has been poised for Senate passage and approval by President Bush for more than a month.

Unfortunately, some in Congress have prevented this from happening. Once again, at the end of December, a small minority of Senators blocked this legislation from moving forward.

As a result, this vitally important measure will not be taken up again until Congress returns in mid-January, leaving us only seven working days to complete this major legislation before the Protect America Act expires.

Further delay could lead to a gap in critical national security policy and tie the hands of our intelligence officials working to protect Americans.

We wouldn't dream of sending our troops into battle without the equipment and supplies to carry out their mission safely and successfully.

Similarly, we cannot assign the intelligence community with the task of gathering information on our enemies and using it to help keep our nation safe, while placing unreasonable obstructions in their path.

For the safety of all Americans, we cannot put this off any longer. I join our national intelligence community in urging swift and certain action in Congress as soon as we return in January.

## Lady Mules at Littlefield... Continued from page 7

11-2 run in the first period.

They followed with a 16-7 second quarter to take a 27-9 lead at the half. The Lady Mules cruised in for the win.

Smith led the charge for the Lady Mules with 13 points. Kelsey Tipps scored six and Johnson and Hernandez each added five. Ashley Cisneros chipped in four points in the win.

"Our game against Morton may have been the ugliest game I ever watched," said Lady Mule coach Val Acree. "But a win is a win and we will take it."

Neither team burned up the net in the first half and the Lady Mules trailed 12-10 at the intermission. Smith and Grumbles combined for 10 points in the third period but Morton expanded their advantage to 24-20.

The Lady Mules shut down the Maiden's offense in the final period and

pumped in 16 points.

Smith led the Lady Mules with nine points, Johnson made two 3-pointers for eight points and Grumbles followed with seven. Tipps and Hernandez added five each and Vasquez chipped in two.

The Lady Mules only briefly had the lead against Nazareth in the consolation game. They battled valiantly but just could not bring home the trophy. Nazareth is famous for 3-pointers and hit five in the contest.

Hernandez had four of the Lady Mules first nine points in the opening frame. The Swiftettes led 12-9 going into the second period. Hernandez and Smith made two charity tosses apiece for the Lady Mules only four points in the second quarter. The Lady Mule defense held Nazareth to five and trailed 17-13 at the half.

The Lady Mules made a

run at Nazareth in the third period and took the lead twice during the quarter. At the six minute mark Hernandez gave the Lady Mules a 19-17 advantage and a minute later Tipps hit a bucket that put the Lady Mules up 22-21.

Johnson got hot in the final frame and scored 12 of the Lady Mules final 14 points. She scored on an in bound play and then sank a NBA 3-pointer. Nazareth was four-for-four from the line to hold off the Lady Mules in the final period.

Johnson led the Lady Mules with 14 points and Hernandez dropped in 11. Smith added seven points and Grumbles and Tipps chipped in two each.

The Lady Mules will travel to Brownfield to tangle with the Lady Cubs Jan. 4 and get back in the District 2-2A race in Bushland against the Lady Falcons.



## New officer sworn in

Muleshoe Mayor Cliff Black, pictured above on the right, administered the oath of office to new officer, Steven Bartley during ceremonies conducted at the city hall on Monday, Dec. 31.

*"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

# More CLASSIFIEDS

Deadline: 5 PM Monday - 272-4536

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE MISCELLANEOUS

**REAL ESTATE**  
Bailey County, South of Muleshoe — Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home with fireplace, sunroom, barn and outbuildings on 10 acres. Excellent condition. \$135,000.  
Visit our website for all listings at [www.streetsrealstate.com](http://www.streetsrealstate.com)  
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**FOR SALE**  
Extra nice 2006 Fleetwood Mobile Home - 16' x 80' - 3 BR/2 Bath, master bath - walk in shower and tub, nice porch, Energy Saving Heat Pump. Must be moved from current location. Call 806-825-2782. 4ch12-20

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

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**NO JOB TOO LARGE OR SMALL!**  
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Day: 272-4536  
After 5 PM: 925-6614

**Happy New Year To You!**

**HOUSE FOR SALE BY OWNER**

1,200 sq. ft. brick home, central refrigerated air, single car garage, 2BDRM/1BA. Call 806-272-4388. 4ch12-13

3/2/2 Brick home, built-ins, lg. enclosed patio, sprinkler sys., fenced yd., lg. metal building, close to Dillman school. 806-655-2563. tfmch12-13

## FOR RENT

516 W. Ave. E. 2BDRM/1BA, no appliances. Newly painted inside. \$420/mo., \$375 depo. plus first mo. see. 210-867-8911. tfmch10-25

**OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT** - 302 W. 2nd Street, Muleshoe. Perfect for one or two-man operation. \$200/mo., utilities paid. Share space w/Muleshoe Journal. References required. Call 272-4536 for details or come by to see, M-F 8 AM to 5 PM. tfmch10-18

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