

The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2017

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Fundraising Underway for Tractor for Bonton Farms

By Kay Ellington
The Hesperian-Beacon

Bonton in South Dallas is a community considered to be a "food desert" by USDA standards (the nearest grocery store is roughly 3 miles away.) They have the highest rate of diabetes and cardiovascular disease in the city and county of Dallas. In the past, crime, drugs, and poverty riddled a seemingly hopeless neighborhood. But change came to the neighborhood more than five years ago. Bonton Farms began with a vacant lot and started growing a garden as a way to restore health, create jobs, and ignite hope in South Dallas. A host of churches and ministries—including First Baptist Church, Floydada—have supported the community garden that provides neighborhood residents the opportunity to work, healthy food choices, and community building. Year after year, Bonton

Farms has added crops and animals and sells their harvest at the farmers' market. They raise goats, chickens, turkeys, rabbits, and bees. Inspired by the success of the farm, donors have given Bonton more land to farm.

They now have 40 acres to farm. In the past Floydada-area farmers have hauled their tractors to Bonton to help them cultivate the acreage, but that effort is not the best long-term solution.

These are exciting days for the residents of Bonton. The additional acreage offers even more residents a chance to find meaningful and productive work.

However, for Bonton Farms—and the people in that neighborhood—to realize their full potential to revitalize the neighborhood they need their own tractor. And tractors are expensive. Bonton does not have the volume of products to sell to finance a tractor.



Courtesy Photo

For five years Floyd County area churches and farmers have helped Bonton, an inner-city neighborhood in South Dallas, struggling to reinvent itself by raising food and animals. Bonton Farms' success has led them to now have 40 acres, but they can't really maximize their donated land without a tractor. A fundraising effort is underway at First Baptist Church, Floydada, to help them buy a used tractor.

Volunteers in the Floydada area have identified a used John Deere tractor with a rebuilt transmission, a new engine valued at \$10,000, new batteries, and new tires that would meet the needs for Bonton Farms.

It's a 1974 John Deere 4430 with a new clutch. The owner of the tractor

has all of the records to verify the part purchases on the tractor. The value of the tractor is \$25,231.21, but the owner—upon hearing the Bonton story—reduced the price to only \$17,000.

Fundraising is underway at First Baptist Church, Floydada to raise the

money for Bonton to buy a tractor.

If you would like to make a pledge to help purchase this tractor for Bonton Farms please write Bonton Farms on an envelope and place your name, contact phone number and pledge inside and hand in at the church office.

Commissioners Discuss Wind Energy in First Meeting of '17

By Kay Ellington
The Hesperian-Beacon

In the first meeting of 2017, the Floyd County Commission held a discussion with Alan Carmichael, legal counsel for energy issues, regarding tax abatements.

Carmichael noted that windmill energy activity should ratchet up as many government incentives are set to wind down and expire in five years. He also pointed out that solar investments are beginning to increase in the energy sector. Developers have learned that many of the highest winds occur at night when energy is at its lowest prices, but solar provides energy at peak times. He said that many developers in clean energy are supplementing their windmill investments with solar.

In other court action, Jesse Finley, the new executive director of the Floydada Economic Development Corporation, appeared before the county commissioners to discuss priorities for the community. Finley noted that Floyd County had benefitted from the short-term sales tax increases from windmill company developments, but he was looking to attract manufacturing and long-term job growth.

The court also approved donating the old blueprints from the now demolished jail to the Floyd County Museum.

Commissioners voted to approve the acceptance of donations from Apex Wind Energy and Producers Co-Op to offset the costs of bulletproof vests for sheriff's deputies.

First National Bank donates



Courtesy Photo

The First National Bank of Floydada donated \$5000.00 to the Floydada Volunteer Fire Department. Accepting for the FVFD is Chad Guthrie (left) and Craig Dubois (middle) and presenting check is Brianna Glasscock (right), Vice President and Compliance Officer, First National Bank of Floydada.

Upcoming

Events are listed free of charge for nonprofit civic organizations, schools and community events. Please submit listings at least two weeks ahead of the date. Listings will run through the date of the event. Emailed submissions are preferred to fchb.editor@yahoo.com.

BONTON FARMS

Fundraising is underway at First Baptist Church, Floydada to raise the money for Bonton Farms in Dallas to buy a tractor. If you would like to make a pledge to help purchase this tractor for Bonton Farms please write Bonton Farms on an envelope and place your name, contact phone number and pledge inside and hand in at the church office. See the front page article in this week's issue of the Hesperian-Beacon.

COVENANT HEALTH MOBILE MAMMOGRAPHY

Covenant Health and the Arrington Comprehensive Breast Center will be bringing their Mobile Mammography bus to Floydada on Monday, February 6. It will be located at the Floydada ISD - Whirlwind Gym. To make an appointment please call 806-725-6579 or 1-877-494-4797. Financial assistance is available through a partnership with Covenant Health and Susan G. Komen.

BINGO NIGHT FLOYDADA SR. CITIZENS

Bingo night is the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Bingo Night is open to anyone ages 16 and over. Watch for January's special in the Hesperian-Beacon. Date and info to be announced soon.

SUNDAY LUNCH LOCKNEY SR. CITIZENS

The date for the next "Sunday Lunch" will be announced soon. Watch for the date that will be announced in the Lockney Senior Citizen's news.

Correction

If you spot an error of fact, contact the FCHB office email: fchb.editor@yahoo.com

News on the go



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It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the rights of individualism in the American Declaration of Independence. The right of life, liberty and ownership of property are the cornerstone of freedom. Government's sole purpose is to enhance our liberty and freedom. Therefore, we hold every elected and appointed agent of government accountable to that standard.

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Lady Winds fall to Abernathy

By Charles Keaton
The Hesperian-Beacon

FLOYDADA – Brooke Galvan led the Floydada Lady Winds with 15 points but it wasn't enough as the Abernathy Lady Lopes won 60-34 in the first game of District 4-2A action.

The Lady Lopes jumped out to a 12-8 lead after the first quarter as six different players scored for Abernathy.

In the second quarter, Abernathy stretched their lead by outscoring Floydada 15-7 as they took 27-15 lead at halftime. Samantha Sullivan paced Abernathy with four points during the quarter.

After the half, Abernathy extended their lead to 42-25 after outscoring the Lady Winds 15-10 in the third quarter. Lauren Akers paced Abernathy with four points.

Abernathy outscored Floydada 18-9 in the fourth quarter to claim the 60-34 victory. Madelyn Turner scored 12 of her game high 19 points in the fourth quarter to give the Lady Lopes their first district victory of the year.

For the game, the Lady Winds shot 27 percent from the floor while the Lady Lopes shot 29 percent. Floydada outrebounded Abernathy 42-40.

Individually for Floydada, Galvan had 15 points,

Kaylee Morren added six points, Brittney Pena added five, Dora Cervera had three, Kylie Ricketts and Selena Espinosa each had two points and Valerie Espinosa had one point.

Individually for Abernathy, Turner had 19 points, Cheyenne Shadden and Bailey Houston had 10 points each, Akers had eight, Sullivan had seven points, Kalli Dubose had three points, Darby Havens had two points and Wrye Akers added one point.

The Lady Winds hosted Post on Tuesday, Jan. 10 and travel to Crosbyton on Friday, Jan. 13. Abernathy played at New Deal on Tuesday and host Ralls on Friday.

Longhorns fall to New Deal

By Charles Keaton
The Hesperian-Beacon

NEW DEAL – New Deal outscored Lockney in the fourth quarter 24-16 to come back from four points down after three quarters to take a 73-69 victory over the Longhorns on Jan. 3 in a non-district contest.

Lockney took the first quarter lead, 19-17, behind 10 points from Jaden Rosales. The Lions took a 7-0 lead before being outscored by the Longhorns 19-10 in the rest of the quarter.

In the second quarter, the Longhorns stretched their lead to five points, as they outscored the Lions 19-16 to take a 38-33 lead at halftime. Trevor

Ascensio scored six points for the Longhorns in the second quarter.

After the half, the Lions outscored Lockney 16-15 the third quarter to close the gap as Lockney still led 53-49 going into the fourth quarter. Rosales and Jonathan Rodriguez each scored five points in the quarter to pace Lockney.

In the fourth quarter, Rosales added 10 more points for the Longhorns but it wasn't enough as New Deal outscored Lockney 24-16 to claim the come from behind victory 73-69.

For the game, Lockney shot 32 percent from the field and pulled down 57 rebounds. New Deal shot 41 percent from the field

and only had 39 rebounds.

Individually for Lockney, Rosales led the way with 29 points and 14 rebounds. Rodriguez added 11 points, Jaden Butler had seven, Ascensio and Chris Emert had six points each, Bryson Walker and Tavien Walrath each had three points and Israel Cuellar and Kevin Lopez added two points apiece. Emert also had 10 rebounds.

Individually for New Deal, Jordan Lacy had 28 points, Jarron Lacy had 25 points and 15 rebounds, Jaxson Durham had 15 points and Dylan Jerden added five points.

Lockney was open Jan. 6 and Jan. 10 but opens district play by traveling to Hale Center.

LOCKNEY SCHOOL MENU January 16 – 20

Monday, 16
Breakfast – Pancakes Sausage, Juice, Fruit, Milk
Lunch – Steak Fingers or Breaded Pork Chop, Roll, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Carrot Coins, Strawberries & Bananas, Milk

Tuesday, Jan. 17
Breakfast – Breakfast Pizza, Juice, Fruit, Milk
Lunch – Spaghetti Bowl with Breadstick or French Bread Pizza, Garden Salad, California Blend Veggies, Peaches, Pudding, Milk

Wednesday, Jan. 18
Breakfast – Biscuit, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Juice, Fruit, Milk
Lunch – Mexican Combo Plate or Chicken Quesadilla, Corn, Salsa, Garnish, Charro Beans, Cinnamon Apples, Milk

Thursday, Jan. 19
Breakfast – Sausage Kolache, Yogurt, Juice, Fruit, Milk
Lunch – Teriyaki Beef Slider or Texas Chili with Cornbread, Broccoli Bites, Tomato Cup, Orange Smiles, Milk

Friday, Jan. 20
Breakfast – Breakfast Club, Juice, Fruit, Milk
Lunch – Popcorn Chicken or Sloppy Joe, Oven Fries, Cucumber Dippers, Fresh Fruit, Cookie, Milk

FLOYDADA SCHOOL MENU January 16 – 20

Monday
STUDENT HOLIDAY

Tuesday
Breakfast – Blueberry muffin, cereal, fresh fruit, milk
Lunch – Breaded chicken sandwich, hamburger, peas & carrots, fresh fruit, vegetable bar, milk

Wednesday
Breakfast – Apple frudel, cereal, fresh fruit, milk
Lunch – Chicken scampi w/breadstick, turkey hot dog, buttered peas, fresh fruit, vegetable bar, milk

Thursday
Breakfast – Potato & sausage burrito, cereal, fresh fruit, milk
Lunch – Cheesy nachos, breaded chicken sandwich, refried beans, potatoes, fresh fruit, vegetable bar, milk

Friday
Breakfast – Blueberry Snack's waffles, cereal, fresh fruit, milk
Lunch – Green chili chicken, enchiladas, hamburger, spicy pinto beans, fresh fruit, vegetable bar, milk

The Paperboy Hacked election? Don't be a sucker!

Anyone who claims the presidential election was hacked is being disingenuous at best. At worst, they are lying.

Let's get one thing perfectly clear, the Russians DID NOT change the results of the election through hacking or any other means. That is a fact.

Let's review what happened:
This entire incident of hacking and leaked emails stems from the Democratic National Committee's server, Hillary Clinton's server and John Podesta's computer as we now know he bit on a phishing attempt. There is also classified material on Anthony Weiner's laptop, but for now, let's just leave it at the DNC, Clinton and Podesta.

The only, ONLY, reason Democrats and the liberal mainstream media are saying the election was "hacked," is because their racist, dirty laundry which contained collusion, scheming, election hijacking tactics, etc... were exposed to the American populace, and they could then factor that information into their voting decision.

There is ZERO evidence that the Russians or anyone else hacked the actual voting tabulation.

In other words, you, as an American voter, should not have had that information to use in your decision to cast a vote. That's right, you are supposed to be ignorant of the facts and vote the way you are told to by the MSM, who, as we all know from the emails, was in the tank for Clinton.

This coupled with the fact the MSM, more often than not, failed to ask tough questions throughout Obama's presidency, is why no one in this country should trust the MSM, the Democratic Party, or anyone affiliated with them.

This election was not hacked, the American voter simply had damaging information available to them to include in their decision.

Furthermore, it was the sloppiness of the DNC, Clinton and Podesta that got them in the situation to be exposed in the first place.

Those in power that still claim that Russia hacked the election are liars, and those that follow that sickened narrative and continue to propagate it are what is known as "the useful idiot."

Obviously, the MSM has done a disservice to the American people and the DNC and Clinton did a disservice to Democrats across the nation.

Should Democrats and other Americans be angry over the events that transpired in the fall? Of course. But don't let the dishonest MSM and DNC trick you into being angry at the Russians. Focus the anger on where the problems stem from. Changes in both the media and DNC are the only way these things get fixed and as an American, you have every right to voice your opinion either through communication or your pocketbook.

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Chris Blackburn serves as CEO at Blackburn Media Group, proud owner of The Red River Sun, The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon, The Knox County News-Courier and The Post Dispatch. He can be reached by email at chris@blackburnmediagroup.com and you can follow him on Twitter @WCSBlackburn.

South Plains College to offer License to Carry class

LEVELLAND – South Plains College will offer the Texas License to Carry a Handgun class on Jan. 14 (Saturday) in the Law Enforcement Technology building on the Levelland campus. The class will begin at 8 a.m. with breaks every hour as well as a lunch break. Space is limited.

The classroom portion covers firearm safety, the use of force, non-violent conflict resolution, lawful concealed or open carry, storage with children in the home, and contacts with law enforcement personnel. It runs about six hours.

The range portion covers range safety rules and commands, and the shooting portion of the class at distances ranging from three to 15 yards, using the indoor pistol range in the Law Enforcement building. The number of students will determine how long the range portion requires. Inexperienced shooters might want to take an Introduction to Handguns course before taking the L.T.C. course. Students will need to

bring either a revolver or semiautomatic pistol of at least .32 caliber, and fifty rounds of ammunition to match. Eye and hearing protection are provided for students who do not have their own.

The instructor is Dr. Mike Felker, a retired S.P.C. professor, NRA Advanced Pistol Instructor, D.P.S. certified LTC Instructor and U.S. Concealed Carry Association Affiliate Instructor.

The cost of the course is \$75 for students getting their first license, and \$25 for students wanting a refresher course before renewing their license. This does not include the fee for the D.P.S. and F.B.I. fingerprint and background checks. Although renewals are now handled strictly online, the changes in Texas firearms law in 2013 and 2015 make a refresher course a good investment. Students need to register and pay in advance.

To sign up, call Kasey Reyes at (806) 716-2341 or email kreyes@southplainscollege.edu.

Wit and Wisdom

By Charles Keaton
The Hesperian-Beacon

The whole problem can be stated quite simply by asking, 'Is there a meaning to music?' My answer would be, 'Yes.' And 'Can you state in so many words what the meaning is?' My answer to that would be, 'No.'

—Aaron Copland

After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.

—Aldous Huxley

An intellectual snob is someone who can listen to the William Tell Overture and not think of The Lone Ranger.

—Dan Rather

Opera is when a guy gets stabbed in the back and, instead of bleeding, he sings.

—Ed Gardner

I don't know anything about music. In my line you don't have to.

—Elvis Presley

I think I should have no other mortal wants, if I could always have plenty of music. It seems to infuse strength into my limbs and ideas into my brain. Life seems to go on without effort, when I am filled with music.

—George Eliot

The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon

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These deadlines must be met in order to guarantee your ad or editorial is placed in The Hesperian-Beacon on the date requested.

Letter to the editor policy

The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon welcomes letters from readers on topics of local, state, national and international importance. Email letters are preferred to: fchb.editor@yahoo.com.

All letters must include a first and last name, street address (no post office boxes), town, and daytime phone number. Letters sent via U.S. mail may be sent to 201 W. California Street, Floydada, Texas 79235.

SOCIETY

The 501 Tuvalu, Believe It or Not

I've become a habitual liar. No lie. My age? I'm 63. My country? Tuvalu. My diet goal? I want to gain weight. My height? It's 170 centimeters. That's how we measure people in Tuvalu.



HANABA MUNN WELCH

And that's just one set of lies. My lying started when the blood pressure machine at the supermarket asked me my age and gender. Why should I provide my vital statistics to the information-hungry cyber powers behind blood pressure machines across our country and likely elsewhere? So each time I slip my arm through the cuff, I enter 1900 as my birth year. It's not like I do it to skew their statistics. If they're smart, they ignore my data, knowing intuitively it's false. If not, they categorize me with other 116- and 117-year-olds who take their own blood pressure at the grocery store. They are probably all me. I provide a different day and month of birth each time, but I stick with 1900.

Yesterday I downloaded a spiffy free calorie-counting fitness app for my cellphone. I wanted an easy way to count calories along with other New Year's resolution calorie-counting dieters. We are legion.

To get the free app, I had to pay with information about me. The lying side of my brain kicked in. Among other things, they asked my nationality. I scrolled through the listing of nations of the world. That's when I chose Tuvalu to be my own, my native land.

TUVALU RESEARCH PAUSE.

Tuvalu is a set of reef islands and atolls in the South Pacific. Maybe you knew that. I had no clue. The population is 10,640. It's the fourth-smallest country in the world. I'm probably the only 146-pound five-foot-seven 63-year-old male (lied slightly about my age and totally about my gender) on any of the islands of Tuvalu whose goal is to reach a weight of 243 pounds. The fitness app probably has pegged me as an aspiring sumo wrestler. At least I didn't say I was 116 or 117. And yes, sumo wrestling, despite its Japanese origins, is a sport also practiced in Micronesia, Tuvalu being in Micronesia. You learn stuff when you build a case for an assumed identity. As soon as I gave that app all the erroneous information about me, I felt guilty and tried to back out. But they had me.

The ethical thing to do? I really should either drop the app or edit my profile to describe the real me. But first I want to see how many ads I get on Facebook or via email for weight-gain products.

None so far. Maybe I'm not a good liar.

Final thought:

Now that I've discovered Tuvalu, I think I'd like to sit under a palm tree there on one of the sandy beaches. Maybe there's a blood pressure machine at the Island Supermarket on the capital atoll of Funafuti. Or at the mall called Jimmy Store.

If I'm going to be 117 this year, I'd like to try it in Tuvalu. No lie.

Museum Archives

Floyd County Historical Museum "Memories, 1979"

W. E. TAACK FAMILY

I, Walter Taack, am writing about the W. E. (Bill) Taack family. My parents said that we came to the plains in 1906. We resided one or two years in Swisher County, three years in Castro County and came on to Floyd County in 1911. Mother and we kids went to Olney in Young County to spend a few weeks with her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Dieter, while Dad moved his machinery and livestock to Floyd County. We went from Tulia to Olney and from Olney to Lockney on the train and then rode out to the farm six miles west in a wagon.

Dad had acquired quite a bit of big machinery by this time, a big steam engine thrashing machine, binder, one eight-bottom steam lift plow and one twenty-eight disc four-gang plow and a few head of cattle and mules. His credit must have been good. Dad heated water in dipping vats with his steam

engine for his cattle in the winter. He developed irrigation wells for the Texas Land and Development Company and thrashed grain all over this area. He always had a lot of hired help.

I was told that Irick was the number one school district in Floyd County. The school was located on two acres of land in the corner of a half section which Dad bought in 1913. I now have that land. Dad was a trustee of that school. It was a one-room box house. They later built a new two-room school on the same land and then in 1926 four rooms with an auditorium was built one mile west.

In the late winter of 1920 Dad spent a few weeks in the Washington and Oregon area of the Northwest, especially the Walla Walla Region, hunting a wheat farm. The land was too costly for him so he bought six sections of grassland in northwest Deaf Smith County. They sold that tract of land in 1929 to

Hickman Price, took it back in 1933 and sold it again in 1944. In the dust bowl days from 1932 through 1926 we harvested about 700 bushels of wheat off of approximately 10,400 acres. Floyd County furnished the wheat seed for those acres. He farmed that land mostly with a caterpillar tractor. It was a snow special with closed cab and wide tracts. My brother, Ben, did most of the driving.

Our first two cars were Hupmobiles, a used 1911 model and a 1917 model touring car. He, also, bought one of the first two self-propelled combines that was sold in Floyd County. It was a 12-foot Massey-Harris. Trading up, so to speak, from the steam tractor was a 4080 Avery. That thing had oval lugs bolted through the wheel band about three inches deep. Dollar pitchers or washer pitchers would have a field day following it. It punched perfectly round holes on the ground. It

was hot to drive, noisy and a good oil slinger. Other farmers have also had a variety of tractors. Twin Citys, Internationals, Hart Parr, Moline, "Corn-Hives". Deering, Case, Red River Special, Oliver, Harris and Massey-Harris.

My parents moved from the farm house to Plainview in December 1947. They lived at 807 Fresno. Mother and Dad were members of the Main Street Church of Christ in Lockney and the 9th and Columbia Church of Christ in Plainview. Dad passed away July 1, 1948. Mother's sister, Maggie Dieter, lived with her after Dad's death. Mother passed away December 20, 1972. There are four in the family now, I am the only one still living in Floyd County. My sister, Lily May Street, lives in Amarillo. My brother, Ben Taack, lives in Paris, Texas. My sister, Aileen Alien, lives in Welch, Oklahoma. A sister, Rurby, is deceased.

Floydada Senior Citizens News

By LuAnn Collins

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

FLOYDADA -The Center's "Bingo Night" is held each 2nd Tuesday of the month. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. Prices to play include: 1 card for \$1.00, 3 cards for \$2.00. Anyone ages 16 and over are welcome to come join us for a night full of fun! We play for prizes and cash!

Floydada Senior Citizen's Center is open to people of all ages. You do not need to be a

senior citizen, nor a member to eat with us. However, if you are a member, your meal is \$5.00 instead of non-member price of \$6.00. To become a member, all you need do is pay a \$25.00 yearly membership fee.

We serve a delicious meal with salad bar at 12 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday. Join us at 925 W. Crockett Street or we will deliver a meal anywhere in town. Call 983-2032.

Our mailing address is P.O. Box 573, Floydada, Texas 79235

MENU

January 16 - 20

- Monday - Beef & Hominy casserole
- Tuesday - Chili
- Wednesday - Texas nachos
- Thursday - Chicken fried steak
- Friday - Vegetable Beef Soup w/sandwich

(Menus subject to change without notice)

Lockney Senior Citizens News

By Renee Armstrong

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

LOCKNEY - The Center's board of directors will hold a meeting on Wednesday, January 19th at 12:30 p.m. If you have any questions or concerns that need to be brought forward please feel free to attend.

The date for the next "Sunday Lunch" will be announced later.

Breakfast is served here at the Center from 5:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Monday thru Friday only.

Be sure and call the Center by 9:30 a.m. if you would like to eat. Our phone number is 652-2745.

Remember Exercise with Dorothy - Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:45 - 9:15 a.m.

Coffee time - Monday - Saturday - 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Thursday night pot luck. Bring a dish and a friend and enjoy games afterwards. 5 - 9 p.m.

Hope you all have a great week!!

MENU

January 16 - 20

- Monday - Meatloaf
- Tuesday - Chef salad
- Wednesday - Enchiladas
- Thursday - Soup & cornbread
- Friday - BBQ

(Menus subject to change without notice)

DCHHS Confirms 10th Mumps Case in Dallas Co.

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) has confirmed the 10th case of mumps in the Dallas County area. The exposure to mumps has been identified as travel related and is not associated with any other Dallas County case.

DCHHS Health officials are urging immunization to protect against and prevent the spread of mumps. People who have had two mumps vaccinations (such as two MMR vaccines) are usually considered immune from mumps.

"At two doses, the MMR vaccine has 88% effectiveness," said Dr. Christopher Perkins, Dallas County medical director/health authority. "Getting vaccinated is the best option for protection in addition to washing hands frequently and cleaning/disinfecting objects or surfaces that may be contaminated with germs."

DCHHS provides the MMR vaccine for children and adults at the main clinic located at 2377 N. Stemmons Frwy in Dallas, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"The increased number of mumps cases reported in the North Texas area underscore the importance of getting your children vaccinated," said Zachary Thompson, DCHHS director.

About Mumps

Mumps is a highly contagious viral disease that is spread by droplets of saliva or mucus from the mouth, nose or throat of an DALLAS (Dec. 27, 2016)infected person, usually when the person coughs, sneezes or talks. Items used by an infected person, such as cups or soft drink cans, can also be contaminated with the virus, which may spread to others if those items are shared.

Symptoms of mumps are characterized by fever, headache and swelling of the salivary glands., fatigue, muscle aches and loss of appetite. After a person is exposed to mumps, symptoms usually appear 16 to 18 days after infection, but this period can range from 12-25 days after infection.

What to Do if You Become Infected with Mumps:

1. Contact your health provider.
2. Stay at home for five days after symptoms begin.
3. Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
4. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water.

For information about mumps, measles and rubella call 214-819-2163 or visit the DCHHS website <http://www.dallascounty.org/departments/hhs/measles.html>

Expansion of Cities to Decrease World's Food Supply, Says Texas A&M Prof

COLLEGE STATION,

Jan. 4, 2017 - The increase of mega-cities in certain regions of the world is almost certain to eliminate huge areas of farmland that are critical for food production by 2030 and could have severe implications across the world, according to a study by an international team of researchers that includes a Texas A&M University professor.

Burak Güneralp, research assistant professor in the Department of Geography, and colleagues from Germany, New Zealand, Sweden, Austria, the University of Maryland and Yale University have had their work published in the current issue of the PNAS (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences).

The study shows that some urban areas that are located near key farmland producing regions will triple in size, resulting in huge implications on agricultural systems already affected by rising populations. Africa and parts of Asia are most likely to feel the major impacts of declining farmlands, but other regions of the world could also be affected, the study shows.

One major worry: about 60 percent of the world's irrigated cropland areas are very close to major cities, and these farmlands tend to be twice as productive as other areas, the

study shows. It means a loss of 3 to 4 percent in global agricultural production by 2030, the study shows, which could affect hundreds of millions of people worldwide.

The study says the key crops most likely to be affected will be rice, maize, soy beans and wheat - all of them key food sources for billions of people.

Egypt could lose as much as 60 percent of its maize and Nigeria as much as 17 percent of its rice. Overall, rice production could fall as much as 9 percent worldwide, the study shows.

"There is no doubt that urban expansion is already having a big impact on declining farmland in some areas of the world, and this problem may get much worse in the next few decades," Güneralp confirms.

The study shows that key land losses will likely occur in Africa and Asia, especially in countries such as Egypt, Nigeria and eastern China, where some parts of China might experience as much as one-fourth of the worldwide cropland loss.

"These very fertile lands tend to be on the outskirts of major cities, and as cities expand, more land is lost," Güneralp adds. "These are high-quality tracts of land that have been owned by small farmers who depend on access to urban food markets for their livelihoods."


He says that as cities take

over these lands, it results in lost food production that these areas depend on. One solution for countries such as Egypt is trade to compensate for cropland loss; however, this could make them more susceptible to food supply shocks.

"Another potential solution for many sub-Saharan countries is opening new

farmlands but that would typically result in conversion of habitats that are critical for conservation of biodiversity," Güneralp notes.

"The loss of these critical farmlands puts even more pressure on food producing systems and shows that we must produce strategies to cope with this global problem."



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OBITUARIES/CHURCH

Kenneth Lee Willis

Kenneth Lee Willis, age 89, of Floydada, passed away in Lubbock on Sunday, January 1, 2017, surrounded by family and friends.

Kenneth was born October 3, 1927, in the Lakeview Community near Floydada to Henry Lee and Nina June Batten Willis.

He graduated from Floydada High School in 1944, and from Texas Tech in 1949. He married Barbara Jean Landers on August 6, 1950 after dating only three months, and they celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary in 2016.

Kenneth was a lifelong farmer. He served on several Co-op boards and was active in 4-H club leadership for many years. Kenneth was named "Farmer of the Year" in 1976 by the Floyd County Soil and Water Conservation District.

He was baptized in a horse tank at age 11, and he and Barbara were faithful members of First Baptist Church Floydada. Kenneth loved his family and the land.

Kenneth was an avid fan of the Red Raiders, Lady Raiders, Dallas Cowboys and the Texas Rangers. He enjoyed woodworking, metal work, the Good Sam's RV Club, playing "84" dominoes with cherished friends, reading and being home.

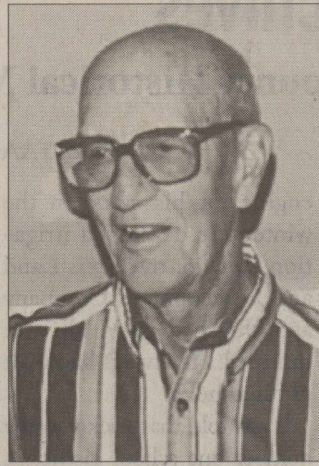
He is preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara; his four children, Brenda Gayle Bowman (husband David) of Richmond, Karen Lea Sage (husband Dan) of Graham, Kenneth Edward Willis of Cheyenne, Wyoming and Kristi Jean Lunday (husband David) of Decatur; his nine grandchildren, Shanna Rossetti, Kaci Garza, Heather Finney, Todd Bowman, Daniel Sage, Taylor Sage, Kyle Willis, Benjamin Lunday and Tanaya Lunday and his seven great-grandchildren, Owen Rossetti, Grace Rossetti, Abraham Garza IV, Kennedy Garza, Elizabeth Finney, Theo Bowman, and Matthew Willis. Survivors also include two sisters, Nadine Pierce of Houston and Rena Turner of Duncan, Oklahoma.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m., on Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at the First Baptist Church of Floydada.

Visitation was held at the First Baptist Church from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Graveside services followed at the Lakeview Cemetery under the direction of Moore-Rose Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church of Floydada or the charity of your choice.



KENNETH LEE WILLIS

Simulation modeling helps predict drug compounds that could inhibit the virus

By Blair Fannin
Special for The Hesperian-Beacon

COLLEGE STATION – After millions of sequence scans, a group of scientists led by a Texas A&M AgriLife researcher say they are "one step closer" to finding a cure for the Zika virus.

Dr. Sandun Fernando and three other scientists, have been modeling and testing a series of

ligands, or molecules, that attach themselves to the Zika virus protein. Identifying these molecules will help scientists match potential drug compounds that could be developed to help inhibit Zika virus once contracted.

Currently, there is no cure for Zika virus. The research has been published in Molecular Biotechnology Journal. To view the journal article, visit <http://bit.ly/2cUaY4B>.

Fernando, an agricultural and biological engineer at Texas A&M University in College Station, and his research colleagues, including Dr. Daniel Ruzek, Veterinary Research Institute, Brno, Czech Republic, have identified three potential ligands that could be used to fight Zika utilizing a complex modeling system Fernando uses in his bioenergy fuel cell work.

<https://youtu.be/tjWs3dmGuug>

Fernando's research is close to his heart. One of Fernando's relatives back home in Sri Lanka died from contracting Dengue, another mosquito-borne disease. That heartbreaking event has fueled Fernando's interest in this work in addition to the many crossover applications he has found that compliment his bioenergy and fuel cell research.

The 3-D modeling system is a simulation program used in Fernando's enzymatic fuel cell research. He found the technology complementary in that it helps screen potential ligands that might "stick" to the Zika vi-

rus protein.

Through millions of algorithms and high computational power at Texas A&M, the models can discover potential ligands or drug molecules that can interact and possibly fit inside the Zika protein envelope and inhibit the virus.

However, working with the actual "crystallized" versions of the virus is to come, he said. This would involve bringing in the expertise of a virologist and other scientific expertise out of his area.

"Right now, after conducting this research, we need other collaborators," he said. "Through this modeling, countless hours, days, weeks or months of laboratory work could be saved since molecular dynamic simulations allow us to look at exactly what happens at the active site when these ligands are introduced – like looking through a microscope."

He said it has taken them eight months of research to get comfortable with the algorithm and processes.

"We can complete one simulation in about two to four weeks, whereas if this was conducted in a laboratory it would take considerably more time and money. Our next steps will be trying out new structures of Zika virus strains recently identified in Science and Nature journals."

Fernando is also seeking collaborations to test the methods on extremely dangerous viruses such as Ebola, Marburg and others.

What Leads to Life?

Life – isn't that something you and I already have? Isn't it the breathing of our lungs, the beating of our hearts, and the triggered electrical impulses of our nervous system? Isn't that life? If we were to speak in biological terms, yes; that is life. However, you and I know many people who – although they draw breath – have yet to really live. Moreover, many people who have a heartbeat do not feel that they belong in the life in which they – biologically – live. Indeed, many people exist; few people live.

Do you hear with spiritual ears the call to life? "Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away / Change and decay in all around I see," wrote H.F. Lyte as he lay dying of tuberculosis. It took his own looming biological death for Lyte to have the words to describe the essence of true life: abiding in the presence of God.

"And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent," Jesus prayed (Jn. 17:3). He, too, saw back into the world unseen and having seen God, he holds the curtain back, revealing to us His divine Father. Jesus is not speaking of a certain duration of life ("eternal"), but he's speaking of a lovely quality of life – life as it ought to be, life in the lavish richness of God (cf. Eph. 1:3-14).

How, then, shall we make our way towards this Father God and this true life which so saturates His presence? What – per Scripture – leads to life?

"Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life..." (Prov. 10:17). "The wage of the righteous leads to life..." (Prov. 10:16). "The fear of the LORD leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm" (Prov. 19:23). *Listening, learning, working, revering* – these are "eternal life words." You and I will only have true life when we respect God enough to humble ourselves into loving submission to Him.

The humility which leads to eternal life is so potent and stark that it means only one thing for ourselves and our own worldliness: death. Paul wrote, "What you sow does not come to life unless it dies" (1 Cor. 15:36). You and I cannot have spiritual, eternal, quality life until we're fully ready to leave the old life behind and bury it, recognizing its vain emptiness. When we are ready to sincerely make such a commitment, God will help us by His grace. "...God has granted repentance that leads to life" (Ac. 11:18).

"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few" (Mt. 7:13f).

Levi Sisemore preaches for the 37th Street church of Christ, meeting Sunday for Bible Classes (9:30 AM), Worship (10:30 AM & 5:00 PM), Wednesday for Bible Classes (7:00 PM). snyder37church@gmail.com

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

Quiet Transformation

We all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
—2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)

Jesus' first miracle began with ordinary water poured into commonplace stone jars. As far as we know, Jesus didn't stir the water, touch the jars, or pray aloud. He simply asked the workers to serve the water to the wedding host. Obediently serving the host, they discovered that the water had been transformed into wine.

The Gospel author tells us that by this miracle, Jesus "revealed his glory" to his watching disciples. What did the disciples see

that was so glorious? They saw that in Christ's powerful presence, transformation happens. Ordinary water becomes extraordinary wine as willing servants do what Jesus asks.

A similar quiet miracle of transformation happens in our lives. When we seek the presence of Christ through meditation on scripture and through prayer, the Holy Spirit changes us gradually into our Lord's likeness. As we pour ourselves out in obedient service, we can become more and more like Jesus. Our ordinary lives can become extraordinary.

Marion Speicher Brown (Florida, USA)

Thought for the Day
Jesus Christ can change ordinary into extraordinary.

- Aiken Baptist Church**
Dennis Butler, Pastor
Morning Worship...11 a.m.
- Bible Baptist Church**
810 S. 3rd, Floydada
Darwin Robinson, Pastor
983-2578
Sunday School...10 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:50 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.
Wednesday - 7 p.m.
- Calvary's Cornerstone Fellowship**
Floydada
Armando Morales, Pastor
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship - 11 a.m.
Bible Study - 6 p.m.
Wednesday Evening - 7 p.m.
- Carr's Chapel**
Service Every Sunday
Morning Worship - 9 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
- Church of Christ**
West College & Third
Lockney
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Afternoon Worship - 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday Service - 7:30 p.m.
- City Park Church of Christ**
Matthew Benfield, Minister
Floydada
Sunday Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study - 7 p.m.
- First Baptist Church**
Floydada
Tim Franks, Pastor
Logan Lamb, Min. Students
Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.
Wed Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.
- First Baptist Church**
Lockney
Joseph Tillery, Pastor
Chad Cook, Youth Min.
Phil Cotham, Music Min.
- First United Methodist Church**
Floydada
Rev. Ken Peterson, Pastor
Morning Worship - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School - 10:50 a.m.
Youth (Sunday) - 6:30 p.m.
- First United Methodist Church**
Lockney
Rev. Ricky Carsensen, Pastor
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.
Evening Service - 6 p.m.
Wed. Jr. High - 5:30 p.m.
Wed High School - 6:30 p.m.
- Grant Chapel Church of God In Christ**
Joe Bennett, Pastor
Sunday School - 10 a.m.
Morning Worship - 11 a.m.
Evening Worship - 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday - 8 p.m.
Wednesday Service 7:30 p.m.
- Main Street Church of Christ**
Lockney
James Blair, Minister
Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.
- Mt. Zion Baptist Church**
Floydada
Rev. Timothy Askey
401 N 12th Sty. 983-5805
Sunday School - 10 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.
Wednesday Study - 6 p.m.
- New Salem Primitive Baptist Church**
Floydada
Pastor Elder Ronnie Hedges
(806) 637-0430
Sunday Singing - 10:30 a.m.
Morning Worship -11 a.m.
- Out Reach Harvest Pentecostal Church**
310 Mississippi
- Power of Praise Full Gospel Church**
Rev. Manuel Rendon, Pastor
704 B Main, Lockney
Sunday Services - 10 a.m.
Sunday Evening - 5 p.m.
Wednesday - 7:30 p.m.
- Primera Iglesia Bautista**
Lockney
Jesus Caballero, Pastor
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service - 11 a.m.
Discipleship - 5 p.m.
Wed. Service - 7 p.m.
- Primera Iglesia Bautista**
Floydada
Rev. Toby Gonzales
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:40 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.
Wed Evening - 7 p.m.
- San Jose Catholic Church**
Lockney
Msgr. Nickolas Rendon
Wed. Communion - 8 p.m.
Sunday Mass - 11:30 a.m.
- South Plains Baptist Church**
Joe Weldon, Pastor
SuNday School - 10 a.m.
Morning Worship - 11 a.m.
Prayer Meeting - 7 p.m.
- Templo Getsemani Assembly of God**
701 W. Missouri
Joe M. Hernandez
983-5286 (Church)
Sunday School
English - 9:45 a.m.
Spanish - 11 a.m.
Worship
Spanish - 9:30 a.m.
English - 11 a.m.
Evening Service 5 p.m.
Wednesday 7 p.m.
- St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church**
Floydada
Rev. Ike Temporaza
983-5878
Sunday Mass - 11:30 a.m.
Mon. & Wed. Mass - 6:30 p.m.
Confession Sat - 10-11 a.m.
- Templo Bautista Salem**
Lockney
Rev. Joe Hernandez
Bun Prayer Service - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service - 11 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.
Wed. Meeting - 7 p.m.
- Templo Bethel Spanish Assembly of God**
Washington And 1st St.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship - 11 a.m.
Evening Worship - 5 p.m.
Wed Service - 7 p.m.
- Templo Nueva Vida**
Rev. Herman Martinez
308 W. Tennessee, Floydada
Sunday School - 10 a.m.
Evening Worship - 5 p.m.
Tuesday - 7:30 p.m.
Thursday Service - 7:30 p.m.
- Trinity Assembly**
500 W. Houston
Tom Ross, Pastor
983-5499
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:40 a.m.
Sunday Evening - 6 p.m.
- Trinity Lutheran Church**
Providence Community On Fm 2301
293-3009
Rev. Peter W. Harrington, Minister
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 11 - a.m.
- West Side Church of Christ**
Floydada
983-2672 Or 470-0950
Sunday Worship - 10:40 a.m.
Sunday Evening - 2 p.m.

AGRICULTURE

The Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) and Related Information for Livestock Producers

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

This article was written by Dr. Ted McCollum, Beef Specialist with Texas A&M AgriLife in September, 2015. However, now that the VFD took effect starting January 1st, 2017 it is important to review these details regarding how it will work.

The Animal Drug Availability Act of 1996 (ADAA) established a new category of drugs, veterinary feed directive (VFD) drugs. The revised Veterinary Feed Directive rule that went into effect October 1, 2015 addresses the use of drugs in feeds for livestock. Current focus is on antimicrobials that are considered medically-important (human medicine applications).

What does the VFD rule and associated guidance do?

The VFD rule and associated FDA Guidance documents –

(1). ends the use of medically-important antimicrobials to enhance livestock performance,

(2). transitions many of the feed medications that are currently available “over-the-counter” into the VFD drug category,

(3). places the use of VFD animal drugs in or on animal feed under the professional supervision of a licensed veterinarian,

(4). requires producers to obtain written VFD orders from a licensed veterinarian to purchase and utilize the VFD antimicrobials on or in feed.

When does the VFD rule become effective?

This rule became effective October 1, 2015. All changes associated with medically important antimicrobials that are now available over-the-counter must be implemented by January 1, 2017.

What are VFD Drugs?

VFD drugs are FDA-approved for use in animal feeds under veterinarian supervision and under written VFD orders. Current focus is on antimicrobials delivered in feeds that are deemed to be medically-important. This does not preclude a broadened approach in the future. The label for the additive, or the label for the medicated

feed item containing the additives, must state whether the additive is a VFD drug or not.

As of September 2015 there are three VFD drugs - florfenicol (Nulflor - swine; Aquaflo - aquaculture), avilamycin (Kavault; swine), and tilmosin (Pulmotil; swine, beef, dairy).

By January 1, 2017, all medically-important antimicrobials intended for use in feed that are currently available “over-the-counter” will become VFD drugs. Additives such as lasalocid (Bovatec-cattle, Avatec-poultry), monensin (Rumensin-cattle, Coban-poultry), bacitracin, bambamycin (Flavomycin - swine, Gainpro - cattle), and amprolium are not “medically-important” and will not fall under the VFD unless they are used in combination with a VFD drug.

Producers need written authorization from a licensed veterinarian

Use of VFD drugs now falls under the supervision of licensed veterinarians. Producers must receive signed and written (not verbal) authorization from a licensed veterinarian to purchase and utilize VFD antimicrobials on and in feed. This authorization is referred to as a VFD Order.

An established Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) is required

To write the VFD order, the licensed veterinarian must have an established veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) with the producer. Based on the Texas Veterinary Licensing Act, a valid VCPR is present if:

(1). The veterinarian assumes responsibility for medical judgments regarding the health of the livestock, and the client (the owner or caretaker of the livestock), agrees to follow the veterinarian's instructions.

(2). The veterinarian possesses sufficient knowledge of the livestock to initiate a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the livestock. Sufficient knowledge exists if the veterinarian has recently seen, or is personally acquainted with, the keeping and care of the livestock as a result of (a) examining the animal, or (b) making medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the livestock are kept. A veterinarian-client-patient relationship may not be established solely by telephone or electronic means.

(3). The veterinarian is readily available to provide follow-up medical care in the event of an adverse reaction, or failure of the regimen of therapy.

Steps to obtain a VFD Order

(1). Contact your veterinarian with whom you have a valid VCPR. If a producer does not have a valid VCPR with an appropriate

veterinarian, then the preliminary step is to establish a VCPR. (2). The veterinarian determines whether conditions warrant use of a VFD drug or feed. (3). If warranted, the veterinarian issues a written and signed VFD order containing information specified by regulations. Verbal orders are not allowed but electronic orders are acceptable. Incomplete and unsigned orders are invalid and cannot be filled. (4). The veterinarian retains a copy of the VFD order and gives the completed, signed original and a copy to the client.

(5). The client keeps the copy and gives the original signed VFD to the feed mill/feed distributor supplying the VFD feed. The VFD order allows the feed to be released to the client.

(6). Depending on the specific VFD drug, and the conditions outlined by the veterinarian, separate VFD orders may be required for different groups of livestock and, new VFD orders may be required to extend the treatment duration (depends on “refill” specifications).

Information required on a lawful VFD order

Veterinarian's name, address, and telephone number

Client's name, business or home address, and telephone number

Premises where the livestock specified in the VFD are located

Date the VFD was issued

Expiration date of the VFD (this is the date the VFD is no longer valid and use of the VFD feed is illegal)

Name of the VFD drug(s) in the order

Species and production class of livestock to receive the VFD feed

Approximate number of livestock to receive the VFD feed by the expiration date

Health indication for which the VFD was issued

Concentration of VFD drug in the feed Duration of use (length of time the livestock will receive the treatment)

Withdrawal time, special instructions, and cautionary statements necessary for use of the drug to conform with the approval.

Information required on a lawful VFD order (cont'd)

Number of reorders (refills) authorized, if permitted

Statement: “Use of feed containing this veterinary feed directive (VFD) drug in a manner other than as directed on the labeling (extralabel use), is not permitted”;

Veterinarian's electronic or written signature

Optional information on the VFD order

More specific description of the location (i.e. pen, barn, pasture or other)

Approximate age range of the animals

Approximate weight range of the animals Any other information the veterinarian deems appropriate to identify the animals involved

Basic Producer Responsibilities Establish a VCPR with an appropriate veterinarian.

Contact your veterinarian for consultation and guidance.

Follow your veterinarian's recommendations. Administer the VFD medicated feed according to the directions on the VFD order.

Keep copies of your VFD orders for at least two years.

Provide your VFD order copies for FDA inspectors to copy and review, if requested.

Texas soil health short course to offer unique learning experience for landowners

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

TEMPLE — The Texas Soil Health Short Course will be held on February 22-23, 2017 at the Region 9 Education Service Center in Wichita Falls, Texas. The short course will offer the opportunity to gain a better understanding of soil properties including water infiltration, water holding capacity, and organic matter content. It is being hosted by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSS-WCB) and the Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts (ATSWCD).

“Our conservation partners and I are thrilled to bring this rare learning opportunity to landowners in Texas. Soil health is a hot topic as natural resource conservation continues to re-

main a top priority across the nation. As conservation practices change it is essential that we keep our producers abreast of the latest trends,” said Barry Mahler, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Member of Iowa Park, Texas.

Speakers for the short course will include researchers and producers that will share their insight and experiences in soil health. The agenda includes Dr. Paul DeLaune, Assistant Professor with Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center; Terry McAlister, Wichita County farmer; Dr. Jason Warren, Soil and Water Conservation/Management Extension Specialist with Oklahoma State University; Dr. Bob Steward, Director of Dryland Agriculture Institute at West Texas A&M University; Steve Marten, Archer County farmer; and Clay Pope,

Oklahoma producer and liaison with the USDA Southern Plains Climate Hub.

The Texas Soil Health Short Course is designed to provide participants with research in dynamic soil properties and technical information about practical approaches to implementing a system to improve soil health. Conservation demonstrations and soil pits will showcase the functions of a healthy soil system and highlight its improved water infiltration, soil porosity, increase biological activity, and greater nutrient efficiency.

Early registration is \$75 and an additional \$25 for the field tour is due by February 1, 2017. The cost of registration after February 1, 2017 is \$100 for the short course and \$40 for the field tour. For more information, please visit: <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/event/20170222> or call 254-773-2250.

Harvest Continues on Texas High Plains

By Mary Jane Buerkle
Plains Cotton Growers

A large crop coupled with weather delays has forced many producers to keep harvesters running into the new year, although the 2016 cotton harvest is beginning to wind down across the Texas High Plains. PCG estimates

that about 90 to 95 percent of the region's crop has been harvested.

The latest statistics from the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service show that Texas High Plains growers should produce 4.67 million bales of cotton, the most productive crop in the past six years. NASS will release up-

dated figures next week.

As of Thursday, the Lubbock classing office had graded 2,822,810 samples, and the Lamesa office had graded 1,176,830, which combined is just shy of 4 million samples so far. Most gins will continue operations at least through the end of the month, if not into February and possibly beyond.

Stock Show Brings “Prime Time” to Fort Worth

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

FORT WORTH, TEXAS, January 3, 2017 - Prime Time is quickly coming to town with the legendary Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo returning January 13 through February 4. Nothing symbolizes the essence of Cowtown like the Stock Show as the city and region comes together for action-packed rodeo, livestock and horse shows, carnival midway, the hottest music acts and a shopping experience that's second to none.

With roots almost as old as the city itself, the Stock Show dates to 1896 when it was first held on the city's Northside. Today more than 29,000 animals are entered in what many exhibitors say is the most prestigious event of its

kind, held in the heart of the Cultural District at the Will Rogers Memorial Center.

Rodeo is another celebrated Stock Show institution. Thirty-six performances provide ample opportunities for the public to experience the “signature event” that makes Fort Worth the most unique city in Texas. Between the Best of the West Ranch Rodeo, Best of Mexico Celebración, Cowboys of Color Rodeo, Bulls Night Out Extreme Bull Riding, Fort Worth Super Shoot-out® Rodeo and the legendary World's Original Indoor Rodeo® you'll want to return time and again. All promise thrills, spills and good old fashion fun.

Regardless of style or taste, there's something for everyone at the Stock Show.

Children and adults alike can enjoy activities, events and exhibits related to livestock, agriculture and the food industry. Hot regional music acts entertain crowds and the carnival midway is a blast not only for kids but the kids at heart. Of course, with approximately 200,000 square feet of shopping, there's something for everyone in the Stock Show's exhibit halls.

So get your tickets for Prime Time today and enjoy a fun-filled western heritage experience. For more information or to purchase tickets visit www.fwssr.com. Ordering tickets is also made easy by calling (817) 877-2420. Get ready for Prime Time - get out to the legendary Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo.

Llano Estacado Cotton Conference set Jan. 30 in Muleshoe

By Steve Byrns
Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

MULESHOE — The Llano Estacado Cotton Conference hosted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Ex-

tension Service in Bailey County is scheduled for Jan. 30 at the Bailey County Electric Cooperative meeting room, 610 E. American Blvd., Muleshoe.

Registration will begin at

8:30 a.m. with the program starting at 9 a.m. and ending with a sponsored lunch at noon.

Individual registration is \$20 at the door. Three Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units will be offered.

Curtis Preston, AgriLife Extension agent in Bailey County, said the conference will target cotton producers in the High Plains.

“Our aim is to provide timely information about crop management and industry issues,” Preston said. “It will be a program well worth attending.”

For more information, contact the AgriLife Extension office in Bailey County at 806-272-4583.

NOTICE OF SCHEDULED ENTRY INTO FIELDS
Pursuant to Tex. Agric. Code, Sec. 74.117, cotton producers in the El Paso/Trans Pecos Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, which consists of El Paso, Hudspeith, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio, Brewster, Pecos, Reeves, Ward, Loving, Winkler, Crane, Terrell, Crockett, and Val Verde counties are hereby notified that Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation personnel will be conducting eradication activities in and around their fields, beginning January 2, 2017. 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 no longer hostable 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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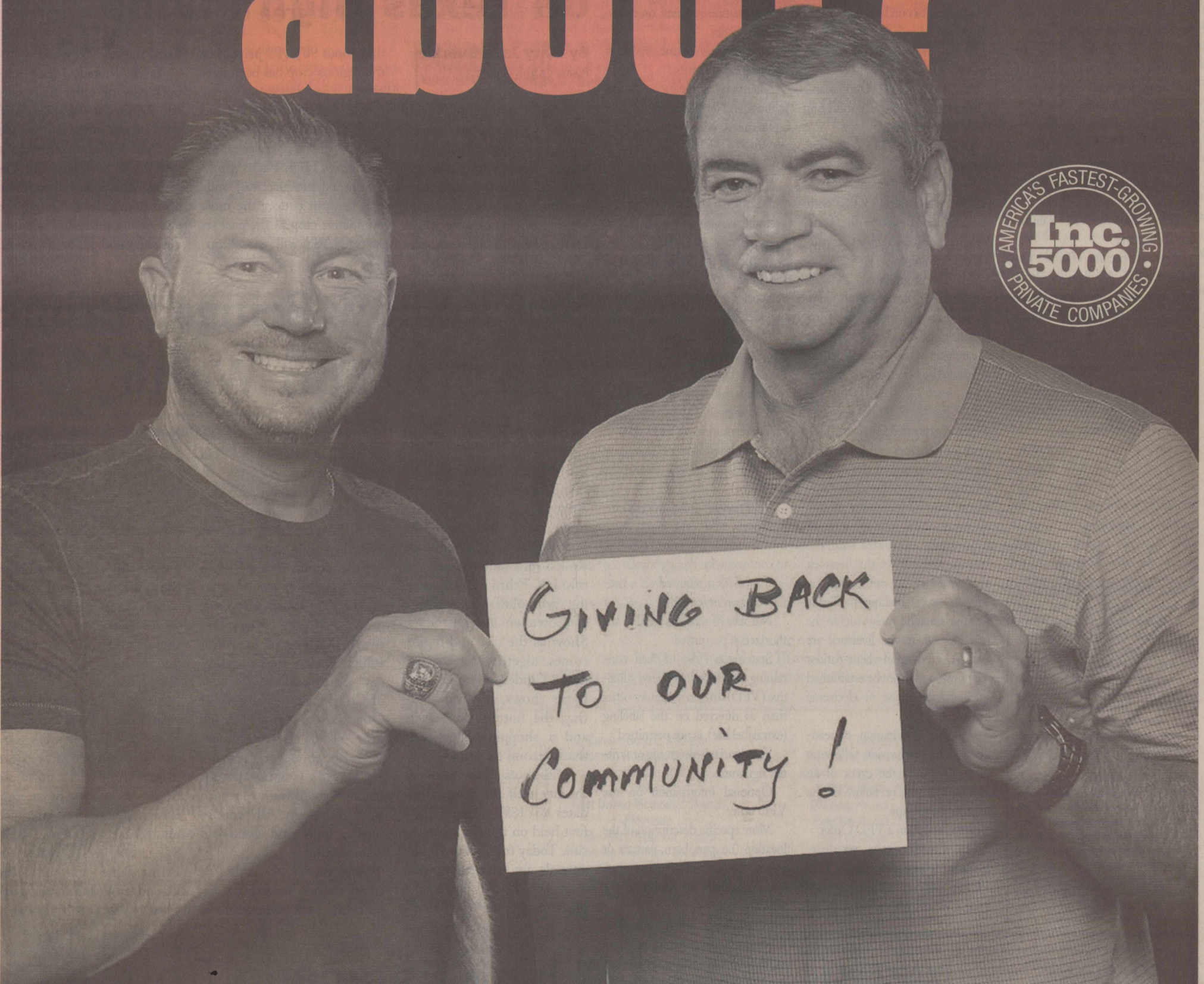
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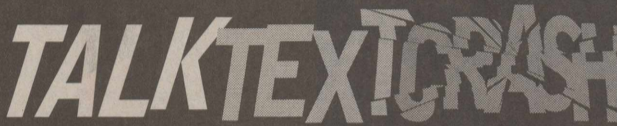
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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF PATRICIA KAY PROBASCO

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of Patricia Kay Probasco, Deceased, were issued on January 3, 2017, in Cause No. 6052 Pending in the County Court of Floyd County, Texas, to:

MITCHELL LANE PROBASCO

The address of such person is:

P.O. Box 128
Floydada, Texas 79235

Persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are Required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

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Attorneys for the Estate

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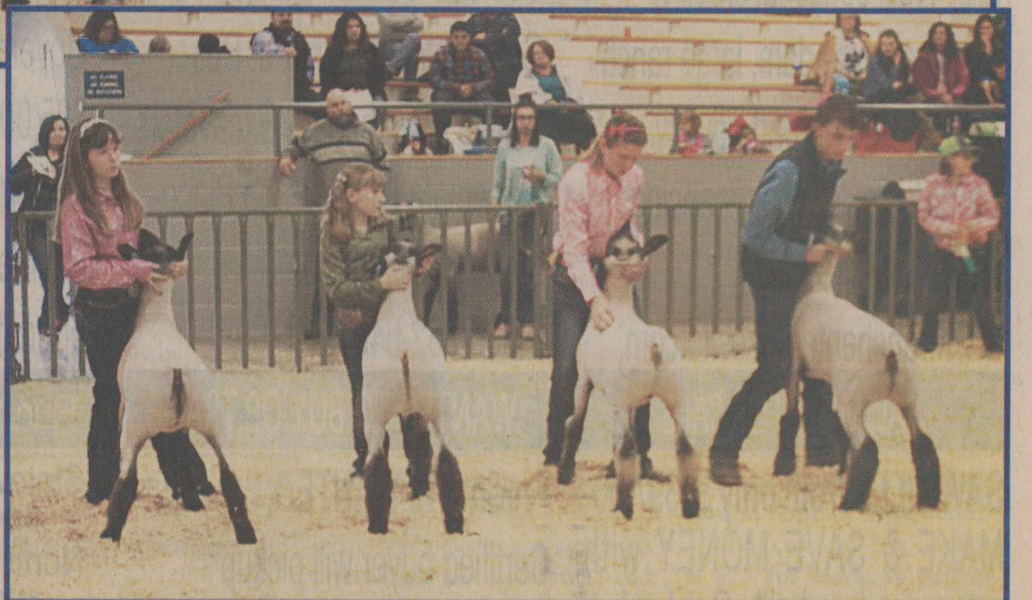


Floyd County Stock Show

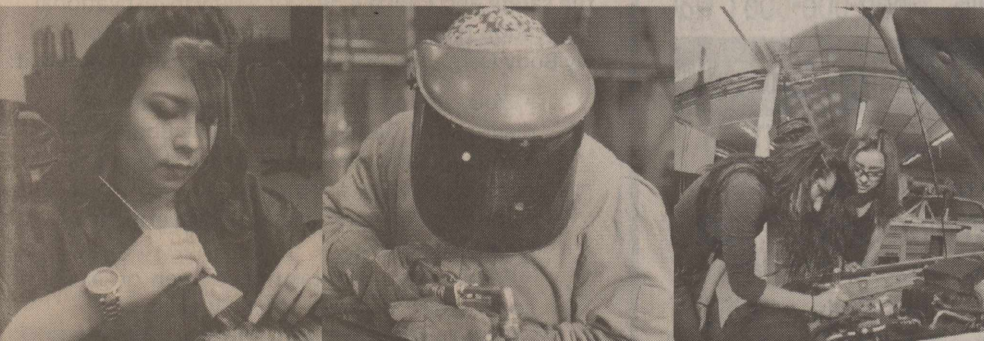


Photos by Charles Keaton/The Hesperian-Beacon

Youth from throughout Floyd County showed off their best show animals at the 2017 Floyd County Stock Show Jan. 5-7 at the Floyd County Unity Center in Muncy. Results from the Show will be published in the Jan. 19 edition of the Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon.



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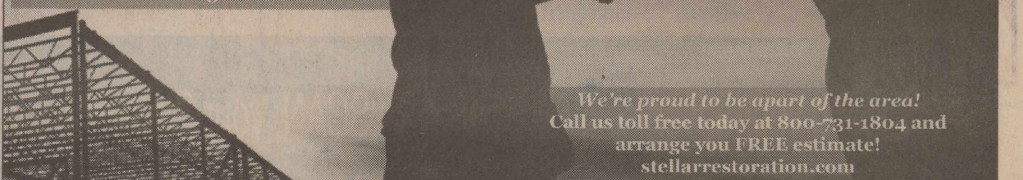
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