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# The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015

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## January Rain and Snow Bring Helpful Moisture

By Charles Keaton  
 The Hesperian-Beacon

FLOYD COUNTY – Early season snow and rain have provided much needed moisture to the area. The cool temperatures and cloudy days have allowed the moisture to permeate into the soil with limited loss due to evaporation.

“This has helped our winter wheat,” Floyd County



Charles Keaton/The Hesperian-Beacon  
**More moisture fell on Jan. 30 as about one inch of rain fell throughout the county. With about four inches of snow the previous week added to early January moisture, the Texas Tech Mesonet sights at Aiken and Floydada reported a little over 1.4 inches at each location. With cooler temperatures and cloud cover, most of the moisture has been absorbed into the ground, providing deep**

farmer John Quebe said. “Anytime we can get moisture into the soil profile, it helps all the crops.”

Quebe said he had an inch of rain on Jan. 29 and around four inches of snow around Jan. 22.

According to the West Texas Mesonet operated by Texas Tech University, the Floydada site reported 1.44 inches for January and the Aiken site reported 1.42 inches. The Floydada site had nine days of measurable precipitation and the Aiken site had five days during January.

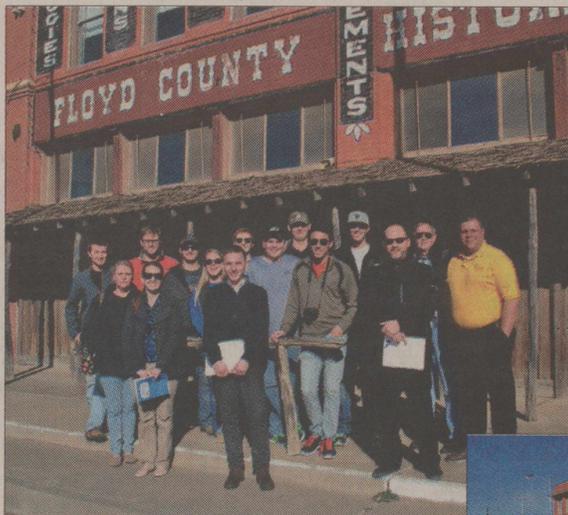
“The rain Friday added to the deep moisture,” Quebe said. “There has been little run-off from the rain or the snow melt so everything is going into the ground.”

According to the National Weather Service Office in Lubbock, the average temperature for January was at the Lubbock International Airport was 39.1 degrees. The high temperature of 77 degrees occurred on Jan. 28 and the low was 16 on Jan. 23. LIA reported 1.61 inches of precipitation which is nearly an inch above normal.

“We need to begin preparation for the new crop before too long,” Quebe said, “but all this moisture is good and we have lost very little of it. Anytime the moisture

See RAIN, Page 10

## Design students come to Floydada to start plans for more vibrant downtown



Courtesy photos  
**Students from the Texas Tech Landscape Architecture department are taking part in a special project for the Floydada EDC with master plans for making downtown more inviting.**

By Kay Ellington  
 The Hesperian-Beacon

The work of imagining a more vibrant downtown Floydada began last week as a dozen Texas Tech landscape architecture students visited the city and received an overview of the Floydada Economic Development Corporation's commitment to creating a more engaging gathering place in the town center.

EDC director Sean Overeynder is working with John Billing, associate professor, landscape architecture, Texas Tech, and Billing's spring students on six plans to give downtown a facelift.

Students have already begun their research, studying successful case histories of similarly sized cities in agricultural areas—including Post, Texas; Rio Dell, California; Celina,

Texas; Greenville, Texas; Eastland, Texas and Lavonia, Georgia.  
 The group of 13 students total includes three graduate students who will be working with Texas Tech's Southwest Collection to understand a historical context of the area. Some of the students had already visited Floyd County Historical Museum and had

See DESIGN, Page 2



## 400 Acres Burn Near Muncy



Photo Courtesy of Facebook

**Floydada and Lockney firefighters were busy Jan. 27 as 400 acres of grassland north of Highway 70 near Muncy burned. Five units from Floydada and two units from Lockney battled the blaze that started about 4:30 p.m. The fire was out by 7:00 p.m. with no damage to any structures. A wheel bearing sparking is believed to have caused the fire.**

MUNCY – Approximately 400 acres of grassland burned on Tuesday, Jan. 26 near Muncy according to fire officials from Floydada and Lockney.

The fire, which was con-

tained to the north side of US Highway 70, was probably started by sparks from a wheel bearing that went out on a tractor-trailer.

Five units of the Floydada Fire Department and two units

from the Lockney Fire Department fought the fire that was initially reported about 4:30 p.m. The fire was contained and out by 7:00 p.m.

No structures were threatened or damaged.

## Floydada ISD board extends superintendent contract until 2018

The Floydada Independent School District Board of Trustees extended Superintendent Gilbert Trevino's contract for another year through June 30, 2018 in its monthly meeting on January 12.

Board members present were Lyle Miller, William Dean, Eric Smith, Roger Hughes, Beverly Collins, Kay Brotherton, and Gracie Diaz, and there was a quorum present.

The board recognized the following students and educators of the month: AB Duncan Elementary Students of the Month: Cortez Rosa—Grade 02, Kirsten Pyle—Grade 02 Educator of the Month: Alexis Parrish FJHS/FHS FJH Student of the Month: Yelena Serrato—Grade 7 FHS Student of the Month: Alex Galvan—Grade 12 Educator of the Month: Travis Pittman Business Manager Sha-

ron Rainwater presented the tax report, cash flow statement, and investment report. M&O Current Tax Roll \$3,126,071.72 Net Collections \$2,012,010.70 I&S Tax Roll \$378,762.14 Net Collections \$243,799.91 Percent of Current Roll Collected 64.36% Taxes Collected as of December 31, 2013 85.95%

In Honor of School Board Recognition Month, each Board Member was recognized by Superintendent Trevino.

William Dean made the motion to continue using Robison, Johnson, and Patton to conduct the FISD financial audit for 2015-2016. Kay Brotherton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Kay Brotherton made the motion to approve the annual performance report for

See FISD, Page 2

## 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.

### FLOYDADA BASKETBALL GAMES

The Floydada Whirlwinds and Lady Winds will travel to Abernathy on Friday, Feb 6th.

### LOCKNEY BASKETBALL GAMES

The Lockney Longhorns and Lady Horns will play host to Olton on Friday, Friday, Feb 6th.

### TEXAS CONCEALED HANDGUN LICENSE COURSE

South Plains College will offer the Texas Concealed Handgun License course on Feb. 7 (Saturday) in the Law Enforcement Technology building in Room 115 on the Levelland campus. Space is limited. See article inside this week's Hesperian-Beacon.

### HARRINGTON BREAST CENTER MOBILE

The date for the Harrington Breast Center Mobile Mammography Coach to be in Lockney has been RESCHEDULED! It will be at the Mangold Memorial Hospital on Thursday, Feb. 5 from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to provide women 35 years and older with their yearly mammograms. To schedule an appointment or for more info, please call 1-800-377-4673.

### BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

Calvert Home Health holds their blood pressure clinic on every first and third Thursday of each month between 9 - 11 a.m. at the Community Room of the First National Bank of Floydada.

## Correction

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

## News on the go



Use your smartphone to scan the quick response, or QR, code to visit us online.

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The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon, 201 W. California, Floydada, Texas 79235, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Phone (888) 400-1083. Email fchb.editor@yahoo.com

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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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## Deaths

### Judy Kay Lain

Judy Kay Lain, age 66, passed away, Wednesday, January 28, 2015 in Lubbock.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m., Monday, February 2, 2015 at Abundant Life Christian Fellowship in Knox City, Texas with Tex Cox officiating.

Interment followed at the Johnson Memorial Cemetery in Munday, Texas.

Visitation was held from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday, January 31, 2015 at the First Baptist Church in Floydada.

Arrangements were under the care of Moore-Rose Funeral Home in Floydada.

Judy was born on November 11, 1948 to John Oscar and Patsy Ruth Tynes of Big Springs, Texas. They later moved to Goree, Texas where she graduated from high school and met the love of her



JUDY KAY LAIN

life Danny Lain of Munday, Texas. They were married on February 16, 1968. They were married almost 39 years before his passing in 2006, after Danny passed away she then moved to Floydada.

Judy was a devoted wife, mother, sister, and most of all a grandmother. She loved hosting family meals, gatherings,

working in her yard and going to her grandchildren's sporting events.

Judy is preceded in death by her parents, Jo and Patsy Tynes and her husband, Danny Lain.

Judy is survived by her son, Trevor Lain and wife, Christi of Shallowater, a daughter, Leigh Smith and husband, Eric of Floydada, a brother, John David Tynes and wife, Sheri of Cincinnati, Ohio, sister and brother-in-laws, George and Patsy Spann of Ennis, Jimmy and Sharon Eicke of Amarillo, and numerous nieces and nephews. Judy was also survived by her greatest joys, her grandchildren, Tristin, Colin, and Callie Lain of Shallowater, and Ethan and Logan Smith of Floydada.

Online condolences may be made at [www.moore-rose.com](http://www.moore-rose.com)

### Dona Reed

Dona Reed, age 86, of Floydada, passed away Thursday, January 29, 2015.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m., Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at the Floyd County Memorial Park in Floydada.

Arrangements were under the personal care of Moore-Rose Funeral Home in Floydada.

Dona was born on September 30, 1928 to Theodore "Jack" and Edith (Watson)

Thompson in Hopkins County, Texas. She pursued her passion as an LVN for many years. She enjoyed reading, cooking for her family, gardening, and loved spending time with her grandchildren. Dona was an active member of the City Park Church of Christ.

Dona was preceded in death by her husband, Gene Reed, her parents, a brother and a sister.

Dona is survived her sons, Kendall Reed and wife, Bev Ann of Hutchinson, Kansas, and Kerry Reed and wife, Sue of Floydada; her grandchildren, Andrea Johnson and husband, Craig of Lubbock, Kenny Reed and wife, Melissa of Lubbock, and Jason Reed of Floydada; and five great-grandchildren.

Online condolences may be made to [www.moore-rose.com](http://www.moore-rose.com)

## DESIGN

From Page 1

received access to historic photos of downtown. They passed around photos of Floydada from the early 20th Century when it had traffic turn-posts in its downtown.

"These old turnposts might be the spark of an overall look and plan, just use your imagination and creativity in your planning" Overeinder said. He told the group that the scope of the project was for public access-ways and that downtown businesses were not to be addressed in this project. However, the EDC had been discussing ideas of turning the vacant lot next to their offices, which they own, into a pocket park, but nothing is in

place at this time for that.

"Any kind of greenery or landscaping can make a huge difference," he said, "Five or six years ago the planters were added downtown, and when the plants are green in those, it brightens things up quite a bit."

Willis noted, "There are grants out there for municipalities to get trees."

Overeinder said the EDC will be pursuing a tree grant later this year.

The EDC director gave the group a walking tour of the public access-ways of downtown while students snapped photos with cell phones and made notes and sketches in pads.

The EDC will make a donation to Texas Tech University to cover the students' materials of

the drawings.

The scope of the project will essentially be the square surrounding the Floyd County Courthouse—Wall Street, between Missouri and California, Main Street, between Missouri and California, up to Fifth Street.

Billings' students will be developing a series of six to eight sketches to go with the master plans. In this we can mix and match ideas from one to another

"It's important that these plans are part of a five-year, 10-year master plan," Billings said, "not just a one-off. An integrated plan will have a lot more impact."

The proposed master plans will be submitted to the EDC for viewing by mid-March.

## FISD

From Page 1

2013-2014 as presented. Roger Hughes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The board took no action on the Class Size Survey for the Spring 2015 semester. 12. The board held discussion of the preliminary 2015-2016 school calendar.

The board adjourned to executive session for discussion of the superintendent's evaluation and contract for

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2018. (Closed Meeting, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551-074). The open meeting was closed at 8:25 p.m. The closed meeting opened at 8:26 p.m. The closed meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

The public meeting reopened at 8:56 p.m.

William Dean made the motion to extend Superintendent Gilbert Trevino's contract for an additional year through June 30, 2018, increase salary by \$1464 per year, and provide for family health insurance. Kay Broth-

erton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of motion. Kay Brotherton made the motion to change the vested date for Superintendent Trevino's annuity from June 30, 2016 to March 15, 2016. Roger Hughes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Gracie Diaz made the motion to approve employment of Kelli Hinsley and Jeana Carlson. William Dean seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

# The Paperboy The disconnect is damaging

It's time to reengage and get connected. Apathy is here now, but we must not tolerate it. How do we correct the problem? How do we reinvigorate our communities, particularly the younger generations?

It concerns me that we seem to see fewer and fewer volunteers get together for the betterment of their respective communities.

It bothers me that awesome seniors are dying and no one is stepping forward to take their place.

We have to figure out a way to not only cultivate leaders in our communities, but to energize our population.

- We've all heard the excuses:
- No time...
  - Too busy with children...
  - Too busy at work...
  - I don't get along with so-and-so...

Truthfully, if it means enough to the residents, it should get done. Right? I'm not so sure anymore.

Every once in awhile, you see these shows where they send out a reporter to ask random people basic questions. Questions that older Americans

would consider easy.

However, when the reporter asks, he's met with blank faces and simple guesses that make the person look like a moron. And maybe they are morons.

It makes my skin crawl when someone is asked who the U.S. fought in World War II and some idiot says Mexico.

It's a travesty not to know the answer to that question.

I saw a show the other day and those answering had no idea what the Cold War was.

I understand that Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, YouTube, Candy Crush, etc. are fun applications, but when you consider the time people spend involved with these things instead of engaging with the humans next to them, it's a scary thought.

Pop culture rules the day for the younger generations and important things like volunteerism take a back seat.

We pay little attention to things like elections and taxation, but we know exactly what LeBron James and the Kardashians are doing.

Yesterday, President Obama said he wanted Congress to pass a \$4 trillion budget. Do you honestly think those under 30 even know this or much less care?

It's a big deal. It's the biggest budget proposal in the history of the planet and it's supposed to be paid for by you, me and these young people who have no clue what's going on.

I pray that leaders emerge who will shake this country up. I think things would be much better locally and across the country if people were engaged and striving to make a difference in their respective towns and the lives of their neighbors.

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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](mailto:chris@blackburnmediagroup.com) and you can follow him on Twitter @WCSBlackburn, although he doesn't tweet much.

## Your winning retirement Game Plan

By Jose M Olivero  
Social Security Public Affairs  
Specialist in Oklahoma City

This month, a driver will take the checkered flag at the Daytona 500, skiers will stand atop the podium at the World Alpine Ski Championships in Vail, Colo., and a football team will win Super Bowl XLIX in Glendale, Ariz. The sports are different, but the winners share a common trait—years of commitment to their plans.

To win the retirement game, you also need commitment and a plan. For years, you've worked hard and paid into Social Security. Whether you're new to the workforce or getting ready to cross your own career finish line, you'll want to open a my Social Security account to see how your hard work is paying off. You can create or access your account at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount). You can use it to verify your earnings history, get estimates of your future Social Security benefits, and more. It's the place to get the information you need to put together your own winning game plan.

A good NASCAR pit crew keeps its driver on the track, and our Retirement Estimator can do the same for your retirement plan. The Estimator offers an instant and tailored estimate of your future Social Security benefits based on your earnings record. You can plug in different anticipated yearly earnings to discover different retirement options and learn how your benefits could increase if you work longer. Give the Retirement Estimator a test drive today at [www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator).

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Fine-tune your game plan. Take advantage of our services and resources at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) to optimize your retirement.

## LETTERS 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](mailto: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.

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## The Floyd County HESPERIAN-BEACON

### DEADLINES

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- Editorial - Monday @ 2 p.m.

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Telephone: 806-983-3737  
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Floydada, Texas 79235

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

# SOCIETY

## Lockney Senior Citizens receives grant



The Lockney Senior Citizen's Center received a grant from the Joachim Foundation for \$3,000. Shown are Jerry Paul Cooper, Embre Douglas, Denise Doucette, Jim Doucette, and Claude Brown.

## Floydada Senior Citizens News

By LuAnn Collins  
Special for The Hesperian-Beacon

Thank you to all who have remembered the Center with donations and memorials. We appreciate your thoughtfulness. For those who wish to give memorials and donations, our mailing address is P.O. Box 573, Floydada, Texas 79235. Serving time is 12 noon until 1 p.m. Please call Sylvia or Anna by 9:30 a.m. if you plan to eat at the Center. Our phone number is 806-983-2032. We are located at 925 W. Crockett St.

MENU  
Feb. 9 - Feb. 13

- Monday** - Breaded fish on bun, lettuce, tomato, pickle, tartar sauce, potato wedges, cole slaw w/dressing, peach chantilly, low-fat milk
- Tuesday** - Swedish meatballs, parsley noodles, mixed vegetables, whole wheat roll, margarine, angel food cake w/ strawberries, low-fat milk
- Wednesday** - Roast pork, sweet potatoes, succotash, whole wheat roll, banana pudding, low-fat milk
- Thursday** - Rigatoni w/meat sauce, garlic bread, seasoned lima beans, tossed salad w/dressing, mandarin oranges w/ whipped topping, low-fat milk
- Friday** - Baked chicken breast, baked potato w/sour cream, peas, pineapple tidbits, chocolate pudding, low-fat milk



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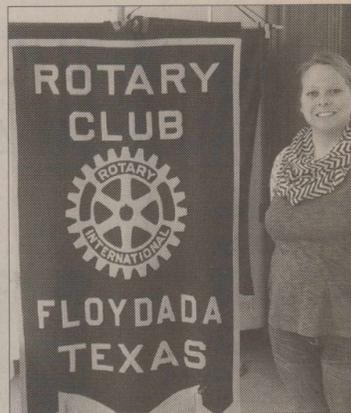
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## Gals & Gun Powder



Caitlin Jackson presented the Rotary Club program on January 28th to the club. Caitlin is one of two instructors at Gals and Gun Powder. They strive to give women confidence in handling their guns and teach self defense and maneuvers to protect yourself. Thank you to Member Karen Houchin for this program. If you want more information on Gals and Gun Powder check them out on Facebook.

## Team Leadership



Team Leadership from Floydada Jr. High presented the Rotary Club program on January 21st. They spoke on the various leadership skills they are learning in class. They demonstrated some of their new skills to the club. Thank you to Member Alicia Bice for bringing this program to the club.

READING NEWSPAPERS IS A QUEST LIKE NO OTHER

## Museum Archives

### Floyd County Historical Museum "Memories, 1979"

S.L. RUSHING FAMILY

Sherman Lee Rushing was born February 14, 1861, at Manville, Tennessee, the son of Lee and Lusan (McCulough) Rushing. He came to West Texas in 1880, traveling in a covered wagon, and settled near Vernon, Texas, then moving to Floyd County in 1891. He was married to Susie Alice Adams, April 21, 1893 in Floyd County. She was born June 20, 1874, in Jefferson City, Missouri. Mrs. Rushing said that one thing she would always remember about their courtship was that every day he came to see her and rode a large steer he had. Their first home was a dugout six miles west of Floydada, there with a small herd of cattle they started a ranch of their own. Pioneering in practically all lines of business endeavor in the county, including ranching, merchandising and banking, he was recognized as an outstanding businessman. In the early part of the nineties, he lived west of Floydada, but later moved northeast of the city in the Fairview Community where he acquired extensive fanning interest and for years ran a herd of horses which were widely known as bearing the Slipper Brand. In 1909, S. L. and Susie went to St. Louis to the World Fair. There they decided to go to a rodeo since they had never seen one at the rodeo they saw Bruce Norton, world champion bronc rider. S. L. hired him to come and break 100 horses. Later S. L. raised trotting horses, some of which he sold to

men from England for jumping and trotting. S. L. was associated with every bank that existed in Floyd County. At the time of his death, he was chairman of board of directors of First National Bank of Lockney. Pioneering in the early days of Floyd County and weathering many blizzards, droughts, and prairie fires, S. L. contributed in many ways to the development of the area and became a well known financial success himself. Mr. and Mrs. Rushing donated the land and were highly instrumental in securing funds for the building of the Methodist Church in the Fairview Community in the late 1920's. an attractive brick structure. The Church was later named Rushing Chapel, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Rushing. Mr. Rushing had been a member of the Methodist Church since 1906. The two-story Rushing home was at one time a landmark in the eastern part of the county before it burned in the late 40's. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Rushing, all natives of Floyd County; Mrs. C. E. (Lula) Moreman, Lee, Mrs. E. M. (Viola) Wright, Mrs. R. J. (Jennie) Teal, Mrs. E.M. (Pauline) Meyers, Mrs. T.M. (Billy) Jones, and Mrs. F. A. (Tommie) Pierce. Other survivors besides his son and six daughters were thirteen grandchildren and a brother, G. B. Rushing of Denver, Colorado.

## Wit and Wisdom

By Charles Keaton  
The Hesperian-Beacon

After 14 months of bringing you the Wit and Wisdom of Texas, I now will start bringing you a more general Wit and Wisdom from the famous and infamous, covering various aspects of life and business. Thanks for reading. Life is full of surprises and serendipity. Being open to unexpected turns in the road is an important part of success. If you try to plan every step, you may miss those wonderful twists and turns. Just find your next adventure-do it well, enjoy it-and then, not now, think about what comes next. - Condoleeza Rice We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give. - Sir Winston Churchill I sometimes think that the saving grace of America lies in the fact that the overwhelming majority of Americans are possessed of two great qualities- a sense of humor and a sense of proportion. - Franklin D. Roosevelt The character inherent in the American people has done all that has been accomplished; and it would have done somewhat more, if the government had not sometimes got in its way. - Hen-

ry David Thoreau  
Ninety-eight percent of the adults in this country are decent hard-working, honest Americans. It's the other lousy two percent that get all the publicity. But then--we elected them. - Lily Tomlin  
Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom. - Albert Einstein  
It is by the goodness of God that in our country we have those three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practice either of them. - Mark Twain  
Friendship make prosperity more shining and lessens adversity by dividing and sharing it. - Cicero  
The ornament of a house is the friends who frequent it. - Ralph Waldo Emerson  
You get fifteen democrats in a room, and you get twenty opinions. - Senator Patrick Leahy

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### CITY OF LOCKNEY TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The City of Lockney is giving notice of the City's intent to submit a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program grant application for a Community Development Fund grant request of \$275,000 for improvements to the street system including reconstructing 4,200 linear feet of curb and gutter as well as 7,700 square yards of paving within the City of Lockney. These improvements will take place E Bryant St from alleyway to SE 4th St. and on E Poplar St. from SE 2nd St. to SE 4th St. and on Willow St. from SE 2nd St. to SE 4th St. and on SE 4th St. from E Poplar St. to E. Willow St. The application is available for review at City Hall during regular business hours. Para obtener una copia en espanol, comuniquese con Lorie al 806-652-2355.

## Lockney Senior Citizens

By Renee Armstrong  
Special for The Hesperian-Beacon

let us do the dishes!

MENU  
Feb. 9 - Feb. 13

- Monday** - Cheeseburgers
- Tuesday** - Tacos
- Wednesday** - Grilled chicken
- Thursday** - Salmon
- Friday** - Hamburger steak  
(Menus subject to change with notice)

Thank you to all who have remembered the Center Remember exercise with Dorothy is Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:45-9:15 a.m. Coffee time is Monday - Saturday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Thursday Pot luck is at 5 p.m. Bring a dish and enjoy games afterwards. Family Night Fish Fry is Friday nights from 5-8 p.m. It's all you can eat. Come

THANKS FOR READING!

# FLOYDADA SCHOOL

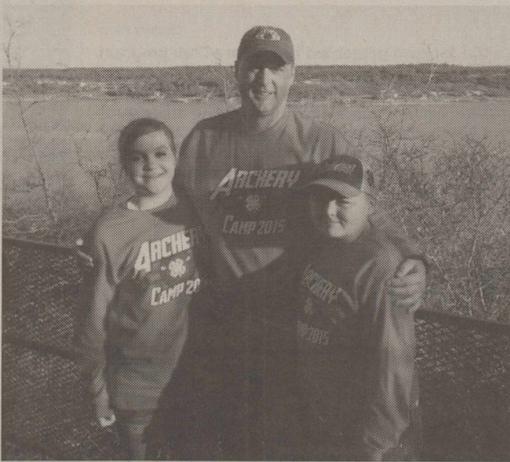
## Glass and Graham attend Texas 4-H Archery Camp

By Patty Davenport

Special for The Hesperian-Beacon

Floyd County 4-Her's Ryder Glass and Rachel Graham along with Coach Bill Glass recently attended the State 4-H Archery Camp at the 4-H Center in Brownwood.

All three spent a week-end improving their archery skills. The camp was developed to provide intensive small group archery training to improve shooting skills and knowledge. The camp is offered to all Texas 4-H Archery Project members. It is scheduled every January for the first 40 archers and the first



10 adult coaches.

A similar camp for those 4-Her's involved in shotgun will be held June 10-13 in College Station. For more in-

formation about either camp or how to become involved in 4-H, please contact the County Extension Office at 983-4912.

### 2015 Floydada High School Baseball Schedule

BOLD = District

Date	Opponent	Place	Time
Feb. 9	Childress (Scrim)	Childress	4:30
Feb. 16	Slaton (Scrim)	Slaton	5:00
Feb. 23	Roosevelt	Floydada	5:00
Feb. 26-28	Roosevelt Tournament	Roosevelt	TBA
Mar. 2	Tahoka	Tahoka	4:00
Mar. 5-8	Tulia Tournament	Tulia	TBA
Mar. 10	Claude	Floydada	5:00
Mar. 14	<b>New Deal</b>	<b>New Deal</b>	<b>12:00</b>
Mar. 17	Abernathy	Abernathy	7:00
Mar. 19	<b>Olton</b>	<b>Floydada</b>	<b>12:00</b>
Mar. 24	<b>Ralls</b>	<b>Ralls</b>	<b>5:00</b>
Mar. 28	<b>Lockney</b>	<b>Floydada</b>	<b>12:00</b>
Mar. 31	<b>Crosbyton</b>	<b>Floydada</b>	<b>5:00</b>
Apr. 4	<b>Hale Center</b>	<b>Hale Center</b>	<b>11:00</b>
Apr. 7	<b>New Deal</b>	<b>Floydada</b>	<b>5:00</b>
Apr. 11	<b>Abernathy</b>	<b>Floydada</b>	<b>12:00</b>
Apr. 14	<b>Olton</b>	<b>Olton</b>	<b>7:00</b>
Apr. 18	<b>Ralls</b>	<b>Floydada</b>	<b>12:00</b>
Apr. 21	<b>Lockney</b>	<b>Lockney</b>	<b>5:00</b>
Apr. 25	<b>Crosbyton</b>	<b>Crosbyton</b>	<b>12:00</b>
Apr. 28	<b>Hale Center</b>	<b>Floydada</b>	<b>5:00</b>

### 2015 Floydada High School Softball Schedule

BOLD = District

Date	Day	Opponent	Team	Place	Time
Feb. 5	Thurs.	Tahoka (Scrim)	JV/VAR	Floydada	5:00 / 7:00
Feb. 7	Sat.	Roosevelt (Scrim)	JV/VAR	Floydada	10:00 / 12:00
Feb. 10	Tues.	Littlefield	JV/VAR	Littlefield	5:00 / 7:00
Feb. 14	Sat.	Roosevelt	JV/VAR	Roosevelt	10:00 / 12:00
Feb. 17	Tues.	Dimmitt	VAR/JV	Dimmitt	4:30 / 6:30
Feb. 21	Sat.	Seagraves	VAR/JV	Seagraves	1:00 / 3:00
Feb. 23	Mon.	Muleshoe	VAR/JV	Floydada	5:00 / 7:00
Feb. 28	Sat.	Littlefield	VAR/JV	Floydada	11:00 / 1:00
Mar. 3	Tues.	Dimmitt	VAR/JV	Floydada	4:30 / 6:30
Mar. 5-7	Thurs.-Sat.	Ralls	VAR/JV	Ralls	TBA
Mar. 10	Tues.	<b>Hale Center</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>	<b>Floydada</b>	<b>5:00 / 7:00</b>
Mar. 14	Sat.	<b>New Deal</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>	<b>New Deal</b>	<b>11:00 / 1:00</b>
Mar. 17	Tues.	<b>Abernathy</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>	<b>Abernathy</b>	<b>5:00 / 7:00</b>
Mar. 21	Sat.	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>		
Mar. 24	Tues.	<b>Ralls</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>	<b>Ralls</b>	<b>5:00 / 7:00</b>
Mar. 28	Sat.	<b>Lockney</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>	<b>Floydada</b>	<b>11:00 / 1:00</b>
Mar. 31	Tues.	<b>Crosbyton</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>	<b>Floydada</b>	<b>5:00 / 7:00</b>
Apr. 4	Sat.	<b>Hale Center</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>	<b>Hale Center</b>	<b>11:00 / 1:00</b>
Apr. 7	Tues.	<b>New Deal</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>	<b>Floydada</b>	<b>5:00 / 7:00</b>
Apr. 11	Sat.	<b>Abernathy</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>	<b>Floydada</b>	<b>11:00 / 1:00</b>
Apr. 14	Tues.	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>		
Apr. 18	Sat.	<b>Ralls</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>	<b>Floydada</b>	<b>11:00 / 1:00</b>
Apr. 21	Tues.	<b>Lockney</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>	<b>Lockney</b>	<b>5:00 / 7:00</b>

## Floydada Varsity Basketball Round-up BOYS

Date	Opponent (*=District)	Results	Score	Record (Overall/Dist)
11-25	Childress	72-53	L	0-1
12-1	@ Idalou	78-30	L	0-2
12-4	Nazareth	41-33	L	0-3
12-12	Anton	58-47	W	1-3
12-13	Tahoka	56-54	W	2-3
12-16	Farwell	65-58	L	2-4
12-19	@ Ralls *		W	3-5 / 1-0
1-2	@ Hale Center *	37-35	L	2-5 / 1-1
1-6	Olton *	62-59	W	3-5 / 2-1
1-9	@ Lockney *	63-53	L	3-6 / 2-2
1-13	Abernathy *	61-50	W	4-6 / 3-2
1-16	@ New Deal *	72-64	L	4-7 / 3-3
1-20	@ All Saints Episcopal School	67-45	L	4-8 / 3-3
1-23	@ Ralls *	50-40	W	5-8 / 4-3
1-27	Hale Center *	42-38	W	6-8 / 5-3
1-30	@ Olton *	52-49	L	6-9 / 5-4
2-3	Lockney *			
2-6	@ Abernathy *			
2-10	New Deal *			

## Floydada Varsity Basketball Round-up GIRLS

Date	Opponent	Results	Score	Record (Overall/Dist)
11-11	Dimmitt	L	71-33	0-1
11-21	Petersburg	L	48-36	0-2
11-25	Childress	L	49-45	0-3
12-12	Anton	L	59-30	0-4
12-12	Kingdom Prep Academy	W	44-15	1-4
12-12	Lubbock Home School	L	69-17	1-5
12-19	Ralls *	W	43-34	2-5 / 1-0
12-30	Hico	L	71-35	2-6 / 1-0
1-2	@ Hale Center *	L	51-37	2-7 / 1-1
1-6	Olton *	L	52-21	2-8 / 1-2
1-9	@ Lockney *	W	47-43	3-8 / 2-2
1-13	Abernathy *	L	80-40	3-9 / 2-3
1-16	@ New Deal *	L	43-33	3-10 / 2-4
1-23	@ Ralls *	L	41-35	3-11 / 2-5
1-27	Hale Center *	L	70-40	3-12 / 2-6
1-30	@ Olton *	L	65-37	3-13 / 2-7
2-3	Lockney *			
2-6	@ Abernathy *			
2-7	Highland Park			
2-10	New Deal *			

Coaches: Please email any missing scores or new scores to: fchblockney@yahoo.com

### District 4-2A Girls Basketball Standings

Team	Wins	Losses
Abernathy	9	0
Olton	7	3
Hale Center	7	3
New Deal	6	4
Floydada	2	7
Lockney	1	8
Ralls	1	8

### 2015 Floydada High School Track Schedule

Date	Day	Location
February 27	Friday	Lubbock Roosevelt
March 6	Friday	Floydada
March 13	Friday	New Deal
March 27	Friday	Abernathy
April 3	Friday	Lockney
April 10	Friday	TBA
April 17	Friday	New Deal (DISTRICT)
April 23	Thursday	Panhandle (AREA)
May 1-2	Friday/Saturday	Odessa (REGIONALS)
May 14-15	Friday/Saturday	Austin (STATE)

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# LOCKNEY SCHOOL

## Texas Concealed Handgun License course set for Feb. 7th SPC

LEVELLAND – South Plains College will offer the Texas Concealed Handgun License course on Feb. 7 (Saturday) in the Law Enforcement Technology building in Room 115 on the Levelland campus. Space is limited.

Class will begin at 8 a.m., and will include breaks every hour and a one-hour break for lunch. The classroom portion will be completed by 3 p.m. and the length of the range portion will depend on the number of students.

The cost is \$70 for students seeking their first li-

cense, and \$25 for students wanting a refresher course before renewing their license. Although renewals are now handled strictly online, the 15 or more changes in Texas firearms law last summer make a refresher course a good investment.

Additional class dates are March 7, April 11 and May 9.

The course covers the laws pertaining to concealed carry and to the use of force or deadly force. Safe gun handling and storage, including storage with children in the home, are covered, as is non-

violent dispute resolution.

Students will need a handgun and 50 rounds of ammunition. They must pass a 25 question written test, and demonstrate safe and proficient gun handling, scoring at least 70 percent on a shooting test at distances ranging from three to 15 yards.

Students need to call Kasey Reyes, administrative assistant to the Dean of Continuing and Distance Education, at (806) 716-2341 or email kreyes@southplainscollege.edu to enroll.

### District 4-2A Boys Basketball Standings

Team	Wins	Losses
Abernathy	6	1
Lockney	5	3
New Deal	5	3
Floydada	4	4
Hale Center	4	4
Olton	3	5
Ralls	0	7

### 2015 Lockney High School Baseball Schedule

**BOLD = District**

Date	Opponent	Place	Time
Feb. 20	Frona		
Feb. 24	Memphis	Lockney	4:00
Feb. 27	OPEN		
Mar. 3	Valley	Lockney	5:00
Mar. 5-6	Ralls Tournament	Ralls	TBA
Mar. 10	Memphis	Memphis	4:00
<b>Mar. 14</b>	<b>Abernathy</b>	<b>Lockney</b>	<b>12:00</b>
<b>Mar. 17</b>	<b>Crosbyton</b>	<b>Lockney</b>	<b>12:00</b>
<b>Mar. 21</b>	<b>Hale Center</b>	<b>Hale Center</b>	<b>11:00</b>
<b>Mar. 24</b>	<b>New Deal</b>	<b>Lockney</b>	<b>5:00</b>
<b>Mar. 28</b>	<b>Floydada</b>	<b>Floydada</b>	<b>12:00</b>
<b>Mar. 31</b>	<b>Olton</b>	<b>Olton</b>	<b>5:00</b>
<b>Apr. 4</b>	<b>Ralls</b>	<b>Lockney</b>	<b>12:00</b>
<b>Apr. 7</b>	<b>Abernathy</b>	<b>Abernathy</b>	<b>5:00</b>
<b>Apr. 11</b>	<b>Crosbyton</b>	<b>Crosbyton</b>	<b>12:00</b>
<b>Apr. 14</b>	<b>Hale Center</b>	<b>Lockney</b>	<b>5:00</b>
<b>Apr. 18</b>	<b>New Deal</b>	<b>New Deal</b>	<b>12:00</b>
<b>Apr. 21</b>	<b>Floydada</b>	<b>Lockney</b>	<b>5:00</b>
<b>Apr. 25</b>	<b>Olton</b>	<b>Lockney</b>	<b>12:00</b>
<b>Apr. 28</b>	<b>Ralls</b>	<b>Ralls</b>	<b>5:00</b>

### 2015 Lockney High School Track Schedule

Date	Day	Location
March 6	Friday	Floydada
March 13	Friday	New Deal
March 27	Friday	Crosbyton
April 3	Friday	Lockney
April 10	Friday	Hale Center
April 17	Friday	New Deal (DISTRICT)
April 23	Thursday	Panhandle (AREA)
May 1-2	Friday/Saturday	Odessa (REGIONALS)
May 14-15	Friday/Saturday	Austin (STATE)

### 2015 Lockney High School Softball Schedule

**BOLD = District**

Date	Day	Opponent	Team	Place	Time
Feb. 14	Sat.	Denver City	VAR/JV	Denver City	1:00
Feb. 21	Sat.	Idalou	VAR/JV	Idalou	12:00
Feb. 24	Tues.	Sundown	VAR/JV	Lockney	4:00
Feb. 26-28	Thurs.-Sat.	Post	VAR/JV	Post	TBA
Mar. 3	Tues.	Post	VAR/JV	Lockney	4:00
Mar. 7	Sat.	Ira	JV/VAR	Lockney	11:00
<b>Mar. 10</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Ralls</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>	<b>Lockney</b>	<b>5:00</b>
<b>Mar. 14</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Abernathy</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>	<b>Lockney</b>	<b>11:00</b>
<b>Mar. 19</b>	<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Crosbyton</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>	<b>Lockney</b>	<b>4:30</b>
<b>Mar. 21</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Hale Center</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>	<b>Hale Center</b>	<b>11:00</b>
<b>Mar. 24</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	<b>New Deal</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>	<b>Lockney</b>	<b>4:30</b>
<b>Mar. 28</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Floydada</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>	<b>Floydada</b>	<b>11:00</b>
<b>Mar. 31</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>		
<b>Apr. 4</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Ralls</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>	<b>Lockney</b>	<b>11:00</b>
<b>Apr. 7</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Abernathy</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>	<b>Abernathy</b>	<b>5:00</b>
<b>Apr. 11</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Crosbyton</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>	<b>Crosbyton</b>	<b>11:00</b>
<b>Apr. 14</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Hale Center</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>	<b>Lockney</b>	<b>4:30</b>
<b>Apr. 18</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>New Deal</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>	<b>New Deal</b>	<b>11:00</b>
<b>Apr. 21</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Floydada</b>	<b>VAR/JV</b>	<b>Lockney</b>	<b>4:30</b>

## Lockney Varsity Basketball Round-up

### BOYS

Date	Opponent (*=District)	Results	Score	Record (Overall/Dist)
11-18	Paducah	L	49-48	0-1
11-21	@ Claude	L	57-41	0-2
11-24	Hart	W	71-32	1-2
11-25	Bovina	W	78-54	2-2
12-2	Roosevelt	W	72-44	3-2
12-4	Haskell	W	50-30	4-2
12-5	Knox City	W	50-46	5-2
12-6	Anson	W	59-49	6-2
12-9	Spur	W	78-35	7-2
12-12	Plainview Christian	W	74-25	8-2
12-16	Morton	W	68-50	9-2
12-19	@ Sanford Fritch	W	61-42	10-2
1-2	Abernathy *	L	52-51	10-3 / 0-1
1-6	@ New Deal *	W	66-60	11-3 / 1-1
1-9	Floydada *	W	63-53	12-3 / 2-1
1-13	@ Ralls *	W	67-41	13-3 / 3-1
1-16	Hale Center *	W	53-45	14-3 / 4-1
1-20	Olton *	W	50-49	15-3 / 5-1
1-23	Smyer	L	76-59	15-4 / 5-1
1-27	@ Abernathy *	L	58-48	15-6 / 5-2
1-30	New Deal *	L	75-67	15-7 / 5-3
2-3	@ Floydada *			
2-6	Ralls *			
2-10	@ Hale Center *			
2-13	@ Olton *			
2-17	@ Smyer			

## Lockney Varsity Basketball Round-up

### GIRLS

Date	Opponent	Results	Score	Record (Overall/Dist)
11-11	Childress	L	50-25	0-1
11-15	@ Roscoe Highland	L	69-20	0-2
11-21	@ Claude	L	57-41	0-3
12-2	Roosevelt	L	72-36	0-4
12-4	Haskell	L	46-21	0-5
12-5	Knox City	W	33-27	1-5
12-6	Anson	L	51-24	1-6
12-16	@ Olton *	L	51-30	1-7 / 0-1
12-19	@ Smyer	L	75-24	1-8 / 0-1
1-2	Abernathy *	L	89-31	1-9 / 0-2
1-6	@ New Deal *	L	59-35	1-10 / 0-3
1-9	Floydada *	L	47-43	1-11 / 0-4
1-13	@ Ralls *	W	33-26	2-11 / 1-4
1-16	Hale Center *	L	51-28	2-12 / 1-5
1-20	Olton *	L	84-32	2-13 / 1-6
1-23	Smyer	L	70-20	2-14 / 1-6
1-27	@ Abernathy *	L	84-32	2-15 / 1-7
1-30	New Deal *	L	51-27	2-17 / 1-8
2-3	@ Floydada *			
2-6	Ralls *			
2-10	@ Hale Center *			

Coaches: Please email any missing scores or new scores to: fchblockney@yahoo.com



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# AGRICULTURE

## Ornamental, turfgrass conference set Feb. 27 in Amarillo

By Kay Ledbetter

AMARILLO – The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's annual Ornamental and Turf Conference will be held Feb. 27 at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 6500 W. Amarillo Blvd. in Amarillo.

"This conference is designed for those involved with caring and maintaining the landscape around buildings, schools and other public structures and grounds," said Nathan Carr, AgriLife Extension agriculture and natural resources agent for Potter County.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. with the program from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration is \$10 per person. Program

participants are requested to RSVP by contacting the AgriLife Extension office of Potter County at 806-373-0713 by Feb. 25.

Five Texas Department of Agriculture private applicator continuing education units will be offered – one general, two integrated pest management, one drift and one laws and regulations.

Topics will include:  
 - Insect ID: Good bugs, bad bugs and when to control insects and how to manage or control the applications – Blaine Reed, AgriLife Extension integrated pest management agent in Swisher County.  
 - Management of trees in

an urban landscape and urban pests – Vikram Baliga, AgriLife Extension horticultural agent in Lubbock County.

- Lawn and garden weed identification and management methods – Dr. Russ Wallace, AgriLife Extension vegetable specialist, Lubbock.

- Control, safety and management of rodents, such as prairie dogs and gophers – Jim Knuth, Liphatech representative, Council Bluff, Iowa.

- Laws and regulations: the importance of management of record keeping – Levon Harmon, Texas Department of Agriculture retiree.

For more information, contact Carr at 806-373-0713 or [ncarr@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:ncarr@ag.tamu.edu).

## Assignment: Texas The Quail Question

Two weeks ago, I was walking with a trio of orange clad hunters through the dried tan grass and mesquite flats of West Texas near Coahoma. In front of us was a pair of English Pointer bird dogs zigzagging in and out of the tall grass and tangled brush.

"Watch her," said Rick

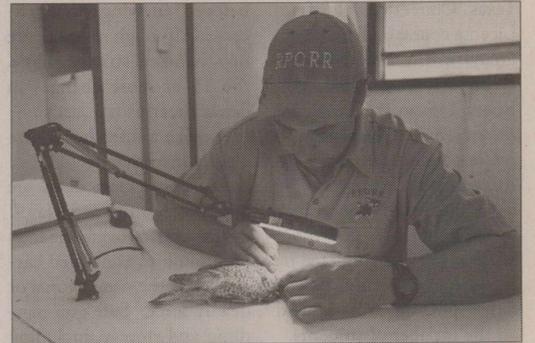
Snipes, board member for the Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch near Roby. "She's birdy."

The dogs work the grass and lock in on an invisible scent stream and abruptly stop. They are on point.

While one dog stands rigid in the grass, her head low and tail pointed to the heavens, the other dog takes notice and "honors" the point and stops her hunt to defer to the first dog.

Rick, fellow board member Joe Crafton, and ranch director and chief researcher Dr. Dale Rollins ease up towards the dogs and abruptly, 20 or so bobwhite quail explode from the grass and head in random directions. Quail flush like that to avoid predation.

While the dogs run around and try to reestablish a point I can see the satisfaction in the eyes of the hunters. That makes the



tenth covey we've flushed this afternoon.

Over the past few years, quail hunting has been tough as the birds are slowly disappearing from the ranges where, historically, they once thrived. Each year biologists from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department run their annual quail census counts along randomly selected 20-mile stretches of roads in the Texas Rolling Plains. While the numbers fluctuate from year to year based on primarily rainfall and nesting conditions – the trend lines are clear. Quail are disappearing and no one know for sure why.

The trio I am with, however, are committed to unlocking the mystery as they are three of the principal players in a ranch that is committed solely to quail research. Purchased in 2006, the 4,700 acre ranch is a laboratory in which answers to the most vexing quail questions are sought. Population dynamics, predation, land use and

habitat influence are just a few of the many questions that studied at the ranch.

Of late, however, it seems a parasite has caught the attention of researchers. Could the eyeworm be responsible for the quail's demise? It is too early to tell but Dr. Rollins and his team are earnestly looking into the question. By collecting sample birds from hunters, they've been working for the past couple of years to establish the eye worm a the smoking gun that when abated, will stem the tide of the quail decline.

They recognize the job ahead of them is a big one but are committed to the cause. The site of quail flushing gets the heart racing and the team at the helm of the Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch is committed to seeing that future generations can experience the same thrill.

For more information about the ranch and the work they are undertaking, check out [www.quailresearch.org](http://www.quailresearch.org)

## Rain, snow, help soil moisture in some areas

By Mary Jane Buerkle

A small amount of harvesting and ginning activity continues on the Texas High Plains, and although it's not typical for cotton to still be in the field in this area while South Texas farmers are preparing to plant their 2015 crop, it's tough to complain too much about harvest delays from what so far has been a fairly wet winter.

Many producers are reporting good soil moisture at this point, and all West Texas Mesonet stations have

recorded some precipitation during the month of January, with more in this week's forecast for the region. Some areas south of Lubbock received more than two inches in January. However, the United States Drought Monitor shows that most of the PCG service area still is in some stage of drought, ranging from abnormally dry to exceptional in some areas north of Lubbock and in north-central Texas and southwestern Oklahoma.

Some gins have completed

operations for the 2014 crop, while others are waiting on the last few modules to be brought in. Cotton classing activity has slowed, with the Lubbock office processing 74,852 samples over the past week compared to more than 300,000 during peak weeks in December.

At press time, October and December futures were at around 62 cents, but the Thursday close was the highest since January 13. Net upland sales hit a marketing-year high this week, and shipment levels showed some strength.

## "Full Speed Ahead" is the theme of Texas Cotton Ginners Association Trade show in April

The Texas Cotton Ginners Association's 108th Annual Meeting and Cotton Trade Show is scheduled for April 9 and 10 at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center.

The trade show will be open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 9, and from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday, April 10. The show is a chance for ginners, employees, and customers to see the latest in ginning technology and to meet others in the industry to discuss important issues and the latest trends. It also is an opportunity for attendees to educate company directors, stockholders, and other key personnel on the role ginners play in the industry.

More information, including a complete schedule of events, hotel reservation form, meeting pre-registration and event forms is available on the TCGA website at <http://www.tcga.org>.

**COWPOKES®** By Ace Reid

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# The 501 Beware of scammers, period

Scammer grammar. If you can't deal with it, don't try to sell anything on Craigslist, the great cyberspace garage sale.

Craigslist warns sellers about offers from afar:

"Please be wary of distant 'buyers' responding to your ad! Many sellers receive replies from scammers hoping to defraud them ..."

Wire transfers and cashier's checks are typical tools of the scammers' craft, per the Craigslist warning. Craigslist would do just as well to warn sellers about distant responses written in run-on sentences.

I advertised two cars for sale. Three out-of-state text messages arrived – all in flawed English.

I told the guy with the Missouri area code he needed a semicolon in his first sentence. He apologized for his bad "grammar."

For whatever reason, he feigned interest in my lower-priced high-mileage car. He described himself as a contractor for an engineering firm.

In case he wasn't a scammer, I gave him free advice. I told him to buy an old car closer to home and to watch out for worn-out suspension components (I've got another car for sale that needs shocks) and cars due timing belt replacements (not my cars).

So why would he want my \$5,000 car instead of my \$14,500 car? Maybe he's an entry-level scammer who lacks the confidence to go for the bigger pay-offs? Come to think of it, the money involved hardly matters. All the scammers want at any

price is my Social Security number and other identity info. Right?

As for Amanda in California, I gave her advice too. I told her to scam someone else.

As for Mary Lewis in Batesville, Mississippi, I suspect she's dead. Her address corresponds street-wise to the cemetery. The area code for the text was for Northeast Ohio. Is that where people in Mississippi go when they die? We digress. Despite my doubts and my theological position concerning conversations with the dead, I chatted with "Mary," answering both her questions:

"whats the present condition, are you the first owner?"

OK. To be honest, I was almost taken in. After all, I'd just spent hours placing ads here and there, including one in the newspaper classifieds. I was ripe to be scammed.

But when I read Mary's canned response, which referred to my car as "the Merchandise," I smelled a rat.

"Let me get back to you shortly," I said. "Aren't you close to Pope?"

Anybody from Batesville would know Pope is just 12 miles away and should be impressed I know that.

Mary simply said "okay." As things stand now, she's still waiting for me to get back to her shortly. Ha.

Meanwhile, I'm torn between two courses of action:

(1) Help scammers improve their grammar so they can get real jobs.

(2) Set up scams to catch scammers. If scammers learn more about periods, they might go on to greater things – from Craigslist to Wall Street, from identity theft to Ponzi schemes. Not good.

That leaves only the second choice.

I just have to be smarter than the scammers. Hmmm.

# Cotton Market Weekly

Export sales of U.S. cotton reached a marketing year high for the third consecutive week, according to the latest report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The department reported net upland sales of 546,200 bales in the week ended Jan. 22, up 16 percent from the previous week and 90 percent from the four-week average. China was the top buyer with purchases of 177,700 bales followed closely by Vietnam at 174,800 bales. Indonesia, Turkey and Mexico rounded out the top 5 customers for the week. Export shipments for the latest reporting period totaled 274,800 bales, also a marketing year high, up 22 percent from the previous week and 33 percent from the four-week average. The primary destinations were China, Turkey, Vietnam, and Indonesia.

Export sales now stand at approximately 95 percent of USDA's latest projection and are 10 percent ahead of last year's pace at this time. After allowing for an average five-year carryover, weekly sales now need to average approximately 59,000 bales to reach USDA's estimate of 10 million bales, according to one market analyst. Likewise, weekly shipments need to average 237,000 bales for the remainder of the season, the analyst noted. The recent brisk sales are raising speculation among traders

and analysts that USDA may increase its estimate of U.S. exports when the next monthly supply and demand reports are released. Nevertheless, reaction to the sales volume has received a mostly muted response in the futures market. However, contracts had posted gains for four consecutive sessions through Thursday at the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) in New York.

This week began on a positive note as nearby contracts closed with triple-digit gains Monday at ICE. March cotton settled 132 points higher at 58.62 cents per pound, and May settled 125 points higher at 59.45 cents. December settled at 62.42 cents, up 92 points. March's settlement was the largest one-day gain for the contract since August 2014, according to one observer.

The market seemed to pause and catch its breath Tuesday as cotton futures posted only meager gains. March settled at 58.78 cents, up 16 points, May was up 9 points at 59.54, and December cotton settled 5 points higher at 62.47 cents per pound despite weakness in soybeans and grains along with disappointing economic news that mostly affected the equity markets.

Cotton futures overcame early selling pressure Wednesday and closed with moderate gains across the

board. March settled at 59.44 cents, up 66 points, May was 69 points higher at 60.23 cents, and December cotton settled at 62.99, up 52 points. Once again, other commodities were moving in the opposite direction.

Futures opened lower Thursday, but the early pressure quickly faded following the release of USDA's strong weekly export sales and shipment report. March cotton stalled at 59.78 cents during the ICE session and settled at 59.57 cents per pound, up 13 points. May settled 12 points higher at 60.35, and December was 14 points higher at 63.13 cents per pound.

This week's strength in the futures market seemed to spur grower selling. For the week ended Jan. 29, producers sold 139,803 bales online, up dramatically from the previous week when 41,478 bales were sold. The average price received by producers ranged from 52 to 55 cents per pound compared to 51 to 55 cents the previous week.

Meanwhile, India finally began selling cotton from its stockpile this week, although the volume was a meager 5,100 bales Tuesday. One report indicated the country is trying to make room for an estimated five million bales it will purchase from the current crop. India is the world's second largest cotton producer.

# A new way to get your Replacement SSA-1009 Online

By Jose M Olivero  
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Oklahoma City

may need is your Social Security Benefit Statement, SSA-1099/1042S.

Social Security mails these forms to all beneficiaries on or before January 31. When February 2 arrives, if you have not received yours—or if you cannot find the one that was mailed to you—there's a new way to get instant access to a

printable SSA-1099/1042S to help you complete your tax return: with an online my Social Security account.

You will need to pay federal taxes on some of your benefits if your total income, including Social Security and all of your other taxable income, is \$25,000 or more, and you file federal taxes as an individual.

Married couples filing joint returns need to pay federal taxes on income of \$32,000 or more.

If you didn't receive the SSA-1099/1042S for tax year 2014 by January 31, 2015, or if you misplaced yours, don't fret. You can get an instant replacement

SSA-1099/1042S by going

online to my Social Security at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount) and selecting "Replacement Documents." You can view, print, and save the forms immediately!

If you don't already have a Social Security account, opening one is quick, safe and easy. It only takes a few minutes. In addition to getting an in-

stant replacement SSA-1099/1042S, you can get a benefit verification letter, change your address, telephone number, start or change direct deposit information, and get your Social Security earnings record from the convenience of your home. Simply go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

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# Five things to know about signing up for health care coverage

**By Bob Moos**

Southwest public affairs officer for the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

If you don't have health insurance through your job or a government program like Medicare or Medicaid, you'll want to read on. You have until Feb. 15 to shop for health care coverage for 2015 through the federal health insurance marketplace or your state's exchange.

The marketplace's open enrollment period got off to a strong start in mid-November, with tens of thousands of people now signing up every day. Here are five things to know about it:

**This is comprehensive health insurance, with benefits similar to what many employers offer their workers.**

Insurance protects you from unexpected medical expenses. With it, you'll have peace of mind. Without it, you'd bear the full brunt of any bills. Fixing a broken leg can cost you up to \$7,500. A three-day stay in the hospital runs, on average, \$30,000.

The health plans sold through the marketplace cover a broad range of medical services, including emergency care, hospital stays, doctor visits and prescription drugs.

Insurers can't deny you coverage, or charge you higher premiums, because you have a pre-existing medical condition such as diabetes or high blood pressure. The price you pay for insurance is based only on where you live, how old you are and whether you smoke.

**Even if you signed up during the marketplace's first enrollment period a year ago, you'll want to update your personal information and shop around again to make sure you get the best deal.**

It's true that you'll be automatically re-enrolled in your current health plan if you do nothing. But you could end up cheating yourself. The plan that was your best choice for 2014 may not be for 2015. It may be changing its benefits, its cost sharing or its network of hospitals and doctors.

You also may have more choices. Nationally, there are 25 percent more health plans than last year. The increased competition among insurers is reining in prices in many cases. If you don't compare all your options for 2015, you could miss out on a plan that would save you money.

It's also important to review your application from last year and update any personal information that's changed. If you've had a drop in income, for example, that could boost any financial help you're receiving for your premiums or out-of-pocket costs.

**Look beyond the monthly premiums in comparing health plans.**

Some plans have lower premiums but charge you more out-of-pocket when you require care. Other plans charge higher premiums but cover more of your medical expenses. You'll need to decide how you want to balance your premium costs with your out-of-pocket costs.

The easiest way to compare health plans available in your area, along with their estimated cost, is to use healthcare.gov's new "window-shopping" feature. Even before completing an application, you can browse plans by entering your ZIP code, household income and family size.

**Check whether you qualify for financial assistance.**

About 85 percent of the people who enrolled in a marketplace plan a year ago received tax credits that made their premiums more affordable. Nearly seven in 10 consumers who qualified for help paid \$100 or less per month for their coverage. Almost half got covered for \$50 or less per month.

If you're new to the marketplace this year, you can find out whether you're eligible for a tax credit by visiting healthcare.gov and creating an application with your most up-to-date income information. This year's application has been shortened and simplified for most people.

**Ask for help in enrolling if you need it.**

The healthcare.gov website is running much more smoothly this year. But if you're not computer-savvy, don't fret. Call the marketplace assistance center at 1-800-318-2596 and speak with a trained counselor. Local organizations are also available to help. For a list of groups in your community that can provide in-person assistance, visit localhelp.healthcare.gov/

The deadline for enrolling in a health plan is Feb. 15. Coverage begins on Jan. 1 for those who sign up by Dec. 15. Don't delay. Once this open enrollment period is over, your next chance to buy insurance and apply for help may not come for another year.

# You're old enough to qualify for Medicare. Now what?

**By Bob Moos**

Southwest public affairs officer for the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

The day you thought would never come is almost here. Your 65th birthday approaches. Wasn't it just yesterday you were listening to your transistor radio and wondering what to do with your life?

But this is no time for reminiscing. For the moment, you need to focus on your future. In particular, you need to think about your health care and how you'll pay for it.

You're probably aware that you qualify for Medicare at 65. But, to be honest, you have lots of questions about how it works, right? Let's start by going over 10 essential facts about Medicare.

If you don't already get Social Security, you'll have to apply for Medicare benefits. You can sign up from about three months before you turn 65 until about three months afterward. Social Security will help you enroll — including online, if you'd like. Visit socialsecurity.gov or call 1-800-772-1213.

Meet your enrollment deadline or pay a penalty. Sign up at 65 if you don't have insurance from your or your spouse's current employer. After 65, you should enroll within eight months of quitting work. Otherwise, you could be penalized in the form of permanently higher premiums when you do sign up.

Medicare isn't free; it comes with costs. Like other insurance, you pay premiums each month and then a deductible, plus co-payments or co-insurance, when you receive care. You may be able to avoid some of those costs if you qualify for a low-income program or purchase supplemental insurance.

Medicare doesn't cover everything. There are some services Medicare won't help pay for, such as routine dental or eye care, dentures and hearing aids. Also, some people mistakenly believe that Medicare covers long-term custodial care in a nursing home or assisted-living center. It doesn't.

Poor health won't affect your Medicare coverage. You can't be denied health care coverage or charged higher premiums because of a current or previous health condition. If you're eligible for Medicare, you receive full benefits regardless of any medical problems — and at the same cost as everyone else.

You may qualify for help with your drug expenses. If you're on a tight budget, you may get help paying for the premiums, deductible and co-payments in your Medicare drug plan. Visit socialsecurity.gov or call 1-800-772-1213. Also, ask whether you qualify for help with other Medicare costs.

You can buy private insurance to bolster your Medicare coverage. Because Medicare usually pays for most, but not all, of your health care costs, you may want to shop for addition-

al coverage sold by private insurers. You can join a Medicare Advantage plan or buy supplemental "Medigap" coverage.

Higher-income Americans pay higher Medicare premiums. Most people with Medicare pay \$104.90 per month for their Part B medical insurance, but individuals with annual incomes higher than \$85,000 (and married couples with yearly incomes above \$170,000) will pay a surcharge on top of that amount.

Medicare is emphasizing preventive care. Medicare now covers a number of screenings and preventive services, like mammograms and colonoscopies, at no cost to you. You're also entitled to a "Welcome to Medicare" preventive visit your first year and an annual wellness visit after that — again, at no cost.

You have a right to appeal. If you disagree with a coverage or payment decision made by Medicare or a Medicare health plan, you can file an appeal. If you think your health may be hurt by waiting for a ruling, you can ask for a fast decision. To learn more about the process, visit medicare.gov/appeals.

All 10 of these essential facts about Medicare are described in more detail in the "Medicare and You 2105" handbook. You can download a free copy at medicare.gov or request one by calling 1-800-633-4227.

And, by the way, happy 65th!

# Pet Talk

The first school for Seeing Eye Dogs was opened on Jan. 29, 1929 in Nashville, Tenn. Following a short-lived program in Germany after World War I, this guide school trained dogs to assist those in need, and since then has influenced programs all over the world, including the Texas A&M's Aggie Guide Dogs and Service Dogs (AGS).

Today, service dogs are exposed to very thorough and extensive training, and their duties can extend much farther than assisting only the blind.

"When people see a service dog in a vest, they automatically think it's a guide dog. When in reality, a huge percentage of service dogs assist people with all sorts of other medical, physical and emotional things," said Dr. Alice Blue-McLendon, faculty advisor for AGS and Clinical Assistant Professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

Some examples include mobile assistance dogs, which help people who have trouble getting around due to cere-

bral palsy, severe arthritis, or other conditions, and hearing dogs, which help the hearing impaired by responding to sound with a certain behavior. For instance, when they hear a knock at the front door, they might be taught to go sit in front of the person to alert them.

"Mobility assistance dogs can even be trained to do things such as push an elevator button, open and close doors, and even pick up car keys and credit cards off of the ground," said Dr. Blue-McLendon.

Another type of service dogs that have recently become popular are PTSD dogs, or "emotional support." These animals are taught a wide variety of skills to assist people suffering from post-traumatic stress disorders, and are often aids to veterans.

As you can imagine, these service dogs must go through vigorous training in order to learn and perfect the necessary skills to help their owner. For AGS, Dr. Blue-McLendon explains that there are two stages of training the dogs must complete.

"They usually don't start formal training, or 'Stage 2' training, until they're about a year and a half years old," said Dr. Blue-McLendon. "Dur-

ing formal training, they're matched with a partner that's a good fit for the dog's ability and personality. This stage can take anywhere from 3-6 months, and they will still need continual training and skill reminders for the remainder of their lives."

Before they enter stage 2, the puppies must earn "jacket privileges," which are achieved through the different stages in their training. "Some of the first-jacket privileges are going to classes and retail stores, and the last one they achieve is going to restaurants," said Dr. Blue-McLendon.

As animal lovers, it is very tempting to go up and pet a service dog when they are nearby. However, it's important to remember that service dogs are not pets, and approaching them may distract from performing their important tasks. If you want to learn more about the dog, politely approach its owner, who can then give you further direction.

Pet Talk is a service of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University. Stories can be viewed online at vetmed.tamu.edu/pet-talk. Suggestions for future topics may be directed to editor@cvm.tamu.edu.



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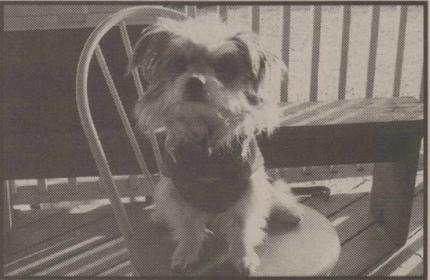
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## MISSING



Maxine Strickland's 1-year old puppy has been missing about 2 weeks. Missing from the Lockney area.

I know the puppy would love to come home as much as we would love for it to.

If you have seen this puppy or know where he might be please call:

**Bill — 806-292-1687 or Maxine — 806-292-4152**

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## Floyd County Church Directory

### AIKEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Dennis Butler, Pastor  
Morning Worship .. 11:00 a.m.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

810 S. 3rd, Floydada  
Darwin Robinson, Pastor  
983-5278  
Sunday School ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship ... 10:50 a.m.  
Evening Worship ... 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday ..... 7:00 p.m.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### CALVARY'S CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP

Floydada  
Armando Morales, Pastor  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship .. 11:00 a.m.  
Bible Study ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### CARR'S CHAPEL

Service Every Sunday:  
Morning Worship .... 9:00 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 .... 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Study ..... 7:00 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 ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Study ..... 6:30 p.m.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Lockney

Jonathan Sullivan, Pastor  
Chad Cook, Youth Min.  
Phil Cotham, Music Min.  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship .... 10:45 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday ..... 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday (Youth) .. 7:15 p.m.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Floydada  
Rev. Ken Peterson, Pastor  
Morning Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School ..... 10:50 a.m.  
Youth (Sunday) ..... 5:00 p.m.  
Youth (Wednesday) .. 6:30 p.m.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Lockney  
Rev. Ricky Carstensen, Pastor  
Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service ..... 10:30 a.m.  
Evening Service ..... 6:00 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 ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship ... 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Service ..... 7:30 p.m.  
Tuesday ..... 8:00 p.m.  
Wed. Service ..... 7:30 p.m.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### MAIN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lockney  
Beau A. Hart, 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 Askew  
401 N 12th St (983-5805)  
Sunday School ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship .. 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship ... 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Study ... 6:00 p.m.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### NEW SALEM PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Floydada  
Pastor Elder Ronnie Hedges  
(806) 637-0430  
Sunday Singing ..... 10:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship ... 11:00 a.m.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### OUT REACH HARVEST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

310 E. Mississippi  
Floydada  
Rev. David Ramos, Pastor  
Ester Ramos, Praise Leader  
Sunday Bible... 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Praise... 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Praise ... 5:00 p.m.  
Wed. Worship.... 7:00 p.m.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### PROSPERITY BANK

Member FDIC  
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### POWER OF PRAISE FULL GOSPEL CHURCH

Rev. Manuel Rendon, Pastor  
704 N. Main, Lockney  
Sunday Services..... 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening ..... 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday ..... 7:30 p.m.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA

Lockney  
Jesus Caballero, Pastor  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service .... 11:00 a.m.  
Discipleship ..... 5:00 p.m.  
Wed. Service ..... 7:00 p.m.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA

Floydada  
Rev. Toby Gonzales  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship .. 10:40 a.m.  
Evening Worship ... 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Evening ..... 7:00 p.m.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### SAN JOSE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Lockney  
Rev. Patrick Maher  
Wed. Communion... 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday Mass ..... 11:30 a.m.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### SOUTH PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH

Joe Weldon, Pastor  
Sunday School ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship ... 11:00 a.m.  
Prayer Meeting ..... 7:00 p.m.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### TEMPO GETSEMANI ASSEMBLY OF GOD

701 W. Missouri  
Joe M. Hernandez  
983-5286 (church)  
..... Sunday School .....  
English..... 9:45 a.m.  
Spanish ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Spanish Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.  
English Worship..... 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Service ..... 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday ..... 7:00 p.m.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### ST. MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Floydada  
Rev. Ike Temporaza  
Phone: 983-5878  
Sunday Mass ..... 11:30 a.m.  
Mon. Wed. Mass ..... 6:30 p.m.  
Confession Sat. .... 10-11 a.m.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### TEMPO SALEM SALEM LOCKNEY

Rev. Joe Hernandez  
Sun. Prayer Service 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 p.m.  
Worship Service .... 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship ... 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Meeting ..... 7:00 p.m.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### TEMPO BETHEL SPANISH ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Washington and 1st St.  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship .. 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship ... 5:00 p.m.  
Wed. Service ..... 7:00 p.m.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### TEMPO NUEVA VIDA

Rev. Herman Martinez  
308 W. Tennessee, Floydada  
Sunday School ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 5:00 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 ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship ... 10:40 a.m.  
Sunday Evening ..... 6:00 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 .... 11:00 a.m.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### WEST SIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Floydada  
983-2672 or 470-0950  
Sunday Worship ... 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Evening ..... 2:00 p.m.

**If you would like to be a sponsor on the church page, call the Hesperian-Beacon at 888-400-1083**

**RAIN**

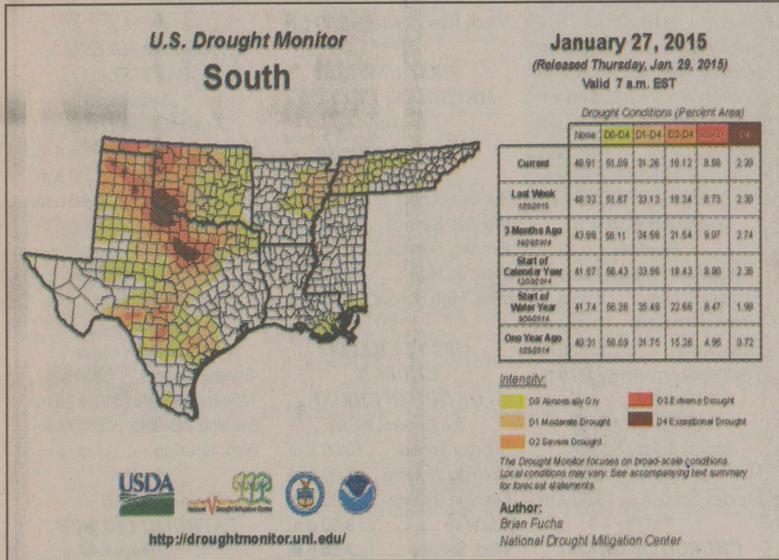
From Page 1

goes deep, it puts some in reserve for the roots to reach later on in the year."

The NWS 30 day forecast expects normal tem-

peratures and normal precipitation through February. The NWS also projects that the drought will intensify in northern areas

of the South Plains, particularly areas north and west of the Brazos River but remain unchanged in southern areas.



Forecasts are for drought conditions to continue throughout the Panhandle/South Plains Region. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Floyd County remains in the moderate to severe drought area.

**Upcoming area ag conferences, farm bill meetings**

February 6 – Cotton Conference, Hereford. Contact Rick Auckerman, CEA-AG, (806) 364-3573.

February 6 – Farm Bill Meeting, 9 a.m.–noon, Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center, Lubbock.

February 9 – Farm Bill Meeting, 9 a.m.–noon, County Extension Office, 200 W. Taylor, Morton.

February 11 – Corn Meeting, Perryton. Contact Scott Strawn, CEA-AG, (806) 435-4501.

February 20 – Wheat Management Options, Lipscomb. Contact J.R. Sprague, CEA-AG, (806) 862-4601.

February 25 – Sandyland Ag Conference, Seminole. Contact Terry Millican, CEA-AG, (432) 758-4006.

February 27 – Ornamental and Turf Conference, 9 a.m., Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Amarillo Blvd., Amarillo. Contact Nathan Carr, CEA-AG, (806) 373-0713.

February 27 – Other than Cotton Meeting, Lamesa. Contact Gary Roschetzky, CEA-AG, (806) 872-3444.

March 4 – Gray County Ag Conference, Pampa. Contact Brandon McGinty,

CEA-AG, (806) 669-8033.

March 5 – Sorghum Production Meeting, Morse. Contact Kristy Slough, CEA-AG, (806) 878-4026.

March 6 – Beef and Range Meeting, Lipscomb. Contact J.R. Sprague, CEA-AG, (806) 862-4601.

March 6 – Cover Crops Seminar, Lubbock. Contact Mark Brown, CEA-AG, (806) 775-1680.

March 11 – Pest Control Meeting, Castro County. Contact Nancy Andersen, CEA-AG, (806) 647-4115.

March 24 – Sorghum Meeting, Perryton. Contact Scott Strawn, CEA-AG, (806) 435-4501.

March 25 – Oldham County Field Day, Vega. Contact Austin Voyles, CEA-AG, (806) 267-2692.

March 30 – Pre-Plant Meeting, Lamesa. Contact Gary Roschetzky, CEA-AG, (806) 872-3444.

March 31 – Beef Cattle Nutrition Series, Wheeler. Contact Dale Dunlap, CEA-AG, (806) 826-5243.

A complete list of meetings is at <http://bit.ly/cottonmeetings>.

**SW Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle fishing report**

**Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department**

Tom Steed: Elevation below normal, water 45. Blue and channel catfish are slow on cut bait and shad on bottom along flats.

Alan Henry: Water stained; 42–46 degrees; 9.56 ft. low. Black bass are fair on jigs and shakyheads. No report on crappie. Catfish are fair on chartreuse (use Worm-Glo) nightcrawlers.

Arrowhead: Water off color; 41–45 degrees; 19.53 ft. low. One ramp open and few anglers have been on the lake.

Brownwood: Water clear; 52–56 degrees; 12.42 ft. low. Black bass are good on chartreuse jigs, crankbaits and watermelon worms in 10 ft.–25 ft. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on Li'l Fishies and

minnows over brush piles in 10 ft.–25 ft. Channel catfish are good on stinkbait, minnows and frozen shrimp in 10 ft.–20 ft. Yellow catfish are slow.

Coleman: Water clear; 56–60 degrees; 19.22 ft. low. Black bass are fair on watermelon and dark red soft plastics, Rat-L-Traps, and crankbaits. Hybrid striper are fair on chartreuse striper jigs. Crappie are good on minnows and white tube jigs. Channel catfish are slow. Yellow catfish are slow.

Ft. Phantom Hill: Water clear; 42–45 degrees; 17.42 ft. low. Black bass are fair on jigs and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair on live minnows. Catfish are fair on cut bait.

Hubbard Creek: Water off color; 42–46 degrees; 29.89 ft. low. Black bass are fair on jigs, Texas rigs and drop shot rigs. Crappie are fair on live minnows. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and cut bait.

O.H. Ivie: Water stained; 42–46 degrees; 43.43 ft. low.

Black bass are fair on jigs, Texas rigs and drop shot rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows. Catfish are fair on live bait.

Oak Creek: Water stained; 41–45 degrees; 25.52 ft. low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, drop shot rigs and jigs. Crappie are fair on live minnows. Catfish are fair on chartreuse (use Worm-Glo) nightcrawlers.

Possum Kingdom: Water fairly clear; 42–47 degrees; 14.63 ft. low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, shakyheads and jigs. Crappie are fair on minnows. White bass are fair on slabs. Striped bass are fair on live shad. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers.

Sweetwater: Water murky; 42–46 degrees; 28.2 ft. low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs and jigs. Crappie are fair on live minnows. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers.

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