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# The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon



THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2013 HESPERIANBEACONONLINE.COM 75 CENTS

## Rain boosts Floyd County cotton crops

By Jennifer Harbin  
 Hesperian-Beacon

After patiently waiting for moisture, Floyd County received much needed rain over the past two weeks, giving local farmers' crops a boost.

According to Floyd County Ag and Natural Resource Extension Agent Ethan Fortenberry, any moisture that Floyd County gets in the form of rain helps and the more received the better. He also stated that we are halfway through the third year of a severe drought.

"As helpful as it has been, we're still in a severe drought. Unless we get a lot more rain we're not going to come out of it," said

Fortenberry.

The hail that the county received over the last few weeks has completely ruined the crops and the farmers had to replant their crops in some places. Another minor issue that comes with the rain is that there has been some crust developing after the rain. Fortenberry said that "farmers had to go back with tillage equipment to break the crust, allowing water infiltration, hopefully for the next rain." And also in places where there is late planted and replanted cotton, it allows the seedlings to come up through soft ground again.

East of Floydada it didn't rain as much,



Courtesy Photo

A cotton crop half a mile west of Lockney belonging to Jack Gibson received a much needed boost with the recent rains that fell on Floyd County. Crops are doing much better overall and if the rain continues, dry land might have a decent chance.

See **CROPS**, Page 7

## Tax abatement proposal approved for Wake Wind project

By Jennifer Harbin  
 Hesperian-Beacon

In a special meeting held on June 24, Commissioners' Court met to discuss the Wake Wind LLC tax abatement proposal. On hand was attorney Alan Carmichael to speak to the court. He had reviewed what the commissioners wanted the proposal to require of Wake Wind LLC and informed the court that he negotiated an agreement that includes all of the things they asked for and more.

Among the requirements, Wake Wind LLC must install a minimum of 20 megawatts. Carmichael explained that the bulk of the protections state that the contractors will have to provide at least three new jobs to Floyd county residents, all dealings will be in local goods and services whenever possible (if it's 105% the cost of what can be bought out of county, they must buy in-county), and on May 1 of each year they will be required to certify to the Commissioners' Court that they are in compliance. In Section 8C of the agreement the provision states that if they get the abatement, Wake Wind LLC agrees to leave the turbines in place for 20 years. If they remove part of the wind farm at a later date before the abate-

See **PROJECT**, Page 8

## Old Glory



Jennifer Harbin/Hesperian-Beacon

Jerry Oliver and Mark Lanham have taken to the highways carrying the American flag in an effort to get their voices heard and to stand up for the U.S. Constitution. After passing through Lockney and Floydada last week, they are closer to their ultimate goal of reaching Washington D.C.

# Flag escorted across America

By Jennifer Harbin  
 Hesperian-Beacon

It takes courage to fight for the freedom of one's country, and two men, armed with the American flag and a good pair of tennis shoes, took to the highways in honor of those who have fought so bravely and to defend the U.S. Constitution.

Jerry Oliver and Mark Lanham, both veterans of the Vietnam and Gulf Wars respectively, joined forces on a peace walk across the United States in an effort to get Washington D.C.'s attention and made their voice heard.

Oliver served as a foreign diplomat after his service in Vietnam, finally retiring in Temple, Okla., with plans to make a stand for the "changed America" he came home to.

"We walk for freedom because we have a voice, and Washington is now going to hear our voices," Jerry Oliver wrote on

his website. "There is a dismantling of the constitution and if we don't walk then nothing happens. If we do walk, then D.C. must take warning that Americans are tired of being ignored."

Their journey began after Oliver saved money for three years and purchased a "supply wagon", a van decorated with a picture of a waving American flag, U.S. Constitution booklets and patriotic bracelets to pass out along the way. As well as containing extra flags and poles, the supply wagon is equipped with food, water and medical supplies, and serves as a bedroom.

"We wanted to do something. Everyone's on the internet, but we're the only ones in America walking on the highway carrying the American flag," said Oliver.

Sixty-five-year-old Oliver, along with Lanham, a homeless veteran, departed

See **FLAG**, Page 7

## Scholarship



Courtesy Photo

Jianna Davenport of Floydada has won the \$18,000.00 Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. Davenport, a member of the Floyd 4-H, plans to attend Texas Tech University and major in mathematics. She was the Salutatorian of the 2013 Floydada High School graduating class. Jianna is the daughter of Winfield and Patty Davenport of Floydada. More than 65,000 Texas youth are members of 4-H community clubs in the state. The program, part of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, prepares youth to meet the challenges of childhood, adolescence and adulthood, through educational experiences in leadership, citizenship and life skills.

## 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.

### BLOOD DRIVE

The United Blood Services will be holding the Floydada Community Freedom Blood Drive on Thursday, June 27th from 2-7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church Gym. All donors will receive a patriotic t-shirt and be entered in a drawing for an i-Pad. To schedule an appt. call Floydada Chamber of Commerce Manager, Kim Perez or 983-3434 or log onto www.BloodHero.com - Sponsor Code: floydada.

### CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Celebrate Recovery every Monday night in Olton at the First United Methodist Church beginning at 6:30. A meal and childcare will be provided.

### 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.

### FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

A parade will begin at the Main Street Church of Christ in Lockney at 10 a.m. Bring your decorated bicycles, wagons, 4-wheelers or golf carts for a march from the Church of Christ to the Lockney Health and Rehabilitation Center and back. After the parade, punch and cookies will be served.

### FIREWORKS RESTRICTIONS

There are no restrictions in Floyd County when setting off fireworks, but be careful not to start a fire and follow all safety precautions.

## Corrections

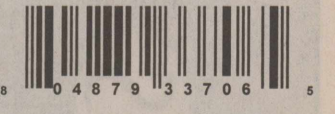
If you spot an error of fact, contact the FCHB office at 806-983-3737 or email: fchb.editor@yahoo.com

## News on the go



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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 806-983-3737 Fax 806-983-3141 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.

**DEADLINES**  
Advertising: Noon Fridays  
Editorial: Noon Mondays

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
\$30 a year in the county  
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**Make sure your child's safety seat measures up.**

Nearly 3 out of 4 kids aren't buckled up correctly. As children grow, their safety seat requirements change. Make sure they're buckled into a safety seat that's the right height, facing the correct direction, and anchored to the vehicle properly. If you don't, you could be fined up to \$200. Learn all the details at BuckleThemRight.org

Save a Life. BuckleThemRight.org

## Deaths

### Milton Clifford "Ham" Evans

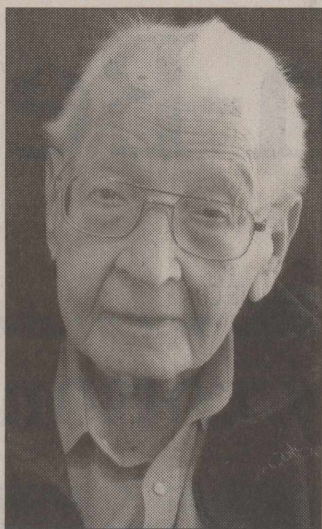
Milton Clifford "Ham" Evans, age 89, passed away, Sunday, June 23, 2013 in Floydada.

Open visitation was held on Tuesday, June 25, 2013 from 6-8 p.m. at Moore Rose Funeral Home.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, June 26, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. at the Moore Rose Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Tim Franks officiating. Interment followed at the Floydada Cemetery.

Milton was born on October 14, 1923 in Swearingen, Texas to Elbert Turner Evans and Mary Evalena (Magee) Evans. He grew up in the Vivian Community near Crowell, Texas, graduating from Crowell High School.

Milton joined the Army and served in WWII in the Philippines. Afterwards he



MILTON EVANS

and his brother, Franklin came to Floyd County and bought a farm in February 1947. Milton married Nina Jo Chessir on May 28, 1950, she passed away in April, 1979. He farmed in Floyd County until retirement.

Milton married Geneile Mullins on December 17, 1986. After retirement he and Geneile drove all over North America enjoying sightseeing and their life together. They spent summers in Ruidoso at their house in the upper canyon. Milton was an avid horse owner, enthusiast, and horse-racing fan.

Survivors include his wife, Geneile Evans of Floydada; a son, Deryl Evans of Floydada; step-daughters, Amy Mullins and Debbie Barnard and husband, Jack; two grandchildren, Mindy Merling and husband, Chad, and Clay Evans and wife, Katrina, and four great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his first wife, Nina Jo Evans, three brothers and four sisters.

## Little Gymnasts



Courtesy Photo

Ms. Sheri's Flying Angels competed in Hale Center at a tumbling meet on April 19th. They all were champions. If you are interested in putting your child in Ms. Sheri's classes please see her at the Lockney Elementary gym on Wednesdays at 3:30. Left to right: Ms. Sheri Fogerson, Jessal Naranjo, Krista Azua, Monique Lara, Michelle Guerrero, Brailey Kidd, Victoria Salazar, Brinley Lefevre, and Haygen Lefevre.

## The 501 DIY Madness

If you're redoing an old bathroom and you have to go under the house to fix the plumbing, don't despair. Call it a tornado drill.

Until our cellar gets dug, under the house is where I'm going if a tornado bears down on our farmstead. Lately I've been through the trap door in the closet enough to get it down to a fine art. It'll take a tornado to get my husband to join me in the spidery netherworld.

Topside, I'm tackling the renovation of a half-bath that looks pretty much like it did when George VI was King of England.

(Only someone who has been under the house a lot would refer to everywhere else as "topside.")

The last person who did any significant work on the little bathroom was my father back when he put it

in. When he spread newspaper on the floor to catch paint drips, King George's picture was in the spread. Daddy told illiterate me the King had just died. I knew about royalty from nursery rhymes and fairy tales, but King George was the real thing! I was surprised I'd not heard of him before. Since we didn't keep newspapers long in our household, my memory likely dates from very



HANABA MUNN WELCH

early February 1952. It makes sense my father would have tackled the project in mid-winter when farm work was less demanding. All he had to do was milk two cows, slop hogs and be sure the chicken water didn't freeze. Mother helped him some. She took skim milk to the hogs. I digress.

As for the bathroom redo, it all started with just a little leak around the commode. One thing led to another. With advice from my husband, I soon found myself removing fixtures, wallpaper, linoleum and the pseudo-tile cardboard Daddy had installed like wainscoting and painted white.

A tiny bathroom is a good starter project for anyone inspired by quickie television renovations and advertisements from pros who promise they can renew your bathroom in one day. Two words come to mind:

Yeah, right.

As for my husband's role in the whole undertaking, an unspoken agreement prevails. I'm the worker. He's the adviser. Nothing happens unless he's off-site, meaning 150 miles away at our city house. And so it was I installed the cement board on the floor upside down. With any luck, the intaglio brand name will be readable through whatever floor covering we install. Oh well.

The beauty of making your own mistakes is that you've got only yourself to blame. I rather like it that way.

If we'd hired the quickie redo company, we might have felt compelled afterward to post our dissatisfaction on the website established for complainers. A burdensome task. (Not that the official website doesn't have glowing comments contradicting all 96 disgruntled customers.)

Ultimately, when you do the redo yourself, you know the significance of a framed and swanned crumbling fragment of pink matt and pink water lily wallpaper. I'm hanging it right next to King George.

## Home Country

By Slim Randles

There were several of us last Saturday out behind the sale barn. We never buy anything. This is just a way to scratch our agricultural itch.

So while others were headed to the sale barn coffee shop, the members of the world dilemma think tank stepped out back, coagulatingly, for some geezer bonding.

Doc looked around, picked up a blade of grass for his teeth, picked up a doodling stick, and turned around slowly while searching for just the right place.

Hunker time.

We stuck grass blades in our teeth, and waited for the philosophy to begin.

Doc went into a kneeling hunker, and we groaned and followed suit. He doodled in the dirt with the stick and we looked and couldn't make heads or tails of it, but then, we're not supposed to. It's just a hunker thing.

"Been thinking," Doc finally said. "I think country folks can really make a contribution to the well-being of life in the United States of America." He waited. We mumbled interest. He continued.

"It's the hunker," he said. "We know how important it is to hunker, as we are now doing, right?" "Right."

"When we hunker, we're focusing on getting

the ideas boiled down to essentials because it's uncomfortable and we don't want to be too long doing it, right?"

"Right."

"So what if Congress was only allowed to consider new laws while in a hunker, but could repeal old, silly laws from the comfort of a chair?"

Steve groaned and said, "You may have something there, Doc."

Doc grinned. "And the other thing is, the older you get, the more your knees hurt in a hunker. This could pare down the consideration time a whole bunch with at least half the members of the Senate, and the only laws they'd pass are the ones we'd really need."

"One thing, Doc," said Herb, going to all fours and then standing up slowly and painfully. "Don't you need some politician to introduce the Hunker Law?"

"I never said the idea was perfect, Herb."

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## Menus

### Floydada Senior Citizens Menu

July 1 - July 5

**Monday** - Baked chicken breast, baked potato w/sour cream, peas, pineapple tidbits, chocolate pudding, low-fat milk

**Tuesday** - Homestyle lasagna, garlic bread, brussel sprouts, pears, low-fat milk

**Wednesday** - Cheeseburger, potato wedges, tomato wedges, salad, melon medley, low-fat milk

**Thursday** - CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY

**Friday** - Beef soft taco, Spanish rice, broccoli, seasoned corn, mandarin oranges w/whipped topping, low-fat milk

### Lockney Senior Menu

**Monday:** Enchiladas

**Tuesday:** Salmon

**Wednesday:** Chicken Fried Steak

**Thursday:** CLOSED

**Friday:** Brisket

## Healthy Recipe of the Week

### Chicken Picatta

Makes: 4 servings  
Active Time: 40 minutes  
Total Time: 40 minutes

#### Ingredients

6 ounces whole-wheat angel hair pasta

1/3 cup all-purpose flour, divided

2 cups reduced-sodium chicken broth

1/2 teaspoon salt, divided

1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

4 chicken cutlets, (3/4-1 pound total), trimmed

3 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided

1 10-ounce package mushrooms, sliced

3 large cloves garlic, minced

1/2 cup white wine

2 tablespoons lemon juice

1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley

2 tablespoons capers, rinsed

2 teaspoons butter

**Preparation**

Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Add pasta and cook until just tender, 4 to 6 minutes or according to package directions. Drain and rinse.

Meanwhile, whisk 5 teaspoons flour and broth in a small bowl until smooth. Place the remaining flour in a shallow

dish. Season chicken with 1/4 teaspoon salt and pepper and dredge both sides in the flour. Heat 2 teaspoons oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add the chicken and cook until browned and no longer pink in the middle, 2 to 3 minutes per side. Transfer to a plate; cover and keep warm.

Heat the remaining 1 teaspoon oil in the pan over medium-high heat. Add mushrooms and cook, stirring, until they release their juices and begin to brown, about 5 minutes. Transfer to a plate. Add garlic and wine to the pan and cook until reduced by half, 1 to 2 minutes. Stir in the reserved broth-flour mixture, lemon juice and the remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt. Bring to a simmer and cook, stirring, until the sauce is thickened, about 5 minutes.

Stir in parsley, capers, butter and the reserved mushrooms. Measure out 1/2 cup of the mushroom sauce. Toss the pasta in the pan with the remaining sauce. Serve the pasta topped with the chicken and the reserved sauce.

#### Nutrition

Per serving: 397 calories; 9 g fat (3 g sat, 3 g mono); 54 mg cholesterol; 45 g carbohydrates; 0 g added sugars; 28 g protein; 5 g fiber; 544 mg sodium; 609 mg potassium.

## Kids Kamp

### 2013

July 25th - 28th  
Plains Baptist Assembly

### \$10

First Baptist Church  
401 S. Main  
Floydada  
(806) 983-3755

Registration deadline July 8th

For kids who have completed  
1st - 6th grades



footprints to follow

# SOCIETY

## Museum Archives From The Floyd County Historical Book "Memories", 1979

### RAILWAY TUNNEL HAS INTRIGUING HISTORY

By Gerry Burton

Rails gleam in a silvery curve through archways etched with light from beyond, then straighten to reach eagerly for oncoming daylight.

A few seconds more and the picturesque country sides bathed in bright sunlight and the dark mouth of the railroad tunnel grows small, disappearing as its counterpart to the north had appeared-around a curve.

The thrill has come and gone in a moment's time, a thrill once part of everyday life for any train passenger, but now known only to road employees of the Fort Worth and Denver Railway Co.

To others, the Quitaque tunnel may be the only operating railroad tunnel in Texas which recently was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. To Charies Gullege, it represents a way of life-his-and he wouldn't have it any other way. His father helped build the South Plains track from Quitaque to Lubbock in 1927-28 and watched a contract crew create a 790-foot tunnel (now down to 582) and another shorter one which has since been day-lighted.

His parents met at the tunnel which was the community gathering place for celebrations and family pictures.

Gullege was born in a section house at Barwise and grew up in another at Edgin, so-named by the railroad but known as Grey Mule to everyone else. "Railroading made my family a living and is making me a living," Gullege, who makes his home in Childress, said.

But, there's a lot more to it when the FW&D roadmaster rides the rails and tells how it was to be a railroader's son when Quitaque country was growing up.

A love of the country around and the railroad life shows with each wave of the hand at a historic landmark or favorite spot, with each tale of life alongside the tracks which was all he knew for 19 years.

All the farmers and their mule teams worked at construction jobs while the line, destined to become one of the most profitable ventures in the system, was being laid. Actual track-laying, his father who was the first section foreman often said, was done by a Chinese work gang. The tunnels were made by two crews boring through from each end with barely enough space for a man to crawl. Calculation was such that the two crews came within bare inches of each other. Then the area was dug out to proper proportions for a train's passage. The tunnel area curves as naturally as the creek winding around the hill through which it goes.

A curve leads to the tunnel, a curve accents the dramatic ride inside and a third curve leads to a deep cut which once was a second tunnel.

There are easier routes for rails from Quitaque to Lubbock, Gullege noted. The one twisting through spring fed valleys and across trickling streams was chosen, he believes, as an excursion route to empty settlers.

Grey Mule, once with a store and school as well as homes, now is marked only by a lone windmill and crumbling foundations hidden in a covering of mesquite brush.

There were other settlements of section houses along the route, accessible only by the tracks which furnished livelihood and a way to entertain-

ment. Wild plum thickets drew families for annual picking parties to furnish jelly for the year. A ways up one little creek from the tracks was an apple orchard which puzzled all but didn't daunt appreciation of its harvest.

Regularly, there were the dances, many happening in the Gullege section house. "We'd already be in bed and there'd be 30 or 40 people in the front room moving out the furniture, getting ready for a dance. They had their own musicians."

For a boy, there was the whole outdoors for fishing, hunting, camping and just roaming. By trailing up Los Linguish Creek, he could find the fabulous dark canyon with very high walls and barley room to crawl through.

Any overnight camp site had a trickling stream and tall trees for comfort when the coyotes howled nearby. Snakes had to look out for themselves in the path of adventuring boydom. Some days he rode the track car with his father, dropped off at the big fishing hole where blue bass abounded, then hopped aboard to go home with his catch that night. The fishing hole, once 10 feet deep is dried up now as is the deep swimming hole just below a tumbling waterfall. The fall now trickles picturesquely, but the fishing hole fell victim to a stock-tank further up the creek.

A metal pipe his father drove into the side of the right-of-way to guide a spring for a gushing water supply for track workers now is only a gentle flow like a lazy windmill drain. Springs on the right-of-way caused early track problems like a "doublefall" which happened before railroaders discovered three underground springs which ate away the ground and caused cars and supporting rails to sink.

Rain was another threat, handled by a special rain gauge which spilled over to trip an alarm in faraway offices. "They'd call my father and tell him there'd been heavy rain by a certain milepost, and he's go look at the track. Sometimes. He went ahead of a train to check for washouts. "Progress of trains through the uninhabited region was checked by use of whang doodles located at regular intervals, setting off a whanging sound in the office as wheels went over them. The trains brought the only ice in the country, dropping off 200 pound blocks as the train went by. "I didn't want to be anywhere in the country when the ice came bouncing down the tracks. Sometimes it rolled half a mile.

As long as Gullege can remember, he took care of the cows, hogs and chickens before he was free to roam the

country-side.

His first job-with pay in his father's name because he was too young to be hired-was to "fire up the old hot head diesel engine to pump water into the water tanks." He would take a torch and heat the plunger and the engine fired off its own heat. Then he had to be handy to oil the bearings every four hours.

"Sometimes I'd get the tanks full and have plans for the weekend. Then, they'd run a double-header and drain it dry." Many times his plans included going over to the gravel company town "where all the girl population in the country was."

The company, which had about four dozen company houses for employees, was located on a spur a few miles from the tunnel on the Quitaque side. The company flourished during the 1930s and 1940s, shipping gravel all over Texas and neighboring states.

The tunnel continued to be the biggest spot for school outings-for Lubbock and Plainview as well as other smaller communities-as long as "the Doodlebug" carried passengers. Passenger service is now only a memory, like the life Gullege once knew along the tracks. Cottonwood trees his father set out now are bare logs along the way, and a terrace-like mound of dirt through a plowed field is the only sign of a spur to the gravel loading towers still rising above the land around to tease the curious mind.

Only the cement foundations are left of the water towers Gullege kept filled for thirsty trains making the run from and to Lubbock.

The Fort Worth and Denver South Plains Railway Co. was chartered on March 6, 1927, with the main route finished in 1928 with branches from Plainview to Dimmitt and from Sterley to Silverton.

"The 204-mile triple-pronged stretch into the South Plains embraces some of the most scenic country in Texas," a company history notes. It opened for business Nov. 20, 1928, with "six big special trains making up the celebrating entourage," it continues.

"From the beginning the Fort Worth and Denver South Plains line has been a busy and profitable one, and has grown in value and service to the rich area it traverses." First rails for the parent company, Fort Worth and Denver City Railway co, were laid shortly after the State of Texas, in 1882, withdrew its offer of 16 sections of land for every mile of railroad."

Towns along the way moved to the rails or faded away. A Ragtown, "first water west of Clarendon," became Amarillo, dealing a death blow to a number of surrounding hope-

ful settlements.

The FW&D, through a train wreck near Quanah where railroad officials suggested farmers plant spilled wheat, is credited with starting the winter wheat grazing practice so popular today.

A number of branches to many sections of the state were chartered-some completed, some sold and some lost as unfilled dreams or opportunities lost to other lines. The South Plains line proved so successful, it has weathered cost and inconvenience of tunnel cave-ins including the 1957 rainy season collapsing the short 390-foot second tunnel and three tunnel wrecks during Gullege's tenure with the line. After the last, in 1973, the tunnel was shortened to 582 feet and the line closed about 18 months to allow upgrading of the area including heavier rail. Lubbock traffic was routed by way of Plainview with a lease arrangement with the Santa Fe Ry. Co.

Even with the lease cost added to the tunnel work, the tunnel was saved at a small fraction of the cost daylighting would entail, Gullege noted.

Currently, Gullege is working as special roadmaster during work on the main line, but as soon as that is done he will return to the South Plains line.

When he's riding the rails, looking after the welfare of the right-of-way, the country around is his-has been since he can remember. Marks of man are few along the way. The land, with the tunnel, remains much as it was when Gullege first saw it as a boy.

## Floydada Senior Citizens News

By Margarette Word

On Wednesday, June 19th, we had four visitors eating lunch with us. They were from Kansas helping with the wheat harvesting. They were Jerry Dalryzle, Dean Jones, and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Stolzenburg.

Jo Payne has recently been in the hospital. She was back eating lunch with us on Wednesday, June 19th. Hope she continues to feel better.

Elaine LaBaume took Joy Assiter to Lockney for a doctor's appointment on Friday afternoon. She needed to have injections in her painful left knee. The ladies had the opportunity for a good visit while waiting on Dr. Stinnett as he had to deliver a baby. Since both women have had babies.....there was no complaining because they remembered when it is time to have a baby.....you need your doctor right then.

Last Thursday, the members of the Floydada Lions Club ate lunch with us. It was so nice having a large crowd. We enjoyed visiting with them.

Tommy Rowan's son, Earl Rowan comes to the Center to be with his mother and to visit with us.

If you plan on eating lunch with us, please call 983-2032 by 10 a.m. so our wonderful cooks will have enough food to serve everyone.

Memorials really help our Center to keep open. We truly appreciate you remembering us when you need to make a memorial donation. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 578, Floydada, Texas 79235.

**In memory of Martha White Farris** - Janice Lloyd, Jesse and Donna Pernell, Ro-

salyn Rainwater, Jonnie Delle Cogdell, Mark Craig, Gary and Emma Pate, Roger and Dianne Emert, Judy Beedy, Stanley and Lou Burleson, Connie D. Cogdell, Genelle Breed

**In memory of Jimmie Lou Stewart** - Janice Lloyd, Jessie and Donna Pernell, Genelle Breed

By Margaret Jones

SUMMERTIME.....The unique, fun-filled, adventure-sought time of year has once again returned as the days lengthen with wonderful cool mornings full of you and life kicks up to a higher gear. Birds of many colors fill my yard and skitter to and fro splashing in the puddles left from the blessed rain received while I peacefully slept.

Shades of green have returned to the countryside dotted with sprinkles of wildflowers. In celebration, we rejoice in the moment that life-giving moisture brings as fun times and activities fill our days in SUMMERTIME...

### RECIPE OF THE WEEK

#### Five Cup Fruit Salad

- 1 cup small marshmallows
- 1 cup pineapple tidbits (drained)
- 1 cup coconut
- 1 cup mandarin orange slices (drained)
- 1 cup light sour cream

Mix above ingredients, cover and keep refrigerated till ready to serve.

**Thought for the Week** - Be kinder than necessary.

## Living with diabetes?



Learn how to live well with diabetes by attending a series of free educational classes offered by Covenant Community Outreach for those who are **uninsured** or **financially in need**.

### Four-week series

- Nutrition education by a registered dietitian.
- Diabetes management skills (including the emotional aspects of diabetes).
- Free glucometer.
- \*Voucher to purchase 50 glucometer strips for \$5 or 100 for \$10.

To see if you qualify and to register for the class, call 806.725.5218.

### Next class series

July 11 - Aug. 1, 2013  
Thursdays from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

\*Restrictions apply.

www.covenanthealth.org

CovenantHealth

Covenant Community Outreach

### Bridal Selections for:

Jennifer Rasco & Tate Greer  
Avery Miller & Seth Pinkerton  
Whitney Williams & JC Kane  
Cathy's Floral & Gifts  
128 W. California St. Floydada • 806-983-5013

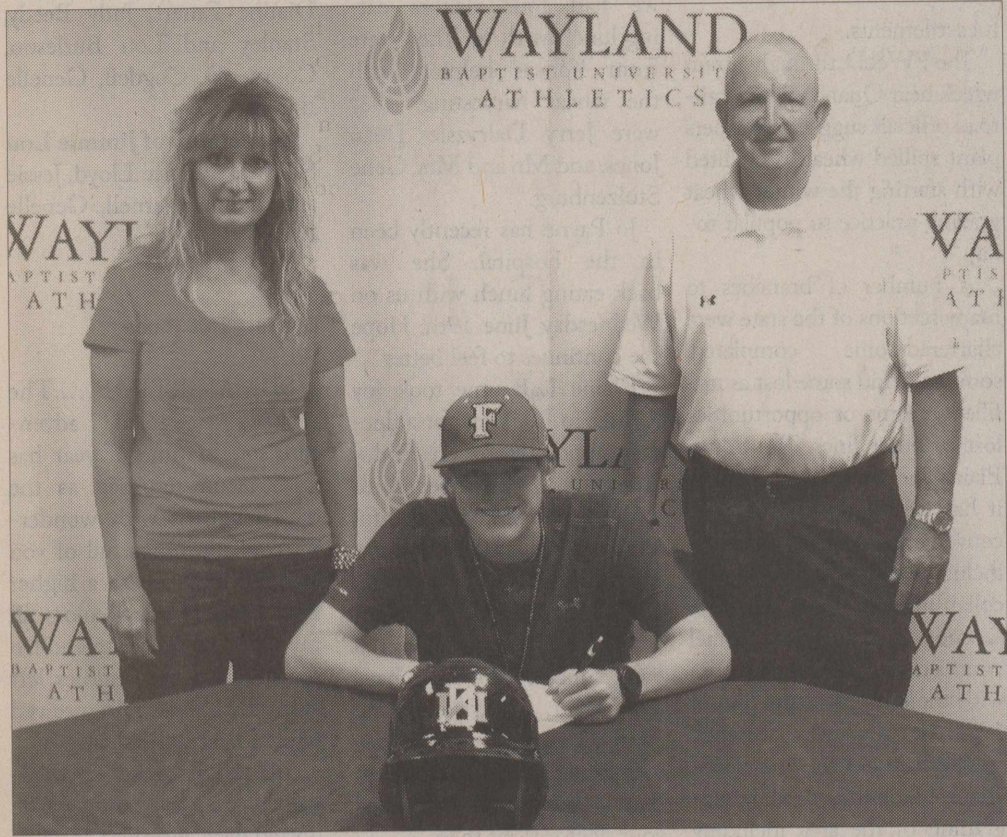
### WEDDING SELECTIONS FOR

Ellie Bootman & Tyler Chesshir

Caprock Motor Parts & Hardware  
114 California St., Floydada • 983-2865

# FLOYDADA SCHOOL

## Seth Nielson along with 5 others sign letter of intent with Wayland Baptist baseball



Seth Nielson signed to play baseball at Wayland Baptist University on Friday. He is accompanied by his mother, Tami and assistant baseball coach, Tommy McMillan.

Wayland Baptist University held its second registration of the summer on Friday when many incoming freshmen got ready for the 2013-14 school year. Among them were six baseball players who signed letters of intent in the Hall of Honor inside Hutcherson Center.

Seth Nielson is a product of Floydada High School where he lettered in baseball three years. Nielson was a member of the Whirlwinds' 2012 area championship team and the 2013 bi-district championship team. As a junior and senior, the left-handed pitcher was named All-District 3-2A first team.

Matthew Lawler is a Grapevine High School product who comes to Wayland to pitch. The right-hander lettered in baseball one year and helped lead the Mustangs to a 27-8 record and a District 6-5A championship in 2013.

Garrett West hails from Highland Village where he pitched for Lewisville High School. The Farmers were 14-16 on the year, competing in District 5-5A. West

is the grandson of Jim and Natalie West of Plainview.

Tyler Peden comes to Wayland from Claude where he played third base for the Mustangs. Peden made the All-District 6-1A team four years and was the Mustangs' offensive, defensive and team MVP. The right-hander was named to the Amarillo Globe-News Super Team and to the Greater West Texas Coaches Association All-Star Game. Peden had a .953 fielding percentage while hitting .473 as a senior.

Pitcher Seth Skarke was a high school teammate of Peden's at Claude. Skarke was an All-District 6-1A first team player in 2011 and 2012, and was the co-MVP of the district in 2013. The right-hander went 12-1 on the mound his senior year and earned academic all-state this year.

Jimmy Pompa comes to Wayland from Caprock High School in Amarillo. Pompa lettered in baseball two years, going 2-2 with a 2.85 ERA this past season for the Longhorns.

## Summer Softball and Baseball



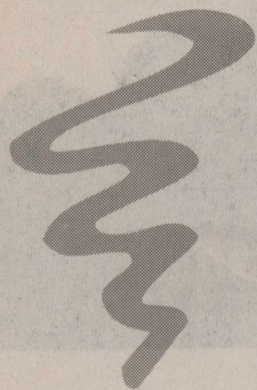
Courtesy Photo

The Floydada Green Machine Pitch Softball Team, (7-8 year olds), played in the Tri-County Tournament and advanced to the championship game against the Idalou Ballistik. The Floydada softball team captured the championship. Members of the softball team were (l-r) Coach Ray Perez, Celese Wickware, Danielle Zavala, Tatum Glasscock, Rosantina Martinez, Coach Erica Perez, Erin Trevino, Claryssa Delafuente, Annalise Perez, Evanee Wickware, Victoria Cervera, Anna Hernandez, and Coach Gilbert Trevino. The District 38 All-Star Tournament began last Thursday, June 20th for t-ball, machine pitch, minor, major and junior baseball, minor and major softball. Floydada is hosting the Machine Pitch Softball Tournament. The championship game of this softball tournament will be Friday, June 28th at 7 p.m. unless the team from the loser's bracket wins. Then the "playback game" or championship will be Saturday, June 29th at 7 p.m. This is a double elimination tournament. Next month Floydada will be hosting the Little League Major (11-12 year olds) Softball Sectional tournament. This is a first for Floydada. The tournament will be held around July 6. We will keep you updated as to the date and times of the games.



Courtesy Photo

Floydada Green Juniors Baseball Team (13-14 year olds) played in the Tri-County Baseball Tournament and advanced to the championship game against the Idalou Gold baseball team. Floydada Green won the tournament. Members of the Floydada Green are (Back row, l-r) - Coach Jesse Segura, Juan Villarreal, Esteban Lerma, Carson Turner, Marcos Cervera, Coach JJ Morales, Evan Ybarra, and Coach Ricky Coronado; (Front row, l-r) - CJ Coronado, Andrew Vega, Chris Emert, JJ Segura, and Michael Crone. There were 25 teams in Floydada's Baseball Association this year with a total of 325 players. This also included teams from Silverton and Valley. Teams in the Floydada Baseball Association play under the Little League rules.



Way  
to  
go,  
Whirlwinds!

Floydada ISD is participating in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all children ages 1-18 without charge and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be provided at:

**A.B. Duncan Elementary**

1011 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**June 4 - July 2, 2013 and July 8 - 18, 2013**

To file a complaint of discrimination, write or call immediately to:

USDA

Director, Office of Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

800-795-3272 or 202-720-6382 (TT)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**LUNCH FOR CHILDREN AGES 1-18**

**A.B. DUNCAN ELEMENTARY**

**June 4 - July 2, 2013**

and

**July 8 - 18, 2013**

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**MENU**

**Monday** - Beefy macaroni, garden salad, baby carrots, breadstick, fruit, milk

**Tuesday** - Pizza, salad, veggie cup, fruit, milk

**Wednesday** - Crispy tacos, pinto beans, rice, salsa, fruit, milk

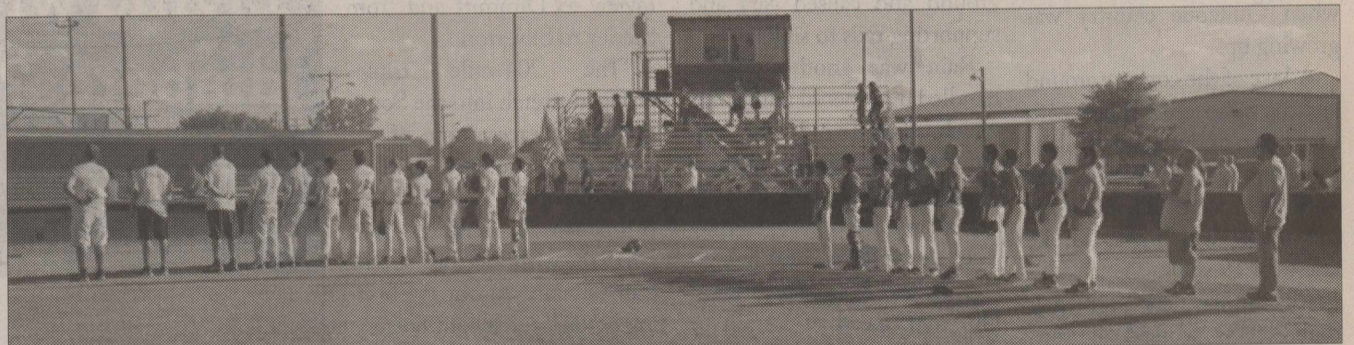
**Thursday** - Corn dog, mustard, baked beans, cucumber & tomato cup, fruit, milk

**Friday** - Cheeseburger, mustard, potato rounds, lettuce, tomato, pickles, fruit, milk

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities my contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Floydada Summer Baseball and Softball



### THE CITY OF FLOYDADA HAS THE FOLLOWING SURPLUS REAL ESTATE FOR SALE:

0.92 ACRE TRACT OF LAND OUT OF BLOCK FIVE (5), PRICE FIRST ADDITION TO THE CITY OF FLOYDADA, FLOYD COUNTY, TEXAS. THIS TRACT OF LAND IS 210.00 FEET EAST-WEST AND 191.73 FEET NORTH-SOUTH.

THIS TRACT OF LAND IS THE SOUTH PART OF THE LAND FORMERLY OPERATED AS FLOYDADA REHAB FACILITY, 925 W CROCKETT STREET. THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WILL PAY ALL CLOSING COSTS, APPROXIMATELY \$1,500.00, PLUS THE AMOUNT OF THE BID FOR THE PROPERTY.

SEALED BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED UNTIL 5:00 P.M. FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2013. BIDS SHOULD BE DELIVERED OR MAILED TO: CITY SECRETARY, 114 W VIRGINIA STREET, FLOYDADA, TX 79235. THE ENVELOPE SHOULD BE MARKED "SURPLUS REAL ESTATE."

THE CITY COUNCIL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS.

READING  
NEWSPAPERS  
IS A QUEST  
LIKE NO OTHER



# LOCKNEY SCHOOL



Photo by Sonya Glass  
**Floyd County 4-H'ers acquired a supply of ammunition for use in the Rifle and Pistol projects. Pictured are (Back row, l-r) Jake Bramlet, Arnie Martinez, Jacob Graham, Alex Glass, Caleb Miller; (Middle row, l-r) Kandon Bennett, Ryder Glass, Jaden Blakey, Carson Miller; (Front row, l-r) Colt Bennett, Lindee Miller and Landry Bennett.**

## Ammo Program Keeps Floyd County 4-H Going Strong

By **Patty Davenport**  
 Project Leader  
 Special to Hesperian-Beacon

Many 4-H rifle and pistol programs are at risk of shutting down because they cannot secure .22LR ammunition. This ammunition is scarce in today's market and when it can be found it usually sells for a premium price. The Floyd County 4-H rifle and pistol programs had to be scaled back this spring due to the ammunition shortage. Coaches scrambled to find ammunition for the youth and what ammunition was found was divided up sparingly to the youth.

Federal Premium Ammunition recently restarted their Youth Shooting Sports Allocation Program. Through this program, youth shooting sports programs can secure ammunition for their programs at a discounted price. The Floyd County 4-H Shooting Sports Program recently benefited from Federal's youth allocation program. Floyd County 4-H was able to pur-

chase several cases of .22LR ammunition which is used in both the rifle and pistol programs. This purchase will enable Floyd County 4-H to continue offering the rifle and pistol programs during the continuing ammunition shortage.

4-H is for youth 3rd through 12th grade. If you want more information on Floyd County 4-H or the shooting sports programs offered through 4-H please contact the County Extension Office at 983-4912.

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U. S. Department of Agriculture and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. We will seek to accommodate all persons with disabilities for all meetings. We request that you contact the Floyd County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service as soon as possible to advise us of any auxiliary and/or services needed.

## Doucette receives degree from Southern Methodist University

Patrick Doucette, of Lockney, received a Bachelor of Arts in history during the May 2013 SMU Commencement ceremony.

He is the son of James and Denise Doucette of Lockney.

After the University-wide Commence-

ment, SMU's schools and departments held individual receptions throughout the day to honor graduates.

SMU is a nationally ranked private university in Dallas founded 100 years ago. Today, SMU enrolls nearly 11,000 students who benefit from the academic

## South Plains College Levelland announces CNA registration

LEVELLAND - South Plains College is accepting registration for an upcoming Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) course that runs from Monday (June 24) through July 12.

The three-week course will meet in the Technical Arts Building, Room 120. Classroom instruction is set for 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays. Clinicals will be arranged.

The CNA course fee is \$525 which covers the cost of tuition (\$375), textbook (\$57) and state testing fee (\$93). In addition to these costs, there will be a fee for CPR Certification through an online agency.

Immunizations and enrollment information includes Hepatitis B Series, 2 MMRs, Tetanus not older than eight years and a current negative TB test not older than six months

prior to the first day of class. Students must have valid state issued photo identification and social security card prior to enrollment. A maximum of eight participants will be accepted.

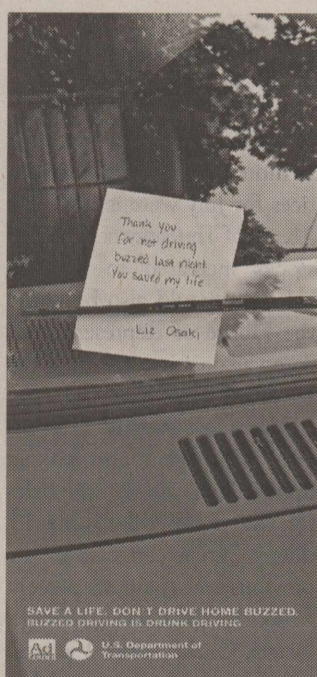
For more information and to register for the class, call Kasey Reyes, administrative assistant for the Division of Continuing and Distance Education, at (806) 716-2341.

### PUBLIC NOTICE LOCKNEY TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM- DISASTER RELIEF

Lockney is giving notice of the City's intent to submit a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program-Disaster Relief grant application for a Community Development Fund grant request of \$350,000 for county water improvements. The proposed improvements will take place in various areas throughout the City to maintain the city's water supply. The application is available for review at City Hall during regular business hours.

### PUBLIC NOTICE FLOYD COUNTY TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM- DISASTER RELIEF

Floyd County is giving notice of the County's intent to submit a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program- Disaster Relief grant application for a Community Development Fund grant request of \$350,000 for county water improvements. The proposed improvements will take place in various areas throughout the county to maintain the water supply for County residents. The application is available for review at the County Courthouse during regular business hours.



## 'Oklahoma' performances slated for July 11-14 at SPC

LEVELLAND - South Plains College Theatre will present "Oklahoma" July 11-14 in the Helen DeVitt Jones Theatre for the Performing Arts. The show times will be 7:30 p.m. on July 11-13 and 2 p.m. on July 14.

The public is invited to attend.

Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. The Box Office will open one hour before the show for sales. Reservations are not required.

"Oklahoma" is based on the play "Green Grow the Lilacs" by Lynn Riggs. The music is by Richard Rodgers. The book and lyrics are by Oscar Hammerstein II. The original dances by Agnes de Mille.

The cast will feature Janae Hatchett as Aunt Eller; Amy Tisdale as Laurey; Randal Ramirez as Curly; Cullen Howe as Jud; Alex Vletas as Will; Holly Aiken as Ado Annie; Joshua Walters as Ali; Mindi A. Rhoades as

Gertie; Collin Evans as Ike; Christian Vasquez as Fred; and Peter Oduor as Slim.

Other cast members include Jaslyn Diaz as Kate; Samantha Brookes as Sylvie; Jordan Sheets as Armina; Madeline Watkins as Sarah; Maria Pedraza as Ellen; Scott Alford as Andrew Carnes; Caleb Willman as Cord; Jake Quintanilla as Jess; Timothy Rhoades as Chalmers; Yakaterina Miroshnikova as Jane; Reagan Harrell as Vivian; and Joshua chambers as Mike.

The Director is Daniel K. Nazworth, assistant professor of Theatre Arts. The Music Director is Debbie Gelber. Sarah Kiser is the Choreographer and Susan Nazworth is the Stage Manager.

For tickets and more information, contact Nazworth at (806) 716-2266.

## House Rejects Bipartisan Farm Legislation

By **T. Cotton Nelson**

MEMPHIS - The farm legislation rejected by the House would have provided a predictable, long-term safety net while saving more than \$40 billion over the next 10 years; reforming and streamlining programs; and providing a basis for the resolution of a long standing trade dispute.

National Cotton Council Chairman Jimmy Dodson, a South Texas cotton producer, said, "U.S. farmers need a stable, long term policy in order to continue to make the substantial investments necessary to continue to adopt new technology necessary to provide safe, affordable food and fiber to U.S. processors and consumers and to maintain competitiveness in world markets. The U.S. cotton industry is deeply disappointed that the House failed to approve the leg-

islation approved by the Agriculture Committee on a strong bipartisan vote after two years of extensive debate and consideration hundreds of amendments."

The cotton industry is deeply grateful to House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas (R-OK) and Ranking Member Collin Peterson (D-MN) and many Cotton Belt members for their tireless efforts to develop and promote approval of this important legislation which would have eliminated the uncertainty associated with one-year extensions.

The industry also is grateful that during the debate, the House rejected proposals to apply income tests and limitations on crop insurance and rejected a proposal to terminate the highly effective export promotion program (MAP) but is disappointed the House approved a proposal to

add more qualifications and further tightened a limitation on farm program benefits delivered by USDA's Farm Service Agency.

The House Agriculture Committee and the full House thoroughly debated more than 200 amendments during the legislation's development. NCC Chairman Dodson said Chairman Lucas and Ranking Member Peterson are to be commended for the open process under which the legislation was developed and debated.

The cotton industry urges House leaders to allow the bipartisan farm bill produced by the Agriculture Committee to be reconsidered by the full House so that a Conference Committee can resolve differences between their respective bills and a new farm law can be enacted before the expiration of current law.

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# AGRICULTURE

## FSA County Committee Nomination Period Begins June 17

(Floydada, Texas), June 18, 2013 –Floyd County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Stephanie Bradley Fryer, announced that county committee election nominations began on June 17, 2013. Farmers, ranchers and landowners are encouraged to nominate candidates to serve on their local FSA county committee by the August 1, 2013 deadline.

Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program issues. County committees are comprised of three to 11 members.

"County Committees are unique to FSA and are instrumental in all aspects of federal farm program implementation at the local level," said Bradley Fryer.

Producers may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Organizations that represent minority and women farmers and ranchers may also nominate candidates. Nominees must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area (LAA) in which the person is a candidate. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and more information about county committee

elections are available online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections).

"It is important that county committees are comprised of members who fairly represent the diverse demographics of production agriculture for their community," said Bradley Fryer. "All producers, including women, minority and beginning farmers and ranchers are encouraged to participate in the nomination and election process."

Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on August 1, 2013.

FSA will mail ballots to eligible voters beginning Nov. 4. The ballots are due back in the local county office by mail or in person no later than Dec. 2. All newly elected county committee members and alternates will take office January 1, 2014.

For more information about county committees, please contact the Floyd County FSA office at 806.983.3763 or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

## Farm Service Agency NAP Coverage Available for 2014 Annual Forage Crops

(Floydada, Texas), June 24, 2013 –Floyd County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Stephanie Bradley Fryer, announced that Texas FSA will offer Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2014 crops that are planted annually and used for livestock feed or fodder.

The Risk Management Agency (FSA) recently announced a pilot program that offers a CAT level Rainfall Index-Annual Forage Insurance Plan to producers in Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Because there is limited time for producers in these states to transition from NAP to the new RMA pilot program, an exception was made that will allow the states to continue offering NAP coverage for 2014. However, NAP coverage will not be available for 2015 annual forage crops.

Eligible producers can apply for 2014 NAP coverage at the Floyd County FSA Office using form CCC-471, Application for Coverage. Producers must file the ap-

plication and service fee by the March 15 deadline for small grain crops. The deadline for NAP coverage for grasses is December 1. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Producers who meet the definition of a limited resource farmer or rancher can request a waiver of the service fee.

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to normal disasters.

"The easiest way for producers to protect their investment is to purchase an insurance policy," said Bradley Fryer. "The past few years have proved that natural disasters are unavoidable, and producers can recover if they take the necessary precautions to mitigate risks."

For more information about NAP, please contact the Floyd County FSA office at 806.983.3763 or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## Cotton Market Weekly

After two weeks of sharp gains, the market paused to catch its breath this week. Cotton prices have been climbing since May 31, and since that time have tacked on 1193 points. Friday however, began to take some of those gains back with the maturing month settling 43 points lower at 91.29. December on the other hand, managed to edge 29 points higher Friday after posting losses for most of the day.

Monday continued to follow the trend set by the previous Friday and by 6 a.m. July was limit down, and that's how it spent most of the day eventually posting a loss of 386 points. One analyst attributed the plunge to a surprise abandonment of 2,233 in-the-money calls and exercise of 391 out

of the money puts. December contracts avoided most of the damage July suffered, only falling 45 points Monday.

As rain fell across most of West Texas Monday night, with reports of close to three inches in places, the market continued to wash away any previous gains on Tuesday. Triple digit losses were reported for July and December with each settling at 84.98 and 87.32 respectively. With four trading days left before Monday's first notice some experts believed July liquidation weighed on the front month.

One trader described the market as being in a "suspended state" Wednesday. The lead contract held moderately lower eventually settling near the middle of a 167-point range at 85.40. The December contract made a brief move to positive ground Wednesday but was unable to hold onto the gain ultimately falling 72 points by closing. Recent rainfall in the plains of Texas continued to exert some influence over the new crop contract.

Cotton spent the entire trading day Thursday on negative ground making for the fourth straight day the spot month slipped lower. Losses for the thinly held July contract were modest settling 48 points lower at 84.92, while December fell 124 points landing in the

85 cent range for the first time in more than a week. First notices for July were issued June 21. As of Thursday certificated stocks increased to 550,928 bales. It should also be noted the House of Representatives voted against its version of the Farm Bill Thursday.

The latest weekly U.S. export sales report showed net upland sales of 69,800 bales for the week ended June 13, down 31 percent from the previous week and 45 percent from the four-week average. China, Turkey and Vietnam were the top three buyers. For the 2013-14 marketing year, net sales totaled 81,400 bales. The featured buyers were China, South Korea and Mexico. Shipments for the week totaled 187,900 bales, down 19 percent from the previous week and 28 percent from the four-week average. China, Turkey and Vietnam were the primary destinations.

Cotton planting is almost complete in the U.S. as the final planting date for crop insurance purposes for much of the Low Plains and Rolling Plains region was June 20. Timely thunderstorms made their way across much of West Texas early in the week; however, an estimate of damage brought on by accompanying wind and hail has not been reported yet. The Delta region also has a chance of thunderstorms in the coming days. Warmer, sunny weather is otherwise expected across most of the Memphis Territory.

**By Bob Jackson**  
State Director  
AARP Texas

Austin is more than the "live musical capital of the world," a vibrant high-tech hub and home to one of the top universities in the country. Decisions made there by those same legislators we elect back home have a profound impact on our everyday lives.

This year was no different. When the dust settled at the end of the 2013 regular legislative session, Texans had gained some important wins and in many cases avoided some painful losses. Throughout the 140-day period AARP was there, working with bill sponsors, testifying before committees and mobilizing our members and the public on key issues and concerns for older Texans.

Older Texans can cheer about improved access to medical services thanks to a new law helping Texas recruit the next generation of doctors by establishing incentives for training primary care physicians and encouraging more doctors to participate in Medicaid and Medicare. The law will also make it easier for advance practice registered nurses to see patients and write prescriptions, providing more Texans of all ages with access to health care professionals.

Long-term care at home, an essential service for many of our seniors, has also been improved and expanded. More low-income seniors will be able to receive community-based long-term care through Medicaid, the primary payer for long term care services for seniors. This will allow them to stay in their homes and communities with their families while also saving taxpayer dollars.

Moreover, community-based attendants, those hard-working folks who help care for our parents or grandparents on Medicaid, will receive a pay increase--bringing starting pay up to \$7.86 per hour and exceeding the state minimum of \$7.25 per hour.

Texas seniors who live in nursing homes also got a win when the Legislature adopted measures to greatly improve these facilities. Texas Medicaid nursing home reimbursement rates have long been among the lowest in the country. The legislature passed a 6 percent increase over two years, making it easier for nursing homes to retain quality staff, a significant indicator of care quality.

In addition, Medicaid-funded nursing home stays throughout Texas will soon fall under STAR+PLUS managed care. This

will encourage higher quality care by rewarding the best plans with more enrollees and by creating higher standards.

Another key issue where good things happened and bad things were kept from happening was the defined-benefit pension program essential to the financial security of Texas teachers as well as other school district and state employees. Earlier this year, some groups argued that the state pension programs should be converted to individual--and more uncertain--401k-type programs. This could have spelled disaster for workers who have devoted their lives to public service.

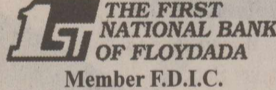
In the end, the Texas Legislature decided to preserve pensions for state and school employees while granting cost-of-living increases to those who have been retired the longest. To help strengthen the system, both state government and current employees will contribute a bit more to the pension system, and new employees will have stricter requirements on when they can retire.

Payday and auto title loan businesses prey on economically vulnerable Texans, by offering them "fast cash" loans that can carry fees in excess of 500% APR. Families often pay many times over the original amount borrowed for these small dollar loans, leaving them with long-term financial problems.

Cities like Dallas, San Antonio, El Paso, Austin and Denton have taken strong steps to protect their citizens from predatory lending by passing ordinances that send a powerful signal that abusive lending practices will not be tolerated. Potential harm was averted this year when the Legislature shut down a measure that would have undone the strong payday ordinances enacted by these local governments.

The Legislature also acted to bolster protections for older Texans from financial abuse by clarifying powers of attorney. These essential tools are used to delegate authority to someone else to handle your financial decisions but can also give dishonest people a license to steal. Power of attorney forms will now be designed to make it easier for consumers to clearly detail the duties and responsibilities being authorized.

Of course, tough decisions are made at our state capitol each time the legislature meets and not all of them are popular to say the least. But at least in these particular areas in 2013, the voices of older Texans were heard loud and clear and their lives were improved. And that's good news for all of us.

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**COWPOKES**

By Ace Reid

<http://www.cowpokes.com>



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**UNITED WE STAND**



### PROJECT

From Page 1

ment runs out, the taxes that had been abated must be repaid. Fifteen percent is allowed to be removed without being in breach of contract.

Publishing costs, as well as lawyer fees, will also be paid by the Wake Wind LLC.

Carmichael suggested the court consider one of the two options he presented in a chart. Commissioner Mike Anderson suggested going for the option that would be more favorable for the county (in the last 5 years of the abatement they would get smaller amount of money).

"Any one of these three options is fair, over a 10 year term, giving them a 60% reduction in taxes," said Carmichael. He assured the court that Option B, which would give an 80% abatement the first two years, 75% the next three, 45% for two years, and 30% the last three years, would be possible without "running them off".

Bristi Cure from Invenergy LLC, parent company to Wake Wind LLC, joined the court after a short recess and confirmed that Option B would be acceptable un-

der the condition that they the terms aren't worse than for anyone who came before them. Cure explained that the size of the turbines is still up in the air, but that they are looking at GE 1.7 megawatt turbines as well as 2.0 megawatt turbines. Cure confirmed that they are looking at both the 200 and 300 megawatt layouts and want to build as many as can fit in Floyd County. Turbine count cannot be determined at this time but a number will be available soon.

"We're happy to work with you. Our (project) has a better chance of being built, and we're ready to do business in Floyd County," said Cure.

Cure also requested that competitors that come afterwards do not receive a better deal.

"I personally welcome you to Floyd County, and if there is anything you need just call," said Commissioner Lindan Morris.

Commissioner Nathan Johnson made a motion to approve the proposal and it was approved by Commissioners Anderson, Morris and Johnson and Judge Penny Golightly. Commissioner Amado Morales was not present.

The Court also held a public hearing for the disaster water grant request on behalf of Lockney. Ac-

ording to Kelly Daliva of South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG), the scoring criteria for grants is based on poverty rate and matching requirements, making Floydada more likely to meet the requirements Lockney because of its bigger size. Lockney has not been able to get back to back awards in the past, unlike Floydada. Construction is slated to begin within six months of being awarded, and an award can be expected in approximately two months.

City Treasurer Jo Elliott made a brief presentation to the Court about those who is eligible for health insurance and who qualifies for reimbursement for steel toed boots. Employees must work at least 30 hours to be considered full time.

Elliott has already received calls from employees asking if they could buy boots, but she clarified that the reimbursement doesn't take effect until the next budget.

The commissioners looked at a few farm contracts that had not yet been approved and one that needed to be voided. No action was taken.

Commissioners reviewed the bills and had no questions. Morris made a motion to pay the bills and the vote was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 a.m.

### Circle of life



Courtesy Photo

Miniature horse Taffy, belonging to Barbara and Charlie Carthel, recently gave birth to a white baby colt measuring 18 inches tall. They named him Turbo and he is the new addition to their barnyard that hosts three miniature horses and ducks just east of town.

## Safety number one this Independence Day

According to County Judge Penny Golightly, there are no restrictions in place this Fourth of July for Floyd County. Although we are in a severe drought, neither Floydada or Lockney has official restrictions on setting off fireworks in the county. As has been the case in the past,

no fireworks are allowed within the city limits at any time. If enjoying a display in the country, make sure to get the permission of the land owner before setting off any fireworks. Be sure to follow safety guidelines to ensure that no dry grass or structures are caught on fire.

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# Look who's Happy in Lockney



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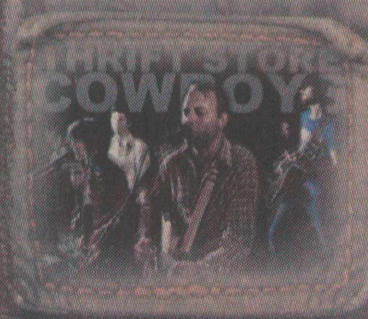
## Parade planned for July 4 celebration



Lockney will hold its annual Fourth of July parade, inviting residents to bring their patriotically decorated bikes, wagons or golf carts. Almost any mode of transportation is welcome. Bring the kids, big and small, out to the Main Street Church of Christ by 10 a.m. to begin the ride to the Lockney Health and Rehabilitation Center. Upon return to the Church of Christ, cookies and punch will be served in celebration of Independence Day.

# RanchFest 2013

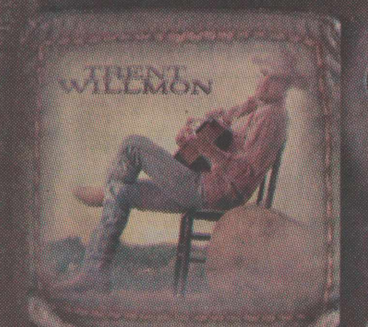
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