

# The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2014

HESPERIANBEACONONLINE.COM

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## Floydada, Lockney Receive New Assignments in Biennial UIL Realignment

By Charles Keaton  
The Hesperian-Beacon

Besides playoff time, possibly one of the most anticipated events in high school sports is the University Interscholastic League's biennial realignment and reclassification. On Monday, Feb. 3, the UIL announced the new assignments, based on a school's enrollment, to all the schools in Texas.

A major change with this alignment was doing away with 1A 6-man and 1A 11-man schools. Now all schools with an enrollment of 104.9 and below are 1A, 2A schools are 105-219, 3A schools are 220-464, 4A schools are 465-1059, 5A schools are 1060-2099 and 6A schools are 2100 and up. Classes 1A through 4A are also pre-divided into two divisions for football while 5A and 6A split into large/small school when playoffs start.

For the next two years, the Floydada Whirlwinds, with an enrollment in high school of 193, will be playing football in Class 2A

Division 1 District 2 along with district foes Abernathy, Hale Center, New Deal, Olton and Tahoka. New Deal, Hale Center, Olton and Abernathy all made the playoffs last year. New Deal made it to the fourth round before losing to State Champs Stamford. Abernathy made it to the third round before losing to State Champs Cisco.

Floydada Head Coach Todd Bandy said, "I very happy with the district travel. I think the district probably is the best scenario for us."

Bandy said that tentatively, the Whirlwinds will play Slaton, Seagraves, Lockney, Post and Roosevelt in non-district. During district play, the Whirlwinds will host Olton, Hale Center and Abernathy and then travel to Tahoka and New Deal this year. Next year the district schedule will be reversed. Schedules will not be final until the UIL has heard all appeals from across the state on Feb. 21.

The Lockney Longhorns, with an enrollment of 154, will be in Class 2A Division 2 District 3 for

football. District opponents include Clarendon, Crosbyton, Memphis, Quanah and Ralls. Quanah, Clarendon, Ralls and Crosbyton all made playoff appearances last year with each of them losing their first playoff game.

Lockney Head Coach Jay Ragland said, "It will be an interesting district. Quanah has a good quarterback returning but I think we can compete well in this district. There will be lots of driving."

Ragland has tentatively scheduled the Longhorns to play Lubbock Christian, Shamrock, Floydada, Morton and one more undecided non-district opponent.

Preseason workouts can begin for Lockney and Floydada on August 4. Week One of the season begins August 28-30. Playoffs will begin the week of November 13-15 and conclude with the State Championships the week of December 18-20. In Class 2A, three teams from each district make the playoffs with the district champion receiving a first round bye. In Class



1A, only two teams make the playoffs. In all other classes, four teams make the playoffs.

When basketball season begins next fall, Floydada and Lockney will be in 2A District 4 along with Abernathy, Hale Center, New Deal, Olton and Ralls. Tahoka will be in 2A District 5, Crosbyton will be in 1A District 5, Clarendon,

See UIL, Page 10

## First National Bank of Floydada announces promotion

Monte Williams, President of First National Bank of Floydada has announced the following recent promotion.



Brianne Glasscock has been named Vice President of the Bank. She has been employed at First National Bank of Floydada since 2006 working first in real estate lending before being promoted to Assistant Vice President and Compliance Officer. In 2001 she graduated Cum Laude from Texas Tech University with a BA in Human Development. Brianne is a member of the First United Methodist Church. She and her husband, Tate, have two children, Trace and Tatum.

## Lockney Elementary Students Address Food Insecurity Issue

By Charles Keaton  
The Hesperian-Beacon

Food insecurity is the most broadly-used measure of food deprivation in the United States. The USDA defines food insecurity as meaning "consistent access to adequate food is limited by a lack of money and other resources at times during the year." In Floyd County, approximately 600 children are considered food insecure.

Lockney Elementary teacher Jennifer Sullivan saw a need and addressed that need starting this past August by helping implement a 'Snack Pak 4 Kids' program at the elementary school.

Sullivan said, "I decided



that Lockney had a need for cafeteria with my students.

**Student volunteers help pack the backpacks for the 'Snack Pak 4 Kids' programs. Volunteers and organizations are welcome to participate in the program by helping pack bags, running drives for non-perishable food items or making monetary donations. Anyone with an interest should contact Jennifer Sullivan at Lockney Elementary.**

this program one day shortly after Christmas break [2012]. It was a Monday and I was eating in the

See FOOD, Page 10

## Floyd County Placed Under Burn Ban

By Charles Keaton  
The Hesperian-Beacon

On Jan. 29, 2014, the Floyd County Commissioners' Court ordered a burn ban to be put in place for Floyd County. The burn ban is effective immediately and will be enforced for 90 days.

The Commissioners felt that with the

current lack of significant moisture, there is a need to protect the unincorporated areas of the county from outdoor burning.

The order restricts outdoor burning with the following conditions: 1) the use of combustible materials in an outdoor environment by any person is prohibited.

See BAN, Page 10

## 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.

### OLD SETTLERS MEETING

The Old Settlers Association will hold a meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 12th at 7 p.m. in the Community Room of the First National Bank of Floydada.

### LOCKNEY SR CITIZENS FAMILY FISH NIGHT

The Lockney Senior Citizens "Family Fish Night" will be held Friday, Feb. 7 from 5 - 8 p.m. Dine in or carry-out. \$10 per plate! Come enjoy the meal and fellowship!

### HIGH PLAINS WATER CONSERVATION SYMPOSIUM

The 2nd Biennial Texas Panhandle-High Plains Water Conservation Symposium will be held Feb. 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Amarillo Civic Center North Exhibit Hall at 401 S. Buchanan.

### LOCKNEY CHAMBER

Nominees for Citizen of the Year are being accepted by the Lockney Chamber. Deadline to submit is March 1. Nominees can be mailed to the Chamber at PO Box 477 or dropped by J & K Insurance.

### 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.

## 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



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

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Heath Brock Carson & Drew Carson ~ Feb. 15  
Anna Sherman & Tyler Kidd ~ Mar. 8

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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  
\$35 a year outside the county



## Deaths

### Inelda Joe (Jody) Baccus

Inelda Joe (Jody) Baccus of Lockney, Texas passed away in Lakeway, Texas on January 31, 2014 at the age of 84.

She was born to Pete and Naomi Marsh in Crosbyton, Texas on June 26, 1929.

Jody was a 1949 graduate of West Texas State University and a retired teacher in the Lockney Independent School District after 29 years. She married R.D. (Rusty) Baccus in Clovis, New Mexico on July 5, 1950.

She was also an active participant in the family Ford dealership in Lockney and was a member of the Lockney First United Methodist Church.



**INELDA BACCUS**

She is survived by two sons, Bruce and wife, Mary of Horseshoe Bay, Texas and Brad of Kingland, Texas; five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, and

her beloved dog, Petee.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and sisters, Melba Hines and Oleta (Toogie) Wheeler.

Funeral services were held at the First United Methodist Church in Lockney, Texas on Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 2 p.m. Burial followed at the Lockney Cemetery.

Visitation was held at the church on Tuesday evening February 4, 2014 from 6 to 8 p.m.

The family requests donations to be made to the American Heart Association or the Lockney Senior Citizens.

### Reynaldo Martinez Santana

Reynaldo Martinez Santana, age 72, passed away Thursday, January 16, 2014.

Funeral Services were held at 2 p.m., Saturday, January 18, 2014 at Templo Getsemani Assembly of God Church in Floydada.

Interment followed at the Floydada Cemetery. Arrangements were under the direction of Moore-Rose Funeral Home in Floydada.

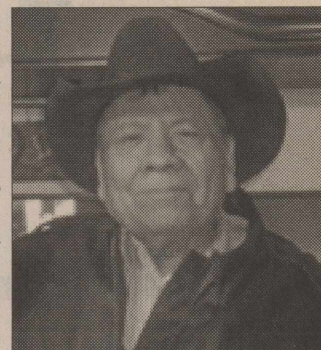
Reynaldo was born on March 17, 1941 to Felipe and Paula (Santana) Martinez in San Carlos, Coahuila. Reynaldo married the love of his life Julia (Mendoza) Martinez on May 19, 1973.

He loved spending time with family, working, fishing and loved animals. He worked for Richard and Robert Ward for over 30 years. Reynaldo enjoyed going out with his wife shopping and going out to eat. He was a member of Templo Getsemani Assembly of God Church in Floydada.

Reynaldo was preceded in death by his parents, a son, Israel Martinez, and a brother, Guadalupe Martinez.

He is survived by his wife, Julia Martinez of the home; three sons, LeRoy Martinez of Big Spring, Reynaldo Martinez, Jr. and Christian of Pampa, and Reggie Martinez of Amarillo; three daughters, Aracely and husband, Reyes Casares of Floydada, Griselda and husband, Orlando Lira of Floydada, and Ruth and husband, Michael Berdeja of Snyder; 16 grandchildren, and numerous brothers and sisters.

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



**REYNALDO SANTANA**

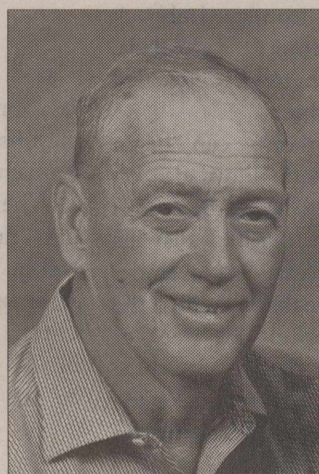
### Melvin Powell

Melvin Powell, age 77, of Floydada passed away Friday, January 24, 2014.

Services were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at the Ralls Cemetery Chapel. Burial was in the Ralls Cemetery under the care of Adams Funeral Home of Ralls.

A visitation was held from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, January 27, 2014 at Adams Funeral Home.

Melvin was born December 27, 1936 in Crosby County to Byron and Hazel Rogers Powell. He married the love of his life Ouita Fowler on June 5, 1958 in Cone Texas. Melvin enjoyed the



**MELVIN POWELL**

stock shows with his children and later grandchildren. He loved all kids, which was evident by his involvement in their activities. He served on the

Crosby County Livestock Board, worked with the 4-H Club, was President of the Crosbyton Booster Club and loved working the chains at their football games.

Melvin is survived by his wife; two sons, Duane Powell and his wife, Donna of Petersburg and Dale Powell of Plainview. He also leaves behind two brothers, Elvis Dean Powell and his wife, Billie of McKinney and Donnie Powell and his wife, Connie of Friendswood, Texas. Melvin is also survived by four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

## 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.

## HEALTHY RECIPE: Smashed Cauliflower

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 large head cauliflower, cut into florets
- 3 cups chicken broth
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup shredded Vermont white Cheddar cheese
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- salt and pepper to taste

### Directions:

Bring cauliflower and chicken broth to a boil in a large saucepan over high heat. Reduce heat to medium, cover, and simmer for 10 minutes. Uncover the saucepan and increase heat to medium-high. Allow cauliflower to simmer until soft and the cooking liquid has reduced by half, about 10 minutes.

Remove cauliflower from the heat, and add the butter, Cheddar cheese, and Parmesan cheese. Mash with a potato masher until the cheeses have melted and the cauliflower is smooth, then season to taste with salt and pepper.

**PREP 10 mins; COOK 25 mins; READY IN 35 mins**

### NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF PATSY L. FORD

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the estate of Patsy L. Ford, Deceased, were issued on January 7, 2014, in case No. 5962 pending in the County Court of Floyd County, Texas, to:

TONY CLAY FORD  
BERNIE V. FORD  
and  
EVELYN DIANE JOHNSON

The address of such persons is:

c/o Bernie V. Ford  
P.O. Box 922  
Lockney, Texas 79241

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

Law Offices of  
BAKER, BROWN & THOMPSON  
A Professional Corporation  
By Norton Baker  
State Bar No. 01602000  
Attorneys for the Estate

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- Lockney Citizen of the Year 2005
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Political ad pd for by Friends of Ed Marks, Lockney, Tx 79241

# SOCIETY

## Museum Archives

# The Rain of 1913

Floyd County  
Hesperian-Lockney  
Beacon  
November 21, 1991

By Will Martin

Many people may not give much thought that the lakes dotted over the plains are for the purpose of draining the land in case of extreme rainy spells. The heavy rains at Lubbock recently were more or less local. The rain fell over a great part of the plains, but it was light in most places and did not last as long as the rain that fell in 1913.

If I remember correctly the rain in 1913 started in the middle of September and had heavy showers off and on for about three weeks. My Papa told me it covered most of the plains counties and a large part of the country under the Caprock.

Of course news traveled mighty slow in those days. Papa received most of his news from me "Semi-weekly farm News" from Dallas, Texas. People from a great part of Texas would write to the Dallas News of unusual happenings in their part of Texas. The paper would give the news of what was going on in most parts of north and west Texas.

One time Papa and brother-in-law, George

Yandell were standing on a high spot in me backyard studying the clouds and seeing how close the playa lake was coming to the barn lots and house. Papa made a very good guess when he put the improvement on the highest part of the farm.

I was with Papa and George to give my opinion of what was going on, but they didn't seem to notice what a five-year-old boy was saying.

A few days after Papa and George made their survey, the lake began to overflow making a trench toward another lake southeast and missing our house by about 200 yards.

A person can imagine how thankful to the Good Lord the whole family was.

When the lake reached its full depth it left us about 15 acres of pasture land for the livestock. Papa was lucky enough to gather enough maize heads and fodder to feed the horses and cows until it dried enough to get back in me field after the big rain. Seems to me it was close to a month.

We had quite a chore in crossing the ditches from one lake to another when we needed to go to town for needed supplies. We mostly went the north road going by the Wyman and Puryear place. The drain from the north

to the lake was just about 1/2 mile east of the Puryear house and barn. The drain was about 12 feet wide, a foot deep in running water.

Some of our horses were shy of water and it made Mama nervous to ride in the wagon across the water. I would guess that draining more than the overflow of one lake running together was what made this as wide and deep a stream as it was.

If we went to town the south route it would be more boggy than the north route we usually traveled.

I suppose people in all parts of the county had their problems traveling to Floydada or Lockney.

Some of the rural places had country stores where they could get supplies and not have to dodge around lakes making it further. If anyone used an auto it was mostly a Model T-Ford. A Ford had tall wheels and not much power. In mud the Ford would chug along and not cut as deep ruts as heavier cars would. I found that out when I got old enough to drive my first old Ford.

As I spoke before about the rural stores I shall name a few that I remember. North of Lockney there was South Plains, Lone Star, Providence and maybe others that I

have forgotten. The stores closer to Floydada that I remember were Sandhill, Allmon, Harmony, McCoy and others that I can't recall just now. School houses were with the stores.

On the north side of town is a road, the full mile of the north side, that was not open as it is now. It just had wagon ruts or trails as we called them then.

The Santa Fe railroad came into town just as the rails came into town, just like now. On the north side of the trails the Santa Fe built a depot about three feet off the ground with a loading dock all the way around. As a person can see a lake east of the trees that were not there when I tell of these times.

When the flood came the water got almost to the floor of the depot, before the lake overflowed somewhere to the southeast. I would suppose that there were some red faces among the railroad upper crust. They moved the depot on the east side of the big elevator beside Missouri Street. I don't remember just when it was moved to this new location. After a few years it was sold and moved out of town. I think it was sold some time in the 1980's.

Going back to things related to the big rain we will tell of a family incident that also concerns the depot when still in the water.

During the summer Mama took up orders selling dishes and such like for a company call the Lee Firm. She received prizes such as window shades and window curtains for her efforts.

These things were shipped to her in a wooden barrel by freight in order for her to deliver them to her customers.

They happened to send a barrel to be picked up at the depot when the water was still about two feet deep around the loading dock.

One day Papa hitched up his two best natured horses to the wagon and we all took off to the depot. The water east of Puryear where it crossed the road into the Massie lake had gone down to a very small stream. When we reached the water around the depot the water had gone down to about half as deep as it had been. The horses pulled the wagon right up beside the dock without a bit of fear. The depot agent rolled the barrel close to the edge of the dock and helped Papa get the barrel into the wagon. Mama paid the freight which wasn't much in those days.

We went by the grocery store to pick up some baking soda that was three boxes for 25 cents, a pound of chewing tobacco which cost 50 cents or less and a 35 cent glass of dipping snuff. That time Mama needed a 75 cent 48 pound sack of flour. At that time flour wasn't bleached it was an off white. But Mama sure could make big old greasy biscuits, browned on top and bottom, ready for the molasses and butter inside.

When we reached home, put the horses in the lot and carried the groceries in the house. We were ready to eat dinner. The noon meal was not called lunch, just dinner. The night meal was supper.

For our meal that day, mama had already cooked a pan of cornbread. So we had cornbread and sweet milk besides molasses mixed with butter and stirred together with cornbread, sure was good.

After dinner papa rolled the barrel of Mama's or-

der down a plank into the house and opened it for her. She sure was proud to look at her window shades and curtains. Then she got on the old wall telephone and called several of our neighbors to tell them their dishes were here. It didn't take but a few days to get all the dishes delivered to all of Mama's customers.

Papa had a small corn patch that he had planted for roasting ears and some it would be gathered to shuck and shell to take to the mill to be ground into corn meal for cornbread. The lake came up and covered most of the corn patch about two feet deep for some time.

The water went down in the corn patch to about four or five inches deep and we were just about out of corn meal. Henry said he would take his donkey and cart and go down to the corn patch and load enough corn to do us for two or three weeks.

He loaded the cart with what he thought the donkey could pull and started for the house. He was barefooted and stepped on a piece of glass and cut his foot. Of course, he was scared and took off to the house which was about 200 yards away. His foot was bleeding pretty bad. Mama was a person who could control herself well under stress. It wasn't but a few minutes until she had the bleeding stopped. She wrapped his foot in a piece of torn bed sheet and put some Petro Carbo salve as she wrapped up Henry's foot. Henry's foot healed up after a few days with no bad after effects.

That day after Henry's bad luck Papa put his rubber boots on, went down and drove the donkey back up to the lot and grainery. We unharnessed the donkey and put the corn in the grainery.

After a few days we shucked the corn and ran it through the hand turned corn sheller, then we took it to the mill and had it made into corn meal. The miller took a certain percent to pay for the grinding on the stone mill. We had enough left to do us for several weeks. The water in the lakes dried up in a few months.

**Robin's Nest**  
Photography

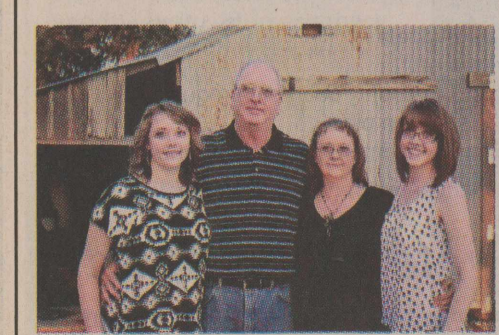
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I would like to take the time to thank all the citizens of Floyd County for their words of encouragement and support during my campaigning. I have enjoyed visiting old friends and meeting new people. The people of Floyd County have always been supportive of my family and I. I am often asked if I ever go back home. I like to tell people "I am home" but sometimes I go back to where I grew up. I am proud to call Floyd County my home and proud that I chose to raise my family in such a great place. My wife and I continue to raise our family and it keeps us busy. I have truly been blessed and would like for each of you to know how much I appreciate the people of Floyd County.

I believe that the people of Floyd County deserve a County Judge that wants what is best for them. I believe that the County Judge needs to be a servant of the citizens. The County Judge is not going to make everyone happy all the time. The people of Floyd County deserve a County Judge that will make decisions based on what is right for the County even if it is not popular. The County Judge needs take charge and do what is right even during an election year. Ignoring problems is not what is best for the County. The Floyd County Judge needs to remember that "Floyd County" comes before Judge.

I want to take this time to personally ask for your vote. I may not make it to knock on your door or shake your hand, but I do want your vote. I would like to thank all the people that are supporting me by telling their friends and family that I need their support and it is time for a change. I retired from the Highway Patrol and I believe that the people of Floyd County deserve better after all they have done for me. I want to serve you as "YOUR" County Judge.



Early Voting - February 18th through 28th, 2014  
Election - Tuesday, March 4th, 2014

In Lockney you can vote at the Methodist Church

In Floydada you can vote at the Courthouse Annex

*\*You must vote in the primary election in order to vote in a run off election\**

**VOTE**  
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**VOTE**

**Bobby Gilliland**

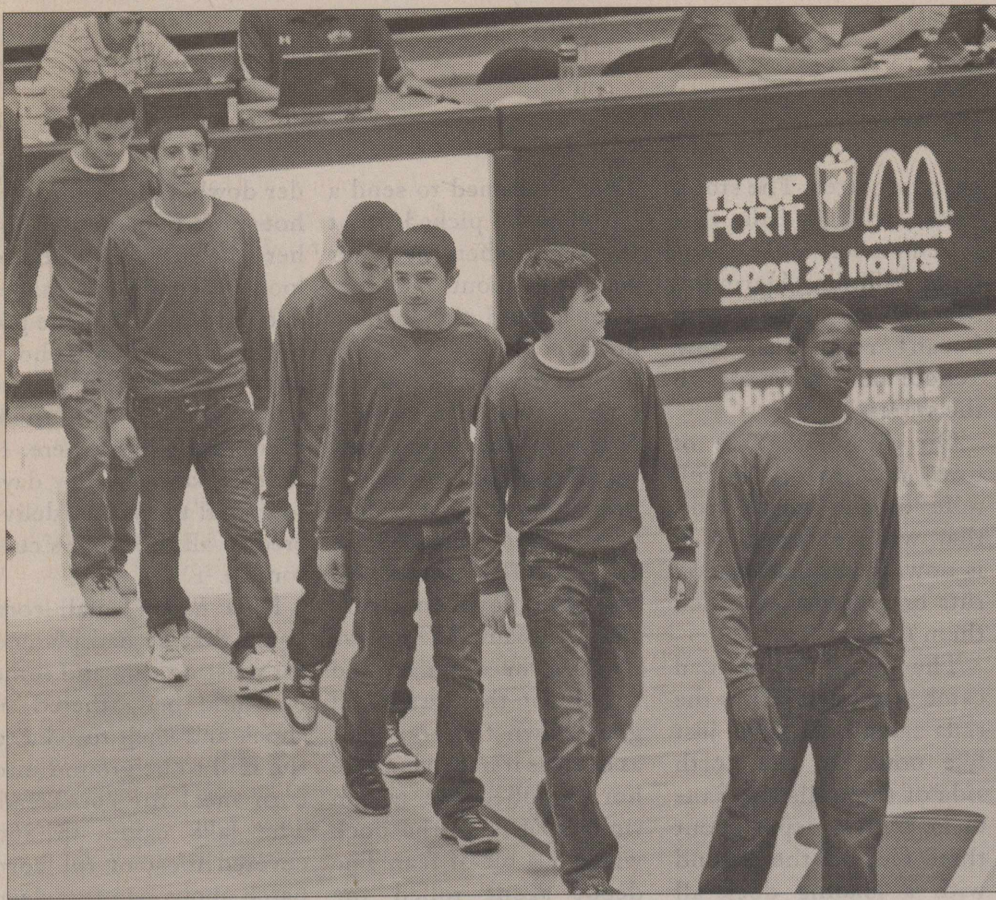
**FLOYD COUNTY JUDGE**

Early Voting February 18-28, 2014  
Republican Primary March 4, 2014

Paid Political Advertisement, Barbara Gilliland, Treasurer  
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# SCHOOL NEWS

## Floydada Day



The Floydada Whirlwinds and Lady 'Winds basketball teams were honored on Floydada Day at Wayland Baptist University on Saturday, February 1, 2014. The teams were introduced at half time of the games.

Photo by Patti Lowrance

## Lockney 8th Grade Boys Basketball

By Coach Jay Ragland

The Lockney eighth grade boys' basketball team defeated Hale Center Monday, Jan. 28 by a score of 42-36 extending their record to 12-0. The

team was led in scoring by Jaden Rosales with 24, Israel Cuellar with 13, Tristan Schlueter with three and Ricky Cuellar with two. The Longhorns hosted New Deal Monday, Feb. 3 for their final game of the season.

## School Menus

### FLOYDADA SCHOOL MENU February 10 – February 14

#### Monday

Breakfast – French toast sticks, fruit juice or fresh fruit, milk variety  
Lunch – Hamburger, lettuce, tomato, pickle, potato tots, western beans, diced pears, milk variety.

#### Tuesday

Breakfast – Scrambled eggs w/ biscuit & gravy, fruit juice or fresh fruit, milk variety  
Lunch – Tangerine chicken, brown rice, baby carrots, steamed broccoli, snowball salad, milk variety

#### Wednesday

Breakfast – Breakfast club, fruit juice

or fresh fruit, milk variety  
Lunch – Tex-Mex stack, Spanish rice, refried beans, garden salad, hot cinnamon apples, milk variety

#### Thursday

Breakfast – Chicken-n-waffles, fruit juice or fresh fruit, milk variety  
Lunch – Stuffed BBQ potato, baby carrots, Texas toast, fresh fruit bowl, milk variety

#### Friday

Breakfast – Breakfast burrito, fruit juice or fresh fruit, milk variety  
Lunch – Chicken Parmesan, Savory green beans, garden salad, fresh apple slices, breadstick, milk variety

### LOCKNEY SCHOOL MENU January 20 – January 24

#### Monday

Breakfast – French toast sticks, fruit juice or fresh fruit, milk variety  
Lunch – Hamburger, lettuce, tomato, pickle, potato rounds, western beans, diced pears, milk variety.

#### Tuesday

Breakfast – Scrambled eggs w/ biscuit & gravy, fruit juice or fresh fruit, milk variety  
Lunch – Two pigs in a blanket, baby carrots, steamed broccoli, pineapple tidbits, milk variety

#### Wednesday

Breakfast – Breakfast club, fruit juice

or fresh fruit, milk variety  
Lunch – Tex-Mex stack, corn chips, garden salad, hot cinnamon apples, milk variety

#### Thursday

Breakfast – Chicken-n-waffles, fruit juice or fresh fruit, milk variety  
Lunch – Stuffed BBQ potato, baby carrots, Texas toast, fresh fruit bowl, milk variety

#### Friday

Breakfast – Breakfast burrito, fruit juice or fresh fruit, milk variety  
Lunch – Cheese pizza, garden salad, savory green beans, fresh apple slices, milk variety

## FISD Renews Trevino's Contract for 3 Years



THE FISD BOARD recognized the following January students and educators of the month (L-R): Reagan Hughes (10th grade), Natalie Hernandez (1st grade), Sallye Lyles (FJH/FHS educator), and George Torres (7th grade).

Courtesy Photo

By Sara Sisemore  
Correspondent

During their Thursday, Jan. 9, 2014 regular meeting, the Floydada Independent School District Board of Trustees met in closed session for 30 minutes to discuss the 2013 Superintendent's evaluation and contract for July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017. Once the meeting resumed in open session, board member Kay Brotherton made the motion to extend Superintendent Gilbert Trevino's contract through June 30, 2017 and increase his salary by \$7,500.

The board unanimously approved hiring Vanessa DeLeon as interim principal at A.B. Duncan Elementary.

Prior to the regular meeting, the board held a public hearing to discuss the Academic Excellence Indicator System Report and Annual Performance Report for 2012-2013. All three of Floydada's campuses – Elementary, Junior High, and High School – 2013 Accountability Rating was "met standard." During the Fiscal Year 2011, out of the 48 total graduates, FHS had 16 graduates who attended a four-year public university, nine total graduates who attended a two-year public college, one graduate who attended an independent college or university, three graduates who were not trackable and 19 graduates unable to be found. Attendance rates for the district have held steady over the last eleven school years between 95 and 96.1 percent. The highest completion rate over the last eleven years was 98.2 percent in 2009 and the lowest was 88.7 percent in 2012. The percentage of students who took advanced courses in 2011-2012 was 25.8.

Following the public hearing, the board recognized the students and educators of the month. Natalie Hernandez (1st grade), George Torres

(7th grade), and Reagan Hughes (10th grade) were the students of the month and Brooke Burson and Sallye Lyles were recognized as the educators of the month.

In other business, the board approved the Dec. 12, 2013 regular meeting minutes and approved the February board meeting for the 11th at 7p.m. The board also reviewed payment of the December 2013 bills. Then, Business Manager Sharon Rainwater presented the tax report, cash flow statement, and investment report. M&O current tax roll is \$2,705,568.73, with net collections of \$2,325,350.42. I&S tax roll is \$318,817.83, with net collections of \$274,013.80. The percent of current roll collected is 85.95, which compares to 82.61 percent this time last year.

In honor of School Board Recognition Month, each board member was recognized by each campus and presented with tokens of appreciation.

The board unanimously approved Marty Lucke's motion to use Robison, Johnson, and Patton to conduct the FISD audit for 2014-2015 and approved John Woelfel's motion to approve the annual AEIS Performance Report for 2012-2013 as presented.

The board certified that no classrooms in Kindergarten through 4th grade do not exceed the 22:1 (student to teacher ratio) for the Class Size Survey for the 2014 spring semester.

No action was taken following discussion about the preliminary 2014-2015 FISD school calendar.

Board member William Dean made the motion to accept bids for the sale of used district vehicles no longer in use. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

In a future meeting, an item for discussion will include a grass roots meeting for board members.

### Penny Golightly

#### Floyd County Judge

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- 30 years' experience with Floyd County government
- Cleaned up criminal and civil dockets, and conduct county court on a regular basis
- Designed and implemented the courthouse evacuation plan
- Implemented Wi-Fi and improved the efficiency of the internet system for the courthouse
- Updated and revised the "Personnel Policy Manual" with enforcing drug testing

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The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon

# The 501 Shades of Fibber McGee

Closets. The bigger they are, the more stuff we have we don't need. The bigger they are, the harder they fall. Football terminology fits. Think how often you've heard someone say they're gonna tackle a closet.

Historically, one very famous American closet was quite the bruiser -- the aggressive hall closet on the radio show "Fibber McGee and Molly." All Fibber or Molly had to do was open that hall door for a cacophony of stuff to tumble disastrously from the overstuffed space. Crash! Bang! Clatter! It was the proverbial kitchen junk drawer on steroids (sticking to our sports theme). As far as I know, neither Fibber nor Molly ever tackled that closet. As important to the show as any regular character, it had its bluff in.

Maybe it was that very closet that inspired mid-century home designers to move the country into an era of bigger closets including (drum roll here) walk-ins! After all, television had eclipsed the world of Fibber and Molly and their timeworn closet. America was flexing post-war muscles and looking for more space. Station wagons came into their own with kids hanging out every window. Walk-in closets came next. That's how I remember it.

Not that anybody I knew actually had a walk-in closet.

But our family had the next-best thing. Call it a "walk-up." It was the attic.

The wire strung under the peak of the roof

functioned originally as a clothesline for days when the weather was too bad to hang the laundry outside. But once we got a dryer, the attic turned into one giant closet. I tackled it just last week.

Forget football. "Wrestle" is the operative word.

Closet wrestling:

Your strategy is clear as the starting bell.

You're ready to get rid of stuff. Unexpectedly, an old floor-length formal gets you in a hammerlock. You beat your own head on the floor. Seconds go by and turn into minutes.

Then you notice the hem has unraveled and the bottom ruffle is disintegrating. Yea! The dress loses its hold. You toss it over the ropes. Victory!

Breaking one hold doesn't end the match. (My knowledge of wrestling is in black and white and dates from the days of vintage television; I'm guessing little has changed.) As soon as you vanquish one garment, another one sneaks up and gets you in a death grip. They tag team.

Sure enough, my burgundy velour bell-bottom pantsuit quickly put me in a choke hold and talked into my left ear, taunting me with the memory of a concert when I lived in New Orleans and forgot to tuck my house key into my little concert purse and therefore, clad in my beloved burgundy, I'd been forced to climb through the backdoor transom to get back into my house. Anyone watching would have thought me a circus performer.

Uncle! Calf rope! Lemme go! I'll keep you! Score one for the attic closet.

Somewhere under the eave, that little purse waits its turn.

I'm no good at this.

# Home Country

By Slim Randles

Our resident cowboy, Steve, brought us the shocking news: cowpuncher Three-Chord Cortez, that bunkhouse balladeer, plans to study opera, in hopes an aria or three will make him even more attractive to girls during a serenade. Apparently, singing La Donna Mobile might be more effective than "You don't know what lonesome is 'til you start

herding co-o-o-ows" ... especially if she doesn't speak European.

I thought I'd jot down a few opera truths for ol' T.C. just to help him out.

1. Take off your hat. You can keep jujubes in it if you want.

2. If you like a particular aria, you can yell Bravo! if it's a man, Brava!

if it's a woman, or Bravisimo! if it's an isimo. It's considered poor form to yell "Eeeee-HAAA!" or

"You get 'em, Hon!"

3. One of the strangest operative devices is called recitative -- pronounced rest-a-TEEF -- (don't ask), and is a combination of singing and speaking that is used when the composer wants to hurry through a song because he wasn't too fond of it in the first place but it was in the contract and he wants it out of the way quickly. Feel free to mention recitative to a woman at half time. Operas have two half times.

The speaking part of the recitative is done like a machine gun, and then you break into song when you get tired of that, and it can happen in the same sentence. For example:

"Don't make me come down there, don't make me come down there, and k-i-i-i-I-I-I-I-I-I-ck your bu-u-u-u-u-tt."

4. That bit of music they play before the curtain goes up is called the overture, and not foreplay.

It's to give you a hint of what's to come, in case you decide to leave early. You might listen to the overture and say, "That allegretto tickles my fancy, but if that tenor duet goes on for more than two minutes, I'll get the scours."

This makes a guy a connoisseur, you see. Connoisseur is European for smart aleck.

And finally, 5. Don't forget to clean your boots.

# Floydada Senior Citizens News

By Margarette Word  
Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

As I woke up this Sunday morning, I looked out my front door and we had snow. I don't know how much but we do need the moisture. I always enjoy seeing snow but don't want to be out in it.

When I turned on the T.V. I found many churches cancelled their services for this Sunday. For me I don't get out of my house in bad weather. It seems to be very slick on the roads and too dangerous for us old people.

Our attendance at the Center has been pretty low. I can think of about 5 or 6 of our regular people who are having health problems and are not coming to the Center. Janice Lloyd was in the hospital for a few days. She is much better and at home now. Some have gone to care centers for a while too. And some have gone to be with their children for a few weeks.

If you are 60 years or older please come to the Center at lunch time and visit your friends and eat a hot meal with us. This Center is so good for people who live alone or couples who no longer want to cook meals. It really helps me to get out of the house and visit friends and eat a hot meal.

Please call Sylvia by 9 a.m. if you plan

on eating with us. Our phone number is 983-2032. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 573, Floydada, TX 79235.

We do appreciate you remembering the Center when you need to make a memorial donation or just want to help us keep our Center active and give a monetary donation to help keep the doors open for the elderly in this community.

In memory of Dorothy Anderson, R. L. Giesecke, Opal Kratzer, Dale Jahay & Franklin Stovall -- Joel and Ann Evans

### MENU

February 10 -- February 14

**Monday** -- Glazed meatloaf, red bliss potatoes, breadstick, mixed vegetables, country apple crisp, low-fat milk

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

**Wednesday** -- Crispy chicken on bun, tomato & lettuce, mayonnaise, potato wedges, carrot & raisin salad, fruit cocktail, low-fat milk

**Thursday** -- Beef stroganoff, noodles, whole wheat roll, margarine, mixed vegetables, winter fruit cup, low-fat milk

**Friday** -- Hot dog on bun, mustard, baked potato w/sour cream, seasoned broccoli, pineapple gelatin, low-fat milk

# Lockney Senior Citizens News

By Renee Armstrong  
Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

Our Family Fish Night will be held again on Friday, Feb. 7 from 5 p.m. -- 8 p.m. Dine in or carry-out. \$10 per plate! Come enjoy the meal and fellowship!

### MENU

February 10 -- February 14

**Monday:** Enchiladas

**Tuesday:** Spaghetti

**Wednesday:** Baked chicken

**Thursday:** Salmon

**Friday:** Pork chops

# Lighthouse to Award Scholarship and Trip to Washington, D.C. to Two Area Students

Again in 2014, for the 50th consecutive year, Lighthouse Electric Cooperative will sponsor two area high school students on the all-expense paid Government-in-Action Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. This year's tour is scheduled for June 12 to June 20. The winners will also receive a \$500 Lighthouse Youth Tour Scholarship.

As participants in the Youth Tour, the local students will join other winners from across the state to travel by air to Washington where they will spend seven days touring places of historical interest, visiting members of Congress, and getting a first-hand view of their government in action.

The two winners will be selected from participants in the co-op's Youth Tour

Speech Contest to be held February 23. Participants will be required to appear before an independent panel of judges to present their speech and answer questions relevant to the Youth Tour and electric cooperatives. Winners are chosen based on their knowledge, speaking ability, appearance and poise.

Over the past 49 years, Lighthouse has sponsored 102 area students on the tour. Winners in recent years have been:

2005- Rebekah Thornton of Plainview and Daniel Houchin of Petersburg

2006 - Krista Rasco of Lockney and Maddie Ramsey of Quitaque

2007 - Josh Fowler of Plainview and Britnee Brotherton of Floydada

2008 - Leah Ford of Lockney and J.C. Simpson of Floydada

2009 - Daryn McCarter of Lockney and Lauren Young of Quitaque

2010 - Jonathan Ramirez of Petersburg and Luis Trujillo of Plainview

2011 - Kristen Jenkins of Turkey

2012 - Ben Seth Ramsey of Quitaque and Anna Hernandez of Lockney

2013 - Walker Carson of Quitaque, Mary Sammann of Lockney, and Emily Hall of Floydada

For further information on the Youth Tour, visit [www.nreca.coop](http://www.nreca.coop) and click on Youth Programs. For information on entering the contest, visit our web site at [www.lighthouse.coop](http://www.lighthouse.coop), or contact Larry Ogden at Lighthouse Electric Cooperative, (806) 983-2814, 1-800-657-7192, or e-mail [larryo@lighthouse.coop](mailto:larryo@lighthouse.coop).

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Real Estate Questions: Mike Jones, TX Broker #9002372, AUCTX #6756  
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PUBLISHED NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JERRY DON LACKEY, Deceased, were issued on December 19, 2013, in Docket Number 5965, pending in the County Court, Floyd County, Texas to Vicki Ballard Voss, Independent Executor.  
The address of record for Vicki Ballard Voss is 514 Vine Street, Weatherford, Texas 76085180. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law to: Vicki Ballard Voss, Independent Executor, c/o Karen Houchin Law Office, P.O. Box 421, Floydada, TX. 79235.  
DATED on this 19th day of December, 2013.  
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# Whirlwind News



## AB Duncan Welcomes Interim Principal

By Mattie Sanders  
Staff Writer

The office is filled with books, paperwork, and a big wooden desk. The open atmosphere is delightful. Vice principal, Robin Nixon, sits in her chair speaking with a kind new face that the faculty and students of AB Duncan Elementary have spent January getting to know.

Doctor de León is the new principal at elementary taking over for the rest of the 2014 spring semester. With a friendly disposition, she is bringing in a refreshing point of view to the already well-structured campus.

"It's been a great experience. I've definitely enjoyed it," said interim principal,

Doctor Vanessa de León. The change for the elementary school has not only been exciting for de León, but has been a chance for the new principal to bring in fresh ideas and making it her own.

"We're taking what was currently in place, whether it is in the curriculum or process and procedures, and we're just finding ways to make it better," said Doctor de León.

The school district is very pleased to have Doctor de León coming in and helping out at the elementary campus. Everyone is extremely excited to see what the future has in store.

"We have outstanding teachers and students at AB



Duncan and together with Dr. de León, they will take that campus to even higher academic levels," said superintendent, Gilbert Trevino.

Floydada ISD welcomes Doctor de León.

## Expectations "Lifted" For a Successful Powerlifting Season



By Aaron Chavarria - Staff Writer

The FHS boys and girls powerlifting teams have participated in three powerlifting meets this year, Abernathy being the most previous one. Both teams had high expectations coming into the season and have reached them thus far.

The sky is the limit for every power lifter and they all look forward to continuing their hard work heading into regionals.

"Both boys and girls have been extraordinary for us this year, and my goal as an individual is to make it to state for my senior year," said senior, Federico Carmona.

For the rookies, this has been a great experience and they look to continue this great trend.

"I placed seventh at Abernathy, and my main goal for the rest of the year is to get stronger and increase my total to get into regionals," said junior, Josh Chavarria.

Improvement is a virtue when it comes to powerlifting, and that is the case for this year.

"I have accomplished so much more this year than I have in the past," said senior, Emily Prisk. "I look to better myself greatly before I get to regionals as a goal to get myself to state."

## Wayland Baptist University Honors Floydada



By Tucker Lowrance - Staff Writer

On Saturday, February 1, 2014 Wayland Baptist University hosted their annual Floydada Day.

Varsity players for the Lady Winds were recognized at halftime of the Wayland Flying Queens vs. John Brown University basketball game, and the boys were recognized at halftime of the Wayland Pioneers basketball game.

All players were very excited to be recognized for what they have accomplished.

"I was very excited to be recognized at this event, I felt that it was a great event

for not only our basketball team, but our school as well," said junior, Rebekah Hall.

For some of the varsity players, it was their last time being recognized as a Whirlwind.

"It was definitely sad knowing that my senior year of basketball is coming to an end, but I'm just glad that I was able to play with these guys and be apart of this team," said senior, Cristo Rosa.

The Wayland Baptist Flying Queens will tip-off at 1:00 and the Pioneers are scheduled to tip-off at 3:00.

## UIL Dominates at Morton

By Hunter Schwertner - Assistant Editor

On Saturday, January 25, 2014, Floydada High School competed at a UIL invitational meet in Morton. The coaches were extremely proud of the students who brought home both individual and team awards.

"I was very excited when my team placed first," said journalism coach, Cynthia Smith. "My students work hard and it's nice to see that their efforts have paid off. This will definitely build our confidence as we go into our district competition."

"It was wonderful to know my team placed first. I am really pleased with the work they did," said literary criticism coach, Rosemary Finley.

Without the hard work the students put in, their accomplishments would not have been possible.

"In order to prepare for the meet, I practiced both in and out of class to make sure I knew how to correctly complete my test,"

said third place computer apps medalist, Michaela Jackson.

For sophomore Destiny Cabello, placing second in Feature Writing was a surprising accomplishment.

"It was really exciting to place in my first journalism competition. It was very unexpected, and I actually thought I wasn't even going to place," said Destiny.

With it being midway through the UIL season, expectations for the remainder of the year are running at an all time high.

"I am really expecting that my team will continue to memorize their pieces and be successful at district," said poetry coach, Rita Cox.

"I feel that we had a positive start this year, and I am hoping we can continue to work hard to become district champions," said UIL coordinator, Tasha Hughes. "We hope that everyone will be able to represent us at the state competition in May. That is our main goal."

## Sweet Incentive at A.B. Duncan

By Aaron Chavarria - Staff Writer

Students at A.B. Duncan have recently been selling ABC cookie dough and pies as a fund raising project. The students are looking to sell the products to as many people as possible.

The students are participating in this fundraiser to raise money for their end of year entertainment.

"As an incentive to promote gifts for students and provide the Joyland fieldtrip for the students, they are selling pies and cookie dough in an effort to raise the money," said

A.B. Duncan secretary, Alamar Ovalle.

The students are not required to sell a certain amount of pies, but the more they sell, the better.

"I have already sold ten pies and I'm really enjoying selling these to the teachers and people," said first grader, Kason Hughes.

Depending on how many pies are sold, students will earn prizes as well as be rewarded.

This is a great way for the students of A.B. Duncan to increase their social skills while doing something effective for the school. Please support these students by purchasing a pie and/or cookie dough today.

## Valentines Dance

for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders  
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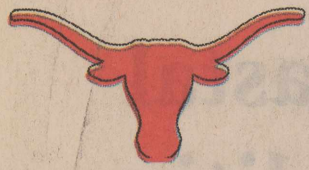
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# Longhorn News

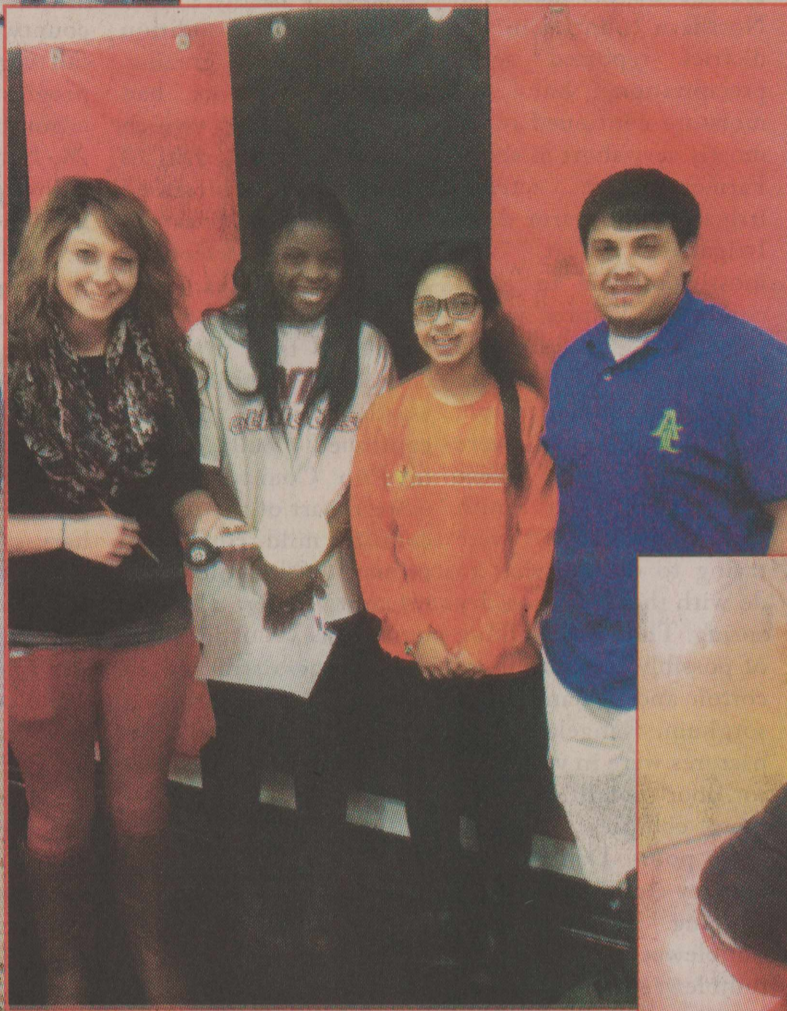


## Mouse Trap Cars

LHS Physics students built Mouse Trap Cars recently as a part of their study of potential and kinetic energy transformations. Each team was given a regular mouse trap and was chal-

lenged to design a vehicle that would move the greatest distance powered only by the energy stored in the spring of the trap. The team of John Salas, Kayla Jimenez and Nathan Ca-

ballero defeated 14 other cars with a distance of 47 feet. Second place was Paula Cuellar, Cody Amador, Javier Guerrero and Alex Lopez with a distance of 44 feet.



## Abernathy Powerlifting Meet Results

### Girls

- Heather Fierros-2nd in her weight class
- Paula Cuellar-4th in her weight class
- Karis Carstensen-2nd in her weight class
- Ashly Alvarado-3rd in her weight class

### Boys

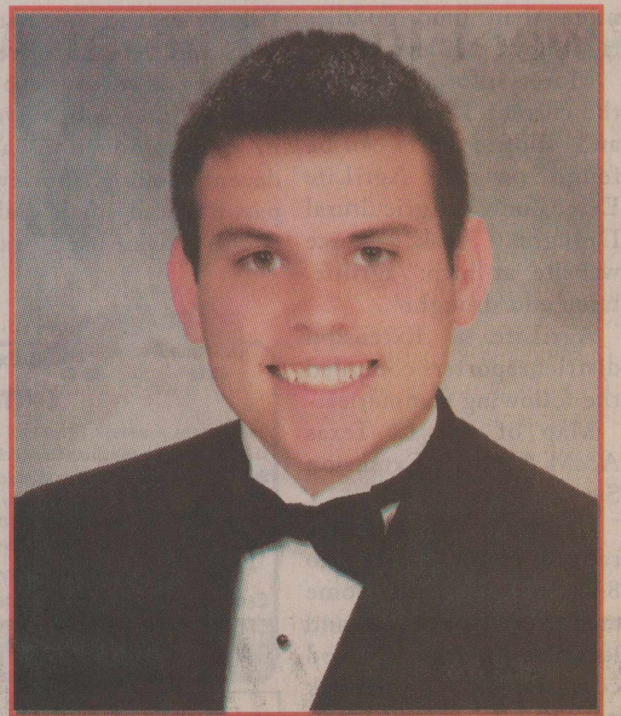
- Dillon DeLeon- 9th in his weight class
- Cody Amador-6th in his weight class

## Senior Spotlights: Alyssa Cruz & Nathan Caballero

**Alyssa Gabrielle Cruz** is the seventeen-year-old daughter of Esmeralda Espinosa and Joe Cruz and has attended school in Lockney since she was in the fourth grade. Alyssa was voted Miss LHS this year by her teachers and classmates. She participated in FCCLA her freshman and sophomore year and is currently a part of FCA. She is also a member of the National Honor Society. Alyssa enjoys running Track and Cross Country where she has been on varsity in Cross Country all four years of high school and Track the past three years. Her junior year she advanced in Track to Area in the 800m run and the Mile Relay and advanced to Regionals in the Mile Relay. Alyssa also participated in a Baptist Church Track Meet her freshman year against girls from other Baptist churches where she won first place in the 100m dash, 400m run, long jump and she and her team won first place in the Relay. She was also recognized as the "Team Champion" from her team at the meet. Alyssa plays the Trumpet and has been a part of the Longhorn Band all four years of high school where they advanced to Area in UIL Marching Competition her sophomore year and advanced to Area Finals where they received fifth place her senior year. They also received top scores in UIL Concert Band her freshman and sophomore years. Alyssa works part-time at Sonic Drive Inn where she is a head carhop and has also been promoted to an Assistant Manager. Alyssa is a volunteer for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program where she enjoys being a role model to a little girl in need. She is a part of the youth at the First Assembly of God in Plainview and enjoys helping out at the church. After high school, Alyssa plans to attend college to get a degree in nursing to become a Neonatal Nurse.



**Nathan Anthony Caballero** is the seventeen-year-old son of Anthony and Lori Caballero. Nathan has been a part of the Lockney Independent School District since he was in Kindergarten. Nathan is currently 8th in his class with a GPA of 94.0. He has been involved in many extracurricular activities while in High School including Student Council, NHS, Basketball, FCCLA, Tennis, One Act Play, and UIL. Nathan currently serves as the Senior Class President, and he holds the office of Vice President in both Student Council and the National Honor Society. Additionally, Nathan is one of four officers for this year's One Act Play. In UIL, Nathan participates in Extemporaneous Informative Speaking. He has had much success in speech competitions throughout his high school career along with honors in tennis, band and One Act Play competitions. Nathan was chosen to attend Camp RYLA last summer which is a Rotary Camp that helps build strong character and leadership skills. After high school, Nathan plans to attend Lubbock Christian University where he will be a part of the LCU Drama Department. Nathan plans to major in Education with an emphasis in English. He hopes to become an English teacher and a Varsity girl's basketball coach.



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# AgriLife agronomist: West Texas and Coastal Bend ag producers facing challenging conditions

By Robert Burns

**COLLEGE STATION** – The new year has found many Texas farmers and ranchers in West Texas and the Coastal Bend regions facing the same conditions they have experienced over the last three years: drought.

Without timely or above-average rainfall this spring and early summer, crop production in many parts of Texas is likely to be at best “marginal” in 2014, said Dr. Travis Miller, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agronomist and Texas A&M University soil and crop sciences associate department head, College Station.

“And long-range climatic forecasts find no clear pattern to suggest above or below normal precipitation, with the exception of Far West Texas, which shows a significant probability of below-normal precipitation over the next three months,” he said.

East Texas and the Blacklands region are in pretty good shape as far as soil moisture profiles are concerned, but the Rolling Plains, much of the Panhandle and Far West Texas, the South Plains, Coastal Bend, and South Texas remained far behind in rainfall, Miller said.

“The soils are dry from last year,” he said.

“They never got enough rain to recharge soils, and the winter wheat crop and cool season forages are struggling right now. The irrigated wheat looks pretty good. But the dryland wheat has marginal stands and very poor growth.”

After years of short crop after short crop, producers and Miller’s AgriLife Extension colleagues are studying what could be done in the way of alternative cropping systems and crops.

“Unfortunately, there’s not much you can do without moisture, as far as agriculture is concerned,” Miller said.

“The livestock producers aren’t doing much better than the crop producers. If you can’t grow grass, you can’t have very many cattle out there.”

Another problem that’s causing great concern for agriculture and urban water supplies is continued low reservoir levels.

“Many are not much more than mud puddles right now,” Miller said.

More information on the current Texas drought and wildfire alerts can be found on the AgriLife Extension Agricultural Drought Task Force website at <http://agrilife.tamu.edu/drought/>.

AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summaries:

Map of the 12 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Districts

**Central:** Temperatures ranged from the 20s to 84 degrees, with some areas receiving snow and ice. Crops were in good condition. Livestock producers continued feeding hay. More producers were taking soil samples to prepare for spring planting. Field conditions, though somewhat on the dry side, were favorable for tillage and fertilizer applications. Farmers were preparing equipment

for corn planting, which was expected to start in about 2 1/2 weeks. Cattle remained in good condition.

**Coastal Bend:** Many counties reported very little moisture, but most of the district had two days of freezing temperatures. Cold weather prompted heavier feeding of cow/calf herds. Livestock producers continued to feed hay and protein supplements. Crop producers were hoping for rain to replenish subsoil and topsoil moisture. One county reported cranes were putting “grazing pressure” on emerged wheat, but the crop appeared to be doing well otherwise. Geese were a problem on ryegrass. Matagorda County reported some rain, which helped replenish topsoil moisture. Most row crop fields were ready to plant.

**East:** The southern part of the region reported ice and snow with accumulations of 2 to 4 inches. The northern part of the region only saw snow flurries, but the entire region had extremely cold temperatures. Ice damaged winter forages or slowed their growth. However, the melting of the ice and snow helped soil moisture in the southern counties. Soils in the northern counties were drying out. Field preparations for vegetable planting continued. Many producers had already planted potatoes, onions and winter vegetables. Livestock herds were in good condition and calving. Producers were feeding hay and supplements.

**Far West:** A cold front brought low temperatures into the teens and highs in the upper 30s to low 40s. The region remained dry with strong winds late in the week. The winds dried out what little topsoil moisture was left. The pecan harvest was nearly finished and growers were hedging orchards. Some pecan farmers were irrigating. Cattle conditions were stable as producers provided supplemental feed as well as large amounts of minerals.

**North:** After no rain for 10 days, the region was becoming a little dry. The weather was sporadic, with morning temperatures in the low 20s and 30s to daytime highs in the 60s and 70s. Windy weather associated with another arctic front further dried out soils. Most winter crops were in full production and decent looking. However, pastures and small grains could have used rain.

Livestock were doing well for the most part across the region. Titus County reported livestock were stressed by lower-than-normal temperatures. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued across the region. Camp County reported damage from feral hog activity.

**Panhandle:** Temperatures began cold and windy, then warmed to above average by the weekend. Northern counties in the district reported some precipitation, but soil moisture continued to be mostly very short to short. Farmers were actively irrigating on warm days. Irrigated wheat was mostly in fair to good condition. Winter wheat continued to struggle because of no moisture in much of the region; some producers were trying to irrigate wheat for pasture. Deaf Smith County producers were trying to decide what to do with the upcoming dry spring. They were talking of possibly planting more cotton and dryland grain sorghum. Rangeland and pastures were in very poor to poor condition with most counties reporting very poor. Dallam and Hartley counties reported ongoing problems with tumbleweeds. The tumbleweed problem was expected to last for some time. County road crews were staying busy keeping rural roads open so residents could get to their homes and care for livestock. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued.

**Rolling Plains:** High temperatures went from 10 degrees one day to 70 degrees the next. Conditions remained dry. Wheat producers continued to report emerging stands, but as soils dried out, hopes for filling in gaps in fields were diminishing. Cotton producers were wrapping up harvest. Some were very pleased with the overall performance of the crop. Pastures and rangeland were also hurt by the dry weather. Earlier moisture gave pastures a boost, but the growth spurt didn’t last long. Cold weather stressed livestock, and some producers responded by providing more supplemental feed. Others were selling calves in hopes of reducing grazing pressure on pastures. Without a good winter wheat crop, producers feared they would be feeding supplements continuously into the early summer. Lake levels continued to drop. Burn bans were in effect in

several counties.

**South:** Cold weather continued throughout the region. In the northern part of the region, cold temperatures with freezing precipitation occurred throughout the week. Soil moisture was 60 to 100 percent short, and rangeland and pastures were in poor condition. Atascosa County livestock producers increased supplemental feeding as range and pastures were not in good condition for livestock grazing. McMullen County had a hard freeze, which heightened the risk of wildfires and increased the need for livestock supplemental feeding. Also in that area, cows were calving, and cattle were in fair to good condition. Despite cold weather, potato planting continued full swing in Frio County. In the eastern part of the region, cold to mild conditions persisted. The cold front brought only limited moisture. Additional moisture was still needed to get the planting season off to a good start. Rangeland and pastures were in fair condition, and soil moisture was 60 percent short. The western part of the district also had cold weather, with temperatures dropping to freezing or below in many counties and only traces of moisture. Despite the cold weather, Zavala County fresh market spinach was harvested. Also in Zavala County, livestock producers increased supplemental feeding of hay, cubes and protein supplements. In the southern part of the

region, soil moisture was mostly 50 to 100 percent adequate. In Cameron County, land preparations for spring planting continued, vegetable crops were maturing, onions were progressing well and sugarcane was normal with a good supply of moisture in soil. In Hidalgo County, the harvesting of sugarcane, citrus and vegetables continued. Early corn crops were also being planted in that county. In Starr County, fall vegetable crops were progressing well.

**South Plains:** On Jan. 24, Lubbock County had a low of 9 degrees and a high of 53. Still no precipitation throughout the region, and dryland winter wheat was suffering. Pasture and rangeland was also in need of moisture as the drought continued to deplete the soil profile. Almost all counties reported the cotton harvest was completed, with the exception of Scurry County, where the harvest was just winding up. Producers were completing general fieldwork to prepare for the upcoming planting season.

**Southeast:** The entire region had freezing weather, often accompanied with sleet and freezing rain. The cold, windy and wet conditions were hard on crops and livestock. Soil moisture throughout the region varied widely, mostly in the adequate range, with some counties reporting from 40 percent short to as much as 100 percent surplus. Rangeland and pasture ratings varied widely too, from poor

to excellent, with fair to good ratings being the most common.

**Southwest:** The region had temperatures dropping down into the 20s and 30s on Jan. 24. Accompanying windy conditions with ice accumulations led to hazardous driving conditions. Soil moisture continued to be low; even winter weeds weren’t growing. Producers were finishing up spring wheat plantings. Dryland wheat and oats were showing signs of stress. The unpredictable weather was hard on livestock, but generally cattle remained in fair condition with supplemental feeding.

**West Central:** Dry, windy, droughty conditions continued, and the wildfire risk was extremely high. Temperatures fluctuated from warm to extremely cold, with no precipitation reported. The up-and-down temperature swings were hard on livestock and crops. Some fieldwork was being done. Producers were cutting cotton stalks and plowing fields to prepare for spring planting. The cotton harvest was completed in most areas. Dryland cotton yields were fair and irrigated yields good. Winter wheat continued to struggle because of lack of moisture. Rangeland and pasture conditions further deteriorated. Livestock remained in fair condition with supplemental feeding. Because of poor grazing, additional protein and hay were a must for all livestock. All area stock water tank levels were low.

## RRC Production Statistics and Allowables for February 2014

**AUSTIN** — The Texas average rig count as of Jan. 24 was 837, representing about 49 percent of all active land rigs in the United States. In the last 12 months, total Texas reported production was 693 million barrels of oil and 7.7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

The Commission’s estimated final production for November 2013 is 62,658,591 barrels of crude oil and 549,783,631 MCF (thousand cubic feet) of gas well gas.

The Commission derives final production numbers by multiplying the preliminary November 2013 production totals

of 54,457,319 barrels of crude oil and 449,536,902 MCF of gas well gas by a production adjustment factor of 1.1506 for crude oil and 1.2230 for gas well gas. (These production totals do not include casinghead gas or condensate.)

Texas natural gas storage reported to the Commission for December 2013 was 369,184,325 MCF compared to 430,119,811 MCF in December 2012. The January 2014 gas storage estimate is 328,745,511 MCF.

The Texas Railroad Commission’s Oil and Gas Division set initial

February 2014 natural gas production allowables for prorated fields in the state to meet market demand of 7,572,162 MCF (thousand cubic feet). In setting the initial February 2014 allowables, the Commission used historical production figures from previous months, producers’ demand forecasts for the coming month, and adjusted the figures based on well capability. These initial allowables will be adjusted after actual production for February 2014 is reported.

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**City of Floydada**

Condemnation Proceedings for the following described properties:

424 E Grover St – Lots 1-3, Block 31, Original Town  
601 E Missouri St – Lot 9, Block 56, Original Town

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLOYDADA WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2014 AT 6:00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT FLOYDADA CITY HALL IN REGARD TO CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PROPERTY LISTED ABOVE. PERSONS WHO NEED SPECIAL ASSISTANCE WISHING TO ATTEND THIS MEETING SHOULD CONTACT CITY HALL AT 983-2834 AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE.

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# AGRICULTURE

## Plains Cotton Growers Applauds House Adoption of FARRM Act Conference Report

By Mary Jane Buerkle

Cotton growers across the High Plains expressed gratitude today to the U.S. House of Representatives for their adoption of the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 2642, the Federal Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2013 (FARRM), 251-166.

"This legislative package adequately meets the needs of cotton producers across the Cotton Belt, and is the best we could have expected in this budgetary climate," Plains Cotton Growers President Craig Heinrich, a cotton grower from Slaton, Texas, said. "This bill will save \$23 billion over 10 years, reforms and streamlines programs, and gives farmers assurance that they can continue to grow food and fiber to feed and clothe this nation and the world."

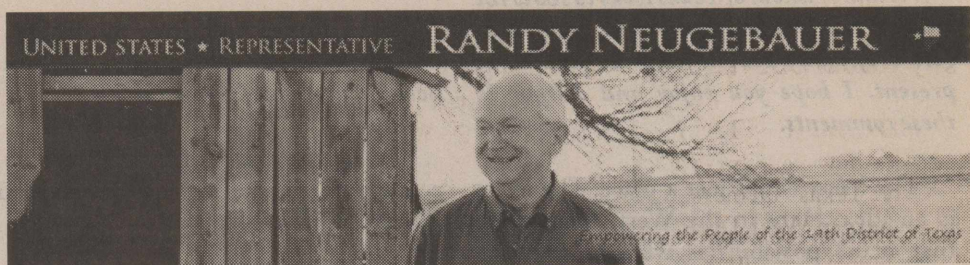
For cotton, the shift from direct cash payments to crop insurance-based risk management achieves meaningful reforms while continuing to work toward a successful resolution of the Brazil WTO case. The bill includes a transition program for cotton in the 2014 crop year, since enactment will come too late for USDA and the private sector to offer the new Stacked Income Protection Plan (STAX), until 2015. Crop insurance continues to be the backbone of the farm safety net for cotton, and the bill includes several important improvements in the crop insurance program that will allow farmers to better tailor their

crop insurance to the appropriate risk.

PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett expressed appreciation to the farm bill conference committee, which includes PCG service area representatives U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer and U.S. Rep. Mike Conaway, for their efforts.

"The farm bill conference committee, under the strong leadership of House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas, Ranking Member Collin Peterson, Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow, and Ranking Member Thad Cochran, has successfully negotiated a package that cuts the deficit, reduces the size and scope of government, and achieves necessary reform through the creation of this farm bill," Verett said. "However, our work is not done, as we must continue working together to pass this bill through the Senate and have it signed by the President. Plains Cotton Growers certainly will stand behind all of our farm bill supporters as we continue our efforts to pass a five-year bill that works for agriculture to support our economy."

An advocate for High Plains cotton growers since 1956, Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., has been tackling the tough issues facing cotton producers for more than 50 years. PCG's service area covers 41 counties from the top of the Texas Panhandle southward to the Permian Basin. For more information, call (806) 792-4904 or visit [www.plainscotton.org](http://www.plainscotton.org).



For Immediate Release  
January 29, 2014

Contact: Heather Vaughan  
(202) 225-4005

## Neugebauer Praises the Passage of the Farm Bill

WASHINGTON, DC—Congressman Randy Neugebauer (R-TX) released the following statement praising the House passage of the Farm Bill Conference Report, the Agricultural Act of 2014, passed by a vote of 251-166.

"After years of work, I was pleased to join my House colleagues to vote in favor of the Farm Bill Conference Report. I want to thank Chairman Frank Lucas for his efforts to put together a comprehensive five-year farm bill that helps strengthen the safety net for the farmers and ranchers, implements market-based reforms, and closes loopholes to ensure

your tax dollars are spent wisely for those in need.

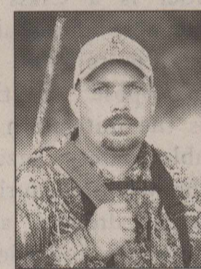
"Additionally, I am pleased that this bill will reduce the deficit while implementing these positive reforms. While there are certainly additional measures I hoped would be included in this bill, this legislation moves our nation in the right direction and gives our farmers and ranchers certainty while they work to feed and clothe America. I look forward to the Senate quickly passing this legislation so that it can be sent to the President's desk, and signed into law."

## Assignment: Texas

### The Pig Explosion - Part 1

#### How a species went from obscure to a nuisance in a quarter century

Pulling through the gate of his northeast Texas ranch, Garry Mills instinctively knew what his eyes were about to tell him. Just a couple of weeks prior to our visit hundreds of native pecan trees on his place yielded a bumper



RUSSELL GRAVES

crop of nuts this year and littered the

ground with the brown

and black nuggets. Most years the trees yield a limited harvest - just enough for his family to pick a few and share the rest with close friends. This year, however, the trees became heavy with nuts and with

a complimentary price spike, he thought he could make a little extra money with the harvest. Mills planned to pick the bounty with the help of contract labor using pecan harvesting equipment.

Before the mechanical pickers could arrive, pickers of a different sort beat him to the punch. Over the course of two nights a pack of wild pigs in untold numbers swept through his small patch of ground and ate nearly every pecan they could find.

"The pigs really wiped me out," he says with a bit of expected trepidation. "I had expected to make a bit of money off these pecans but the hogs beat me to them."

Mills says that it's not the first time pigs have damaged his crops or ranch infrastructure. In fact, he says that the pigs are an ongoing problem.

"I am constantly dealing with some kind of damage that the pigs leave behind," he says referring to broken fences, busted up hay equipment, and rooted wheat fields where he grazes stocker cattle in the winter. "While I can't put a number on it, I know they are costing me money."

Mills isn't alone in his frustrations. Landowners and agriculturists across Texas are continually affected by the once domesticated strain of pigs.

The ubiquitous wild pig is now a staple across the Lone Star landscape. Domesticated pigs were introduced to the North American continent by Hernando de Soto during a period of expansive Spanish colonialism and conquests in the 1500's. When the Spanish arrived, the pig was already domesticated by Europeans and was brought the continent as a food source for the new inhabitants.

As the area that became the United States was colonized, settlers brought pigs with them and spread the livestock species throughout North America. Over the past 500 years, pigs were generally domesticated. In some cases however, a few pigs escaped or were turned loose and eventually reverted back to their wild ways - thus giving us the ancestors of the wild pigs we have today.

## Water Conservation Symposium Set for Feb. 12

The 2nd Biennial Texas Panhandle-High Plains Water Conservation Symposium will be held Feb. 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Amarillo Civic Center North Exhibit Hall at 401 S. Buchanan.

Four local groundwater districts, High Plains Underground Water Conservation District 1, Mesquite Groundwater Conservation District, North Plains Groundwater District and the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, are working with the City of Amarillo to coordinate the symposium. They encourage the public to join local, state and national speakers

as they discuss economic impacts of water conservation.

The morning session will include a Texas legislative outlook, a statewide perspective of agricultural water conservation and what can be expected in 2014. Afternoon breakout sessions will feature water conservation information in the agricultural, public and municipal sectors.

The cost is \$35 per person and includes lunch. Online registration is available at [www.texaswater.org](http://www.texaswater.org).

Symposium sponsors include Sprouse Shrader Smith, Canadian River Municipal Water Authority, Texas Agricultural Irrigation Asso-

ciation, Hemphill County Underground Water Conservation District, Parkhill Smith and Cooper, Inc., Clift Land Brokers, Intera, Texas Corn Producers, Panhandle Cotton Growers, Panhandle-Plains Land Bank, CDM Smith, Texas AgriLife Research, Texas Water Foundation, Netafim, Freese and Nichols, Amarillo Economic Development Corporation, McCrometer and Bell Helicopter.

Additional information is available online at [www.texaswater.org](http://www.texaswater.org) or by calling the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District at 806-883-2501.

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# Wit and Wisdom of Texas

By Charles Keaton  
The Hesperian-Beacon

*Wit and Wisdom of Texas looks to show the readers the common sense and uncommon genius of many Texans from the past to the present. I hope you enjoy and delight in these comments.*

"The West is not just a place. The West is an idea. Here in the West, we learned that man's possibilities were as spacious as the sky that covered him." – Lyndon Baines Johnson

"Life in Texas has the leisureliness of the Old South, the manana-ness of Mexico and the waiting quality of the Indian." – J. Frank Dobie

"You never know your luck till the wheel stops." – Western Saying

"My business philosophy? Don't be in too big a hurry, don't get excited and don't

lose your sense of humor. You can't be objective and emotional at the same time." – Sid Richardson

"Pride. I need no one to inspire me. It's not up to anyone else to make me give my best." – Hakeem Olajuwon

"One of the marks of a gift is to have the courage to pursue it." – Katherine Anne Porter

"If I've learned one thing in life, it's that hard work pays off." – Phil Gramm

"If something is not working, change it. It's up to your customer to fall in love with your product, not you." – Tommy Tune

"Once you get that first million, the other ones come a whole lot easier." – John Mecom, Sr.

"Sandwich ever bit of criticism between two layers of praise." – Mary Kay Ash

## UIL From Page 1

Memphis and Quanah will be in 2A District 2.

Other area school assignments include Plainview going to Class 5A District 4 along with Abilene Cooper, Lubbock High, Lubbock Cooper and San Angelo Lake View for football and basketball. Last year, Lubbock Cooper went four rounds into the playoffs, Abilene Cooper went three rounds deep, losing to State Champs

Cedar Hill and Lake View made a playoff appearance.

In football, Silverton will be in 1A Division 2 District 2 along with Groom, Hedley and McLean. Groom is the only one to make the playoffs last year. Motley County and Patton Springs will be in 1A Division 2 District 9 along with Guthrie and Paducah. Motley County, Paducah and Guthrie all made it to the playoffs last year. Petersburg and Valley will be in 1A Division 1 District 2 along with Lorenzo and Spur. Valley

is the only one to make the playoffs last year, losing in the semi-finals to State Champs Crowell.

In basketball, Silverton and Valley will be in 1A District 2 along with Groom, Hedley, Lefors and McLean. Petersburg will be in 1A District 5 along with Anton, Cotton Center, Crosbyton, Lorenzo, Whiteface and Whitharral. Motley County and Patton Springs will be in 1A District 7 along with Guthrie, Knox City, Paducah and Spur.

## BAN From Page 1

Combustible materials include, but are not limited to the use of all fireworks, brush and open campfires and materials used outdoors in activities such as welding and any other activity that could result in a fire; 2) Notwithstanding No. 1 above, outdoor welding shall be allowed under the following circumstances: A) Welding, cutting and grinding associated with welding activities shall not take place when the wind is over 15 miles; water must be readily available at all times; B) All grass, leaves, brush and other easily combustible materials must

be cleared within a 50 foot radius surrounding the area where the activity is to take place before welding, cutting or grinding begins; 3) Outdoor use of above ground cooking grills will be allowed in a safe area clear of debris; and 4) Burning of household trash will be allowed if burned in metal barrels and barrels are placed in an area clear of grass and debris. No burning will be allowed if winds are in excess of 10 miles per hour.

This order does not prohibit outdoor burning activities related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for: 1) firefighting training;

2) public utility, natural gas pipeline or mining operations; 3) planting or harvesting of agriculture crops; or 4) burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified under Section 153.048, Natural Resource Code and meet the standards of Section 153.047, Natural Resource Code.

In accordance with local laws, a violation of this order is a Class C Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

The purpose of this order is the mitigation of the public safety hazard posed by wildfires during the current drought and severe weather conditions by restricting use of combustible materials.



Courtesy Photo  
Lockney Elementary teacher Jennifer Sullivan serves as the coordinator for the 'Snack Pak 4 Kids' program at Lockney. Currently 44 students at Lockney schools receive a backpack each Friday with non-perishable food to take home for the weekend so that they will have food over the weekend.

## FOOD From Page 1

her lunch. She then went as far to pull her straw out of her milk to suck up any remaining crumbs before licking her tray. God opened my eyes that day to a need to help hungry students in Lockney."

'Snack Pak 4 Kids' is a weekend backpack program that began in September, 2010 at Will Rogers Elementary in Amarillo. Mr. and Mrs. Dyron Howell of Bushland started the program out of their kitchen but since then it has grown to serve over 4,000 students in 24 school districts: Amarillo, Borger, Bushland, Canadian,

Clarendon, Dalhart, Dimmitt, Dumas, Friona, Fritch, Happy, Hedley, Hereford, Highland Park, Lockney, Panhandle, Pampa, Perryton, River Road, Spearman, San Antonio, Stratford, Sunray, Tahoka, Tulia, White Deer and Wildorado.

The program depends on donations which are tax deductible. One example is recently the Happy State Banks collected over 100,000 Pop Tarts for the program with banks in area towns donating directly to their respective school.

"We currently service 44 students in Lockney that are in elementary, junior high and high school. Teachers and school staff make referrals to me based

on needs that they see. We then visit with the students and their families to decide if the Snack Pak program will meet their needs," Sullivan said.

Organizations that wish to participate can contact Sullivan at Lockney Elementary during school hours at 652-3321 or at 983-6323. Volunteers are needed to help pack the Snack Paks. Organizations can also hold drives for Pop Tarts or peanut butter. The Snack Paks are packed with non-perishable food items.

"Monetary donations are also always accepted," Sullivan said.

More information about 'Snack Pak 4 Kids' can be found at their website at [www.snackpak4kids.org](http://www.snackpak4kids.org).



**'The Floydada Businessmen and Farmers sincerely wish to THANK the following for supporting the Floydada 4-H and FFA kids!'**



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# Cotton News

## TEXAS TECH RECEIVES \$19.3 MILLION FROM BAYER CROPSCIENCE

By Leslie Cranford  
Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.

Texas Tech University officials announced on January 23 a \$19.3 million contribution from Bayer CropScience to benefit research programs and projects in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

The \$19.3 million contribution has been submitted for an equal amount of state matching funds from the Texas Research Incentive Program, which would increase the total impact to \$38.6 million and be the largest cash investment for research in the history of Texas Tech University.

"Today's announcement continues a productive and valuable research collaboration between Texas Tech University and Bayer CropScience," said Texas Tech University System Chancellor Kent Hance, who has been working on this contribution with Scott Cooksey, interim vice chancellor for Institutional Advancement, for three years. "Along with anticipated matching funds from the Texas Research Incentive Program, the impact of this contribution will reach nearly \$40 million and benefit not only our research enterprise, faculty and students, but also our region."

The funds will support significant research developments in the Department of Plant and Soil Science, including an endowed chair in PSS, a fellowship endowment for graduate students and new research facilities and space in PSS.

"Partnerships between Texas Tech University and corporations like Bayer CropScience are essential as we advance our research enterprise and continue our forward momentum as one of the nation's leading research institutions," said Texas Tech University President M. Duane Nellis. "We are truly grateful to Bayer CropScience and its leadership for their confidence and vision in Texas Tech University and look forward to collaborating on cutting-edge and impactful research."

Bayer's total contributions to Texas Tech since 1998 equal \$27.6 million. The full impact of Bayer contributions to Texas Tech including matching funds is \$54.85 million, when leveraged with TRIP and Regents' Professorship matching funds totaling \$27.25 million.

"We are so pleased at the opportunity to continue to build our relationship with Texas Tech University," said Mike Gilbert, vice president for Global Breeding and Trait Development, Bayer CropScience. "It will take multiple companies and institutions to address all the challenges agriculture will face in the future. Bayer CropScience is committed to research and development through collaborations such as this, and Texas Tech shares these same commitments. We look forward to a long and rewarding relationship that will impact agriculture in ways we can't even imagine today."

## TEXAS AGRICULTURAL LIFETIME LEADERSHIP PROGRAM SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR CLASS XIV

Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Program is seeking applicants for its new class, which will begin in July.

TALL is a two-year leadership development program managed by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Applications for the newest class, Class XIV, are due March 15. Application forms are online at <http://tall.tamu.edu>.

"Texas agriculture has a need for individuals who can lead our industry as it faces new and unique challenges. These individuals will provide the leadership, insight and direction to ensure agricultural viability for the future," said Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, AgriLife Extension leadership program director.

The program invests 455 hours of intensive training per person in seminars, speakers and domestic and international study trips over two years, Mazurkiewicz added. It is equivalent to the time spent obtaining a master's degree in agriculture.

The typical class size is about 25, and tuition is \$3,000.

"The goal of the program is to create a strong network within Texas agriculture by having representation from all agricultural industries and geographic regions," Mazurkiewicz said.

Participants include traditional crop producers, ranchers, bankers and attorneys, as well as those who work in lumber, food processing, agricultural corporations and horticultural industries, he said.

## PEP GIVES COTTON PRODUCERS BETTER GRASP OF POLICY, ISSUES

From the National Cotton Council

Thirteen U.S. cotton producers have been selected to participate in the 2014 National Cotton Council Policy Education Program, which will give them an opportunity to learn more about the NCC's policy development/implementation process and industry issues.

Supported annually by Syngenta Crop Protection through grants to The Cotton Foundation since 1999, the PEP enables up to four producers from each major Cotton Belt region to attend the NCC's annual meeting where they receive an orientation to the NCC and its policy development process firsthand. The participants also receive communications training - a key step in the NCC's efforts to identify, train and maintain capable industry spokespersons.

This year's participants include: Jacob Appleberry and A.J. Hood, both from Tillar, Ark.; Brandon Belch, Conway, NC; Jayme Dunn, Satana, Kan.; Scott Flowers, Clarksdale, Miss.; Philip Marek, Wharton, Tex.; Nick Marshall, Baker Fla.; Lance Miller, Boaz, Ala.; Steve Olson, Plainview, Tex.; Glenn Sapp, Sale City, Ga.; Chase Schuchard, Roscoe, Tex.; Nick Seaton, Meadow, Tex.; and Martin Stoerner, Lockney, Texas.

The first 2014 PEP session will enable the NCC producer members to attend the NCC's Annual Meeting, February 7-9 in Washington, DC. There they will see representatives from the seven U.S. cotton industry segments in the 17 Cotton Belt states work out common problems and develop programs of mutual benefit. They will see the formulation and implementation of NCC policy and NCC resolutions, which guide the organization's efforts as it manages issues that confront the industry during the year.

In the mid-July Session 2, the group will travel to Greensboro, NC, and return to the nation's capital. While in Greensboro, they will participate in a series of meetings with Syngenta's management team and tour their research facilities as well as receive communications training. In Washington, the group will visit with House and Senate agriculture committees' staff, meet with USDA officials and get briefed by NCC Washington operations staff.

John Gibson, the NCC's Member Services director and PEP coordinator, said Syngenta's

faithful support of the program has enabled the NCC to raise some 200 cotton producers' awareness of how their commodity association functions and the challenges facing the industry.

"Providing these producers, for example, with a deeper understanding of federal farm policy, environmental issues and market development is invaluable," Gibson said. "They understand better how these affect their industry's health and competitive position in the world marketplace which, in turn, helps the Council mobilize them when we need to advocate with lawmakers and other key officials."

## UPCOMING AREA AG CONFERENCES

February 6 - Cotton Variety Selection & Market Update, Yoakum County - Contact J.W. Wagner, County Extension Agent-AG, 806-456-2263.

February 10 - Hale/Swisher Crops Conference, Ollie Liner Center, Plainview - Contact Gary Cross, County Extension Agent-AG, 806-291-5267.

February 12 - Hub of the Plains Ag Conference, KoKo Palace, Lubbock - Contact Mark Brown, County Extension Agent-AG, 806-775-1680.

February 12 - Weed Management, Friona - Contact Benji Henderson, County Extension Agent-AG, 806-481-3619.

February 14 - Cotton Conference, Hereford - Contact Rick Auckerman, County Extension Agent-AG, 806-364-3573.

February 17 - Crop Producers Meeting, Consumers Coop, Dalhart - Contact Mike Bragg, County Extension Agent-AG, 806-244-4434.

February 18 - Irrigation Technology, Lipscomb - Contact J.R. Sprague, County Extension Agent-AG, 806-862-4601.

February 19 - Other than Cotton Meeting, Texas Forest Park Community Center, Lamesa - Contact Gary Roschetzky, County Extension Agent-AG, 806-872-3444.

February 20 - Sandyland Ag Conference, Seminole - Contact Terry Millican, County Extension Agent-AG, 432-758-4006.



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