

The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014

HESPERIANBEACONONLINE.COM

75 CENTS

Jason Nutt and Hwy 70 – All Kinds of Country

By Amanda Stapp

(This article and pictures appeared in the December 2014 issue of the Texas Co-op Power magazine.)

If you're a fan of Texas Country, there's a pretty good chance you've heard the name Jason Nutt. Born and raised in Floydada, Texas, Jason has had a passion for music since he was a little boy listening to his PawPaw play the guitar. That passion has carried Jason all over Texas and eventually landed him right back in his hometown.

Like many boys in high school, Jason had the desire to start up a band. During his freshman year, that dream became a reality and was carried out throughout high school. By the time college rolled around, the band members had gone in several different directions, but Jason was not deterred. Jason continued to write music and play acoustic shows, and word began to spread. It didn't take long for Jason Nutt and Hwy 70 to come together.

The group worked hard and continued to grow. By 2007 and 2008, they were taking off. Not only did they travel all over Texas

playing with some pretty popular Texas artists like Aaron Watson and Randy Rodgers, they also released two albums entitled, "North Clinton Ave" and "All Kinds of Country". These albums are still successful today and can even be purchased on iTunes.

You could say Jason and his band had hit the big time. They were traveling on their personal bus, "The White Buffalo," to gigs all over the state, performing with big names, selling music successfully, and even getting record deals- but their hearts desired something a little bit different as time passed.

In December of 2011, Jason married Whitley, and several of his band mates soon followed down the marriage trail. Life was taking on a new meaning, and the band decided to slow down a bit and enjoy it. Not long after that, Jason decided to return home and help take on the family business at Nutt Cattle Company, which has proved to be another great passion for him.

Although he has returned to his farming roots, music is never far from Jason. He is now pursuing a solo venture and continues to



write music and play gigs when he has the opportunity. He is even working on a new self-titled album to be released this winter, featuring some popular artists, and has begun sending his own songs out to be performed by perspective artists.

He and his wife will also begin a new journey, as they prepare to welcome their daughter, Paislee, in December.

Even though he may have sold the tour bus, and slowed down on gigs, Jason Nutt is a name that will likely be heard for years



to come. His passion for life and music is evident and his talent is undeniable. From small town to big city and back again, Jason has proven he is worth a listen.

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.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD LOCKNEY

Lockney Boy Scouts will be picking up food on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. until 12 Noon. All food collected will be given to the Salvation Army to assist with their Christmas needs.

COAT AND BLANKET DRIVE

Lockney Baptist and Methodist men will be going door-to-door to collect coats and blankets to benefit the Lockney Salvation Army. The drive will be Saturday, Dec. 13 starting at 9 a.m. For more info see article in this week's Hesperian-Beacon.

COMMUNITY-WIDE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The Ministerial Alliance of Floydada will host a special community-wide Christmas Celebration at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 14 at the First Baptist Church of Floydada. A love offering to benefit the Spirit of Sharing (SOS) will be taken along with special Christmas music and scripture reading. For further details see the article in this week's Hesperian-Beacon.

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS FLOYDADA

For more information about "Spirit of Christmas" meal, such as how you can participate or donate, contact Corey Johnston at cell 806-632-7586 or office 806-983-5704.

SANTA COMES TO FLOYDADA

Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus is coming to Floydada on Thurs., Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. Santa will arrive downtown in front of First National Bank. Parents are encouraged to bring cameras.

NATIVITY SCENES

Nativity scenes from the collection of Carolyn Cunningham will be on display at the Dove Room at 305 N. Main in Lockney. Hours will be Dec. 12, 3:00 p.m. till 7:00 p.m.; Dec. 13, 10:00 a.m. till 7:00 p.m.; and Dec. 14, 1:00 p.m. till 5:00 p.m. Donations will be accepted at the door. Sponsored by Hospice Hands Advisory Board.

Santa Claus is coming to Floydada

By Darolyn Snell

Santa Claus is coming to town!!

Your Floydada Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture is glad to announce that Santa will make his annual appearance here in Floydada. On Thursday, Dec. 11th at 6 p.m. Santa will arrive downtown in front of the First National Bank. He will be here to hear from the little ones about what they want for Christmas and to take pictures. We invite all parents to bring your cameras and take your pictures at no charge.

Santa will be seated in front of the beautiful tree and decorations in the First National Bank entry way.

So get into the Christmas spirit and bring all the kids and share a wonderful evening with Santa (and maybe Mrs. Claus and an elf)!

See you there....Thursday, Dec. 11th at 6 p.m.



Photos by Charles Keaton/Hesperian-Beacon

Carolyn Cunningham will display most of her vast collection of Nativity scenes Friday through Sunday, Dec. 12-14 at the Dove Room in Lockney. Cunningham has over 300 scenes from over 100 different countries. Visiting hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Cunningham to Display Nativity Scenes from Around the World

By Charles Keaton
The Hesperian-Beacon

LOCKNEY – Carolyn Cunningham's passion for the Nativity can be seen in her vast collection of native Nativity scenes from over 100 countries around the world.

"I currently have over 300 scenes," Cunningham said. "Each year I keep adding to the collection because I love to see the various interpretations from the different countries."

Cunningham's collection includes scenes from all six of the inhabited continents in the world. She has been collecting for over 30 years and keeps about 60 displayed in her living room all year.

"Each scene is unique but they all tell the same story," Cunningham said. "My favorite scene is the one I have in my hands at that moment."

She originally started collecting smaller scenes but over the years has added some larger ones. Her largest stands about two-and-a-half feet tall.

"Over the years I've been privileged to pick up several through my travels," Cunningham said, "but now I order most of them online. That's a lot different than when I first started."

Cunningham explained that there is an international organization, Friends of the Creche, that is a group that specializes in collecting, exhibiting, studying, creating or treasuring the Christmas Nativity, although she does not belong to it.

Cunningham's collection will be on display Dec. 12-14 at the Dove Room in Lockney. Visiting hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday.

"I just love all my scenes, Cunningham said, "and I wanted to share them with everyone else this year."

Health Fair



Photos by Charles Keaton/Hesperian-Beacon

Employees of W. J. Mangold Memorial Hospital register guests for various door prizes that were to be given away at the annual Holiday Health Fair. Guests could visit numerous booths that offered health screenings, health care information and many other health related issues. The Fair took place at the Lockney Elementary on Dec. 6.

Correction

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

News on the go



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

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County Hesperian-Beacon
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Come in and shop for all your Christmas decorating and gift ideas!
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406 S. Main St. Floydada (806) 983-5111 • (800) 345-7961 Denise Payne, R.Ph.

BMG BLACKBURN MEDIA GROUP

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

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

DEADLINES
Advertising: Noon Fridays
Editorial: Noon Mondays

SUBSCRIPTIONS
\$30 a year in the county
\$35 a year outside the county



Deaths

R.C. Holcombe

R.C. Holcombe, age 80, of Floydada, passed away on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 in Lubbock.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m., Friday, December 5, 2014 at the Floyd County Memorial Park in Floydada. Arrangements were under the care of Moore-Rose Funeral Home in Floydada.

R.C. was born January 29, 1934 to Ray Cuthbert and Dorine (Hulsey) Holcombe in Lamar County, Texas. He served in the

Navy and Army and was part of the Disabled American Veterans.

R.C. taught for 30 years as an industrial arts teacher at Sanderson, Texas and Springlake-Earth ISD where he retired. He loved to work with his hands as he built a KR-2 airplane in the late 70's and built his family home in Ruidoso. R.C. enjoyed watching his grandson, Luke play baseball and basketball.

R.C. is survived by his wife, Jessie Holcombe of

the home; son, Rex Holcombe and wife, Denise of Floydada; daughter, Debbie Mercer and husband, Danny of Odessa; grandson, Luke Holcombe of Floydada; one other grandchild and one great-grandchild.

Memorials may be made in R.C. Holcombe's name to the Disabled American Veterans and the Salvation Army or a charity of your choice.

Online condolences may be made at www.moore-rose.com.

The Paperboy Giving and receiving a fortune

I saw a story yesterday on Warren Buffett's fortune skyrocketing.

Buffett's net worth has climbed handsomely this year bolstered by a 28 percent jump in the value of his Berkshire Hathaway's stock which closed at an all-time high Monday. The stock closed at \$227,800 per share.

Buffett is now worth more than \$74 billion and climbed over Mexico's Carlos Slim (\$72 billion) and Amancio Ortega (\$64 billion) into second place on the list of world's richest people. Bill Gates, who has seen his fortune jump this year as well, is number one on the list with a net worth of \$81.4 billion.

It's pretty astounding that Gates and Buffet sit atop the list because they are the most generous humans in history in terms of the amount of money they have given to charity. Over their lifetimes, each man has donated between \$30 and \$35 billion to a multitude of causes through their foundations. That is simply incredible.

Perhaps these two men are proof that giving comes back to you...

Scientists think they are closer to proving life, in some form or fashion, existed on Mars.

For life, as we know it, to form and thrive, scientists generally agree that these things must be present:

- Standing water.
- An energy source.
- Five basic elements: carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, phosphorus and nitrogen.
- Time.

One of our rovers on Mars has found all of the above and scientists have concluded that there was life on Mars.

I suspect they're right. It seems like we get a little closer each year in determining there is abundant life in this universe.

I was once asked if such discoveries had any bearing on my faith?

My short answer: God is the ultimate creator. I'm a human created in His image. I do not pretend to know what all God has created, but I'm thankful He created us. And not only did He create us, He has proven to have a vested interest in us.

It's easy for us humans to try and discount all God has provided. We are always trying to prove how smart we are, while at the same time, trying to prove that God doesn't exist and all things can be proven through science.

Scientists make a good case too don't they? Or do they?

It's hard for me to say. Since I was a boy, scientists have changed their tune on a myriad of topics. Seems they are still learning as well.

My take on extraterrestrial life: I think there is plenty of life in this universe, both intelligent and otherwise. I also don't care if there is. Until they come to my country, they are no threat to me. And truthfully, what can I do about it?

It's best for me to concentrate on the few things in this world that I can control and try and do my best with the gifts God has given to me. When we break it down to the basics, it's all any of us can do.

Chris Blackburn serves as CEO at Blackburn Media Group, proud owner of Red River Sun, The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon, The Knox County News-Courier and The Post Dispatch. He can be reached by email at chris@blackburnmediagroup.com and you can follow him on Twitter @WCSBlackburn, although he doesn't tweet much.

Kress man pleads guilty to burglary, sexual assault

On Monday, Dec. 8, Matthew Adrian Costilla, age 24, of Kress, pled guilty to Burglary of a Habitation with the Commission of Sexual Assault, according to a news release from the office of Becky McPherson, 110th Judicial District Attorney Floyd County.

According to DA's release, Costilla received a 55-year sentence for the offense which occurred which occurred on February 8, 2014.

He will be eligible to be considered for

parole in 27 1/2 years, and he has no right to appeal. The maximum sentence Costilla could have received was Life or 99 years.

If he had received a Life or 99 year sentence, he would have been eligible for parole in 30 years, and he would have had the right to appeal.

By pleading this case, the victim and her family do not have to testify, nor go through the appellate process.

The victim was an 84-year old Lockney woman.

Ministerial Alliance of Floydada to host community wide Christmas Celebration

By Tim Franks
Pastor FBC

Christmas is always an exciting time of the year for our community. This year the Ministerial Alliance of our community would like to add to the excitement of the season.

As our community celebrates the birthday of Je-

sus, the Ministerial Alliance of Floydada will host a special community-wide Christmas Celebration on Sunday, December 14, 2014. The celebration will take place in the First Baptist Church sanctuary (401 South Main) at 6 p.m. This will be a great opportunity for our entire community to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ through authentic worship. There will be special music from a community choir, singing of traditional Christmas Carols, and scripture reading that will bring hope and encouragement to our

lives. Also, during the celebration we will also be honoring the wonderful local organization, Spirit of Sharing. Spirit of Sharing is an integral part of our community as it helps many people that find themselves in need. We will hear a little bit about S.O.S. and then we will take a love offering to help them meet the needs of other people.

Please plan to attend this Community Christmas Celebration on Sunday, December 14, at 6 p.m. in the First Baptist Church Sanctuary.

LOCKNEY COAT AND BLANKET DRIVE

The Lockney Baptist and Methodist men will be sponsoring a door-to-door coat and blanket drive on Saturday, December 13th. This drive will benefit the Lockney Salvation Army. Please meet at the Lockney Methodist Church at 8 a.m. for breakfast followed by the drive which will start at 9 a.m. Lockney citizens may leave the coats and blankets on their front porch if they aren't going to be home.

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FLOYDADA NEW YEAR'S BLAST

Dec 29th - Jan 2nd
5:00am - 6:00am
Small gym by the High School
5 Days of Intensive Bootcamp Workouts
Daily Health Tips/Devotionals
Encouragement, Accountability, and Support
A Biblically Based Fitness Program for Women

For more information: Amanda Stapp,
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Regular classes begin January 5th

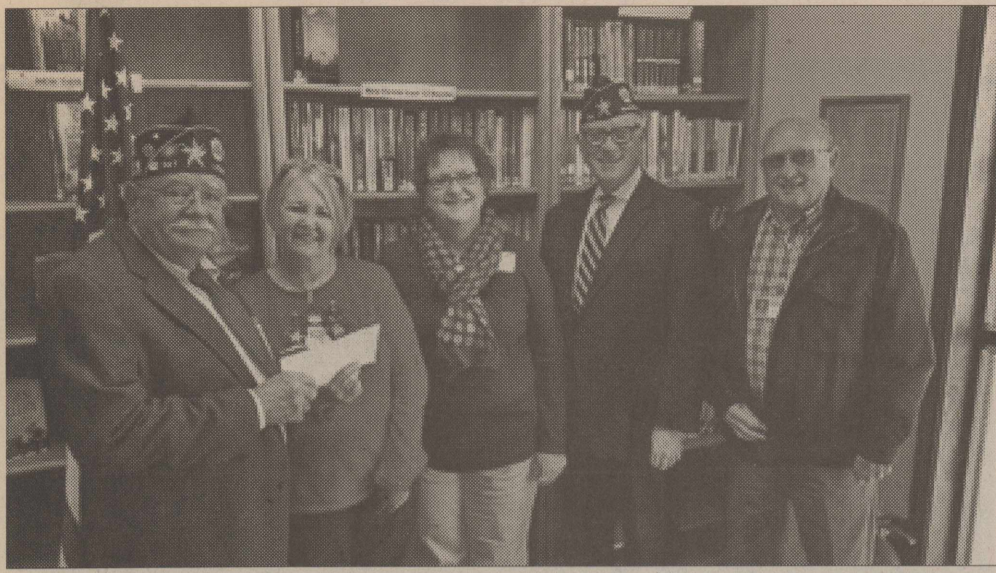
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NEW PHONE NUMBER FOR HESPERIAN-BEACON

The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon has a new phone number.
The new phone number is (888) 400-1083.

SOCIETY



Charles Keaton/Hesperian-Beacon

Commander Ed Marks of American Legion Post 141 in Lockney presents Marsha Allen a check to help support the quilting project of Allen and Shelda Rogers. Allen and Rogers are making quilts for residents of the VA Nursing Home in Amarillo. Members of Post 141 will present 14 quilts to the VA Home on Dec. 12. Also present were (L-R) Post Chaplin Dan Shaver and member Jack Covington.



Courtesy Photo Cindy Cotham

Since July 14, 2013, Longhorn Cafe has been owned and managed by Delfina Valdez. She has worked hard to make this business work. Even though there have been struggles there have also been many successes. Owning the Longhorn Café has always been a dream of Valdez's and her dream has come true. Watching everyone walk through her door has been a true blessing and she is very thankful for all those who have supported her. Valdez would like to extend an invitation to everyone to come and enjoy the different kinds of food. The Longhorn Cafe is open Monday through Thursday 7:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. as well as Friday and Saturday 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. They are located across the street from Lockney High School at 401 SW 4th St. You can contact her at 806 652-2500. Valdez and her staff hope to see you soon. She wishes God's blessings on each and everyone of you. Valdez (center) and Chamber of Commerce members Archie Jones (left) and Cindy Cotham (right) cut the ribbon at the Longhorn Cafe.



Courtesy Photo By Cindy Cotham

Bill and Maxine Strickland are back! For 29 years, the Stricklands owned and operated Strickland's restaurant. After a break, they have now opened Strickland's Drive-In, located across Hwy 70 in the west end of the original Strickland's restaurant. Contact them to order by calling 806-652-3663. They are open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 10:30 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. They are closed on Sunday and Tuesday. They have a varied menu including homemade steak fingers, onion rings and hamburgers as well as Maxine's pies. Please call a day ahead to order these delicious homemade pies. Strickland's has Happy Hour from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. featuring any size drink for 99 cents. Bill and Maxine appreciate your business and hope to see you soon. Archie Jones (L) and Cindy Cotham (R) of the Lockney Chamber of Commerce helped the Stricklands cut the ribbon.

Museum Archives

Floyd County Historical Museum "Memories, 1979"

J. F. ROBERTS FAMILY

Early in 1901, John Frost Roberts brought his wife and six children to Floyd County, Antelope Community, near Jo Bailey. Adrian, Lillie, and Delia were born in Tennessee; Harmon, in Wise County, Texas; Elzie and Luther, in Archer County. Years later, Sallie Harmon Roberts would say that as they "topped the cap" it seemed they had reached the end of the earth. The endless sea of grass was so opposite the hills and breaks of east Texas and the mountains of their native Bedford-Coffee counties in Tennessee.

They lived a while in a half-dugout, the children sleeping in the wagon. The tarpaulin was loosened on one side and held up with poles to create a shade. By mid-May fields were plowed. "20 acres" of corn planted and three days spent searching for "the Sparks mule" that strayed. J. F. wrote his brother in Clay County to sell the cattle there because of their drought, hoping to get "\$18 down" and that he is "in town to arrange to get a well bored". Sallie had six children under twelve, was six months pregnant and no water well! In August Poyner was born, then Julian in 1903. The children rode horseback, sometimes to Webb in Crosby County, to bring in the milk cows.

After a house was built, the Antelope school teacher stayed with them and when weather prevented reaching the school, classes were held for the Roberts children at home.

Land deals brought moves and J. F. dealt in land and livestock. In 1906 Bertha was born in Floydada;

Frank, in 1910. Lillie and Delia were terribly embarrassed when beaus came and the jack kept in the barn would bray, or the stallion or so in the lot raised a ruckus. Because of his breeding stock, J. F. was known, though perhaps not to his face, as "Jackass" Roberts.

The Primitive Baptist doctrine had been practiced by many prior generations so the family's religious and social life centered around that church, held in the Lakeview School.

Adrain married "Fronnie" Wright. After her death he married Lillian Hughes and was a Primitive Baptist preacher many decades in California. Lillie married Wayne Wright: They farmed at Lakeview. Delia married Tilford Taylor. They farmed at Mr. Blanco. Harmon married Jura Dunn. They farmed, owned drug stores in Crosby, Farmer, and Deaf Smith Counties and ranches in Colorado. Elzie married Minnie Lee Dunn. He farmed, but was principally a ginner in Crosbyton. Luther never married, becoming paralyzed after the flu in 1918, was an invalid 22 years. Poyner married Jessie Wilson, was a butcher and merchant. Julian married Velma Norman, farming a while, then owning a garage in Ralls. Bertha attended business school, then married Ellis Head, they managed and owned furniture stores in and around Wichita Falls before moving to Tyier. Frank married Catherine Lyle after attending Texas Tech. They owned a drug store in Abernathy. A J. Roberts, Jr. was raised from infancy by his grandparents.

J. F., Sallie, several children and spouses, and some grandchildren are buried in Lakeview Cemetery.

Floydada Senior Citizens News

By LuAnn Collins
Special for The Hesperian-Beacon

Floydada Senior Citizens will be hosting a Christmas Party on Monday, December 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. Please bring an appetizer to share.

Thank you to all who donate to the Floydada Senior Citizens Center. Your generous donations keep our doors open. Our mailing address for memorials or donations is P.O. Box 573, Floydada, Texas 79235.

In Memory of Louis Pyle - Bill and Norma Feuerbacher, Imogene Stansell, Faye Bertrand

In Memory of Jo Lyles - Bill and Norma Feuerbacher

In Memory of Norma Collins - Imogene Stansell

In Memory of Margie Womack - Bill and Norma Feuerbacher

In Memory of Ray Hinton - Bill and Norma Feuerbacher

In Memory of Viola White - Mary Poole, Genetta Carnell, Catherine Jones, Rosie Gerlock.

Serving time is 12 noon until 1:00 p.m. Please call by 9:30 a.m. if you plan to eat at

the Center. We are located at 925 W. Crockett Street.

Reminder that the Center will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 25 and Friday, Dec. 26 for the Christmas holidays.

We appreciate you remembering the Center when you need to make a memorial or a donation. Our mailing address is PO Box 573, Floydada, TX. 79235

MENU Dec. 15 - Dec. 19

Monday - Oven fried chicken, bow tie pasta, broccoli raisin salad, fruit cocktail, low-fat milk

Tuesday - Taco salad and corn chips, seasoned corn, watermelon, peach cobbler, low-fat milk

Wednesday - Creamy mushroom steak, mashed potatoes, peas & carrots, whole wheat roll, emerald pears, low-fat milk

Thursday - Ham & beans, cornbread, margarine, spinach, seasoned corn, orange pineapple cup, country apple crisp, low-fat milk

Friday - Cheeseburger, potato wedges, tomato wedge, salad, melon medley, low-fat milk

**Floydada ISD
Christmas Open House**

*As we celebrate the joyous
Christmas season, please join us
for a Christmas Open House:*

Thursday, December 18th
8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

at FISD Central Office
(226 W. California Street)

*We look forward to
seeing you there!*

**READING
NEWSPAPERS
IS A QUEST
LIKE NO OTHER**

Lockney Senior Citizens News

By Renee Armstrong
Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

Just a reminder that Friday, December 12 will be our Holiday Meal here at the Center. Turkey and dressing and all trimmings will be served at the noon meal.

Mark your calendars that the Center will be closed December 24, 25 and 26 for the Christmas holidays and again there will NOT be a Fish Fry that week as well. We will also be closed for New Year's on Wednesday, December 31 and January 1.

A Cowboy Christmas Benefit Concert featuring Wendell Sollis and the Sidekicks All Star Band including Lockney's own Brady Rasco and Lucy Dean Record will be held on Friday, December 19 at the Granada Theatre in Plainview. Tickets are available at Broadway Brew, 108 7th Street, Plainview, Grumpy's Grill at 705 Broadway, Plainview, or the Chamber of Commerce of Plainview or any select a seat location or www.selectaseatlubbock.com. Tickets are \$15 kids/students and \$35 single or \$60 couple. Doors open at 6 p.m. The show starts

at 7 p.m. It is a 2-1/2 hour show. There will be complimentary Christmas cookies with wassail or hot chocolate. All proceeds will go for restoring the Granada Theatre. Please go get your tickets and enjoy an evening of music.

Remember the Friday Night fish fry. Come and enjoy food, fun and fellowship. 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. "Let US do the dishes!"

Remember that Exercise with Dorothy is on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:45- 9:15 a.m. Coffee time is Monday - Saturday - 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Thursday night Pot Luck is from 5 - 9 p.m. Please bring a dish and enjoy supper and games afterwards

MENU Dec. 15 - Dec. 19

Monday - Hamburger steak
Tuesday - Tacos
Wednesday - Chicken fried steak
Thursday - Soup and cornbread
Friday - Meatloaf
(Menu subject to change without notice)

SCHOOL NEWS

FLOYDADA PTO NEWS DUNCAN ELEMENTARY

Friday, December 12th

POPCORN/PICKLE FRIDAY

(if you can help please come to the cafeteria at 8 am Friday morning).

Wednesday, December 17th

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM for Pre-K, Kinder, and 1st grade
(parents and family are highly encouraged to come support their child).

Pre-K @ 9:00 am

Kinder @ 9:30 am

1st @ 10:00 am

Thursday, December 18th

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade
(parents and family are highly encouraged to come support their child).

2nd @ 9:00 am

3rd @ 9:30 am

4th @ 10:00 am

Friday, December 19th

End of the 3rd six weeks

Friday, December 19th

3rd Six Weeks Character Counts Pep Rally – 8:30 am

These are very impressive and fun, please come support your child!

EARLY OUT

Wednesday, December 17 @ 1:30 pm

Thursday, December 18 @ 1:30 pm

Friday, December 19 @ 12:00 noon

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Monday, December 22 - Monday, January 5

School will resume on Tuesday, January 6



Courtesy Photo by Pam Fulton

Lockney Varsity boys team won the Guthrie Tournament held Dec. 4-6. They defeated Haskell 50-30, Knox City 50-46 and they then beat Anson in the championship 59-49. Pictured from left to right Israel Cuellar, Tavien Walrath, Daylen Gatica, Trevor Ascencio, Jaden Rosales, Avian Luna, Ruben Ascencio, Ignacio Luna and Tevin Phillips. Kneeling are Eli Guerra and Mauricio Davila.

Lockney Junior High Girls Basketball Summary

By Randy Jackson

The Lockney Junior High girls took on New Deal on Dec. 1.

Seventh Grade Girls: The Lockney seventh grade girls basketball team had one of their best games of the season as they defeated New Deal 26-8. The team was led by Mada Chavira who had 10 points on the night. Playing as a team, the ladies had a total of five players who contributed to the victory with Tyra Rosales finishing with six points, both Mika Williams and Anahi Ascencio finishing with four points and Tatyana Cienfuegos contributing two points. Defensively, Tabitha Hernandez, Elida Mendez, Hailee Widerner and Kayla Archer helped shut down the New Deal offensive charge.

8th Grade Girls: The Lockney eighth grade girls had a slow start but finished the game strong in a 21-10 loss against New Deal. The eighth grade went into half-time behind 10-1, with the ladies' only point coming from a free-throw by Reagan Nuncio. The second half played out better for the eighth grade girls as Nuncio added an additional three points to the scoreboard while Lyndee Setliff, Adri Palomin and Isabel Cruz each contributed two points. Defensive assistance from Avery Poole, Alexa Poole and Haley Sanchez helped to slow down the New Deal offensive attack in the second half and stronger rebounding helped to provide more opportunities to score.

The Junior High girls are coached by Richard Jackson and Randy Jackson

LOCKNEY SCOUTING FOR FOOD

Lockney Boy Scouts will be picking up food on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. All food collected will be given to the Salvation Army to assist with their Christmas needs.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DEADLINES

The deadline for ads and articles to be placed in our Christmas issue (12-25) will be Friday, Dec. 19th at 3 p.m. Our deadline for our New Year's issue (1-15) will be Wednesday, Dec. 24th at noon. We cannot guarantee placement in these issues unless deadlines are met.

AREA FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

Week 15 Round 4 Playoff Scores

Seagraves 49, Crosbyton 21

Crowell 100, Valley 50

Canadian 62, Abernathy 14

Aledo 47, Randall 29

Shallowater 22, Brock 21

Groom 72, Loraine 54

Week 16 Round 5 Playoff Pairings

3A State Semi-finals

D1: Shallowater vs. Mineola, 7:30 p.m. Friday at Brownwood

2A State Semi-finals

D1: Mart vs. Canadian, 7:30 p.m. Friday at Wichita Falls

D2: Albany vs. Seagraves, 7 p.m. Friday at Snyder

1A State Championships at Arlington's AT&T (Cowboys) Stadium

D1: Crowell vs. May, 3 p.m. Saturday


D2: Groom vs. Throckmorton, 12 p.m. Saturday

5A State Semi-finals

D2: Canutillo vs. Ennis, 7 p.m. Friday at Lubbock's Plains Capital Park (Lowery Field)



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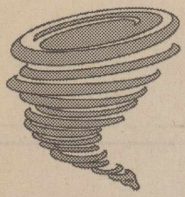


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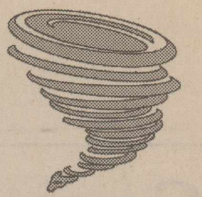
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FLOYDADA 806-993-3284
E-MAIL: jkms@spcglobal.net

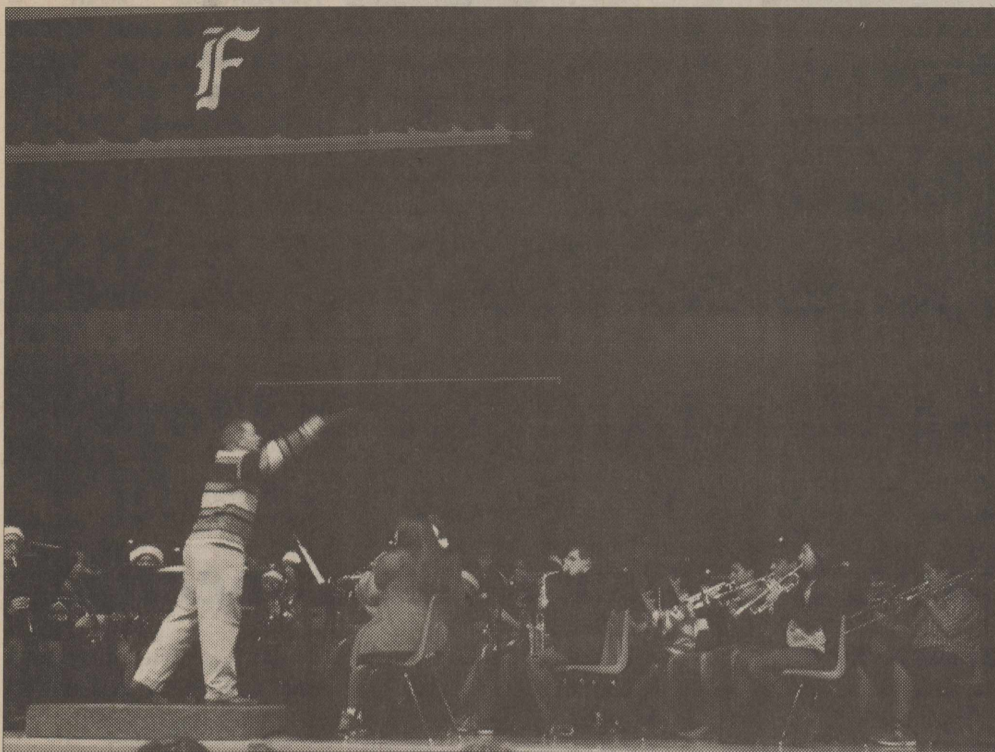
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Whirlwind News



Christmas Band Concert



By Jaque Barrera
Staff Writer

For the band, a new year means a new opportunity to give the crowd a show at Floydada High School. The band's hard work and dedication allowed them to showcase their talent by hosting a Christmas concert.

"At the beginning of our performance, the crowd was quiet the whole time...but at the end of our performance, I was amazed by their loudness. Throughout the songs that we played, I could see that the people there weren't bored. However, some parents were even recording us, and it felt good," said clarinet player Dora Cervera.

To celebrate the holiday season, the band played Christmas music.

"We played variety of Christmas songs, including 'Winter Wonderland' which was my favorite of them all because it starts off full of

excitement, and that automatically gets the crowds attention," said trombone player Ricardo Castillo.

The excitement level of the band and its audience resulted in an overall increase in confidence.

"I felt like we played so much better at the concert than we usually did during practices. Seeing the immense crowd made us feel like we were famous. Also, everyone was concentrating, and - at the time we started playing - we started off good and we used that as an advantage to keep playing the right notes," said Zeke Torres, junior.

Without a doubt, the students in the band own up to their hard work and are satisfied with the way they performed.

"The whole point of this concert was to bring excitement and joy for the arrival of Christmas...also to show our parents and the rest of the community how hard we have been working this semester and how much better we've become," said trumpet player Jade DeOchoa.



Making A Difference: The Thespian Society

By McKenna Johnson
Senior Editor

Wednesday, Dec. 3, the Floydada High Chapter of the International Thespian Society delivered fifty baby beanies to NICU of Covenant Hospital and another fifty beanies to NICU of UMC. Along with advisor Rita Cox, the Floydada officers presented the beanies to a NICU representative. After the beanies were received by the hospital, the students got the chance to tour the NICU. After the trip, the students felt both emotionally moved and satisfied with the hard work they put in to make the baby beanies.

"I felt really happy knowing that the babies in the NICU were receiving love and support

not only from the hospital, but also from outside forces like our own Thespian Society," said Desiree Guerra.

The trip was not only inspiring to the students, but it also served as a future career opportunity.

"The students thought it was extremely interesting and had questions about becoming NICU nurses. They loved the uplifting feeling they received knowing they had done something good for other people," said Rita Cox.

Overall, "as an Thespian officer, I was really excited I got to personally give the hospital the beanies because the nurses faces made it clear that our months of had paid off," said Brooke Galvan, The Floydada High School Thespian Society Vice President.

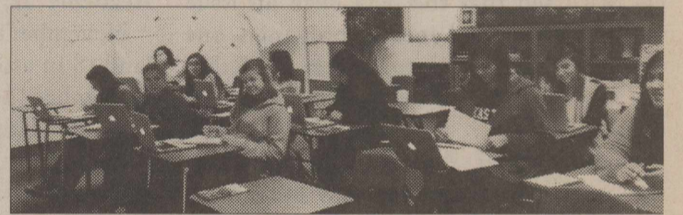
A Jumpstart in College: "The Right Way"

By Bethany Morales
Staff Writer

For juniors and seniors, 'college' is just around the corner, and it is time to begin preparing for their future. Dual credit courses are the best way to get a jumpstart in college. By taking dual credit courses, students are given the opportunity to earn college hours prior to finishing high school.

"Dual credit courses are college classes taken during high school to earn college hours," Counselor Kathy Jahay said. Jahay has overseen the process of dual credit enrollment for well over a decade.

In past years at Floydada High School, students have been able to graduate and en-



ter their first year at college as a sophomore. Not only is this allowing students to start earning college hours early, but it also allows them to graduate college early.

Dual credit is beneficial not only to get a head start, but it also takes some of the financial burden off before entering college.

"By taking dual credit classes, the cost of the classes are less than half the cost of what regular tuition would be at a university. It is really saving my fam-

ily money," said senior Alyssia Shepley-Minner.

At Texas Tech University, a single semester consisting of 15 credit hours - not including books - would be an estimated cost of about \$9,608. By taking dual credit classes, a year would be an estimated total cost of \$1,524, not including books. Obviously, the possibilities for savings are very substantial, and the offering of these courses provide a wealth of opportunities for upperclassmen in Floydada's secondary schools.

Whirlwind Basketball Season

By Tucker Lowrance
Staff Writer

With the football season coming to a close just a few weeks ago, the focus for most athletes has turned into an effort to make the basketball season as successful as the football season.

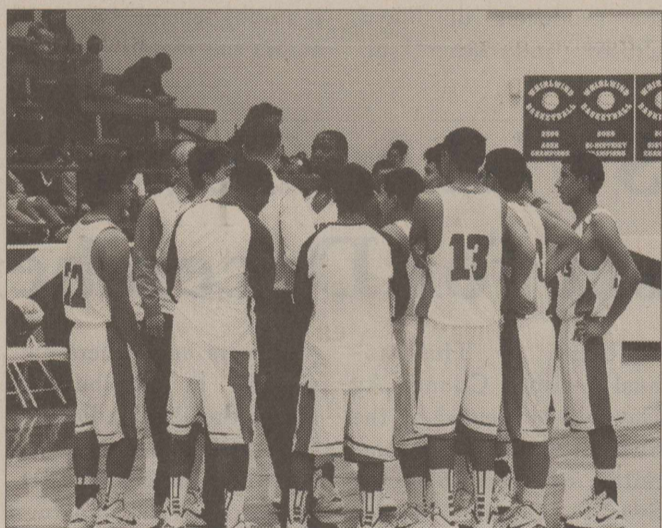
Although the season has just begun, hard work has gone into making sure that the year in basketball is full of achievement.

With new head coach Travis Pittman taking over for the team, high expectations are being put in place.

"This year, I want to play fast and really get after teams, and the kids have really bought into that and busted it in the gym and it is starting to pay off," said Travis Pittman, head coach.

Experience from the year before is something the Whirlwinds will have going for them throughout the basketball season.

"With every starter returning from the season before, it



gives me huge expectations for what I believe we can achieve this year," said Kyi Baker, junior, "This year's team seems to be one of the best we have had in a while and I am excited to see what the season has in store."

With only one senior on the team last year, the Whirlwinds lacked the veteran leadership that comes with being a seasoned varsity player. This year, with plenty of seniors to go around, leadership doesn't seem to be a huge factor.

"With the experience that myself and the other seniors have, I feel like this will be very crucial in trying to make that playoff goal we have set at the beginning of the season," said Zach Martinez, junior.

The Whirlwinds will be playing in the Caprock Tournament for a couple of days after Christmas, and after that they will start their district play on January 6, 2015.

Floydada Pound Collaborates with Local Schools

By Liz Morales
Staff Writer

Christmas time is near, and families will soon be gathering together, with kids getting ready for Santa Claus - and, oh! The Presents! The perfect gift for many youngsters comes in the form of a new pet. The Floydada Pound has plenty of dogs and cats to choose from.

"If you have any time in your day, then I highly suggest you go by the pound and see what we have. Each animal deserves the best family we

can find for them," said Angela Longoria, high school junior.

You can get more information by adding "Floydada Pound" as a friend on Facebook where you will find pictures of every animal they receive.

"We try to help people adopt them before they get put down so they can live with a happy family," said Longoria.

Giving these animals a home for Christmas would be the best gift anyone could receive, especially these animals.

A Different Approach to Learning at FJH

By Aaron Chavarria
Staff Writer

A different form of learning, known as the Project Based Learning System (PBL), has been taking place for the past three years at Floydada Junior High. This system demonstrates a unique form of learning through the use of projects to enhance students' learning abilities.

Teachers of courses that involve PBL find it very beneficial for the students to learn through different types of projects.

"The purpose is to bring projects into the classroom so that they can connect the learning with hands on activities," said eighth grade English teacher Cara James. "I think it benefits the students because it allows them to learn in different ways rather than just sitting and listening to a lecture, while using tons of creativity."

Allowing students to work together can benefit them in many ways according to the

teachers within the junior high.

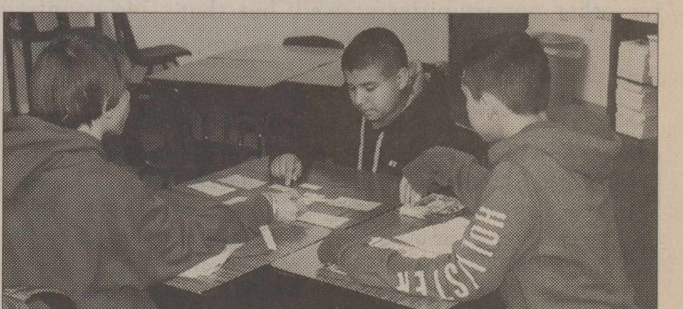
"We are currently working on building replica monuments over the battle of San Jacinto to give the students a visual of what it looked like," said seventh grade Texas history teacher Travis Pittman. "I feel this is a beneficial way to teach the students and enhance their learning because it teaches them to work together. When they learn how to work together, I think it not only benefits them with their classes right now, but it helps them with communication skills and cooperating well with others."

Most students who are new to PBL find it enjoyable

and beneficial at the same time because of the way it is structured.

"Because we use a lot of projects, I think it is very fun and I learn more than what I have learned in the past," said seventh grade student Jose Lira. "Every project is different and right now we are building battle sights. Once we have built the project, we get to go over what we did and our teacher teaches us about what we built."

For many students and teachers, PBL may not be like all the other classes, but it brings more enjoyable and different styles of learning, which has worked really well in the past.



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AGRICULTURE

Commissioners pave the way for new wind farm, say good-bye to county judge

By Kay Ellington
The Hesperian-Beacon

Floyd County Commissioners took steps to pave the way for First Wind to start-up their operations in South Plains. The county adopted new guidelines for its tax abatement agreement in Monday's meeting.

The county's wind energy consultant, Alan Carmichael of Wetsel and Carmichael, LLC, of Sweetwater, walked the court through abatement guidelines. New tax abatement guidelines must be adopted every two years, and current guidelines had expired. But the expired guidelines do not affect any abatement agreements.

The guidelines include:

Any abatement applicant must pay the \$1,000 abatement fee and pay all fees related to the implementation of the abatement including attorneys' fees.

All abatement projects must have at least \$1 million positive dollar effect for the county and must provide 72 hours of training for new employees. Carmichael noted that this clause had been especially helpful with wind projects.

Abatement applicants must use Floyd County goods and services whenever possible and provide price prejudice of 105% for these goods.

Abatement applicant companies must provide a local jobs coordinator.

All abatements are for ten years, and abatement companies must leave improvements in place for 20 years.

Abatement companies must provide free and open access to all tax abatement projects, such as transmission lines and switching stations. Carmichael and commissioners discussed that this had been an issue with previous wind energy companies, one that the county had to correct, and that the new guidelines would pre-empt future concerns.

Commissioner Amado Morales made the motion to accept the new guidelines, and Nathan Johnson seconded. The vote for the new guidelines was unanimous.

With the new guidelines in place, the court addressed the application from First Wind dba South Plains Wind Energy, LLC.

Carmichael noted that the proposed wind farm is in the county's reinvestment zone, and that South Plains Wind, LLC had agreed to waive all previous tax abatement percentages and to follow the new guideline percentages.

The new percentages of tax abatements are:

- 80% - Years 1 and 2
- 75% - Years 3 through 5
- 50% - Years 6 and 7
- 35% Years 8 through 10

Carmichael noted South Plains, LLC had also agreed to allow open access to all transmission facilities. He also said that the commissioner's court would not vote on the actual agreement today, but rather, would vote to send the agreement to other taxing entities in the county, such as schools and hospitals, and would vote on the actual abatement agreement later.

The last items needed from South Plains, LLC were start and completion dates and the contemplative cost of the project.

Brad Blake with South Plains, LLC was on hand and said that the company would have 75 turbines east of Lockney and the contemplative cost was \$225 million. He said he hoped crews could start digging holes next week. But the overall start-up would be first quarter.

Carmichael recommended an official start-up date of March 15, 2015.

Blake pointed out that the extension of the production tax credit in the U.S. over the weekend, and the chance that it might pass the Senate had First Wind looking for other opportunities as well, but that the South Plains project should be completed by the end of 2015.

Carmichael recommended that the official completion date be recorded as December 31, 2015.

Commissioner Lindan Morris made the motion to approve the tax abatement agreement for First Wind, and Commissioner Mike Anderson seconded. The vote was unanimous.

In other court action district clerk reported on the courthouse's problems with internet and how the latest software upgrade wouldn't work with the router and rendered the internet access—both hard-wired and wireless—spotty throughout the month of November. Suddenlink was called to update the router, and there was some improvement.

Davenport noted that 90% of the courthouse's work must be done online, and she recommended that commissioners act now. She referenced a grant for wiring judge's chamber's for trials was coming in 2016, but she didn't feel the county could wait that long.

Morris said that in a luncheon with State Rep. Charles Perry, he had heard that the county could be reimbursed for internet costs from the grant which would mean that the county could act now, but he emphasized that Davenport find an expert that could provide the county with an internet system with long-term viability.

Morales made the motion to take bids to upgrade the internet. Anderson seconded.

In other action Texas AgriLife representatives Amy Kress and Cristen Brooks reported on activities for November and planned activities for December.

Selected major activities for Amy Kress, November

November 3-7- Program Excellence Academy II, College Station

November 8- District Food Show, Levelland (8 in attendance from Floyd County)

November 10- Program Planning Meeting, Floydada

November 12-14- Team 4-H Summit, Brownwood November 18- SET Meeting, Floydada

November 19- Lockney Senior Citizens Program (10 in attendance)

November 25- Gold Star Banquet, Lubbock (9 in attendance from Floyd County)

Selected major activities for Cristen Brooks, November

Attended Program Excellence Academy 1 in College Station 11/2-11/7 Program Planning Conference at Lighthouse 11/10

Physical Heifer Validation @ Floydada and Lockney 11/10

Stock Show Board Meeting about plagues and ribbons 11/1 1 Submit Online and Mail Heifer Validation Materials 11/12 Fort Worth Stock Show Entries due and mailed 11/12 Floydada Lions Club Program 11/13

Attended Plains Cotton Growers Advisory Board Meeting in Lubbock 11/14

One on One Farm Bill tool training in Lubbock 11/19

Radio spot on KFLP for farm bill meeting 11/21

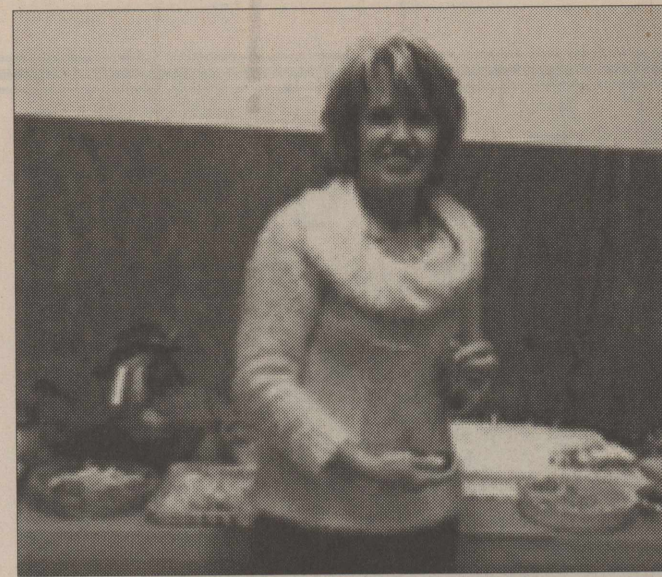
Gold Star Banquet at TIU honoring Jill Graham Lubbock 11/24 Swine Validation 11/25

All major stock show entries were due and entered online 11/25

In other court activities, Retired Colonel Dave Lewis with the Veterans Resource Coordination Group of Lubbock accepted Commissioner Mike Anderson's invitation to speak to the court. VRCG provides services to veterans in a nine-county area around Lubbock, including Floyd.

Lewis talked about how his group helped veterans in need with home repairs, trauma recovery, and general support.

Finally, the commissioners' court and county employees recognized outgoing county judge Penny Golightly with a plaque and cake.



Kay Ellington/The Hesperian-Beacon
Outgoing county judge Penny Golightly was recognized with a plaque and cake by the commissioners' court and county staff in the last meeting of the year.

AgriLife Extension in Floyd, Crosby counties set Dec. 19 farm bill decision-aid meeting

By Steve Byrn

LOCKNEY - The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service offices in Floyd and Crosby counties will conduct the 2014 Farm Bill Meeting from 8-11 a.m. Dec. 19 at the Floyd County Friends Unity Center, 990 Farm-to-Market Road 786 in Lockney.

Cristen Brooks, AgriLife Extension agent in Floyd County, said the meeting's keynote speaker is Dr. Joe Outlaw, AgriLife Extension economist and co-director of the Agricultural and Food Policy Center at Texas A&M University.

"Dr. Outlaw frequently interacts with members of Congress and key agricultural committee staff to provide feedback on the likely consequences of agricultural policy changes," Brooks said. "He will be a very valuable resource for the producers of Floyd, Crosby and other sur-

rounding counties."

Caitlin Jackson, AgriLife Extension agent in Floyd County, said, "Joe Outlaw will have valuable information about the latest farm bill. Having him as a resource for this meeting is a huge opportunity for our producers in terms of furthering our understanding of the farm bill and subsequent farm legislation."

Jackson said the meeting was initially set as two meetings, one per county, but the two counties decided to combine their efforts to better utilize Outlaw's expertise.

Other agencies involved in the free public farm bill decision-aid meeting include the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Farm Service Agency, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and various commodity groups.

Brooks said the program is among several being held across the region designed

to help producers through the new farm bill's decision-making process.

"This farm bill sign-up requires producers to make several major decisions that will affect them at least through 2018," Brooks said. "This training is meant to help producers through the sign-up process and teach them to use the on-line decision-aid tool that's available for them. This tool will help them with the decisions they'll need to make related to base re-allocation and yield data, and whether to select Price Loss Coverage, or PLC, or Agricultural Risk Coverage, or ARC, for covered commodities."

The agents said an RSVP would be helpful but is not required. To RSVP, call the AgriLife Extension office in Floyd County at 806-983-4912 or Crosby County at 806-675-2347. Brooks said snacks and refreshments will be served

Swisher County Ag Day set for December 16

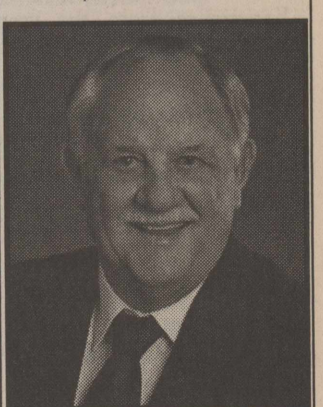
TULIA - The annual Swisher County Ag Day will be hosted by the Swisher County Ag Committee on Dec. 16 at the Swisher County Memorial Building located at 127 S.W. 2nd St. or State Highway 86 in Tulia.

The program will begin with registration from 8-8:30 a.m. This event is the largest one-day educational program in Swisher County, providing agricultural information for

producers and others employed in agribusiness across the Panhandle, said John Villalba, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agriculture and natural resources agent in Swisher County.

"The theme for the day's activities centers around the past, present and future of agricultural water use and other current hot button issues which are pertinent to farmers in the area," Villalba said.

A lunch sponsored by Happy State Bank will be served, along with updates from the Texas Sorghum Producers, Texas Corn Producers, Texas Wheat Producers, Plains Cotton Growers and Farm Service Agency.



We are very pleased to announce that Vernie Moore is now servicing the Floyd County and surrounding area. He has been in our Sudan office for the last four years where he has been very successful in Farm & Ranch and Residential transactions. Vernie is an a Floydada native and Texas Tech graduate and has over 10 years of Farm & Ranch Real Estate Experience with over \$15M in closings. When a property is listed with us it is not only pushed into the Lubbock network of REALTORS*, but also nationwide to other search engines and national listing syndicates. Vernie is a valuable member of the M. Edwards team. Give him a call at 806-543-9347.

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"Hey Slim, that's another thing about ants that reminds me of people—they git mad at anybody standin' around in their way."

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2014 MANGOLD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL "HOLIDAY HEALTH FAIR"



Charles Keaton/The Hesperian-Beacon

W. J. Mangold Memorial Hospital hosted their annual Holiday Health Fair on Dec. 6 at the Lockney Elementary. Numerous vendors specializing in various aspects of health care and awareness visited with the many visitors that came. Visitors could take advantage of various informational booths as well as health screenings.



DOWNTOWN CHRISTMAS IN LOCKNEY



Charles Keaton/The Hesperian-Beacon and Courtesy of Cindy Cotham

Hospice Hands of West Texas and the Lockney Chamber of Commerce helped usher in the Christmas season by hosting the annual Downtown Christmas. Santa Claus received visitors at the Dove Room, the Chamber gave away hot dogs and numerous businesses extended their hours as people came downtown shop and celebrate the season.



Salvation Army Bell Ringers



Charles Keaton/The Hesperian-Beacon

Volunteers for the Salvation Army were on the street during Downtown Christmas in Lockney on Dec. 6 ringing their bells in as they received donations to help during the Christmas season. Bell ringers included (L-R) Teresa Gonzales, Dina Enriquez and Olga Martinez. The Salvation Army will begin their distributions for Christmas on Dec. 19. Anyone wishing to donate food items, clothing, toys or money should contact the Salvation Army at 108 N. Main in Lockney.

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