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VOLUME 115 NUMBER 29 THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2011 8 PAGES - 75¢

48 years later, the Harmony Plains Singing School is still going strong

By Homer Marquez

For generations, multitudes of faithful singers from all across the Nation have made the trip to the big city of Cone, in the efforts of fine-tuning their vocalist's skills. For the past 48 years, musical students have traveled from as far away as Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Alabama, Louisiana, and all over Texas to attend the Harmony Plains Singing School in Cone, the small community located a few miles south of Floydada.

Since 1964, the Harmony Plains Singing School has specialized in teaching students of all ages the basics of singing through the incorporation of classic acappella hymnals once sung by early Primitive Baptists. Run by a group of degreed instructors, church leaders, and dedicated volunteers, the week long singing camp provides students a fun and instructional learning environment while at the same time exalting through song and prayer, the Spirit of their faith. "Really there's a blessing, not only the singing...there's a joyous spirit all week long," commented Camp Administrator, Elder Richard Halbgewachs.

Started 48 years ago, after one of the founders, J.E. Barrington was inspired to open up a singing school in West

Texas after visiting a similar school in the metroplex, the Harmony Plains Singing School opened its doors on Aug. 3, 1964 in a small school house in Lakeview, Texas. Enrollment for the school's inaugural event was 68 students.

The following summer, the school set up camp at New Salem Primitive Baptist Church in Floydada. That year, over 140 students, ranging in ages from two to sixty, would pack the church for the singing school's second session.

In 1966, the board for Harmony Plains agreed to acquire the former Cone school house as their new permanent home. Since then, the school has undergone many additions and several improvements to better suit the growing number of students that make the trip to Cone every year. "We've grown by leaps and bounds," explained school instructor and son of J.E. Barrington, Gary Barrington, "last year we almost had 400 people here. I'm not sure what our attendance is today, but it's in the 300's, and we're always able to pick people up as the week goes on."

However despite the tremendous growth of the school, the Harmony Plains' curriculum and teaching

styles have remained the same throughout the years. "I teach my classes just like I was taught," commented instructor, Bryce Lowrance, who holds a music master's degree from Texas Tech, "my uncle Sonny, taught me in many classes, and I find myself saying the same things he used to say, the same lame jokes and everything" Mr. Lowrance explained as he laughed.

The format for the singing school is pretty basic. Students are broken up into groups according to their age; ranging from pre-school and to high school, to college students and adults. Each day of the week long camp is broken up into three parts; during the morning after breakfast, students participate in a general assembly devotional which is followed by classes. After lunch, classes resume throughout the afternoon with breaks for recreation. In the evening after supper, the school holds an evening service which is followed by fellowship.

In the classes, students are taught the basic building blocks of singing, "the Primitive Baptist Church sings acappella which means there's no musical instruments accompanying," explained Instructor Bryce Lowrance, "we sing in four



Photo by Homer Marquez

During their 48th annual session, July 17-22, the Harmony Plains Singing School continued their long tradition of premier instruction in West Texas. Above, instructor Bryce Lowrance teaches several young students the basics of singing.

part harmonies, some times more than that if we have people singing more traditional parts; but the first thing that (instructors) promote is that it's not all round notes, there's different shapes, and that the system that we use to teach the students. We call them the Do Re Mi's, there's a different shape for each of the seven scale degrees; and it makes it were you don't even need an instrument, you just know what it sounds like...and we teach that to the littlest ones and then they are able to pick

up a hymnal and sing songs they've never sang before... and we're blessed to have degreed teachers teaching in many of these classes."

It's this caliber or high level instruction that gives some students a better opportunity to learn music. "The fine arts aren't stressed enough in public schools," commented instructor Gary Lowrance, Bryce's father, "and so some children never got to perform the way they perform here at the school, because it wasn't offered, and we provide that."

Tuition is not charged by Harmony Plains, but relies simply on donations made by students and their parents. The budget to keep the school going throughout the year is about \$15,000 a year. However, the school is also extremely grateful for the support they have gotten through the years from the citizens and farmers of Cone, Floydada, Ralls, and other surrounding communities. During the early humble beginnings of the school, local

See HARMONY PLAINS on page 8

Community Coverage Tour hits Lockney



Photo by Homer Marquez

On Monday, July 25, anchors Karin McCay, Abner Euresti, John Robison, and Pete Christy with News Channel 11 stopped Lockney during their 2011 Live Community Coverage Tour; opening up their five day tour in Lockney, the KCBD news team, personally met with the citizens of Lockney as they covered news stories that highlighted the city's unique culture.

KCBD Chief Meteorologist, John Robison, "it's a great way to visit with them and let them know us personally, instead of just always seeing us on television. We always get a great response, the communities support us, and we just kind of do this as a way to show support to the communities; we haven't forgotten them, they're very, very important of what we do."

This was KCBD's the first time to visit Lockney for their Live Community Coverage Tours. TV crews and camera filled the school yard as New Channel 11 did a live shoot of their six o'clock news program and ten o'clock news program at Lockney Elementary.

During the two broadcasts, news anchors, Karin McCay, Abner Euresti, John Robison, and Pete Christy, spotlighted several local stories including coverage of the founding of Lockney in 1889; local artist, Andy Stapp, whose paintings has been featured on T.V. and in movies; a feature on piano teacher and Texas swing Hall of Famer, Lucy Dean Record; a feature on the completion of Lockney's new high school, after the original was destroyed in a fire in 2009; as well as features on W.J. Mangold Hospital, Lockney's Memorial Park, and the

See COMMUNITY COVERAGE on page 8

Floydada Chamber of Commerce begins preparing for Punkin Day

It's almost that time of year again, and the Floydada Chamber of Commerce starting to prepare for the 24th annual Punkin Day celebration, which will be held on October 8.

As usual, the itinerary for the day's celebration will include tons of fun, as chamber members plan for great events like; the arts & crafts show, a baked goods contest and auction, a costume contest, a decorating and pumpkin carving contest, a 5K run and Fun Run, Pumpkin Jail, Pumpkin Pie Relay, and lots more.

Featured entertainment at the 2011 Punkin Day celebration will include singer and Floydada's own, Susan Turner Browning.

Nominations for the 2011, Citizen of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, and Employer of

the Year are currently being accepted. To nominate a person or persons, please write a brief summary on why you are nominating the person for the category.

Nominations can be sent by email to floydadachamber@yahoo.com, or mailed to the Floydada Chamber of Commerce P.O. Box 147 Floydada, TX 79235. You can also send nominations to Facebook, or by calling (806)983-3434.

Deadline for nominations is Thursday, September 15th at 5 p.m.; no late nominations will be considered. Winners will be chosen by the Floydada Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to help please contact us. We meet the third Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at 126 W California.

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By Homer Marquez

KCBD News channel 11 stopped the city of Lockney this past Monday, during their ninth annual Live Community Coverage Tour. Each year during the summer, the news organization highlights uplifting stories and facts from the communities of the South Plains.

This year, New Channel 11, chose to visit Lockney, Snyder, Plainview, Wolforth, and Ralls for their 2011 coverage tour. "We love to kind of get to know the folks during the summer season," commented

First Baptist Church in Lockney invites community to special prayer time for America

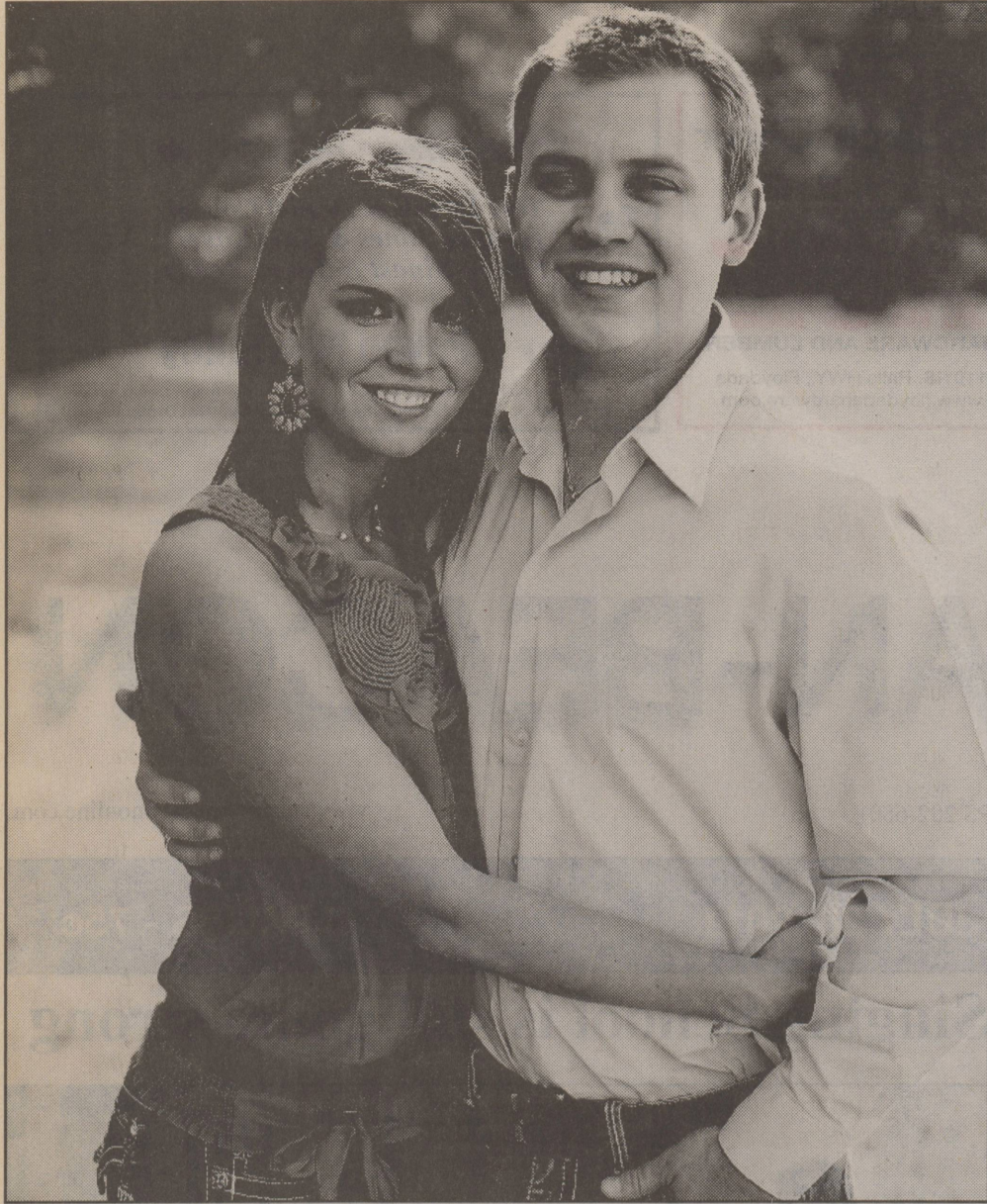
On Saturday, August 6th, 2011, the whole community is invited to participate in a time of solemn prayer for the restoration of our nation "in crisis."

First Baptist Church in Lockney will open its doors on that Saturday from 7:30

a.m. to 8:30 a.m. for a special prayer service.

Breakfast (pancakes, coffee and orange juice) will be served beginning at 7:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. Prayer service will be held from 8 - 8:30 a.m.

This prayer time is in re-
See PRAYER on page 8



MOLLY KATE CARTHEL AND TAYLOR BLAKE SUE

Carthel and Sue to marry

Davy and Kathy Carthel are proud to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Molly Kate Carthel of Lubbock to Taylor Blake Sue of Lubbock. Taylor is the son of Sheldon and Atha Sue of Floydada.

Grandparents of the bride are Ann Carthel and the late Bill Carthel of Friona and Charles and Lois Wales of Dimmitt.

Grandparents of the groom

are Johnny Bill and Margie Sue of Floydada and the late Reverend Fred and Genet Blake of Winslow, Arkansas.

The bride-elect is a 2006 graduate of Friona High School. She graduated magna cum laude from Texas Tech University in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education. She is currently a kindergarten teacher at Wolf-forth Elementary in Lubbock I.S.D.

The prospective groom is a 2005 graduate of Floydada High School, and a 2011 graduate of Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. He currently works as a member of the leadership program for Samuel Jackson Incorporated.

The couple will exchange vows on October 29, 2011 at the Legacy Event Center in Lubbock, and will make their home in Lubbock.

50th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Holcomb of Floydada celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, July 3, 2011 with a family celebration in Lubbock. They are the parents of Anthony and DeAnn Holcomb of Lubbock, Tommy Holcomb of Childress and nephew, Morris Keele of Lubbock. Holcomb and Marilyn Gwinn were married July 7, 1961 in Roaring Springs, Texas. They have four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



Mr. and Mrs. Ray Holcomb



Photo by Homer Marquez

Mangold Memorial Hospital and Covenant Health Systems were on hand during Monday's KCBD Community Coverage Tour, as the two health care services provided free health and safety tips to the community. On the right, Mangold Memorial Hospital provided free health screenings and checked shot records for Lockney students; on the left, Covenant focused on safety, providing safety and health tips and donating anti-texting bands and bike helmets.

THE FLOYD COUNTY HESPERIAN-BEACON

Published weekly each Thursday at
111 E. Missouri St., Floydada, Texas 79235.
Periodical postage paid at Floydada, Texas 79235.
Postmaster: Send change of address to: The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon,
111 E. Missouri Street, Floydada, TX 79235
(806) 983-3737 • www.hesperianbeacononline.com
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Texas Press Member 2011

Lockney Senior Citizens News

By Renee Armstrong
Your dues are due!!! Please come by the Center and take care of them. Remember meal costs go up Aug. 1 to \$4 for members and \$5 for non-members.

Our sympathy goes to the family of Mary Ruth Fewell, she passed away on July 14, and her funeral services were held on Saturday, July 16. Please keep this family in your prayers.

Remember we still have quilt tickets for sale; 6 for \$5 or \$1 each. Come by the

Center and get them. Exercise with Dorothy will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Pot Luck on Thursday night at 6; bring a dish and enjoy games afterwards.

- Menu**
August 1-August 5
Monday-Chicken and Dumplings
Tuesday-Tacos
Wednesday-Pork Chops
Thursday-Baked Potatoes
Friday-Grilled Chicken

The 60th Annual Fortenberry Family Reunion

By Norma Welch

The 60th J. C. Fortenberry family reunion will be held August 5-6, 2011 at the Massie Activity Center in Floydada, Texas.

The center will open Friday, August 5th at 3 p.m. Supper will be served at 6 p.m. Hamburgers will be furnished by the reunion. Bring a freezer of ice cream for the contest or cookies or cake for dessert.

There will be game for all ages and plans are for the waterslide to be back again this year.

Saturday, August 6th breakfast will be served at 7 a.m. There will be sour dough biscuits, gravy, eggs, sausage, bacon, cinnamon rolls, juice and coffee.

The memorial service, program and business meeting will be held Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

Saturday lunch will be at 12 noon. Meat, bread, drinks and table service will be furnished by the reunion. Come and bring a covered dish and enjoy the fellowship with relatives and friends. See you there!

ST. MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH
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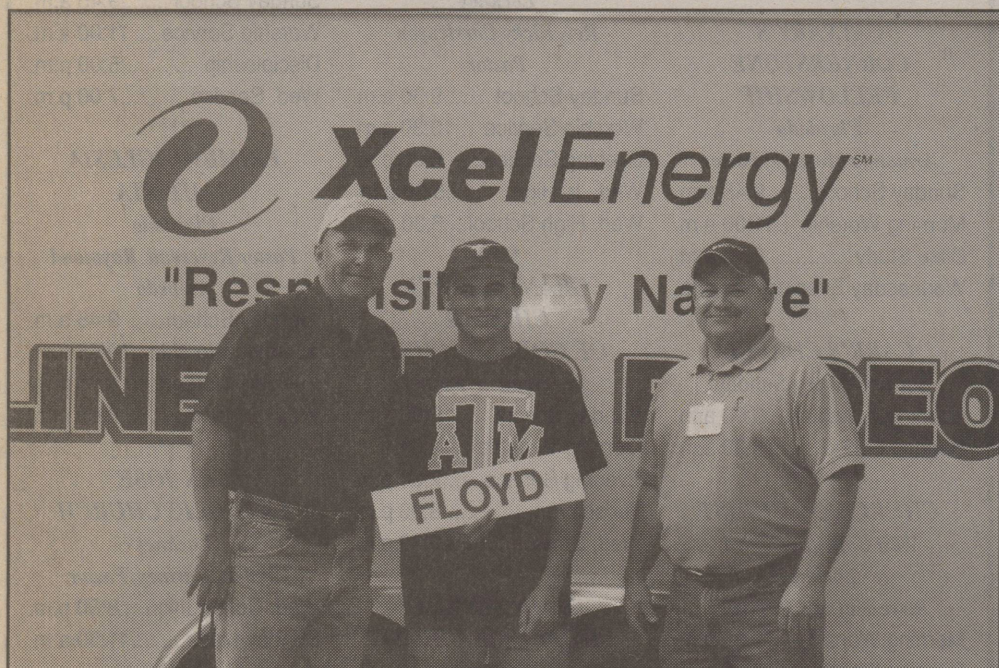
Band uniform donations deadline extended

The Lockney High School Band Uniform Committee has extended the deadline for donations. A total of \$10,070.47 has been already collected so far; and the goal is \$20,000.

The uniforms need to be ordered, so if anyone is planning on making a donation, please do so as soon as possible. Individuals are also encouraged to donate. The total cost of one uniform is \$350.

Deposits can be made at Happy State Bank Lockney or given to Victory Stewart, Kay Martin, or Ginger Mathis.

Lockney Band members would like to thank the following new persons who have donated to the LHS Uniform Fund; Anabel Bramlet, Dart and Joann Carthel, Lucy Dean Record, Barry and Algene Barker, Schacht's Flowers, and Sally Shaw.



Courtesy Photo

Young people involved in the 2011 Xcel Energy 4-H Electric Event explored the world of electricity through science-based activities. Students learned and applied the latest electric practices and energy efficient measures in everyday living and developed self-confidence through leadership initiatives. This event was sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Xcel Energy. Participating in the week long camp outside Cloudcroft, New Mexico from Floyd County was Jake Bramlet. Pictured are Plainview Area Manager Chris LeFevre, Jake Bramlet and Hereford Area Manager Mike Grant.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service to offer QuickBooks Premier 2010 courses

Texas AgriLife Extension Service will offer QuickBooks Premier 2010 computer short courses on Aug. 11-12 in Lubbock and Aug. 18-19 in Amarillo.

The trainings will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at each location, said DeDe Jones, AgriLife Extension risk management specialist in Amarillo, who will coordinate the event in that city. Jay Yates, AgriLife Extension risk management specialist in Lubbock, will coordinate the Lubbock course.

Both events will be held at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center in their

respective cities. They are located at 6500 W. Amarillo Blvd. in Amarillo and 1102 E. Farm-to-Market Road 1294 north of Lubbock.

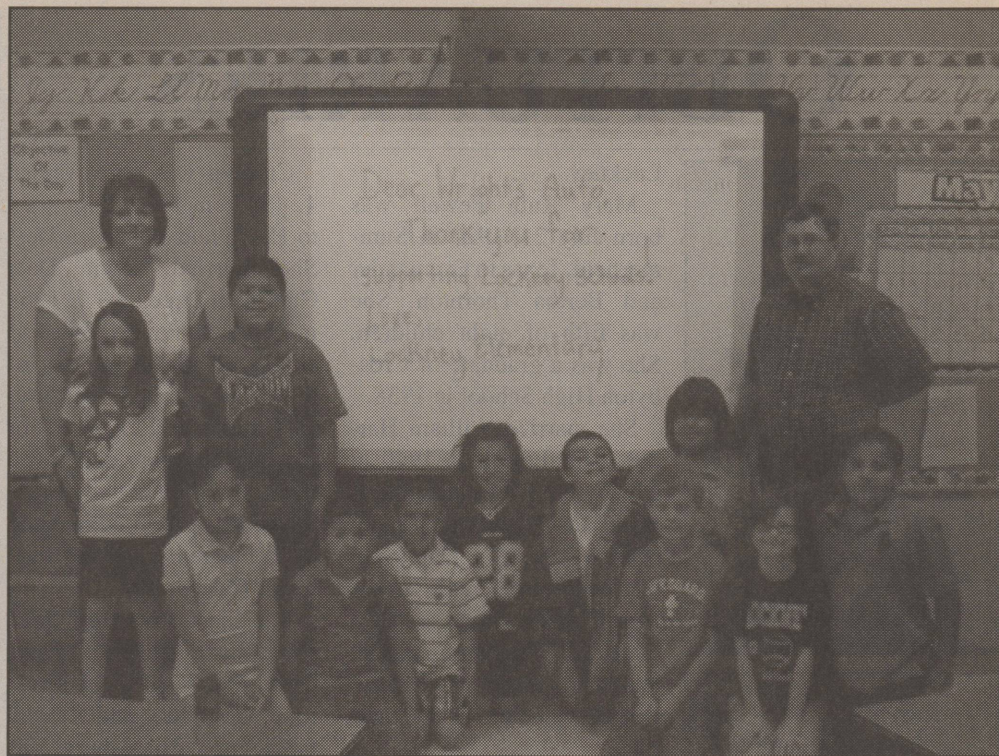
QuickBooks Premier is a double-entry business accounting program often used by agricultural lenders and producers, Jones said. In the two-day course, participants will learn how to enter transactions into the program and analyze costs and profits. No prior computer experience is necessary.

Registration for each two-day course is \$125 and covers computer-lease payments and teaching materials. Cou-

ples are encouraged to attend and will be charged only one registration fee if they share a computer. Class size is limited to 15 to provide a hands-on experience for all participants, Jones said.

Those planning to attend should RSVP by Aug. 8 for the Lubbock session and by Aug. 15 for the Amarillo session. Payment is due upon arrival on the first day of the course.

For more information or to register call Yates at 806-746-6101 or email jayates@ag.tamu.edu or Jones at 806-677-5667 or dljones@ag.tamu.edu.

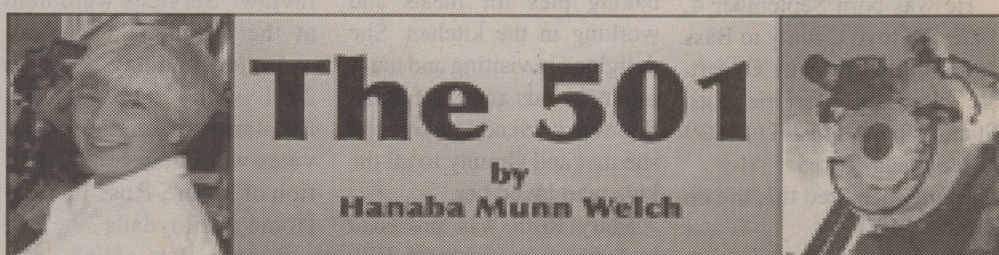


Courtesy Photo

Local individuals and business owners have come together in the efforts of giving Lockney Elementary a technological upgrade. Generous donations from the community have gone to fund additional Promethean Interactive Whiteboards for elementary classrooms. Recently, Wright's Automotive helped support the cause with a donation. Pictured (left to right) are Tarri Wright, Ansley Dunn, Andrew Sanchez, Saria Martinez, Nick Castro Tuff Araujo, Carly Rendon, Joel Valdez, Kayla Rodriguez, Clary Moore, Joey Vanlandingham, Elias Acencio, and Mr. Steve Wright

Lockney Elementary Registration

Lockney Elementary will be having registration for Pre-K, Kindergarten, and all new elementary students on Aug. 8-12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with an hour long lunch break at 12 p.m. Students will need; Social Security card, birth certificate, current shot records, and copy of parent drivers license to register. All students must have current immunizations to start classes.



Fidibus.

Is my mother trying to tell me something?

The word popped into my head today without warning. Initially I couldn't remember where I'd heard it, but rather than wracking my brain the old-fashioned way, I searched for "fidibus" on the Internet.

As I muddled through 21 Google pages of sites, illustrated memories of "fidibus" began to drift back to me all on their own, essentially my mother at a card table performing her hat trick.

The routine required three walnuts and three men's hats. Except walnuts were rarely available, so Mother usually wadded up pieces of paper as substitutes.

Shuffling of the hats was involved. When Mother eventually lifted the hats, one at a time, the "walnuts" wouldn't be where anyone thought they were going to be. As for "fidibus," that's what made it magic. It's what she said as she waved one hand over the hats right before she lifted them and amazed everyone with her wizardry. Without "fidibus," it wouldn't have

been the hat trick.

The whole phrase, in fact, was "hocus, pocus, fidibus!" I'd already remembered her entire invocation before I finally found it on the Internet -- or at least I think I'd remembered it before I found it. I'm not quite sure.

Whatever. I just know the Internet is humanity's collective brain. The more mine quits working, the more I'm going to depend on it. Or maybe the more I depend on it, the more my own quits.

That's a scary thought.

OK, so you're not worried about my brain. You've already figured out it's in the all-systems-shutting-down mode. But in a greater context, consider all kids growing up today with the Internet. Already they don't have to depend on their own brains. When they're older, they won't have a functioning set of tools in their craniums to sort through their own old memories. They'll just click on something and -- "hocus, pocus, fidibus" -- the sought memory will magically appear.

That scenario bothers

me. It's not fair to all of us who've had to remember things the hard way. Nor is it fair to today's generation to have it so easy. As much as I hate speed bumps, I'd really like to put some up ahead on their Information Highway to rattle their brains a bit. Except it's my highway too. Oh well.

As for "fidibus," my mother's use of the word still remains a bit of a mystery. Per the Internet, "fidebus" is the dative and ablative plural of the Latin word "fidei." To make it work magic, shift the emphasis from the middle syllable to the first and mis-spell it.

Mother took Latin. Ergo, she knew "hocus, pocus, fidibus" wasn't how Cicero would have said it. So maybe she heard the phrase instead in her youth at the Chautauqua performances that so intrigued her.

Or maybe she learned it when she and my father sold popcorn on the carnival circuit.

Who knows? Some things you never figure out, even with the Internet.

I'm glad.

Something on your mind?
We want to hear from you!
Send us an email at fchb.editor@yahoo.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The City of Lockney, Texas, will receive bids for water system improvements until 10:00 A.M. on the 16th day of August, 2011 at Lockney City Hall, 218 E. Locust St. Lockney, TX 79241. Mailing address: City of Lockney, P.O. Box 387 Lockney, Texas 79241, at which time and place all bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bids are invited for the construction of the following:

Ground Storage Tank (w/ Demolition)

Yard Piping

Booster Pumps

Contract documents, including plans and specifications, are available at the office of OJD Engineering, LP, 328 E. Hwy. 62 Unit #1 Wolfforth, TX, 79382, Phone 806-791-2300, Fax 806-791-2301. Documents may be purchased at a cost of \$50.00 per set. This fee is not refundable. Questions concerning this project should be addressed to Ben Lewis P.E.

This bid is a unit price contract. Method of payment to contractor will be via check by the municipality after approved requests for payment

A Bid Bond in the amount of 5% of the bid, issued by an acceptable surety, shall be submitted with each bid. A certified check or bank draft payable to City of Lockney, or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (at par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond. The successful Bidder must furnish a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond, each in the amount of the contract, from a Surety Company holding a permit from the State of Texas, to act as a Surety or other Surety or Sureties satisfactory to the Owner. If the total bid is less than \$25,000, a Payment Bond will not be required.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon) wage rate, as issued by the Texas Department of Commerce and contained in the Contract Documents must be paid on the project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

Attention is called to General Condition 309, "Restrictions on Public Buildings and Public Works Projects". The Bidder certifies by the submission of its bid that it:

1. Is not a Contractor of a foreign country included on the USTR list.
2. Has not and will not enter into any subcontract with a subcontractor of a foreign country included on the USTR list.
3. Will not provide any product of a foreign country included on the USTR list.

The City of Lockney reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

Bids may be held by the City of Lockney for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidders qualifications prior to awarding of the contract.

City of Lockney
Rodger Stapp, Mayor

August 16th, 2011

Palo Duro Basin Oil and Gas Update

By Tom Musser

Re-Class from Gas Well to Oil Well:

The Tyner Texas Operating Company McIntosh Lease (69665) Well #1077 has been Re-Classified from a gas well to an oil well, and is now listed in the new oil field: **McIntosh (Penn) Field.**

Monthly production reports filed on March

9, 2011 and May 16, 2011 reported the McIntosh Well #1077 has been producing since June 2010. From June 2010 thru December 2010 the McIntosh Well #1077 produced 372 barrels of oil and 1,435 mcf of casinghead gas, and from January 2011 thru April 2011 the McIntosh Well #1077 produced 55 barrels of oil and 48 mcf of casinghead gas.

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