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# The Floyd County HESPERIAN-BEACON

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VOLUME 115 NUMBER 49 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2011 8 PAGES - 75¢

## O.K. Tire gets a change

By Homer Marquez

The Grahams are taking the wheel at Garcia's O.K. Tire Store, as Ronnie and Jill have become the newest owners of Floydada's 56 year-old tire business.

On Dec. 5, the Grahams officially took over as the new owners after buying the business from longtime owner Adolfo Garcia. "It's been good," commented Mr. Graham as he described the transition from being a farmer to the owner of the newly dubbed: "Graham's O.K. Tire Store".

Started as a franchise of the O.K. Tire Company, the Floydada tire store first opened its doors in 1955 under the ownership of Ralph Rucker.

Immediately, the business became an essential tool for farmers as the tire store serviced everything from farm trucks to tractors; "That's the meat and potatoes of the business...farmers," added Graham.

In the 60's, Adolfo Garcia, or better known as Adof, began his career at the tire store, serving as a key employee for the business for years to come. Eventually, Mr. Garcia would buy the business from then owner Darrell McCandless in 1988.

As the new owners, the Garcia family proudly continued the tire company's tradition of great service, as the business became a staple of Floyd County's ag businesses.

After a long and rewarding career at the tire store, Mr. Garcia decided to look into the possibility of retiring and selling the store.

During a routine tire repair, the possibility became a reality, after farmer Ronnie Graham showed an interest in buying the store. "It was time to do something else," explained Mr. Graham as he looked to get out of the farming business.

A farmer since the early 80's, this year's drought dealt a heavy blow to the Grahams who were already pondering the idea of retiring from farming. With the chances of another drought looming on the horizon, the Grahams decided to opt out of farming and pursue another career. Luckily, the tire store gave the Grahams a chance to move on. "I'd like to find something to do to get out of farming, and this opportunity came along," explained Graham. After completing this year's harvest, he started making plans to buy the business.

**O.K. TIRE**

continued on page 7



Photo by Kat Wallace

Earlier this month, the Graham family became the new owners of Floydada's Garcia's O.K. Tire Store, after purchasing the business from longtime owner Adolfo Garcia. Picture above are new owners; Jill and Ronnie Graham, along with their children Mallory, Jacob, and Rachel.

## Through strength and inspiration



Courtesy Photo

To fulfill his dream of riding on a roller coaster, the Make-A-Wish Foundation sent 11 year-old Zackary Reyna and his entire family to Disney World in Orlando Florida. Pictured above in the front car is Zackary, and to his left, is his mother Soyla who was born and raised in Lockney. Behind them are Zackary's two brothers J.J. and Eli, and his dad Jerry.

By Homer Marquez

Armed with faith and with family and friend in his corner, 11 year-old Zackary Reyna has defiantly become an unwavering source of in-

spiration for anyone who is lucky enough to meet him.

A modern day Superman, Zackary is constantly beating the odds that about four years ago were stacked so high

against him.

"He's really strong, and he is a fighter; not willing to give up, he fights every day," explained Zackary's mother, Soyla Reyna, "If the doctors say he can't do something, that's his drive, to be positive and show them that he can do whatever it is they say he can't."

A little over three and half years ago, Zackary, whose mother was born and raised in Lockney, was diagnosed with a life-threatening brain aneurysm that many doctors have called inoperable because of the aneurysm's location on the brain and its possibility to rupture at anytime.

When diagnosed in 2007, a number of doctors came to the conclusion that the aneurysm would give Zackary

about a year before it ruptured. Treatment to combat the prognosis was limited because doctors were unwilling to take the case because of its complexity and Zackary's age; doctors felt that any procedures may cause more harm than good.

However, despite the prediction, Zackary and his family kept fighting on, cherishing and battling every single day that God allowed them.

Eventually, Zackary and his family found doctors who were willing to take the case. Treatment would be a long road for Zack and the family as they traveled from their home in Kerrville to medical centers in Virginia, Dallas, and Austin. So far, Zack has undergone six surgeries with three of them yielding a success and three of them failing. Along with the surgeries, Zack has also received radiation treatments as a way to combat the aneurysm.

His last radiation treatment in October proved to be a big decision for the family as doctors warned that there was an 80 percent chance that Zack would not make it through the procedure.

Zackary's mother Soyla described that the decision to follow through with the procedure was a difficult one to make. However, Zack, who at this point had now lived two and a half years above what doctors had originally predicted, placed the decision on faith and the thought that God would see him and his family through; "What keeps him also going is...he is really strong in his faith," commented Soyla as she described that Zack holds on to one scripture

in particular; Isaiah 53:5 "By his stripes I am healed."

Thankfully, Zack would make it through the radiation treatment but currently family and doctors are waiting to see if the treatment will have an effect.

This last treatment would also prompt the family to

apply to the Make-a-Wish Foundation as Zackary became eager to do something he had never done before, ride a roller coaster. In November, during the Thanksgiving break, the Foundation flew Zack and his entire family.

**ZACKARY**

continued on page 8

## Floydada EMS receives gift from Farris Foundation

By Katrina Gooch

The Floydada EMS recently received two POWER-PRO XT 6500 EMS cots. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Farris Foundation for purchasing these cots for us.

These cots are battery-powered with a hydraulic system that raises and lowers the patient with the touch of a button. This will help with the lifting and moving of patients. The cots are rated for up to 700 lbs

making it more helpful with our larger patients. This cot will cut down on the risk of back injuries for Floydada EMS as well as helping with the comfort level for our patients.

We are very excited about working with these new cots. We feel very blessed for this is wonderful Christmas gift for the employees of Floydada EMS. Thank you to the Farris Foundation for your kindness. May God bless you greatly this New Year.

**Spirit of Sharing still in need of donations**

The Floydada Spirit of Sharing is still in need of food donations. Payne Pharmacy, located at 200 S. Main, Floydada, has a collection box inside their store for you to donate canned and/or perishable foods. The Spirit of Sharing will be collecting food until January 15<sup>th</sup>.

The SOS would like to thank the citizens of Floydada for their donations. It is very much appreciated.

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## Longhorns get back to back wins

By Coach Strickland

The Lockney longhorns won again after dominating the Anton bulldogs on Tuesday night in overtime 49-42 victory. This is the first time the Horns have won back to back games in two seasons. The win improves Lockney's record to 6-9. Ky Teeter led all scorers with 12 points; Marcos Bernal and Ian Dunbar both had 10 points, and Erik Cortez added 8. The horns next play in the Littlefield Tournament on December 28-30.

## Ladies sail past Bulldogs

By Homer Marquez

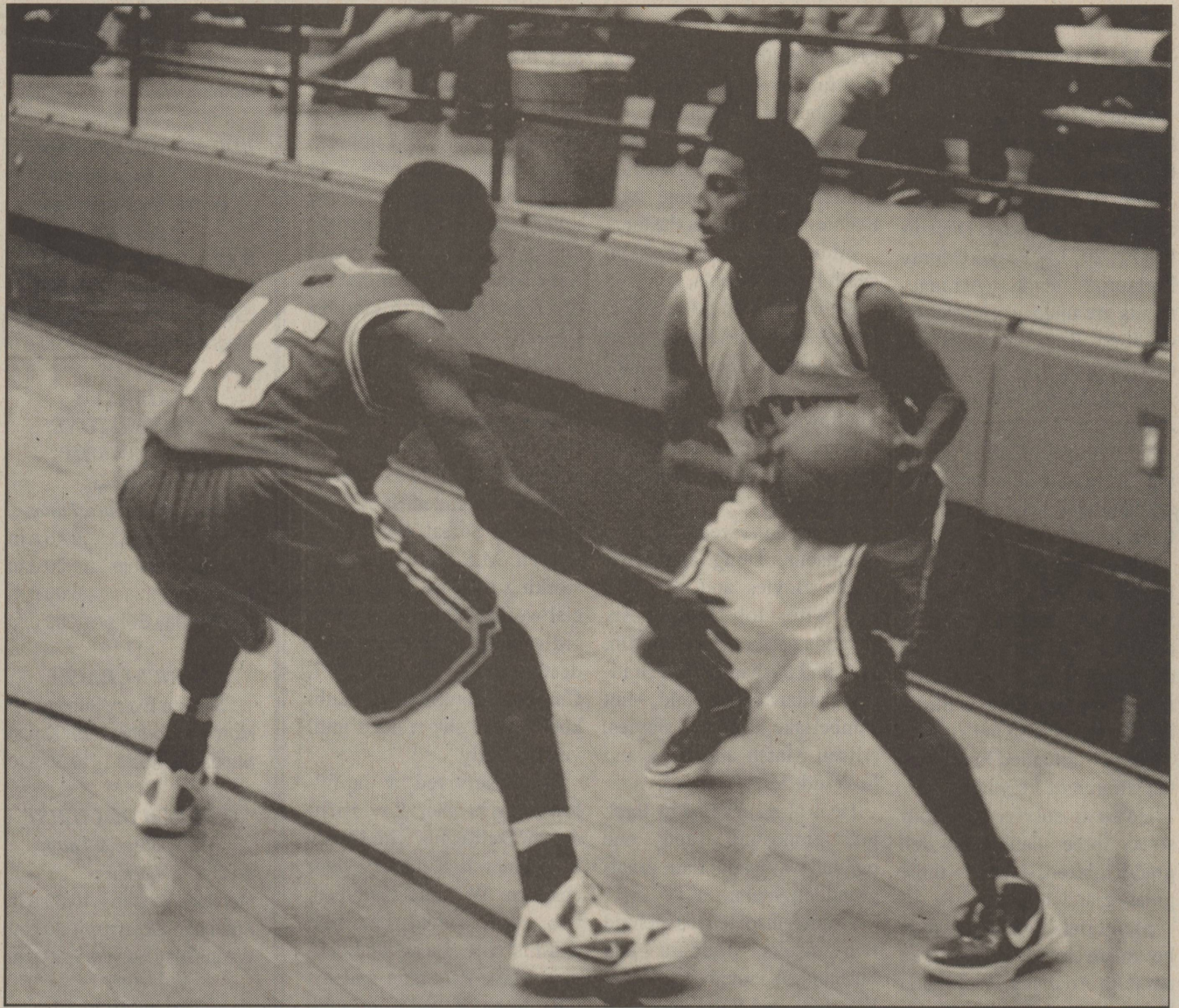
The Lady Horns put another one in the win column last Tuesday as the ladies crushed the Anton Lady Dogs 56-40. The Lady Horns dominated throughout the first half of the game, outscoring Anton 37-19 at the break. In the second half, Anton kept up with Lockney, outscoring the girls 19-21 by the end of the fourth. However, despite Anton's small comeback in the second half, the Lady Horns' dominance in the first half sealed another win for Lockney. Lead scorers for Lockney were SyAnn Foster with 17, Anissa Reyna with 16, and Tanae Ramos with 14 points.

## Preparing for the New Year

By Abel Salazar

Christmas has passed, now New Year's is coming up; and people are hoping for a good 2012. As the New Year comes, schools everywhere are ready to begin a new semester. Kids are hoping to pass school and move on to the next grade so they can get more privileges and become more mature. School districts in Lockney are preparing for the STAAR test. Students start taking the test in May. Many are working hard to pass and others are already ready. New plans are being made for 2012 and projects are coming up. Have a happy New Year.

# Lockney Boys and Girls basketball



## About 300,000 Americans Each Year Experience Out-of-Hospital Sudden Cardiac Arrest

WASHINGTON — The nation's emergency physicians are encouraging everyone this holiday season to get Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training, saying this skill could be the greatest gift given to someone.

"When a person goes into cardiac arrest, the first few seconds and minutes are crucial to saving his or her life and to preventing irreversible damage," said Dr. David Seaberg, president of the American College of Emergency Physicians. "If more people had CPR training, many more lives could be saved. It's not difficult to learn, and it's well worth the small amount of time it takes to learn."

### Facts about Cardiac Arrest:

- Effective CPR immediately after sudden cardiac arrest can double or even triple a victim's chance of survival, according to the American Heart Association (AHA).

- Studies suggest bystander CPR can double, even triple chances of survival.

- A victim's best chance for survival is when there is revival in the first 4 minutes.

- About 300,000 victims of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest each year in the United States (AHA). Less than 8 percent of those victims survive.

- Sudden cardiac arrest is different from a heart attack, which occurs when there is a blocked coronary artery. Cardiac arrest occurs when there is a heart rhythm disturbance — causing the heart to suddenly stop beating.

- Less than one-third of out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest victims receive bystander CPR, (AHA).

- Almost 6,000 children 18 years old and younger suffer out-of-hospital cardiac ar-

rest each year.

For those put off by having to perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, there is good news: compression-only CPR is considered as effective at maintaining blood flow. Compression-only CPR is the method where you would push hard and fast in the center of the victim's chest. Proper training from experts would easily be able to show a person this lifesaving technique.

Dr. Howard Mell, an emergency physician in Ohio has set a goal for his county of training 10,000 residents in CPR. "Some new CPR classes can take less than an hour," said Dr. Mell. "Family and friends are often on the front line and can make a significant difference preserving the life of a loved one."

For information on taking a CPR class in your area, please visit the American Red Cross at [www.redcross.org/takeaclass](http://www.redcross.org/takeaclass).

"I can't think of many better ways to get ready for the holidays," said Dr. Seaberg. "Prepare for the new year ahead by obtaining this valuable skill that could ultimately save someone's life."

Please visit [www.EmergencyCareForYou.org](http://www.EmergencyCareForYou.org) for details on many emergency medicine and health-related topics.

ACEP is a national medical specialty society representing emergency medicine. ACEP is committed to advancing emergency care through continuing education, research and public education. Headquartered in Dallas, Texas, ACEP has 53 chapters representing each state, as well as Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. A Government Services Chapter represents emergency physicians employed by military branches and other government agencies.



Photos By Home Marquez

### SOUTH PLAINS COMMUNITY ACTION HOMEHEALTH



Julie Simmons, RN is new to South Plains Community Action Home Health, but is no stranger to the industry as she has worked as a Home Health RN for the last three years. Prior to that, Julie was an ICU RN who graduated from the Covenant School of Nursing. Julie, her husband Dustin, and daughter Landry make their home in Lorenzo, Texas where they also raise horses.

SPCAA Home Health looks forward to the addition of Julie to the Home Healthcare team! If you would like to have Julie as your Home Health nurse, or would like more information about South Plains Community Action Home Health, please call our office at (806) 894-7872, or toll-free at (800) 687-2085. We have offices across the South Plains, and can also be located at [www.spcaahomehealth.org](http://www.spcaahomehealth.org) <<http://www.spcaahomehealth.org>>

SPCAA Home Health offers Medicare certified and licensed Home Health services including Diabetes and Cardiovascular Management, IV Therapy, Wound Care, Post-Surgical Care, Speech and Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy. Call today to find out how SPCAA Home Health can serve your medical needs at home!

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Thanks for reading!

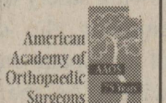
A SHORT STORY ABOUT GROWING UP WITH AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.

POLIO.

As one of the last American children to contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease.

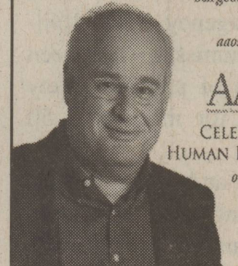
But Jeffrey Galpin did more than survive polio. He went on to a list of achievements in medical research—including being the principal investigator in applying the first gene therapy for HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Galpin actually credits his own incurable condition for giving him the focus that made him so passionate in his research. His story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If Dr. Galpin's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.



aaos.org/75years

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# Floydada Fire Dept received gift



Courtesy Photo

Floydada 4-H club president, Kirby Nixon presented Cory Johnston Floydada Fire Department with a donation from Punkin Day, the 4-H Halloween party, Floydada Lions club and collection jars in local businesses.

# Lady Winds Stay Undefeated in District

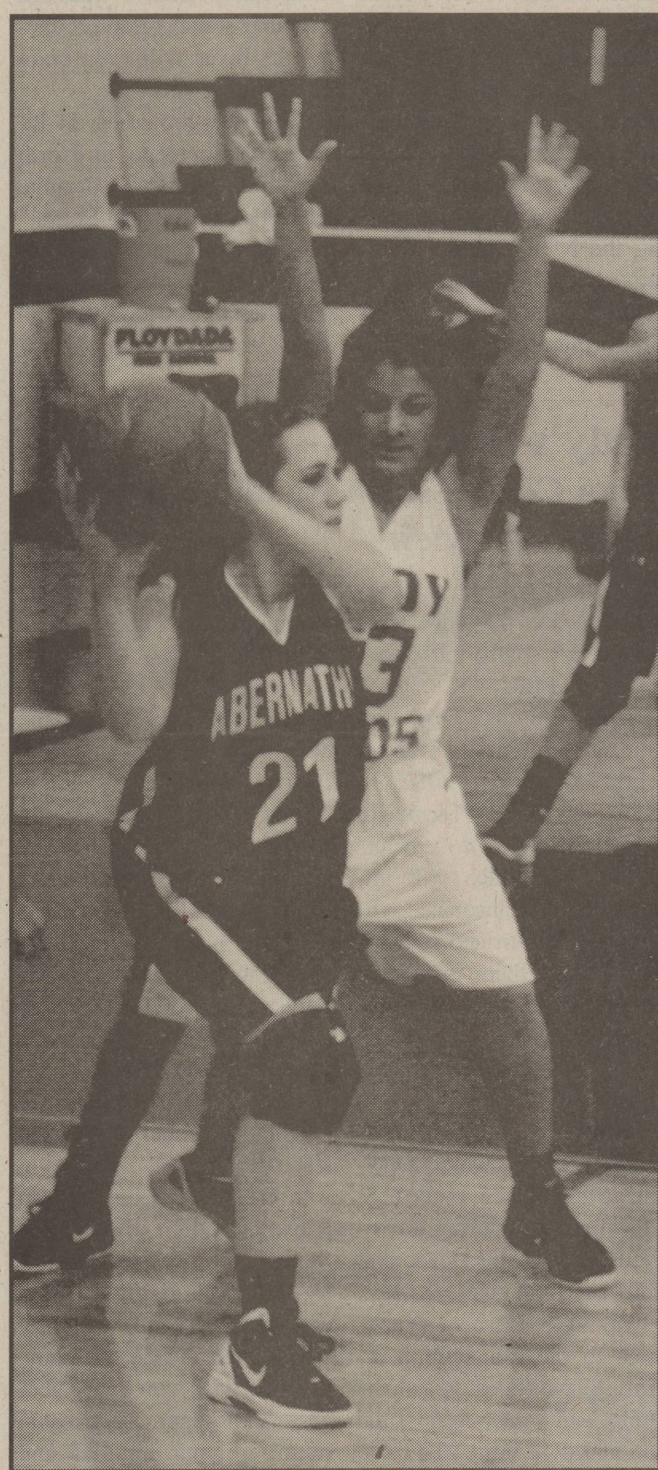


Photo By Homer Marquez

By Coach Styles

The Floydada Lady Winds remained unbeaten in district play with a 46-29 win in Whirlwind Gymnasium against Abernathy after Tuesday nights game (12-20-11).

The Lady Winds led 6-2 after the first quarter and came out red hot over the first 4 minutes of the second quarter on a 13-0 run and led

19-2. Abernathy returned the favor with a 14-4 run to end the quarter and only trail 23-16 at half. \*Floydada led 30-19 after three quarters. The Lady Winds would outscore the Lady Lopes 10-1 to start the 4<sup>th</sup> on their way to a 46-29 win.

This win enables the Lady Winds to remain on top of the district standing along-

side Tulia at 3-0. Littlefield and Idalou are just one game back at 2-1. Friona and Abernathy are at 1-2, and Dimmitt and Muleshoe are at 0-3. The Lady Winds are 11-4 on the season.

Points: Liz Suarez 11 points. Avery Miller had 9, Sarah Jo Miller 7, Nikki Seymour 6, Sarah Sanders 5, Emily Hall 3, Amelia Gonzalez 2, Rebekah Hall, Elyanna Duran with 1.

Rebounds: Sarah Sanders 13, Sarah Jo Miller 9, Rebekah Hall 5, Avery Miller 5.

Steals: Nikki Seymour 5, Sarah Jo Miller 5, Avery Miller 3

Assists: Avery Miller 4

Deflections: Sarah Jo Miller 9

Last Friday (12-16-11) the Lady Winds won their second district game in as many tries with a 44-38 win over Dimmitt in Whirlwind Gymnasium. Floydada led 10-9 after the first quarter. Each team scored eight points in the second quarter. The Lady Winds would lead 18-17 at intermission. Dimmitt would take a 30-29 lead entering the final stanza.

Floydada would take the lead and protect the ball causing the Bobbys to foul and send them to the free throw line. The Lady Winds would hit 9 of 12 in the quarter, the last 6 in a row, to ice the victory 44-38.

Points: Avery Miller 12, Sarah Jo Miller 10, Liz Suarez 10, Sarah Sanders 7, Emily Hall 3, Rebekah Hall 2.

Rebounds: Sarah Sanders 13, Avery Miller 7, Rebekah Hall 5.

Steals: Sarah Sanders 3, Liz Suarez 3.

Assists: Avery Miller 4

Deflections: Sarah Sanders 9, Avery Miller 7, Sarah Jo Miller 5.

On Tuesday (12-13-11) the Floydada Lady Winds trav-

eled to Friona to open District 2-2A play against the Lady Squaws.

The Lady Winds came out on fire and took a 17-6 lead after one quarter of play. Both teams scored 11 in the quarter to give Floydada a 28-17 halftime lead. Friona outscored the Lady Winds 14-9 to close the gap to 37-31. Friona closed the gap to 2 on several occasions.

Friona would go to the free throw line 17 times in the fourth quarter compared to Floydada's 5 times. The Lady Winds made 4 to Friona's 10. The Lady Winds survived the free throw imbalance by sinking 6 of 10 for the game compared to the Lady Squaws 15 of 27. The Lady Winds iced the game by sinking 4 of 4 in the waning moments of the game.

The final Floydada 49 Friona 45.

Points: Avery Miller 17, Sarah Sanders 10, Sarah Jo Miller 9, Emily Hall 4, Rebekah 4, Nikki Seymour 3, Liz Suarez 2.

Rebounds: Sarah Sanders 10, Rebekah 6, Sarah Jo Miller 5.

Steals: Sarah Jo Miller 3

Assists: Liz Suarez 5, Avery Miller 3

Deflections: Avery Miller 5.

The Lady Winds will play in the Ambucs Caprock Tournament beginning Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup> - Friday 30<sup>th</sup>. Meadow will be Floydada's opening round matchup at 1:30 p.m. in the Lubbock Coronado gymnasium. The Lady Winds will play the winner/loser of the Spearman/LCHS contest. If we win we will play at 9 p.m at Estacado gym that night and if we lose at Trinity gym at 10:30 a.m. the next morning.

I hope all have a Happy New Year.

# Floydada grabs big win over Abernathy

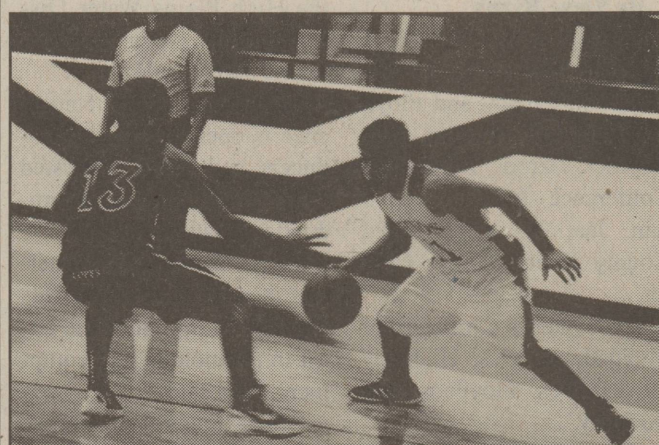


Photo By Homer Marquez

By Coach Renfro

The Floydada Whirlwinds exploded for 26 second quarter points as they ran out to a 43 to 23 halftime lead against the Abernathy Antelopes in the district 2-2A opener for both teams. The Winds then cruised to a 73-51 victory to push their season record to 7-4.

Four Winds hit double figures in the game with Jordan Woody leading the way with 18 points. Woody also grabbed 6 rebounds and handed out 3 assists. Haden Lipham and Tyler Renfro each contributed 13 points and pulled down 6 rebounds apiece. Lipham also added 5 steals to his stat column. R. J. DeLeon led the team in boards with

9, and he also contributed 11 points and 3 assists to the cause. Cole Covington put in 9 points to go with 6 rebounds and 5 assists. Jose Martinez added 5 points. Ventura Gonzales and Michael Cisneros put in 3 and 2 respectively, with Gonzales also grabbing 5 boards.

Overall, the Whirlwinds were able to capture 17 offensive rebounds as a team, while the taller Antelopes only had 7 second chance opportunities.

Floydada will travel to Lubbock to play in the annual Caprock Classic December 28-30 before continuing district play against Littlefield on January 3.

# FLOYDADA SCHOOL MENU January 2 - January 6

**MONDAY HOLIDAY**  
**TUESDAY**

**Breakfast-** Sausage/biscuit or cereal and graham crackers, juice, milk

**Lunch-** Country style steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, savory green beans, hot roll, strawberry shortcake, milk

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Breakfast-** Pancakes/syrup or cereal and graham crackers, juice, milk

**Lunch-** Chicken spaghetti, garden salad, fresh apple, Texas toast, brownie, milk

**THURSDAY**  
**Breakfast-** Oatmeal and cinnamon toast or cereal and graham crackers, juice, milk

**Lunch-** Beef and bean chalupas, Spanish rice, lettuce & tomatoes, cinnamon applesauce, peanut butter bar, milk

**FRIDAY**  
**Breakfast-** Breakfast burrito or cereal and graham

crackers, juice, milk  
**Lunch-** Pizza burger, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, tater tots, fresh grapes, milk

**NOTICE OF SCHEDULED ENTRY INTO FIELDS**

Pursuant to Tex. Agric. Code, Sec. 74.117, cotton producers in the Northern High Plains Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, which consists of all of Hale and Swisher counties and portions of Randall, Armstrong, Briscoe, and Floyd counties are hereby notified that Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation personnel will be conducting eradication activities in and around their fields, beginning **January 16, 2012**. All cotton fields will be mapped, and treatment will begin during the cotton-growing season. For notification prior to any chemical treatment, call 1-800-687-1212 with the exact location of your field and appropriate telephone numbers. Field entry and treatment is expected to last until all cotton is harvested in the zone. For more information regarding this program, please call the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation at 1-800-687-1212.

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## Dual-county Caprock Crop Production Conference slated for Jan. 24 in Floydada

**By Steve Byrns**  
**FLOYDADA** – The Texas AgriLife Extension Service offices in Crosby and Floyd counties will conduct their Caprock Crop Production Conference from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Jan. 24 at the Floyd County Friends Unity Center.

The center is 6 miles from Floydada on U.S. Highway 70 between Floydada and Lockney.

“We will have a number of agricultural updates crucial to our area,” said Caitlin Jackson, AgriLife Extension agent in Crosby County. “We plan to have representatives from the Texas Comptrollers office on-site to explain and issue the new Ag and Timber Tax registration numbers. We’ll also have information on

the High Plains Water District water meter requirements and a trade show.”

Jackson said the conference is open to all area producers and those interested in the South Plains crop production industry.

“We’ll also have commercial booths with exhibitors on hand to introduce the latest in technology and equipment,” she said.

Other topics will include a general crop disease update, drift minimization and equipment calibration, 2012 Farm Bill and conservation reserve program update, and updates on risk and pest management and crop insurance.

Seven Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units will be available for those with a pesticide

applicators license – 0.5 drift minimization, 3.5 general, two integrated pest management and one laws and regulations. Seven certified crop advisor credits will also be available.

Individual preregistration is \$35 by Jan. 20 and \$45 thereafter. The fee includes lunch, conference cap and educational materials. Organizers also will be giving away an iPad 2 as a door prize.

For more information or to preregister, call the AgriLife Extension offices in Crosby County at 806-675-2347 or Floyd County at 806-983-4912.

Contacts: Caitlin Jackson, 806-675-2347, [cjackson@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:cjackson@ag.tamu.edu) Mark Carroll, 806-983-4912, [jmcarroll@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jmcarroll@ag.tamu.edu)

## Cotton Market Weekly

The cotton market traded sluggishly this week, firmly locked into holiday mode ahead of Christmas and New Year closings. Some late session buying support on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) brought nearby cotton futures prices back to the top of their ranges on Thursday, but trading still was somewhat “anemic,” according to analysts.

“The market seems perplexed by the lack of business,” a market observer explained. “The weekly export sales report confirmed the condition. In any case, it would appear that we’ve shut down for the year.”

Despite a slow week on the ICE, sales on the spot market still were healthy. Producers in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and New Mexico sold 22,546 bales online in the week ending Dec. 22 compared to the previous week when 18,100 bales were sold.

Export sales, however, were considerably lower. USDA reported net export sales of U.S. cotton totaled 69,500 bales in the week ended Dec. 15 as sales to China, Vietnam and Bangladesh were partially offset by cancellations from Japan, Thailand, and Pakistan. Export shipments of 191,100 bales were up 10 percent from the previous week and from the four-week average. Primary destinations included China, Turkey, and Mexico.

The Chinese Reserve continued to support the cotton market by taking yet another 1.0 million statistical bales

of domestic cotton into its stockpile, bringing the total amount to 8.2 million bales this season, not counting an estimated 4.5 million bales of imports. Many observers now feel that the reserve will procure as many as 18.0 million bales of domestic and imported cotton from the market which would be more than the global production surplus this season.

China is not the only country that seems to be attempting to support cotton prices. New reports indicate the government of Pakistan is intending to buy 1.0 million bales (375 lbs each) through the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) in order to help out its growers and ginners. While the prime minister seems to have already instructed the secretary of finance to arrange the funding for such an operation, mill owners and exporters are voicing their discontent and it may be a while before a final decision is reached.

Closer to home, the National Cotton Council’s (NCC) annual survey of 2012 planting intentions was mailed to upland and extra-long staple (ELS) cotton producers across the Cotton Belt on Tuesday, Dec. 20. The survey, conducted each year to aid with industry planning and policy deliberations, will provide the basis for the economic outlook presented to delegates during the NCC Annual Meeting on Feb. 11 in Fort Worth, Texas. As the first look at U.S. planting intentions,

market observers are anxious to read the data. Cotton acreage in Texas still is the wildcard figure, according to those in the industry.

“The one factor helping to support current cotton prices is the severe drought gripping Texas which typically accounts for about half of the country’s cotton acres,” an analyst said. “Even though Texas growers only harvested about half of the cotton acres they planted last year, I believe Texans will plant as many acres to cotton this coming year as they planted last year.”

While parts of Texas received beneficial rain and snow in late December and likely will even get more precipitation before planting season arrives, many market observers expect next year’s cotton yields in Texas to be “iffy.”

“When you are in a drought as severe as this, it takes a lot of rain to get back to normal,” said a trader. In some of the worst hit areas of the state, experts say it could take 20 inches of rain to replenish soil moisture. On the other side of the coin, if the Texas drought continues, many traders question whether some cotton producers in Texas will even plant this coming year.

“But we could see an increase in acreage in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and the Mid-South,” a trader explained. “Corn-on-corn yields have been poor in states like Arkansas, Missouri, and Mississippi.”

## High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show to be held Jan. 19

**AMARILLO** – The annual High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show hosted by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service will be held Jan. 19 in the Regency Room of the Amarillo Civic Center, 401 S. Buchanan St., Amarillo. The program this year, which is jointly sponsored by AgriLife Extension and the Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association, addresses a wide variety of topics, said Nich Kenny, AgriLife Extension irrigation specialist. The registration fee will be \$30, payable at the door only, and includes lunch. Topics and speakers are:

- Information on John Deere Water, Keith Patterson, John Deere Water senior technical services manager, Memphis.
- AquaSpy: Capacitance probe irrigation schedul-

- ing, David Sloane, AquaSpy agronomist, St. Louis, Mo.
- Crop Metrics variable rate irrigation, Kevin Abts, vice president of sales and marketing, North Bend, Neb.
- Technologies in center pivot irrigation, Farris Hightower, Lindsay Corporation regional manager, Lubbock.
- Long- and short-term weather insights, Dr. David Brown, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Fort Worth.
- Tillage effects on water use, Rick Kochenower, Oklahoma State University, Goodwell, Okla.
- Texas Alliance on Water Conservation Lockney project, Dr. Justin Weinheimer, Texas Tech University, Lubbock.
- North Plains Groundwater Conservation District “200-12 Reduced Irrigation on Corn Demonstration,” Har-

old Grall, Moore County producer.

- Economics of irrigation systems, Dr. Steve Amosson, AgriLife Extension, Amarillo.
- Efficient Profitable Irrigation in Corn or EPIC Project, Kenny.
- Drought tolerant corn research, Dr. Brent Bean, AgriLife Extension agronomist, Amarillo. Five Irrigation Association certified irrigation designer and five certified crop advisor continuing education units will be offered for conference attendees, he said. The trade show will include booths from the irrigation industry, area ground water districts and educational institutions, Kenny said. For more conference information, go to the Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association website, <http://taia.org> or contact Kenny at 806-677-5600 or [npkenny@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:npkenny@ag.tamu.edu). For trade show information, contact Kern Stutler at 806-786-5644. All 2010 and 2011 presentations from the High Plains Irrigation Conference can be found at [www.youtube.com/NPKTexasAgriLife](http://www.youtube.com/NPKTexasAgriLife).

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**CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)**

Dist/Div: Lubbock  
 Contract 0145-06-023 for REHABILITATION OF EXISTING ROAD IN FLOYD County will be opened on January 05, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor’s list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT’s website at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 38715

**State Office**

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 Austin, Texas 78704  
 Phone: 512-416-2540  
 Dist/Div Office(s)

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Lubbock District  
 District Engineer  
 135 Slaton  
 Lubbock, Texas 79408-0771  
 Phone: 806-745-4411

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

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## – Randy’s Roundup – A Weekly Newsletter from Congressman Randy Neugebauer 2011 in Review

2011 was a significant and historic year in Congress. The House of Representatives passed 28 jobs bills that encourage economic growth in the private sector. I voted for legislation that would cut government spending, get our fiscal house in order and restore fiscal discipline. I have opposed every government bailout that rewards bad behavior and sticks taxpayers with the bill. I have also opposed, and will continue to fight against, President Obama’s health care law.

I proposed legislation to protect the B-1 bomber, which was included in the National Defense Authorization Act (HYPERLINK “[http://neugebauer.house.gov/news/utl.cfm?mailaction=clickthru&gpiv=2100082008.81643.151&gen=1&mailing\\_linkid=12772](http://neugebauer.house.gov/news/utl.cfm?mailaction=clickthru&gpiv=2100082008.81643.151&gen=1&mailing_linkid=12772)”

longer term guidelines be established by the Air Force for the B-1. I also introduced the HYPERLINK “[http://neugebauer.house.gov/news/utl.cfm?mailaction=clickthru&gpiv=2100082008.81643.151&gen=1&mailing\\_linkid=12773](http://neugebauer.house.gov/news/utl.cfm?mailaction=clickthru&gpiv=2100082008.81643.151&gen=1&mailing_linkid=12773)”

NDAA), which passed the House and the Senate on December 14th and 15th respectively. The language decreases the number of bombers to be retired within the next year by half and will require

in next week’s Randy’s Roundup, “Looking Ahead to 2012.”

**Payroll Tax Update**  
 Last week, the House and Senate passed the Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act of 2011. This bill would extend the payroll tax holiday and unemployment insurance for two months, as well as maintain payments for doctors who treat Medicare patients. I expect Congress to take up this issue again when we reconvene in January.

**End of the War in Iraq**  
 On December 18th, the last American troops in Iraq crossed the border into Kuwait, ending the United States’ presence in the country since March 2003. To every member of the military who served in Iraq, welcome home. I wish you every success and happiness as you return to your families and friends. To see more of my thoughts on this subject, visit my HYPERLINK “[http://neugebauer.house.gov/news/utl.cfm?mailaction=clickthru&gpiv=2100082008.81643.151&gen=1&mailing\\_linkid=12773](http://neugebauer.house.gov/news/utl.cfm?mailaction=clickthru&gpiv=2100082008.81643.151&gen=1&mailing_linkid=12773)”

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GAS LOGS continued from page 3

cleaning the control compartments and burner and checking all the components for proper operation.”

Gas logs may be vented or unvented. Unvented units do not have to be vented through a chimney or flue. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, unvented gas heaters are gaining in popularity because they are relatively inexpensive, easy to install and efficient.

Commissioner Barry T. Smitherman said, “Consumers should know whether their gas logs are vented or un-vented. If they are vented, make sure the fireplace where the logs are installed is designed for actual use, not just for decoration. Inspect it to see that it has adequate protective linings and that the chimney is clear and in good repair.”

Vent-free models are easier to install, but they can pose

a health hazard because they draw their combustion air from inside the room. That can deplete the room’s oxygen level and may produce some carbon monoxide (CO). They also produce water vapor, which can cause problems when they operate often or for a long time, especially in a “tight” home that has limited infiltration of outside air. Newer models of vent-free appliances come with an oxygen depletion sensor that will automatically turn off the unit if the oxygen drops below a specified level.

For more information on how to stay warm safely with propane this winter, view the following website link at: [HYPERLINK “http://www.hyperlink.propane.tx.gov”](http://www.hyperlink.propane.tx.gov) \t “\_blank” <http://www.propane.tx.gov/> or call the Railroad Commission’s Alternative Energy Division at (800) 64-CLEAR.

O.K. TIRE continued from page 1

The new business will be a great fit for Mr. Graham who has been self employed for the past 35 years; and with the constant demand for tires, the Grahams are excited about entering a new venture, “There are several things in life that everybody has to have, and tires are one of them.”

As the new operators for Graham’s O.K. Tire Store, the Grahams are committed to offering the same great service that has been offered at the store for years. Before departing from the business, Adolf is helping the Grahams get a sure footing for success in the tire business; “It’s important to Adolf for this business to be successful; it means a lot to him... it’s still important to him,” commented Graham.

Longtime employee, Lionso Cisneros Jr. will continue to offer his years of experience and work ethic.

Along with providing quality service, Graham’s O.K. Tire Store has brought back its “On-Site” service calls for farmers whose tractors get flats in the field; We are more than happy to do it,” commented Jill Graham who will also be working as the bookkeeper along with her job at the post office.

The transition is looking to be a positive one for both families as the Garcia family looks forward to the

freedom of retirement; and the Grahams look forward to the change in pace, which they expect will lead to more family time with their children; Mallory, Jacob and Rachel.

With the move still new, the Grahams express that support from the community has been overwhelming which has served as an encouragement for the family. Once weather conditions allow them, the Grahams will be completing final steps in making the business their own as they plan to repaint the name of the business on the building. The Grahams would like to wish each and everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

RANDY’S ROUNDUP continued from page 6

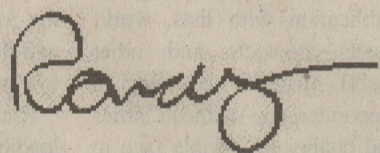
1643.151&gen=1&mailing\_linkid=12774” \t “\_blank” website.

**The National Guard’s 375th Birthday**

On December 13th, the National Guard celebrated its 375th birthday. Since 1636, the National Guard has remained a critical part of the United States’ Armed Forces. Comprised of citizen-soldiers and airmen, they provide communities with protection from natural disasters and relief from their aftermath. National Guardsmen deploy to far-away countries to defend the United States’ interests abroad. I am proud to know many members of the National Guard; and continue to pray for them as they devote their lives to helping others and serving their country.

**Welcome 2012**

Dana and I wish everyone a very blessed and Happy New Year!



**Still time to qualify for home energy credits**

DALLAS – If the thought of the long winter months has you planning on getting new insulation or windows, the IRS reminds homeowners that they still have time this year to make energy-saving and green-energy home improvements and qualify for either of two home energy credits.

**The Nonbusiness Energy Property Credit**

“The Nonbusiness Energy Property Credit is aimed at homeowners installing energy efficient improvements such as insulation, new windows and furnaces,” said Clay Sanford, an IRS spokesman in Dallas. “The credit is more limited than in the past years, but can still provide substantial tax savings.”

Sanford said the 2011 credit rate is 10 percent of the cost of qualified energy effi-

ciency improvements. Energy efficiency improvements include adding insulation, energy-efficient exterior windows and doors and certain roofs. The cost of installing these items does not count.

The credit can also be claimed for the cost of residential energy property, including labor costs for installation. Residential energy property includes certain high-efficiency heating and air conditioning systems, water heaters and stoves that burn biomass fuel.

The credit has a lifetime limit of \$500, of which only \$200 may be used for windows. If the total of nonbusiness energy property credits taken in prior years since 2005 is more than \$500, the credit may not be claimed in 2011.

Qualifying improvements

must be placed into service to the taxpayer’s principal residence located in the United States before January 1, 2012.

**The Residential Energy Efficient Property Credit**

Homeowners going green should also check out the Residential Energy Efficient Property Credit, designed to spur investment in alternative energy equipment.

The credit equals 30 percent of what a homeowner spends on qualifying property such as solar electric systems, solar hot water heaters, geothermal heat pumps, wind turbines, and fuel cell property.

No cap exists on the amount of credit available except for fuel cell property. Generally, labor costs are included when figuring this credit.

**Get Details on Energy Tax Credits**

Not all energy-efficient improvements qualify for these tax credits, so homeowners should check the manufacturer’s tax credit certification statement before they purchase. Taxpayers can normally rely on this certification statement which can usually be found on the manufacturer’s website or with the product packaging.

Eligible homeowners can claim both of these credits on Form 5695, Residential Energy Credits when they file their 2011 federal income tax return. Because these are credits and not deductions, they reduce the amount of tax owed dollar for dollar. An eligible taxpayer can claim these credits regardless of whether he or she itemizes deductions on

**Texas AgriLife Research helps feed the hungry potato and squash donations result from produce research**

By Kay Ledbetter

AMARILLO – When the research is done on the potato fields planted southwest of Bushland by Dr. Charlie Rush and his Texas AgriLife Research plant pathology crew, about 30 tons of produce are left in the field.

Rush doesn’t let it go to waste. He and his crew spend days digging the potatoes and then picking them up by hand to pile into High Plains Food Bank bins for distribution



**Texas AgriLife Research photo by Kay Ledbetter**  
Potatoes by the bucket full were picked up and loaded into bins headed to the High Plains Food Bank by the Texas AgriLife Research plant pathology crew at the research farm near Bushland.

throughout the Panhandle.

This year’s crop of vegetable research netted 38,590 pounds of potatoes and about 1,155 pounds of squash, according to Broc Carter, director of communications with the High Plains Food Bank.

“Once we get it here, we do quality control on it and make sure it is fit for the public,” Carter said. “For some counties, we put them in 5-pound bags; but with other counties, we are able to send the bins of potatoes and bags and let the people bag them.”

The Food Bank covers the Panhandle from Perryton to Plainview going north to south and from the Oklahoma border to the New Mexico border going east to west, he said. Distributions are made to 171 agencies within 29 counties.

“Anything that is a perishable and doesn’t have a long life, we try to move out as fast as possible,” Carter said. “All of those potatoes were gone within a few

weeks of being brought in.”

Rush said the potatoes were part of a 5-acre study on zebra chip, a disease of potatoes that can cause a yield quality concern to potatoes, but is not a food safety concern. This year, three different AgriLife Research scientists and Texas AgriLife Extension Service specialists had plots involving research on this disease.

“When the project work is complete, there are many pounds of perfectly good potatoes just laying out there and we don’t want them to go to waste,” Rush said.

The work is done through the AgriLife Research-led Specialty Crop Research Initiative titled, “Management of Zebra Chip to Enhance Profitability and Sustainability of U.S. Potato Production.” The initiative, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture-National Institute of Food and Agriculture, is led by Rush, and nationwide has a team of 27 researchers and specialists.

In addition, the collaboration includes potato producers, such as CSS Farms of Dalhart, who loaned Rush’s team a digger this year which allowed them to harvest many more of the potatoes, benefiting food bank produce recipients.

This is the third year Rush’s project has made donations to the Food Bank, with this year’s donation considerably higher than the previous 5,600 pounds of potatoes from a 3-acre plot dug by hand.

Carter said perishables such as the potatoes and squash are difficult for the general public to donate, especially in large quantities, so this is a unique product that’s very much appreciated by the food bank recipients.

“The reason we like what this program does is we have enough for a whole area and not just one family,” Carter said. “That’s what these large amounts of produce from AgriLife Research do for us; everybody gets some.”

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ZACKARY continued from page 1



Courtesy Photo

After a week of fun at Disney World, Zackary Reyna (middle), his mother Soyla (front) and his father Jerry (back) capped off the week with a ride on the famous Space Mountain.

ily to Disney World in Orlando, Florida to make Zack's wish to ride the biggest roller coaster come true.

Once the family arrived in Florida, the Reyna's were given Disney's royal treatment as they rolled out the red carpet for a week loaded with fun. "It was one thing after another, these amazing little moments that created a whole great week for the family," explained Mrs. Reyna to the Kerrville Daily Times, "It was (Zackary's) week."

During their trip the family stayed at the Give the Kids the World Village with other Make-a-Wish families; this experience would help encourage the Reynas as they visited with the other families.

After conquering the Space Mountain roller coaster, Mrs. Reyna described in the Kerrville Daily Times, that Zack was in awe the entire trip, "just to see the look on face every single time (he met Disney characters), it's just priceless," added Soyla.

Before leaving, Zackary was able to decorate a glass star that was placed on ceiling of the House of Miracles along with other Make-a-Wish kids. In this excerpt from an article that

ran in the Kerrville Daily Times Mrs. Reyna described the glass stars' significance to Zack:

Throughout this ordeal, Zackary has become a shining example of strength and an unmovable pillar of hope for his family and friends. His grandmother, Alica Luna, who works at the Salvation Army in Lockney, described that his example has given strength and encouragement even in her trying times; "I have learned a lot from him," explained Mrs. Luna as she described her recent heart attack, "I remember what he always said, that we need to be strong, and it helped me, and it has helped other people too. You know it is an example...that we need to keep our

*"He made a comment about how, 'Those aren't just stars, those are actually people,'" she said of her son. Soyla Cried as she described how special it was for Zackary to know that he was a part of the people on the ceiling. She said he frequently reminds his family that he doesn't want to be forgotten. Soyla said placing the glass star on the ceiling is a way for everyone to remember him. "That's another wish that came true for him," she said wiping the tears from her eyes.*

chins up and keep going...Little things and little problems aren't a big deal when you look at the whole picture."

Now back from the trip, Zack and his family were in Lockney visiting family and friends at the time of this interview. Soyla and Zackary along with the entire family wanted to thank the community for their support and their collected prayers. They added that is anyone was interested in receiving updates about Zackary can visit [www.carepages.com/zackaryreyna](http://www.carepages.com/zackaryreyna).



Photo by Homer Marquez

On Wednesday, while attempting to knock down a rundown and abandoned house on the west side of Locus Street, near the Lockney Coop. County workers noticed smoke coming from the trash piles; a fire would soon engulf the piles and then the abandoned house; with no other structures around the house, the fire was left to burn itself out.

## AgriLife Extension disaster recovery guide now available in e-book format

By Paul Schattenberg

COLLEGE STATION – The Texas AgriLife Extension Service disaster recovery guide on how individuals, families and businesses can recover from a disaster such as a hurricane, fire, or flood, is now available free in e-book format.

"Now you can download this guide to your mobile device or tablet before a disaster happens, so you'll have it available in the event you're ever affected by one," said Dr. Andy Vestal, AgriLife Extension director of homeland security and emergency management in College Station.

The "After a Disaster: Information to Help You and Your Family Recover"

e-book contains details on various recovery-related topics, including keeping safe, assessing structural damage, debris removal, basic first aid, obtaining assistance, removing odors, controlling mold and insects, salvaging important documents and helping family members cope.

Vestal said the guide was developed by experts from AgriLife Extension and other entities of the Texas A&M University System in conjunction with input from state and national disaster mitigation and recovery organizations.

"This guide is a comprehensive but easy-to-understand publication with lists, worksheets, contacts and other useful material covering a preponderance of those issues and challenges people face in recovering from a disaster," he said.

Treye Rice, AgriLife Extension web usability and design specialist, said the guide was made available in e-book format in large part due to Internet search data from people affected by the many wildfires experienced throughout the state this year.

"The Texas EDEN website statistic and usage data collected during and after the Bastrop wildfires indicated that a large number of people were searching for disaster recovery information," Rice said. "They were

doing this using a mobile device, such as an Apple iPhone or Google Android Phone."

Rice said the guide may be downloaded in its entirety using almost any generally available mobile device. He added the new e-book is currently only available in English, but a Spanish-language version will be available soon. A PDF version is already available for download in English and Spanish.

"While the guide has been converted to e-book format to be downloaded and read on iPhone, Android, Kindle and similar devices, the mobile device being used will determine the format and any additional app that may be needed to allow reading it," he added.

Rice said in addition to downloading the entire guide in the e-book format, users may also download the complete guide or specific sections in PDF format. Download options can be found at <http://texashelp.tamu.edu/disaster-recovery-guide-and-ebook.php>.

Additional information on disaster preparation, mitigation and recovery may be downloaded free from the Texas Extension Disaster Education Network website, <http://texashelp.tamu.edu>. Free disaster- and emergency-related publications may also be found online at the Texas AgriLife Bookstore, <http://agrilifebookstore.org>.

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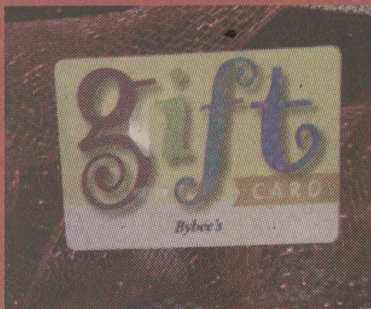
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