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Money's moving in Floydada

By Homer Marquez

It seems business is booming in Floydada, after data from a recent sales tax report showed a substantial and welcomed increase in the city's revenues.

Earlier this month, Texas Comptroller Susan Combs announced the current sales tax revenue figures for municipalities across the state. Among the surrounding communities, Floydada enjoyed the largest increase as February's sales tax payment rose a hefty 50.71 percent from numbers collected this time last year.

"It means more cash is coming into the town," explained Floydada City Manager Gary Brown who was more than pleased with the announcement of the numbers.

So how this report calculated and what is its significance? Well every time a taxable item or service is bought in Floydada, the 1.75 percent sales tax that is collected from the purchase is sent to Austin. At the end of the month, the state comptroller records the revenues and distributes the money back to the municipalities.

In the Comptroller's latest report, Floydada collected \$41,171 from their tax rate for the month; but keep in mind, February's comptroller report reflected tax revenues collected

in December and were redistributed in February.

However, the \$41,171 collected in that month was a 50.71 percent increase from the \$27,317 collect in December last year. And comparing the fiscal year-to-date numbers, Floydada has already seen a 31.91 percent increase from last year; as sales tax revenues collected by this time in 2011 were at \$45,831, while in 2012 revenues collected are already at \$60,456 for the year.

In comparison with surrounding communities, Lockney also saw an increase as their 1.50 percent sales tax saw a 3.38 percent growth for the month; Quitaque saw a 7.29 decrease; Tulia saw a 2.84 decrease; Petersburg saw a 30.86 increase; and Plainview saw an 8.94 decrease for the month.

So what's the significance of these numbers? Well in a nutshell, the data shows that commerce in Floydada is growing, as these numbers are evidence that more people are doing business in the city.

"Something is happening that is creating sales in Floydada and that's a positive," commented City Manager Gary Brown, "We are seeing positives no doubt."

Although the exact sources for the revenue increase have yet to be determined, City officials are positive that the sales

increase is the result of Floydada's growing industry.

In the past year, the community has welcomed of several new stores and restaurants to Floydada; and the extra jobs and money being pumped into the city has definitely added to the sales increase. Sales tax from alcohol sales have also contributed to the growing increase as well as the wind industry. Herby Construction, who has been contracted to work on transmission lines, has set up camp in Floydada; offering extra local jobs and extra commerce as they patronize local businesses.

Officials are also giving credit to expanding local businesses which are offering a wider range of services and product to the area.

"I feel optimistic that this pattern will continue to spread," commented Floydada EDC Director Justin Jaworski.

What's most impressive about this surge in Floydada sales is the fact that it is being accomplished in a sluggish agriculture economy which was hit hard by last year's drought; "Last year hurt," added City Manager Brown.

The fact that Floydada has been able to flourish in a time of doubt seems to be a silver lining for Floyd County and other communities faced with the same agriculture uncertainty.

Local groups weigh in after Supreme Court reaches a decision in water restriction case

By Homer Marquez

Both sides of the debate seem to be claiming a victory after a Texas Supreme Court ruled on a case concerning farmers' rights to water and conservation districts' rights to regulate them.

On Friday, the Texas Supreme Court weighed in on the *Edwards Aquifer Authority v. Day McDaniel* case and decided that landowners did in fact own the groundwater located underneath their own land.

"This is another in a long line of recent successes defending private property rights, including key eminent domain reform," commented Texas Farm Bureau President Kenneth Dierschke in a press release given late last week,

"The ruling recognized the passage of SB 332-Texas Farm Bureau's priority legislation on groundwater ownership passed in the last legislative session-that says a landowner's interest in groundwater in place cannot be taken for public use without adequate compensation," he added.

Dierschke explained in the press release that the "ruling goes beyond state water codes, giving landowners a constitutional protection under takings laws regarding private property."

The Supreme Court's decision did however note that ownership of groundwater did not exempt owners from regulations created for groundwater conservation purposes.

Dierschke explained, "The court recognized the authority of the Edwards Aquifer Authority and groundwater conservation districts to regulate groundwater, even though it is the private property of the landowner...The Texas Supreme Court decision provide a critical balance between the state and local entities' authority to conserve this precious resource and the landowner's right to use it."

The balance in this particular case would be the land owner's compensation for any of their water that is taken for public use. Now with a Supreme Court's ruling in *Edwards Aquifer Authority*

continued on page 9

Candidates gearing up for local elections

By Homer Marquez

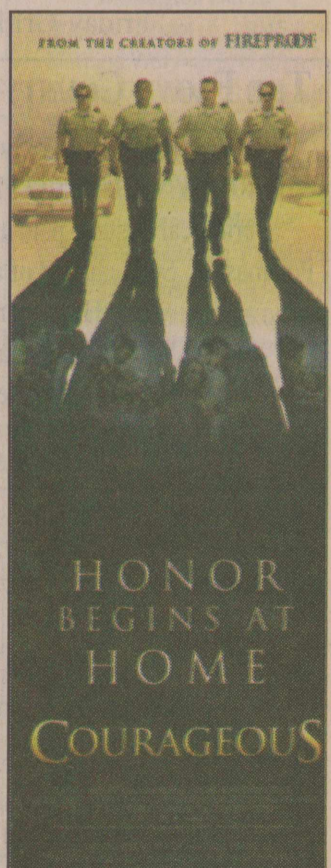
Politics are in the air as local candidates prepare for the 2012 election season. Despite the fact that State and Federal Legislators are still working to come up with the congressional district map; some local politicians are ready to go as some seats and positions are up for grabs this year.

In the county, offices up for election this year include the Tax Assessor Collector which is run by incumbent Delia Suarez; so far she is unopposed. Precinct 3 County Commissioner Nathan Johnson is also up for election and currently he is unopposed. The Precinct 1 County Commissioner office will see a Republican Primary race between incumbent Mike Anderson and Tommy Lyles; so far the Republican primary election is set for May 29; however that date could be pushed to a later date because Legislators are still debating over the district maps. No democrats have yet filed to run for the Precinct 1 County

Commissioner position.

Also filing for the election and are still unopposed are County Attorney Lex Herrington, District Attorney Becky McPherson, and Sheriff Paul Raisseze. The date to file so candidates can be on the ballot has passed; however there has been speculation that the opportunity could be re-opened because of the

CANDIDATES
continued on page 9



Tickets are now on sale for the annual Lockney Chamber of Commerce Banquet on March 24; featured entertainment will be Jimmy Burson and the Texas Swing. Tickets are \$15 a piece and can be picked up at J&K Insurance or at Kaleidoscopes in Lockney.

Join the First United Methodist Church of Floydada on Sunday, March 4 at 4 p.m. to enjoy a free viewing of the movie "Courageous". Childcare will be provided for children and also infants. Free movie popcorn and cokes will be served for anyone. Come enjoy a great movie!

Chaplain Matsler promoted to Major

Chaplain Jeff S. Matsler was promoted to the rank of Major on February 05, 2012 at Womack Army Medical Facility (WAMC), Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In attendance were his wife, Michelle, daughter, Mary Elizabeth (12) and son, Charles Taylor (10). His parents, Gary and Linda Matsler of Floydada and his sister, Mindy Vaughan and her son, Alex observed the ceremony from the Army's Video Teleconference site at the Lubbock Army Reserve Center.

At WAMC Jeff ministers to the staff and soldiers of the hospital serving as a Clinician Chaplain on the Interdisciplinary Teams for In-Patient Psychiatric Care, Surgical and Critical Care. Concurrent with his assignment at Womack, Jeff is a graduate student at Duke University, studying war's effect on society in general, the effects of PTSD on soldiers, and the church's role in restoration. In July, Chaplain Matsler

will attend the Army's C4 "Advanced" Course at the United States Army Chaplains School located at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

Jeff's previous military assignments include 8th Brigade Chaplain at the U.S. Army Transportation School at Fort Eustis, Virginia; Joint Logistics Command Brigade Chaplain, CJTF09 (101st Infantry), Afghanistan; Battalion Chaplain, 53rd Transportation Bn, Fort Eustis; and Battalion Chaplain, 3/69th Armor Bn & 3/7th Infantry, Fort Stewart, Georgia.

He has served as a minister to combat troops in Egypt, Kuwait and Afghanistan. Jeff entered the active duty Army Chaplaincy in 1996 and after being medically retired in 2000, rehabilitated his injury and reentered ministry to soldiers in 2007.

Chaplain Matsler is an elder in the Northwest Texas Conference in Extension Ministry for the Board of Higher Education and Min-



Courtesy Photo

Attending the promotion ceremony was (l-r) son, Taylor Matsler (10), daughter, Mary Elizabeth Matsler (12), his wife, Michelle Matsler, and Chaplain Jeff Matsler.

istry as an Endorsed Military Chaplain to the United States Army. His charge conference is First United Methodist Church of Floydada and it is his home church of record - and of course, his hometown.

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Chad Currington



LIFESTYLES

Floyd County Needs Election Workers for 2012 Election Year

You must be a registered voter of Floyd County to be an election worker. The Floyd County Clerk's office will hold a four-hour election worker training on Thursday, April 5, 2012.

If you think you would like to be a part of the elections process, please call 983-4900 to register. Deadline to register is 5 p.m. Monday, April 2, 2012. There is no charge for the training.

Floydada Senior Citizens News

By Margaret Jones

METEROLOGIST....
hummm...Sounds like an interesting word. DEFINITION... "an individual with specialized education who uses specific principles to explain, understand, observe or forecast the earth's atmospheric phenomena and/or how the atmosphere affects the earth and life on a planet." Most of us call these people "Weather Forecasters."

Give the dramatic changes in our local weather lately, I would think that is an awesome responsibility. Perhaps this accounts for the number of us who have experienced flu, pneumonia, bronchial infections, tummy problems and etc. Seems like attendance is down no matter where I go. Anyway...if you are well and going about business as usual consider yourselves fortunate. And for those of you who are "...still under the weather"...I hope you are better soon! We miss seeing you!

MEMORIALS this week are:

- In memory of Greg Campbell - Jane Pruitt
- In memory of Rilla Sue Woody - Jane Pruitt
- In memory of Irvin Seymour - Jane Pruitt

RECIPE OF THE WEEK...

TEN CUP SOUP
2 cans Ro-tel tomatoes with chilies, 2 can Ranch Style beans, 3 cans Minestrone Soup, 1 can whole kernel corn, drained, 1 can black-eyed peas, drained, 1 pound ground beef. Cook ground beef until it loses pink color. Drain if desired. Add cans of vegetables, soup and 1 can water. Simmer 30 minutes to 2 hours. Service with cornbread or over rice. **SIMPLE...EASY...QUICK.**

"Thought for the Week"
- I am old and have known many troubles, but most of them never happened.

Mark Twain

MENU

March 5 - March 9

Monday - Sloppy Joe on bun, country potato salad, carrots & zucchini, creamy fruit square, low fat milk

Tuesday - Home style lasagna, garlic bread, brussel sprouts, pears, low fat milk

Wednesday - Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, country gravy, stewed okra, seasoned corn, pumpkin square, low fat milk

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

Friday - Lemon baked fish, parsley rice, mixed vegetables, whole wheat roll, margarine, winter fruit cup, peach cobbler, low fat milk

From the Floyd County Hesperian
November 20, 1969

I REMEMBER, I REMEMBER
By Homer Steen

ANOTHER WEDDING DAY

Recently I was reminded of another evidence that Walter Griffith was pastor of the Methodist Church in Floydada in the year of 1902. Miss Lula Boerner, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Boerner, became the bride of E. P. Nelson on March 2, Texas Independence Day, of that year.

The couple wanted to be married in the new church house, but there was delay after delay in getting the building under way, so the young folks decided just to go ahead and get married. Rev. Walter Griffith officiated. (Had the couple waited for the church to be finished it would have been November before they were wed, and the preacher would have been J. T. Howell, (I think), unless they'd sent to Silverton to get Walter to come back and conduct the ceremony.

WHEN IT RAINED FISH

One spring in Floydada before the roads were more than trails and the streets of the town were still a matter of drawings on a surveyor's map, it rained quite a bit. The lakes caught the flow from their natural draining areas, and as the lakes began to spread out under the force of the flood waters, some of the little fish from the lake on the north side of town began swimming "upstream" following the little rivulets trickling in from all sides.

My family lived up on Missouri Street, three blocks from the northwest corner of the square.

I was walking home up the rivulet that flowed eastward from near our house, gently splashing right before me swam a bit of a catfish, probably three inches long. As he flapped along in the inch-deep water I picked him up. Some kids about a half block distant came running to see. "Where'd you get him?"

"It rained him", I said, mindful of the fact that it was just as logical to say that as to say he was swimming out there on the prairie.

Several years later I overheard a fellow tell another that he knew it rained fish. One time he said he saw an older boy, he couldn't remember whom, right here in Floydada, catch a fish that dropped out of a rain cloud in a heavy shower.

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF
THE FLOYD COUNTY MUSEUM

From the Floyd County Hesperian
November 27, 1969

I REMEMBER, I REMEMBER
By Homer Steen

MAIZE \$2.25 A TON

Much ado is being made over the price of maize. (regardless of when this sees print it is likely to be true.) Maize now is quoted on the market by the hundred weight. It has a place in the market quotations along with wheat, silver and gold, and sow bellies.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
OF THE FLOYD COUNTY MUSEUM

Maize is a high-rated source of income in over half of the counties of Texas. It has been doing best in the high plains counties. It is the bedrock of livelihood for scores of truckers' families in Floyd County alone. Feed lots are using it as the basic ingredient of a balanced ratio for cattle and swine, all over the southwest.

Maize has "come of age." As one now foresees there is no end in sight. Time may bring change but it will have to do so gradually. Farming, commerce, business, financing, all are kites tied to the tail of the maize head. And it all happened in considerably less than a half century. When "they" took the crook out of the maize's neck and discarded the maize knife the crop was on its way.

MY HISTORY CORRECT?

I am not sure I have my history on straight but I think I do. If so, maize was introduced into the southwest in the early nineties, probably 1892. The U. S. Department of Agriculture was researching for something that could be grown successfully in the arid southwest. It was introduced into the state at an experimental station at Chillicothe. By 1900, eight years later, when our family got to Floyd County, it was being grown generally in Floyd County.

But it had to overcome the prejudices of the newcomers, who knew about the corn. Maize, on the other hand, made dust gather in the brains of a horse and gave him "blind staggers." Our own family lost two mares on this very account in less than two months after we came to this country. Horse owners were experimenting with all kinds of treatments for this maize dust disease.

I recall one man who laid a two by four behind the ears of a mare and hit the board with a resounding blow with a sledge hammer. This to clear the "dust from the animal's brain and thus be rid of the "blind staggers." His therapy was applied too late. The mare died the following day.

HOW THEY GOT RICH

George Stiles in his lifetime raised a number of crops of maize in the county. He told me of some of the ups and downs of maize raising and marketing—the old crooked neck kind. He and everybody else that had anything to do with farming had a "maize knife."

He told me about a year when he produced, headed and delivered maize to be marked for \$2.25 a ton (not to be confused with \$2.25 per cwt.) "Delivering" included pitching the heads into a railway car from his wagon.

You think maize didn't come up the hard way, and the old-timers weren't gluttons for punishment!

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF
THE FLOYD COUNTY MUSEUM

From the Floyd County Hesperian
December 4, 1969

I REMEMBER, I REMEMBER
By Homer Steen

THE FIRST JAIL HOUSE

The first Floyd County jailhouse was built 10 years before my time here,

but I do remember it, and two things in connection with it still are etched on my mind. One of these is that J. L. Van Hook, one-time county treasurer and his family once lived in the jail, the other that I stood and watched through the jail bars a family friend, who had lost his mind, go through the motions of "hanging" the president as he babbled some of the poison currently emanating from the pen of Leon Trotsky in the periodical National Ripsaw. The "president" was a stick about 10 inches long, a stout cord the hangman's rope. **WATCHED THROUGH THE BARS**

My poor friend was labeled a lunatic by a jury and he was being confined in the until he could be transported to an "insane asylum." It was a disgrace in those days to have an unbalanced mind. Continuing for the moment the digression from telling about the first jail house, I will add that my friend died (and I think it was before they ever found a place for him in the state institution). Dr. R. A. Childers told me he was sure my friend's troubled mind arose from physical irritation of an old sore, over-work, lack of attention to the injury, and a sub-standard diet. People had no mercy on themselves in those days, trying to provide for their families and "get ahead." Having a tough time of it didn't mean anything. Nobody hereabout could remember when a person didn't have a "tough time."

COURT'S FIRST MEETING

After their election May 28, 1890, the officers of the newly launched county began to make its history. They had been declared elected by the Commissioners' Court of Crosby County, which canvassed the election results, set the new officials' bonds and "swore them in."

The Commissioners Court of Floyd County evidently considered that if they collected their county's records from Clarendon, Emma and Jacksboro, they had better have a safe place to store them. Likewise, if they were to enforce the laws they had better have a place to confine the violators. So one of their first orders appearing on the minutes was one purchasing a "No. 4 Safe and a pair of jail cells" from Diebold Safe & Lock Co., Canton, O. The caption on the record page indicates this was done at Floyd City, Texas, June 12, 1890.

The Commissioners Court was composed of Arthur B. Duncan, County Judge, C. F. Ramsey, Commissioner of Precinct No. 1, T. B. Michael Commissioner of Precinct No. 2, W. R. Vandiver, Commissioner of Precinct No. 3, and B. P. Merrell Commissioner of Precinct No. 4. Duncan, Ramsey, and Michael were comparatively young fellows, B. P. Merrill was a Confederate veteran. W. R. Vandiver I do not know about.

The safe and jail cells were bought from T. L. Lyons, Houston, Texas, general agent of Diebold Safe, and though the court had no place to put the safe nor the jail cells they had confidence they could work something and they did. But it was not easy. I'll tell you about it some time.

Lockney Senior Citizens Center Menu

March 5-9

- Monday-Meat Loaf
- Tuesday-Baked Potatoes
- Wednesday-Chicken Fried Steak
- Thursday-Salmon
- Friday-Grilled Chicken

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Floydada City Council Hears Audit Report, Discusses New Animal Shelter

By Sara Sisemore
Correspondent

Floydada's City Council met on Tuesday February 21, 2012 to hear the 2010-2011 financial audit. George Meriwether with Davis Kinard & Company, PC presented the report. Meriwether reported the audit revealed the city had a very good year and increased total assets by approximately \$500,000. After some discussion, Mayor Bobby Gilliland asked for a motion to accept the audit. Councilman Sam Green moved to table accepting the audit so the council could have additional time to study it. The motion passed unanimously.

During the January City Council meeting, the council had discussed plans for a new animal shelter. City Manager Gary Brown advised the council during this February meeting on the advancement of the plans to build this new shelter. Ac-

cording to Brown, the State Health Department has been putting pressure on the city about the current shelter and its inadequacies. Brown reported the cost of a new shelter would be about \$50,000 with city employees doing most of the work. The council plans to build the shelter east of the old coop Number 2 module feeder area between North Main Street and North Wall Street. Green made a motion to continue to move forward with this project and authorized spending the \$50,000; the motion passed unanimously.

Brown reported that bids for the airport renovation had been opened and were very good. The council discussed what work was to be done at the airport, then the council unanimously approved Green's motion to award the bid to IQ-ID.

CITY COUNCIL
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Evalene's

Gifts & More

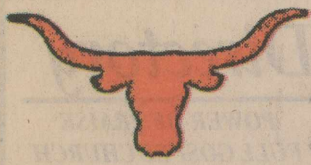
Doris is back from market
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Bring this ad in for 20% off any one item.
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Cathy's Floral & Gifts
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Longhorn News



Lockney ISD Fourth Six-Week's Honor Roll

Lockney High School

A Honor Roll

Ninth Grade
Darby Long, Ashley Roberts, Nicholas Sherman, Dixie Williams
Tenth Grade
Jake Bramlet, Nathan Caballero, Anna Hernandez, Robert Hunt, Kaitlyn Jackson
Eleventh Grade
McKenzie Kemp, Mary Sammann, Lindsay Stewart

Twelfth Grade

SyAnn Foster, Quinn Jackson, Landon Kidd, Riley Teeter

A-B Honor Roll

Ninth Grade
Ignacio Ascencio, Sarah Belt, Kennedy Hallmark, William Prayor, Isabella Rodriguez, John Salas, Brenna Tidwell

Tenth Grade

Whitney Ascencio, Tanille Bigham, Alyssa Cruz, Paula Cuellar, Michael Deleon, Heather Fierros, Lance Fulton, Nikki Jimenez, Stephen Karlin, Jasmine Pena, Cynthia Pesina, Tanae Ramos, Alexis Rodriguez, John Rose, Brittany Thompson, Hunter Thompson, Janette Ybarra
Eleventh Grade
Belia Astorga, Jose Guerrero, Candelaria Rea, Rodico Trejo, Landry Kidd, Rayann Race, Maison Ragland, Taylor Rose, Luke Sherman

Twelfth Grade

Cassandra Ascencio, Steven Fernandez, Jessica Pena, Anissa Reyna, Amber Segovia, Jonathan Sustaita, Danielle Thompson, Meagan Dunn.

Lockney Junior High

A Honor Roll

Sixth Grade
Sara Keyser, Julio Lara, Austen Rexrode, Nimsi Reyes, Tristan Schlueter, Lani Vanlandingham
Seventh Grade
Elizabeth Belt, Tabetha Bigham, Blanca Bueno, Emiliee Encizo, Luke Kasner, Abel Salazar, Tavien Walrath

Eighth Grade

Levi Kasner, Jake Moore, Nathaniel Sustaita

A-B Honor Roll

Sixth Grade
Mariza Alonzo, Ryiann Araujo, Jose Bueno, Ricardo Cuellar, Alyssa Gutierrez, Aleah Jimenez, Alma Mendez, Joe Ochoa, Nickolas Rendon, Bethany Salazar, Nohelia Salazar, Destiny Soliz
Seventh Grade

Jesalynn Arjona, Trevor Ascencio, Jaden Butler, Elizabeth Cleto, Shelby Dunbar, Filomena Felan, Donnie Fortenberry, Keith Fortenberry, Andres Garcia, Valerie Hernandez, Hannah Kidd, Stetson Lane, Maria Palomin, Jesus Pena, Lucas Rendon, Jonathan Rodriguez, Jose Rodriguez, Lawson Sullivah, Alec Tambunga, Haley Walker

Eighth Grade

Brittany Deleon, Camryn Diaz, Daylen Gatica, Breanna Hernandez, Sheridan Keyser, Jace Klein, Michael Lass, Osiel Mondragon, Alejandro Rea, Salvador Ruiz, Elizabeth Salas, Stephen Setliff

Lockney Elementary

A Honor Roll

First Grade
Cristian Ascencio, Thalia Ascencio, Hailey Afill, Senayda Bernal, Deacon Franklin, Madison Johnson, Jonathan Lara, Shayla Martinez, Lexi Morgan, Jocelynn Reyes, Jessica Solis, Adriana Villarreal

Second Grade

Gabriella Cervantes, Emma Dunn, Ezekiel Ramos, Austin Rodriguez, Clare Smith, Lillian Vanlandingham

Third Grade

Justus Abbott, Esai Garcia, Jessica Hernandez, Hunter Lefevre, Dylan Morgan, Yareli Pecina, Sebastian Perez, Tasha Schlueter

Fourth Grade

Ainslee Dunn

Fifth Grade

Lyndee Setliff, Addison Sullivan



Courtesy Photo

Little Longhorns: Yareli Pasina, Nehemiah Asencio, Nathan Salazar, Hailee Widener, Kalebh Cook, Joshua Jimenez, Earnest Alvarez, Adrianna Soliz, Josiah Lara, Ian Michael, Haven Walker, Abrianna Garcia

Longhorn band competes in Regional Solo and Ensemble



Courtesy Photo

The Longhorn band will be participating in the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading competition this Thursday, March 1st, in the Lubbock-Cooper High School Auditorium. The Longhorn Band will perform on stage at 10:15a.m. and Sight-Read in the Band Room at 10:45. The Longhorn Band will be performing "La Pequena Marcha Espanola", "Shepherd's Hey", and "Adrenaline Engines". The public is invited to attend both performances.

Regional Solo and Ensemble competition was held February 18th as well. Three ensembles competed and did an outstanding job with all three ensembles coming home with a first division rating. The Trumpet ensemble

consisted of Kameron Hunt, Lindsay Stewart, Mary Sammann, Erik Cortez, and the alternate, Nathan Caballero. The Percussion ensemble consisted of Jake Bramlet, Landon Kidd, Steven Fernandez, Dillon Deleon, and

Luke Sherman. The Woodwind/percussion ensemble consisted of Paula Cuellar, Annel Salazar, Tanya Hernandez, Gabby Peralez, Alexis Rodriguez, Reeda Sustaita, Jennifer Ybarra, Levi Kasner, Alejandro Sala-

zar, Jose Guerrero, Jonathan Sustaita, Ky Teeter, Mariano Alonzo, and Dustin Joseph. All three ensembles will perform at the UIL State Solo and Ensemble competition at Pflugerville High School on May 26.

Teacher Feature



Melanie Ragland

By Justicee Arjona

Melanie Ragland grew up in Odessa, Texas, where she graduated from Permian High School in 1990. She went on to earn her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Texas Tech University in 1993 and her Master's of Education from Texas Tech University in 2006 and has continued in education for the past 18 years. In 2009, she then moved to Lockney with her husband, Jay, to be closer to their families. Mrs. Ragland and her family do not regret ever moving here. They love their jobs, school, and their community! Mrs. Ragland says, "I have been blessed by the people who have welcomed and supported us since we arrived. We cannot see ourselves ever living anywhere else." As a child she LOVED school and never wanted to miss, but she would always get into trouble because she would finish her work early and get into mischief. She has always loved learning! Mrs. Ragland has taught at all levels; elementary, junior high, and high school (2nd grade, middle school, and, of course, high school English, journalism, BCIS, Peer Leadership, and speech). Throughout her years of teaching she shares with us that her biggest challenge is making kids understand the importance of being able to read and write well in an increasingly competitive workplace. Although it can be difficult teaching many teenage students on a daily basis, Mrs. Ragland absolutely loves it when she sees kids getting excited about something they're doing in class or the look of pride when they experience success or understanding where they never have before. In her career she has had many memorable moments but her most memorable moments have been when kids have told her, "Thank you for caring and teaching us something!" Besides teaching Melanie enjoys reading all kinds of literature when she's not working. Although many students see Mrs. Ragland every Monday through Friday, many may not know that she has some hidden talents; she knows how to play the violin and the French horn. She also says that one day she would love to write a book about experiences in the classroom.

Student Spotlights

By Jasmine Pena

This week's Student Spotlight is focusing on Sunny Williams, a senior here at Lockney High. Sunny was born and raised in Lockney, Texas. She has a sister, named Dixie, who is currently a freshman at Lockney High. Sunny participates in basketball and softball but says that softball is her most favorite sport. She looks forward to coming to school every day because she gets to see her friends and she loves participating in athletics. One of her most memorable moments at Lockney High was her freshman year when she was part of the JV basketball team when they went 22-0. Outside of school Sunny loves to

hang out with her friends and family, watch movies, and just be outside. Her friends describe her as outgoing, dependable, and fun to be around. Some things that many people do not know about her are that she loves to swim and read sports books. In ten years, Sunny hopes to see herself graduated from college, married, possibly starting a family, and working as a sports broadcaster. Sunny's favorite quote is "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set yourself as an example for the believers in speech, life, in love, in faith, and in purity."-1 Timothy 4:9



Sunny Williams

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Whirlwind News



A.B. Duncan Honor Roll

A Honor Roll

1st Grade

Lailah Burks
Nicholas Garcia
Annalicia Hernandez
Tabitha Jimenez
Elektra Monroe
Jailey Ogden
Devin Reyes
Saul Reyes
Hannah Roberts

2nd Grade

Trace Glasscock
Ashlyn Green
Charles Gwinn
Camden Johnston
Madison Martinez-Garcia
Christian Mendez
Holley Monroe
Erin Treviro

3rd Grade

Benjamin Glass
Samuel Holcombe
Kenda Hughes

4th Grade

Emily Cisneros
Maren Davis
Azalea Garza
Payton Teeple

5th Grade

Alesse Davis
Gabriel Delafuente
Margartia Deleon
Allison Orr
Kylie Ricketts
Cutter Smith
Monty Stambaugh
Jacob Thomas

6th Grade

William Glass

A&B Honor Roll

1st Grade

Izaih Alvarado
Ismael Arebalo
Emalea Bruns
Omar Chavana
Anthony Cruz
Elenna Foster
Anthony Garcia
Jonathon Garza
Tatum Glasscock
Faith Lopez
Johanna Louallen
Malachi Maldonado
Emily Marmolejo
Luis Martinez
Andres Mendoza
Esmeralda Olvera
Orlando Ortiz
Manuel Ramos
Johnny Rodriguez
Lydia Zavala

2nd Grade

Peyton Anderson
Jack Brooks
Emily Champion
Jasmine Coronado
Clarissa Delafuente
Hannia Estrada Sanchez
Nathanael Garza
Leandra Jimenez
Maria Luna
Marissa Obregon
Jozelynn Ortiz
Natalia Padilla
Jadyn Ruiz
Kailce Sanchez
Alaina Segura
Zoey Sparks
Mary Strange
Andrew Suarez
Kaitlyn Vega

3rd Grade

Jody Briones
Sabra Clifton
Andrea Cortinas
Angel Fipps

Martin Garcia

Laci Gourdon
Denise Mendoza
Brandon Ramirez
Lexie Ramos
Audrie Strange

4th Grade

Melanie Cox
Patricio Delafuente
Jarren Garcia
Bresa Gonzales
Eric Johnston
Michaela Maldonado
Kassandra Mendez
Piper Peralez
Devan Perez
Jobe Rodriguez
Robert Rodriguez
Toby Sandoval
Yelena Serrato

5th Grade

Madison Barrientos
Caitlin Bishop
Angel Cervera
Kiarra Collins
Michael Glanagan
James Gibbens
Noah Mendez
Hannah Morales
Allison Muniz
Daniel Obregon
Javier Olvera
Aleck Rogers
Avery Silva
George Torres
Jonah Trevino

6th Grade

Kortney Campbell
Jacob Chavarria
Stefanni Chavarria
Rachel Graham
Lauren Hall
Robert Nixon
Dusty Prisk
Remington Ricketts
Adolfo Trevino

Floydada Jr. & Sr. High Honor Roll

Jr. High A Honor Roll

7th Grade
Macee Brotherton
Brooke Galvan
Kaylee Morren
Whitney Renfro
8th Grade
Delaney Lucke
Kirby Nixon
Calvin Seago
Destiny Thomas

Jr. High A&B Honor Roll

7th Grade
Casey Cage
Brayden Campbell
Kailee Jackson
Karley Weems
8th Grade
Destiny Cabello
Malachi Celestine
Andrew Chavarria
Roxann Chavarria
Allison Cisneros
Jacob Degollado
Logan Everett
Mark Grothe
Elizabeth Hernandez
Reagan Hughes
Angel Lorenzo
Rita Martinez
Dakota Whalen

High School A Honor Roll

9th Grade
John Cortinas
Rebekah Hall
McKenna Johnson
10th Grade
Samantha Caballero
Emily Prisk
Hunter Schwertner
11th Grade
Christian Cabello
Jianna Davenport
Amelia Gonzalez
12th Grade
Graciela Cervera
Cole Covington
Hannah Griffin
Haden Lipham
Avery Miller
Kattie Miller
Kelsea Miller
Sarah Jo Miller
Imelda Resendiz
Kristan Sanchez

High School

A&B Honor Roll

9th Grade
Aaron Chavarria
Joshua Chavarria
Lindsey Deleon
Briana Gonzales

Desiree Guerra
Tucker Lowrance
Bethany Morales
Kimberly Pacheco
Annette Pena
Alyssia Shepley-Minner
10th Grade
Daniel Arellano
Maria Lira
Mattie Sanders
11th Grade
Malorie Alaniz
Carly Carthel
Jon-Paul Chavarria
Chelsey Garza
Emily Hall
Merritt Johnson
Ashley Lucke
Landry Morren
Christina Muniz
Lizbeth Orozco
Crysta Pwell
Homero Ramirez Garcia
Tyler Renfro
Shani Ross
Jordan Woody
12th Grade
Tyler Campbell
Ruben Deleon
Alexis Holbert
Isaac Martinez
Isaiha Perez
Sarah Sanders

Top Ten Tips for TAKS

By: Merritt Johnson-Staff Writer

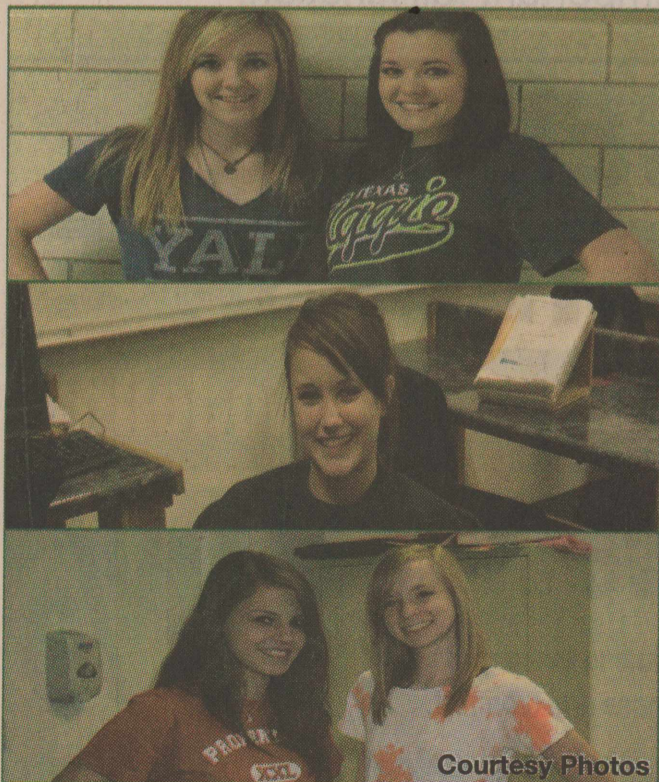
- Go to sleep at a reasonable time.
No one wants to fall asleep during the lengthy TAKS test, so get in bed rather early. Plus, research has shown that students have better focus with a goodnight's sleep.
- Eat a healthy breakfast.
Everyone has that befuddled morning feel when he or she first wakes up. Shake it off with some eggs and toast. In addition, if a person's stomach is constantly grumbling, they will be distracted from their test and only be thinking about how hungry they are.
- Come to the test with a positive attitude.
A large portion of how successful someone will be on his or her TAKS test is his or her attitude. Due to a negative outlook, it is probable that test scores will not be as good as they could be.
- Study, study, study!
During the school year students are constantly working to pass and excel on their end of year TAKS test. However, it is easy to forget some knowledge acquired. Make flash cards with specific areas that are difficult, or review TAKS material online. Even studying for five minutes a day for a month can be beneficial in the long run.
- Wear comfortable clothes.
It is very appropriate to wear sweats, t-shirts, or anything that is personally pleasant to a student on the testing day. Uncomfortable clothing can hinder one's ability to concentrate.
- Pacing is everything.
A student has all day to complete their TAKS test. There is no need to rush and try to finish quickly. Take all the time required so the outcomes of test results are favorable.
- Double check answers.
Due to the significant time available to take the test, rechecking answers can greatly benefit a pupil. A misread question or wrongly bubbled answer could be found and changed because of examining the test again.
- Take breaks.
Periods of rest are useful for the seemingly endless test. Whether it be taking a restroom break or going to the water fountain, it can be refreshing and allow the student to stretch their legs.
- Bring snacks and water.
Some people need rehydration and energy to survive the extensive test. It can give a person a boost of determination and liveliness.
- Chew gum.
Certain pupils say it is easier to stay prioritized while chewing gum. It also gives a student something to do, so falling asleep is not an issue. Just make sure the gum does not end up on the test!

Upcoming Events for Floydada ISD

By: Emily Hall- Staff Writer

- Feb. 29-March 3: State BPA in Dallas
- March 1: UIL Concert Band
- March 1-3: Varsity Baseball at Childress
JV Baseball at Childress
- March 2: Track @ Littlefield
- March 3: Varsity Softball VS Lubbock Titans Here, 1:00 pm
Regional Powerlifting THSWPA Region I @ Monohans
- March 5: Varsity Softball VS Lubbock Titans There, 6:00 pm
- March 6: Varsity/JV Baseball VS Dimmitt There, 4:30/7:00 pm
- March 5-17: Houston Stock Show
- March 8: Friona One Act Play Festival
- March 8-10: Varsity Softball at Post
- March 10: Varsity/JV Baseball VS Abernathy Here, 12:00/2:30 pm
Regional Powerlifting THSPA Region I @ Sundown
- March 12-16: Spring Break

FHS Students Prepare to Dominate at the State BPA Conference



Courtesy Photos

By: Sarah Jo Miller- Staff Writer

Floydada ISD would like to congratulate all of the state qualifying Business Professionals of America members of FHS. Tasha Hughes, the BPA sponsor, accompanied by two teachers/ administrators excitedly rounded up her twenty BPA students on Wednesday morning and traveled to Dallas for the State BPA Conference which will take place on Thursday and Friday. Each student will compete in a varied range of competition. Prior to their departure, Mrs. Hughes and a few BPA members were interviewed about the state competition.

"I expect all of them to do very well because

they've worked very hard and all of these students have the potential to go very far in this contest. I know that they will all do their very best, which is all I can ask for," responded Mrs. Hughes.

One of the many individual events is Legal Office Procedures, in which Alexis Holbert competes. "My event is really simple. I take a test and write two different types of essays, or legal documents, depending on what the contest makers want me to write," explained Alexis.

There are multiple events involving groups in the competitions including the Website Design Team, which consists of Kelsea

Miller and Malorie Alaniz.

"Our contest requires us to find information on the topic of 'Let's Move,' Michelle Obama's new campaign for fitness for children," described Malorie. "We work together by each of us finding our own pieces of information and then combining them together."

A team event Mattie Sanders and Emily Prisk will participate together in is the Broadcast News Production team.

"Emily and I collaborate our ideas to create a news broadcast over recent stories in our own community," explained Mattie.

The Parliamentary Procedures is another team event. This team includes

seven of our high school students.

"We hope to do really good at state. We've been preparing a lot and doing our tests and meetings, so hopefully we'll make it to nationals," stated Parli Team member, Taylor Orr. Nationals will take place from April 25-29 in Chicago, Illinois. Hunter Schwertner automatically attend the national conference because he is the Area IV Region I President.

"I am on honored to take on this leadership role and have this great responsibility and opportunity," he commented.

Good luck to all of the participating State qualifiers!

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LOCKNEY SPORTS

Lockney power lifters head to regionals

The boy's power lifting meet was held on Saturday, February 11, in Seminole. The boys did very well and out of 22 teams, they placed 10th. Individually Joseph Chavez placed second, Marcos Mercado placed fifth, Luke Sherman placed seventh, Jake Bramlet placed ninth, John Palomin placed twelfth, and Michael Guerrero placed fifteenth. Joseph qualified for the Regional meet which will be held on March 10th.

The girl's power lifting meet was held on Saturday, February 18, in Sudan. As a team they placed 5th. Rayann Race placed 1st, McKenzie Kemp placed 4th with both of them qualifying for Regionals which will be held on March 3rd. Others who competed were Mary Sammann who placed 4th, Paula Cuellar and Katie Jackson both placed 6th in their respective weight classes, and Haley Dunbar placed 8th.

Lady Horns finish third in softball tournament

The Lockney Lady Horns Softball team finished third at the Lubbock Christian University Softball tournament this past weekend. The Ladies started off strong in their first game with a 16-10 victory over Lubbock Christian. The next day, the Lady Horns entered a grueling triple header where they went 1-2 with a loss against Stamford, and win against Idalou, and a loss against Ralls. Friday's game set a third place contest against Floydada which the ladies won by a score of 11-2.



Photo by Homer Marquez

Lockney Tennis shines in Amarillo

Lockney's tennis team had a very successful tournament on Friday in Amarillo, as following students placed; SyAnn Foster and Anissa Reyna won First Place Girls Doubles; Johnny Rose and Wil Prayor won First Place in J.V. Boys Doubles; Mary Sammann won Second Place

Varsity Girl's Singles (on a bum ankle); Luke Sherman and Taylor Rose finished Second in Varsity Mixed Doubles; and Sarah Belt and Haley Dunbar won Consolation Bracket in J.V. Girls Doubles. The next tournament will be held March 8th in Levelland.

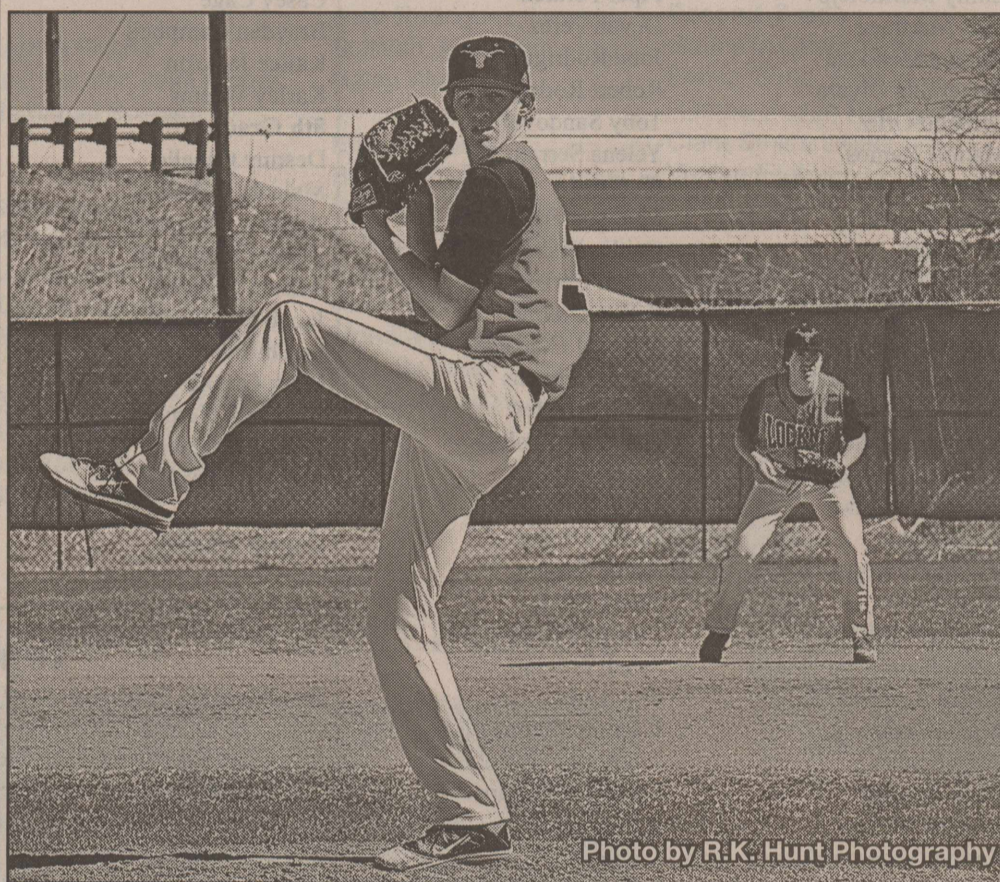


Photo by R.K. Hunt Photography

Lockney boys win consolation championship

The Lockney Longhorns baseball team grabbed the consolation championship at the Norm Cash Tournament in Post this past weekend. In their first game of the tournament; the Longhorns staged a huge comeback as they overcame a 7 run deficit early in their game against Taloka; unfortunately the Horns would eventually fall 12-1. On Friday, the boys dominated Colorado City after a 13-0 victory put them in the consolation championship against Claude. In that game, the Horn's grabbed the championship with an 11-10 win.

Lockney Fire Report

On Jan 27-Firefighters responded to a grassfire caused by down electrical lines at CR 204 and CR 54

On Feb 7 at 4am- Six Lockney Fire Emergency vehicles responded to a structure fire at Delta and Pine Land in Aiken, Texas. The fire was found in the delinting area, where blowers caught fire; fire went into bins; bins were dampened and washed out and the fire was put out.

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Go Longhorns!

Lockney School Lunch Menu Feb. 5-9

- Monday**
Breakfast-Pancake and Syrup or Cereal, toast, juice, milk
- Lunch-Steak Patty** or Corndog, potatoes, broccoli, pears, roll, milk
- Tuesday**
Breakfast-Eggs and Bacon or Cereal, toast, juice, milk
Lunch-Turkey and Dressing or Ham, green beans, sweet potatoes, strawberries and bananas, roll, milk
- Wednesday**
Breakfast-Muffin or Cereal, toast, juice, milk
Lunch-Spaghetti or Tuna Sandwich, salad, applesauce, garlic bread, milk
- Thursday**
Breakfast-Breakfast Pizza or Cereal, toast, juice, milk
Lunch- Chicken Quesadillas or Grilled Cheese, refried beans, salad, orange smiles, milk
- Friday**
Breakfast- Cinnamon Roll or Cereal, toast, juice, milk
Lunch-Hamburger or Burrito, salad, baked beans, pineapple, milk
Menu subject to change without notice; Peanut butter and Jelly Sandwich- 3rd choice daily

Childress Home Show March 3

Saturday, March 3 the Childress Chamber of Commerce will host the 4th Annual Home Show at the City Auditorium located just East of Childress Baseball fields. Over 40 vendors will be set up with any and everything you can imagine. Lots of give-aways at the different booths plus the admission is free. There is also a great

concession stand available. So if you are in Childress for the Wooden Bat Tournament, drop by the Auditorium and see what great booths are available for viewing. Hours of the Home Show are 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. And if your not attending the baseball tournament, come make a day of it at the Home Show.

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FLOYDADA SPORTS

Whirlwinds finish third in Cash Tourney

By Coach Seago

In their first tournament of the season the Floydada Whirlwinds Baseball team placed third in the Norm Cash Tourney in Post over the weekend. The Whirlwinds started off the season on the right foot as they grabbed a huge 18-4 win against Colorado City in the first game of the tourney. A 12-2 loss to Tahoka would dampen any hopes for a tournament champion spot; but a 12-4 win against Post would secure the third place spot for the Wind's.

Highlight performances for the Wind's included leading hitters Xavier Cervera who went 6 of 8 with 5 RBI's and 5 runs scored, 1 double and 1 triple. Also Danny Martinez went 5 of 10 with 3 RBI's and 5 runs scored, 1 double, 1 triple.

Pitching, Jose Martinez beat Post with 7 K's, and 2 earned runs in the 5 innings he pitched; Hunter Galvan beat Colorado City with 6 K's, 2 earned runs in 4 innings pitched.



Photo by Homer Marquez

FLOYDADA SCHOOL MENU

March 5 - March 9

Monday

Breakfast - French toast or cereal and graham crackers, juice, milk

Lunch - Hamburger, lettuce, tomato, pickles, tater tots, baby carrot dippers, crispy cereal treat, milk

Tuesday

Breakfast - Sausage, toast/jelly, cereal and graham crackers, juice, milk

Lunch - Stromboli, garden salad, orange smiles, multigrain chips, frozen yogurt bar, milk

Wednesday

Breakfast - Waffles/syrup or cereal and graham crackers, juice, milk

Lunch - Bean and beef burrito, Spanish rice, seasoned corn, sparkly apples, milk

Thursday

Breakfast - Breakfast sausage roll or cereal and graham crackers, juice, milk

Lunch - Chicken alfredo, savory green beans, sliced peaches, hot roll, royal brownie, milk

Friday

Breakfast - Scrambled eggs, toast or cereal and graham crackers, juice, milk

Lunch - BBQ on bun, quick baked potato, pickle spear, pineapple cherry delight, milk

DUNCAN ELEMENTARY

3RD & 4TH GRADE PARENTS AND STUDENTS

WHAT: PARENT MEETING

TOPIC: TESTING & ACADEMIC WORK

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2012

TIME: 6:00 PM

WHERE: DUNCAN ELEMENTARY CAFETERIA

REFRESHMENTS: PUNCH & COOKIES

ESCUELA PRIMARIA

PADRES/MADRES Y ESTUDIANTES

DE TERCERO Y CUARTO GRADOS

QUE: JUNTA DE PADRES/MADRES

TOPICO: EXAMEN Y TRABAJO

ACADEMICO

FECHA: MARTES, MARZO 6, 2012

HORA: 6:00 PM

LUGAR: CAFETERIA DE DUNCAN ELEMENTAL

REFRESCOS: PONCHE Y GALLETAS



Photo by Homer Marquez

The Lady Whirlwinds Softball team showed a promising start finishing fourth in the Lubbock Christian University Softball tournament over the weekend. On March 3, the Lady Wind's will host the Lubbock Titans at 1pm in Floydada.

4th Annual Pioneer Day Event to be held in Paducah

It is time for the Annual Pioneer Day Event in Paducah, Texas. Mark your calendars and plan to spend Sat. March 10 in Paducah starting with the Cowboy Breakfast at 8 a.m., in the Veterans Memorial Building, followed by the beginning of the day's activities at 9 and ending that night with the dance featuring the Maine's Boys.

There will be several things to choose from at 9 a.m. such as the Quilt show, showcasing beautiful quilts new and old, including the one being raffled that some lucky ticket holder will be taking home later that afternoon. Vendors will be selling their wares in the Norris Building beginning at 9 also.

Maybe viewing the Heritage Photo display and photos from the former surrounding communities and schools in the courthouse is what you have in mind for early in the day. Speaking of former schools, you might prefer a visit to the Heritage Museum just a short trip north of the square, where the "Schools of Cottle Coun-

ty" exhibit is being revamped and enhanced thanks to the Texas Historic Commission's partnership grant awarded to the museum for 2011-12. Visitors may want to wait until closer to noon to visit the Museum since beans and cornbread will be served to those who come by during lunch through early afternoon, while BBQ sandwich lunches will be available at the VMB. If really hungry, how about both? Maybe you'd rather have hamburgers made and sold by the Paducah Volunteer Firemen, or some other treat found at one of the food vendors or local café/restaurant.

Other things to do early morning and throughout the day include stage coach rides, and tours of the old Cottle County Jail that is being remodeled to serve as the Paducah Visitor Information Center and museum featuring Quanah Parker's connection to the area, as well as law enforcement memorabilia. Check out The Quanah Parker Trail Giant Arrow #7 that is located by the jail. Kids

can enjoy free bounce houses on the courthouse lawn, while parents check out the Sweet Shoppe and demonstrations in the former ME Moses' building, roping demonstrations, reenactment shows, have their photos made in costume, visit the longhorns and maybe get a kiss, view the old jail wagon and chuck wagon along with demonstrations, or sneak away for homemade ice cream churned by a John Deer Popping Johnny.

Stoll around the sanc-
PIONEER DAY
continued on page 9

Floydada Police Report

Jan '6-Terry King of Floydada reported a theft of an air compressor out of the back of his pick-up at 425 East Lee Street.

Jan 6 at 11 am-Isaias Vasquez was arrested for outstanding traffic warrants out of Floydada Municipal Court.

Jan 11 10:50 pm- George Eugene Hernandez was arrested for domestic assault.

Jan 11 10:30 am-Anthony Whitfield of Floydada reported the theft of a computer that had been taken from Lighthouse Electric.

Jan 20 1:20 pm Police arrived at 205 east Hallie Street where officers arrested Robert Anthony Garcia of Floydada for outstanding warrants

Jan 20 5:45 pm- Eric Zuniga of Floydada was arrested for evading arrest in detention of no operator's license when he was stopped by police for a traffic violation.

Jan 21- David Rosales of Floydada reported that the windshield of his van was damaged after two bricks were thrown through the window.

Jan 22- Police were called to a fight in progress; Leonard Ronaldo Rosa was placed under arrest for disorderly conduct and public intoxication.

Jan 24-Cody Lee Galyean of Floydada was arrested for outstanding traffic warrants

Jan 24-Becky Ross of Floydada reported the burglary of her residence; taken from her home was money and jewelry.

Jan 26- Francisco Lamas reported that he had been assaulted by his brother Gilbert Lamas. Francisco stated he wanted to file charges on his brother; the case has been turned over to

the County Attorney.

Jan 27 6:20- Ivan Pesina reported the burglary of the Sultana Restaurant; suspects took the cash register which was empty.

Jan 28- Amber Herrera of Floydada reported that while she was a school someone walked into her house and stole some money.

Jan 28- Craig Dubois reported that someone had broken into one of his work trucks and took several assorted tools and cutting torches.

Jan 30 3:28 pm- Joe Romero who reported the burglary of a motor vehicle and took a car stereo and a couple of flip screen TV's.

Feb 3, 1 pm- Police stopped and arrested Jason Lee Sanchez for revocation of probation

Feb 6- Betty Baker of Floydada reported that while she was at Lowe's Grocery Store, someone entered her vehicle and stole medication like an inhaler.

Feb - Keith Reed reported the burglary of a motor vehicle the suspect has been identified in this matter and the case has been turned over to the county attorney for prosecution.

Feb 5- Officers stopped a motor vehicle; driver was identified as Christopher Lukeworth and was arrested

POLICE REPORT
continued on page 9

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AGRICULTURE

Texas Supreme Court Issues Decision In EAA V. Day Case

LUBBOCK—(February 27) On Friday, the Texas Supreme Court issued its long-awaited decision in the *Edwards Aquifer Authority v. Day* case. The Court's decision essentially restates what was added into Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code by Senate Bill 332 during the 2011 session of the Texas Legislature, which provides that groundwater is owned by the landowner and that the pumping of groundwater is subject to regulation by groundwater conservation districts. The Court's ruling makes clear that the state can regulate groundwater production, which it has chosen to do through groundwater conservation districts, and provides that such regulation is essential to groundwater conservation and use across the state.

The Court's decision focuses heavily on the Edwards Aquifer Authority's ("EAA's") permitting system and provides that one of the problems with EAA's system is that it focuses entirely on whether water was used during a historical use period. Under EAA's system, if water was not produced during the historic use period, then EAA would automatically deny a permit application. The Court's decision indicates that all of the permitting factors in Chapter 36, including the proposed use of the water, the effect on the groundwater resources and other permit holders, and a district's management plan, should be considered when making a decision on a permit application. EAA developed a permitting system based

on its enabling act passed by the Texas Legislature, which is much different than what the Texas Legislature devised in Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code. The High Plains Water District's permitting system tracks the language in Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code; and the District takes all of the factors that the Court notes in its decision into account when making a decision on a permit application and in its overall regulatory framework.

While the Court's decision on Friday does provide that the landowners in the EAA v. Day case own the groundwater and can bring a takings claim, the Court does not address the merits of the takings claim. This means that the landowners in the case will now go through another round of litigation to determine whether a taking occurred under the complex takings analysis test created by the Texas Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court's opinion discusses the test that will be used to determine whether an actual taking occurred and added that this review is based on the facts of each case and that all of the circumstances surrounding groundwater regulation must be considered to determine whether the regulation is reasonable.

"The Court's decision is very similar to what we saw from the passage of Senate Bill 332 last session—that the landowner owns the groundwater, but that groundwater districts like the High Plains Water District can continue to regulate

production in a way that preserves the groundwater resources while also recognizing private property rights," said Jim Conkwright, General Manager for High Plains Water District. "The Court's decision was made in the context of EAA's regulatory system, which is very different than what our district developed under Chapter 36 of the Water Code," said Conkwright.

Overall, the Court's decision confirms High Plains Water District's view of the law since Senate Bill 332 was passed last session. The Court's decision does not directly impact the High Plains Water District's recent rules revisions, and the District will continue to evaluate all of the factors provided in Chapter 36 of the Water Code and its rules to manage the groundwater resources within its boundaries in a manner that respects private property rights.

Created in 1951 by local residents and confirmed by the Texas Legislature, the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District is charged with the responsibility of conserving, preserving, protecting, and preventing waste of groundwater within its 16-county service area.

Contact: Mr. Jim Conkwright, General Manager - High Plains Underground Water Conservation District, 2930 Avenue Q, Lubbock TX 79411-2499
(Phone) - 806-762-0181 (fax) 806-762-1834 -
(email) info@hpwd.com - (website) www.hpwd.com

DOL proposes changes to child labor laws

(FLOYDADA) - After an outcry from the agricultural community, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has proposed revisions to regulate child labor laws, said Tanner Smith, Floyd County Farm Bureau president.

"No one is more interested in assuring safe farm operations for our children than farm and ranch families," Smith said. "But laws and regulations need to be reasonable. Prohibiting a teenager from performing simple everyday farm functions like operating a battery-powered screwdriver is not reasonable."

The DOL proposed a parental exemption to the rules, allowing children of parents who own farms and ranches to work on their own

operations. Yet, according to the rule, teens wanting to gain experience on a farm not owned by their parents are out of luck.

Smith said many farm organizations, including Farm Bureau, have opposed the changed regulations of child labor laws on farms. Some—like Sen. John Moran of Kansas—think DOL should withdraw the rules and start over.

"Safety of our farm children is our top priority," Smith said. "Agriculture needs to work with USDA and DOL to establish a rule that respects the importance of youth farm work in rural America and the importance it plays in our system of family-based agriculture."

You Can Stretch Your Grocery Dollars and Eat Healthy, too

(Floydada) - Concern about the cost of a healthy diet being out of reach remains on the minds of many Americans as the nation continues to work through serious economic woes. However, according to an Agriculture Department study, the cost of eating healthy hasn't changed as much as some less-healthy alternatives. Eating healthy food while on a budget does require strategic shopping.

Farm Bureau's Food Check-Out Week, Feb. 19-25, 2012, focuses on helping Americans learn how to stretch their grocery dollars with healthy, nutritious food. America's farmers and ranchers are committed to producing safe, healthy and abundant food. And they share a common concern with consumers when it comes to putting nutritious meals on the table while sticking to a tight budget.

The good news is that a recent USDA report favorably supports the economics of healthier eating. Recent food price data show that prices for unprepared, readily available fresh fruits and vegetables have remained stable relative to dessert and snack foods, such as chips, ice cream and cola. Therefore, as defined by

foods in the study, the price of a "healthier" diet has not changed compared to an "unhealthy" diet.

Farm Bureau's Food Check-Out Week is aimed at helping American consumers learn how to shop strategically to put nutritious meals on the table with fewer dollars. "Learning to use your grocery dollars wisely helps ensure that nutrition isn't neglected," according to Tanner Smith, president of Floyd County Farm Bureau.

"Fruits and vegetables - along with whole grains, low-fat dairy products, lean meats, fish, beans, eggs and nuts - are an important part of a healthy diet. Buying fresh produce when it's in season and costs less, while buying frozen fruits and vegetables when they're not in season, is a smart way to stretch that dollar," says Smith.

Farm Bureau has developed Food Check-Out Week educational materials dedicated to helping consumers make healthier food purchases. Information on several topics including "Tips for Better Nutrition on a Tight Budget," "How Much Should I Eat?," "Understanding Food Labels" and "Understanding What My-Pyramid Means" is available. Now in its 14th year,

Food Check-Out Week also highlights America's safe, abundant and affordable food supply, made possible largely by America's productive farmers and ranchers. According to the most recent (2009) information from the USDA's Economic Research Service, American families and individuals spend, on average, less than 10 percent of their disposable personal income for food.

Want to know more? Here's why we're celebrating:

Farm Bureau is helping consumers find solutions to eating healthy on a stretched budget.

America's farmers and ranchers are committed to producing safe, abundant and healthy food.

Through charitable donations to local Ronald McDonald Houses (and other charities) during Food Check-Out Week, we recognize the need everyone has to find solutions to feeding families healthy foods on a tight budget.

Farmers and Ranchers receive only 19 cents out of every retail dollar spent on food that is eaten at home and away from home. In 1980, farmers received 31 cents out of every retail dollar spent on food in America.

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Help Wanted

WANTED: THE CITY OF FLOYDADA is looking for someone who is interesting in being in charge of the adult softball program at Annie Taylor Park for the summer 2012 season. A written, sealed proposal is required. The proposal should detail how you plan to run the program concerning league play, tournaments, and other activities you might promote. Mail or bring written, sealed proposal to Floydada City Hall, 114 W. Virginia

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USDA Announces New Highly Erodible Cropland Initiative for Conservation Reserve Program

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21, 2012 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced a new conservation initiative to protect up to 750,000 acres of the nation's most highly erod-

ible croplands. Vilsack made the announcement via video to attendees of the National Pheasant Fest and Quail Classic, held Feb. 17-19 in Kansas City, Mo. The new initiative will assist producers with targeting their most highly erodible cropland (land with an erodibility index of 20 or greater) by enabling them to plant wildlife-friendly, long-term cover through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Producers can enroll land on a continuous basis beginning this summer at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office. With the use of soil survey and geographic information system data, local FSA staff can quickly de-

termine a producer's eligibility for the initiative.

"As we work towards President Obama's vision for an economy that is built to last, America's natural resources must play an important role. Lands in CRP help support strong incomes for our farmers and ranchers and are the source of good middle class jobs related to outdoor recreation, hunting, and fishing," said Vilsack. "This announcement will strengthen CRP by focusing on protecting the most environmentally sensitive land. It targets limited resources where they can make the most difference for farmers, ranchers and to drive economic growth. I urge landowners who have highly erodible land to visit their county office to learn more about this program."

Lands eligible for this program are typically the least productive land on the farm. In many cases the most cost-effective option to reduce erosion is to put the land into a wildlife friendly cover, which will improve habitat and reduce sediment and nutrient runoff and reduce wind erosion. For 25 years, CRP has improved water and air quality, preserved habitat for

CROPLAND
continued on page 9

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Roaring Springs Ranch Club located in Roaring Springs, TX on FM 3203, is actively looking for a General Manager for the golf course and campgrounds. Starting salary based on qualifications and experience (\$30,000 - \$40,000). Prefer applicant to have a chemical applicators license or be willing to obtain one and to be knowledgeable in turf management. Qualified applicants may send their resume to: HYPERLINK "mailto:1kenisom@gmail.com" \t "_blank" 1kenisom@gmail.com or mail resume to: Ken Isom, P.O. Box 949, Idalou, TX 79329 or call 806-348-7292 for more information.

CITY COUNCIL
continued from page 2

Brown informed the council that Atmos Energy had filed for a rate increase from the citizens of Floydada, but the City of Floydada along with other Panhandle cities had approved a resolution suspending the rate increase. According to Brown, the suspension is for 90 days and will allow the cities to hire consultants to study the filing and negotiate with Atmos on the request. Councilwoman Bettye King made the motion to approve the resolution suspending the request – the council unanimously approved the motion.

During the public forum, the boy scouts representing Troop 357 of Floydada addressed the council concerning the badge in Citizenship toward which they are currently working. The scouts asked the council to consider allowing city personnel to help them remove and replace some old concrete at the scout building. Their request will be placed on the March agenda for council consideration.

Bill Atchley, a representative with New York Life Insurance, had requested to be allowed to address the council about a life insurance program for the city employees. The council recognized Atchley's right to present the program to the employees but did not feel he needed to explain the program to the

council, knowing that there are local insurance agents whom an employee can talk to if he or she wants additional insurance.

Mayor Gilliland reminded the council of the need to appoint a citizen to the Planning and Zoning Commission. He asked the council to try to find someone who would be willing to serve.

The council unanimously approved participating with the Floydada ISD and Caprock Hospital District in having a joint voting place for the upcoming elections. The elections will be held at the Massie Activity Center.

The Floyd County Appraisal District requested the council approve an amendment to their 2011-2012 Budget. The change in the budget is for a computer upgrade. The council unanimously approved the amendment.

Floydada Police Chief Darrell Gooch presented the 2011 Racial Profiling Report to the council. The 2011 report shows that police activity has remained about the same as the previous two to three years. The police received 3,342 calls during 2011. After the council discussed the report in detail with Chief Gooch answering questions from the council, Councilman Gabriel de la Fuente made a motion to accept the report; the report was unanimously approved.

POLICE REPORT
continued from page 7

for driving without a license in Dallas.

Feb 12- Officers were called in reference to a juvenile runaway; officers located the juvenile in a local motel in the company of Ethiopian national, Abraham Gurmu Solomon living in Oklahoma. The adult met the juvenile victim on the internet and Solomon was arrested on sexual assault of a child.

Feb 15-Police officers

stopped a vehicle in a traffic stop; an individual by the name of Miguel Angel Moncheal was arrested and detained for being in the United States illegal, the suspect was turned over to border patrol agents for deportation.

From Jan 3-Feb 17, Floydada police received 440 calls resulting in 13 arrests which included both juvenile and adults.

PIONEER DAY
continued from page 7

tioned BBQ area and watch those hopeful cooks doing their cooking activities, while enjoying the aroma of beef, chicken, ribs and beans, and maybe you will be lucky enough to learn a secret or two to make your BBQ a winner. Remember all you

BBQ-ers be sure to contact Dennis Cross to enter the Sanctioned BBQ cook-off.

There's lots to do and see in Paducah March 10. Come be a part of the fun, entertainment, sights, and dance late into the night to some good music.

CANDIDATES
continued from page 1

state's district lines debate. Nevertheless, candidates can still run as write-in candidates for the November election.

In the Municipal races that will be held on May 12; Floydada will have Sam Green, and Gabriel DeLafuente running for city council positions at large; incumbent Bettye King will run unopposed in District 1; and District 4 city council incumbent, Jon Nielson, is also running unopposed.

In Lockney, city council members Kay Martin in District 5 will be up for election; as well as Kelly Prayor in District 4 and Mayor Roger Stapp. March 5 will be the last day a candidate can file to be placed on the ballot in Floydada.

In school board races; Floydada board members up for election are Bill Dean in Precinct 1 and Freddie Morren in Precinct 2. Morren will

be opposed by Roger Hughes. In Lockney, board members up for election are Mike Lass and Rene Guerrero; currently the two are unopposed. The last day to file for a spot on the school board ballots will be March 5 and the elections will be held on May 12.

The Hospital District Board of Directors may also be having an election as Charles Huffman and Terry Ellison are up for election; so far both are unopposed.

wildlife, and prevented soil erosion. Programs such as CRP are important conservation safeguards. They prevent the return of the dust storms of the 1930s and the ravages of unmitigated gully erosions of our past.

CRP is a voluntary program designed to help farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers protect their environmentally sensitive land. Through this initiative, eligible landowners receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Land can be enrolled on a continuous basis for a period of 10 years. Land currently not enrolled in CRP may be offered in this sign-up provided all eligibility requirements are met. Current CRP participants with eligible land expiring on Sept. 30, 2012, may make new contract offers.

CRP has a 25-year legacy of successfully protecting the nation's natural resources through voluntary

participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States. In addition today's announcement, USDA will conduct a four-week CRP general sign-up, beginning on March 12 and ending on April 6. Currently, about 30 million acres are enrolled in CRP.

CRP continues to make major contributions to national efforts to improve water and air quality, prevent soil erosion by protecting the most sensitive areas including those prone to flash flooding and runoff. At the same time, CRP has helped increase populations of pheasants, quail, ducks, and other rare species, like the sage grouse, the lesser prairie chicken, and others. Highlights of CRP include:

□ CRP has restored more than two million acres of wetlands and two million acres of riparian buffers;

□ Each year, CRP keeps more than 600 million

CROPLAND
continued from page 8

pounds of nitrogen and more than 100 million pounds of phosphorous from flowing into our nation's streams, rivers, and lakes.

□ CRP provides \$1.8 billion annually to landowners—dollars that make their way into local economies, supporting small businesses and creating jobs; and

□ CRP is the largest private lands carbon sequestration program in the country. By placing vulnerable cropland into conservation, CRP sequesters carbon in plants and soil, and reduces both fuel and fertilizer usage. In 2010, CRP resulted in carbon sequestration equal to taking almost 10 million cars off the road.

In 2011, USDA enrolled a record number of acres of private working lands in conservation programs, working with more than 500,000 farmers and ranchers to implement conservation practices that clean the air we breathe, filter the water we drink, and prevent soil ero-

sion. Moreover, the Obama Administration, with Agriculture Secretary Vilsack's leadership, has worked tirelessly to strengthen rural America, implement the Farm Bill, maintain a strong farm safety net, and create opportunities for America's farmers and ranchers. U.S. agriculture is currently experiencing one of its most productive periods in American history thanks to the productivity, resiliency, and resourcefulness of our producers.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office or visit FSA's website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp> for additional information regarding CRP.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (Voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

WATER
continued from page 1

thority v. Day McDaniel, the case will be sent down to the appellate court to determine two things; one, did EAA regulations actually cause an economical impact, and if they did, what will be the compensation on the losses experienced from the restrictions.

"It gives us a pretty good leg to stand on, with regard to our claims," comment J.O. Dawdy, whose Protect Your Water Rights Coalition is attempting to fight back against water pumping regulations put in place this year by the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District.

"It sets a president in that, if they take your property to the extent that it has an economical impact on you, or any state agency takes your property and has an economical impact on you, it sets a president for them to have to make compensation...so I feel like it does pertain to the High Plains Water District in that regard," Dawdy added.

However, the High Plains Water District General Manager Jim Conkwright claims that the recent Supreme Court decision does not apply to their district because the EAA and the HPWD are two completely different districts, regulated by different state legislations.

"Right up front, I don't think it has any bearing on this district or our rules," commented Conkwright to the Hesperian-Beacon.

Conkwright explained

that the Edwards Aquifer Authority is a Historical Use District and not a Chapter 36 ground water conservation district like the HPWD; "That's a huge difference in us," Conkwright added.

According to Conkwright, the recent Supreme Court ruling only concerned the EAA historical use district; and the HPWD would not be forced to compensate for any economical impact that recent water pumping regulation might cause.

"It affirms Senate Bill 332...that states that land owners have a real property interest in the water underneath their land," explained Conkwright about the ruling, "but it also equally affirms that any water of the state will be managed by groundwater conservation districts, thus districts have authority to limit production of groundwater based on spacing, based on gallons per acre, and different things like that...so it reaffirms the system we have."

To view an official press release from the HPWD, head over to page 8.

"The Protect Your Water Rights Coalition completely disagrees with Conkwright on that," commented Kelly Young, one of the directors of the PYWRC, "we believe that it absolutely pertains to everybody in Texas and that they will have to compensate land owners on any water use that they deny a land owner."

In the past several month

the PYWRC, has been preparing to file a lawsuit against the HPWD with the hopes of reversing water pumping regulation put in place in 2012. The regulations include metering water wells and limiting how much water farmer can pump out of the ground. The PYWRC has been contesting that the state has no authority to regulate private property so HPWD regulations are unconstitutional.

In an official statement from the PYWRC regarding Conkwright's statement and

his attorney's statement; the coalition explained that "if (the HPWD) had no intention to recognize that a farmer must be compensated if he is restricted from his farm's production ability...(then) the Protect Water Right Coalition will still be in a battle with the water district until they do recognize the Supreme Court's decision of a farmer's right to capture water or be compensated if he is inhibited the right to capture water under his land through regulation from the water district."

CAUSE NO. 5908

In The Matter of § **In The County Court**
The Estate of § **of**
William Greg Campbell, § **Floyd County, Texas**
Deceased

PUBLISHED NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of William Greg Campbell, Deceased, were issued on February 02, 2012 in Docket Number 5908, pending in the County Court, Floyd County, Texas to Dylan James Campbell, Independent Executor.

The address of record for Dylan James Campbell is 1022 S. 4th St. 181, Floydada, Texas 79235.

All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED on this 23rd day of February, 2012.

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Cotton Market Weekly

The lead May futures cotton contract on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) ended the session below the 90-cent level on Thursday, hitting its lowest level since late December.

The National Cotton Council (NCC) released its annual planting intentions survey this week with cotton producers suggesting that they will plant 13.63 million acres in 2012, down 1.1 million acres or 7.5 percent from 2011. This is slightly higher than the 13.5-million-acre number that was being bantered around by market observers. The breakdown is 13.34 million acres of upland cotton, down 7.5 percent from 2011, and 287,000 acres of pima cotton, down 6.4 percent from the previous season. The figure seems to be in line with governmental reports.

"NCC's survey suggested 13.34 million upland acres will be planted next season compared to USDA's estimate of 13.0 million acres, a minor difference at best," a trader explained. Assuming above-average abandonment in Texas and Oklahoma where drought conditions still exist, and historical averages in all other states, total acres harvested would be 10.88 million acres based on NCC figures. Calculated on an abandonment percentage of 20.3 percent, a U.S. cotton crop of 18.3 million bales would be generated using a national yield of 807 pounds per acre based on individual state level yield assumptions and would compare to 2011 production of 15.67 million bales.

"Using the average assumption of 18.3 million bales would most likely build U.S. cotton stocks under current economic conditions, and producers could see lower prices," a trader said.

"World stocks, however, could impact prices as much as U.S. stocks, and acreage now is expected to be lower with China expecting a 9.5 to 10 percent decrease."

"I think it will be difficult for anyone to project an increase in the 2012 world crop in the face of generally accepted reductions in plantings both here and in China," another analyst noted. "However, we all know what rains in West Texas can do to any well-intentioned prediction. At least we will have sets of numbers from Cotlook, ICAC, USDA, NCC, and countless other private agencies and analysts to contrast and compare to help make marketing decisions."

The National Cotton Council survey was mailed to producers across the 17-state Cotton Belt in mid-December 2011 and was collected through mid-January. USDA will release its prospective plantings report on March 31.

Meanwhile, the market considered weekly export sales healthy. USDA reported net upland sales of 177,800 bales for the 2011-12 marketing year were up 75 percent from the previous week but down noticeably from the four-week average. Primary buyers were China, Turkey, and Thailand. Net sales of 6,100 bales for delivery in the 2012-13 marketing year were mainly for Mexico. Export shipments of 313,300 bales were up seven percent from the previous week and eight percent from the four-week average.

Sales on the spot cotton market were lower as Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and New Mexico producers sold 12,903 bales online in the week ended Feb. 23 compared to 14,714 bales the previous week. Average prices received ranged from 82 to 85 cents per pound.



Courtesy Photo

The Floydada Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the opening of the Floyd County Supply Conoco located at 420 S. 2nd Street, Floydada. They will be servicing Floydada and the surrounding areas. Customers can expect full service at the pump, tire sales and service. Fuel delivery will continue to be offered as well. Pictured (l-r) are Edward Hernandez, Danny Huggins, Paul Marmelejo, D'Lyn Morris, Tanner Morris, Chamber Manager La Tresa Miller, Owner Lindan Morris, Chamber President Charla McHam, Trevor Morris, Robert Armstrong, and Mike Anderson.

Randy's Roundup

A Weekly Newsletter from Congressman Randy Neugebauer

America's Energy Policy

Recently, gas prices across the country have been steadily rising. Current prices are having a real impact on millions of families, especially on West Texans who rely heavily on their cars. According to the Energy Information Agency (EIA), which analyzes national and worldwide energy information, the U.S. experienced its highest average gasoline price in history at \$3.53 per gallon in 2011. In 2010, the average was \$2.78. Prices are expected to rise even further in 2012.

The United States is blessed with bountiful energy resources, and we should

be utilizing them. I remain a committed supporter of legislation that increases our oil and gas production here at home. Unfortunately, President Obama's energy plan bans oil and gas development on 97 percent of available offshore areas. He also blocked the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, which would import nearly one million barrels of oil per day from Canada and create 20,000 jobs. The administration's gasoline regulations are expected to drive up the cost of producing gasoline by 25 cents per gallon. I strongly believe that these policies kill jobs, impede economic growth, and drive the cost of

gasoline even higher. Pursuing an all-of-the-above energy policy is the best way to address these problems.

Dedication of the Sgt. Chris Davis Post Office in Lubbock

On Friday, I will attend the dedication ceremony renaming the post office on Gary Avenue in Lubbock the "Sgt. Chris Davis Post Office." On April 15, 2011, I introduced legislation to rename this post office honoring the brave Army Sergeant who was killed in combat in Baghdad in 2007. His name will be permanently fixed on the post office so that we will remember his service, and never forget that freedom is

not free.

Military Academy Forums - Saturday, March 3rd

This Saturday, March 3rd, I am pleased to host two Academy Forums for those interested in applying to one of our nation's five military academies. Choosing to attend a United States service academy is not college choice; it is a career choice. Service academies offer an outstanding education and a chance to serve one's country. If you know of someone who would like to serve in the most challenging of professions, please visit my website to see forum locations and times.

I look forward to speaking with prospective students and their parents. Liaison officers from the Air Force Academy, U.S. Military Academy at West Point, U.S. Naval Academy, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy have been invited to speak and answer any questions regarding the academies or the application process. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mary Whistler in my Lubbock office at (806) 763-1611.

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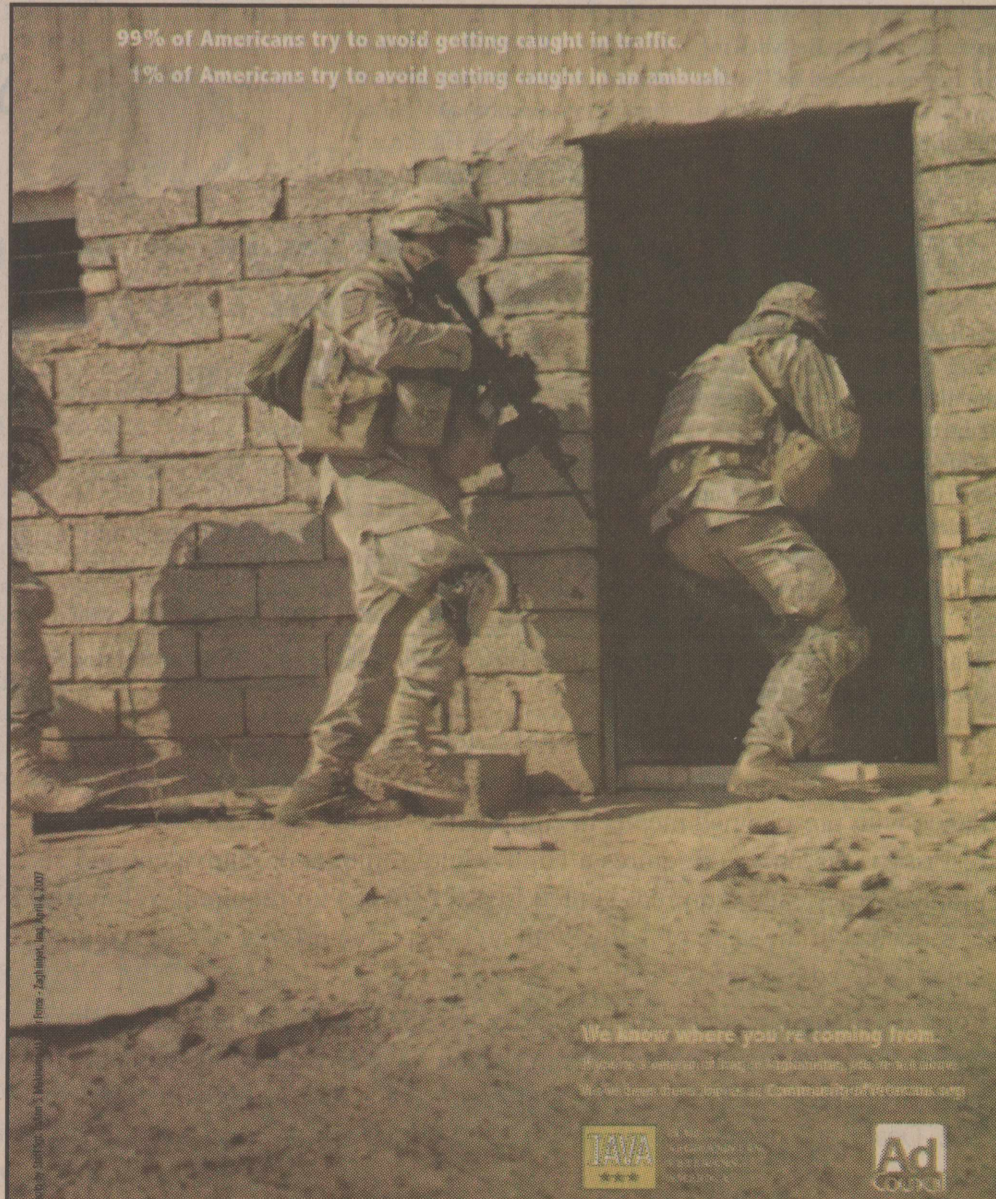
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