

*****CAR-RT LOT**B 003
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 PO BOX 304
 FLOYDADA, TX 79235-0304

SECRETARY'S Week
 April 23 - 28
 Remember to say "Thank You"
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 Maggie Hilburn & Alex Arnold
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 200 S. Main St. Floydada (806) 983-5111 • (800) 345-7961 Denise Payne, R.Ph.

The Floyd County HESPERIAN-BEACON

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VOLUME 116 NUMBER 09

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2012

12 PAGES - 75¢

Veteran Spotlight: Bill Brown

By Homer Marquez

Since the advent of the airplane, it's been an aerial love affair for the Brown family, as WWII pilot Bill Brown describes how his father, Ed Brown, built and flew his own glider airplane back in 1910. Since then, three generations of Browns have called the sky their second home as Bill explained how three of his six children have become pilots, including his son, Thiess, who is a professional pilot for Delta Airlines.

"The family all had an idiosyncrasy we'd say," commented Bill's wife, Jodie, as she laughed.

In continuing the Hesperian-Beacon's attempt to honor our neighboring military heroes, this month's WWII veteran spotlight focuses on Air Corp. 1st Lieutenant Bill Brown who flew in the European Theater as Allied Forces pushed Nazi troops out of France and back into Germany.

Born and raised in Floydada, Bill graduated a Whirlwind in 1940. After high school, Brown enrolled in Texas Tech University where he majored in engineering. It was here that Brown got his first taste of being a pilot when he signed up for a unique flying program for university students. Flying a small Piper Cub aircraft, Brown received the basics of flying as he sailed through the West Texas sky.

"It was a handy sort of thing [to learn] because the war started right after that," commented Brown.

Brown explained that he could remember standing in his dorm room listening to radio when he heard that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor.

"We heard about the Japanese raid on Hawaii and I said; 'that will be it...we won't be here much longer,'" explained Brown.

Feeling the need to defend his country, Bill took a break from the college life in 1942 and enlisted in the Army.

"They were signing up to go into the service...and I wanted to go fly; so I signed up for the Air Corp," Brown added.

After enlisting, Brown headed off to Wichita Falls for basic training. Brown stayed there for about six weeks before moving to Corsicana, Texas for basic flight school.

"It was a little heavier [than the ones at Tech], but it was a lovely air plane, I just loved it," commented Brown as he described the small single engine plane that he flew in training.

From there, Brown completed intermediate flight school in Independence, Kansas and went off to his final training in Houston at the Ellington airfields. Brown enjoyed the experience as he explained that he got to fly bigger airplanes and would check the weather every morning.

After graduating from flight school in 1944, Brown was asked to stay at Ellington so he could be an instructor for upcoming cadets.

"I enjoyed it so much," commented Brown who was an instructor for several months.

However despite his success training future airmen, the Army soon decided to use Brown's talents elsewhere and moved the pilot to the 97th Squadron of the 440th Group of the 9th Air Force.

Here, Brown was commissioned to fly troop carrier

aircrafts overseas.

"They sent me to fly troop carrier, I didn't have any choice. I wanted [to fly] twin engine bombers," explained Brown.

Immediately, Brown was sent overseas to join the squadron.

It was around Thanksgiving when Brown and his troop carrier plane landed in France.

At this time, Allied Forces had taken most of Italy and France back, and were now pushing the Nazis back into Germany.

Brown's mission objective was to take troops, supplies, and gas to the armies that were pushing Nazi forces out.

"We'd take gas to Patton's army and to anyone that needed it. We'd land [as] close [as] we could get to them," described Brown.

As soon as advancing Allied Forces were able to take a German airfield, the runway was quickly converted to an American field where pilots like Brown could land.

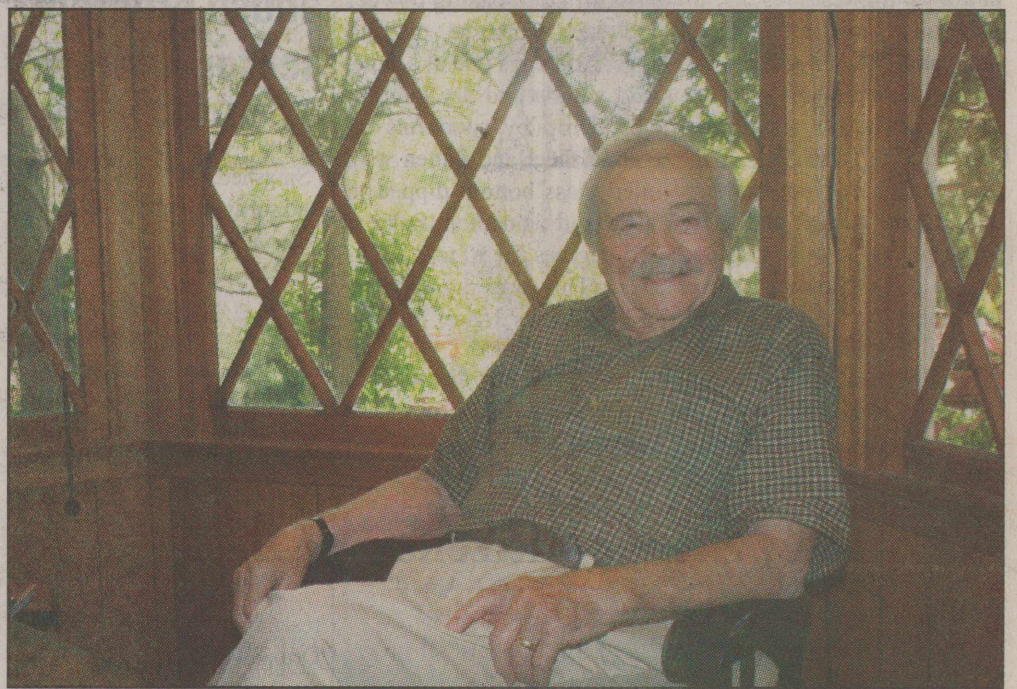
Along with the dangerous job of carrying vital supplies to troops, Brown would also transport rescued prisoners of war and wounded troops back to safe spots in France and England.

Brown clearly remembered the horrible conditions that most rescued prisoners were found in.

"Most prisoners were starved until their legs weren't any bigger than my arm," remembered Brown.

For the next six months, Brown continued to transport troops and supplies to the Allied Forces fighting on the front lines.

He did this until a successful counter-attack at the Battle of the Bulge pushed the



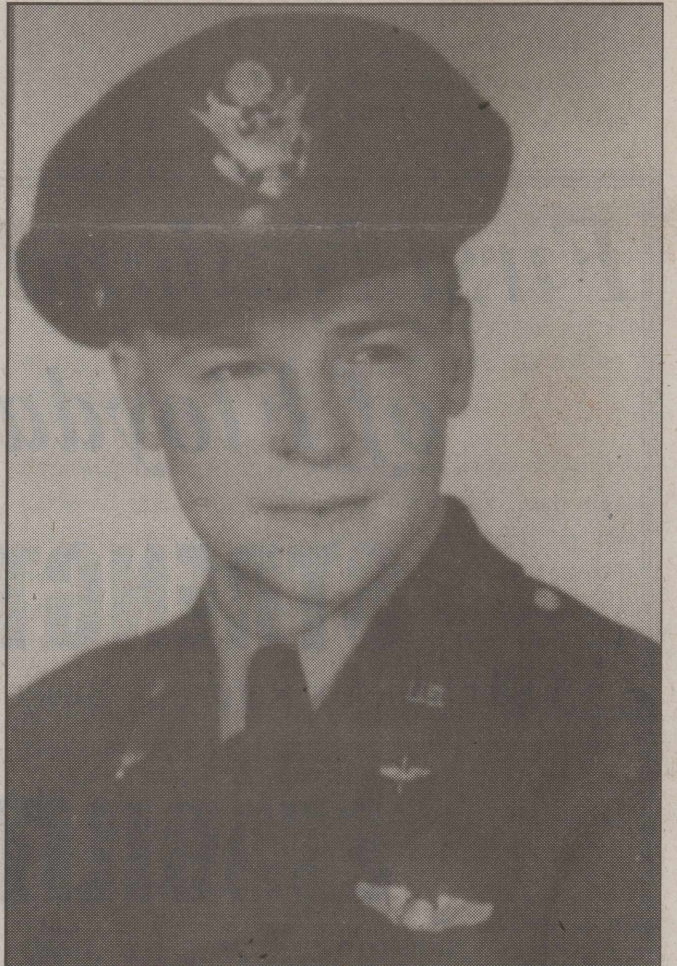
Courtesy Photos

This month's Veteran Spotlight focuses on Bill Brown who served as a pilot during the taking of the Rhine River.

Nazis further into Germany. After the battle of Rhineland, Allied Forces were able to push their way to the Rhine River, which stretches across the entire country of Germany and is considered one of the longest and most important rivers of Europe.

Knowing the strategic importance of the river and the impending doom that would await the Nazis if the allies were able to cross the river, Hitler ordered his troops not give up the river at any cost.

At this point, Allied Forces planned a major offensive to take the Rhine River. The plan included several points of attack, including Operation Varsity which was an American and British airborne operation that is considered one of the largest single airborne operations in history to be conducted on a single day and on a single location. The mis-



Before the attack, Brown's captain volunteered him and 9 others to fly glider planes

BILL BROWN
 continued on page 11

Church to start Lockney Mobile Pantry

By Homer Marquez

Members of Lockney's Methodist Church are looking to bring the community together in efforts bringing back a beneficial food program designed to help families make it through the month.

"It's something people can take advantage of; I think there are a lot of people that do without, especially at the end of the month," comment-

ed Jean Anne Williams as she explained her church's intention of organizing the Lockney Mobile Pantry, "Food goes a long way with people; if your stomach is full, then you can accomplish a lot."

Teaming up with the South Plains Food Bank; the Methodist Church and any other churches, who may want to help, will be able assist families who just don't have enough food to last

them through the end of the month.

Those who qualify for the program will be able to receive a food unit from the South Plains Food Bank. Each unit consists of two sizable boxes filled frozen food, fresh produce, and non-perishable food items. The box containing the frozen food alone weighs around 30 pounds.

The two-box units will cost around \$7, but this cost will be funded by donations; those who actually receive the food will not have to pay anything.

The new Lockney Mobile Pantry mirrors a similar program between the Methodist Church and Angel Food Ministries which was utilized by the community up until

MOBILE PANTRY
 continued on page 11



Courtesy Photo

The Floydada Economic Development Corp recently provided a \$4,000 cash incentive to Pure Balance LLC for establishing their business in Floydada and creating two jobs. Pictured left, Floydada EDC Board President Kyle Smith and on the right, Pure Balance owner Tasha Smith on location at 107 West California in Floydada, Texas.

Join millions of Americans in praying for a moral rebirth in America.

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 3, 2012

12:20 - 12:40 p.m.

Floyd County Courthouse Lawn

II Chronicles 7:14 says, "If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

LIFESTYLES

Floydada Senior Citizen News

By Margaret Jones

I am so thankful for a beautiful Spring day after two days of terribly high winds accompanied by scattered storms at night with chances of large hail. Running back and forth, from front to back door to see huge trees swaying as the sounds of hail stones plummet the roof and skylights, still frightens this born-and-bred West Texas girl. Under cover of Darkness, the unfolding of "the unknown" is a constant presence. Drought or no Drought, how very blessed we have been to not have experienced the disaster of a devastating tornado or something worse.

Let us continue to remember those who so faithfully eat lunch at THE CENTER who are battling health problems and awaiting tests results, to hopefully have relief from pain and the uncertainty of the Doctor's prognosis. As we know... "These Golden Years can be quite Tarnished". William Bertrand, Gene Lawson and Boone Adams and their families, need our prayers. Please let me know if there are others.

We are so glad to have Gerald Vinson back for lunch this past week. We wish him many more days of feeling better after his Heart doctor

took care of the situation. Remember, Gerald, do as the Doctor tells you...OKAY?

Congratulations are in order to Shorty Turner as he has recently celebrated a very Special Birthday. (how many years????) From what I've heard everyone present had a great time. No need to ask Shorty if he behaved himself. As he will tell you, he has never learned how to do that. Remember...EAT DESSERT FIRST...LIFE IS TOO UNCERTAIN.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

MAZOLA SUGAR COOKIES

2-1/2 cups flour, 1/2 tsp. salt, 1 cup sugar, 1 tsp. vanilla, 1-1/2 tsp. baking powder, 3/4 cup Mazola, 2 eggs (unbeaten). Sift flour, baking powder and salt. Combine oil and eggs. Add eggs one at a time. Add vanilla and dry ingredients. Drop by spoonfuls on cookie sheet and flatten with oiled glass bottom dipped in sugar and cinnamon. Bake at 375 degrees for 10 to 20 minutes. (This was my brother-in-law, James Jones, favorite recipe).

Thought for the Week - God's hand is always there, and once you grasp it you will never let go.

Lockney Senior Citizens Center Menu
April 23-27

Monday-Hamburger
Tuesday-Tacos
Wednesday-Fried Chicken
Thursday-Spaghetti
Friday-Chicken Fried Steak

Red Cross Urges People to Volunteer
If you like helping people, the Red Cross is the place for you

LUBBOCK, April 16, 2012 — This National Volunteer Week, April 15-21, the South Plains Regional Chapter is celebrating its dedicated volunteers and partners. These volunteers power the American Red Cross, making it possible for the organization to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies.

The Red Cross is also encouraging people who have been thinking about volunteering to take the plunge. People wanting to make a difference should contact the South Plains Regional Chapter to learn about getting involved. Right now the Red Cross especially needs people who are interested in serving through involvement in the following areas: Disaster Action Team, shelter team, mental health work, damage assessment, client

casework and office support.

Volunteers are central to the work of the Red Cross in Lubbock and in communities across the country, as on average, the Red Cross has 15 volunteers for every one employee. These volunteers are people in action—whether providing comfort to a family whose home has been washed away in a flood or getting an emergency message to a member of the military whose father is critically ill.

American Red Cross volunteers...

- Respond to disasters and reconnect families separated by disasters or conflict.
- Teach first aid, CPR, swimming and other lifesaving skills.
- Help veterans, members of the military and their families in the U.S.

and overseas.

Red Cross volunteers are united by their service and the feeling that in changing others' lives, their lives are also changed. To volunteer, contact Molly Mabery at (806)765-8534.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies more than 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or join our blog at <http://blog.redcross.org>.

Alcohol, substance abuse program set for April 24

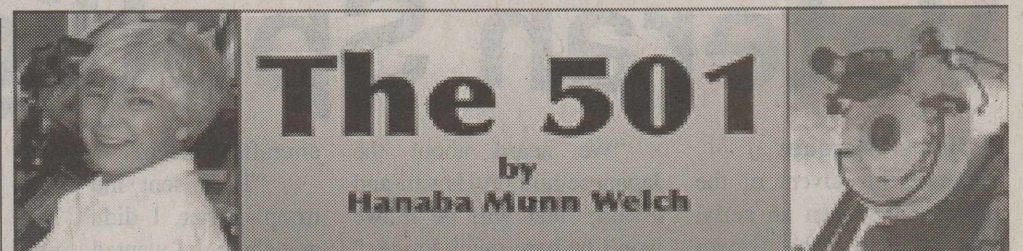
LEVELLAND — South Plains College will host "Smashed," a day-long alcohol and substance abuse awareness day on April 24.

The event is free and the public is invited to attend.

The program will start at 5:30 p.m. on the Quad where participants will be entertained with music provided by the Commercial Music Department. Patrons are encouraged to visit information booths to obtain educational literature.

At 6 p.m., speakers representing Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and the Voices Coalition will address the hazards alcohol and substance abuse.

For more information, contact Christopher Straface, counselor, at (806) 716-2565.



All four women at the next table have had knee replacements. That's how I'm hearing it. I feel left out.

If I came to this coffeehouse to gain inspiration, it's working.

They're sharing the cards they carry. Apparently, if you've got metal knees, you need an "I've-got-metal-knees" card to get through airport security. Makes sense.

They're comparing other cards, each trying to trump the other with the most impressive medical condition. If they weren't laughing, I might be able to hear better. Or if I had a hearing aid.

I could use a knee too. A left knee.

Now they're gone. Except for me, the only people left are serious-looking young people interacting with their

laptops.

But what do I know? Maybe the somber young latte-sippers are connecting with their own kind via social media and for some reason they're not smiling about it. They look sad compared to the jovial silver-haired women, who sat at their table so long they had trouble straightening out their creaky bones to hobble out.

Nothing beats ...

PHONE CALL.

Well, we'll never know how I meant to finish that sentence. That's how it is with short-term memory loss.

As for the call, I got looks from some other customers when I answered too loudly to suit them. Not to worry. I promptly took my conversation outside to keep from disturbing their peace.

Is it my imagination, or is the current generation a bit on the introverted side? Or do they simply give that impression because they prefer texting to talking and Facebooking to being face to face? Maybe they are absolutely the most social generation ever, but could they keep that title if they didn't have smart phones and computers?

Where do the rest of us fit in the overall scheme? Would we have conventional social skills if we hadn't been forced to develop them in the absence of smart phones? And are we losing them?

Here's a litmus test:

Given the choice, would you rather check yourself out at Wal-Mart or deal with a cashier?

I'll admit to preferring self-checkout. No interaction required.

A friend of mine once confessed to paying more for gasoline at the only place in town that took her debit card because she liked the impersonality of the whole process. That's when credit and debit card-accepting gas pumps were the exception. Now they're the rule.

Comparing today to even longer ago, would you really want to pull into a gas station now to have some eager friendly young guy smiling at you and asking if you want regular or ethyl before attacking your windshield with water and a raggedy chamois and asking how much air goes in your tires and pointing to your dipstick to prove you're a quart low?

Where are those guys today?

Wherever they are, a lot of them probably don't still have their original knees or their pocket air gauges.

If there's one thing they do still have, I'm guessing it's social skills. Just guessing.

First National Bank

of Floydada

STRENGTH

5-Star Superior Rating by Bauer Financial, Inc.

STABILITY

Serving this area for over 100 years

SERVICE

Checking, Savings, CDs, Money Market Accounts, IRAs, Agricultural, Commercial, Consumer Loans, Home Loans, Real Estate Loans, 24-Hour ATM, 24-Hour Telebanking, 24-Hour On-line Banking

COME TO WHERE THE STRENGTH IS...

"Helping you change things for the better"

1ST THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF FLOYDADA

Member FDIC

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

THE FLOYD COUNTY HESPERIAN-BEACON

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WEDDING SELECTIONS FOR

Jordan Read & Taylor Beedy
Molly Long & Wesley Jensen

Caprock Motor Parts & Hardware
114 California St., Floydada • 983-2865

Wedding Selection for:

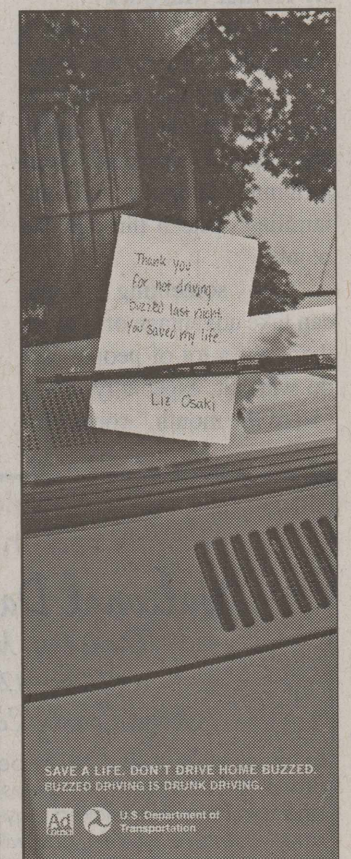
Molly Long & Wesley Jensen

Cathy's Floral & Gifts
128 W. California St. Floydada
806-983-5013

Please accept our sincere gratitude for your outpouring of care and concern for us during the recent passing of our loved one, Laurita Bertrand. The support we felt from your prayers, calls, cards, visits, memorials, and food sustained us as we went through those days. We continue to remember your many kindnesses as we adjust to this phase of our lives.

Thank you for being a wonderful community.

The Bertrand Family
Harold, Donna, Kim, Janna and families



SAVE A LIFE. DON'T DRIVE HOME BUZZED. BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING.

U.S. Department of Transportation

OBITUARY

WANDA L. WITHERS

Wanda L. Withers, age 87, of Floydada, passed away Friday, April 13, 2012 in Lockney.

Services were held at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 15, 2012 at the Floyd County Memorial Park with Pastor Tim Franks of First Baptist Church officiating.

Arrangements were under the direction of Moore-Rose Funeral Home of Floydada.

She is preceded in death by her parents, L.G. and Lena Withers, and a sister; Evelyn Boren.

Local survivors include her sister, Mary Alice Davis of Floydada, nephews and nieces and numerous great nieces and nephews and many friends.

THIS WEEK'S

FLOYDADA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Floydada Chamber of Commerce has t-shirts for sale. There are 2-3 designs to choose from. Bling t-shirts - \$10; regular t-shirts - \$5. You can visit the chamber at 201 W. California Street or call 983-3434.

BOWLING OVER CANCER -

The 4th Annual "Bowling Over Cancer" will be held Saturday, April 21st at the Plainview Bowling Center. All proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society. Open to all persons age 12 and over. Entry fee \$10 per person - 3-person team. This event is sponsored by the Plainview Daily Herald Relay for Life team. Entry forms and info available at Plainview Bowling Center (2022 Quincy) or at the Plainview Daily Herald (820 Broadway).

CALVERT HOME HEALTH BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

Calvert Home Health holds their blood pressure clinics on every first and third Thursday of each month between 9 - 11 a.m. at the Community Room of the First National Bank of Floydada.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

OF THE FLOYD COUNTY MUSEUM

From the Floyd County Hesperian February 26, 1970

I REMEMBER, I REMEMBER

EARLY DAY PICNICS By Homer Steen

The Early History of Floyd County tells of the first picnic held at Floydada on June 24, 1890 and this history also reports the July 4th celebration here the following year. But after 1891 there was a year or two when Old Man Dry and grasshoppers took over.

Everything turned sour and the bright prospects the settlers foresaw were quite dimmed. Even when rains began to fall again in 1894 and 1895 what few remained to "hold things together" were not an exactly happy lot. For one thing an invasion (or uprising) of fleas to make their lives miserable. Hall's History does not mention this flea scourge and it may not have been general but I am sure, from word of mouth that in both 1894 and 1895 some of the populace could find no escape from them.

Fleas were everywhere. There was no escape in the house, out at the lot, out on the prairie, anywhere (I am on unsafe ground here. There is no documentary proof of which I am aware. However, that's what "they" said and there has to be "something to it.")

In 1896 there was renewed courage and there were newcomers again—the C. Surginers from Young County for instance.

The first early-day celebration that I attended—13 years after the county was organized—must have been in 1903 right after Crie and Adair had bought the Hesperian from Claude V. Hall. Only thing I remember definitely about this picnic day was the baseball game between a Floydada team and a Hale Center team. The Floydada team won the game when a cowboy named Devlin knocked a homerun that lined out over left center field "to the tune of 200 yards" according to my memory of the news writer's report. It was a cow pasture ball park. No telling how far Devlin's home run ball rolled.

My memory tells me that it was at this game in J. B. Bartley's west pasture just off the "town Section", I saw my first Stanley steamer driven by some wealthy Hale Center resident. If Stanley steamers had not been put on the market as early as 1903 that would be proof that the Stanley steamer I saw was at some other time and some other place than Floydada. I know I saw a Stanley steamer and it was a beautiful sight as it rolled effortlessly and so smoothly around the grounds.

A Cowboy's "Convention"
Funny how little evidences will crop up of events of

another day. Did you ever hear of a "cowboy's convention"? Well, the evidence is that the third annual Cowboy's Convention took place at Haskell, Texas, July 27-28-29, 1898. Suppose anybody in this area might have attended the event?

W. B. Winn was at Muleshoe during the 1969 Christmas Holiday period. He was reared there and nostalgia took him back to the community's one-time picnic grounds in the adjacent sand dunes. In those youthful days a picnic party would pick out a spot then scoop out sand about 18 inches deep and the hole would fill up with good, cool, crystal, clear water.

This time when Winn was there the grounds had been spoiled by pollution long since, but wandering about he picked up a five-pointed star of pale yellowish metal. It was blank on one side, but the other side said in raised lettering, "3rd Annual Cowboys' Convention, Haskell, Texas, July 27-29, 1898.

Know anybody who attended the Haskell convention of cowboys who might have lost his medallion some-

time in 1913 or afterward at the old Muleshoe picnic grounds?

Well, it has been found in good condition 82 years later.

From the Floyd County Hesperian March 5, 1970

I REMEMBER, I REMEMBER

...AN ATTRACTIVE NUISANCE

By Homer Steen
I recall very well Mr. Snodgrass (C. Snodgrass, the merchant-farmer-stockman) who lived on a 240-acre—I think—tract and farmed it on the north side of the section that adjoins Floydada on the west. (He was, however, principally a merchant.) (I thing this was 1902, maybe 1903.)

Mr. Snodgrass was thoughtful of itinerant ministers. He liked for them to be Baptist. But some of us thought he was a little hard on boys. He maintained what I guess a lawyer would call an attraction

ARCHIVES

continued on page 10

We are proud to offer

CIRCLE (E) CANDLES

983-2220

Come see Stacie at Scott Gin

Two miles south on the Ralls Hwy.

To the people of Floydada and area,
A great big thank you if you did indeed participate in the recent blood drive that Jean Appling put together. I have helped out at times in the past never thinking that some day I would be the one on the receiving end. All is well now. I got the leak plugged and a fresh new full tank to run on. The Lord is good.
Thank you again,
Doug Galloway

Lockney Mobile Pantry

Will be accepting applications for Food boxes on Thursday, April 19, 2012 at First United Methodist Church 120 W. Poplar, Lockney, TX

Registration:
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Please bring your
• ID
• Proof of residency
(any bill with your name and address)

***Only one Food box per household (address). You must qualify to receive a food box ***

Nondiscrimination: In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability.

Floyd County Church Directory

AIKEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Dennis Butler, Pastor
Morning Worship .. 11:00 a.m.

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

810 S. 3rd, Floydada
Darwin Robinson, Pastor
983-5278
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship .. 10:50 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

CALVARY'S CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP

Floydada
Armando Morales, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship .. 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.

CARR'S CHAPEL

Service Every Sunday:
Morning Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

West College & Third, Lockney
Morning Worship .. 10:30 a.m.
Afternoon Worship .. 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday Service 7:30 p.m.

CITY PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

Levi Sisemore, Minister
Ivan Gomez, Minister
Floydada
Sunday Bible Study.. 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship .. 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Tim Franks, Pastor
Terry Simmons, Minister of Ed. Music
Josh Burgett - Min. Students
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship .. 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Lockney

Jonathan Sullivan, Pastor
Chad Cook, Youth Min.
Phil Cotham, Music Min.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday (Youth) . 7:15 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Lockney

Jonathan Sullivan, Pastor
Chad Cook, Youth Min.
Phil Cotham, Music Min.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday (Youth) . 7:15 p.m.

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Jonathan Sullivan, Pastor
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Phil Cotham, Music Min.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday (Youth) . 7:15 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Lockney

Jonathan Sullivan, Pastor
Chad Cook, Youth Min.
Phil Cotham, Music Min.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday (Youth) . 7:15 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Lockney

Jonathan Sullivan, Pastor
Chad Cook, Youth Min.
Phil Cotham, Music Min.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday (Youth) . 7:15 p.m.

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Jonathan Sullivan, Pastor
Chad Cook, Youth Min.
Phil Cotham, Music Min.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
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Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday (Youth) . 7:15 p.m.

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Chad Cook, Youth Min.
Phil Cotham, Music Min.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday (Youth) . 7:15 p.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Floydada
Rev. Les Hall, Pastor
Early Worship 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship ... 10:50 a.m.
Youth (Sunday) 5:00 p.m.
Youth (Wednesday) .. 7:30 p.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Lockney
Rev. Ricky Carstensen, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Evening Service 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Jr. High 5:30 p.m.
Wed. High School... 6:30 p.m.

GRANT CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

Joe Bennett, Pastor
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship ... 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday 8:00 p.m.
Wed. Service 7:30 p.m.

MAIN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lockney
Jay Don Poindexter, Minister
Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship .. 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship ... 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

Floydada
Rev. Ralph Jackson
401 N 12th St (983-5805)
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship .. 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Study .. 7:00 p.m.

NEW SALEM PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Floydada
Pastor Elder Ronnie Hedges
(806) 637-0430
Sunday Singing 10:30 a.m.
Morning Worship .. 11:00 a.m.

OUT REACH HARVEST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

310 E. Mississippi
Floydada
Rev. David Ramos, Pastor
Ester Ramos, Praise Leader
Sunday Bible .. 10:00 a.m.
Morning Praise .. 11:00 a.m.
Evening Praise ... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Worship 7:00 p.m.

OUT REACH HARVEST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

310 E. Mississippi
Floydada
Rev. David Ramos, Pastor
Ester Ramos, Praise Leader
Sunday Bible .. 10:00 a.m.
Morning Praise .. 11:00 a.m.
Evening Praise ... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Worship 7:00 p.m.

OUT REACH HARVEST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

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Rev. David Ramos, Pastor
Ester Ramos, Praise Leader
Sunday Bible .. 10:00 a.m.
Morning Praise .. 11:00 a.m.
Evening Praise ... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Worship 7:00 p.m.

OUT REACH HARVEST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

310 E. Mississippi
Floydada
Rev. David Ramos, Pastor
Ester Ramos, Praise Leader
Sunday Bible .. 10:00 a.m.
Morning Praise .. 11:00 a.m.
Evening Praise ... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Worship 7:00 p.m.

OUT REACH HARVEST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

310 E. Mississippi
Floydada
Rev. David Ramos, Pastor
Ester Ramos, Praise Leader
Sunday Bible .. 10:00 a.m.
Morning Praise .. 11:00 a.m.
Evening Praise ... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Worship 7:00 p.m.

OUT REACH HARVEST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

310 E. Mississippi
Floydada
Rev. David Ramos, Pastor
Ester Ramos, Praise Leader
Sunday Bible .. 10:00 a.m.
Morning Praise .. 11:00 a.m.
Evening Praise ... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Worship 7:00 p.m.

OUT REACH HARVEST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

310 E. Mississippi
Floydada
Rev. David Ramos, Pastor
Ester Ramos, Praise Leader
Sunday Bible .. 10:00 a.m.
Morning Praise .. 11:00 a.m.
Evening Praise ... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Worship 7:00 p.m.

POWER OF PRAISE FULL GOSPEL CHURCH

Rev. Manuel Rendon, Pastor
704 N. Main, Lockney
Sunday Services... 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA

Lockney
Jesus Caballero, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Services 11:00 a.m.
Discipleship 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Service 7:00 p.m.

PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA

Floydada
Rev. Lupe Rando
Sunday School .. 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship .. 10:40 a.m.
Evening Worship ... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Evening 7:00 p.m.

SAN JOSE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Lockney
Jim McCartney, Pastor
Wed. Communion 8:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass 11:30 a.m.

SOUTH PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH

Joe Weldon, Pastor
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship ... 11:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

TEMPLO GETSEMANI ASSEMBLY OF GOD

701 W. Missouri
Joe M. Hernandez
983-5286 (church)
..... Sunday School
English 9:45 a.m.
Spanish 11:00 a.m.
Spanish Worship 9:30 a.m.
English Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

ST. MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Floydada
Rev. Angelo Consemينو
Phone: 983-5878
Sunday Mass 11:30 a.m.
Mon. Wed. Mass 6:30 p.m.
Confession Sat 10-11 a.m.

TEMPLO BAUTISTA SALEM

Lockney
Rev. Joe Hernandez
Sun. Prayer Service 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 p.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship ... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Meeting 7:00 p.m.

TEMPLO BETHEL SPANISH ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Washington and 1st St.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship .. 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Service 7:00 p.m.

TEMPLO NUEVA VIDA

Rev. Herman Martinez
308 W. Tennessee, Floydada
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
Thursday Service 7:30 p.m.

TRINITY ASSEMBLY

500 W. Houston
Henry Russell, Co-Pastor
Vance Mitchell, Co-Pastor
983-5499 or 983-2887
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship .. 10:40 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Providence Community on FM 2301 293-3009
Rev. Peter W. Harrington Minister
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

WEST SIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Floydada 983-3548
Sunday Worship ... 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening 5:00 p.m.

If you would like to be a sponsor on the church page, call the Hesperian-Beacon at 806-983-3737

Lockney Sports

District II Fashion Show held



Courtesy Photo

Floyd County 4-H members represented Floyd County well with their District Fashion Show entries. 4-H'ers participating included (front row, l-r) Tasha Schlueter, Kendal Hughes, Lauryn Franks and Payton Teeple; (back row, l-r) Mallory Graham, Korleigh Webb, Kylie Ricketts, Hannah Franks and Tristan Schlueter.

By Melissa Long
CEA-FCS
Floyd County

"Cities Around The World" was the theme of the District II Fashion Show held Tuesday, April 10 at the Abernathy Elementary School. 4-H members either constructed or purchased garments and completed an interview to demonstrate their knowledge of fibers and fabrics, wardrobe selection, construction techniques, comparison shopping, grooming, poise and personal presentation skills.

Mallory Graham competed in the Senior Buying Specialty Category and placed first enabling her to compete in the State Fashion Show to be held during Texas 4-H Roundup, June 11-15 on the Texas Tech University campus.

Floyd County was well represented by eight other 4-H'ers including Kendal Hughes, Junior Construction Casual - 1st Place; Tasha Schlueter, Junior Construction Specialty - 3rd Place; Lauryn Franks, Junior Buying Casual - participation; Kylie Ricketts, Junior Buying Specialty - 2nd Place; Payton Teeple, Junior Buying Dressy - 1st Place and Korleigh Webb, Junior Recycled and Embellished - 1st Place.

Intermediate participants included Hannah Franks in the Recycled/Embellished category - participation and Tristan Schlueter in the Buying Casual category - 1st Place. Beth Bramlet served as a judge for the event.

Also recognized for participation in the Fashion Storyboard Competition were Payton Teeple with her first place entry in the Junior Non-Wearable category and Kylie Ricketts with her first place entry in the Accessory category. Also participating in Fashion Storyboard were Kaimee Webb, Korleigh Webb, Rachel Graham, Remington Ricketts and Jianna Davenport.

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U. S. Department of Agriculture and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. We will seek to accommodate all persons with disabilities for all meetings. We request that you contact the Floyd County Texas AgriLife Extension Service as soon as possible to advise us of any auxiliary and/or services needed.



Courtesy Photo

Floyd County 4-H members who were in attendance at the District II 4-H Fashion Show were recognized for their Fashion Storyboard entries. Those included - (front row, l-r) Kaimee Webb - participation; Payton Teeple - 1st; (back row, l-r) Korleigh Webb - participation; Kylie Ricketts - 1st and Rachel Graham - participation. Also participating were Jianna Davenport and Remington Ricketts.

Horns on track to playoffs

On the diamond, with a pair of wins last week, the Lockney Longhorns continued their battle with the Hale Center Owls for first place in the district.

Last week, the Horns got a little closer as they defeated Nazareth 4-5 in 10 innings. Naz would jump to an early lead as they scored three runs by the third inning. Lockney would make a major comeback with the help of crucial hits from Ky Teeter, Riley Teeter and Landry Kidd. Ky would score twice, while his brother Riley scored once. Kameron Hunt would also score making the final 4-5.

Earlier in the week, the Horns crushed the Kress Kangaroos by a score of 11-1. The Horns sailed to a victory with big hits from Ky Teeter who scored three times; Landon Kidd who scored twice; and Riley Teeter who scored twice. Also crossing home

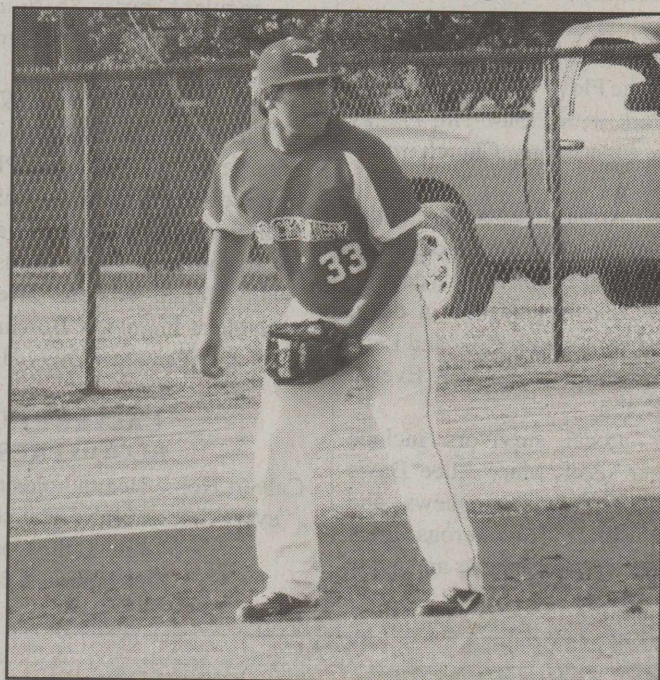


Photo by Homer Marquez

plate would be Ian Dunbar, Marcos Mercado, Kameron Hunt, and Marcos Bernal.

The wins have guaranteed the Horns a spot in the play-

offs; but they will need to win their next two games and have Hale Center lose at least once to grab the District Championship.

Ladies Horns battle playoff spot



Photo by Homer Marquez

By Randy Jackson

On Tuesday, April 10th, the Lady Longhorns rolled past district opponent Hale Center with a 15-0 shut-out. Twelve runs in the first three innings helped Lady Horns blow out Hale Center. An RBI single by Sunny Williams, a two-run double by Gabby Peralez, an RBI dou-

ble by Meagan Dunn, and a two-run double by Rayann Race during the first inning supplied the early offense for Lady Horns.

Williams racked up three RBIs on one hit for Lady Horns.

Lady Horns tacked on another six runs in the third. Jennifer Ybarra kicked things

off with a double, bringing home Kennedy Hallmark and Race. That was followed up by Jackson's double, plating Tanya Hernandez and Ybarra.

Lady Horns added three more runs in the bottom of the fourth. A clutch bases loaded walk scored Race to open the scoring in the frame. That was followed up by a sacrifice fly by Williams that scored Hernandez and Ybarra.

Offensively, Hale Center did not have an answer for Lady Horns. The Lockney shutout the Owls with Katie Jackson throwing a no-hitter and recorded 12 strike outs.

On Saturday April 14th, the Lady Horns hit a road block as they battled Sundown. The lady Horns were plagued by fielding errors and were unable to get their bats going as Sundown defeated the lady Horns 14-4.

South Plains College to offer courses from May 14 through May 30

LEVELLAND - South Plains College will offer courses during the spring and summer interim from May 14 through May 30.

Registration begins April 17 and runs through May 11. Payments are due by 3 p.m. on May 11.

Online courses to be available include BCIS 1405 - Introduction to Computers; ECON 2301 - Principles of

Macro Economics; ECON 2302 - Principles of Micro Economics; GEOG 1301 - World Regional Geography; GOVT 2301 - American Government, Organizations; GOVT 2302 - American Government, Functions; History 1301 - History of the U.S. to 1876; History 1302 - History of the U.S. after 1876; and Psychology 2301 - Human Growth and Development.

Two courses will meet in classrooms. BIOL 2420 - Micro Biology will meet on the Levelland campus at 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday

through Friday. The class will run from May 14 through May 25. SOCI 1301 - Introduction to Sociology will meet in Room 407 on the Reese Center campus at 9 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Monday through Friday. The class will run from May 14 through May 31.

For current SPC students receiving financial aid are encouraged to meet with their advisors to review funding on a case-by-case basis. For non SPC students, contact the counseling center at (806) 716-2366.

Textbooks will be available at the Texas Book Company. The bookstore will be open daily during registration.

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Floydada Sports

Floydada competes in District Track

The Whirlwind's track team headed off to the District Championship this past week in Abernathy. After the dust settled six member from the boy's varsity team and four members of the girl's team qualified for the Regional meet.

Making the cut would be the varsity boy's 800 meter team who finished fourth with a time of 1:35.81. Making up the relay team is Benselodo Perez, Ventura Gonzales, Jordan Woody, Rex Mathis, Aaron Chavarria, and Cole Covington.

Cole Covington would also advance to Regional's in the pole vault competition, finishing a demanding second.

For the ladies, Kristan Sanchez qualified with a 3:35.81 third place finish in the 3200 meter run and would also qualify with a 6:20.61 fourth place finish in the 1600.

Rebeka Hall would qualify after a 17.33 fourth place finish in the 100 meter hurdles and a 54.79 fourth place in the 300 meter hurdles.

Emily Prisk also made it to the Regional's after finishing third in the women's pole vault competition.



Courtesy Photos

Floydada Tennis Team Wins District



Courtesy Photo

FLOYDADA TENNIS TEAM WINS DISTRICT as they win 17 to 14 over Tulia for the Team Championship. Members of the tennis team are (top row, l-r) Hannah Griffin, Haden Lipham, Cole Covington, Jordan Woody, Ruben DeLeon, Rebekah Hall, MaKenna Johnson, Liz Morales, Avery Miller; (bottom row, l-r) Esmeralda Garza, Sarah Jo Miller, Imelda Resendiz, Hunter Schwertner, Ricardo Cervera, Emily Hall, and Ashley Lucke. (Not pictured is Mallory Graham)

By Regina Smith

The weather has been extreme as far as tennis goes this year. We have played in wind, rain, and even snow but when district got here we had two beautiful days to play.

The team, lead by eight seniors, had a tradition to uphold by bringing home another district championship. Floydada pulled out a 17 to 14 victory over Tulia for the Team Championship. The girls also brought home a girls division Championship plaque.

The members that qualified for Regionals are Hannah Griffin and Haden Lipham winning 1st in Mixed Doubles and Imelda Resendiz winning 1st in Girls Singles. Alternates to Regionals are 3rd place, Cole Covington and Jordan Woody (Boys Doubles), Rebekah Hall and Esmeralda Garza (Girls Doubles).

Others competing were Hunter Schwertner (4th Boys Singles), Ruben DeLeon/ Emily Hall (Mixed Doubles), Mallory Graham (Girls Singles), Avery Miller/ Sarah Jo Miller (Girls Doubles). JV Team: Jianna Davenport (1st Girls Singles), Ashley Lucke (2nd Girls Singles), Liz Morales/ MaKenna Johnson (3rd Girls Doubles), Ricardo Cervera (3rd Boys Singles).

I am extremely proud of every member of this team. They have all worked very hard this year. The Regional Qualifiers will play in the Regional tournament this week in Odessa on April 18 and 19th. I have had the great privilege of working with this team and a great class of senior tennis players. I know they will do great things in their future. I will miss them very much.

Whirlwinds get playoff spot with win against Idalou, 7-3

By Coach Seago

The Floydada baseball team had a huge game on Saturday, April 14th when the Idalou Wildcats came to town. With a win, they would create a 2 game lead on the Wildcats of Idalou and Littlefield with 2 games left. With the winds blowing anywhere from 20 to 30 miles per hour, it must have been a sign that things would go the Whirlwinds way.

In the bottom of the first inning, Idalou threaten to score a couple of early runs after a single and walked batter, but Jose Martinez settled in by striking out two hitters and Jon Chavarria threw out a runner trying to steal third base. Then Whirlwinds then went to

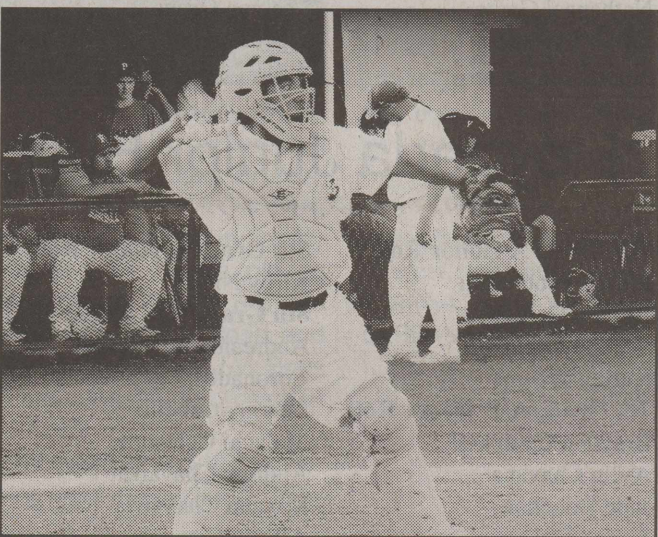


Photo by Homer Marquez

work on the offensive side of the bottom half of the first inning by getting 7 hits and scoring 6 runs. That would be all the scoring Floydada would need to go on and beat the Wildcats 7-3.

Jose Martinez was the starting pitcher and went the distance as he struck-

PLAYOFF SPOT...
continued on page 11

Lady winds drop to Dimmitt and Abernathy

Despite a big day at the dish from Anna Delafuente, who finished 3-3, Floydada Lady Winds lost 14-6 to Dimmitt that past Saturday.

Four of Floydada Lady Winds' runs were scored thanks to timely hitting by Delafuente as she singled in the second, third, and sixth innings.

Dimmitt was unable to make good contact against Kelsey Nutt as Dimmitt managed just two hits off of the Floydada Lady Winds' pitcher, who allowed five earned runs, walked 11 and struck out six during her 4 innings of work.

The top of the second saw Dimmitt take an early lead, 2-0. The Floydada Lady Winds' rally started when Stephanie Lerma singled and Kristan Sanchez from second to third. Delafuente singled, plating Lerma and Kristan Sanchez.

The lead stayed with Dimmitt after the second, when they scored six runs on a two-run double, an error, two bases loaded walks, and a wild pitch.

A three-run third inning helped bring Floydada Lady Winds within one. An error



Photo by Homer Marquez

and a two-run single by Delafuente triggered Floydada's comeback.

Dimmitt got one-run rallies in the third inning and the fifth. In the third, Dimmitt scored on a wild pitch, scoring Rascon.

Dimmitt increased its lead with four runs in the fourth. C Stephens' single got things going, bringing home M Jackson. That was followed up by a walk by C. Rodriguez that scored A. Hernandez.

One run in the top of the sixth helped Floydada close its deficit to 12-6; however the rally would be enough

as the ladies went on to fall 14-6.

That past Tuesday, the Floydada Lady Winds lost a battle of the bats falling short in a 21-14 ballgame against Abernathy lady lopes.

Stephanie Lerma went a perfect 3-3 at the dish for Lady Winds as she doubled in the fourth inning and singled in the fifth and sixth innings.

However, homeruns and strikeouts held the lopes past the Wind's as the Abernathy pitcher struck out four,

LADY WINDS...
continued on page 11

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Meal.....5:30 p.m.	Children's Entertainment
Business Meeting.....7:00 p.m.	Election of Three Directors

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Whirlwind News

A Day in the Life of...

By: Shani Ross-Staff Writer
Throughout the school system there are many extra-curricular activities for students to be involved in, but there are a few that are overlooked. Agriculture and mechanic based activities provide a wide range of opportunities for students of the FHS agriculture classes. Vance Lemons leads students through events such as FFA and multiple leadership courses. These courses are made to better students in the future by teaching them many essential life skills. "I am the Agricultural educator and my job consists of being the FFA sponsor

and teaching Ag Mechanics along with leadership classes. In addition, during the fall I also teach a wildlife and recreation class," commented Mr. Lemons. In addition to these various daily classes Mr. Lemons teaches, he also leads multiple extra-curricular events. "When being a FFA sponsor you are in charge of training Leadership Development Events (LDE) and Career Development Events (CDE). An agriculture teacher is also in charge of supervising livestock projects and competitions," added Lemons. While their job is highly

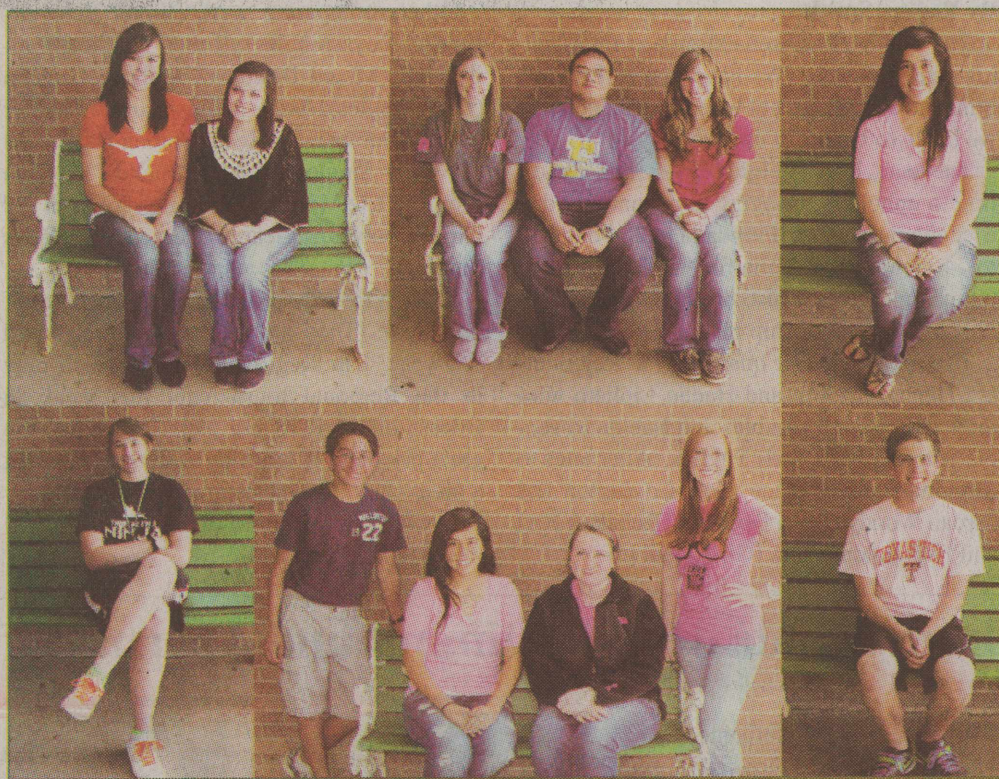


rewarding, there are those times when problems arise. "Being involved in education there will always be days that may not go your way. The best way to deal with this is to be positive and hope for a better day," concluded Mr. Lemons.

AB Duncan Elementary Honor Roll

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>1st Grade A Honor Roll
Lailah Burks
Elenna Foster
Nicholas Garcia
Jaylen James
Angel Jasso
Johanna Louallen
Elektra Monroe
Jailey Ogden
Esmeralda Olvera
Orlando Ortiz
Mickayla Pierce
Devin Reyes
Saul Reyes
Hannah Roberts</p> <p>1st Grade A-B Honor Roll
Izaih Alvarado
Emalea Bruns
Omar Chavana
Alexandra De Los Santos
Anthony Garcia
Kaley Garza
Tatum Glasscock
Annalicia Hernandez
Tabitha Jimenez
Faith Lopez
Emily Marmolejo
Josiah Mendez
Andres Mendoza
Miriam Mendoza
Kyan Murillo
Manuel Ramos
Johnny Rodriguez
Lydia Zavala</p> <p>2nd Grade A Honor Roll
Jack Brooks
Trace Glasscock
Ashlyn Green
Charles Gwinn
Camden Johnston
Holley Monroe
Alaina Segura
Erin Trevino</p> <p>2nd Grade A-B Honor Roll
Peyton Anderson
Jazmine Coronado
Clarissa Delafuente
Nathanael Garza
Ethan Jimenez</p> | <p>Leandra Jimenez
Thomas Longoria
Maria Luna
Richard Luna
Madison Martinez-Garcia
Christian Mendez
Marissa Obregon
Jozelynn Ortiz
Jazmin Pacheco Martinez
Natalia Padilla
Kailee Sanchez
Zoey Sparks
Andrew Suarez
Kaitlyn Vega</p> <p>3rd Grade A Honor Roll
Jody Briones
Benjamin Glass</p> <p>3rd Grade A-B Honor Roll
Averi Anderson
Serena Austin
Sabra Clifton
Andrea Cortinas
Martin Garcia
Laci Gourdon
Samuel Holcombe
Kendal Hughes
Denise Mendoza
Brandon Ramirez
Lexie Ramos
Maria Sanchez
Audrie Strange
Rickily Terry
Breck Thomas
Amanda Wilbourn</p> <p>4th Grade A Honor Roll
Emily Cisneros
Macen Davis
Azalea Garza
Kassandra Mendez
Payton Teeple</p> <p>4th Grade A-B Honor Roll
Patricio Delafuente
Jarren Garcia
Bresa Gonzales
Eric Johnston
Jose Lira
Lindsey Marquez
Leslynn Ortiz
Piper Peralez</p> | <p>Devan Perez
Jobe Rodriguez
Robert Rodriguez
Yelena Serrato
Angela Vega</p> <p>5th Grade A Honor Roll
Alesse Davis
Gabriel Delafuente
Margarita Deleon
Noah Mendez
Allison Muniz
Daniel Obregon
Javier Olvera
Allison Orr
Kylie Ricketts
Cutter Smith
Monty Stambaugh
Jacob Thomas</p> <p>5th Grade A-B Honor Roll
Julian Alaniz
Madison Barrientos
Caitlin Bishop
Angel Cervera
Alexander Cisneros
Kiarra Collins
Michael Flanagan
James Gibbens
Enchinacea Hazel
Hannah Morales
Gerardo Reyes
Avery Silva
George Torres
Jonah Trevino
Dylan Zacala</p> <p>6th Grade A Honor Roll
Donald Gibbens
William Glass
Lauren Hall
Remington Ricketts</p> <p>6th Grade A-B Honor Roll
Liliana Baeza
Kortney Campbell
Daniel Cervera
Jacob Chavarria
Stefanni Chavarria
Rachel Graham
Jeremiah Johnston
Arnoldo Martinez
Robert Nixon
Alejandro Pinon</p> |
|--|---|---|

GOOD LUCK FHS UIL REGIONAL QUALIFIERS!!!



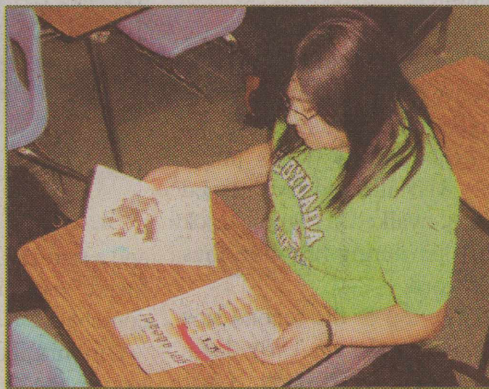
ACT vs. SAT: Finding the Best Test For You

By: Taylor Orr-Staff Writer

The decision to take the ACT or the SAT may cause students alarm, but neither test is superior to the other, it all just depends on personal or college preference. Since both tests have different formats, however one may be better suited to your strengths.

The ACT is a content based, timed test and you are allowed 2 hours and 55 minutes to complete all portions of the test, which is 215 questions. You can score in the range of 1-36 on the ACT. The score is determined after they throw out any incorrect answers, meaning the only answers that count are the ones you answer correctly! The four areas are averaged together to make your overall score. The ACT also offers an optional 30-minute writing test, which is designed to test your skills in planning and writing an essay on a time limit and highlight your writing skills.

The SAT is geared to evaluate the test takers problem-solving skills. The allotted amount of time to complete the test is more than the ACT, (3 hours and 5 minutes). Unlike the ACT, the SAT requires the test taker to answer all questions and there is a penalty for wrong answers on the multiple-choice portion of the test. An advantage to the SAT is there are only 140 questions, which is slightly shorter than the ACT. Math, Critical Reading and Writing scores each range



from a 200-800 and composite scores range from a 600-2400. Most colleges accept either or both tests. Much of the content is very similar in both tests; the test taker is required to comprehend reading and vocabulary, grammar, writing, math, and science. The SAT and ACT are offered six times per year, and students receive their test scores back relatively quickly from both tests. Students who struggle with the decision to take the ACT or SAT should take the PLAN or PSAT tests. PLAN is the pre-ACT test and PSAT is the pre-SAT test and both allow students to have a glimpse of the difficulty and test format of both tests before taking the actual test to allow them to chose the test that best fits to their strengths.

Floydada Junior High Honor Roll

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>7th Grade A Honor Roll
Macee Brotherton
Brooke Galvan
Whitney Renfro
Karley Weems</p> <p>7th Grade A-B Honor Roll
Brayden Campbell
Aylin Chavana
Jade Deochoa
Kailee Jackson
Alfonzo Mendoza
Kaylee Morren</p> | <p>8th Grade A Honor Roll
Kirby Nixon</p> <p>8th Grade A-B Honor Roll
Audreanna Almaguer
Coronado
Destiny Cabello
Malachi Celestine
Andrew Chavarria
Roxann Chavarria
Allison Cisneros
Logan Everett
Mark Grothe</p> | <p>Elizabeth Hernandez
Reagan Hughes
Angela Longoria
Angel Lorenzo
Delaney Lucke
Rita Martinez
Jared Orr
Alyson Perez
Calvin Seago
Destiny Thomas
Dakota Whalen</p> |
|---|--|---|

Floydada High School Honor Roll

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>9th Grade A-B Honor Roll
Aaron Chavarria
Joshua Chavarria
John Cortinas
Briana Gonzales
Desiree Guerra
Rebekah Hall
McKenna Johnson
Alyssia Shepley-Minner</p> <p>10th Grade A Honor Roll
Emily Prisk</p> <p>10th Grade A-B Honor Roll
Samantha Caballero
Cristal Irlas
Mattie Sanders
Hunter Schwertner</p> <p>11th Grade A Honor Roll
Christian Cabello</p> | <p>Jianna Davenport
Amelia Gonzalez</p> <p>11th Grade A-B Honor Roll
Malorie Alaniz
Carly Carthel
Jon-Paul Chavarria
Michael Cisneros
Keri DeBusk
Chelsey Garza
Emily Hall
Merritt Johnson
Ashley Lucke
Christina Muniz
Lizbeth Orozco
Crysta Powell
Homero Ramirez Garcia
Tyler Renfro
Shani Ross</p> <p>12th Grade A Honor Roll</p> | <p>Graciela Cervera
Hannah Griffen
Imelda Resendiz</p> <p>12th Grade A-B Honor Roll
Juan Deochoa
Alyssa Duran
Anthony Hernandez
Kimberly Hernandez
Alexis Holbert
Haden Lipham
Isaac Martinez
Jose Martinez
Avery Miller
Kattie Miller
Kelsea Miller
Sarah Jo Miller
Taylor Ross
Kristan Sanchez
Nikki Seymour</p> |
|--|---|---|

Upcoming Events for Floydada ISD

By: Emily Hall-Staff Writer

- | | |
|---|--|
| April 18-19: Regional Tennis at Odessa | April 30-May 1: State Tennis in Austin |
| April 19-21: Regional UIL at Odessa | May 7: STAAR Algebra 1 |
| April 20-21: JH Band Festival | May 9: STAAR Biology |
| April 21: Varsity/JV Baseball VS Friona Here, 12:00/2:30 pm | May 10: STAAR Geometry |
| April 23: Varsity Baseball VS Littlefield There, 5:00 pm | May 11: STAAR World Geography |
| April 25-28: National BPA | May 11-12: State Track |
| April 27-28: Regional Track | May 22-23: 1:30 Student Dismissal |
| | May 24: 12:00 Dismissal Graduation |

Education Can Lead to Financial Support

By Homero Ramirez-Staff Writer

The B. Davis Scholarship was established to financially aid all high school juniors and senior as well as any students registered at a college or university. Applicants for this scholarship must submit an essay (1,000 words or less) about how their education has contributed to who they are today or how it will affect

who they will become. The award winner will receive \$1,000, and the deadline for this scholarship is May 28, 2012. For more information relating to this scholarship and others, visit the websites listed below.

- <http://www.studentawardsearch.com/scholarships.htm>
- <http://www.samsungscholarship.com/>

<p>Adams Well Service</p>	<p>Quality Body Shop 983-5032</p>	<p>THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF FLOYDADA FDIC Call: 983-3717</p>	<p>Oden Chevrolet, Inc. Stephen Fyffe 806-983-3787 221 S. Main, Floydada Tx</p>	<p>Hardy's Classic Cars and More 201 E. Missouri - Floydada 806-983-3304</p>	<p>HealthSource Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 806-983-3304</p>
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Longhorn News



Important Test Dates

April 2012

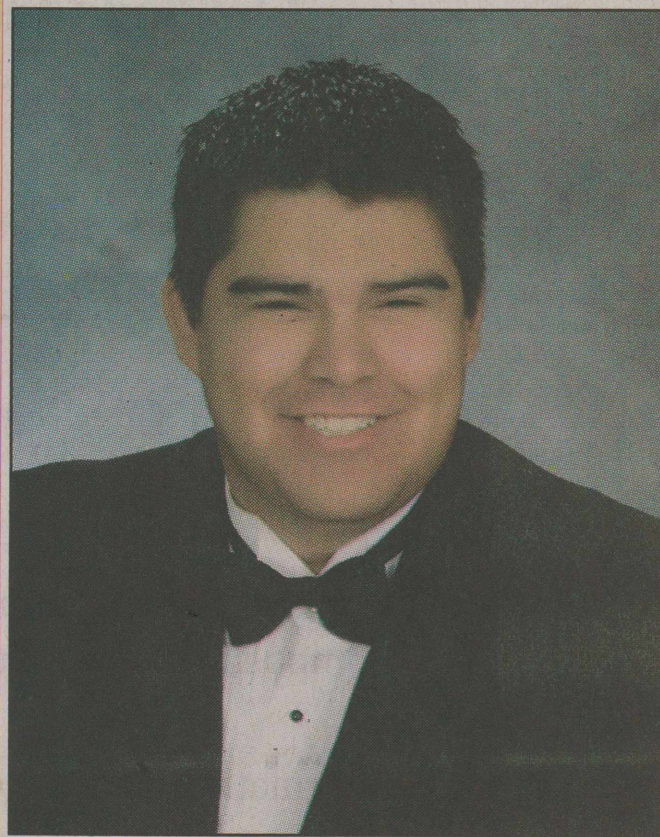
- April 24: STAAR (grades 3, 4, 6, and 7 math); TAKS grade 10 math
- April 24-27: Exit-Level retest
- April 25: STAAR grades, 3, 4, 6, 7 Reading; TAKS grade 11 math
- April 26: STAAR grades 5 and 8 science; TAKS grades 10 and 11 Science
- April 27: STAAR grade 8 social studies; TAKS 10, and 11 social studies

May 2012

(Note: EOC testing schedules vary. The following EOC schedule is for Lockney ISD only)

- May 8: EOC Algebra I & Geometry
- May 9: EOC World Geography
- May 10: EOC Biology

Student Spotlight: Andrew Raissez



By Jasmine Pena

Andrew Raissez is a senior at Lockney High School and has lived in Lockney for the majority of his life. Andrew has two siblings, Adam, and LeAnn, who also graduated from Lockney High. Andrew is looking forward to graduation this year and hopes to see himself and all of his friends be very successful in the future. He

loves hanging out with his friends when he is not in school. Some of Andrew's hobbies are playing video games, sitting outside, and talking to all of his friends who describe him as amazing, funny, smart, loving, and rubbish. Ten years from now Andrew sees himself living his life to fullest and having as much fun as he possibly can.

Tennis team advances to Regional match



Courtesy Photo

Last Thursday, the Lockney tennis team participated in their district tournament in Levelland. Jake Bramlet and Andrew Hooten placed 3rd in Varsity Boys Doubles, Mary Sammann won the consolation bracket in Varsity Girls Singles, Mauricio Davila and Eli Guerra placed 2nd in J.V. Doubles, Nic Sherman and Ashley Roberts placed 3rd in J.V. Mixed Doubles, Johnny Rose and John Salas won the consolation bracket in J.V. Boys Doubles, and Wil Prayor won the consolation bracket in J.V. Boy singles.

Mary Sammann and Landry Kidd advanced to the Regional Tennis Tournament being held in Levelland. Way to go, Mary and Landry!

Golfers participate in District Tournament

Last Thursday, the golf team participated in their district tournament in Childress. Students that participated were Kamaron Hunt, Jose Guerrero, Jonathan Sustaita, Landry Kidd, Brenna Tidwell, Sarah Carstensen, and Kelsie Stennet. Landry Kidd also qualified for the regional tournament in Lubbock.

Lockney School Lunch Menu April 23-27

Monday Breakfast-Honey Bun or Cereal, toast, juice, milk Lunch-Pigs in a Blanket or Tuna Sandwich, corn, salad, applesauce, milk	apple slices, bread, milk	Thursday Breakfast-Oatmeal or Cereal, toast, juice, milk Lunch- Chicken Patty or steak fingers, pinto beans, salad, peaches, roll, milk
Tuesday Breakfast-Breakfast Burrito or Cereal, toast, juice, milk Lunch-Steak Patty or Corn-dog, potatoes, green beans, pears, roll, milk		Friday Breakfast- Cinnamon Roll or Cereal, toast, juice, milk Lunch-Burrito or Grilled Cheese, salad, peaches, milk
Wednesday Breakfast-French Toast or Cereal, toast, juice, milk Lunch-Chicken Spaghetti or Ham and Cheese, salad,		<i>Menu subject to change without notice; Peanut butter and Jelly Sandwich-3rd choice daily</i>

LITTLE LONGHORNS!



Little Longhorns: Sara St.Dennis, Anahi Ascenco, Caesar Cienfuegos, Evelyn Perez, Madai Chavira, Jennifer Sanchez, Mireya Ascencio, Kaleb Pritchard, Rico Salas, Diego Castro, Lindsey van Velthoven, Tucker Schlueter, Quinten Johnson.

Teacher Spotlight: Josh Strickland



By Josh Andrade

Coach Strickland grew up in Fritch, Texas, where he graduated from Sanford-Fritch High School. He has worked in education for the past five years teaching World Geography and also coaching. His coaching duties included being an assistant football coach, head boys basketball coach, and an assistant baseball coach at Sanford-Fritch. This is his first year at Lockney High School where he teaches World Geography and is also the head boys' basketball

coach. The thing he loves most about his job is the staff he works with and the students. Some of his most memorable moments of his career was beating Kress in basketball this year for the 1st win of the season and also beating Crosbyton at home in district play this year. Outside of school he enjoys spending time with his wife, daughter, friends, and playing or watching sports. Coach Strickland's favorite thing about Lockney is the community... he says they are supportive, positive, and caring.

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Group Manager

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April 27, 2012
 Floydada Public Library
 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

\$10 Registration Fee
Please RSVP by April 25th

3 CEU's will be provided
 2 General, 1 IPM

Join us to learn about fertilization, water conservation & irrigation, composting, lawn pests and plant selection.

For more information please contact the Floyd County AgriLife Extension Office: (806) 983-4912

Rabies Report

James L. Alexander, DVM, MPVM, DACVPM
Regional Zoonosis Control Veterinarian

This case is the 6th case for HSR1 this year and the second case for Randall Co. The first case in Randall was reported on 3/3/12 about 1.7 miles to the SW of the current case. It is a rural area with numerous small acreage residences, horse properties, etc.

Horses and rabid skunks are not a good mix. People who have horses that are used frequently, especially by children, or that are worth more than a rabies vaccination costs, or would cost more to dispose of than the cost of a rabies vaccination, should be advised to vaccinate the horses. In addition, dogs and cats in the area need to be vaccinated because it is the law and it is good common sense in order to protect the family members who reside at the same address.

As always, I recommend that show animals also be

vaccinated due to the amount of human contact they have.

Based on the statistics below, we are definitely enjoying a much slower pace of reporting compared to last year. Perhaps the drought did impact the skunk population to our benefit. But people do not need to become complacent since it is obvious rabid skunks are still in the environment.

2012
 Lamb Co. 1 horse
 Parmer Co. 2 skunks
 Potter CO. 1 cat
 Randall Co. 2skunks
Total 4 skunks, 1 cat and 1 horse in 4 counties

4/15/2011 24 skunks, 1 cow in 12 counties
 Texas Department of State Health Services
 WTAMU Box 60968
 300 Victory Drive
 Canyon, TX 79016
 james.alexander@dshs.state.tx.us
 Phone: 806-655-7151
 Fax: 806-655-7159
 Visit our website at <http://www.texaszoonosis.org>

Don't Barrel Through Work Zones! Drive Smart to Arrive Alive

Observing National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 23-27

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) manages more than 1,000 highway projects at any given time on Texas roads. To remember victims and raise safety awareness for workers and motorists, TxDOT will join the Federal Highway Administration and other transportation partners April 23-27 to observe National Work Zone Awareness Week.

Work zones can be hazardous for motorists and highway crews working to improve Texas' highways. Because of increased safety measures and public outreach, TxDOT has seen a decline in work zone fatalities for two consecutive years.

In 2010, 100 people were killed in highway construction and maintenance zones in Texas, down from 108 the previous year. While there has been a decline in work zone fatalities and crashes, there is still work to do. Since 1938, there have been 270 TxDOT employees killed, with 200 of those deaths occurring in work zones.

In 2010, the Lubbock District had three work zone fatalities and 412 crashes. Eighty-five percent of those killed in work zones are drivers or their passengers. Speeding and inattention are the most common causes cited. Rear-end collisions account for one in three crashes.

Safety is TxDOT's first priority, no matter what job—behind the desk or on the highway.

- Slow down and follow posted speed limits. Traffic fines are double in work zones.
- Pay attention. Workers are often close to traffic.
- Be patient. Delays can be frustrating, but it only takes a few minutes to slow down in a work zone.

Drive safe to be safe.

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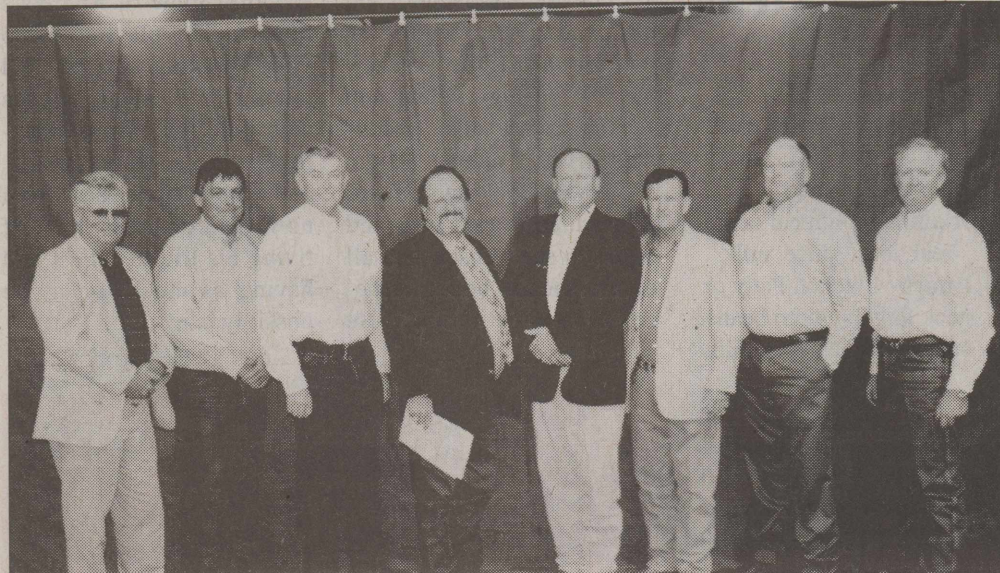


Photo by Homer Marquez

On April 12, the Floydada Cooperative Gin held their 40th Annual Membership meeting at the Unity Center. During the meeting COOP members reelected Mark Beedy and Randy Bertrand to the board. Beedy has served on the board for the past six years, while Bertrand has served for the past three. After discussing the financial stability of the gin, the board welcomed several member of the cotton community to speak including National Cotton Council representative, Eddie Smith and Tony Horton with the Pico Oil Mill, who congratulated the gin and producers for having a great year during a tough time. Gin Manager, Aaron Hendricks also thanked everyone that kept the gin running; "I'm proud of our gin," Hendricks commented, "they've turned it into a show place." Pictured above

are board members, Randy Bertrand, Rob Everett, Mark Sanders, Kerry Pratt, Aaron Hendricks, Victor Smith, and Mark Beedy.

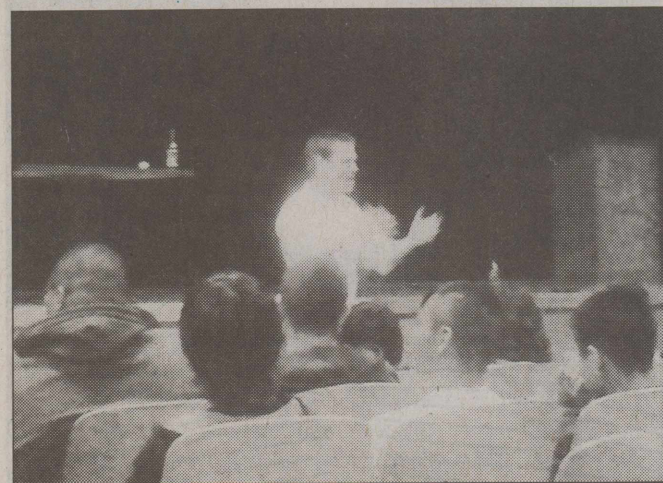


Photo by Homer Marquez

(Left) This past Monday, Texas House of Representative candidate, Trent McKnight visited with Floydada High School students to talk about the importance of being a leader. Using fun and interactive examples, McKnight told students that in order to be leader they first know themselves and their strengths and that they needed not to be distracted by the fear of failure or negative pressure. He also spoke about having goals and making strategic plans to achieve them. Currently McKnight is running for the District 68 Representative seat which since late February Floyd County has been a part of.

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Floydada Police Report

March 20-Police were called to 300 block of West Crockett to assist the Juvenile Probation Officer with the attempt to contain a 15 year old runaway; the minor was charged with resisting arrest.

March 22-Police were called out to 419 West Jackson Street in reference to a burglary, Esmeralda Ybarra reported the theft of a TV/ DVD player with movies.

March 26- Police were called to 804 Cedar Street where they meet with Aaron Hendrix. He reported that someone had damage the

garage door and storage area of the shop located at the Floydada Coop Gin.

April 2-, Police received several 911 calls to 209 East Maravina street; the caller was identified as Angelia Wildly. After making several of these 911 calls that were found to be fraudulent, officers filed an abuse of 911 systems charge on Wildly.

April 11; Marline Desmarias was working at the Family Dollar when her cell phone was stolen

In this time period, the Floydada Police Department received 328 calls for service.



The Paperboy

By CHRIS BLACKBURN

Sometimes you get to enjoy something special. Something that catches you off guard in a good way.

I serve on the Childress Chamber of Commerce Board and had the privilege Monday to serve lunch to a couple of hundred visiting FFA and 4-H students from across the state of Texas.

To say I was impressed with the behavior of these individuals would be an understatement. They were courteous, professional, confident ... everything positive you can imagine was encompassed by these individuals.

Don't get me wrong. I see plenty of good kids in every town I'm familiar with. I guess the difference is I usually don't see that many strong personalities concentrated in such a small area.

I suppose I'm old-fashioned, but I firmly believe our society is stronger when our youth are continuously surrounded by adults which place expectations upon them.

I have yet to meet a small child which did not respond positively to love, encouragement and discipline.

In our society, we have a multitude of single moms. I have three in my own family and I see the struggles of raising children under these circumstances first hand. Since this is part of our society, it is imperative that the men in our communities take the lead and become involved with our youth.

When you think about it, we have no excuse for our children to achieve any less than what their God-given abilities allow them to. I encourage every single hard-working man out there to consider getting involved and staying involved with our youth. It is impossible to realize the difference we can make when children understand they have not only our support, but our love.

My hat is off to the FFA and 4-H organizations for helping students reach a level of maturity that gives them a leg up when dealing with adults and other matters.

It us up to us as fathers and grandfathers to see that all children are held to such standards and are given the tools and support to get there. The longer we wait, the more children we lose...

If you text and drive, or conduct other business on your mobile phones, you need to stop.

We've all done it. Sometimes it's hard not to. But I promise it is far better to make someone wait on a text or to call them than it is to kill someone.

Distracted driving is a big deal and we cannot get this bad habit corrected soon enough.

What is distracted driving? All distractions endanger driver, passenger, and bystander safety. These types of distractions include:

- Texting

- Using a cell phone or smartphone
- Eating and drinking
- Talking to passengers
- Grooming
- Reading, including maps
- Using a navigation system
- Watching a video
- Adjusting a radio, CD player, or MP3 player

However, text messaging requires visual, manual, and cognitive attention from the driver, it is by far the most alarming distraction.

In 2009, 5,474 people were killed in crashes involving driver distraction, and an estimated 448,000 were injured.

16% of fatal crashes in 2009 involved reports of distracted driving.

20% of injury crashes in 2009 involved reports of distracted driving.

In the month of June 2011, more than 196 billion text messages were sent or received in the US, up nearly 50% from June 2009.

Teen drivers are more likely than other age groups to be involved in a fatal crash where distraction is reported. In 2009, 16% of teen drivers involved in a fatal crash were reported to have been distracted.

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Christopher Blackburn is the president of Blackburn Media Group, owner of this publication.

Cotton Market Weekly

April 12, 2012

USDA continued to fine-tune old crop production, supply and exports in its April 10 World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, including raising its export estimate for U.S. cotton.

USDA reduced projected 2011-12 U.S. cotton production by 119,000 bales based on ginning reports while raising exports by 400,000 bales, reflecting very strong shipments in recent weeks. Ending stocks now are forecast 500,000 bales lower than last month, at 3.4 million bales, bringing the ending stocks-to-use ratio to 23 percent. However, this week's real news was contained in the global cotton figures.

"We had another big historical revision to consider and this time to India's figures, where USDA conjured up 3.25 million bales in the 'loss' category going back to the 2009-10 crop year in order to balance their models," an analyst said. "As a result, global stocks rose while U.S. stocks declined."

Forecast world cotton ending stocks were raised sharply this month to a record 66.1 million bales due partly to the adjustments for India. In addition, China's accumulation of cotton in the national reserve is constraining free supplies, thereby boosting its imports. China's forecast ending stocks now account for 35 percent of world stocks. World production

for 2011-12 was reduced about 500,000 bales while world consumption was reduced 1 million bales.

India stayed in the news this week as the nation's Cotton Association reported planting in India, the world's second-largest producer, will decline for the first time in four years as a ban on exports may spur farmers to switch to other crops.

Indian farmers planted a record 30.12 million acres in 2011-12 and harvested 34.5 million bales, according to the country's Cotton Advisory Board. The Indian government's recent forecast cuts the crop even more than USDA's estimates this week. India's new cotton season begins this month, and the Board expects acreage may fall by about 15 percent.

"A smaller Indian harvest may potentially reduce exports next year and stem the 53 percent plunge in futures in New York in the past year," a trader said. "The South Asian country won't allow fresh exports this season as it builds reserves for the domestic textile industry," he concluded.

Meanwhile the crop was making progress in the United States. Government reports indicated, as of April 8, nine percent of the U.S. crop had been planted. The figure was up from seven percent the previous week and the five-

year average of six percent. Arizona is 25 percent planted, Texas is 15 percent, Georgia is six percent planted, Mississippi and Louisiana are both at five percent, and Alabama is four percent complete. North Carolina and Arkansas lagged behind with only one percent of their projected cotton crop in the ground.

During the week ended April 5, U.S. export shipments, at 212,300 bales, fell well short of the recent brisk pace but were close to the weekly average required to achieve USDA's revised forecast for 2011-12. China, Turkey, and Taiwan were the top destinations. Net upland sales reductions of 53,600 bales resulted as sales to Thailand, Taiwan, and Turkey were more than offset by cancellations by China, Indonesia, and Guatemala. Net sales for delivery in 2012-13 totaled 13,800 bales.

Closer to home, sales on the spot cotton market were virtually unchanged as Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and New Mexico producers sold 2,053 bales online in the holiday-shortened trading week ended April 12 compared to 2,230 bales the previous week. Average prices received ranged from 71 to 81 cents per pound compared to the previous week's 78 to 79 cents per pound.

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Spring Gutter Cleaning Tips From A Pro

ROCKLIN, California: It's that time of year when a second gutter cleaning is almost always needed, especially with the new shedding of leaf debris from newly spring budding branches. Recent winter storms can also blow leaves, pine needles and roofing debris into your gutter causing potential rainwater overflow, which in turn can cause landscape erosion and water damage to your home.

According to Robert Lenney, gutter cleaning expert whose company (www.Tape-OnGutterguard.com) has cleaned out more than six million feet of gutters since 1996.

"Cleaning out your gutters is a dangerous

task, and it's sad that deaths occur every year because of it," says Lenney.

There are a variety of gutter cleaning tips that can bring sanity into this tedious task. Some of the basics are listed below:

Ladder Safety: Always let someone know you will be using a ladder to work on your roof or gutters. Use a safe and sturdy ladder, preferably with a small shelf strong enough to hold a five-gallon bucket to collect gutter debris. Make sure to secure the bucket with a lanyard. I recommend a four-legged

TIPS

continued on page 12

AWI-7
Prescribed by Secretary of State
Sections 4.004, 85.010, 85.004, 85.007, Texas Election Code
92009

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION (AVISO DE ELECCION GENERAL)

To the registered voters of the County of Floydada, Texas:

(A los votantes registrados del Condado de Floydada, Texas)

Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., May 12, 2012, for voting in a general election to elect 2 Councilmembers At Large; 1 Councilmember for District 1; 1 Councilmember for District 4

(Notifiquese por la presente, que las casillas electorales citadas abajo se abrirán desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 7:00 p.m. el 12 de mayo 2012 para votar en la Elección General para elegir 2 Miembros de Concilio, En Gene 1 Miembro del Concilio, Distrito 1; 1 Miembro del Concilio, Distrito 4

On Election Day, voters must vote in their precinct where registered to vote. (El Día de Elección, los votantes deberán votar en su precinto donde están inscritos para votar.)

Location of Election Day Polling Places Include Name of Building and Address (Ubicación de las casillas electorales el Día de Elección (Incluir Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)	Precinct Number(s) (Número de precinto)
Massie Activity Center 513 W Georgia St Floydada TX 79235	

For early voting, a voter may vote at any of the locations listed below:
(Para Votación Adelantada, los votantes podrán votar en cualquiera de las ubicaciones nombradas abajo.)

Locations for Early Voting Polling Places Include Name of Building and Address (Ubicación de las casillas electorales de votación adelantada) (Incluir Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)	Days and Hours of Operation Días y Horas Hábiles
City Hall 114 W Virginia St Floydada TX 79235	April 30 7am-6pm May 1 7am - 7pm May 2-3 7am-6pm May 4 7am - 5pm May 7 7am-7pm May 8 7am - 7pm

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to: April 27, 2012
(Las solicitudes para boletas de votación adelantada por correo deberán enviarse a:)

Selia Arellano
(Name of Early Voting Clerk)
(Nombre del Secretario de la Votación Adelantada)
114 W Virginia St.
(Address) (Dirección)
Floydada, TX 79235
(City) (Ciudad) (Zip Code) (Código Postal)

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on: May 4, 2012
(Las solicitudes para boletas de votación adelantada por correo deberán recibirse para el fin de las horas de negocio el: 4 de mayo, 2012.)

Issued this the 17 day of January, 20 12
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LEVELLAND — South Plains College will offer several photography classes for photo enthusiasts.

The **Nighttime Digital Photography for SLR shooters only**. This class will be taught during late evening into the night. Students must have a tripod and shutter release for their cameras. The goal is to paint with light, using long shutter speed to create images and ambient light shooting in super low light. Indoors and outdoors class. The cost is \$50 and the class is set for 3 to 10 p.m. on Saturday (April 21) in Levelland and April 28 from 3 to 10 p.m. in Plainview.

The **Studio Digital Photography** is for people who have taken advanced digital photography.

Students will receive instruction in the set up and use of studio lighting including use of strobes and hot lights. They will learn the proper set up and use of added light using strobes, high key and low-key light and shooting with hair and backlight. Participants will shoot portrait as well as product shots and lighting. The cost is \$50 and the class is set for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 5 in Levelland.

The Special Problems in Digital Photography Weekend getaway special is set for Saturday and Sunday (April 20-21) in the Garza Hotel in Post. The cost is \$150 based on double occupancy of rooms with one or two photographers. It also includes class, room and breakfast. Registration and a reception will be at 5:30 p.m. This class is going to be an overnight get away for friends and couples. Class will be hosted at the Garza Hotel Bed and Breakfast. Students will be taught how to use of studio lighting and natural light, shooting period clothed models that go with the setting. Participants must have taken the advanced digital class to be accepted into this class or obtain instructor approval. The class must be paid in advance with a no refund policy. Space is limited and admission will be based on first come, first registered and paid basis. This will be an indoor and outdoor class.

The instructor will be Wes Underwood, photographer for South Plains College.

Contact Kasey Reyes at (806) 716-2341 regarding registration for these classes.

tive nuisance. It was a milk pen full of calves. He kept them up while the mother cows were put outside overnight.

There was a difference in the points of view about those calves. It evidently was Mr. Snodgrass' idea that the calves had as well be left along. He had a boy or two at home and there were some neighbor boys. To them it seemed logical the calves had as well be ridden. It was good fun and good practice for a boy who aspired to be a cowboy, and couldn't possibly hurt the calves—much.

Just Couldn't Resist So the "attractive nuisance" finally proved too much one night. It was thought that if "they" waited awhile until everything got settled down at the Snodgrass house the calves could be ridden awhile without disturbing anybody. It helped that a part of the barns and sheds were on the house-side of the cow lot and it was quite a distance away.

I think there were six boys who joined in the fun. I could name two from one family and two from another. The fifth I can't remember, but the sixth was a long, lanky, loose-built sort of boy. Somehow or other he didn't get to ride as much as much as the rest of the boys. He complained a bit. So "they" fixed him up for a ride.

The calf just happened to be the snakiest in the pen. Old lanky boy rode him about half way around the lot before he got "th'owed". His head went through a crack in the fence and there he hung in the dark. His screeches brought all hands fast. It wasn't how bad he was hurt, it was how loud.

When "they" got him unwound from the fence, it was found he wasn't much worse for the experience—he had a crick in his neck and had to look at things somewhat sidewise for a

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few days. And just to show how things work out for good, one of the six at that calfriding that night turned out to be one of the best bronc busters in the country when he was grown. I am sure the experience he got riding Mr. Snodgrass' calves that night was a big help.

From the Floyd County Hesperian March 12, 1970

I REMEMBER, I REMEMBER

Trouble Strikes Quick.. By Homer Steen

When Old Man Trouble selects a victim things often happen might fast. Like the time that Charlie Jones fell from the room of the Gus Owens house and hit the ground with such force that his foot was broken up and the weight of his body drove the shin bone into the earth.

This was in the spring of 1908 just after I had gone to Lockney in February to be editor of the Lockney Beacon. I was also to be publisher of the newspaper, to carry in the wood and water and to sweep out as it seemed necessary.

Mr. Jones was a young unmarried man, a tinner. He was putting a ridge roll on the Owens house at the time he had the accident that had considerable to do with his life. He must have stumbled because he was falling head first. It was conjectured he would have hit on his head and broken his neck, but his body struck some person standing there a glancing blow. This turned the course of his fall so that his feet struck first.

(This person Charlie fell against can't be identified at this late date. It was a woman, possibly Mrs. Gus Owens, possibly her sister-in-law Mrs. J. S. W. Owens, who lived at the Owens Hotel about one

block distant.)

About that House

I will tell the facts of the accident, perhaps, in a moment, but after the fashion of old men I must explain that the house the young tinner fell off of stood on one of lots facing west in the 300 block of South Wall where the Piggly Wiggly market is now located. The house later became the property of Mrs. J. S. W. Owens who in turn gave it to her daughter Eula, when she and Sam Thurmon were married.

Later the house was moved to a location in the 300 block of West California Street and—but I guess that is far enough to go with the house, though it did move at least one more time, probably in 1937.

They picked Charlie up and Dr. R. A. Childers was called. The physician cleaned up the damaged foot and leg bones. His judgment told him, so I'm told, that the damaged part should be amputated without delay. But Charles objected strongly. He just wanted that leg to get well and be whole again. He couldn't adjust that quickly to being a cripple. He also thought of that lovely girl he wanted to marry. He couldn't offer her a "peg-legged man" for a husband he thought.

At that time most of the unattached young men in town had their meals at the Owens Hotel, Charles among the others. He had a room, I think, with Rev. and Mrs. G. I. Britain in the Baptist Parsonage about a block from the scene of the accident. The Britains had moved from Matador some months before. Rev. Britain was the first full-time resident pastor of the Baptist congregation here.

I have used up so much space with the details that I have written all I ought to already. About all I have not told, it seems, is the direction the wind is blowing. So, instead of telling the rest of the story now I will stop and let this be the background for the yarn which I will spin next week.

FLOYDADA SCHOOL MENU April 23 – April 27

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

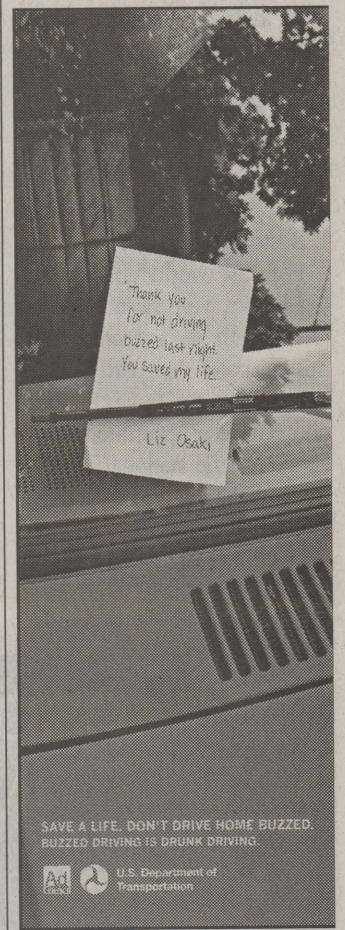
Lunch – Bean and beef burrito, Spanish rice, seasoned corn, sparkly apples, milk Thursday

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



You are **TWENTY THREE TIMES** more likely to crash when you text while driving. Is sending an **LOL** text message really worth killing someone? Park the phone when you drive.

TALKTEXTCRASH

Save a Life
Texas Department of Transportation

Appraisal Notices for Tax Year 2012 Are On Their Way to Property Owners

If your property value increased in the last year, you will soon receive an appraisal notice from the Floyd County Appraisal District. Your city, county, school district and other local taxing units will use the appraisal district's value to set your 2012 property taxes.

Under state law, county appraisal districts are required to notify property owners about changes in their property's value. The notice contains important information about the property's location, its ownership and property tax exemptions that have been applied to the property. It must also include an estimate of 2012 taxes by local taxing units.

Property owners who disagree with the appraised value of their property, the exemptions or any other action by the appraisal district have the right to appeal to the Floyd County Appraisal Review Board (ARB). The ARB is an independent panel of citizens responsible for hearing and settling property owner protests. The notice of appraised value includes instructions on how and when to file a protest, a protest form and the Comptroller's Property Taxpayer Remedies. The deadline for filing a protest with the ARB is May 31, 2012, or 30 days after the appraisal district mailed you a notice of appraised value, whichever is later.

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs' publication, Property Taxpayer Remedies, explains in detail how to protest your property appraisal, what issues the ARB can consider and what to expect during a protest hearing. The publication also discusses the option of taking your case to court or entering into binding arbitration if you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your ARB hearing.

Property Tax Remedies is available at the Floyd County Appraisal District at 104 E. California Street, Floydada, Texas 79235; Phone 806-983-5256. The publication is also available on the Comptroller's website at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/ or by calling the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division at 1-800-252-9121 and press "2" to access the menu and then press "1" to contact the Information Services Team.

Comptroller's Office Encourages Homeowners to Take Advantage of Homestead Exemptions

Homeowners looking to reduce their property tax bills in 2012 may find some relief by filing a homestead exemption. Homestead exemptions are offered by counties, cities, school districts and other local taxing units:

A homestead is generally the house and land used as the owner's principal residence on January 1 of the tax year. Homestead exemptions reduce the appraised value of your home and, as a result, lower your property taxes. To apply for an exemption on your residence homestead, contact the (NAME) County Appraisal District.

Available homestead exemptions include:

- School taxes: All homeowners may receive a \$15,000 homestead exemption for school taxes.

- County taxes: If a county collects a special tax for farm-to-market roads or flood control, a homeowner may receive a \$3,000 homestead exemption for this tax.

- Age and disability exemptions: Individuals 65 or older or disabled as defined by law may qualify for a \$10,000 homestead exemption for school taxes, in addition to the \$15,000 exemption available to all homeowners. Also, any taxing unit may offer a local optional exemption of at least \$3,000 for taxpayers age 65 or older and/or disabled. Older or disabled homeowners do not need to own their homes on Jan. 1 to qualify for these special homestead exemptions. They qualify as soon as they turn 65 or become disabled.

- Taxing units may offer a local option exemption based on a percentage of a home's appraised value. Any taxing unit can exempt up to 20 percent of the value of each qualified homestead. No matter what percentage of value the taxing unit adopts, the dollar value of the exemption must be at least \$5,000.

- Partial disabled veteran exemptions: The law provides partial exemptions for any property owned by veterans who are disabled, spouses and survivors of deceased disabled veterans and spouses and survivors of military personnel who died on active duty. The amount of exemption is determined according to the percentage of service-connected disability.

Property Taxes Relief is Available to Elderly or Disabled Homeowners

Texans who are 65 or older or who are disabled as defined by law may postpone paying current and delinquent property taxes on their homes by signing a tax deferral affidavit at the Floyd County Appraisal District office.

Once the affidavit is on file, taxes are deferred, but not cancelled, as long as the owner continues to own and live in the home. Taxes accumulate with 8 percent interest per year. The law extends the tax deferral to the surviving spouse of the person who deferred taxes on the homestead if the surviving spouse was at least 55 years old when the deceased spouse died.

Filing a tax deferral affidavit keeps homeowners from losing their homestead because of delinquent property taxes. Filing a tax deferral affidavit will also halt a pending sale to foreclose on the homestead's tax lien. In addition, no taxing unit can start or continue a lawsuit to collect delinquent taxes once an affidavit is filed.

No penalties will be assessed on delinquent taxes during the deferral period; however, a tax deferral does not cancel penalties that were already due.

All deferred taxes and interest become due when the homeowner or surviving spouse no longer owns and lives in the home. If the tax debt remains unpaid at that time, penalties may be imposed and taxing units may take legal action to collect the past due amount.

For further details about property tax deferral, contact Floyd County Appraisal District at 104 E. California Street, Floydada, TX. 79235; Phone: 806-983-5256. Further information is also available on the Comptroller's website, www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/ or by calling the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division at 1-800-252-9121 and press "2" to access the menu, then press "1" to contact the Information Services Team.

BILL BROWN
continued from page 1

during the offensive because there was a storage of glider pilots.

Glanders were often used during dangerous operations because their lack of an engine kept them quiet. Gliders were utilized during WWII when missions were too risky to land motorized aircrafts safely or when areas were too tight for paratroopers to land safely.

Glanders, like Brown's, were going to be used to carry troops and jeeps across the Rhine River. Once they made it across, the troops would storm deeper into Germany.

Brown was flown to England where he would pick up his glider. Once he boarded the glider, a tote plane carried him back to Orleans, France for the mission. Being that this was the first time Brown had piloted a glider; his way back to Orleans would be a crash course in flying the stealth aircraft.

When he returned to Orleans, another pilot suggested that they fill up a tote sack with dirt and place it under their seat while they were flying over the river. He suggested that this could help protect them as ground soldiers shooting at the gliders.

"The ground soldiers were shooting right through the gliders," explained Brown, "when you got across the river it sounded like popcorn with that many shells coming up."

Eventually, Allied Forces stormed the river, and Montgomery unleashed Operation Varsity.

There were over 1,300 gliders and tote planes alone during the massive strike.

"As far as you can see, there was planes in front of us; and as far back as you could see from England and to Orleans," Brown ex-

plained. "The air must have been crowded with them," added Jodie.

"The Germans were fighting dearly to keep the Rhine, and keep us from crossing it" commented Brown, as described the vigorous fighting.

Thankfully, Brown, his co-pilot, and the six other troops in the glider were able to land safely on the other side of the river. Once they hit the ground, everyone in the aircraft jumped out and raced to a nearby fox hole.

Luckily, their glider landed right in front of a two story brick house that shielded them from a German machine gun nest on the side.

Within 30 minutes, ally soldiers were able to take out the machine gun nest. Once it was cleared, soldiers that were carried by the gliders advanced further into Germany. Brown and his co-pilot were ordered to make their way back to the river so they could pilot another glider if they needed too.

As they walked back, Brown caught a glimpse of the aftermath of the invasion as they walked through battle torn towns.

As they walked further away from the frontlines, gun shots became scarce; however it didn't mean they were out of danger. Just before reaching the river, a German shell came close to hitting them forcing them to dig fox holes and camp out for the night. Throughout the night, both armies exchanged fire as shells flew right over Brown's foxhole.

The next morning Brown and other pilots were assigned to walk captured Nazi prisoners back to boats where they would be taken to the other side of the river.

That day, Allied Forces took thousands of captured Nazi prisoners.

Once Brown reached the other side, he was told that the mission had been a success and that forces were now deep in Germany. Not needing for Brown to pilot another glider, the Army re-assigned him to the job he was doing before.

Brown received an Air Medal for his duty in taking the Rhine River.

Brown continued transporting troops and supplies until the end of the war.

"When the Japanese surrendered, I was still in France...we were thrilled," commented Brown.

After the war was declared, over, Brown would fly back to the states and was discharged in Minneapolis.

After the military, Brown attended UCLA to finish engineering school. He then returned to Floydada to farm. Brown would eventually marry Jodie, who was a school teacher at the time. The couple have six children; Jo-Christy, William, Cary, Thiess, Tracy, and Rande Lu. The Browns would also open up the Hallmark Grocery store in the late 60's.

In 1977, Bill found his calling when he got a job with the Department of Agriculture. In his new position, Bill's job was to fly over 25 counties and take pictures of farm land for land measurements. Brown would fly the plane as a photographer took pictures from the belly of the plane.

After he retired, Brown and his wife Jodie spent 25 years traveling the country selling Jodie's beautiful handmade necklaces at Arts and Crafts Shows.

MOBILE PANTRY
continued from page 1

about 10 months ago when Angel Food Ministries closed down. The old program, also designed to help families make through the end of the month, gave people a chance to buy a big box of food for only \$35. These items could also be paid for with food stamps.

"People needed it, people used it," added Williams, "when [Angel Food] quit, we had quit."

The program was put on hold up until about two week ago when South Plains Food Bank representative, Trina Jackson visited a Lockney Lions Club meeting and introduced the program to the group.

"God just throws stuff in your lap sometimes," commented Williams who was at the Lions Club meeting.

The program has been a huge success in a number of communities around the area; including in Floydada, who Williams says distributes 115 units in around 20 minutes.

Williams and the Methodist Church are excited to get the ball rolling on the mobile pantry and are optimistic that other churches, organizations, and individuals will soon help out with the program.

"For \$350 a month, someone could help out 50 households," added Williams.

People can automatically qualify for the program if they already receive government assistance like TANF, Medicare, Food Stamps, and Social Security. An income scale could also be used to determine if whether a household qualifies for the program.

"Say a senior citizen, who on the 25th of the month is thinking, 'do I buy diabetes medicine or food'; well, this program will help patch them over till the first of the month

or whenever their check comes," explained Williams.

This Thursday, the Lockney Methodist Church will be having an open screening for those wanting to take advantage of this beneficial program. After that, anyone can call the Methodist Church or Williams at 652-3321 to set up a screening time.

LADY WINDS...

continued from page 5

walked 12 and surrendered 15 hits.

Home runs for the Abernathy lady lopes came when Amber Flores homered in the first and fourth innings and Brooke Daily homered in the seventh inning.

Flores, Daily, Grisham and Anna Younger helped lead Abernathy lady lopes. They combined for 12 hits and 14 RBIs.

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PLAYOFF SPOT...

continued from page 5

out 12 of the 30 batters he faced while giving up 7 hits over seven innings. He walked 6 hitters and hit one but did a great job of finding ways out of jams all day long. The defense did their job by corraling 8 fly balls in the wind and turned the one ground ball on the day into an out. On the other side of the ball, Tyler Renfro and Xavier Cervera lead all hitters with 3 hits, an RBI, and a run scored by each. Floydada collected 11 hits on the day while producing 5 RBI's.

With the win, Floydada moved to 14-5 overall and an 8-2 district record. The W secured the Winds a playoff appearance in the state tourney for the 2012 season and a win in one of their last two games, Floydada will secure the number 2 seed in district.

The Whirlwinds will play next on Saturday, April 21st at home against Friona at noon before going on the road for their last district game in Littlefield with game time set at 6:00.

Productivity Appraisal Reduces Property Taxes on Farms and Ranches

Texas farmers and ranchers can be granted property tax relief on their land. They may apply to the Floyd County Appraisal District for agricultural productivity appraisal and for a lower appraisal of their land based on how much they produce, versus what their land would sell for in the open market.

The Texas Constitution authorizes two types of agricultural productivity appraisals, 1-d-1 and 1-d, named after the section in which they were authorized. For 1-d-1 appraisal, property owners must use the land for agriculture or timber but the lands use must meet the degree of intensity generally accepted in the area. Owners must also show that the land is being used for at least five of the preceding seven years. 1-d-1 appraisal does not restrict ownership to individuals and does not require agriculture to be the owner's primary business. Most landowners apply for the 1-d-1 appraisal.

Under 1-d appraisal, the land needs to be in use for at least three years and the owner must be an individual versus corporations, partnerships, agency or organization. The land must also be the owner's primary source of income.

Penalties in the form of rollback tax, or the difference between the taxes paid under productivity appraisal and the taxes that would have been paid if the land had been put on the tax roll at market value, will be imposed if qualified land is taken out of agriculture or timber production.

A rollback tax occurs when a landowner switches the land's use to non-agricultural. These rollback taxes under 1-d-1 are based on the five tax years preceding the year of change. Under 1-d-1 appraisal, the rollback extends back for three years.

Texas law also allows farmers and ranchers to use land for wildlife management and still receive the special appraisal, but the land must be qualified for agriculture use in the preceding year. Land under wildlife management must also meet acreage size requirements and special use qualifications.

The deadline to apply for productivity appraisal is April 30. If the last day for the performance of an act is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal state or national holiday, the act is timely if performed on the next regular business day. Owners of land qualified as 1-d must file a new application every year. Owners of land qualified as 1-d-1 need not file again in later years unless the chief appraiser requests a new application.

For more information about productivity appraisal and application forms, contact the Floyd County Appraisal District at 104 E. California Street, Floydada, Texas 79235; Phone: 806-983-5256. Information is also available on the state Comptroller's website www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/ or by calling the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division at (800) 252-9121 and press "2" to access the menu and then press "1" to contact the Information Services Team.

Property Owner Protest Hearings Are Set for July 20, 2012

Property owners who disagree with the Floyd County Appraisal District's appraisal of their property for local taxes or for any other action that adversely affects them may protest their property value to the appraisal district's Appraisal Review Board (ARB). The ARB will begin hearing taxpayer protests on July 20, 2012.

After the ARB completes its hearings and approves final property tax appraisals, local governments will use these appraisals to set 2012 property tax rates.

The ARB is a group of citizens who live in the appraisal district and are appointed by the appraisal district's board of directors, except in Harris and Fort Bend Counties where a local administrative judge makes the appointments. Property owners may protest any of the following issues to the ARB:

- the appraised or market value of the property;
- unequal appraisal of the taxpayer's property compared to similar property in the district;
- inclusion of the property on the appraisal records;
- denial of a partial exemption, such as a homestead exemption;
- denial of special appraisals, such as agricultural or timber productivity appraisal;
- determination that agricultural or timber land has had a change of use and is subject to a rollback tax;
- identification of the taxing unit or units in which the property is located;
- determination that the taxpayer is the owner of the property; or
- any other action of the appraisal office that adversely affects the owner.

A property owner must file a written notice of protest before June 1, 2012 or within 30 days after the appraisal district mails the taxpayer a notice of appraised value, whichever is later. The ARB schedules a hearing and sends the protesting property owner written notice of the date, time and place of the hearing. The law contains specific timelines and procedures for both the owner and the ARB throughout the appraisal protest process. These are detailed in the state Comptroller's publication, Property Taxpayer Remedies. Copies are available from the Floyd County Appraisal District, 104 E. California Street, Floydada, TX. 79235; Phone: 806-983-5256.

Disabled Veterans May Qualify to Have Some of Their Property Taxes Waived

Veterans with a service-connected disability are encouraged to file an exemption form to have their 2012 property taxes lowered. Some veterans may even qualify for a 100 percent exemption of their taxes under the law.

The law provides partial exemptions for any property owned by veterans who are disabled, spouses and survivors of deceased disabled veterans and spouses and survivors of military personnel who died on active duty. The amount of exemption is determined according to percentage of service-connected disability. A veteran's percentage of service-connected disability determines the amount of the exemption — from a \$5,000 to a \$12,000 deduction from the veteran's property value.

Any eligible person who has not received this exemption should apply before May 1, 2012. An applicant may claim the exemption on only one piece of property, such as a home or any other property the applicant owned on Jan. 1, 2012. The applicant must also be a Texas resident to qualify.

A disabled veteran who receives 100 percent disability compensation due to a service connected disability and a rating of 100 percent disabled or of individual unemployability from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its successor is entitled to an exemption from taxation of the appraised value of the veteran's residence homestead. Beginning this year, this benefit has been extended to the surviving spouse upon the veteran's death with certain restrictions. The residence homestead application must be filed if this exemption is claimed.

For more information about the property tax exemption for disabled veterans or to file an exemption, contact the Floyd County Appraisal District at 104 E. California Street, Floydada, TX. 79235; Phone: 806-983-5256. More information is also available from the state Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division at 1-800-252-9121 and press "2" to access the menu, and then press "1" to contact the Information Services Team or visit the Comptroller's website at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/.

THANK YOU FOR READING THE HESPERIAN BEACON!

TIPS continued on page 12

step ladder for a single story home, and an extension ladder for a two-story home. An orchard ladder is not recommended because there are only three legs for support and they can become unbalanced.

A wooden ladder is also not recommended because they are often wobbly and difficult to safely balance. Fiberglass ladders seem to be the sturdiest, but are also the heaviest. If you are cleaning gutters for hours upon hours, muscle fatigue can set in from moving the heavy ladder numerous times. If this is the case, you should try using an aluminum ladder, which is the second-choice option for strength and support.

Inspect the ladder for defects, dents or loose parts before climbing. If your ladder is fastened together with screws and bolts, make sure all parts are tightened. When opening up a step ladder, make sure the extension-hinge arms are fully extended and locked in place.

Before climbing the ladder, lightly jump on the first rung a few times to make sure the ground is secure. Sometimes the soil is soft, or there might be a gopher hole underneath one of the ladder legs. Either condition could cause the ladder to collapse with the combined weight of the ladder and a person. A piece of half-inch plywood can be placed under the ladder legs to keep it level and steady.

When climbing the ladder, always remember the "Three Point Rule." As much as possible try to have both legs and one hand firmly secure on the ladder at all times to provide stability and balance while cleaning. Conversely, do not lean out from the ladder balancing on one leg while using two hands to clean debris from the gutter. Oftentimes, it is this stretching and reaching for that last scoop of debris that lands a person in the hospital. Lastly, if at all possible, have someone hold the ladder to provide additional safety while climbing.

Garden Hose: Use a garden hose with a pistol-grip trigger spray nozzle. This type of spray nozzle allows you to adjust the water pressure with the use of just one hand. This style of spray nozzle comes with a handy pistol-grip trigger, allowing it to be easily hung over the front edge of the gutter while moving the ladder, or while using a gutter scoop. This type of spray nozzle can be purchased at any hardware store.

Spraying out the gutter is generally best when most of the larger debris has already been removed. It's difficult to spray out leaves and pine needles that have piled up over the summer and fall. Spray toward the downspout (leader pipe) so the small, murky debris flows down the downspout. If the downspout is connected to an underground drain that goes out to your street, the base of the downspout needs to be disconnected so the debris can be released at this point, preventing a potential clog further down the system under your lawn or driveway.

Gutter Scoop: Scooping out the leafy debris seems to be the best overall method for cleaning out the gutter. An excellent tool for this job is the bright orange plastic "Gutter Getter" scoop, which can be purchased at most hardware stores. This tool is unique because the front scooping edge is very thin and it forms itself to the bottom of the gutter trough, making it easy to scoop out even the toughest of debris in any size gutter system.

Stay away from using a metal scooping tool because the bottom of the gutter and seams can be damaged. Scraping the bottom of a steel gutter can introduce areas to rust, and if the bottom of the gutter is already rusting, the rusting process could speed up. Using a metal scooping tool can also damage seams in the gutter because the motion of scraping out the bottom of a gutter with a metal tool can damage the caulking that seals two ends of a gutter together (called a seam).

An extension pole can also be attached to the gutter scoop for reaching farther to clean the gutter, reducing ladder moves.

Wear Gloves: Gloves can help protect hands against dirty, rotting leaf debris that often contains bird, pigeon and squirrel droppings that are ridden with bacteria. Gloves can also prevent painful cuts from the torn metal shards of an old, ragged gutter. Cotton gloves can soak up dirty water that exposes skin to bacteria. Leather gloves are not as maneuverable and tend to shrivel up when they dry after cleaning. Rubber gloves can get poked or torn by metal shards in the gutter. Thick, suede glove material is recommended because it is superior to cotton, thin leather or rubber gloves.

Protective Eye Wear: Eye protection is a must because one never knows what might fly out of the downspout when cleaning gutters. People have experienced rats, birds, frogs, wasps and bees leaving at high speeds once they start removing a clog, and the last thing they want to have happen is an eye injury.

Rake Off Roof: Rake all debris off the roof first. Otherwise, the next rain will wash all the debris down into the clean gutter, clogging it up again. Also, debris left on the roof can lead to water damming up in valleys or around the

chimney, which can cause erosion and roof leaks over time.

Rubber Shoes: If walking on the roof is necessary to perform gutter cleaning, it is good to use rubber soled shoes. Rubber soles tend to adhere best and prevent slipping and falls. Roof tops tend to be moist in the morning, so it is best to walk on the roof after the sun is well up in the sky and has dried up all the moisture. Late mornings or early afternoons are the best times to walk on a roof.

For wood shake roofs, an excellent option is to wear special spiked roofing shoes called Korkers, which have small, metal spikes similar to golf shoes, helping attain a good grip when walking on the roof. However, if the gutter cleaning project is bad enough to warrant Korkers, it is probably best at that point to use a professional gutter cleaning company. Wearing Korkers can be tricky, and slips can still occur.

Downspouts Unclogged: Make sure the downspouts (leader pipe) are clear. After all the gutters are cleaned out, run the water hose down the downspout at full pressure. If the water backs up out of the top, a clog is present. Normally, it can be unclogged by tapping on the side of the downspout. But if that doesn't work, the downspout and back need to be removed, and it should be flushed from the bottom. If a clog is present, and the downspout is connected to an underground drain, it is best to disconnect the bottom of the downspout from the underground drain. Otherwise, the clog may move to the underground drain.

CAUTION: When unclogging the downspout, make sure protective eyewear is being used, because anything can escape from the downspout at high speeds once the clog is being removed.

Downspout Chain: If the downspout makes an annoying dripping sound during or after a rain storm, a special decorative chain can be installed to hang down in place of a traditional downspout. The rainwater runs down the chain gracefully and looks rather beautiful, like a decorative fountain.

There are also magnetic sponges available that stick to the side of the downspout and absorb water to stop the dripping sound. In place of a sponge, people have tried using men's underwear and socks in downspouts for just this purpose, but it is not recommended.

Clean Gutters Two Times A Year: Make sure gutters are cleaned at least twice a year, once in the fall and again in the spring. One main reason for cleaning out gutters is to eliminate the possibility of water damage from rainwater runoff due to a clogged gutter. Another reason is to reduce the possibility of rust corrosion. Even though it may not rain during the summer, if there is debris in the steel gutters, the rusting process can speed up. It's difficult for rust to speed up with clean gutters. The faster the rusting process, the sooner new gutters will be needed.

Power Line Hazard: When cleaning gutters around a power line cable that drops from the power pole to the roof of a home, conduct a visual inspection of the electrical cable where it connects to the roof. This is to ensure that the protective wire insulation hasn't rubbed off through years of wear-and-tear by weather and nearby trees. If the cable appears to have damage, do not attempt to repair it. Call a licensed professional electrical contractor to fix it.

If it's raining and there is an electrical wire problem, do not attempt to clean out the gutters until the wires are fixed. Water is a dangerous conductor of electricity. Whether it's raining or not, it would be a good idea to have the electrical wiring repaired before cleaning out your gutters.

It is not advisable to use a metal ladder near power lines when cleaning out your gutters. A fiberglass ladder is a better safety solution in this situation.

Gutter Guards: Using a quality gutter guard can eliminate the need for cleaning out gutters. Consider carefully the manufacturer's claims before purchasing a gutter protection system that keeps out leaves and pine needles, because many promises are made that can't be delivered. An excellent website that lists over 100 gutter guards is www.GutterGuardReview.com.

According to Lenney, he and his staff have found an amazing collection of items while cleaning gutters, including men's underwear, diapers, socks, pigeon droppings, golf balls, tennis balls, syringes with sharps, dead animals, aluminum cans, children's toys, live adult rats with babies in the nest, small and large frogs, wasp and bee nests, snakes in areas like Florida, books, newspapers, nails, and tile pieces. These are in addition, of course, to the usual debris, such as leaves, pine needles, seed pods and sand grit.

Lenney can't turn this annual tedious job into a Disneyland experience, but he can make the job easier with these few simple cleaning tips and tricks while keeping safety in mind. Happy cleaning!



Photo by Homer Marquez

It's a blooming sight for sore eyes as anyone who passes by the home of Norman and Edith Muncy can see the beautiful blooms of their Claret Cacti. The cactus, which was brought over from Del Rio by Norman's mother in 1965, blooms only once a year for a couple of weeks. The shallow rooted cactus can also grow up to four feet in diameter.



Photos by Homer Marquez

On Friday, the Floydada Baseball Association held their opening ceremonies for this 2012 Little League season. This go-around, the league will be a little more interesting as teams from Quitaque and Turkey have joined league. Having no where for their kids to play, the Floydada Baseball Association happily welcomed the two communities to play in their program. Throwing out the first pitch were Pat Carson and Cory Chandler who help organize the Quitaque and Turkey teams; "They did a lot of work in a little time," commented league board member Corey Johnston. Around 20 teams are gearing up for the diamond this spring, as opening games started on Friday.

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