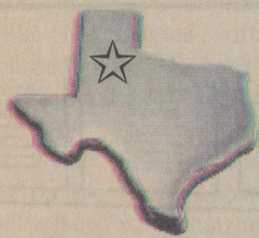


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## Lockney Soldier Honored Posthumously For Heroism In Iraq

Bill and Kathy Hunter of Lockney were in Denver Saturday, November 7 to witness the posthumous award of the Bronze Star Medal to their son, Army Staff Sgt. Wesley Hunter.

The Lockney soldier was wounded in an ambush in Baghdad on February 26, 2006 and died as a result of those wounds September 18, 2008 at the family home in Lockney. He was buried with full military honors at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver.

The Bronze Star Medal with "V" for Valor in Combat was presented to Hunter's family at the Denver Civic Center Park, preceding that city's Veterans Day Commemoration Parade.

Hunter's wife Rayanne accepted the medal from Brig. Gen Robert Balster, ground forces commander with the Colorado Army National Guard, and Army Lt. Col. Robert Krenzel, a representative of the 10th Mountain Division of Fort Drum, N.Y. Hunter was assigned to this division when he was wounded. The Hunters' children, Westlin, 4, and Tavie, 2, received miniature Bronze Stars during the ceremony.

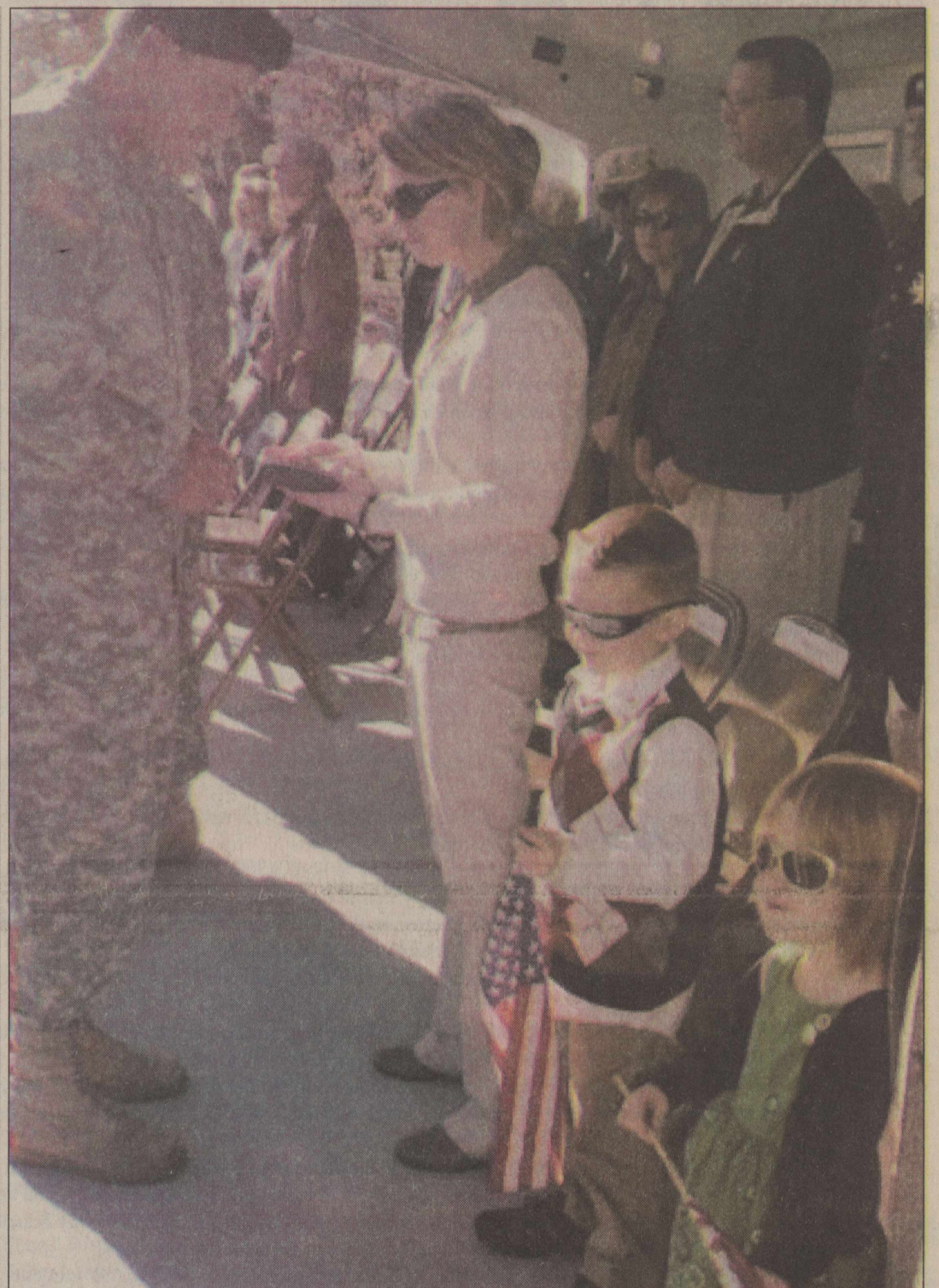
In addition to the Bronze Star, Hunter earned two Purple Hearts and numerous other awards.

Wesley and Rayanne met while both were members of the Colorado Army National Guard. They were married on July 26, 2004 in a mountain-top ceremony in Colorado.

Hunter had undergone numerous surgeries and had been in constant pain since the attack in Baghdad. He was severely injured when the Humvee he was in was blown apart by an "improvised explosive device," but he managed to climb out of the destroyed vehicle and return fire that kept the attackers at bay until help arrived. He continued to fight even after sustaining a gunshot wound in that battle. His two companions were killed in the attack.

Hunter was a 1998 graduate of Lockney High School and an Eagle Scout. He had attended the Art Institute of Colorado in Denver.

He joined the Army in 1998 and served three years before joining the Colorado National Guard. He returned to active duty in 2004 and was deployed to Iraq in 2005.



Courtesy Photo

**BRONZE STAR** - Rayanne Hunter accepts the Bronze Star Medal from Brig. Gen. Robert Balster during a ceremony in Denver November 7. Her husband, Army Staff Sgt. Wesley Hunter of Lockney, died in 2008 of wounds suffered in an ambush in Baghdad in 2006. Also pictured are the Hunters' children Westlin and Tavie, who received miniature versions of the award during the ceremony, held before Denver's Veterans Day Commemoration Parade.

## 'Christmas Downtown' Set November 29 In Lockney

"Christmas Downtown" in Lockney, sponsored by the Lockney Area Chamber of Commerce, is scheduled for Sunday, November 29 this year. Lockney businesses will be open from 5 to 8 p.m. for this special Christmas shopping night, according to Melissa Kunselman, Chamber of

Commerce president. Something new this year will be a pancake supper at the fire station. Advance tickets are available at Kaleidoscope, J&K Insurance, and the LISD superintendent's office. All proceeds will go toward the purchase of a new ambulance.

As usual, Santa Claus will on hand for the event. Another favorite, the hayride, also returns this year. Hayride tickets are \$1 per person.

For more information contact Kunselman at 292-0502 or 652-2955.

## Community Thanksgiving Service Set At Lockney First Baptist Church

The folks at First Baptist Church of Lockney invite people from all denominations to join them at 6 p.m. Sunday, November 22 for the annual Community Thanksgiving Service.

This is our time to come together and thank God for the great and bountiful blessings He has bestowed on us throughout the year. Brother John Franklin,

pastor of the First Baptist Church, will be bringing the Thanksgiving message. Various churches will be represented in the program.

The churches of Lockney and our local Community Storehouse work together to help our local people when they find themselves temporarily in difficult circumstances. Everyone is asked to please bring canned food items to

replenish the pantry at the Community Storehouse.

An offering will be taken to help out with the financial needs. This community service program provides us with the perfect opportunity to honor God by giving something back, in the form of food, money and prayer.

# ABC's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition Searching For Deserving Families In Floydada

Hollywood, CA - Nov. 10, 2009

Do you know a family whose home deserves an Extreme Makeover? If so, the producers of ABC's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition wants to hear from you.

"We are looking for the deserving people and inspiring families that America can relate to," says Supervising Producer Rebecca Shumsky.

The Extreme Makeover: Home Edition producers are looking for families whose homes desperately need to be rebuilt. "We really want to help families whose homes present major problems for the family, those big issues that affect the family's quality of life on a daily basis. We want to find deserving people who just don't have the resources, ability, or time to fix those serious issues without our help."

To be eligible, a family must own their own single family home and be able to show producers how a makeover will make a huge difference in their lives.

Interested families should e-mail a short description of their family story to: ExtremeTexas@gmail.com.

Nominations may be submitted by the family or by a member of their community. Each nomination must include the names and ages of every member of the household along with a description of the major challenges within the home. Anyone submitting a nomination should be sure to explain why the nominated family is deserving, heroic, and/or a great role model for their community. If possible, include a recent photo of the family. All nominations must include a contact phone number.

The deadline for nominations is December 1, 2009. Don't delay!

For more information on how to apply please visit our website at: <http://abc.go.com/primetimeextremehome/index?pn-apply>

Each episode of Extreme Makeover: Home Edition is self-contained and features a race against time to complete a project

seven days to totally rebuild an entire property, every single room of the house, plus the exterior and landscaping.

The lives of the lucky families are forever changed when they learn that they have been selected to receive a makeover. Viewers not only witness the unbelievable transformation of the house, but during the final and emotional reveal, they see how the home makeover has impacted the lives of the deserving families.

The design team includes team leader Ty Pennington, with designers Paul DiMeo, Paige Hemmis, Michael Moloney, Ed Sanders, Tracy Hutson, Eduardo Xol and John Littlefield. New designers for this season will be Rib Hillis and Didi Ayer.

\*\*\*About ABC-TV's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition\*\*\*

Extreme Makeover: Home Edition, which has won back-to-back Emmy Awards as Best Reality Program (non-competitive), is in its sixth season on ABC. The program is produced by Endemol USA, a division of Endemol Holding. Anthony Dominici is the executive producer, and David Goldberg is the president of Endemol USA.

Each episode begins with team leader Ty Pennington's now-famous "Good morning!" wake-

up call, when he and his design team surprise the unsuspecting family with news that their home has been chosen to receive a makeover. Viewers not only witness the unbelievable transformation of the house, but during the final and emotional reveal, they see how the home makeover has impacted the lives of the deserving families.

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# OPINIONS

## Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters should be no more than 200 words and can be mailed to the Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon, 111 E Missouri St., Floydada, Texas 79235. Please include your street mailing address (no P.O. boxes), daytime phone number and full name and signature. Our e-mail address is floydada@amaonline.com.

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## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

As veterans, we would like to express our gratitude to the Floydada students and faculty for the impressive way they acknowledged and honored the veterans that served and serve this country.

We think it is very important that the young people are reminded of the sacrifices that have been made in an effort to keep our country free. We are so proud of the students that represent the Floydada school system. We appreciate everything that was presented at the High School and at the memorial.

Thank you,  
From all the veterans that attended.



## The Paperboy

By Christopher Blackburn

### Mary's Problem

The following is a hypothetical situation to prove a point: Mary came from a broken home. At 13, she was not unlike many of her peers as she enjoyed her friends and was involved in school.

What set Mary apart was her ability in school. Mary was smart ... real smart. In fact, she had never made anything below a high 'A.' She'd never been close to making a 'B,' much less anything below that.

Mary's plans for her future were, to say the least, impressive. She was going to make sure her amazing intelligence would get her higher education paid for. She even figured that she could get at least some of her med school paid for.

You see, Mary had the goal of finding a cure for cancer. She had made up her mind at the age of 8 that finding such a cure would help millions in the U.S. alone.

One day, Mary was sitting in class on a day like any other. What she did not know was her future was about to change do to circumstances out of her control.

Upon receiving her report card, Mary noticed she had received all 'Bs.' "Must be a computer error," Mary thought to herself.

Later, Mary spoke to her counselor. "I know I made all As, but my report card says all 'Bs,'" she said.

"Oh, I'm sorry," said the counselor. "We mailed a letter to your house so you should have been notified about our change in policy."

Mary informed the counselor that her Mom worked two jobs, so unless it was a bill, it may have been overlooked and than inquired about the policy change.

The counselor answered: "Well, Mary, since this is a 'poor' school, a new liberal-progressive policy has been put in place to help the other students who may not be as gifted as you. The board has determined that students making 'As' will need to pass a letter grade on to another student. Since you made seven 'As,' you were required to give seven letter grades to fellow students."

"Why? Mary asked, fighting back tears. "This is going to ruin my chance to get into the college of my choice."

"That may be true," said the counselor, "but by redistributing your grades, we are giving other students a chance at college which would not otherwise qualify."

"But I have big plans," voiced Mary. "In order for me to accomplish my dreams, I need the grades I've earned to get the scholarships I need to go the the schools which will enable me to achieve at the highest level."

"That's just selfish," said the counselor. "You need to make sacrifices so others can have a chance."

Mary began to cry, saying, "Those are my grades! I've worked hard to make them and now you are taking what is rightfully mine and giving it to someone undeserving with no guarantee that any benefit will come of this. There is no incentive for anyone to try anymore under this program."

"You're just being silly Mary," said the counselor. "There are plenty of good jobs for 'B' students."

If any of this sounds familiar, it's because this fictional counselor has the same attitude of our current Congress and the Obama Administration concerning the redistribution of wealth. It's wrong and it won't work.

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Christopher Blackburn is the president of Blackburn Media Group, owner of this publication. Feel free to comment on The Paperboy at <http://thenewbastion.blogspot.com/>.



"Yes, but it's naturally toxic."

## Afghan Escalation Would Make One-Year Pentagon Budget Almost As Big as Entire 10-Year Health Bill

David Sirota - Writer

In pitting the 10-year cost of Democrats' health care bill against the 10-year projected cost of the bloated Pentagon budget, my newspaper column last week made a simple comparison rarely ever made in politics today - a comparison that might provide citizens with much needed context, but a comparison that is ignored.

Is the comparison's omission deliberate? It's hard to say, but when you read this typical New York Times piece, it's hard to argue that it isn't being irresponsibly ignored:

While President Obama's decision about sending more troops to Afghanistan is primarily a military one, it also has substantial budget implications that are adding pressure to limit the commitment, senior administration officials say...

Even if fewer troops are sent, or their mission is modified, the rough formula used by the White House, of about \$1 million per soldier a year, appears almost constant.

So even if Mr. Obama opts for a lower troop commitment, Afghanistan's new costs could wash out the projected \$26 billion expected to be saved in 2010 from withdrawing troops from Iraq. And the overall military budget could rise to as much as \$734 billion, or 10 percent more than the peak of \$667 billion under the Bush administration.

Kudos, of course, to the Times for even reporting on the unfathomably large costs of

intensifying militarism and adventurism. But as you'll see in the story, there's no attempt to put the costs into any context - specifically, there's no mention that an escalation in Afghanistan would mean outlays for the one-year Pentagon budget is approaching the total outlays of the entire 10-year health care bill.

Of course, the Times does offer up one fleeting contextual message indicating that increased defense spending from an Afghanistan escalation "would be a politically volatile issue for Mr. Obama at a time when the government budget deficit is soaring, the economy is weak and he is trying to pass a costly health care plan." But even that brief mention is dishonest.

On what basis does the Times call the health care plan "costly?" As I said in my column, while the Congressional Budget Office (ie. the nonpartisan institution that reporters/politicians use to price bills) says the health legislation would mandate about \$890 billion, CBO also makes painfully clear its tax and budget-cutting provisions would recover a net of \$109 billion over 10 years, meaning the bill is as "costly" to the public treasury as the purchase of a stock that produces a net 10% return on investment. I mean, seriously - if you invested \$1,000 into a stock and got \$1,100 back, would you lament to a friend about how "costly" the investment was to your bank account? No - because your friend would look at you like

you were insane.

Indeed, only in Washington is a big return on taxpayer investment and a \$109 billion reduction in the deficit an example of something that's "costly" to taxpayers - and only in a quickly deteriorating American media would defense spending be reported with almost zero context.

David Sirota is a full-time political journalist, best-selling author and nationally syndicated newspaper columnist living in Denver, Colorado. He blogs for Working Assets and the Denver Post's PoliticsWest website. He is a Senior Editor at In These Times magazine, which in 2006 received the Utne Independent Press Award for political coverage. His 2006 book, Hostile Takeover, was a New York Times bestseller, and is now out in paperback. He has been a guest on, among others, CNN, MSNBC, CNBC and NPR. His writing, which draws on his extensive experience as a progressive political strategist, has appeared in, among others, the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, the Baltimore Sun, the Nation magazine, the Washington Monthly and the American Prospect. Sirota was a twice-a-week guest on the Al Franken Show. He currently serves in a volunteer capacity as the co-chairperson of the Progressive States Network - a 501c3 nonpartisan organization.

## Thanks For Reading



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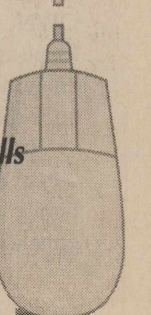
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Staff Photo by Jim Huggins

LITTLE LONGHORNS - Lockney Elementary School students of the week. Left to right, front row: Megan Martinez, Andrew Bustillos, Eulyssa Casias, Berenice Astruga. Middle row: Luke Gonzales, Bryson Hallmark, Koh Stapp, Keanu Villarreal, Gunnyr Araujo. Back row: Emiliee Encizo, J. J. Rodriguez, Manuel Solis, Nickolas Rendon, Jacque Salazar, Destiny Soliz.

7th Grade Horns End Season With Win

The seventh-grade Shorthorns ended the football season with a victory over Hale Center, 28-12. Lockney came out from the opening kick off and drove the ball to the Owls' five-yard line, which took the entire first quarter. On the first play in the second quarter, Ryan Poole took the ball into the end zone for the game's first score. Nic Sherman scored on the two-point conversion to make the score 8-0. On Hale Center's first possession, Paul Martinez caused a fumble and Michael Rodriguez recovered for Lockney. After taking the ball to the Owls' three-yard line, Nic Sherman received a handoff and crossed the goal line for Lockney. The two-point conversion failed, making the score 14-0. Poole scored once again on 22-yard scamper, and Darin DeLeon scored on the two-point conversion. Deleon got into the action when he scored on a 34-yard sweep play. The two-point conversion failed. Even though the Owls scored twice, Lockney's defense had a good game. Leading the defense were Michael Guerrero, John Palomin and Paul Martinez. The Shorthorns would like to express thanks for all the support that was shown throughout the football season.

LHS Cross Country Runners Place At Regional

By Coach Laura Dunn Lockney High School cross-country ran at the Region I cross-country meet in Lubbock on Saturday, November 7. Isabelle Solis qualified for the first time ever for the girls and placed 32nd out of almost 200 girls. The boys' team consisting of Matt Rendon, Alejandro Salazar, Joshua Silva, Bishop Zambrano, Marcos Bernal, Delfino Rodriguez, Ryan Diaz and Jonathan Molina qualified to run and placed 15th out of 24 teams.

Rendon placed 52nd out of 170 boys running. It was a great and successful year for all our cross-country teams. We have a great group of kids who were willing to go out and run their hardest to win and keep the tradition of great cross country teams going for the town of Lockney. I am very proud of each and everyone who participated this year, and I look forward to an even better year next year.

Lockney 8th Grade Football

The Lockney Longhorns 8th grade football team finished its season with loss to the Hale Center Owls on Thursday night in Hale Center. The Longhorns played hard and showed a lot of heart and pride as they never gave up. The longhorns had a great season and they showed mass improvement throughout the season. The Longhorns will start there basketball season on Monday November the 8th, with there first game being Monday November the 16th in Lockney.



Courtesy Photo

\$200 GIFT CARD WINNER --James Hinton won the \$200 gift card in the Producers Cooperative Elevator website contest. Every tenth person also received a jacket. Those winners included Kreis McIntosh, Greer Lackey, Tammy Sanchez, Jerry McGuire and Sheryl Back. All other entries received a free t-shirt for signing up. Visit www.pcefloydada.com for more upcoming contests.

Thanksgiving Holidays Set At Lockney Schools

Classes at Lockney schools will be dismissed for the Thanksgiving holidays at 2 p.m. Tuesday, November 24. Classes will resume at the regular times on Monday, November 30

Table with 2 columns: Day (MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY) and Menu (Breakfast, Lunch). Includes items like French toast, popcorn chicken, pizza, etc.

2009 FSA County Committee Elections Start

Floydada, TX), Nov. 09, 2009 - Michael McDonald, County Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency in Texas, Floyd announced that the 2009 FSA county committee elections start today as ballots are being mailed to eligible voters. Dec. 7, 2009, is the deadline for eligible voters to return ballots to their local FSA offices. "The FSA county committee system is unique among government agencies, because it allows producers to make important decisions concerning the local administration of federal farm programs," said McDonald. "I urge all eligible farmers and ranchers, especially minorities and women, to get involved and make a real difference in their communities by voting in this year's elections." Committee members apply

their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on disaster and conservation payments, establishment of allotments and yields, producer appeals, employing FSA county executive directors and other local issues. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in FSA programs. A person who is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm, can also vote. Agricultural producers in each country submitted candidate names during the nomination period held last summer. Eligible voters who do not receive ballots in the coming week can obtain ballots at their local USDA Service Center. Dec. 7, 2009, is the last day for voters to submit ballots in person to local USDA Service Centers. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked no later than Dec. 7th. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan. 1, 2010. Close to 8,000 FSA county committee members meet monthly at more than 2,300 FSA offices nationwide. Each committee consists of three to five members who serve three-year terms. Approximately one-third of county committee seats are up for election annually. For more information about FSA county committees and FSA programs, visit: http://www.fsa.usda.gov.

Rep. Heflin Adds Robbye Appling as District Administrative Aide

(Crosbyton - November 13, 2009) Today State Representative Joe Heflin announced that Robbye Appling has been hired as a District Administrative Aide in his Crosbyton District Office, at 114 West Aspen Street. Ms. Appling is a 1983 graduate of Crosbyton High School and a 1987 graduate of West Texas A&M University in Canyon. Rep. Heflin was enthusiastic about the hiring of Ms. Appling. "Robbye grew up in and has lived in this area virtually all of her life," he said. "Her family is still active in agriculture and farming, and she brings a wealth of knowledge about the people of this District. In addition, she

has worked extensively with regional businesses, colleges and universities, school districts, and students to emphasize the importance of higher education for Texans." Ms. Appling grew up in the Mount Blanco area in north Crosby County and attended First Baptist Church in Floydada. "I am really looking forward to working with Rep. Heflin," Ms. Appling said. "I enjoy connecting with people in the community, and I believe it's very important that people have a voice in their government." Rep. Heflin concurred. "I hope everyone will take advantage of the opportunity to express

their views on the issues that affect them and their families. Robbye is a great addition for the District Office, and she will be available to help constituents in person or by telephone." Rep. Heflin represents Texas House District 85, including Borden, Crosby, Fisher, Floyd, Garza, Glasscock, Hale, Howard, Jones, Kent, Lynn, Irion, Reagan, Sterling, Stonewall, and Terry Counties. He may be reached at his Capitol Office in Austin, 512.463.0604, at his District Office in Crosbyton, 806.675.1583, or in Big Spring, at 432.213.2897.

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On behalf of Michael and our family, we would like to express our gratitude and say "Thank you" to everyone from the bottom of our hearts, for your prayers, cards, visits, calls, food, flowers and donations to the love fund. The abundance of love shown to us during this difficult time of our loss, has been remarkable and a true blessing. May God Bless you always, The Family of Nora Cisneros

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## Bushland Takes The Air Out of Whirlwinds

Entering its first playoff game since 2003, the Floydada Whirlwinds were awarded the task of facing the second-ranked team in Class 2A.

The Bushland Falcons avenged two early playoff losses the past two seasons winning 48-6 at Kimbrough Stadium in Canyon. The win ends the Whirlwinds season with a 4-7 record while the Falcons remained unbeaten at 11-0.

The Falcons started quickly scoring on their first six possessions to mount a 42-0 halftime lead. After trailing 48-0, the Whirlwinds scored on their last possession.

Senior running back Fred Williams broke lose for a 69-yard touchdown run with about a minute remaining in the contest for the 48-6 final. The Whirlwinds had all of their yards on the ground, gaining 181.

What doomed Floydada were fumbles. The Whirlwinds fumbled the football four times losing all four. Floydada's first two fumbles led to Bushland touchdowns. A blocked punt also resulted in a Bushland touchdown.

Floydada's defense did pick off two Sawyer Cornelius passes in the game.



Photo Courtesy of Jim Covington

**OFFENSIVE BLOCKING**—The Floydada Whirlwind offensive line is blocking against Bushland in the bi-district playoff game last Friday night in Canyon.



Photo Courtesy of Jim Covington

**KICKOFF RETURN**—Whirlwind Anthony Suarez #18 handles a kickoff return last Friday night in the bi-district-playoff game against Bushland in Canyon.



Courtesy Photo

Floyd County 4-H members participated in the District 4-H Food Show held Saturday, November 7 at Levelland High School. 4-H'ers participating included (Front row, l-r) Kylie Beth Ricketts and Merritt Johnson; (Middle row, l-r) Amy Scott, Rita Martinez, Lyndee Setliff, Faithe Hambright and Tristan Schlueter; (Back row, l-r) Jill Bramlet, Jianna Davenport and McKenna Johnson.

## District 4-H Food Show Held

By Melissa Long  
CEA-FCS, Floyd County

The District 4-H Food Show was held at Levelland High School on Saturday, November 7 with nine Floyd County members participating.

Participants in the show prepare a dish to present to judges and answer questions regarding nutrition, preparation principles, safety recommendations and project activities related to food and nutrition.

4-H'ers, their respective cat-

egories and their placings were: Johnson - Intermediate Bread & Cereal, 1st place; Jianna Davenport - Senior Main Dish, 3rd place and Merritt Johnson - Senior Bread & Cereal, 3rd place.

Jill Bramlet, District 4-H Council president assisted with the show and served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the Awards Program. Beth Bramlet served as a judge for the events.



Courtesy Photo

DUNCAN ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF THE WEEK for November 9, 2009 were (Front row, l-r) AJ Cisneros, Ray Reyes; (Back row, l-r) Kevin Salazar, Alyssa Vega, Rachel Graham. Not pictured were Michael Perez and Logan Bradley.

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#5 SPICY POPCORN CHICKEN & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.79
#6 3 TAMALES, HOWLERS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.69
#7 2 HOT LINKS WITH BREAD & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.59
#8 2 CORN DOGS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.69
#9 CHIMICHANGA & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.49
#10 2 BEEF & BEAN BURRITOS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.69





**LHS...**

(continued from Page 3)

In fact, all years over that are gold.  
 Most of us are that age God has blessed and that is our gauge.  
 70 years ago was our graduation time  
 And as I remember it was just fine.  
 Memories of the past Don't come very fast.  
 My prayer is that our lives are showing  
 That we know where we are going.  
 Wallace Allen  
 November 11, 2009



Courtesy Photo

**WILD CARD WINNER**—Anita Delgado of Floydada won \$200 worth of groceries in the Floydada Lowe's Holiday Cash contest as she had a Wild Card ticket.

**Eat This!**  
 By RYAN MILLS

I was watching Seinfeld the other night and the episode was the one with the "Soup Nazi." If you're a Seinfeld fan, you know exactly what I'm talking about. It is one of the classic episodes of the greatest sitcom of all time.

Kramer has been raving about this soup so Jerry, George and Elaine decided to try it. Eventually George insults the the Soup Nazi because he didn't get bread as everyone in front of him in line did. He promptly gets his money handed back to him and hears the classic line, "No soup for you!"

Anyway, the episode got me thinking about soup. With the fall weather and the inevitable freight train that is winter, it's soup season.

Today I am sharing a recipe for black bean soup.

So contrary to what the Nazi says, there is soup for you.

**Black Bean Soup**

**Ingredients**

- 1 tbs. extra virgin olive oil
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 celery stalk, diced
- 3 (15.5 oz.) cans black beans, rinsed and drained

- 1 (15.5 oz.) can diced tomatoes with garlic and onion
- 1 tsp. chili powder
- 1 tsp. cumin
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
- 3 cups water
- 1 tbs. balsamic vinegar

**Directions**

In a dutch oven or large pot, heat oil over medium heat. Add onion and celery, stirring occasionally, until vegetables are softened. Stir in beans, tomatoes, chili powder, cumin, salt, pepper and water. Cover and bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer.

Transfer three cups beans and liquid to a food processor and process to a coarse puree. Return puree to pot, stir in vinegar and heat thoroughly. Serve with crumbled tortilla chips on top.

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 Ryan Mills is a Chief Operating Officer of Blackburn Media Group and the editor of The Childress Index. For comments, suggestions or to submit a recipe contact him at [index@chipshot.net](mailto:index@chipshot.net).

**Neugebauer: Don't Take Away My Options or the Options of the American People**

Washington, DC Congressman Randy Neugebauer released the following statement after opposing Speaker Pelosi's government takeover of health care:

After weeks of secret negotiations and arm twisting, Speaker Pelosi and the Democrat Majority voted to pass legislation that will raise taxes, raise health care costs and add to our national debt.

Today, my colleagues and I stood along with the American people, who are opposed to this massive government takeover. Today, we tried everything in our power to stop this legislation, or at least make it better. Instead of voting for a \$1.3 trillion dollar government takeover of health care, I supported a better solution. The Republican alternative, which I supported, lowers premiums by up to 10 percent and reduces the deficit by \$68 billion, fights fraud, and would lead to expanded access to affordable health care coverage for all Americans without raising taxes, cutting benefits

to seniors or spending money we don't have. In addition to this common-sense solution, Republicans also introduced hundreds of amendments including five I submitted to address such issues as: allowing groups and small businesses to join together in order to lower costs of insurance plans; verifying citizenship of those applying for health care benefits; preventing our tax dollars from funding abortions, guaranteeing that health savings accounts will be maintained, and sensible medical liability reform. Unfortunately, these solutions fell on closed doors and deaf ears.

I opposed Speaker Pelosi's bill because I believe Americans should be allowed to choose the doctor, hospital, and health care plan of their choice. No politician or bureaucrat should interfere with that choice. Every American should have access to the quality healthcare they deserve. No politics. No excuses. As this bill continues through Congress, I will fight to make their voices heard.

**American Cancer Society Marks 34th Great American Smokeout® by Encouraging Smokers to Quit**

As the official sponsor of birthdays, the American Cancer Society marks the 34th Great American Smokeout on November 19 by encouraging smokers to use the date to make a plan to quit, or to plan in advance and quit smoking that day. By doing so, smokers will be taking an important step towards a healthier life — one that can lead to reducing cancer risk and creating more birthdays. Researchers say that quitting smoking can increase life expectancy — smokers who quit at age 35 gain an average of eight years of life expectancy; those who quit at age 55 gain about five years; and even long term smokers who quit at 65 gain three years. Smokers who want to quit can call the American Cancer Society Quit For Life® Program operated and managed by Free & Clear® at 1-800-227-2345 for tobacco cessation and coaching services that can help increase their chances of quitting for good.

Research shows that people who stop smoking before age 50 can cut their risk of dying in the next 15 years in half compared with those who continue to smoke. Smokers who quit also reduce their risk of lung cancer — ten years after quitting, the lung cancer death rate is about half that of a continuing smoker's. Some of the health effects of quitting are almost instant, too — heart rate and blood pressure drop 20 minutes after quitting.

The Great American Smokeout Web site ([www.cancer.org/GreatAmericans](http://www.cancer.org/GreatAmericans)) contains user-friendly tips and tools towards a smoke-free life. In

addition to tip sheets and calculators, the site also offers downloadable desktop helpers to assist with planning to quit and succeeding in staying tobacco-free. The Quit Clock allows users to pick a quit day within 30 days, then counts down the selected day with tips for each day; and the Craving Stopper helps smokers beat cravings by offering a fun distraction. The American Cancer Society created the trademarked concept for and held its first Great American Smokeout in 1976 as a way to inspire and encourage smokers to quit for a day. One million people quit smoking for a day at the 1976 event in California. The Great American Smokeout encourages smokers to commit to making a long-term plan to quit smoking for good.

Important facts about tobacco use:  
 Tobacco use remains the single largest preventable cause of disease and premature death in the U.S.

Cigarette smoking accounts for about 443,000 premature deaths — including 49,400 in nonsmokers.

Thirty percent of cancer deaths, including 87 percent of lung cancer deaths, can be attributed to tobacco.

Smoking also accounts for \$193 billion in health care expenditures and productivity losses.

Great progress is being made in reducing tobacco use in the U.S., with adult smoking rates in 2007 declining among all adults to 19.8 percent.

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Thanks For Reading  
 The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon

**KEEP YOUR GERMS TO YOURSELF**



**WASH YOUR HANDS**

Wash your hands often. Scrub for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand cleaner.



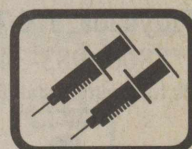
**COVER YOUR COUGH**

Use a tissue to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. No tissue around? Your sleeve will do.



**STAY HOME**

If you get sick, stay home until you're well so you don't spread more germs. Steer clear of others who are sick.



**GET YOUR SHOTS**

Protect yourself by getting all your flu shots. You need both the seasonal flu shot as well as the new H1N1 shot.

Stopping the flu is up to you.



TexasFlu.org