



MULESHOE JOURNAL



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Thursday, Dec. 14, 2000

PAGE ONE

A QUICK READ OF THE NEWS

Headed for the pen

Some criminals just can't keep themselves away from the pen — the pig pen, that is.

Police in Hilo, Hawaii, recently launched a search for thieves who made off with nine pigs in a heist at Kulani Correctional Facility.

The take included six piglets, each weighing between 15 and 20 pounds, and three pigs, weighing from 50 to 80 pounds.

The piggery — containing more than 120 animals — is set so far back from the secured prison compound that guards never heard the squealing pigs, police said.

Girl bites into hot dog jingle

Kelsey Griswold of Tulsa is relishing the success of her winning Oscar Mayer jingle.

The 8-year-old girl's version of the new wiener ditty was chosen among thousands of entries nationwide in the hot dog maker's contest.

A chili dog fan, Kelsey used her favorite wiener toppings to come up with her lyrics: "Oh I wish I were an Oscar Mayer wiener, then the buns would really relish me. I would make the mustard glad, and the other wieners sad, and Oscar Mayer would stand up and shout with glee."

Deer killed with pocket knife

A 61-year-old man out for a walk in the woods near Herrin, Ill., killed a deer with a pocket knife after the animal charged him.

Paul Cheatham said he grabbed the six-point, 130-pound buck by the horns when it attacked.

He then held it with one hand, opened the pocket knife with his mouth, and jabbed the deer in the rib cage.

In the process, Cheatham suffered bruises over much of his body.



Drawing date: Saturday, Dec. 9
Winning numbers: 3-4-12-42-47-54
Estimated jackpot: \$4 million
Winners: 0
Next drawing: Wednesday, Dec. 13
Estimated jackpot: \$6 million

On this date in history

Dec. 16 — Benjamin Edwards rides into Nacogdoches, Texas, and proclaims the Republic of Fredonia, using the Old Stone Fort as its capital (1836).

Also on Dec. 16 — The Republic of Texas' Congress grants the first railroad charter in North America west of the Mississippi (1836).

Dec. 17 — Texas Gov. Henry Smith orders Jim Bowie to lead the Matamoros Expedition (1835).

LOCAL WEATHER

More normal temperatures are in the forecast, with a possibly beautiful weekend shaping up. Morning lows are expected to be in the upper 20s with the exception of Friday (about 23), but daytime high temperatures should reach about 58 Thursday, 52 Friday, 59 Saturday and 63 on Sunday. Partly cloudy conditions should last through the weekend, with a reduced chance of moisture.

Editor Ronn Smith can be reached at 272-4536 or ctyankee@fivearea.com

Missed your paper? Call carrier Melissa Flores at 272-6719 or the Journal during business hours, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Mules leave Thursday to play in Texas Stadium

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

It's semi-final showdown week in Class 3A Division II, with Muleshoe facing the 10-4 Forney Jackrabbits at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Irving's Texas Stadium.

The Mules, undefeated at 14-0, got to this point by making mincemeat of Midland Greenwood, 43-13, last Friday in the quarterfinals.

Forney beat defeating state champion (and Forney's previously

undefeated district rival) Commerce 24-14 last week.

If the Mules win, they won't know who they play in the championship game until Saturday, after a 1 p.m. game at Waco ISD Stadium between Marlin (11-3) and LaGrange (12-2).

But the Mules know they have a formidable team to overcome if they're going to play for another week, and Forney is tough mainly because of one player: DaBryan

Blanton, No. 3.

Blanton was out during all five of Forney's non-district games, and the team compiled a 2-3 record. With Blanton back for district play, the Jackrabbits lost only to Commerce (15-14) and outscored their other four district foes by an almost-unbelievable 190-7.

Not surprisingly, then, Muleshoe coach David Wood sums up the see **FORNEY** on page 2

Fan participation

Mule fans are being asked to do pre-game exercises:

- Attend a sendoff for the team at 8 a.m. Thursday in the gym parking lot. The Mules are due in Irving for a 4 p.m. practice at Texas Stadium.
- Vote for Danny Ramirez as the Wolf Brand Chili player of the week at the web site tx.football.com.

High school's campus to be closed during lunch period

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Members of the Muleshoe School Board voted Monday to close the high school campus during lunchtime starting next semester.

Board members and school officials emphasized in discussion that the main reason the high school campus wasn't closed for lunch previously was because a couple of businesses operated nearby and depended on student patronage.

Those businesses are no longer there.

The board also voted to shorten the 45-minute high school lunch period by 10 minutes at the request of Principal Dave Jenkins, who said "a 45-minute lunch period for high school is just too long."

The 10 minutes will be used to expand a tutorial period for the spring semester.

- The board also:
- Appointed Gene Sheets and Lisa Whalin to replace David Hutton and Tracy Ray as trustees of the employees' Group Health Trust;
 - Honored Trista Green, Joel Cowart and Layne Sheets for FFA accomplishments;
 - Approved the addition of college algebra for dual credit into the district curriculum. (Trigonometry will be added during the spring semester); and
 - Approved the hiring of Trae McNeill from Jacksboro as the district's new business manager.



Journal photo: Beatrice Morin

Sounds of the season . . .

Several members of Muleshoe High School's advanced choir practice before their recent performance for the Heritage Center's Old-Fashioned Christmas. Some of the same singers also will perform at the Dec. 14 Soup and Sandwich Luncheon at noon at 16th and D Church of Christ. Shown are (back row, from left) Latasha Glover, Darrell Lewis, Louie Pacheco, Michael Johnston, Stephan Shelburne and Cedric Castorena; (front row, from left) Angela Allen, Kyla Hamilton, Atty Mendoza, Kayla Claybrook, Hailey Hamilton and Summer Daniel.

Six-man all-district, regional teams selected

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Lazbuddie running back Landon Parham and kicker Fabian Guzmán were named to the offensive side of the first-team Region I six-man all-regional football team this week.

Three Way's center Anthony Furgeson was listed on the offensive second team and linebacker Robert Rodríguez was a second-team defensive pick.

Parham, Lazbuddie's leading rusher, and Guzmán are seniors, while Furgeson and Rodríguez are juniors.

The four were among players from the two schools who earlier

had filled 15 positions on all-district teams. On those lists, Rodríguez was a first-team pick both ways (offensive running back, defensive linebacker).

Other first-team offensive selections included Furgeson (center) and Michael Soliz (senior quarterback) for Three Way and Guzmán, Parham and junior tight end Jeffery Phillips for Lazbuddie.

On the other side, first-team defensive picks were Rodríguez as a linebacker, senior Three Way lineman Marvin McCaul and senior Lazbuddie safety Moi García.

Second-team selections on the offensive team were Lazbuddie's sophomore quarter, Lucas DeLeón, McCaul (running back) and Three Way's Eric Sowder, a senior, at tight end.

Defensively, the second team includes Parham at linebacker, Furgeson as a lineman and Lazbuddie senior Cole St. Clair, also as a lineman.

Named District 3's most valuable offensive player was Whitharral spread back Steven López, while the district's defensive MVP nod went to Whitharral's Greg Cirilo, a linebacker.

Newcomer wins football contest

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Kenneth McGehee doesn't mess around when he enters football contests: His first time out of the chute this season, he won the \$25 first prize in the 14th week of the *Journal's* football contest.

He was one of four people who missed only two games, but McGehee's guess on the combined score of the tiebreaking Philadelphia-Cleveland game was 56, only three points off the actual 59.

McGehee's two misses came on New England at Chicago and Washington at Dallas.

Second-place winner Veronica Gonzales guessed 54 points on the tiebreaker. She also missed the Washington-

Dallas game, plus New Orleans at San Francisco.

Coming in third was John Graves, whose tiebreaker guess was only 40 points. He missed the same two games Gonzales missed.

Kathleen Hayes missed those two games, also, but her conservative guess of 35 on the tiebreaker left her out of the money.

Since the top four finishers all missed the Washington-Dallas game, it might not be hard to guess which was the most-missed game of the week. Only six of the 35 entrants went with the Cowboys — Richard Orozco, Nathan Crawford,

see **CONTEST** on page 2



Journal photo: Beatrice Morin

. . . and sights of the season

Hector Flores Jr. of Muleshoe Co-op Gin has written a message on a module of cotton that speaks for everyone in Muleshoe who can't attend Friday's state semi-final football game in Irving. The gin crew, like many other people, will be hard at work but cheering on the Mules from wherever they happen to be.

AROUND MULESHOE

Game tickets on sale until Thursday

The cutoff for Muleshoe sales of tickets to Friday's state semi-final football game will be 3 p.m. Thursday, according to school officials.

Tickets bought locally will be \$8 for adults and \$5 for students, while all tickets at the gate will be \$10.

The Muleshoe Mules are scheduled to play the Forney Jackrabbits at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Texas Stadium in Irving. The Mules will be the "visiting" team.

Tickets are being sold in Muleshoe at the school district's administrative offices.

School to be dismissed Friday

Class in the Muleshoe Independent School District will be dismissed Friday in order for students to attend the playoff game at Texas Stadium.

Friday night's basketball games against Lamesa also have been cancelled.

DECA students contribute to Food Bank

Muleshoe High School DECA students have contributed \$250 to the Bailey County Ministerial Alliance's Food Bank as part of their civic consciousness project for this year.

The money was raised as part of the Tom Wats merchandise sales activity just completed.

DECA members also help each week sacking food items for distribution on Saturdays. As future leaders in marketing and management, they are being taught a civic responsibility to help out with community projects.

Committee chairmen are Shannon Chapman, Jennifer Pacheco and Adam Ramirez.

Assembly of God plans open house

Muleshoe's First Assembly of God announces the open house for its 10,300-square-foot Family Life Building from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 30 and the dedication service Sunday morning.

Several former pastors of the church are expected to attend.

Soup and Sandwich to feature choir

The Dec. 14 Soup and Sandwich Luncheon at 16th and Avenue

D Church of Christ will feature the Muleshoe High School Choir under the direction of Allison Johnston.

The choir is scheduled to perform Christmas music.

The public is invited to the luncheons. The meal is always offered on the basis of free-will donations.

The luncheons are held on the second Thursday of each month, and more information is available by calling 272-4619.

New Covenant plans Christmas play

New Covenant Church, four miles east of Muleshoe on U.S. 70, is planning its annual Christmas play for 7 p.m. Dec. 15.

More information is available by calling 965-2787.

Restaurant holding food drive

McDonald's restaurant in Muleshoe has announced a food drive to benefit the Bailey County Ministerial Alliance's Food Pantry.

Donors are asked to bring two canned-food products to the restaurant any time through Dec. 20, and they will be given a free small order of french fries.

Methodists plan Christmas Eve services

The First United Methodist Church of Muleshoe has scheduled its annual Christmas Eve services for 7 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. Dec. 24.

The earlier service will last about an hour and the 11:30 service ends at midnight.

A candlelight service and Communion are included in both services. The public is invited.

Public calendar

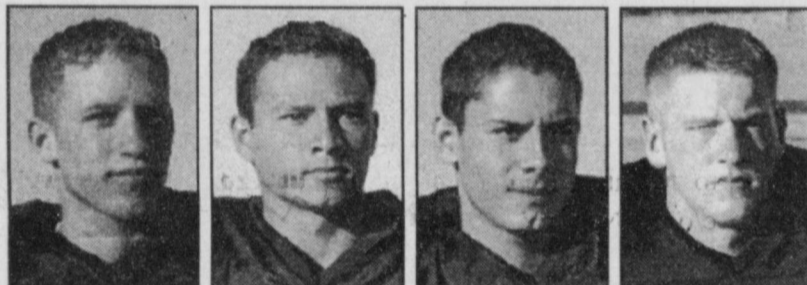
Dec. 14 — 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Seminar on water use and management, Friona Community Building. Information, (806) 481-3619.

Also on Dec. 14 — 8 p.m. Three Way School Board, in the district administrative office.

Dec. 19 — Deadline for Christmas Card Project donations; more information from either Joyline Costen or Lona Embry. Donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 202, Muleshoe 79347-0202.

Mule football honors

Dec. 8 Midland Greenwood game



Atwood Ramirez Nuñez Shelburne

Honored by the Muleshoe Athletic Booster Club for their performance in Friday's regional championship game against Midland Greenwood were (top row, from left) Kyle Atwood, player of the game; Danny Ramirez, offensive award; Lupe Nuñez, defensive award; and Jeff Shelburne, Slobberknocker Award.

HONORS

RAMIREZ-SIERRA

Mario Guadalupe Ramirez-Sierra of Muleshoe is among 226 students expecting to graduate this fall from Eastern New Mexico University in Portales.

Ramirez-Sierra is a candidate for a bachelor of art degree in Spanish.

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Letters to the Editor make a difference!

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MULES

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FORNEY

from page 1

game plan by stating, "To stop Forney, we've got to stop DaBryan Blanton."

That hasn't happened much this season. In the five regular-season games and four playoff tilts where Blanton has played this year, he has tallied 1,595 yards and 24 touchdowns on 180 carries.

"We're not going to hold him back all night, we know that. We just can't panic and get away from our game plan," Wood said.

Gladewater coach David Husmann, whose team got blanked 20-0 by Forney two weeks ago in the playoffs, advises a healthy respect for Blanton.

"When No. 3 gets the ball on the ... sweep, he can cut back against the grain or bounce it back outside," Husmann said. "They will run the (sweep) 10 different ways and from 10 different formations. That guy (Blanton) has the speed to hurt

you. Their fullback has speed, too."

Blanton gives the Forney offense instant credibility because of his speed (4.4 in the 40). And his supporting cast is strong enough to keep opponents from keying on him.

The result is that Forney has scored more than 30 points in seven games this year. "They're a first-class outfit," Husmann said. "They act right, they play hard, they gang-tackle and they're well-coached."

While the Jackrabbits' average of 294 yards gained per game may not sound awe-inspiring, they allow an average of only 161.

And when it comes to turnovers, they also take a lot more than they give: They have a total of 37 takeaways (fumbles recovered plus interceptions) compared to 17 giveaways (fumbles lost plus interceptions thrown).

Aside from Blanton in the

rushing department, Forney relies on Bryson Brown (140 carries, 800 yards and nine touchdowns).

Ironically, Forney is only about 20 miles as the crow flies from Ferris, the Mules' opponent from two weeks ago. Ferris competes in District 8-3A while Forney is in 11-3A.

Forney coach Mel Maxfield summed up the situation for both Muleshoe and his team.

"Regardless of what classification, any time it's this deep (in the playoffs), there's nothing left but good teams. It comes down to who plays defense and who stays away from turnovers."



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CONTEST

from page 1

Claire Brown, Rusty McFarland, Mac McFarland and Phillip Gonzales.

Other games that were missed by the majority of entrants were Minnesota at St. Louis (22 misses), Tampa Bay at Miami (21 misses) and New England

at Chicago (20 misses).

Not a single entry missed Arizona at Jacksonville.

Women dominated the top entries, as they have most of the later part of the season, with six of the top 10 finishers being female.

Starting grapes from seed requires period of cold

By RONN SMITH
Editor

A Clovis reader had inquired (some time ago) about how to start grapes from seed he gathered back East.

His idea was to plant them in the spring, and that might be simpler but it won't fit Mother Nature's plan for grape seeds.

They actually should be planted before the end of January. There seems to be little information available about growing grapes from seed, but I knew that the seeds would need either winter cold or else storage in a freezer for awhile. The best information I have found suggests 12 weeks of cold weather if the seeds are planted outside.

Then they should sprout in the spring when the soil temperature reaches 68 to 70 degrees.

The writer specified that these were Concord grape seeds, in which case the vines and fruit produced are going to show quite a bit of variation. (I'm judging by the "volunteer" vines that come up at the farm.)

Some of the vines will be very beautiful plants indeed, and some of the fruit will be similar to Concord fruit while a lot of it will be closer to the wild type — which many people prefer for jelly, anyway.

Of course, if the seeds were



gathered from wild grapes, they are going to produce beautiful vines and all the grapes will be small but flavorful.

On the subject of grapes, the pruning season is from now through midwinter.

When I was a kid, we always thought we had to prune the grapes before the sap began to rise. Now I understand that this is not necessary, and that the "bleeding" that results from later pruning isn't supposed to hurt the vines. The latter may be true, but I'd still rather avoid it — just in case.

Pruning grapevines can turn into work quickly. Of course, if you're one of those rare folks who keep the grapes pruned to a few branches for maximum fruit production, then pruning them is nothing.

If you're one of the majority, your grapevines are a tangled mass that is going to be very tough to deal with. If you have more than three or four vines and they're a tangle, you may as well schedule a week of vaca-

tion to work on them! Doing it once is a pretty good incentive to train them properly so you won't have that trimming job again.

The variety of grapes available to the home gardener has expanded nicely over the past few decades.

There is the popular group that produces the small white seedless grapes in huge bunches, such as Thompson Seedless or Interlaken. There are the beautiful red seedless (or seeded) similar in appearance to the Tokay grapes available in supermarkets.

Some people still prefer the musky flavor of the old white varieties such as Niagara.

When it comes to making jelly and jam, though, it's hard to imagine anything topping the Concord (which is now available in a seedless variety) and the wild grapes sometimes known as "fox grapes."

All the vines of domestic grapes are somewhat similar in appearance, but it's easy to tell the ones that produce white grapes from the ones that produce colored fruit: The underside of leaves on the white-fruited ones are WHITE (almost glow-in-the-dark) while the new growth on colored varieties is suffused with pink or purple.

The foliage on wild grapes

tends to be smaller and more refined-looking than that of domestic varieties.

Grapes remain one of the few fruits that is ideally suited to our climate. Hot, dry weather in late summer just tends to make the fruit sweeter — and, in fact, the vines just won't do well in soil that stays damp much of the time.

Admittedly, if you're going to let the vines grow to their natural size, they do require space. The shade they can provide on an arbor is some of the most pleasant relief available in hot weather, though. And if you're going to keep them pruned for maximum fruit production, though, the room required is quite small.

Either way, eating fruit fresh off the vine is a good reward for your trouble. Just keep in mind that if you have grapes on an arbor, there is probably going to be a period each year when you aren't going to want to lounge under the arbor until you clean the fruit off everything. Or maybe some of you like that feeling of grapes squishing up between bare toes.

Happy planting!
(Questions and comments can be directed to Garden Writer, 571 County Road 1018, Muleshoe, Texas 79347, or e-mail ronnsmith@hotmail.com.)

materials offered on the show by sending a first-class stamp for each handout requested, along with name, address and booklets requested, to "Creative Living" Requests, c/o KENW-TV, 52 Broadcast Center, Portales 88130.

'CREATIVE LIVING'

Information on bed and bath accessories, cooking chicken and painting wild gourds will be featured on "Creative Living" at 1 p.m. Dec. 19 and 3 p.m. Dec. 23. (All times are Central.)

"Creative Living" airs on public broadcasting station KENW-TV from Eastern New Mexico University in Portales.

Lana Bennett of Flemington, N.J., representing Singer Sewing Co., will demonstrate how to make some creative accessories to add a nice personal touch to the bedroom and bath.

Sue Vaughn, a cookbook author from Lamesa, will demonstrate what she calls "winning ways with chicken."

Suzanne Jones, a rancher from Tatum, N.M., will demonstrate how to paint wild gourds to make jewelry, home furnishings and other items.

Information on bear-shaped roods, fashion accessories and using cookie cutters will be featured at 10:30 p.m. Dec. 19 and 1 p.m. Dec. 21.

Nancy Siler, representing Wilton Industries of Woodridge, Ill., will demonstrate a variety of

foods that can be made in bear shapes for fun and novel presentations.

Cheryl Niehoff, an independent sales manager from Albuquerque, will demonstrate how accessories can make the outfit and enhance the wearer at the same time.

Sandra Fry, with the New Mexico Cooperative Extension Service in Carlsbad, will demon-

strate how to use cookie cutters as patterns for making ornaments and other decorations.

"Creative Living" is produced and hosted by Sheryl Borden of Portales.

The show is carried by more than 100 PBS stations in the United States, Canada, Guam and Puerto Rico, and is distributed by WestLink of Albuquerque.

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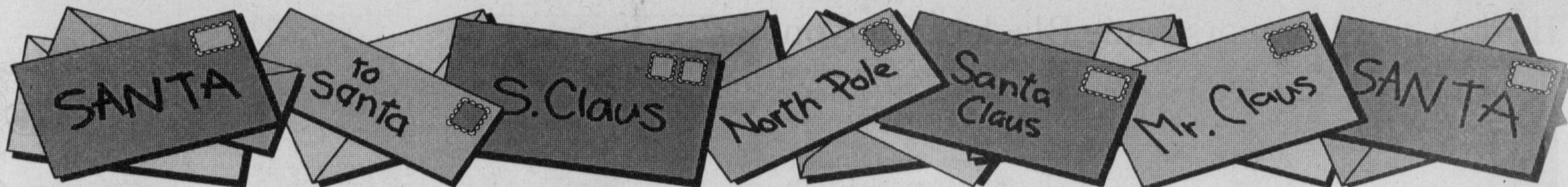
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Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I hope you have had a great year. Could you please send me a Britny Spress brabie and brabie cloths. thank You Santa. Have A Nice Christmas.

Signed,
Megan

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I hope you have had great year. Could you please sent me a barby dall. give my little sistter a little baby dall. and give my big sistter a necklace. my big brother a woch and my other big brother a necklace my mom a necklace. Thank you.

Signed,
Karina

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I hope you have had a great year. Cold you please send me a skooter and a playstion 2 a Nintendo and a gameboy and a Britney Spears sede adn a scooby-Doo. Thank you santa.

Signed,
Brook Lennon

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year I hope you had a great year. Could you please send a computers and please can I have a skooter. A pair of skates

and a litle pool table. Thank you. you or a ninc men Santy.
Signed,
Ramon

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I hope you have had a great year. could you please send a computers and a playstatio 2 and a skooter and a bice and a britneyspears dolls and a litle dog. and a winnie the pooh binder and a swim pool. and a pair of clothes and a pair of shoes amd a litle baby. Thank you Santa.

Signed,
Melissa Ann Martinez

Dear Santa,
I have been verely good this year I hope you have had a great year Could you Please send a Raideo and a Cd Thank you Santa. Have a nice Christmas

Signed,
Ivone

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. claus? Santa thank you for The gifts you brought me Last year. This year I want a Scootr and a Doll and a Cuopputr and a pup.

Signed,
Denis Arreola

Dear Santa,
Tell the randears hello Tank you for the presents Last yer. especially scooter basketball tetebear gameboy coler computer candycans especially a cat fra me: dad lova lamp hat's Beny babys buterfly pello preshes moments dull's frome: mom

Signed,
Samantha Whisenhunt

Dear Santa,
Ell the reinders hello. radio skatbowd football dirt bike and computer trampolin a bike a niscn clears
Signed,
Christian Castorena

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus? Tell the reindeers hello. Than you for the gift you brought me last year a scooter a truck a poochie and a radio and a polemon a trampolin.
Signed,
Romeo Martinez

Dear Santa,
a super Launcher a trampolin a rayman 2 a actoinman. a pup.
Signed,
John Hinton

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the gifts you brought me last year. Now I am redy for this year. I want a computer and a dirt bike and a steroi thank you.

Signed,
Aaron Pope

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the gifts you brought me las year. dis year. A game and a trampolin,
Signed,
Joey Ramirez

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus Tell the reindeers hello, Thank you for the gifts you brought me Last year please Bring me a Baha men CD and a mongoose bike and a computer and N Sync CD Thank you Mrs. Claus. and Santa Claus and Elves.
Signed,
Erika Rodriguez

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the gifts you brought me Last year. I would these are a trampolin a puzzle a teddy bear a baha man cd some clothes rugrats in paris movie N,Scync doll of Justin timberlake and a picacha.
Signed,
Valeria Olivas

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus. Thank you for the gifs you broutr me last year. this year I would like a play station. Tell those reindeer hello. Nintindo 64.
Signed,
Steven Durben

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the gifts you brought me last year. bring me anything but i especyaly computer
Signed,
Heather Gutierrez

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the gifts you brought me last year. So, how are you and Mrs. Claus? I wood like a poochie. fish food for my fishes.
Signed,
Skyler Smith

Dear Santa,
How are you a bike, dog, nintindoa 64, T.V., a poestr of you, drum set, paentball-gun, pak of rierlekraks, lots of games, to see you to see if yr ril fishis thank you.
Signed,
Cooper Washington

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the gifts you brought me last year. Will you bring me a radio and a siming pool and a real truck and a robot that can clean my room.

And a tv and a CD player.
Signed,
Nathaniel Regalado

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mis Claus? I wood like a basketball gole and a kitens.
Signed,
Tori Lampkin

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the gifts you boght me last year. So, how are you and Mrs. Claus doing? Theese are the things I would like this year, Well I don't now what I want this year. Tell the reindeers hell especially Rudalph.
Signed,
Cassie Stegall

Mrs. Dunham 2nd grade

Dear Santa,
This is what I need could you pece give me a skuter. and a skatebord and a dog. and a titas trashcan and I will like. the grich movie and i will live cockes and milk. for you and I will all so want a book of the grich. and a book of one hndred and 2 dalmashos.
Signed,
Jonathon

Dear Santa,
I will leave you Mille and cooke I will like a real ponos and a moove of the 102 dalmatins and a moooove of the Emporer Gruv and teh meove of the Wed of lurck and teh rugrat in Paris Moove.
Signed,
Adrianna

Dear Santa,
I wood liche a skoodr and a forwylr and a pony. I am going to give you cookes and a glas fo milk. Santa have a good day. Santa can i have ride on the sled. Santa do you have fun with the Der,s? Santa i love you!
Signed,
Gilbert

Dear Santa,
I wod like a shotor with a motor. and osla a mocncho cra. asla a for wiler. and I wile like a chwowa dog. and I won't some toys. and I will like some clos. and a cmputr. and a new game for my nitd 64. and I will like some pupes. and I will like a evf. and a three wille and a lasr.
Signed,
Jun

Dear Santa,
I would like one of Rudolf's sleighbells. And be Britney Spear's sister. Please give me a pony. Will you please give my brother (Marshal) a four-wheeler.
Signed,
Natalie Mead



O BITUARIES

MYCAELA ZAVALA
Services were held Monday at St. John Newman Catholic Church in Lubbock for Mycaela Danielle Zavala, infant daughter of Michael and Cathy Zavala of Lubbock. Burial was in Babyland at Resthaven Memorial Park in Lubbock.

Resthaven Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Mycaela died Dec. 6 at Cook Children's Hospital in Fort Worth.

She is survived by her parents; a sister, Allyssa Zavala, at home; her grandparents, Lidia Flores and Willie and Elvira Zavala, all of Lubbock, and Jesús C. and Inez Flores of Muleshoe; great-grandparents, Victor and Carmen Casteilleja of Jacksonville, Fla.; and great-great-grandparents, Rafael Flores of Muleshoe and Josephine Zavala of Floydada.

MELTON 'PODY' WELCH
Services were held Tuesday at the First United Methodist Church of Earth for Melton "Pody" Welch, 90, of Earth. The Revs. Henry Stone and Jack Stone officiated. Burial was in Earth Memorial Cemetery.

Parsons-Ellis Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Mr. Welch was born Aug. 29, 1910, in Winters, Texas. He died Dec. 10 at Runningwater Draw Care Center in Olton.

He had lived in Earth since 1930, when he moved there from the Big Square community. He married Beedie L. Simons in

Clovis on May 12, 1934.
He was a member of the Over the Hill Gang and the Earth Chamber of Commerce. He was a farmer and was selected man and farmer of the year in 1963. He also had been captain of the Springlake-Earth Wolverine football and basketball teams.

Mr. Welch is survived by his wife; a daughter, Bennie Sue Free of Muleshoe; three grandchildren, Grady Free and Hope Free, both of Muleshoe, and Faith Lewis of Levelland; four great-grandchildren, Charity Stark, Tiffany Morgan, Courtnee Free and Sage Free.

The family suggests memorials to Runningwater Draw Care Center (800 W. 13th, Olton 79064) or Earth Memorial Cemetery (P.O. Box 523, Earth 79031-0523).

BRENDAN TREJO
Services were held Wednesday at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Morton for Brendan Trejo, age 4 months, of Morton. The Rev. Ricardo Saldito was the celebrant. Burial was in Morton Memorial Cemetery.

Ellis Funeral Home of Morton handled arrangements.

Brendan was born July 29 in Levelland and died Dec. 10 in an auto accident in Amarillo.

He is survived by his mother, Khara Trejo Torres, of Morton; his grandparents, Benito and Marleen Carrillo of Bledsoe; his great-grandparents, George and Patricia Trejo of Morton; six uncles and four aunts, George

Carrillo and Joseph Carrillo, both of Bledsoe, Anastacio and Brenda Carrillo and Junior and Patsy Vásquez, all of Morton, Marvin and Lisa Trejo of Dumas, and George and Carol Trejo of Santa Rosa, Calif.; and several cousins.

Pallbearers were Gabriel Carrillo, Chris Vásquez, David Trejo, Richard Bihl and Edmund Martínez.

GLADYS PIERCE
Services were held Wednesday at 16th and D Church of Christ for Gladys Pierce, 89, of Muleshoe. Curtis Shelburne officiated. Burial was in Muleshoe Memorial Park.

Ellis Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Mrs. Pierce was born Feb. 5, 1911, at Quail. She died Dec. 12 at Muleshoe Area Medical Center.

She moved to the Muleshoe area from Littlefield in 1931 and married Haskell Pierce in Clovis on May 31 of that year. He died April 14, 1984.

For a number of years, she operated a day-care center in Muleshoe. She was a homemaker and a member of 16th and D Church of Christ.

Mrs. Pierce is survived by six sons, Bill Pierce of Snohomish, Wash., Sam Pierce of Rogue River, Ore., Tony Pierce of Ashland, Ore., Dick Pierce of Rociada, N.M., Neal Pierce of Fayetteville, N.C., and Gerry Pierce of Muleshoe; three daughters, Patsy Hughes of Lubbock,

Betty Blair of Noble, Okla., and Cherry Estep of Henrietta, Texas; two sisters, Bernice Gregg of Plainview and Belle Fryar of Corinth, Vt.; 33 grandchildren; 47 great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandchild.
She was preceded in death by a son, Mick Pierce.

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• 8MB removable CompactFlash memory stores 70 photos
• 2x zoom • AC adapter, case batteries

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Bridal shower honors Katie Black of Canyon



Katie Black pauses during her bridal shower.

Katie Black of Canyon was honored with a bridal shower Nov. 18 at the home of Ruth Locker of Muleshoe.

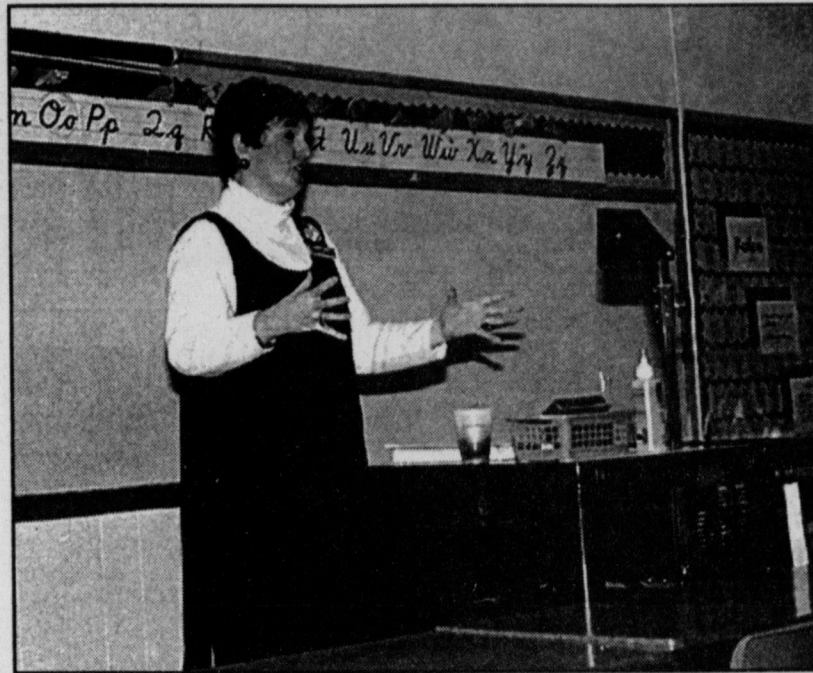
The bride-elect is the daughter of Rex and Brenda Black of Muleshoe and the prospective groom, Josh Bynum of Canyon, is the son of Kevin and Ronda Bynum of Spearman.

Special guests were the mother of the bride-elect, the mother of the prospective groom, Karen Dowley, Janis Woodell, Jana St. Clair and Donna Black (all aunts of the bride-elect), and Marlie Black and Lysie Black, sisters of the bride-elect.

Hostesses, in addition to Locker, were Terri Hahn, Debbie Conner, Hollye Hooten, Diana Harrison, Donna Locker, Sandi Chitwood, Cindy Harrison, Diane Saylor, Debbi Hutto, Lisa Whalin, Christie Whitt, Nancy Barrier, Sheryl Altman, Tonya Pool, Rayneil Bamert, Lindy Schuster, Ricki Warren and Donna Mason.

Hostess gift was an oak curio cabinet.

The wedding is scheduled for Dec. 30 at the First Baptist Church of Muleshoe.



An insurance lesson

Cathy Hord of Georgetown, president of the Texas Classroom Teachers Association, talks about a proposal for state-funded health insurance for teachers during a recent meeting at DeShazo Elementary School in Muleshoe. Hord was in Muleshoe to discuss insurance and other issues of concern to local teachers.

VETERANS NEWS

The invitation is being extended again to U.S. 5th Army veterans to tour the World War II battlefields of Italy next June.

Included will be Anzio beachhead, the U.S. Military Cemetery at Nettuno, the monastery at Cassino, Rome, Pisa, Florence, Bologna, Venice and Trieste.

Members of the 1st Armored Division, 3rd Division, 10th Mt Division, 34th Division, 45th Division, 82nd Airborne Division, 85th Division, 88th Division, 91st Division, 92nd Division support groups are asked to contact Sy Canton, c/o 5th Army Association, 465 Shore Road Suite 7P, Long Beach, N.Y. 11561, or call (516) 432-3022.

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FSA offers guaranteed loan assistance

The Bailey County office of the Farm Services Agency can help farmers get assistance under the Rural Development Act of 1972, which has recently seen growing interest on the part of commercial lenders.

The program allows farmers to obtain a guarantee on up to 90 percent of their loan. The maximum loan amount is \$717,000.

The loan can be used for farm operating expenses, cattle purchases, land purchases or a combination of these.

"Guaranteed loans are the way of the future in terms of government farm-lending activities," said Joyce Thompson, manager of the local office.

"Due to the drought in some areas and historical low prices, we plan on seeing many farmers needing the additional collateral to secure a bank loan," she added.

"The FSA guarantee loan is where FSA bears most of the risk in the early life of the loan, giving the private institution a way to be able to continue with many of

their borrowers," Thompson said.

More information on this and other loan programs is available by calling the Bailey County office at 272-4538 or visiting the facility at 111 E. Avenue D.

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HOROSCOPES

DECEMBER 17-23 For entertainment purposes only

Aries - March 21/April 20

Patience is the key to success this week, Aries. You can't pressure others into helping you. Just explain your situation, and offer your solution. If you stay calm and give people a chance to think things over, you're sure to receive a lot of support. A close friend gets a windfall and wants to celebrate. Join in the festivities.

Taurus - April 21/May 21

While you just want to stay home and relax early in the week, that's not what you'll be doing. A loved one needs your help with a family matter, and it will take up quite a bit of your time. Do what you can to remedy the situation. Your efforts will be appreciated. Gemini plays a key role.

Gemini - May 22/June 21

You have a lot to do this week, Gemini. So, don't put things off. You need to set your priorities and arrange a schedule if you want to make any progress. While you'll have to work hard, you will get a lot of things accomplished. Those involved will be impressed with your efforts.

Cancer - June 22/July 22

Don't get upset when that special someone has to cancel plans with you late in the week, Cancer. This person doesn't want to hurt you. He or she is really busy with a professional matter. Try to understand. A loved one calls you on Thursday with some gossip. Enjoy the news.

Leo - July 23/August 23

Don't hold a grudge against a close friend who makes an honest mistake that happens to get you into trouble. You really aren't in a difficult situation, and this person doesn't mean to cause you any harm. So, just work with him or her to rectify the situation, and let it go. Aquarius plays an important role in all of this.

Virgo - Aug 24/Sept 22

An acquaintance asks to borrow money from you early in the week. While you would like to help this person, you know that he or she isn't reliable enough to pay you back. So, don't do it. Instead, try to figure out another way that you can help. That special someone has a surprise for you on Friday. Enjoy!

Libra - Sept 23/Oct 23

You've been putting off an important personal decision long enough, Libra. Now is the time to make a choice. You have to do what is best for you. Turn to a loved one if you need advice; he or she won't steer you in the wrong direction.

Scorpio - Oct 24/Nov 22

An accomplishment puts you in the spotlight at work early in the week, Scorpio. While you deserve the praise, don't let this go to your head. You still have to work diligently and give 100 percent. A loved one asks for your help with a personal matter. Do what you can for him or her.

Sagittarius - Nov 23/Dec 21

You have a stressful week ahead of you, Sagittarius. However, don't get flustered. Try to look at the bright side of things: You're so busy because everyone knows that you're very capable. While it doesn't make everything better, at least it can brighten your spirits a little.

Capricorn - Dec 22/Jan 20

Stand your ground when it comes to a personal decision that you believe in. Don't let loved ones force you to change your mind. You know what is best in this situation. Stand firm. That special someone drops by unexpectedly late in the week. Listen to what he or she has to say; it's important.

Aquarius - Jan 21/Feb 18

Don't be suspicious of an acquaintance who tries to get to know you better. This person likes you and wants to strengthen your relationship. There's no hidden agenda. So, spend time with him or her. He or she could become a close friend. Pisces plays an important role.

Pisces - Feb 19/March 20

Keep your sense of humor about you when you get involved in a difficult family situation late in the week, Pisces. Things are tense, and your jokes will help to lighten the mood and put people at ease. Your efforts will be appreciated. Leo plays an important role.

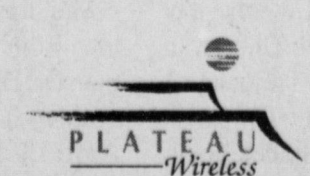


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T'S NOT REALLY THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS.

Is that fruitcake looking a little too familiar? Tired of getting the same gifts year after year? Well this year, Plateau Wireless is giving you a gift that you won't feel guilty about giving yourself. This gift is easy on your wallet and on your teeth. So, get down to your local Plateau store and get yourself something you've always wanted. Plateau Wireless. People you know. Communications you trust.

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Offer good Nov. 20 through Dec. 31, 2000 while supplies last. Some restrictions may apply.

Lady Mules bring home second from New Deal Tournament

By DELTON WILHITE
Journal correspondent

Muleshoe's Lady Mules took second place in the New Deal Tournament, played Dec. 7-9.

In their first game, the Lady Mules completely outgunned Anton's Lady Bulldogs 88-52, meaning that they had to face the host team in their second game.

The Lady Lions graciously played Muleshoe at 1:30 p.m. Friday so the Lady Mules would have time to attend the football playoff game at Denver City that night.

New Deal filled the gymnasium with students to cheer the

Lady Lions, but Muleshoe overcame the hostile environment to take a 51-46 win and advance to the tournament championship game Saturday.

Muleshoe lost the championship fight to Class A's highly ranked Smyer Lady Cats by a 72-59 margin.

Against Anton, the tipoff play worked as Megan Tipps controlled the opening tip to Myndi Heathington, and Heathington passed to Britni Gartin breaking to the hoop. That got the Lady Mule offense jump-started.

The first period was a battle, but Muleshoe outscored Anton

24-20 to set the tone for the rest of the high-scoring contest.

All the Lady Mules put points on the board in this game, with Gartin leading at 26 (including three threes), Annie Cox with 14, Tipps with 13, Tommie Hernandez with eight, Candace Hutto with six, Heathington with five, and Shani Rasco, Kayla Glover, Mindy Locker and Jessica Carpenter with four apiece.

Muleshoe was in command 49-32 by halftime.

Rebounding was more evenly spread among the team members, with Tipps leading

the way at seven.

Hernandez had six, followed by Locker and Rasco at five each.

In the second game, Gartin and Cox again led Lady Mule scoring with 13 and 10, respectively.

That time, they were helped out by Heathington and Rasco (six each), Carpenter, Glover and Tipps (four each), Locker with three and Hutto with a single.

Tipps led rebounding with eight, while Locker picked off six.

In the championship game, the Lady Mules played Smyer

head-to-head through the first quarter, which ended in an 18-18 tie. Smyer lunged ahead 40-28 by halftime, but the Lady Mules returned to the court fired

up, outscoring Smyer 24-11 in the third quarter to lead 52-51.

But the Lady Cats punished Muleshoe's audacity with a 21-7 final quarter to take the win.

Education reform caucus unveils proposals

SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

AUSTIN — Outlining what they call The Three R's of Education Reform, a group of education reform advocates recently unveiled a series of legislative proposals aimed at raising the quality of education in the state.

The Texas Education Reform Caucus — a group of classroom teachers, school administrators, parents, policymakers and business leaders — has spent the past nine months reviewing the state's education system, debating new ideas and coming up with a list of suggestions to build upon the recent successes of Texas public schools.

Noting that significant progress has been made, but saying that the state must do even more, the caucus pointed to the numbers of students in low performing schools, teacher shortages and retention problems as some signs the additional work is needed.

"We have the country's best education accountability system. We have dedicated teachers. We have students who are outpacing their peers nationally," said state Rep. Kent Grusendorf of Arlington, founder of the caucus. "But we shouldn't let the progress of our recent past leave us complacent. As Texans, we can do even better."

"The fact is, the reforms we've implemented during the past decade are now shining a bright light on the work we need to do now," said Grusendorf, a member of the House Public Education Committee who has carried every major school accountability measure in the House since 1989.

The three R's — recruit, report and reward — offer new approaches to help ensure that Texas students get the best education possible. The initiatives allow restructuring of low-performing schools; reward

teacher and school academic improvement; provide sign-up bonuses for teachers who transfer to low-performing campuses; and support a state-wide math initiative designed to improve student math scores.

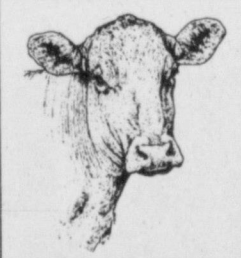
Chief among the proposals are those that offer schools a chance to ease teacher shortages, which this school year will reach an estimated 45,000 out of the state's total teacher workforce of 250,000, according to the State Board of Educator Certification.

Along with a new mentoring program that pairs veteran educators with new teachers, the caucus endorsed a proposal that make it easier for qualified non-traditional teachers to be hired in the classroom. It allows individuals with a baccalaureate or higher degree who pass the EXCET tests to teach in their areas of expertise and provides added support and training to new teachers.

"We want to give local

school districts the flexibility to find new ways to ensure that students have the most knowledgeable teachers on specific subjects," said caucus member Sandy Kress, a former Dallas School Board president. "Students deserve to be taught by the best teachers available, and teachers are entitled to have the tools they need to perform at their highest potential."

The caucus also called for an expansion of current accountability standards. Instead of merely reflecting how it teaches to the TAAS, a school could show how well they rank outside of TAAS, such as readiness for college; foreign language; math/science proficiency; rankings on national tests and Advance Placement and International Baccalaureate tests.



Muleshoe Cattle Market

SATURDAY, DEC. 9, 2000

REPRESENTATIVE SALES

935 head of cattle, 277 hogs and 529 sheep and goats for a total of 1,741 animals were sold at the Dec. 9th sale. Market steady on stocker cfs. & feeder cattle. Pairs & Bred cows steady. Packer cows & Bulls 1-2 lower. Reminder - 1 more sale this year on Dec. 16th. We will miss 2 sales for the holidays - Dec. 23rd and 30th.

The Muleshoe Cattle Market is brought to you each week by Muleshoe Livestock Auction, located east of Muleshoe on U.S. 84. Muleshoe Livestock conducts sales every Saturday, beginning with hogs, sheep and goats at 10 a.m. and cattle following at approximately 12 noon.

FOR INFORMATION ON SALES OR TO CONSIGN CATTLE, CALL (806) 272-4201

Seller, City	#	Type	Wt.	CWT or PH
Manuel Barrera, Portales, NM	2	Hol. Bulls	200 lbs.	at \$112.00
Jose Neito, Portales, NM		Hol. Bull	245 lbs.	at \$111.00
Johnny Williams, Muleshoe		Blk. Bull	325 lbs.	at \$119.00
Jared Hill, Earth		Blk. Bull	325 lbs.	at \$119.00
Rosa Davis, Muleshoe		Yell. Bull	335 lbs.	at \$121.00
Pat Moberly, Littlefield		Blk. Bull	380 lbs.	at \$119.00
Darrel Mutschler, Muleshoe	5	Mxd. Strs	395 lbs.	at \$105.00
Jim Pat Claunch, Enochs	2	Char. Strs	363 lbs.	at \$118.00
Jim Pat Claunch, Enochs	8	Char. Strs	493 lbs.	at \$107.50
Jim Pat Claunch, Enochs	24	Char. Strs	553 lbs.	at \$94.00
R&J Cattle, Levelland	6	Red Strs	589 lbs.	at \$93.00
Clark Albus, Morton	2	Mxd. Strs	893 lbs.	at \$75.00
Curtis Merrill, Clovis, NM	2	RWF Hfrs	330 lbs.	at \$105.00
R&J Cattle, Levelland		Char. Hfr	415 lbs.	at \$100.00
Kyle Pipkin, Clovis, NM		Red Hfr	470 lbs.	at \$94.00
Jim Pat Claunch, Enochs	2	Char. Hfrs	348 lbs.	at \$111.00
Jim Pat Claunch, Enochs	4	Char. Hfrs	465 lbs.	at \$96.00
Jim Pat Claunch, Enochs	15	Char. Hfrs	489 lbs.	at \$92.00
Jim Pat Claunch, Enochs	4	Char. Hfrs	556 lbs.	at \$89.50
Darrel Mutschler, Muleshoe	2	Blk. Hfrs	488 lbs.	at \$85.50
Dwayne Canada, Plains		BWF Hfr	490 lbs.	at \$95.00
Jody Ward, Clovis, NM	5	Blk. Hfrs	550 lbs.	at \$85.50
Shafer Farms, Sudan	6	Red Hfrs	649 lbs.	at \$78.50
R.D. Jones, Brownfield	2	Char. Hfrs	693 lbs.	at \$82.00
Allen Potter, Hereford	2	Blk. Pairs		\$875.00
Allen Potter, Hereford	2	Blk. Pairs		\$700.00
Curtis Merrill, Clovis, NM	6	BWF Pairs		\$510.00
White & White, Friona	2	Red Cows P5		\$460.00
John Perrin, Hereford		Red Cow P7		\$580.00
Ramiro Llanes, Albuquerque		Red Cow P		\$520.00
Brandon Dewbre, Morton		Red Cow P5		\$520.00
John Perrin, Hereford		Red Cow	1300 lbs.	at \$39.25
Pat Moberly, Littlefield		WF Cow	1260 lbs.	at \$37.50
Johnny Williams, Muleshoe	2	WF Cows	1228 lbs.	at \$36.00
Allen Potter, Hereford		Blk. Cow	1440 lbs.	at \$37.50
Allen Potter, Hereford		BWF Cow	1385 lbs.	at \$38.50



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With Every \$20 Purchase Made During Midnight Madness, You Get a Chance to Win One of Several Prizes to be Given Away at 10 pm on Dec. 16th. Must be present to win.

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 - Buy One, Get One 1/2 Price-5X only
 - 6X \$99
 - 7X \$129
 - 8X \$159
 - 10X \$189
 - 20X \$289
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- 8 pm \$8 Off
- 9 pm \$9 Off
- 10 pm \$10 Off
- 11 pm \$11 Off



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Color of your choice

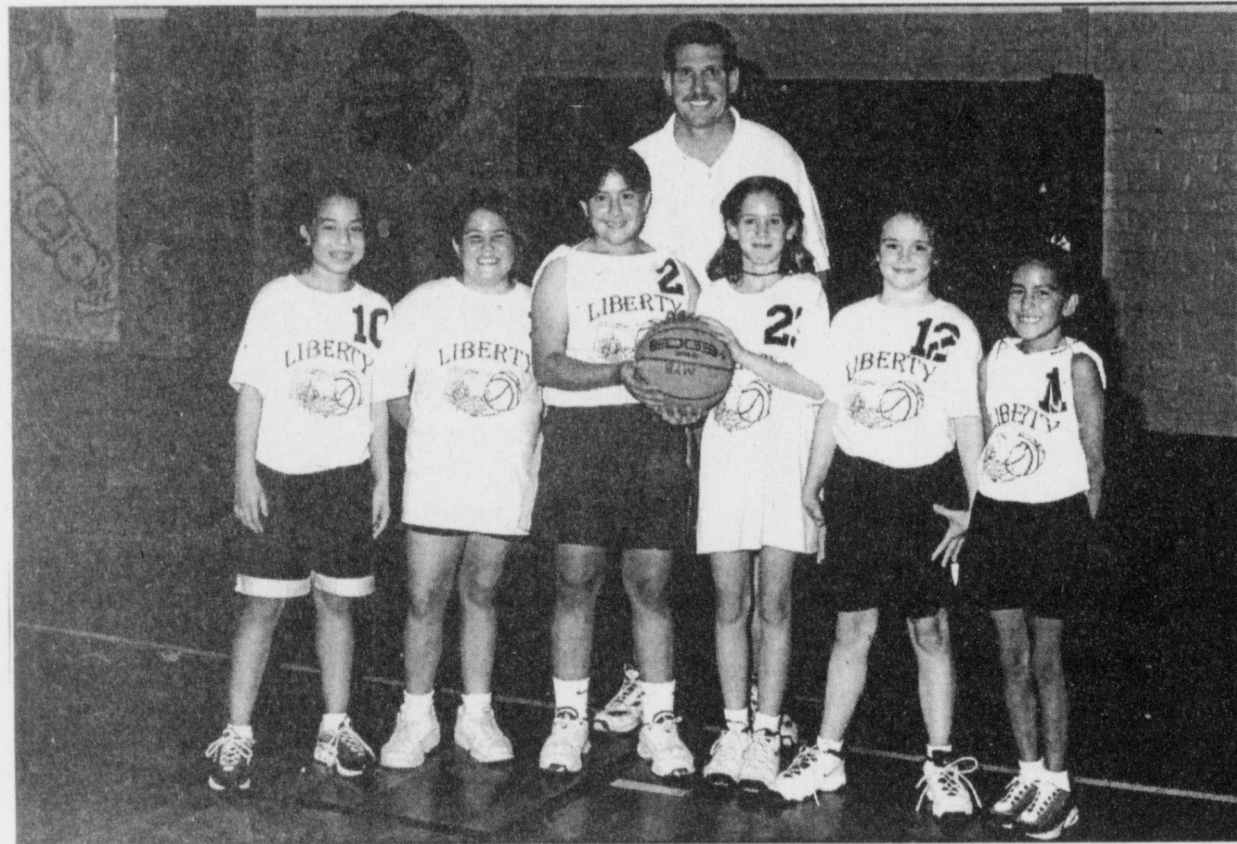
Wearhouse Sale Going On Now!



Courtesy photo: Lonnie Adrian

Comets team members

Members of the Comets fifth- and sixth-grade team in Muleshoe Youth Basketball are (from left) DezRae Contreras, Laticia Castorena, Calli Hancock, Brittany Ambriz, Ashley Grumbles, Chelsi Hawkins and Destiny Ackley. Standing behind is coach Brenda Hawkins.



Courtesy photo: Lonnie Adrian

Liberty team members

Members of the Liberty fifth- and sixth-grade team in Muleshoe Youth Basketball are (from left) Brittini Torres, Morgan Baca, Lizset Vásquez, Kelsey Tipps, Kindra Pruitt and Natasha Daniel. Standing behind is coach David Tipps.

White team downs Dimmitt in overtime

By DELTON WILHITE
Journal correspondent

The Watson Junior High white team faced off with the Dimmitt Bobcats last week, with the Mules prevailing 26-24 in overtime.

Andrew Padilla led the Mules in scoring with nine points, including the only two in overtime, in the Monday-night game played at Muleshoe.

The Mules had seen a six-point lead evaporate in the third quarter. Dimmitt pressured the ball in both front and back courts, causing Mule turnovers, and took a two-point advantage by the end of the quarter.

Jeremy Copley was fouled low on the blocks on a shot attempt, and connected on one charity toss to get the Mule offense in gear. Derek Purdy took a pass from point guard Brad Henry and put the ball up and in, giving the Mules a 19-18 lead with 4:47 left in the game.

Dimmitt nailed an NBA three-pointer to put the pressure on the

Mules. Padilla found Purdy posting up and got him the ball for a bucket, but Dimmitt hit from three land to tie the game 24-24 as time expired.

Padilla then scored the game-winning points on an 18-foot jumper. Jordan Bonds stole a Dimmitt pass

with only 20 seconds remaining to preserve the Mule win.

Mule scorers, in addition to Padilla, were Purdy and Copley with five each, Bonds with three, and Erwin Lewis and Josh Shelburne with two each.

MILITARY NEWS

WATSON

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jim G. Watson of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit helped support rescue and recovery efforts for the USS Cole after the Oct. 12 attack that left 17 sailors dead and many others wounded.

The attack occurred in the port of Aden, Yemen, and Watson's unit

provided immediate security during repair efforts and towing operations.

The unit supplies and sustains itself for either quick mission accomplishment or clearing the way for follow-on forces. It has the ability to rapidly organize for combat in nearly any environment.

Watson is the son of Sandra and Jim Watson of Lazbuddie.

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Lubbock agency gets funding for drug abuse aid

The Lubbock Regional MHMR Center has received a grant from the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse to provide services to a 15-county area, including Bailey, Cochran and Lamb counties.

The services cover a variety of programs.

Outreach, screening, assessment, referral and educational services will be provided at no cost. More information is available by calling Mona Kile at (806) 787-8342.

Youth prevention activities will be offered at various schools, either during the school day or after school. Information on this program is available by calling David Allen at (806) 790-4458.

A public resource center also will be managed by the Lubbock facility to provide substance-abuse materials to the Panhandle and West Texas.

The "library" will be taken to many communities, and materials can be ordered. In-

formation is available by calling Rebeca Wallace at (806) 767-1747.

Useful Information Available

Would you like to know how to delay or totally prevent MACULAR DEGENERATION?

There is new research that brings to light a rather good regimen for prevention or delay of Macular Degeneration. It is the leading cause of blindness for Americans over the age of 50. We have prepared a paper on the subject, which you may have whenever you come in for any Family Eyecare. We think you will find it very worthwhile, and very simple to comply with.

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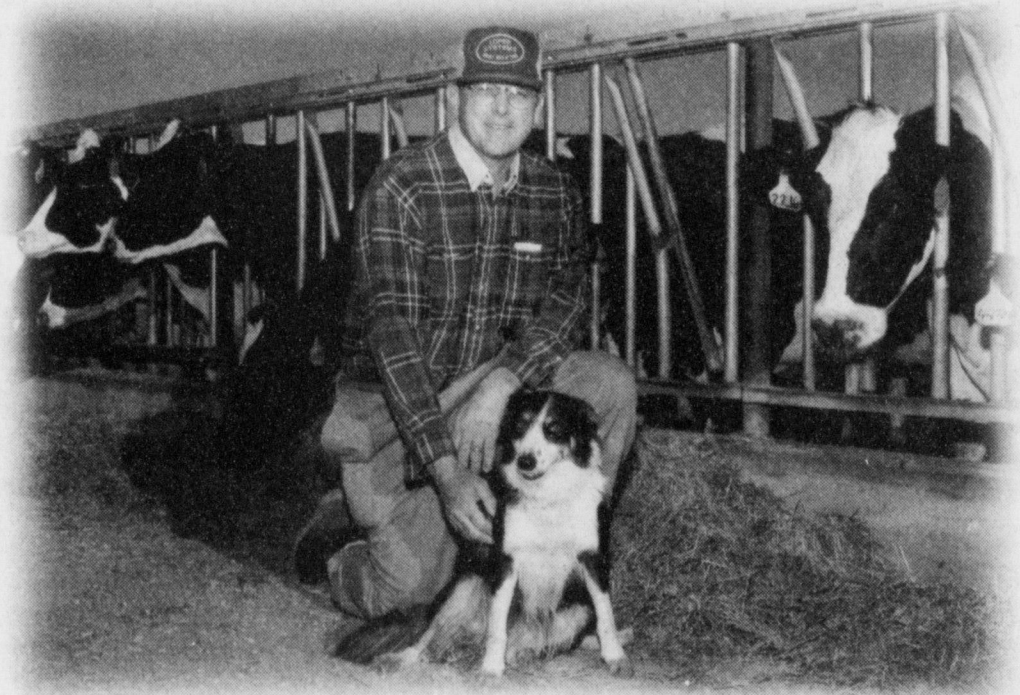
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Team researches crop yield in Mexico

SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL SAN ANTONIO — An international collaborative research project is establishing a system for monitoring and predicting crop yields in the Mexican states of Sinaloa and Tamaulipas.

Texas A&M scientists from the Blacklands Research and Extension Center and the Spatial Sciences Laboratory and their collaborators from the Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture are working with a team of scientists from INIFAP, the principal Mexican agricultural research agency.

The project, launched in 1999, seeks to predict corn yields in Sinaloa and sorghum yields in Tamaulipas. The long-term goal is to establish a national yield prediction system in Mexico.

During 1999, INIFAP scientist trained at the Blacklands facility in Temple and at the Spatial Sciences Laboratory at College Station on the use of computer-modeling programs to predict crop yield.

The project takes data gathered from farmers' plots, weather stations, satellite images and crop history and inputs it to a computer simulation model that predicts yield for the current growing season.

Daily satellite measurement techniques, among them Leaf Area Index, Normalized Difference Vegetation Index and Land Surface Temperature, are real-time tools used in the process.

"Our predictions for the 1999-2000 season were 95 percent accurate,"

said Dr. Raghavan Srinivasan, director of the Spatial Services Laboratory and U.S. researcher for the project.

Historically, Sinaloa has yielded 7.5 metric tons of corn per hectare; the project estimated a yield of 9.5 metric tons per hectare and the actual yield was 9.3 metric tons. In Tamaulipas, the historical yield of sorghum is 2.15 metric tons per hectare; the project estimated 2.7 metric tons per hectare and the actual yield was 2.35 metric tons.

"Being able to predict crop yield has economic impacts for producers, the Mexican government and the United States," Srinivasan said. "The farmer can be more successful and the federal government is providing information which helps in predicting markets, determining demand/supply and setting prices."

"On a local level, crop yield projection has direct and positive impacts on producers," he added. "By accurate monitoring early in the growing season, producers can compensate, if needed, by increasing irrigation and fertilizer use."

According to Srinivasan, there is no system in place in Mexico for predicting national crop yield. In the United States, he explained, these such systems are employed by the USDA.

Eventually, he said, the process used in this project may graduate to a national model in Mexico. INIFAP will dedicate a new center in Aguascalientes to serve as the headquarters for the project.

According to INIFAP Director-

in-Chief Jorge Kondo, INIFAP is conducting 25 national strategic initiatives, including the crop-yield research project, as a resource for Mexico's secretary of agriculture.

"The strategic program," Kondo said, "is highly valued for its importance in informed decision-making in areas such as expected price, commercialization support programs, and import authorizations, among others."

The A&M/INIFAP relationship dates back to the mid-1990s. In this current project, Blacklands staff access Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer (AVHRR) satellite data from Texas and Mexico and provide the data, computer and the technical assistance on simulation modeling and remote sensing. SSL and Blacklands staff have developed protocol for data analyses and syntheses. INIFAP, in turn, funds the dedicated

data line for access to AVHRR data. Local, SSL hopes to apply Mexico finding to use in Texas models.

"Because we share the same eco-regions," says Blacklands Director Dr. William Dugas, "we'll be able to apply what we've learned with this current project in Texas, saving developmental time."

One of the challenges of the project is determining how many acres of each crop are planted. With thousands of producers throughout the nation, and no formal system of reporting crop planting, the project relies on its satellite component, or the daily NDVI image, to augment field reporting. These images indicate whether a field is planted or bare.

Future plans, according to Srinivasan, include expanding study areas to include the Mexican states of Jalisco, Mexico, Guanajuato, Tlaxcala, Puebla, Veracruz, and Chiapas.

OF OUR THREE SHE'S A SHORTY DECEMBER 14 SHE'S TURNIN' 40!

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STOP & SHOP

Deadlines are 5 p.m. Monday and Thursday

Call 272-4536

December 14, 2000

PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF MULESHOE
TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND PROJECT**

The City of Muleshoe is considering a proposed amendment to its approved 2000 Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) contract with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to include additional water improvements with this contract. The proposed improvements include the installation of new water line and necessary appurtenances. These improvements will be in the general vicinity of other water system improvements already under construction as part of the city's approved TCDD project.

A public hearing concerning the proposed amendment is scheduled to be held at 5:05 p.m. on December 18, 2000, at the City Hall located at 215 S. First, Muleshoe, Texas. The purpose of this public hearing will be to discuss the proposed amendment and solicit citizen input on the proposed change in the scope of the city's 2000 TCDD project.

All citizens are encouraged to attend this public hearing and present their views to the city. The City Hall is accessible to the disabled; disabled individuals who might have difficulty in attending this public hearing should contact City Manager's office to arrange for special assistance. If anyone interested in attending the public hearing requires a translator, please contact City Manager's office prior to the public hearing so arrangements may be made. If you cannot attend in person, written comments may be submitted and will be accepted by the city until this public hearing is concluded.

A copy of the proposed amendment is available for review during normal business hours at the City Hall address listed above. For further information concerning the city's 2000 TCDD project and/or this proposed amendment, please contact Rick Hanna, City Manager, City of Muleshoe, at (806)272-4528.

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• NICE 3-1-1 Brick, Cent. heat & evapor. air, nice carpet, fans, 2 stor. bldgs., fenced yd., MORE!!! \$36.5K!! HL-1

LENAU - COUNTRY CLUB AREA
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• PLEASANT VALLEY, Approx. 160 acres, 2 bdrm home, 1 bath, 2 car detached garage, on pavement!!
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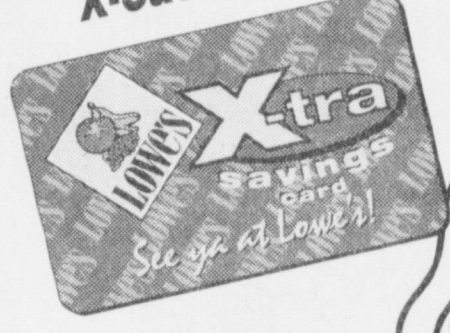


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