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VOLUME 116 NUMBER 42 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2012 8 PAGES - 75¢

Duncan Apartments lit up with criminal mischief, arson

This is the first article in a two part series on crime at the Duncan Garden Apartments.

By Jennifer Harbin

As a Floydada Police Officer drove his rounds early Sunday morning around 3:15 a.m. along Houston Street, at the intersection of Eighth Street, he saw a flash and turned his vehicle to investigate.

Drawing nearer to the Duncan Garden Apartments, the officer realized that a vehicle was completely engulfed in flames and the neighboring black Suburban was ablaze as well.

The Suburban was extinguished by the officer, but the Chrysler PT Cruiser was beyond saving. The Fire Department was dispatched, arriving moments later.

The officer that discovered the vehicle fire talked to residents of the Duncan Garden Apartments to locate the car's owner and to ask if anyone had witnessed anything, but no one did.

This kind of criminal activity has been the case at the apartments for at least two and a half years, according to Floydada Police Chief Darrell Gooch.

"Because of the activity at that complex, the officers have been frequently patrolling day and night," said Gooch. "We've talked to several people at the complex and no one has heard or seen anything."

According to Gooch, the disturbances began as criminal mischief, like "keying" damage to a few vehicles, but "has escalated into arson."

Residents at the Duncan Garden Apartments have come and gone, several being victims of eggs being thrown at their cars, broken light fixtures, broken screen doors, cut tires and broken windows and windshields.

However, it wasn't until recently that fires were being set on the property. Initially the fires were set in dumpsters, with the fire department responding several times to put out the fires, and also two incidences of mattress fires. Also, there were reports of smaller fires being set throughout the property.

In October of this year, the first major fire was set on South Eighth Street in the parking area on the west side of the apartments. Residents woke around 2:30 a.m. to find two cars engulfed in flames. One was a car belonging to the boyfriend of a resident and the other was a pickup truck that seemed to have caught on fire because of its proximity. Also cosmetically damaged in the fire was a PT Cruiser.



Photo by Jennifer Harbin

Reminders of fires past, black charred concrete still bares the scars left after an arsonist claimed three vehicles and damaged two in the past few months at the Duncan Garden Apartments located on South 8th and Hallie Streets next to A.B. Duncan Elementary School.

The owner of the apartments, Khosrow Sadeghians, responded by installing cameras to fend off potential criminals. Crime managed to slow down briefly, but returned suddenly on Sunday, December 16.

Anyone who has any information regarding any of the past crimes or who has heard or seen anything, please call the police at 806-983-2834.

Floyd County Farm Bureau named Most Outstanding in Texas



Courtesy Photo

Voting delegates representing the Floyd County Farm Bureau at the 79th Texas Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Waco Dec. 1-3 and accepting the award for Most Outstanding County Farm Bureau were (back row, l-r) State Director Dan Smith, Vice President Matt Francis, Garrett Mathis, Dane Sanders; (front row, l-r) Boyd Jackson, President RN Hopper, Brad Yeary, Secretary Eric Smith, Todd Hinsley and past President Tanner Smith. Not pictured was Ian McIntosh.

Dan Smith elected to Texas Farm Bureau Board

By Charla McHam

Each year county Farm Bureau members from across the state meet the first weekend of December for their annual meeting. During the meeting delegates vote on important issues to be placed in the Texas Farm Bureau policy book, elect representatives from their prospective districts to serve on the TFB board of directors, and recognize the top 3 counties in the state for their participation in all of the agriculture and legislative activities hosted by Texas Farm Bureau throughout the year.

Floyd County Farm Bureau was very well represented at the annual meet-

FARM BUREAU continued on page 8



Courtesy Photo

The Chamber of Commerce of Lockney participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony for Lockney's new business, Four Corner Café, which is run and owned by Nancy Faz. The new restaurant will be open Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon will be adjusting their subscription rates starting January 1, 2013.
The rate increase is due to the increase in the postal rates.
We have not raised our subscriptions rates for the last five years. The new rates will be $30 IN COUNTY and $35 OUT OF COUNTY.
Subscription renewal notices will reflect these new prices starting Jan. 1. If you would like to renew your subscription at the current rate, please come into the Hesperian office or Beacon office to renew by Monday, Dec. 31.

The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon wishes everyone a

SAFE & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Floyd County Church Directory

AIKEN BAPTIST CHURCH
Dennis Butler, Pastor
Morning Worship ..11:00 a.m..
*****
BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH
810 S. 3rd, Floydada
Darwin Robinson, Pastor
983-5278
Sunday School .....10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship ..10:50 a.m.
Evening Worship .... 6:00 p.m
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m
*****
CALVARY'S CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP
Floydada
Armando Morales, Pastor
Sunday School .....9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship ..11:00 a.m.
Bible Study .....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening7:00 p.m.
*****
CARR'S CHAPEL
Service Every Sunday:
Morning Worship ....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School .....10:30 a.m.
*****
CHURCH OF CHRIST
West College & Third, Lockney
Morning Worship ..10:30 a.m.
Afternoon Worship ..1:30 p.m.
Wednesday Service 7:30 p.m.
*****
CITY PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST
Levi Sisemore, Minister
Ivan Gomez, Minister
Floydada
Sunday Bible Study..9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship ..10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship ....6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.
*****
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Tim Franks, Pastor
Terry Simmons, Minister of Ed./Music
Josh Burgett - Min. Students
Sunday School .....9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship ...10:30 a.m
Evening Worship .....6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study....6:30 p.m.
*****
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Lockney
Jonathan Sullivan, Pastor
Chad Cook, Youth Min.
Phil Cotham, Music Min.
Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship .... 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m
Wednesday..... 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday (Youth). .7:15 p.m.
*****



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Floydada
Rev. Les Hall, Pastor
Morning Worship .....9:30 a.m.
Sunday School..... 10:50 a.m.
Youth (Sunday).....5:00 p.m.
Youth (Wednesday)..6:30 p.m
*****
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Lockney
Rev. Ricky Carstensen
Pastor
Sunday School .....9:30 a.m.
Worship Service ....10:30 a.m.
Evening Service..... 6.00 p.m.
Wed. Jr. High .....5:30 p.m.
Wed. High School... 6:30 p.m.
*****
GRANT CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
Joe Bennett, Pastor
Sunday School .....10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship ...11:00 a.m.
Evening Service.....7:30 p.m.
Tuesday.....8:00 p.m.
Wed. Service .....7:30 p.m.
*****
MAIN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST
Lockney
Beau A. Hart, Minister
Bible Study .....9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship ..10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship ... 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:30 p.m.
*****
MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
Floydada
Rev. Timothy Askew
401 N 12th St (983-5805)
Sunday School .....10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship ..11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship .....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Study ...7:00 p.m.
*****
NEW SALEM PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Floydada
Pastor Elder Ronnie Hedges
(806) 637-0430
Sunday Singing .....10:30 a.m.
Morning Worship ..11:00 a.m.
*****
OUT REACH HARVEST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
310 E. Mississippi
Floydada
Rev. David Ramos, Pastor
Ester Ramos, Praise Leader
Sunday Bible...10:00 a.m.
Morning Praise..11:00 a.m.
Evening Praise ....5:00 p.m.
Wed. Worship.... 7:00 p.m
.

POWER OF PRAISE FULL GOSPEL CHURCH
Rev. Manuel Rendon, Pastor
704 N. Main, Lockney
Sunday Services....10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening ..... 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:30 p.m
*****
PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA
Lockney
Jesus Caballero, Pastor
Sunday School .....9:45 a.m.
Worship Service ....11:00 a.m.
Discipleship .....5:00 p.m.
Wed. Service .....7:00 p.m.
*****
PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA
Floydada
Rev. Toby Gonzales
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship ..10:40 a.m.
Evening Worship ... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Evening .....7:00 p.m.
*****
SAN JOSE CATHOLIC CHURCH
Lockney
Jim McCartney, Pastor
Wed. Communion....8:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass.....11:30 a.m.
*****
SOUTH PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH
Joe Weldon, Pastor
Sunday School .....10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship ...11:00 a.m
Prayer Meeting..... 7:00 p.m
*****
TEMPLO GETSEMANI ASSEMBLY OF GOD
701 W. Missouri
Joe M.Hernandez
983-5286 (church)
- ..... Sunday School .....
English..... 9.45 a.m
Spanish..... .11:00 a.m.
Spanish Worship .....9:30 a.m.
English Worship.....11:00 a.m.
EveningService.....5:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.
*****
ST. MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Floydada
Rev. Angelo Consemino
Phone: 983-5878
Sunday Mass.....11:30 a.m.
Mon.Wed. Mass.....6:30 p.m.
Confession Sat.....10-11 a.m.
*****
TEMPLO BAUTISTA SALEM
Lockney
Rev. Joe Hernandez
Sun. Prayer Service 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School .....9:45 p.m.
Worship Service ....11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship ... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Meeting .....7:00 p.m.
*****
TEMPLO BETHEL SPANISH ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Washington and 1st St.
Sunday School .....9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship ..11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship .... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Service .....7:00 p.m.
*****
TEMPLO NUEVA VIDA
Rev. Herman Martinez
308 W. Tennessee, Floydada
Sunday School .....10:00 a.m.
Evening Worship .....5:00 p.m.
Tuesday.....7:30 p.m.
Thursday Service.....7:30 p.m.
*****
TRINITY ASSEMBLY
500 W. Houston
Henry Russell, Co-Pastor
Vance Mitchell, Co-Pastor
983-5499 or 983-2887
Sunday School .....9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship ...10:40 a.m.
Sunday Evening .....6:00 p.m.
*****
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Providence Community on FM 2301 293-3009
Rev. Peter W. Harrington Minister
Sunday School .....9:45 a.m.
Worship Service ....11:00 a.m.
*****
WEST SIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST
Floydada 983-3548
Sunday Worship ...10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening .....5:00 p.m.

Prosperity Bank
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217 W. California
983-3725

Lockney Co-op Gin
Lockney, Texas
652-3377

Barwise Gin
Barwise Community
983-2737

Oden Chevrolet Inc.
221 S. Main, Floydada
983-3787

Clark Pharmacy
320 N. Main - Lockney
652-3353

Payne Family Pharmacy
200 S. Main, Floydada
983-5111

Davis Lumber
102 E. Shubet
Lockney
652-3385

Schacht Flowers, Jewelry & Gifts
112 W. Poplar, Lockney
652-2385

Goen & Goen Insurance
102 E. California
983-3524

Shepherd's Meadow Assisted Living
1230 S. Ralls Hwy
Floydada.
983-8177

Lighthouse Electric Coop
703 A Matador Hwy
983-2814

Sunshine Pump
Oliver Clark
Box 266, Lockney
983-5087 - 774-4412
(Mobile)

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OBITUARIES



ALGENE O'DANIEL BARKER

Algene O' Daniel Barker, homemaker, long time church and civic worker, died Tuesday, December 18, 2012.

Funeral services were held at 1:30 p.m. Friday, December 21, 2012 at the First United Methodist Church in Lockney. Reverend Ricky Carstensen and Chaplain Charles Carmen officiated.

Burial preceded the service at the Lockney Cemetery under the direction of Moore-Rose Funeral Home in Lockney.

Algene is preceded in death by her husband, Barry.

She is survived by one son, Brent Wayne and wife, Lou Ann Barker of Keller, Texas; and one daughter, Beverly Irene Barker of Corpus Christi. Also surviving are three grandchildren, Brittany Barker Duniven and husband, Tyler Duniven of North Richland Hills, Jefferson Brent Barker of Lubbock and BreAnn Barker of Keller, Texas and one great-grandson, Carter Duniven.

The family suggests memorials be made to Lockney Salvation Army of Lockney or the First United Methodist Church, 102 W. Poplar Street, Lockney, Texas 79241 or the charity of your choice.



FLOY GRAHAM NEASBITT

Floy Graham Neasbitt, age 100, left this world Friday, December 14, 2012 into the arms of Jesus.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m., Monday, December 17, 2012 at the Floydada Cemetery. Arrangements were under the direction of Moore-Rose Funeral Home in Floydada.

Floy was born on July 13, 1912 in Paducah to Oster and Iva (Wade) Simpson. She married Dudley Graham on November 5, 1927 in Meadow, Texas. They were married for 52 years. After the death of her first husband she married Purvis Neasbitt in 1984.

She was best known as "Mama Floy" to her family and close friends. For many years she worked for the public. She loved to cook for all of her family, especially her grandkids and great-grandkids. She was a homemaker and loved to garden and dance. She had a great 100 years celebration party at the Lockney Nursing Rehab Center on her birthday.

She is preceded in death by one daughter, Lucille (Skeeter) Willis in 1999, first husband, Dudley Graham in 1978, second husband, Purvis Neasbitt in 1986, and two great-grandsons.

Floy is survived by her son, Leroy Graham and wife of Floydada, nine grandchildren, many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Online condolence may be made at www.moore-rose.com.



EMMA SANCHEZ

Emma Sanchez, age 66, of Floydada, passed away Sunday, December 16, 2012. Rosary was held at 6 p.m., Tuesday, December 18, 2012 at Moore Rose Funeral Home Chapel.

Mass of Christian burial was held at 2 p.m. December 19, 2012 with Father Angelo R. Consemino officiating.

Interment followed at the Floydada Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Moore-Rose Funeral Home of Floydada.

Emma was born on March 9, 1946 in Pearsall, Texas to Luis and Juanita (Martinez) Vasquez. She married Jessie Sanchez on August 12, 1967. The couple was blessed with 45 years of marriage and two sons.

Emma loved spending time with her family and especially her grandchildren. She was known to her family as the best mom and grandma ever. Emma was a wonderful cook, and enjoyed cooking for her family. Her sociable personality gathered many friends for games of Bingo and Paco.

Emma took pride in helping her church with activities. She was a member of St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church. Emma will be greatly missed by all those who knew her.

Emma was preceded in death by her parents, and siblings, Luis, Jr., Teresa Del Toro, and Olga Vasquez Enriquez.

Emma is survived by her husband, Jessie Sanchez of Floydada; two sons, Joe and his wife, Ashley Sanchez of Abernathy and Jesse Sanchez and his wife, Cherie of Shallowater; eight grandchildren, Joseph, Jakob, Jadeyn, Marc, Jeshua, Vance, Laila, and Maddox; two sisters, Virginia Vasquez and Lilia Garcia; and five brothers, Ricky, Mike, Carlos, Lucio, and Abel Vasquez.

Online condolences may be made at www.moore-rose.com

1956 STUDY CLUB

By Kay Dean Smith

The 1956 Study Club celebrated the Christmas holiday with a Progressive Dinner on December 13. All the homes were beautifully decorated for Christmas.

The first stoop was at the home of Janis Julian for appetizers. Trena Simpson shared the hostess duties with Janis.

Anne Carthel's home was next where the main course was prepared by Anne and co-hostess Linda Harbin.

Members made their final visit to the home of Rozanne Bishop. Terri Bush assisted Rozanne as co-hostess for the desserts.

Members were not only served delicious food, but received special favors. Rozanne Bishop and Terri Bush made cupcake Christmas ornaments for each member. President Dana Crossland presented members with a copy of The M & M Christmas Story accompanied by M & M candies.

The fun evening was attended by Rozanne Bishop, Terri Bush, Sheree Cannon, Anne Carthel, Dana Crossland, Linda Harbi, Charline Hendrix, Janis Julian, Janet Lloyhd, Linda Matsler, Judy Schacht, Trena Simpson, JenniSu Smith, Kay Dean Smith, Jan Willson.

Healthy Recipe of the Week

Provided by Pure Balance Nutrition

Roasted Carrots

Ingredients:

- ¼ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp pepper
- 1 pound of organic carrots-whole
- 1 small onion- cut in this sedges
- 1 tablespoon of fresh parsley chopped
- 1 tablespoon of olive oil

Directions:

Toss carrots and onion with oil. Arrange in single layer in 13x9x2 baking pan, sprayed with no stick cooking oil. Roast at 450 degrees stirring occasionally, until carrots are lightly brown and just tender, about 20-25 minutes. Stir in parsley, salt and pepper.

LIFESTYLES

FLOYDADA SENIOR CITIZENS NEWS

By Margaret Jones

Songs of adoration resonate through the countryside keeping pace with joyful thoughts of celebration for the thankfulness of life as CHRISTMAS TIME hurriedly approaches with the swift passing of each day.

Getting all caught up in the festivities of it all, we rush on our way with great anticipation of its coming. Knowing we live in a fallen world, our business keeps the thought at bay until we are quickly brought to the reality of the moment. Suddenly and without warning we are brought back to reality when news events wrack our brains and rattle our senses; sometime with such incomprehensible sorrow that we are brought to our knees and shaken to our very core by the message. We are often skeptical and keep too narrow a focus on Self. Let us learn to not fear when adversity is hard upon us, but rather PRAY and TRUST for God's Goodness and Love is always surrounding us.

Which had you rather have to start your New Year with: skepticism or the sense of God's Love surrounding you and that God will take care of you through all things?

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

BANANA PUDDING

1 large box French Vanilla pudding
1 can Eagle Brand milk
Dash of Vanilla
1 large carton Cool Whip
5-7 bananas, sliced
1 box Vanilla wafers

Mix vanilla pudding by directions on box. Stir in Cool Whip, vanilla and Eagle Brand milk. Layer the bottom of a large pan….wafers, bananas. Add pudding mixture and top with another layer. Chill until set.

Thought for the Week – Joy to the World, the Lord is come. Let heaven and nature sing!



Photo by Jennifer Harbin

Betty Jackson and Geneva Barclay enjoy the festive surroundings at the Lockney Senior Center that was recently decorated by the Floyd County Queens. The Queens have also baked and shared several sweet concoctions with the seniors.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

OF THE FLOYD COUNTY MUSEUM

A DRAINAGE DITCH
Floyd County Hesperian
October 8,1970
By Homer Steen

I think the first time a move ever was made to improve a street in Floydada was by a member of the Commissioners Court, J.D. Starks, was his name. He was elected a commissioner from Precinct No. 1 the first time in 1896, according to the records, and held the office until November of 1904.

Mr. Starks undertook a drainage job on West side of the square, on Main Street from California to Virginia. This was some time in 1903. Whether this was a first I am not sure. It may have bee a re-do. I was a kid down-town one day and there they were working.

When he had "warned out" to do the work and what kind of dirt moving machinery they had to work with is something else I can't answer.

The ditch was about four feet out from the plank sidewalks. According to the eyeball engineering the water should have collected in the ditch and drained off to the north lake. It was a good try but not a complete success. Like always me ditch was deep where the ground was soft and shallow where the ground was hard. It lacked a little of getting over the "hump" on North Main.

Crossing Dry Shod

But the water did drain into the ditch. If a person could ford the ditch he could make it dry shod to the stye over the court yard fence, helpful in wet weather if one had no four buckle overshoes.

I can't recall how long the ditch was maintained to drain the street. A little later the country began to settle up rather fast and the Commissioners Courts were besieged by new home owners who wanted roads opened. Every cent that could be spared from any fund was being used to open roads and trying to make them travelable.

My belief is that sometime after 1918, when R. E. Fry succeeded W.L. Bomer as mayor, dirt moving to lay out streets was first undertaken. Unable to cajole the Commissioners Court into helping. Fry and his council rigged up a second had makeshift of sorts, almost literally using baling wire and binder twine to hold together. They drained a few places where the water stood, and out-lined a few streets as need developed. Beginning in Mr. Bomer's administration the county agreed to maintain four cordinal streets leading into the public square.

Hired A Good Man

Road drags were in common use in those days on dirt roads and streets. Fry liked to hire W.F. Daniel to drag the streets after a rain. He said Daniel had a god team and "would hit the ball" without bothering you about it.

I do not know yet why successive city councils could not get help on their street work from successive commissioners courts, but that was the way it was for something like half a century.

Comptroller Susan Combs Announces New Website to

(AUSTIN) — More than 1 in 5 Texas children aged 10 to 17 are obese, and obesity puts millions of Texans at risk for chronic disease. In response to the state's obesity epidemic, Texas Comptroller Susan Combs today announced the launch of ReshapingTexas, a new online resource that examines the economic impacts of obesity and identifies areas in the state where children are at risk.

The Web portal contains an interactive mapping function that uses FITNESSGRAM® data and Body Mass Index (BMI) results, collected by school districts and reported to the Texas Education Agency, to visualize where in Texas students are most at risk. The site also spotlights costs associated with obesity, obesity related news, medical research and initiatives across the state aimed at fighting obesity.

"Our goal is to provide a collaborative, interactive clearinghouse of news, data, research and success stories involving Texas' fight to treat and prevent obesity," Combs said. "ReshapingTexas is part of our ongoing effort to give Texans the tools and information they need on the frontlines of this issue. We need people across the state to help tackle obesity head-on, in order to avoid future health and economic pitfalls."

Reshaping Texas encourages users to suggest articles and success stories that may be beneficial to others, and also to get involved. The site will continue to expand as public participation grows and content and tools are added.

The Comptroller's 2011 report Gaining Costs, Losing Time found obesity and related health expenses could cost Texas businesses $32.5 billion annually by 2030 if current trends continue. Last April, Combs appeared in the HBO documentary The Weight of the Nation, which outlined the social and economic costs of obesity throughout the nation.

This effort, www.ReshapingTexas.org, is the result of legislation in 2011, which instructed the Comptroller's office to build a Web portal to collect research and information on the economic effects of obesity and areas in which children are at risk.

Dixie Divas

Happy New Year



RONDA RICH

Of course, I'll be having black-eyed peas and collard greens for New Year's Day. It has become more than a tradition. It's almost downright superstition, though I hate to admit that.

And, of course, I'll make the usual resolutions. I'll commit those stubborn six pounds to a diet, pledge to work out more than once a week, promise to be kinder to those who are meaner and read my Bible daily. It is safe to say that I will not miss peas and collards on the first day of the New Year and, by sometime in February, I will have already failed at all these resolutions. However, if I can stay away from a problem with the phone company, I may have a chance of stretching the 'kinder to meaner' resolution to March.

This year, however, I'm brave enough about my past failures to audaciously add some brand spanking new ones. That's because I have a brand new husband and I realize that it is my wifely duty to help to make him a better man. I'll happily use some of my resolutions to do that.

Since you and I are such good friends, I don't mind sharing them with you and since my husband is a faithful reader of this column, he'll have a copy, too.

I plan to introduce him to a check register. It's helpful device that lists checks that are written and keeps a tally of money in the account. Now you should know – I'm fervent in book keeping and counting my pennies. He, though, totes checks in his pockets, writes them at will and never thinks to record them. "I know what a check register is," he will say indignantly when I question whether he has ever seen one. This year I resolve that he will prove those words to me.

I will challenge him daily to show me that he is carrying a pocket knife. Every farmer or Southern man knows that a pocket knife is indispensable. "I need something to cut the twine on these bales of hay for the horses," he said the other day. I smiled. "That's why you're suppose to carry a pocket knife with you. You never know when you need to whip it out and cut something." A wedding gift from our friend, Mike, was a pocket knife. "Every man needs a pocket knife," Mike explained then tossed a nod in my direction. "And she really likes men who carry pocket knives. She says it's sexy."

There needs to be more reverence around our house paid to that great and mighty warrior, General Robert E. Lee. I expect his birthday on January 19 to be treated with somber respect and there should be no head shaking over the fact that some Southern states declare his birthday to be a state holiday. General Lee is to the South what Bush Hogs are to farmers – a hero.

I am going to promote less hand washing around here. My husband, who is not a doctor but often writes one on television, goes through a bar of soap every two days while a bottle of liquid soap lasts less than a week. I believe that a few germs make us healthier. If you keep your body stripped of germs, how can you build up immunity to them? I will say, though, that of all my resolutions relating to the man of our house, this is the one I have the least faith in. It's probably a safer bet that I will succeed in reading the Bible daily as opposed to this one. He likes clean.

So, those are my new, never-used-before resolutions. Maybe my husband will clip out this column, put it on the refrigerator and practice these things.

Or maybe I'll be repeating these resolutions again next year. Just like all my previous resolutions.

Ronda Rich is the best-selling author of There's A Better Day A-Comin'. Visit www.rondarich.com to sign up for her weekly newsletter.

Celebrate the New Year in Texas With 10 Free Flowering Trees from the Arbor Day Foundation

Residents of Texas can ring in the New Year with 10 free flowering trees by joining the Arbor Day Foundation any time during January 2013.

By becoming a part of the nonprofit Arbor Day Foundation, new members will receive two white flowering dogwoods, two flowering crabapples, two Washington hawthorns, two American redbuds and two goldenraintrees.

"These beautiful trees will give your home in Texas lovely flowers with pink, yellow and white colors," said John Rosenow, founder and chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "These trees are perfect for large and small spaces, and they will provide food and habitat for songbirds."

The free trees are part of the Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between February 1 and May 31, with enclosed planting instructions. The 6- to 12-inch tall trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

Members will also receive a subscription to the Foundation's bimonthly publication, Arbor Day, and The Tree Book, which includes information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and to receive the free trees, send a $10 contribution to TEN FREE FLOWERING TREES, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by January 31, 2013. Texas residents can also join online at arborday.org/january.

Lockney Senior Center Menu

December 31- January 4

Monday: CLOSED
Tuesday: CLOSED
Wednesday: Chicken Fried Steak
Thursday: Spaghetti
Friday: Enchiladas

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TxDOT, DPS warn drivers to slow down, pay attention through work zones

AUSTIN — As holiday travel picks up across the state, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is asking motorists to stay focused on driving safely in the hundreds of active work zones across the state, including the Lubbock area.

Navigating construction can be difficult and risky for drivers and workers. As TxDOT tackles one of its largest construction projects in department history – expanding or improving more than 100 miles of I-35 across the state – educating the public on the necessity of driving safely through work zones is a top priority.

"Interstate 35 is the Main Street of Texas serving as a major artery for not only motorists, but for the businesses that make our great state the economic powerhouse it is," said John Barton, TxDOT's deputy executive director. "Unfortunately, the reality is we are beginning to see many crashes in work zones threatening our front line teams who risk their lives daily to keep Texas moving. To better protect them, we're ramping up our educational efforts to encourage Texans to use extreme caution when driving through work zones."

Also at great risk are drivers. In 2011, there were 14,670 crashes in roadway construction and maintenance zones in Texas, resulting in 116 fatalities, the majority of which were motorists. Currently, TxDOT has 20 active work zones along I-35 encompassing 109.6 miles from north to south Texas – the most the agency has ever had on the state's main corridor. While these work zones indicate great progress for our state, they also call for enhanced enforcement from the Texas Department of Public Safety.

"DPS will be increasing enforcement in specific construction zones to encourage drivers to observe posted speed limits," said Highway Patrol Major Casey Goetz. "Fines double when workers are present in construction zones. Motorists need to do their part and adjust their driving habits in work zones to help reduce the risk of crashes. Careless actions by a few end up costing everyone."

According to AAA Texas, 7.1 million people in the state will travel by automobile this holiday season – a 2 percent increase over last year. And, as more than 1,000 citizens move to Texas daily, TxDOT will continue to work with law enforcement to protect all Texans and ensure all roadways remain safe and reliable.

"Education on the dangers of speed and distracted driving in work zones will always be a key component to what we do at TxDOT," Barton said. "But at the end of the day, each of us has the power to protect lives as we drive. We just need to put our cell phones down, buckle our seatbelts and focus on driving safely."

To learn more about work zone safety, watch Maintenance Crews – Working for Texas, or visit the TxDOT YouTube channel and search for "Working for Texas." More information about work zones can also be found at www.txdot.gov.

'Dr. Pepper' honored at 40th anniversary of International Pepper Conference

WESLACO – Dr. Ben Villalon, a Texas A&M AgriLife Research professor emeritus, was honored recently for creating and maintaining the National Pepper Conference, an event that draws chile aficionados from throughout the world and is now known as the International Pepper Conference.

Villalon, nicknamed "Dr. Pepper"during his many years as a pepper breeder in South Texas, was presented a founders award at the event's 40th anniversary held recently in Naples, Fla.

"The International Pepper Conference has come a long way since Dr. Villalon and Dr. Tom Zitter first tossed around the idea of holding a meeting to draw together researchers for the exchange of information and germplasm back in 1972," said Gene McAvoy, a county Extension director in La Belle, Fla. and this year's conference organizer.

"The International Pepper Conference has since emerged as the premier venue for the dissemination and exchange of information on capsicum," he said.

Villalon, now retired, was at the time a plant virologist and pepper breeder at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Weslaco. Zitter was a plant pathologist in Belle Glade, Fla. The two were discussing viral diseases and breeding efforts of peppers during Villalon's visit to Florida in 1972.

"We talked about the idea of organizing all pepper research scientists," he said. "Zitter and I snail-mailed a questionnaire to a list of people that might be interested in attending. The response was tremendous. The National Pepper conference was created and we hosted 100 people at our first gathering in McAllen and Weslaco on April 25, 1973."

Attendees included plant pathologists, breeders, horticulturists, geneticists, physiologists and virologists, Villalon said. Topics discussed included bacterial diseases, breeding, mechanization, processing, and the evaluation and physiology of cultivars. A wide variety of peppers were discussed, including bell, long green and red chile, high color paprika, ancho, pimiento, cayenne, tabasco, jalapeno, serrano, cherry types and others.

"At that first conference, a group of us formed an organizational committee and made recommendations on the direction future pepper conferences would take," Villalon said. "We decided, for example, to have the conference every two years in major production areas, such as California, Florida, New Mexico, Texas, etc. We also agreed to have no officers or annual dues; it would all be non-profit. And every two years, we hold a conference that was better than the last. That's probably why it's still around after 40 years."

Villalon has never had illusions of the conference as a highly structured event.

"This is the most unorganized but most fruitful scientific organization I have ever belonged to," he said. "Much of its success comes from the fact that chile is the most important ingredient in the world due to its nutritional and health aspects."

Since its inception, the conference has always had an international flair.

"Even at that first conference in 1973, some researchers from Mexico attended," Villalon said. "Soon we had them coming from about 35 tropical countries in the world that grow peppers. Then they started coming from all over the world. So, in 1998 we formally changed the name to the International Pepper Conference, but it's always been international."

In 1982, the conference took its first steps outside the U.S. when it was held in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. In 2004, it was held in Tampico, Mexico where some 600 people attended. The next conference will be held in Santiago, Chile.

This year's event, held Nov. 4–6 at the Waldorf Astoria in Naples, Fla., drew 183 scientists from as far away as Portugal, China, India, Nigeria, Bolivia and Belgium.

Zitter gave the keynote address and was presented a similar award.

Among the many virus-resistant peppers Villalon developed and released during his career was the world's first commercial mild jalapeno pepper in 1981.

"That mild pepper is the one that opened the floodgates," he said. "People the world over could now enjoy the flavor of pepper without the bite. Eventually, that led to salsa overtaking ketchup as the best-selling condiment in the U.S."

The interest and demand for peppers increased dramatically worldwide in the years that followed.

"New pepper varieties with higher amounts of vitamin C, vitamin A, antioxidants and many other healthful phytochemicals have been developed due to this conference, and more are on the way."

Many research scientists have attended the conferences religiously over the years, representing various disciplines of pepper research, including breeding, genetics, virology, molecular biology, physiology, entomology, pathology and horticulture, he said.

"But these conferences are not all work and no play," Villalon concluded. "We throw fiestas, dances, tours, floor shows, lots of activities just to spice things up, pun intended."



The 501

by Hanaba Munn Welch



Books and pianos are two things that deserve a better fate than the landfill. That said, I myself did once discard a cheap guitar that had spent too much time under a roof leak.

But if that guitar had been a piano, I couldn't have done it.

I rescued a Baptist piano once. It was a massive old upright parked in plain view outside the pastor's house, abandoned by a mission in favor of a new electronic organ. Outside is no place for any piano, much less one dedicated to God's service. (I don't make that comment lightly. I once heard a Baptist preacher say the piano near him on the podium was a dedicated piano.) Anyway, when the pastor in charge of the outdoor piano told me I could have it, my heart leaped and my collection doubled. He probably thought I was an angel. No natty pastor living in a well-ordered ranch-style house has room for an old upright piano, sacred or not. Indeed, when mid-century architecture took hold, wimpy little consoles or spinets or whatever they're called came into favor instead, except among folks who had grand enough abodes and enough money and reason to opt for grand pianos, more horizontal than vertical, just like their spacious new houses.

Yep, all old upright pianos need guardian angels. Even at a good price nobody wants to risk buying one for a beginning pianist for fear it will take a place alongside the exercise bicycle and be even harder to put in a garage sale.

Sad but true.

Now for books. I've discarded some tattered paperbacks, but real books are different. Unless a hardback has suffered worse damage than the afore-mentioned guitar, disposal doesn't fit my ethic.

So if you happened to see my lower half sticking out of a dumpster the other day, that's why.

As a rule, I toss newspapers blindly. Our primary recycling place is in a busy parking lot. It's no place for bin diving, even for me, especially not in broad daylight.

But when I found myself all alone at an alternate recycling center in a quiet neighborhood, I peered into the bin. A pile of books caught my attention. An exterior protrusion near the bottom of the container stuck out just enough to accommodate my left toes. Suddenly I was a mountain climber without a safety rope. But instead of eyeing the summit, I focused on the treasure in the crevasse. I stretched down to reach the books.

They proved mostly to be new. Whoever had tossed them had ripped off all their fronts and backs so they'd qualify for the newspaper and junk mail bin. There they lay, each naked, like little featherless birds that had fallen in a heap from their nest. They almost chirped. How could I resist? I couldn't.

As you read these thoughts, many of the books are now in the hands of friends and family, Christmas gifts from me, each thoughtfully matched to the recipient.

Better than pianos.

Lockney Police Report

November 24 - December 15

By Police Chief Casey Wallace

November 24: A sign was hit in the 700 block of US 70

December 6: Criminal Mischief Report was taken in the 300 block SW 2nd

December 6: A fraud report was taken in reference to winning a all expense paid vacation but he caller needed a credit card number for the hotel reservation.

December 7: A criminal Mischief report was taken in the 200 block of S. Main

December 7: an Arson report was taken in he 400 block of E. Locust

December 15: A criminal Mischief report was taken in the 400 block of SW 2nd

A few reports taken in reference to SCAMS: A person received a call in reference to receiving an all-expense paid vacation and to accept, the caller needed a credit card number for the hotel reservation. Another person received an order for items and received an overpaid check. The buyer then stated it was an error on their part and if the seller could send the overpayment to another person by Western Union.

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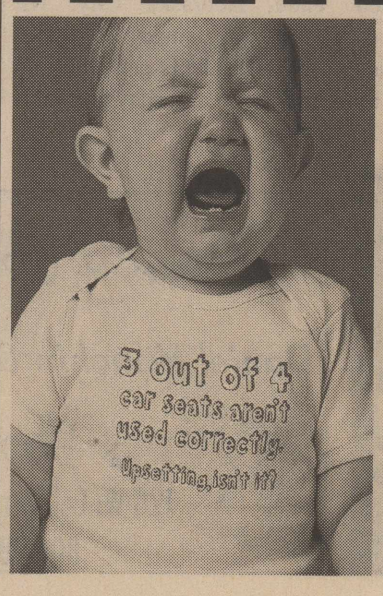
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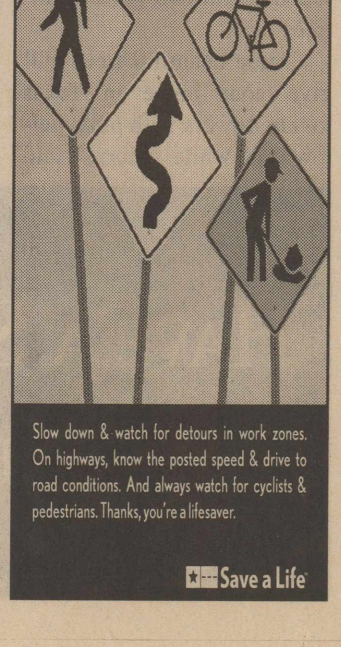
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LOCKNEY SCHOOL

Rock the 45

Photos by Connie Barnett

The Lockney Elementary School cafeteria was Rockin' and Rollin' Tuesday, December 11, when the fourth and fifth grade students performed for a large crowd. The third annual event was called "Rock the 45" and consisted of 11 groups of students singing and dancing to modern songs that each group had written partial original lyrics to as well as self-choreographed. The groups spent about two months working on their projects, with little assistance from adults.

While the judges were making their final decisions, the audience was entertained by Kindergarten through third grade with a dancing "parade" of children on stage. Each small group would get a few seconds to dance their hearts out on center stage.

First place was tied between The Kings who sang "What Makes You Beautiful" and The Mini Katy Perries with their version of "Last Friday Night". Third place was awarded to the Bye Bye Boys for their performance of "Bye Bye Bye".









Lockney JV Boys score double win

By Coach Jeff Dunn

On last Friday, December 14, we beat Tahoka 49-46.

Javier	Guerrero----2	pts
Mauricio	Davila---14	pts
Daylen	Gatica-------3	pts
Eli	Guerra----------4	pts
Derick	Patel--------6	pts
Wil	Prayor----------2	pts
Tevin	Phillips------10	pts
Ruben	Ascensio----8	pts

Tuesday, December 18, we beat Happy 46-28.

Mauricio	Davila-----3	pts
Daylen	Gatica-------5	pts
Eli	Guerra----------2	pts
Ryan	Poole---------6	pts
Derick	Patel--------4	pts
Wil	Prayor----------3	pts
Tevin	Phillips--------8	pts
Ruben	Ascensio---------15	pts

Lockney Eighth Grade Boys' suffer first defeat

By Coach Jay Ragland

The Lockney 8th grade boys' basketball team traveled to Hale Center on Monday night and suffered their first defeat of district play. Losing to the Owls by a score of 49-16. This dropped the Horns record to 3-2 on the season. The team was led in scoring by Trevor Ascencio and Jaden Butler both had 6 points. Lawson Sullivan and Josh Guerrero added 2 points each. The Horns will host New Deal next Monday night to finish up the first round of play before the Christmas Holiday break.

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Horns Varsity Boys fall short against Tahoka, Happy

By Coach Josh Strickland

On December 14, the Lockney Longhorns lost in overtime to the Tahoka Bulldogs at home 57-60. Despite the loss, overall the Horns played well on offense. Seven Longhorns found their way to get in the scorebook. Leading the way was Landry Kidd with 19 points and 18 rebounds. Ian Dunbar also had a big game on offense with 18 points. The loss brings the Horns overall record to 3-10 on the year. The Longhorns play next on Tuesday night on the road at Happy.

Lockney 10 25 33 53 57
Tahoka 10 31 38 53 60

The Lockney Longhorns played the Happy Cowboys on Tuesday night and lost 25-47. Offensively and defensively the Horns just could not put it together. Erik Cortez had high point for Lockney with 6 points. Andrew Hooten also had 5 points and Jose Guerrero had 2 points. Next on the schedule is the Farwell Steers at home on Friday. Overall record 3-11.

Lockney 6 16 21 25
Happy 12 26 39 47

New Deal defeats 8th grade boys late in 4th quarter

By Coach Ragland

The Lockney boys' 8th grade basketball team hosted New Deal on Monday night and lost a tough one by the score of 38-29. New Deal pulled away late in the 4th quarter in what was a very close ballgame. The Lions outscored Lockney 15-8 in the final quarter to seal the victory. Leading the scoring for the Horns was Jaden Butler with 11, Trevor Ascencio with 9, Luke Kasner, Jonathan Rodriguez, Jeramiah Bernal, and Jacob Ochoa all adding 2 points each, and Josh Guerrero had 1. This ends the first half of the season. The Horns will take on Crosbyton after the Christmas break in Lockney on Thursday, January 10.

Lockney 7th grade boys defeat Hale Center, Record 5-0

By Coach Kyle Browne

The Lockney Longhorns 7th grade boys A team went to 5-0 on the season as they defeated the Hale Center Owls 3-27. The Horns got off to a slow start but quickly picked it up and finished the game hard. "I was very pleased with the way we finished the game, we had a lot of shots not go down for us but we kept fighting and it paid off in the end," said Coach Kyle Browne. The Horns were led in scoring by Jaden Rosales with 21, Israel Cuellar with 12, Julio Lara with 4, and Nicholas Rendon with 1 point. The Horns next game will be at home on December 17th against New Deal with tip coming at 5 p.m.

The Lockney Longhorns 7th grade boys B team played the Hale Center Owls on Monday night. The Horns played with a lot of effort, but as a team were unable to pick off the win with a final score of 14-2.

"I was pleased with how the kids played, they gave it everything they had," said Coach Kyle Browne. "It just didn't go the way we wanted it to." The Horns were lead in scoring by Jose Gonzalez with 2 points.

Lockney 7th grade boys maintain 4-0 record

By Coach Kyle Browne

The Lockney Longhorn 7th grade boys' basketball team won big Monday night against the Ralls Jackrabbits with a score of 53-7. The Horns came out quick and were leading after the 1st quarter 17-0 and never looked back.

"I was very pleased with the way the kids played tonight, it was our best game overall this year and we will just continue to get better as the year goes on," said Coach Kyle Browne. The Horns were lead in scoring by Jaden Rosales with 25 points, Israel Cuellar with 18 points, Efren Nunez with 4 points, and Tristan Schleueter, Ricky Cuellar and Nicholas Rendon all had 2 points. With the win at Ralls, the Horns maintain a 4-0 record.

Thanks for reading!

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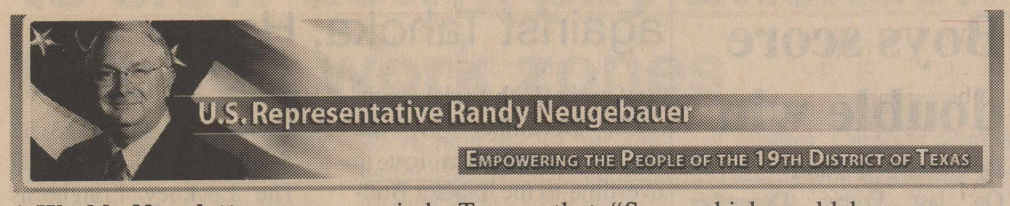
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AGRICULTURE



A Weekly Newsletter from Congressman Randy Neugebauer

Tragedy in Connecticut

Dana and I are heartbroken over the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. We cannot begin to understand violence like this. Children's safety is of the utmost importance to every single parent, so this tragedy has touched us all. I hope you'll join us in praying for the children, teachers and families affected by this senseless violence.

TxDOT Urges Safety throughout the Holidays

In an effort to promote safety this holiday season, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is launching a Holiday Campaign to make safety a top priority. This year's TxDOT holiday program reminds Texans that "Sober Drivers Make Great Gifts" and urges everyone to plan ahead for a Holiday P.A.S.S. (Person Appointed to Stay Sober). It is vital during the holidays, and all year, to play it safe and appoint a designated driver; getting behind the wheel is not worth putting yourself and others in danger. Action **Item of the Week – the Fiscal Cliff**

With only two weeks until we come to the edge of the fiscal cliff, I sincerely wish I had more to tell you. Unless Congress acts, on January 1, 2013, our current tax rates will expire, and every taxpayer will face higher rates. On the same day, a series of automatic, across-the-board government spending cuts will occur. Half of those cuts would come from our defense budget, which could harm our national security. I've joined other House Republicans in passing legislation to replace those defense cuts with more common-sense reductions, and I've voted to extend our current tax rates. I'm dismayed that the President keeps insisting we must raise taxes on the top two percent of earners in order to come to a compromise. That plan would only pay for eight days of government operations. The truth is that America doesn't have a revenue problem. We have a spending problem. Until we come up with a spending solution, the government will head towards a debt crisis no matter how high tax rates are. I'll continue to update you with any developments, and I'll keep working to reduce government spending.

AGRILIFE TODAY: Large cotton supplies, weather will weigh heavily in 2013

COLLEGE STATION – Record-high carryover stocks of cotton and future weather patterns are just a few factors affecting cotton prices heading into 2013, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service economist.

"We will see a cutback in Texas cotton acreage as farmers take advantage of strong corn, wheat and sorghum prices," said Dr. John Robinson, AgriLife Extension cotton economist in College Station.

Robinson said cotton prices are still adjusting to historic prices in 2010-2011 when $2-plus per pound cotton prices led to higher world production and reduced consumption. That set of circumstances led to record-high carryover stocks of cotton worldwide and weaker prices.

Robinson said China accounts for about half of the world's carryover stocks, and most of those are held off the shelf in government reserve, he said.

"The combination of these bearish fundamentals and policy uncertainty sets the stage for what we may see in 2013," he said."We can certainly expect significant reductions in cotton acreage, starting with Australia, Brazil and Argentina last month."

With the strength in 2013 corn, soybean and wheat future prices, Robinson said there will likely be major shifts to grains and oilseeds in the Midsouth and Southeast. He projects if U.S. cotton planted dips to 8.9 million acres, "We could still see 14 million bales of production."

"I would project a likely range of December 2013 prices at 65 to 85 cents per pound," he said. "The upshot is that the insurance base price established in early 2013 will likely be in the 70 cent range – far, far lower than in the previous two years."

The continuation of the sovereign debt issues in Europe or fiscal cliff fears in the U.S. "will only reinforce negative to slow economic growth in 2013," he said.

"That suggests little room for a demand-driven rally in cotton prices," Robinson said. "In addition, if some major cotton-producing country has a production disaster, the market shock could easily be squelched by China simply releasing some of their government reserve stocks.

Harlem Globetrotters let fans determine rules of the game in Lubbock

(PHOENIX, Dec 18, 2012) – Known as innovators of the game of basketball for decades, the world famous Harlem Globetrotters are again introducing something unparalleled in the history of sports and family entertainment, taking kid participation and fun to a whole new level when the Globetrotters come to the Lubbock Christian University Rip Griffin Center in Lubbock on Friday, Feb. 1, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.

For the first time ever, during the Globetrotters' 2013 "You Write the Rules" World Tour, your family's smiles will begin before you even get to the show. Fans will decide the rules for the game that could affect the final outcome. This could be anything from playing with two basketballs at once, to getting double the points for each basket made.

Go online with your kids to www.harlemglobetrotters.com to vote for which ground-breaking rule you want to see implemented in the game. Then, get your tickets, and see the winning rules in live action at the Globetrotters' world championship game.

Tickets, starting at $28.00, are on sale now at www.harlemglobetrotters.com, www.ticketweb.com, the Lubbock Christian University Athletic Office, or by phone at 866-468-7621. Information on group and scout tickets can also be found at www.harlemglobetrotters.com.

Before the game, take part in a once-in-a-lifetime experience with your family where you get to actually spend time on the court with the Globetrotters one-on-one – shooting, trying out ball tricks, autographs and photos. The unique 30-minute pre-show, "Magic Pass," will create memories of a lifetime.# After virtually every game, Globetrotter stars remain on the court for autographs and photographs with fans.*

This year's Globetrotters roster features stars such as Hi-Lite Bruton, Dizzy Grant, Ant Atkinson, and female star Mighty Mitchell.

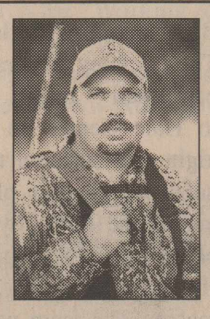
The North American leg of the 2013 "You Write the Rules" World Tour will tip-off on December 26, 2012, and will run through April 2013. The team will play over 270 games in nearly 240 cities in 45 states and nine Canadian provinces.

Sponsored by Howard Johnson Hotels, Greyhound Lines, Spalding, and Russell Athletic, the Original Harlem Globetrotters will celebrate their 87th consecutive year in 2013, continuing a world famous tradition of ball handling wizardry, basketball artistry and one-of-a-kind family entertainment that continues to thrill fans of all ages. Throughout their history, the Globetrotters have showcased their iconic talents in 120 countries and territories on six continents, often breaking down cultural and societal barriers while providing fans with their first-ever basketball experience. Proud inductees of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, the Globetrotters have entertained hundreds of millions of fans—among them popes, kings, queens, and presidents—over more than eight thrilling decades. For the latest news and information about the Harlem Globetrotters, and to purchase tickets and team merchandise, visit the Globetrotters' official Web site: www.harlemglobetrotters.com.

Russell Graves Outdoors

Cowtown

By Russell A. Graves



When you walk the streets, it makes you feel like a cowboy. The Stockyards in Fort Worth are worth a trip for anyone who loves nightlife, Texas history, and unique shopping.

Mid-December found me and my family at the Stockyards Hotel for a Christmas party. Historic all in itself, the Stockyards Hotel opened in 1907 and its spacious lobby is smartly appointed with art and furniture that creates a distinctly western feel. While we didn't stay at the hotel, our dinner was catered by the in-house restaurant and was fantastic.

While it wasn't our first trip to the Stockyards, we were back again to reacquaint ourselves with the main strip that lies a couple of miles north of downtown Fort Worth. We arrived three hours before the party to walk around and explore the shops and sights along the old brick streets.

When we first got out of the car, a trio of cowboys ceremoniously moved a small string of longhorn cattle from the end of the street where the old Swift meat plant once processed millions of pounds of beef annually. Each day, the cattle are moved up and down the street for the benefit of tourist who flock to the area to soak up the Old West ambiance. Cattle moving through the area isn't new, however. From 1866 to 1890 more than four million head of cattle passed through Fort Worth on their way to the northern markets up the Chisholm Trail.

When the railroad arrived in Fort Worth in 1876, the town became the terminus for livestock and in 1887, the Union Stockyards were built and began accepting cattle. In the early 20th century Armour & Company and Swift & Company began processing cattle. Soon thereafter, the Livestock Exchange Building was built to house the various commission companies and other business who were a part of the area's livestock industry. In 1908, the Cowtown Coliseum was constructed and provides a venue for wild west shows and rodeos even today.

Along the street on Saturday afternoon, the atmosphere is carnival-like. The main street through the National Historic District is lined with restaurants and nightclubs. Along the street is a vintage railroad that is still in operation, a cattle pen maze, a chance to set on and have your picture made on the back of a longhorn and street musicians - two of which I listened to reminded me of the early Dixie Chicks (pre Natalie Maines).

For the hours leading up to the Christmas party we shopped in antique stores, looked at furniture for our home, and pursued a western wear store. In all it was great and inexpensive fun.

After the Christmas party we were walking to our vehicle under the Christmas lights above the street when my daughter admitted, "I just love the Stockyards."

She speaks for all of us.

Any questions or comments? Contact Russell at russell@russellgraves.com or visit his website at www.russellgraves.com

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FARM PRESS: Texas cotton acreage giving way to grain crops

By Ron Smith

Texas cotton acreage likely will slip significantly in 2013 as farmers try to capitalize on better pricing opportunities with grain.

The Texas Blacklands and the Upper Gulf Coast regions may see the biggest percentage of cotton acreage reduction, says Texas AgriLife Extension state cotton specialist Gaylon Morgan.

Morgan, in an interview during the recent Texas Plant Protection annual conference in Bryan, Texas, said the Rolling Plains and the Coastal Bend areas "may see less of a drop. The Valley could go either way, depending on the water situation. But a lot can happen between now and planting time."

He said weather and price will be determining factors, but the Blacklands and the Gulf Coast, especially, "have good opportunities for grain crops, especially corn and grain sorghum. We've also seen more wheat planted in the Blacklands and the Rolling Plains," he said.

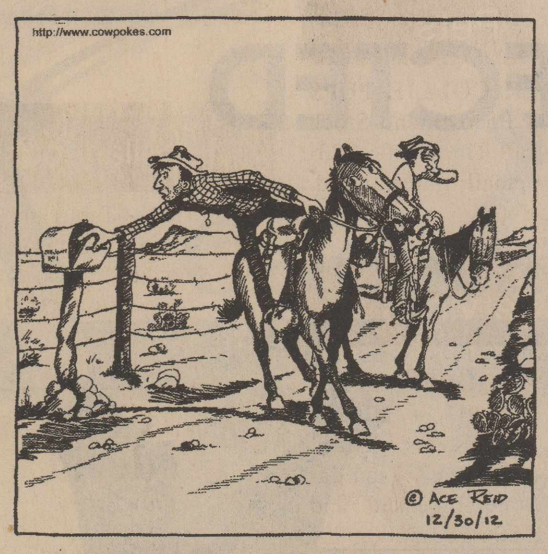
"The High Plains cotton acreage will remain fairly stable," Morgan said. "They follow a pretty steady routine — one year in and one year out, or continuous cotton. I don't anticipate a big drop in cotton acreage in the High Plains. But a 10 percent reduction there amounts to substantial acreage."

Morgan said some dryland cotton farmers may continue to plant cotton because insurance coverage is better than for other options. He said moisture will play a significant role, especially in areas such as the rolling Plains where farmers have already planted a lot of wheat and some may be considering grain sorghum.

But if conditions remain dry, cotton may be the best option. "Some dryland farmers could stay with cotton because of coverage," he said. "That all could depend on moisture between now and planting time. But, cotton could be the best option for the bottom line."

He said wheat is also vulnerable to drought stress, but that growers will need to decide whether to certify acreage soon if they anticipate planting another crop. "I don't have a good feel for what wheat acreage will do," he said. "The devil is in the details and I just don't have the details yet."

COWPOKES ® By Ace Reid



"You was too pessimistic when you said there'd be nothin' but Christmas bills. Here's something from the Department of Internal Revenue."

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AgriLife Research scientist: Soil water profile key to wheat root system, drought survivability



AMARILLO – Without soil moisture, roots don't develop and grow. Without a strong root system, a crop cannot survive in a drought year, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Research crop stress physiologist in Amarillo.

Dr. Qingwu Xue, Texas A&M AgriLife Research crop stress physiologist in Amarillo, shows the difference seedling vigor can make on plant growth in these wheat variety trials near Bushland. (Texas A&M AgriLife Research photo by Kay Ledbetter)

While most producers realize water is the most important limiting factor affecting wheat production in semi-arid areas such as the High Plains, Dr. Qingwu Xue said the past two years of drought have emphasized the key role of soil water availability at planting time.

"With the erratic seasonal rainfall, soil water storage – the water available in the soil at planting time – is very critical for a successful crop," Xue said. "A dryland farmer's first important decision must be to determine if there is sufficient soil water in the profile to plant."

This year is a prime example, he said. In late September, a 2-inch rain fell across much of the Panhandle and many wheat producers got excited.

"But if they didn't have an existing storage of water in the soil, that 2-inch rain is having a hard time carrying the crop to the next rainfall, which still hasn't come as of mid-December."

Long-term field research at Bushland and in western Kansas demonstrated that wheat yields are closely tied to seasonal evapotranspiration, which is determined by soil water storage, seasonal rainfall and irrigation, Xue said.

"If you don't have a good soil-water profile at planting, and you are a dryland farmer, you may need to just not plant, or wait for more moisture," Xue said. "You may be better off letting the profile fill up for the next crop."

He said the difference between water storage during a three-month fallow period and an 11-month fallow period can be tremendous in a dry period.

Xue said if wheat producers were at the end of a longer fallow period and had the soil moisture, then the second part of the equation is how to effectively use the soil moisture. In this case, a healthy and strong root system plays an important role for water use also.

Many management tools can help wheat plants develop a good root system, such as planting date, seeding rates, row spacing, fertilization and variety selection, he said.

When selecting a variety, seedling vigor will be important, Xue said. His studies have shown that vigorous seedling growth not only led to good forage production but also to good root production – both necessary to take a crop to either grazing or grain harvest.

"We've found that if a variety is vigorous under a well-watered system, it is likely going to be vigorous under drought-stressed conditions," he said.

"So it doesn't matter if the producer wants to use his wheat for a dual purpose of grazing and grain or just grain, the vigorous seedling growth is necessary to get through dry periods."

SOUTHEAST FARM PRESS: Cotton prices continue to show improvement

Since the most recent low back in early November, futures prices for both 2012 and 2013 cotton continue to trend upward.

March futures closed Dec. 14 at just over 75 cents for the second time for the week. Prices gained 2 cents for the week.

New crop Dec13 futures closed Dec. 14 at over 78 cents and have gained over 3 cents since early November.

Although supply/demand is still overshadowed by large and burdensome world stocks, these are encouraging and opportunistic signs.

In the near-term, old crop futures will likely be bound by an area between 70 and 78 cents. We can add about a nickel to that and say new crop, in the near-term, is likely bound between 75 cents and the low 80s.

Longer-term, the outlook is framed by (1) whether or not demand can improve and (2) by how much acreage and production is curtailed in 2013.

It is important to realize, however, that even with beneficial signs in these areas; any improvement in prices is going to be tempered by the very large level of world stocks.

For remaining 2012 crop, prices in the upper portion of the range mentioned represent decision opportunities.

For 2013 crop, an acreage decline is in order and the market already anticipates this.

Prices moving too high too early will deter this. So, don't expect too much. Prices at 80 cents or better represent a realistic starting point.

USDA's December numbers were market-positive and provide price support. The US crop was trimmed 200,000 bales.

Texas yield was lowered from the November estimate. This has been anticipated and it was just a matter of when it would show up.

Also, U.S. exports were raised 200,000 bales.

World production for 2012 was raised slightly but world use (demand) was raised 150,000 bales. That's not much but it's the first monthly uptick in a long time.

Also, world 2012 crop year ending stocks were lowered 630,000 bales — back down below 80 million bales. Again, the first time stocks have been adjusted downward in a long time.

The outlook seems to be improved and the uptrend we've been in for the past 6 weeks is encouraging. There is already preliminary talk of 90-cent cotton. I don't see it.

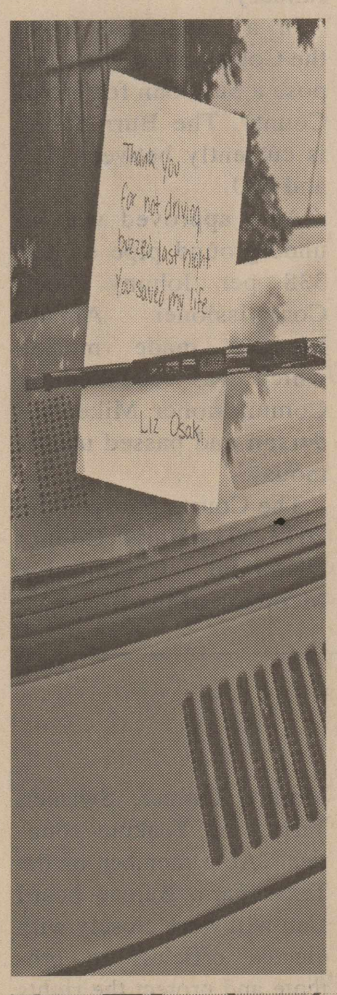
Let's not lose focus of the key drivers — how will China manage its reserves (47 percent of all world stocks), demand (are we finally seeing some positive signs), and 2013 world production (acreage will be down but weather is always a big unknown).

Happy New Year!
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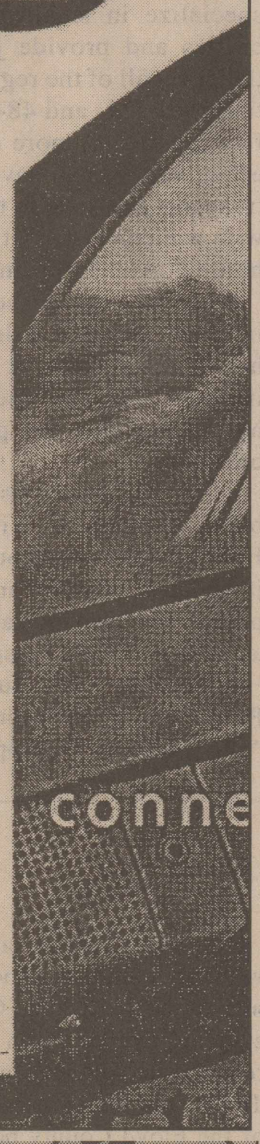
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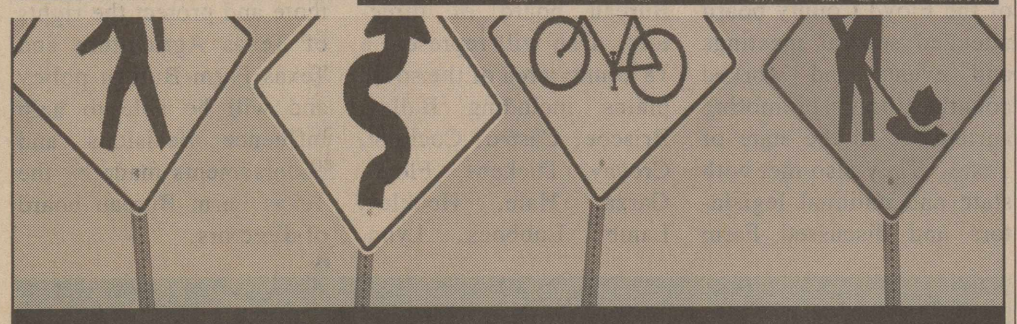
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THE LOCKNEY HEALTH AND REHABILITATION CENTER in Lockney is accepting applications for a CNA position full time and PRN positions, all shifts available. For additional information please contact Cindy DuBois, 806-652-3375.
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Courtesy Photo
The winners of the Lockney Chamber of Commerce Christmas Light contest are Bil and Ann Anderson (1st Place), Raphael and Libby Hernandez (2nd Place) and Michael DeLeon (3rd Place).

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Photo by Jennifer Harbin
City employees Gary Brown, Selia Arellano, Tali Jackson and Angie Gonzales take a moment out of their busy day to pose by the beautiful in-house decorated Christmas tree that overflows with gifts.

Commissioners agree to feasibility study for proposed jail

By Jennifer Harbin

The Commissioners' Court received a jail proposal presentation from Architect Jeffrey E. Heffelfinger, of Southwest Architects, Inc., on Monday, December 10.

Floyd County Sheriff Paul Raissez approached Heffelfinger after visiting a few jails he had built and asked for him to do a feasibility study "just to see if Floyd County could sustain its own jail."

The feasibility study, which will cost the county $2,500, is designed to look deeper into actual prisoner expenditures per month and help in the determination of whether to consider a new jail.

Commissioner Lindan Morris made a motion to hear Heffelfinger's proposal with a second from Commissioner Nathan Johnson. Four were in favor, with Judge Golightly opposed, agreeing to hire Heffelfinger to do a feasibility study on a proposed jail in Floyd County.

"We have provided designs for jails and facilities across Texas; we specialize in smaller facilities and provide jails that meet all of the regulations with 24- and 48-bed facilities being more cost effective. We can save in transport and save in time with a medical facility in house," said Heffelfinger.

Since becoming sheriff in 2007, Sheriff Raissez has been looking at the increase that the county has had to pay for prisoner care.

Currently, prisoners are being housed at either Hale or Lubbock County jails and require manpower for transportation as well as liability issues.

According to Judge Penny Golightly, though, "our auditors (Knapp & Company) told us we can't house our inmates any cheaper than we already are (at Hale County)" and very few are sent to Lubbock County, except those needing medical attention.

"I'm sure the farmers and ranchers will agree that we need to work on county roads and working maintainers for approximately 800 county road miles," said Golightly.

Also, the County Courthouse and Justice of the Peace office in Lockney are in dire need of repairs, according to Judge Golightly.

Judge Golightly stated that "the Lockney Hospital District will take care of indigents' health for Lockney prisoners, and I am going to contact the Floydada Hospital District, as well, for the Floydada prisoners to help us with medical prison care."

In other Court business, they received and accepted the resignation letter of Librarian Neta Marble. Currently Debbie Galloway is working in her place, and she has someone in mind to take her place. An employment ad has been placed in the local newspaper.

Three farm contracts were presented and accepted by the Court. Jon Jones wants to build a terrace for water conservation from Highway 70, north three miles on FM 602, east five miles on CR 220. Mike Ford wants to clean a water way to control erosion east of CR 57 and CR 30 Donnie McLaughlin would also like to clean a water way to control erosion east of CR 57 and CR 30.

The following statement was signed by Commissioners and Judge: "We the undersigned County Judge and Commissioners, in and for Floyd County, Texas, hereby certify that this date made an examination of and compared the County Treasurer's monthly report, filed with us on November 30, 2012, and that the total of funds held by the County Treasurer, as well as other assets in her hands in the sum of $2,950,305.11 and First National Bank Deposit $1,010, 295.63."

AgriLife Agent Ethan Fortenberry reported to the Court that Saturday, December 1, a group went to a meat judging contest at Texas Tech University and got second place overall in their division.

Also, Winfield Davenport was awarded a prestigious award at the Golden Star Banquet.

"My limited experience I have with Winfield is his knack with kids. I think it's his show of respect, because they're people and not just kids," said Fortenberry. "We're very fortunate to have him as a leader."

Fortenberry is currently preparing for the upcoming stock show which will be the second weekend of January.

In a unanimous vote, the Court approved to impose a burn ban for Floyd County. The Burn Index is currently between 500 and 600.

Also approved was an underground pipe on CR 338 per Johnny Noel. Commissioner Amado Morales made motion which was seconded by Commissioner Mike Anderson and passed unanimous.

The Court approved the 2013-2014 Floyd County Historical Commission Members of the Board.

FARM BUREAU
continued on page 8

ing and walked away with the top honor of being named the 2012 Most Outstanding County Farm Bureau in the state of Texas. To earn this honor members of the Floyd County board attended several meetings and events and worked countless hours promoting agriculture in the state of Texas. They also met with state and national legislators and discussed Farm Bureau policy and other issues important to agriculture and our area.

Dan Smith was also honored by being elected to serve on the Texas Farm Bureau board of directors. Dan will represent a 18 county area of the south plains including Bailey, Briscoe, Castro, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Parmer, Swisher, Terry, and Yoakum counties. As a member of the Texas Farm Bureau board Dan will work closely with elected officials to promote and protect the rights of Texas Agriculture and Texas Farm Bureau policy and will be able to help influence decisions and endorsements made by the Texas Farm Bureau board of directors.

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