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The Floyd County
Hesperian-Beacon

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2015 HESPERIANBEACONONLINE.COM $1.00

Floydada ISD Wins 3 Top Awards

By Kay Ellington
The Hesperian-Beacon

The Floydada Independent School District has been honored for three top awards in Region 17 including Region 17 TASSP (Texas Association of Secondary School Principals) Secondary Principal of the Year in Wayne Morren, Region 17 Superintendent of the Year, Gilbert Trevino, and the Region 17 School Board of the Year.

The School Board Awards Program was created in 1971 by the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA). The program recognizes school boards that demonstrate commitment to public schools and that render ethical service to the children of Texas. The main criteria for being selected as an honor board is evidence of support for educational performance improvement. The awards program asks that each Regional Education Service Center to nominate a board from their region to compete for the State of Texas Outstanding School Board award.

The winner of the state award will be announced at the TASA/TASB (Texas Association of School Boards) convention in Austin in October.



Courtesy Photos

FISD Board Members: Kay Brotherton, Beverly Collins, Gracie Diaz, Roger Hughes, Lyle Miller, Dr. William Dean, Eric Smith



Wayne Morren, Region 17 Secondary School Principal of the Year



Gilbert Trevino, Region 17 Superintendent of the Year

Upcoming

Events are listed free of charge for nonprofit civic organizations, schools and community events. Please submit listings at least two weeks ahead of the date. Listings will run through the date of the event. Emailed submissions are preferred to fchb.editor@yahoo.com.

SALES TAX HOLIDAY

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminds shoppers the annual sales tax holiday is scheduled for this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 7 - 9. The law exempts most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced under $100 from sales tax, which could save shoppers about $8 on every $100 they spend during the weekend.

LOCKNEY BAND BOOSTERS

The Lockney Band Boosters will have their first meeting of the year on Tuesday, August 11, at 6 p.m. in the Band Hall. All parents of high school band members are encouraged to attend this informative meeting, as many items will be covered at this meeting.

LOCKNEY BAND BOOSTER ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The Lockney Band Boosters Annual Ice Cream Social will be on Tuesday, August 18 at the conclusion of summer band rehearsals, around 9 p.m. Parents are encouraged to bring ice cream (either homemade or store bought) to this event. If you have any questions, contact Kristi Carstensen at 652-3459.

FLOYD COUNTY LIBRARY HOURS

The NEW hours for the Floyd County Library located in Floydada are: Monday - 9 a.m. 5 p.m.; Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesday - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thursday - 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday - 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

See **UPCOMING,** Page 2

Correction

If you spot an error of fact, contact the FCHB office email: fchb.editor@yahoo.com

News on the go

Use your smartphone to scan the quick response, or QR, code to visit us online.

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119th Year, No. 19
USPS 202-680

4-H Announces Fundraiser for South Plains Honor Flight

By Charles Keaton
The Hesperian-Beacon

FLOYDADA – Floyd County 4-H has chosen to again undertake a fundraiser to assist the South Plains Honor Flight. This will serve as Floyd County 4-H's "One Day 4-H" project for 2015. One Day 4-H is a chance for 4-H members, parents, leaders and volunteers to say "Thank you" to the communities that assist them so much by giving back to their communities.

The Honor Flight takes veterans, especially those from World War II and Korea or any other war if they are terminally ill, on a three day, two night trip to Washington, D. C. to visit the World War II Memorial and other historic sites in our nation's capital Oct. 1-3. Visit their website at www.texassouthplainshonorflight.org or visit their Facebook page, at facebook.com/SouthPlainsHonorFlight.

On Aug. 30, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Floyd County 4-H will serve a barbeque meal at the Lockney Senior Citizens Center and the cost is a donation. If you are a member of the American Legion, VFW or a former Honor Flight participant and would like to assist, contact the Floyd County Extension office.

"This is not about Floydada or Lockney, or even Floyd County 4-H, it's about the veterans that have given so much of themselves for the freedom we enjoy in this country," Donna Keaton, Extension Secretary said.

The cost for the three-day event is about $220,000. This covers the cost of the charter flight, tours, hotels and meals for more than 140 veterans and support staff. All guardians who provide assistance to the veterans pay their own expenses.

If you are unable to participate in the meal but you still want to donate contact the Extension Office at 806-983-4912. Donations will be accepted from individuals, businesses or other groups.

Preseason Football



Charles Keaton/
Hesperian-Beacon

Preseason football workouts started for the Floydada Whirlwinds and the Lockney Longhorns on Monday, Aug. 3. The regular season begins on Aug. 28. at 7:30 P.M. for both teams as the Whirlwinds hosting Slaton and the Longhorns traveling to Lubbock Christian.

Texas Sales Tax Holiday This Weekend — Aug. 7 to 9

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminds shoppers the annual sales tax holiday is scheduled for this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 7 - 9.

The law exempts most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced under $100 from sales tax, which could save shoppers about $8 on every $100 they spend during the weekend.

Lists of apparel and school supplies that may be purchased tax-free can be found on the Comptroller's website at TexasTaxHoliday.org.

This year, shoppers will save an estimated $87 million in state and local sales taxes during the sales tax holiday, which has been an annual event since 1999.

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The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon

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The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon, 201 W. California, Floydada, Texas 79235, Is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
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It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the rights of individualism in the American Declaration of Independence. The right of life, liberty and ownership of property are the cornerstone of freedom. Government's sole purpose is to enhance our liberty and freedom. Therefore, we hold every elected and appointed agent of government accountable to that standard.

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Texas State Board of Education Members
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15--Mr. Marty Rowley

The 501
Country Car Wash, No Spots

Live and learn.

The first time I ever washed my car, it ended up stuck in the yard right where I washed it. Daddy got a chain and extracted it with the tractor. Except for some mud on the whitewalls and hubcaps, the car looked good, rag-rubbed chrome sparkling. I can't say the same for the yard.



HANABA MUNN WELCH

Nope, it's not easy to wash a car when you're out in the country, a half-mile from the nearest paved surface not that it's OK to wash a car on the Farm to Market Road either. Maybe it's been done, maybe by the dark of the moon back before coin carwashes sprang up everywhere and somebody invented the stay-in-your-car drive-through kind. Before that, you had to pay dearly for a wash and lube, and the guys at the garage did it right over the grease pit. Right? On second thought, they must have had a special carwash drain. You wouldn't want to get water in your grease pit. I just remember Daddy paid only for the lube part. What good would a spiffy wash do when the last part of the journey home would be over a dirt road?

Yep, pavement and concrete come at a premium when you're way out in the country. To wit, my childhood friend Barbara and I played tennis one night on the FM road. The net was imaginary. It was hard to keep score.

We digress.

Yesterday I washed my car smack-dab in the middle of the farm and didn't create a bog. I did not have to be towed. Success.

Here's the best part:

My car did not end up with ugly spots from gyppy well water. I'm thinking about patenting my secret spot-free rinse method. Or sharing it with you five paragraphs from now.

Yep, it's true. As we age we get infinitely smarter about how to wash a car.

Funds permitting, the smartest way is to let someone else do it.

Next-best thing is to pay a few dollars for the drive-through song and dance. It's like going through a thunderstorm without having to worry about hail. It's magic.

For us cheapskates, the coin carwash option works best, sort of.

That's where I went this week, pleased to get my SUV soaped and rinsed with exactly the number of quarters in my pocket. Yea!

But some dirt remained on the vehicle. Stubborn dirt.

The next morning at the farm, things kicked off with a substantial dew. What better way to get a spot-free wash than with gypsum-free drops of dew?

It worked. There was enough moisture to wipe off the resistant road dirt. Dew on the hood of the car was especially abundant, providing a secondary source for the dirtiest areas.

There you have it the secret to a spot-free carwash. Dew.

The best things in life are free. You just have to keep an eye out for them.

Splat. Once you've washed your care in pure dew, keep an eye out for grasshoppers too.

The Paperboy
Progressives keep shoveling it…

China opens a power plant every 10 days. Mostly coal fired.

And somehow the United States is supposed to fix climate change?

It's so frustrating living in a country where common sense is no longer allowed.



CHRIS BLACKBURN

Our government is a sad joke and the people who buy the B.S. are sheep who ignore the facts.

The fact is, we can turn off all of the power plants in this country forever and it won't make a dent on the environment. Russia, China and India combined - which have ten times the people we do - more than cancel out anything we achieve.

Now am I for pollution? Absolutely not.

I'm against the government lying to people and profiting from the lies.

I'm against the media reporting one side of the news and not looking for facts.

I'm against a president that ignores the actual legislative branch of the government and acts on his own.

I'm ashamed that the U.S. is becoming Socialist.

I think if the Progressives keep control there won't be much difference between us and Communism.

The media would have you believe that my opinions are wrong because they don't match their agenda. My opinions would be vilified, laughed at and I would be portrayed as out-of-touch and ignorant.

To that I say kiss my ass.

This country was not built on radical, leftist principals. It was built on freedom.

We are not a perfect country, but the beliefs instilled in our foundation are near perfect.

I have a question for all of you Progressives who are convinced your way is what is best for this country: If your policies are so wonderful, why are African Americans left behind in the job market?

African American men in this country are literally left behind by the system created by Liberals and Progressives. And it's getting worse.

Progressives talk a good game and pander, but their awful policies set people up for failure.

Believe it or not, you don't need the government to succeed in this country.

What you need for success in this country is belief in yourself and the tools to get you where you need to go.

People used to strive for the American Dream. Now we're taught that the government will provide.

I promise you, this country would be much stronger if state governments' decided what was best for their residents and the U.S. Government shrunk by half.

We need a Ronald Reagan and we need one yesterday.

Now if idiot Republicans could just learn how to lead…

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Chris Blackburn serves as CEO at Blackburn Media Group, proud owner of The Red River Sun, The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon, The Knox County News-Courier and The Post Dispatch. He can be reached by email at chris@blackburnmediagroup.com and you can follow him on Twitter @WCSBlackburn.

Floydada Senior Citizens News

By LuAnn Collins
Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

Lighthouse Electric Coop employees were lunch guests on Friday, July 24th at the Center.

Regular diners were surprised to see all the young men in blue uniforms come walking into the dining room with hungry looks on their faces.

When they cleaned their plates they were invited to go back to the vegetable, salad and dessert tables for seconds, and they accepted the invitation. We all appreciate the way they keep the power flowing in all kinds of weather.

Jerrold Vinson and wife, Belle went to visit hi great-grandchildren last weekend to help one of the little great-grandsons celebrate his birthday.

Harold Snell claims this hot 90 degree weather is keeping him home and out of trouble.

Keith Stansell's daughter, Sandra, has returned to her home in San Marcos, California after a visit here with friends and relatives.

Nancy Lawson ate Sunday dinner with her son, Mike and his wife, Rozanne and their daughter, Caitlyn after service at the First Baptist Church. Her son, Greg and daughter Sydney, also joined them. Lots of pretty cotton on the Bishop fields in Lakeview, also the Pyle family cotton.

Faye Bertrand ate lunch at the First Baptist Church Kids Kamp in Blanco Canyon. Lots of Baptist and Methodist attending shared the green beauty of the canyon this past week. Tim Ruff also helped with a group of youth.

Betty Baker ate turkey and dressing Sunday at Lockney Senior Citizens and was accompanied by Barbara Nutt, after both ladies attended Sunday worship service at Floydada City Park Church of Christ.

Jon and Elaine LaBaume and Joyce Williams attended Lockney Senior Citizen's pot luck on Thursday evening and enjoyed a big freezer of home-make ice cream, made by Elaine's childhood friend from the Rock Creek community.

Cleo Whittle's garden keeps providing sweet corn and squash for Floydada dinner tables.

James Lovell, recovering from blood clots in his leg, cooked Sunday dinner for his preacher and wife, Tom and June Ross of Trinity Assembly Church last Sunday. James prepared a gourmet Mexican dinner and daughter, LuAnn Collins, her husband, Mike and sons, John and Jim, helped James serve the preacher and Mrs. Ross. Pretty energetic for an old school teacher and farmer.

Friends from the Floydada Senior Citizens Center who attended funeral services for Charles Haenisch at First United Methodist Church included Wanda Williams, Cobb Gilly, Elaine and Jon LaBaume, Joyce Williams, Nancy Lawson, Faye Bertrand and many others who had been in Charles' or his wife, Immogene's Bible classes during the years.

Floydada Senior Citizens is open to all ages. We serve at 12:00 every weekday. Join us at 925 W. Crockett Street or we will deliver a meal anywhere in town. Call 983- 2032.

Our mailing address is P.O Box 573, Floydada, Texas 79235

MENU
August – 10 – August 14

Monday – Chicken strips
Tuesday – Turkey & dressing
Wednesday – Green chili casserole
Thursday – Chicken fried steak
Friday – Sloppy Joe
(Menus subject to change without notice)

UPCOMING
From **Page 1**

FLOYDADA CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The Floydada Cemetery Association is in need of donations for maintenance expenses. If you have family buried at the cemetery, please use the donation form found in this week's issue to send in your donation.

FLOYD COUNTY HISTORIAL MUSEUM

To make memorial donations or any contribution to the Floyd County Historical Museum, please mail to PO Box 304, Floydada, Texas 79235

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

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

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The Sun is so bright, we need  **!**
Find these hidden shades somewhere in *The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon* and be the first caller after 9 a.m. on Thursday and win a prize!
CALL 888-400-1083 to claim your prize, Four tickets to the play Texas!

Last week's winner was
Rachel Ramirez of Floydada



Wit and Wisdom

By Charles Keaton
The Hesperian-Beacon

There was a time when we expected nothing of our children but obedience, as opposed to the present, when we expect everything of them but obedience. – **Anatole Broyard**

The best way to learn to be an honest, responsible adult is to live with adults who act honestly and responsibly. – **Claudia Jewett Jarrett**

You know that children are growing up when they start asking questions that have answers. – **John J. Plomp**

Children should feel loved because they exist, not because they've behaved in a certain way. – **Julie A., M.A. Ross and Judy Corcoran**

Sometimes the laughter in mothering is the recognition of the ironies and absurdities. Sometime, though, it's just pure, unthinking delight. – **Barbara Schapiro**

SOCIETY

Lockney Senior Citizens News

By Renee Armstrong
Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

Exercise with Dorothy - Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:45 – 9:15 a.m.
Coffee time - Monday- Saturday - 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Thursday night pot luck- 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Family Night Fish Fry - 5:00-8:00 p.m.

MENU
August 10 – August 14

Monday – Baked potaotes
Tuesday – Chicken enchiladas
Wednesday – Chicken fried steak
Thursday – Spaghetti
Friday – BBQ
(Menus subject to change with notice)

Petersburg Days set for Aug. 14-15

Petersburg Days will be August 14 and 15.
Festivities include: Friday at 6 p.m., Hamburger Dinner benefitting the Band Boosters, cost $6.
Friday at 7 p.m. Western Dance with Mike Porter and Kelly Hastey $5 a person
Saturday 9 a.m. Military Appreciation at the Pavilion; 9:30 Parade Line-up Ave. A at County Barn. 10:30 a.m. Parade.
11 a.m. All Activities & Food – Community Center, East Ave. E
Car & Tractor Show & Shine
Brice Chapman, Trick Roper
Live Music, Judge Coleman
Ping Pong Tournament
All Classes Reunion
Music by Travis Williams
Co-Ed Softball Tournament –Petersburg ISD Field

Museum Archives

Floyd County Historical Museum "Memories, 1979"

DAVID C. ALLMON

By Gladys Allmon
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Allmon

David Calvin Allmon was born February 25,1849, in Webster County, Missouri, near Springfield. He grew up there and when he was a young man his family moved to Macon County, Illinois, near Decatur. His widowed sister married Reece Harkrider. When Dave found she had three pretty stepdaughters he became a frequent guest in his sister's home. On August 6, 1871, he and Frances Elizabeth (France) Harkrider were married. They lived near by for about seven years and three sons were born to them. They were Bert, Will and Ed.

About 1878 they moved to Tioga, Grayson County, Texas. I don't know the reason for this move, but Dave's brother Lee, his mother, Jan Cowan Allman, and sisters- Martha, Mary, Jane and Harriet- and France's sister, Alice all came to Texas. There three more children were born- Hattie, Emmett and Charlie. In about 1889 Dave's mother died and was buried at Tioga.

As a little boy Emmett was sick most of the time. They didn't know in those days but he was probably allergic to everything there. They decided to move to the Staked Plains and see if that would help him. Dave made a prospecting trip to Floyd County in 1891 and filed on a section on the west line of the county. Later he came and dug a well and built a half-dugout. In November of that year he got here with his family and all of his possessions. They brought some cattle but no hogs, so they ate beef for a few years. His brother. Lee, and sisters, Martha and Jane and their families came too. In a few years the sisters moved on, but Dave and Lee stayed. Sure enough the little boy got all right and lived to be an old man.

In the early days they were ranchers, but as more land could be broke out they preferred farming. In 1901 Uncle Dave sold the section he had filed on and bought land a little bit southeast of there. He wanted his sons to have farms, too.

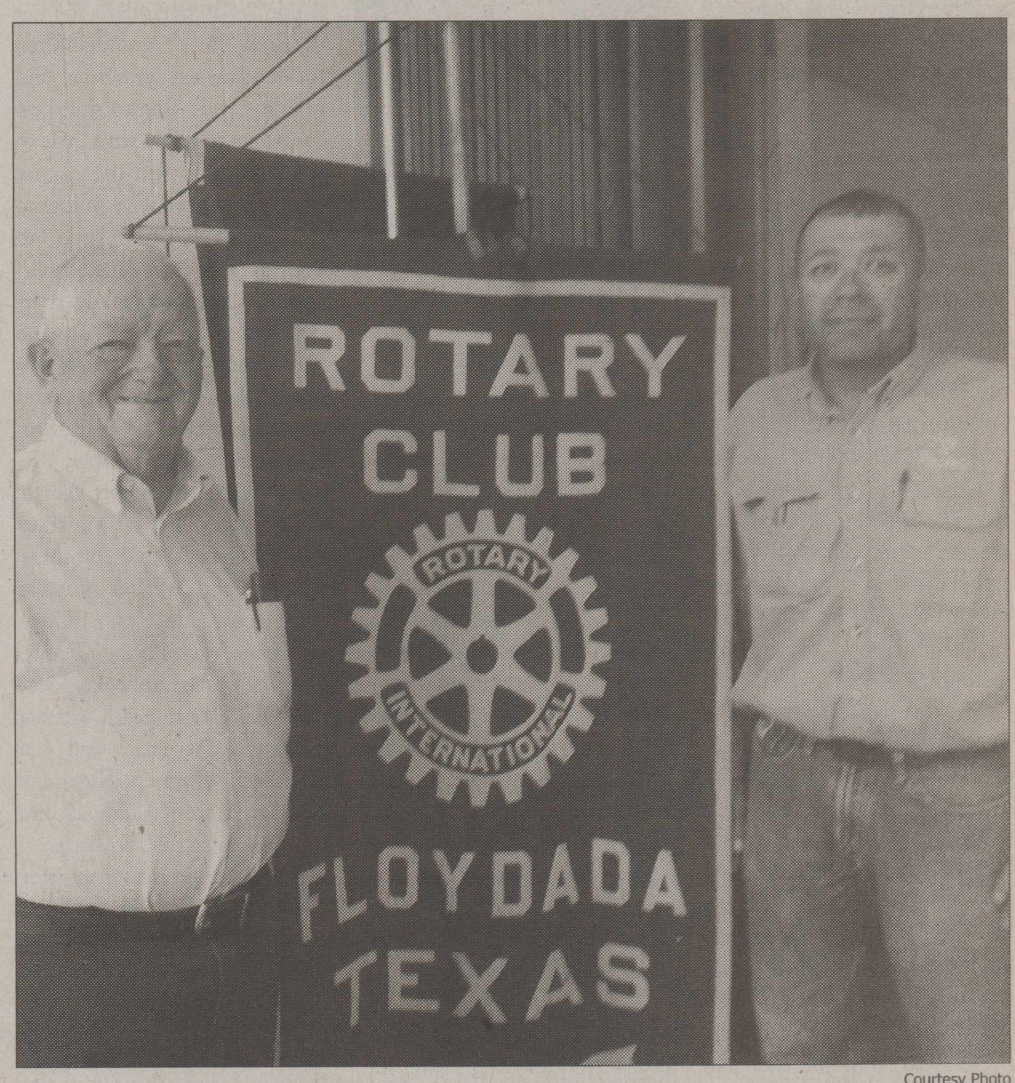
Uncle Dave had a big helping hand, but one time his generosity backfired. A man with his family was passing through in a covered wagon and asked if he could camp in the pasture near a windmill. He told them that would be all right and the family stayed several months. Finally he asked them to move on and the man told him no-the land was his because he had squatter's rights. They went to court and Uncle Dave had to buy his land again.

In 1909 Miss Ethel Harry came to teach school at Allmon. She had been teaching in East Texas for $20 a month and came to the Plains to get rich with a $50 salary. She and Charlie "took a liking" to each other and were married December 25,1910. at her home near Quitman, Wood County, Texas.

After Uncle Dave's death. May 8,1915, his son, Charlie took over the farm and operated it until his death. May 5,1940. Then another generation, his son. Bill was married to Dora Copeland, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Copeland, pioneer settlers of Lockney. In 1974, Bill died and his son, Chuck, and wife, Judy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alien W. Gover of Earth, Texas, carries on the same tradition. They have a two year old daughter, Kacee Beth. Will the next generation to farm the land to be a girl? Who knows.

My greatest admiration goes to all of the pioneers. I am glad to have shared the stories of the hard times and the happy times.

Floydada Rotary



Courtesy Photo

Rotarian Walter Davis (left) presented Jack Alaniz (right), Superintendent of the Water Department of the City of Floydada, as the Rotary program on July 29th. Jack gave the club an update on the progress of the swimming pool and splash park-a project many are ready to cool off in this summer.

Floydada, Plainview Get More HD TV Channels

Suddenlink Completes Move to All-Digital TV Lineup

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

PLAINVIEW, Texas (July 30, 2015) – Suddenlink announced today it has completed an upgrade to an all-digital TV lineup and added more channels in Plainview and Floydada. Digital TV offers superior picture and sound quality.

The conversion process began earlier this year. Customers were notified directly as changes took place. In the process, Suddenlink added a host of new high-definition (HD) channels to its lineup, as well as new digital channels in standard-definition (SD) format. Customers received new TV lineup cards by mail.

New HD channels include: AXS TV HD, Great American Country HD, TV One HD, BYUtv, Big Ten Network HD, PAC-12 Network HD, NFL RedZone HD, Fantasy Sports Network HD, Fight Network HD, MavTV HD, Universal Sports Network HD, One World Sports HD, World Fishing Network HD, Outside TV HD, HBO Signature HD, Cinemax HD, Showtime 2 HD, Showtime Showcase HD, Starz Kids & Family HD, Starz Cinema HD and HBO Latino HD.

Other new digital channels in SD format include: National Geographic Wild, Family Network, The Word Network, 3ABN (Three Angels Broadcasting Network), C-SPAN 3, Encore Family, Encore Espanol, OuterMAX, Showtime Next, Showtime Family, Showtime Women and Flix.

More information about the new channel lineup is available by visiting http://www.suddenlink.com/television/lineupsearch and entering a zip code, by visiting Suddenlink's local customer care office at 2301 W. Fifth St. in Plainview, or by calling toll-free 1-866-269-4386.

Suddenlink (suddenlink.com) is the seventh largest cable operator in the United States, supporting the information, communication and entertainment demands of more than 1.5 million residential and commercial customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, West Virginia and elsewhere. Suddenlink simplifies its customers' lives through one call for support, one connection, and one bill for TV, Internet, phone and other services.

THANKS FOR READING!
The Floyd County
Hesperian-Beacon

27th Annual National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

LUBBOCK, TX – The National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration hosts the 27th annual event in Lubbock, Texas, September 11-12-13th, 2015 at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center and Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts. New attractions include sessions featuring performances by Cowboy Celtic, Pipp Gillette, Mike Dunn, and Craig Carter. Also new this year are sessions on How the Celtic Cultures Influenced the American West, Ranch Dancing, and much more.

The purpose of the event is to celebrate, preserve and pass along our western heritage and cowboy culture. To carry out these goals, the event schedule includes many talented musicians, poets and storytellers from across the nation. Also included are presentations of Native American activities, western authors, horse handling demonstrations by Chance O'Neal, farrier demonstrations by Frank Schweighart, the Horse Parade, the National Championship Chuck Wagon Cook-Off, and exhibits of western artworks and merchandise.

The event has activities for the entire family! Show goers will be able pick and choose from a full schedule of entertainers, western programs, and activities each day of the event. A schedule of events and ticket information may be found on the official web site at www.cowboy.org. All-inclusive, one-price, "Wrangler Pass" and "Rustler Pass" admission tickets are available prior to the event. The Wrangler passes allow admission and meals for all three days and the Rustler pass is an all-inclusive one day pass for Friday or Saturday. Individual tickets may be purchased in advance through the office, on the web site, or in person upon arrival at the event.

The show is open to the public Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 11-12-13th at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Lane (6th Street) and Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts, 511 Avenue K, Lubbock, Texas. Additional information about the event may be obtained at cowboysymposium@suddenlink.net or www.cowboy.org .

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FLOYDADA CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
NEEDS YOUR HELP

It is time for a general fund drive, and we really need your help. Your Floydada Cemetery Association has worked hard in the last year to get the cemetery in good shape. More still needs to be done.

Your contribution is greatly appreciated. You may also make contributions in honor of or as a memorial of a loved one. Any amount will help, but we ask that you give generously. The cemetery has been around for over 100 years and with your help, we can keep it looking good and operational for another 100 years. Thank you for your donation.

DIRECTORS:
Kyle Smith
Juanita Chappell
Jim Finley
Fred Thayer
Bobby Gilliland

RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR DONATION

NAME _____
Address _____
Donation $ _____

Mail To: Floydada Cemetery Association
P.O. Box 444, Floydada, TX 79235
Or Bring to: Fred Thayer CPA
122 E. California Street, Floydada 79235

Obituaries

Lydia Rodriguez

Lydia Rodriguez, age 100, went to be with the Lord on Monday, August 03, 2015. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, August 8, 2015 at the Templo Getsemani Assembly of God.

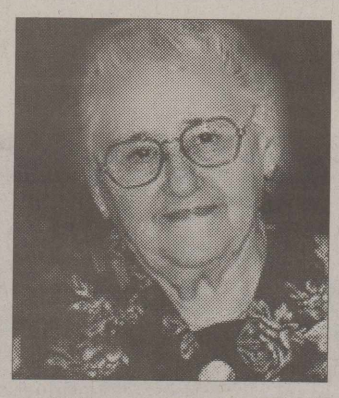
Visitation will be held prior to the service from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. at Templo Getsemani. Interment will follow at the Floydada Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the care of Moore-Rose Funeral Home in Floydada.

Lydia was born in Smiley, Texas on September 15, 1914. Lydia and Crecencio came to Floydada in 1962 and soon afterwards set up a mom-pop grocery store on 12th street called "Little Stand". Crecencio passed in 1984 and Lydia continued to run the store until 1991.

They were members of the Templo Getsemani Assembly of God from its beginning. Members of the church will welcome Lydia home with a service held on Saturday, August 8, 2015 on her way to her final resting place beside her husband at the Floydada Cemetery.

Son, E. T., lived with Lydia for 22 years and she was able to stay in her home in Floydada until September 2013 when she went to live with her daughter in Corpus Christi where she celebrated her 100th birthday. Lydia was truly a pioneer going to church services in a wagon and cutting cords of wood in her teens when she became the breadwinner for her and her grandmother.



LYDIA RODRIGUEZ

At 18 she married Crecencio. Together they worked in the fields picking and hoeing cotton working as a team on a cotton farm where Crecencio was the foreman for 89 Bracero laborers and Lydia ran the chow hall out of the farm house in Arkansas, and finally, establishing two restaurants before and after WWII in San Angelo while raising three children. Their entrepreneurship culminated with the "Little Stand" which was made "famous" by Lydia's invention of the snow cone with a scoop of ice cream and a generous topping of your favorite flavored syrup.

Their two sons served in the Marine Corps and Air Force respectively and their foster son completed a successful career in the Army. Paul retired from Texas Instruments in Lubbock and Ruth retired from civil service with the Army and was an Army wife for 42 years. Her husband's career culminated as the Commander of the Fort Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital before succumbing to ALS—Lou Gehrig's disease, in 2008. Lydia's work ethics and "can do" attitude set the standard for her children and grandchildren to emulate—if grandma and grandpa were able to stand on their own two feet with little to no education, then there is no excuse for those who follow to fail. Lydia will be missed but her legacy will live on.

She was preceded in death by her father, Inocencio Trevino from San Angelo, Texas; her mother, Lea Pompa Cuellar and stepfather, Jesus Cuellar from Floydada, Texas; brother, Nicolas Trevino from Fort Worth, Texas; sister, Elvira Martinez from Floydada; half-brothers, Ramon and Walter Cuellar from Floydada, Jesse Cuellar from Amarillo and Daniel Cuellar from Lubbock. Also preceding her in death was her husband, Crecencio and her grandson, Rodney Raymond Rodriguez from Lubbock, but who was raised in Floydada.

She is survived by her sister, Elizabeth de los Santos from Amarillo, Texas. Lydia is also survived by her sons, Paul Rodriguez and his wife, Ermila from Lubbock and Ezequiel (E.T.) Rodriguez from Floydada; her daughter, Ruth Balliram from Corpus Christi, Texas and foster son, Julian Morales and his wife, Anastacia from Fort Worth. Lydia has 16 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren, and 28 great-great-grandchildren.

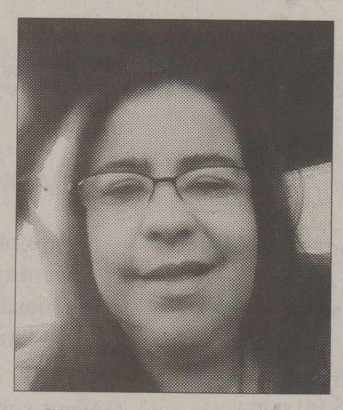
Online condolences may be made at www.moore-rose.com.

Vickie Shepherd

Vickie Shepherd, age 38, of Floydada, passed away on Wednesday, July 29, 2015. Funeral services were held at 11 a.m., Saturday, August 1, 2015 at Moore-Rose Funeral Home in Floydada.

Interment followed at the Lockney Cemetery. Arrangements were under the care of Moore-Rose Funeral Home in Floydada.

Vickie was born April 7, 1977 to Donald Milligan and Mary Ann Breckenridge in Floydada.



VICKIE SHEPHERD

She is preceded in death by her mother, Mary Ann Breckenridge, grandparent, George and Evelyn Winn, grandmother, Fern Milligan and nephew, Jaden Milligan.

Vickie is survived by her son, Anthony Milligan; father, Donald Milligan of Floydada; brother, Odie Milligan and wife, Jackie of Plainview; and fiancee Danny Duarte of Lubbock.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon welcomes letters from readers on topics of local, state, national and international importance. Email letters are preferred to: fchb.editor@yahoo.com.

All letters must include a first and last name, street address (no post office boxes), town, and daytime phone number. Letters sent via U.S. mail may be sent to 201 W. California Street, Floydada, Texas 79235.

South Plains Association of Governments Area Agency On Aging

LUBBOCK—South Plains Association of Governments Area Agency on Aging is hosting their 2nd Annual Caregiver Conference with speaker Tam Cummings on Wednesday, August 12th from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The conference will be held at 1501 Ave Q, Prosperity Bank Operations Annex Building. Registration will begin at 9 a,m. This conference is a free event targeted toward family caregivers who are caring for their loved one but is open to the public as well.

Tam Cummings, PhD, is a gerontologist dedicated to untangling the complexities of dementia. She is passionate about helping caregivers and professionals gain the understanding and skills they need to work effectively with persons with dementia.

A nationally recognized author, educator and keynote speaker, Dr. Cummings has helped thousands of families and professionals understand the stages of dementia and the process of the disease.

To register for the conference contact Linda Rautis at 806-762-8721 or 806-687-0940.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Moved with Compassion

When [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. — *Matthew 9:36 (NIV)*

Scrunched in the seat of a pedal rickshaw in India, I observed the masses of humanity pressed together on the narrow street. The sound of horns, the smell of fumes, and the sight of chaotic bustling overwhelmed my senses. Struck by the scene, I wondered what God thought while looking at such a crowd. Then I thought of Matthew 9:36: "When Jesus saw the crowd, he had compassion on them."

Jesus' response to the people revealed the vision of God. The word compassion in Greek indicates a gut-wrenching burden for people. That burden led Jesus to send his followers on a mission to engage the "harassed and helpless." Jesus wanted his followers to reach those who are suffering.

Viewing this crowd of people led me to pray for them and moved me to deep compassion. I was propelled into action. As our rickshaw slowly maneuvered its way through the crowds, I wondered what our world would be like if every Christ-follower were to pray for those who are suffering and then to act with compassion as Jesus commands.

Leslie Anne Neal Segraves (Tennessee, USA)

Thought for the Day

I want to see the world through God's eyes of compassion.

Aiken Baptist Church
Dennis Butler, Pastor
Morning Worship..11 a.m.

*****

Bible Baptist Church
810 S. 3rd, Floydada
Darwin Robinson, Pastor
983-2578
Sunday School....10 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:50 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.
Wednesday - 7 p.m.

*****

Calvary's Cornerstone Fellowship
Floydada
Armando Morales, Pastor
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship - 11 a.m.
Bible Study - 6 p.m.
Wednesday Evening - 7 p.m.

*****

Carr's Chapel
Service Every Sunday
Morning Worship - 9 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
Matthew Benfield, Minister
Floydada
Sunday Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study - 7 p.m.

*****

First Baptist Church
Floydada
Tim Franks, Pastor
Logan Lamb, Min. Students
Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.
Wed Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

*****

First Baptist Church
Lockney
Joseph Tillery, Pastor
Albert Oliveira, Youth Min.
Phil Cotham, Music Min.
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship, 6:00 p.m.

*****

First United Methodist Church
Floydada
Rev. Ken Peterson, Pastor
Morning Worship - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School - 10:50 a.m.
Youth (Sunday) - 6:30 p.m.

*****

First United Methodist Church
Lockney
Rev. Ricky Carsensen, Pastor
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.
Evening Service - 6 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 a.m.
Morning Worship - 11 a.m.
Evening Worship - 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday - 8 p.m.
Wednesday Service 7:30 p.m.

*****

Main Street Church of Christ
Lockney
James Blair, Minister
Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.

*****

Mt. Zion Baptist Church
Floydada
Rev. Timothy Askey
401 N 12th Sty. 983-5805
Sunday School - 10 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.
Wednesday Study - 6 p.m.

*****

New Salem Primitive Baptist Church
Floydada
Pastor Elder Ronnie Hedges
(806) 637-0430
Sunday Singing - 10:30 a.m.
Morning Worship -11 a.m.

*****

Out Reach Harvest Pentecostal Church
310 Mississippi
Floydada
Rev David Ramos, Pastor
Ester Ramos, Praise Leader
Sunday Bible - 10 a.m.
Morning Praise - 11 a.m.
Evening Praise 5 - p.m.
Wed Worship - 7 p.m.

*****

Power of Praise Full Gospel Church
Rev. Manuel Rendon, Pastor
704 B Main, Lockney
Sunday Services - 10 a.m.
Sunday Evening - 5 p.m.
Wednesday - 7:30 p.m.

*****

Primera Iglesia Bautista
Lockney
Jesus Caballero, Pastor
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service - 11 a.m.
Discipleship - 5 p.m.
Wed. Service - 7 p.m.

*****

Primera Iglesia Bautista
Floyada
Rev. Toby Gonzales
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:40 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.
Wed Evening - 7 p.m.

*****

San Jose Catholic Church
Lockney
Msgr. Nickolas Rendon
Wed. Communion - 8 p.m.
Sunday Mass - 11:30 a.m.

*****

South Plains Baptist Church
Joe Weldon, Pastor
SuNday School - 10 a.m.
Morning Worship - 11 a.m.
Prayer Meeting - 7 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 a.m.
Worship
Spanish - 9:30 a.m.
English - 11 a.m.
Evening Service 5 p.m.
Wednesday 7 p.m.

*****

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church
Floydada
Rev. Ike Temporaza
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
Bun Prayer Service - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service - 11 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.
Wed. Meeting - 7 p.m.

*****

Templo Bethel Spanish Assembly of God
Washington And 1st St.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship - 11 a.m.
Evening Worship - 5 p.m.
Wed Service - 7 p.m.

*****

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

*****

Trinity Assembly
500 W. Houston
Tom Ross, Pastor
983-5499
Sunday School - 9:45 p.m.
Morning Worship - 10:40 a.m.
Sunday Evening - 6 p.m.

*****

Trinity Luthern Church
Providence Community On Fm 2301
293-3009
Rev. Peter W. Harrington, Minister
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 11 - a.m.

*****

West Side Church of Christ
Floydada
983-2672 Or 470-0950
Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening - 2 p.m.

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AGRICULTURE

Assignment: Texas

The Pool

Have you ever built a pool before? Yeah, me either.

However, I'm going to try.

About a year ago, my brother and I were talking about alternatives to traditional pools. Our conversation centered around the TV show The Pool Master. On the Animal Planet show, designer Anthony Archer-Wills and his crew creates extravagant pools that above, all fits nicely into the landscapes where they are installed and often use a natural filtration method to maintain water quality. In our on-going conversations, we decided that for both of our rural homes we wanted pools that looks like they are an existing part of the landscape. However, doling out tens of thousands of dollars on a pool unfortunately isn't an option for either of us so we started trying to solve the problem in a more cost effective manner.



RUSSELL GRAVES

Back when my wife and I we were dating in our early twenties, we partnered on a huge above ground swimming pool. The pool was simple in its design. The liner kept the water in the vessel while a pump pulled water from the skimmer, filtered the water through a sand medium, and returned it through a jet in the side of the pool. We tested the water daily to insure the ph and chlorine levels were optimum and aside from that, it was pretty carefree. I know I am over-simplifying this but the the mechanics of how a pool filters water is not a complicated process.

As I spent the past year thinking about pools and researching filtration methods, I learned more about natural filtration systems. Essentially, water in a pool is cleaned as it passes through a filter medium like rocks. Bacteria grow on the rock which helps scrub the water and continually moving water doesn't stagnate. Think of a spring or a clean river running over rocks as it's roughly the same concept.

When I was a high school teacher, we had a 500 gallon aquaculture setup in my classroom. One year we raised over 100 pounds of tilapia in the tank and with such a huge biological load that challenged the water quality daily, all it took to filter the water was a four inch diameter tube that was three feet long and filled with a plastic filtration medium to which beneficial bacteria could attach and grow. A pump kept the water moving through the system and while the water became turbid from time to time, the fish thrived.

Ultimately, natural filtration pools are a sound concept. Using naturally filtered water instead of chlorine or salt filtration has many benefits. With the pool I'm building I'll be able to capture and store rainfall that I can use as wildlife and irrigation water. In addition, I'll have a water feature that beatifies the property and provides the added benefit of serving as a swimming hole.

In the end, between the design that takes it's cue from the big ranch country where I live and the flexible way I'll be able to store and use the water that I capture I hope to create a Pinterest-worthy project that provides hours of inspiration and enjoyment for my family.

Stay tuned. It's getting interesting.

Sperry Man Arrested for Possession of Stolen Cattle

Special to The Hesperien-Beacon

Sperry, Okla. – A Sperry, Okla. man was arrested Saturday and charged with four counts of knowingly concealing stolen cattle at his home located in Sperry, Okla. after stealing calves from three different victims.

Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) Special Ranger Bart Perrier and the Osage County Sheriff's Department led this investigation.

Perrier had been investigating a series of cattle thefts in the southern area of Osage County over the past several weeks. Three separate ranchers reported thefts of calves from their area pastures.

Perrier received a call from the Osage County Sheriff's Department on Saturday and authorities stated that they were at the home of the suspect, Cody J. Porter, 29, of Sperry Okla. Perrier drove to the suspect's home with Osage County Sheriff's Deputy Jesse Brewer. Perrier and Brewer conducted a follow-up investigation and noticed 14 head of young calves in a pen near the suspect's barn area. According to Perrier, many of the calves matched the descriptions of the recently reported stolen calves in the Osage County area that TSCRA and the Osage County Sheriff's Department had been investigating. Perrier said several of the calves had unique markings and were easily identifiable.

Based on the observations of Brewer and Perrier, a search warrant was obtained for a search of the property. The subsequent search and further investigation resulted in ten of the calves being identified as the stolen calves reported by the three victims in the area between July 8 and July 23.

Porter was arrested and jailed for the charges in Osage County. He was arraigned in the Osage County District Court on charges of four counts of knowingly concealing stolen property and his bond was set at $50,000.

This investigation and the positive identification of the remaining calves are ongoing with additional charges possibly being filed in this case. Anyone with information about these crimes should contact Perrier at 918-275-4257 or the Osage County Sheriff's Office.

"This case is a perfect example of two agencies cooperating and working together to recover stolen livestock and hold cattle thieves accountable for their actions," said Perrier. "We will continue working on this case to seek justice for the ranchers who have become victim's of cattle theft."

TSCRA would like to thank Brewer, Chief Investigator Charlie Cartwright and Osage County Sheriff's Deputies Clay Testerman and Joe Sherrell for their assistance in this joint investigation.

TSCRA has 30 special rangers stationed strategically throughout Texas and Oklahoma who have in-depth knowledge of the cattle industry and are trained in all facets of law enforcement. All are commissioned as Special Rangers by the Texas Department of Public Safety and/or the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation.

TSCRA is a 138-year-old trade association and is the largest and oldest livestock organization based in Texas. TSCRA has more than 16,500 beef cattle operations, ranching families and businesses as members. These members represent approximately 50,000 individuals directly involved in ranching and beef production who manage 4 million head of cattle on 76 million acres of range and pasture land primarily in Texas and Oklahoma, but throughout the Southwest.

Vamos a pescar, Let's go fishing!

Special to The Hesperien-Beacon

LUBBOCK, TX- Los Hermanos Familia, exclusively committed to advancing family engagement, is reminding the public that there is still time to pre-register online for the 7th Annual "Vamos a Pescar, Let's Go Fishing" event, which will be held Saturday, August 8, 2015, from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Buddy Holly Lake at Cesar Chavez Drive and North University.

Los Hermanos Familia uses fishing as a hook to bring families together and organizes the annual "Vamos a Pescar, Let's Go Fishing" event, which has an overall goal to reconnect kids and parents with nature, while strengthening family bonds.

"Fishing provides us with time to unwind from the pressures of life and a way to relax or simply have fun… it's just a great way to build memories with family and friends," said Frank Garcia, event co-chair, whose father, the late Gonzalo Garcia Sr., a farmer, had made a last request to go fishing with the entire family during his recovery after a heart bypass. Sadly, he died the next morning.

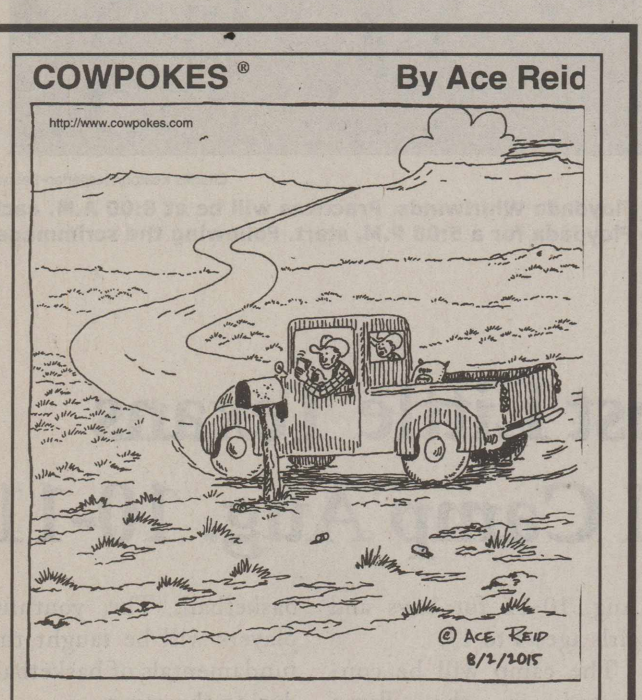
Keeping that in mind, he said that registration was made easier and more accessible online to offer for convenience to busy families seeking an outlet to relax before back to school time.

"There's nothing quite like experiencing buying your first rod, or the thrill of catching your first fish, or getting your first fishing cap, which becomes a symbol of that day at the lake," said Garcia,

"We know families are busy. My dad's work often prevented him from getting to participate in family outings and activities. So now, we use fishing as a means to bring families together," he said adding that the event is free, does not require a fishing license, and the lake is stocked with hungry catfish.

Garcia added that organizers work tenaciously to assure the families a great time, and keep it free to assure families are not hindered by cost. And simply offer a chance to build memories.

Interested participants can pre-register online at www.letsgofishinglubbock.com, through August 6, 2015. On-site registration will take place, Sat., August 8th, beginning at 6 a.m. For more info visit www.loshermanosfamilia.org, or call (806)792-1212.



"Jist remember Jake, birds have bills and they keep singin'!"

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Prospects bright for dove season

AUSTIN – Dove hunters will have more opportunity earlier in the season with dates and bag limits finalized recently by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has approved the 2015-2016 Texas dove season, including a 70-day season and 15-bird daily bag statewide, and a 16-day early teal and Canada goose season.

The traditional Sept. 1 dove season opening day in the North and Central Zones remains. The first segment in those zones will be five days longer than last season, closing on Sunday, Oct. 25. The season will reopen Friday, Dec. 18 and run through Friday, Jan. 1, 2016 in the North and Central Zones.

In the South Zone, the first segment will be longer by two days compared to last year. The South Zone opens Friday, Sept. 18 and runs through Wednesday, Oct. 21. The second segment will run Friday, Dec. 18 through Friday, Jan. 22, 2016.

The daily bag limit for doves statewide is 15 and the possession limit is 45.

The Special White-winged Dove Area will be restricted to afternoon only (noon to sunset) hunting the first two full September weekends on Sept. 5-6 and 12-13. Hunting in this area will reopen Friday, Sept. 18 and continue through Wednesday, Oct. 21, and then reopen Friday, Dec. 18 through Monday, Jan. 18, 2016. During the early two weekends, the daily bag limit is 15 birds, to include not more than two mourning doves and two white-tipped doves. Once the general season opens, the aggregate bag limit will be 15 with no more than two white-tipped doves.

"Age-ratios (juveniles versus adults) from last season indicated very strong production in mourning doves across Texas last year; we expect similar or slightly increased production this year with the improved habitat conditions across nearly all of Texas," said Shaun Oldenburger, TPWD's dove program leader. "However, improved habitat conditions equal more food and water on the landscape, which means hunters may need to spend more time patterning mourning doves prior to opening day in their area."

Duck hunters can anticipate improved conditions for the September early teal season as abundant rains have filled lakes and marshes for the first time in several years. With record numbers of teal expected to make their way into Texas during the upcoming months, prospects should be good.

A 16-day statewide early teal and Eastern Zone Canada goose season will run Saturday, Sept. 12 through Sunday, Sept. 27. The daily bag on teal remains six, with a possession limit of 18. Bag limit for Canada geese will be three and a possession limit of six in the Eastern Zone only.

"Blue-winged teal numbers (8.5 million) are way above the minimum of 4.7 million needed for a 16-day season," said Kevin Kraai, TPWD waterfowl program leader. "Conditions for teal across the state are excellent and hunters are urged to have their fingers crossed for a timely migration in the middle of September."

Hunters are reminded that licenses go on sale Aug. 15 for the 2015-16 hunting seasons and can be purchased through the agency's 28 field offices, more than 50 state parks and at over 1,700 retailers across the state. Licenses may also be purchased online through the TPWD website at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/buy or by phone at 1-800-895-4248. Call center hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and there is a required $5 administrative fee for each phone or online transaction. The online transaction system is available 24/7. For online and phone orders, a physical license will be mailed within three business days. During that time period, a transaction receipt will be provided via email that will be sufficient proof of hunting license and required endorsements that can be used for dove hunting, though it will not be allowed for the take of fish or wildlife that require a tag.

Hunting and fishing regulations for the new season can be found in the 2015-2016 Outdoor Annual, available at license retailers Aug. 15, online at www.txoutdoorannual.com and via the free Outdoor Annual mobile app available for Apple and Android devices.

In addition to a hunting license, anyone born after Sept. 1, 1971, must successfully complete a hunter education training course or purchase a one-time deferral good for one license year in order to hunt legally in Texas. The certification is valid for life and is honored in all other states and provinces.

A Migratory Game Bird endorsement and Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification are also required to hunt dove or teal in September. HIP certification involves a brief survey of previous year's migratory bird hunting success and is conducted at the time licenses are purchased. Duck hunters also need to purchase a Federal Duck Stamp.

FLOYDADA SCHOOL

FHS Preseason

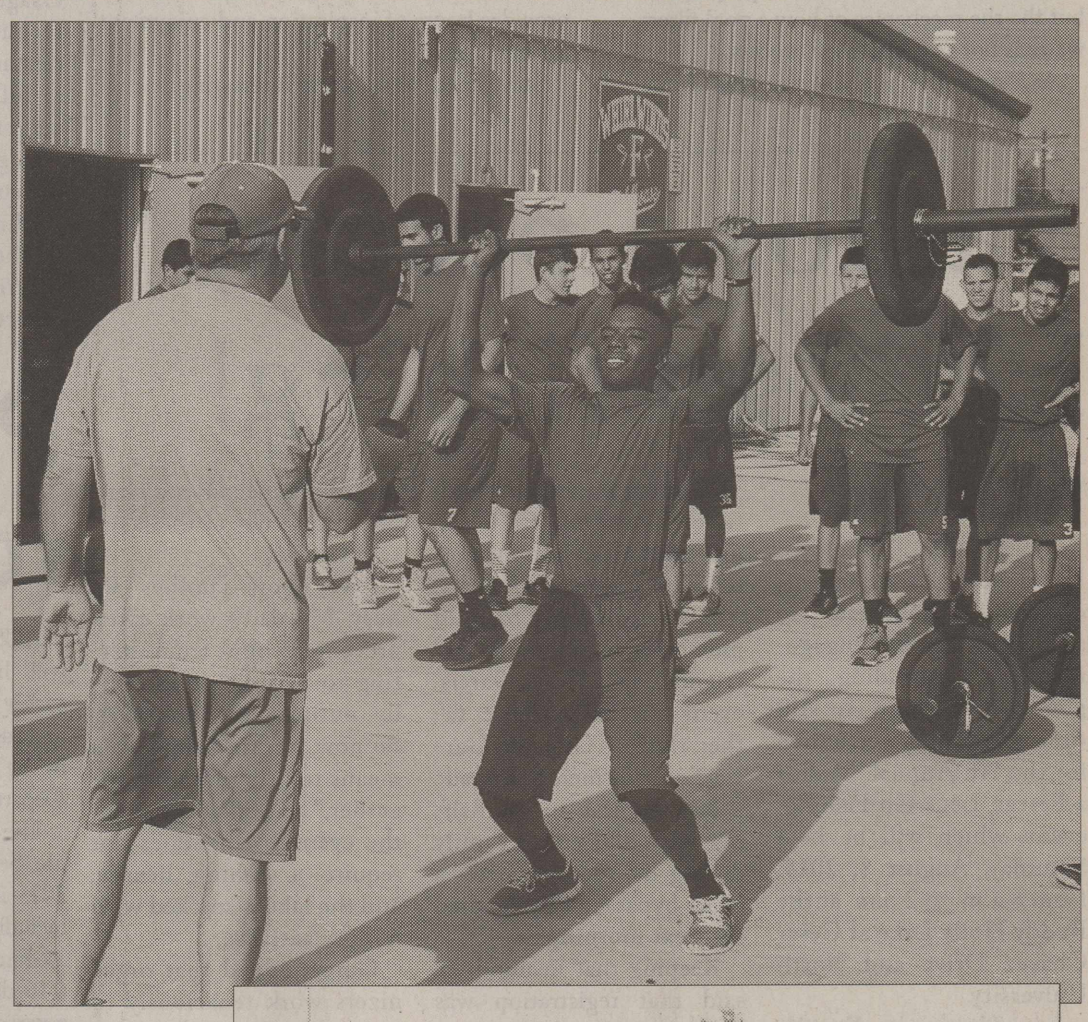
















Charles Keaton/Hesperian-Beacon

Head Football Coach Todd Bandy and his staff welcomed 48 participants to the beginning of preseason practice for the Floydada Whirlwinds. Practices will be at 8:00 A.M. each morning in preparation for the upcoming season. The first scrimmage will be Friday, Aug. 14 when Wellington comes to Floydada for a 5:00 P.M. start. Following the scrimmage, Meet the Whirlwinds will be held.

SPC to offer photography classes in August

REESE CENTER – South Plains College will offer two photography classes on indoor and outdoor shooting for photo enthusiasts on Aug. 15 and Aug. 29. The classes will meet in Building 8 Room 822a.

A Digital Jump Start will be offered from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. This class is the first in a series of classes on digital photography. It is designed to expose enthusiasts to camera options and capabilities. The cost is $50.

A Macro Photography class is set for 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Aug. 29. The class requires a Macro lens or a long telephoto lens from 200 to 300 mm, a tripod and a shutter release. The cost is $50.

The instructor will be Wes Underwood, Photography Specialist for South Plains College. To contact Underwood, call (806) 716-2215 or email wunderwood@southplainscollege.edu.

SPC to host Little Texans Basketball Camp Aug. 10-11

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

LEVELLAND – South Plains College's new Women's Basketball Head Coach Cayla Petree will lead the Little Texans Basketball Camp from 2 to 5 p.m. on Aug. 10-11 for boys and girls ages 4 to 13.

The camp will be conducted in the Texan Dome.

The cost is $75 per participant, and each player will receive a T-shirt and basketball. The youthful players will be taught the fundamentals of basketball during the camp.

To register, contact Coach Petree at (806) 716-2224 or email cpetree@southplainscollege.edu.

SPC Reese Center to honor Vocational Nursing graduates on Aug. 14

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

REESE CENTER – The Pinning Ceremony for Vocational Nursing Class 79 of South Plains College at Reese is slated for 10 a.m. on Aug. 14 in the Center for Clinical Excellence on the Reese Campus.

The Pinning Ceremony recognizes the educational achievement of vocational nursing students. Upon completion of the program, students are eligible to write the NCLEX-PN examination for licensure.

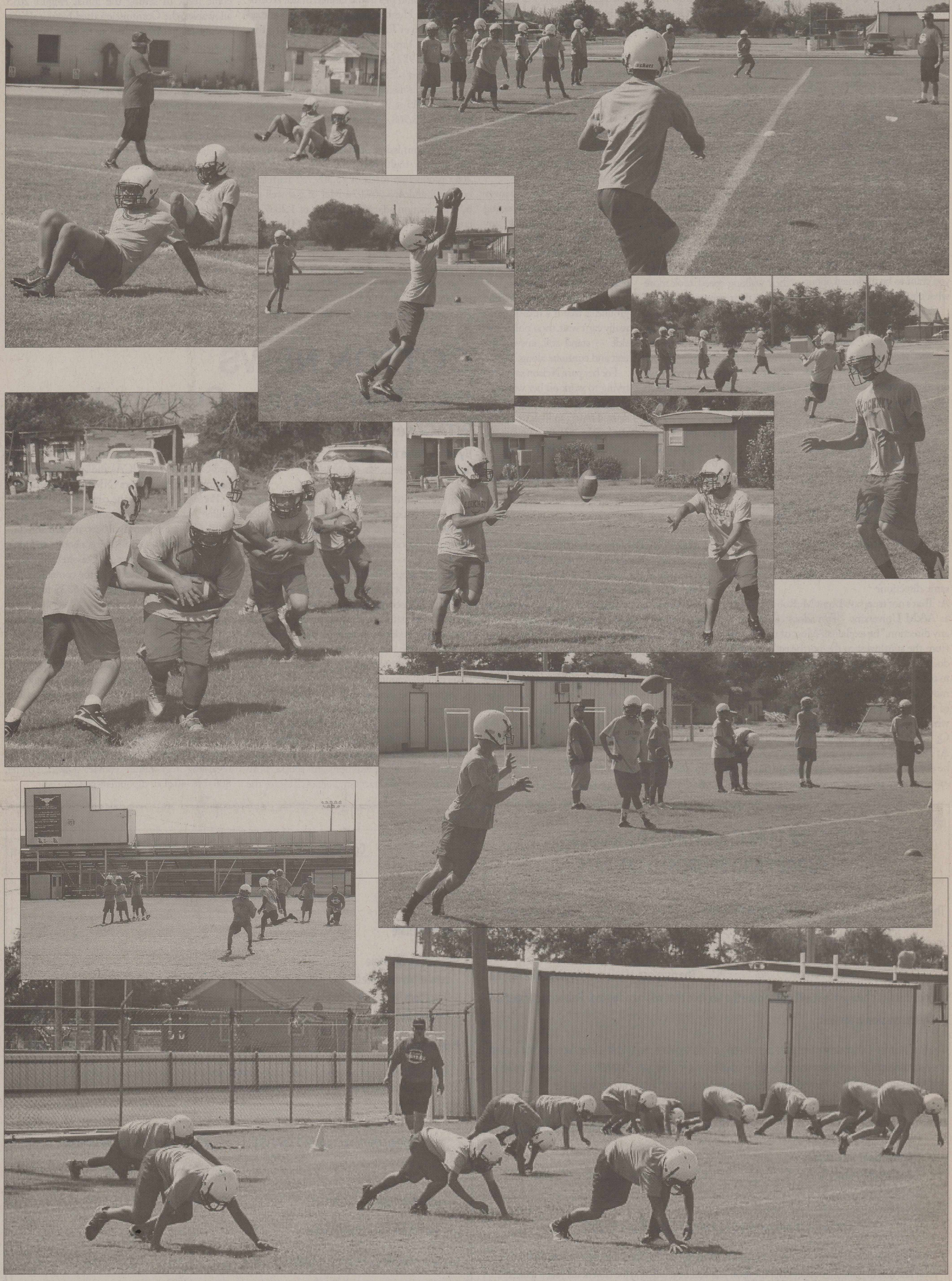
Area graduates include Kathryn Clark, Wolfforth; Tamara Dabila and Victoria DeLosSantos, both of Slaton; Madison Edge, Santo; Thao Luong, Pampa; Lori Pereida, Crosbyton; and Alayna Thomas, Midland.

Lubbock graduates are Andrea Aguero, Melissa Glendenning, Landry Griffith, Brandon Gumula, Aashauntis Johnson, Mayra Perez, Timothy Steward and Azucena Vega.

For more information, contact Korbi B

LOCKNEY SCHOOL

LHS Preseason



Charles Keaton/Hesperian-Beacon

Thirty-eight Lockney Longhorns showed up for the first day of preseason workouts for Head Football Coach Jay Ragland and his staff. The Longhorns will continue practicing beginning at 8:00 A.M. Friday, Aug. 7 will be "Meet the Longhorns" at 7:00 P.M.

Lockney Tiger League Sign-ups

ByCharles Keaton
The Hesperian-Beacon

LOCKNEY – With football season around the corner, it's time for the Lockney Tiger League sign-ups.

On Monday, Aug. 10, sign-ups will take place at the Lockney Community Center beginning at 6:30 P.M. Parents and participants must attend the meeting.

Tiger League is a full contact football league for third through sixth grade kids.

Lockney Band Boosters

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! The Lockney Band Boosters will have their first meeting of the year on Tuesday, August 11, at 6 p.m. in the Band Hall. All parents of high school band members are encouraged to attend this informative meeting, as many items will be covered at this meeting. Parents will have the opportunity to sign up to work in the football concession stands at this meeting. This year is an "ADVANCING YEAR", as well as a "TRIP YEAR", so parents will want to take advantage of every fundraising opportunity possible. Parents will also have the opportunity to purchase Band Booster T-shirts at $9 each at this meeting. The Annual Ice Cream Social will be on Tuesday, August 18 at the conclusion of summer band rehearsals, around 9 p.m. Parents are encouraged to bring ice cream (either homemade or store bought) to this event. If you have any questions, contact Kristi Carstensen at 652-3459.

TALK TEXT CRASH

Save a Life™
Texas Department of Transportation

Texing and walking

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

COLLEGE STATION, July 31, 2015 -- The mark of a true multitasker used to be walking and chewing gum at the same time, but get in a crowd of pedestrians these days and you'll see less chewing and more texting. Viral videos abound showing distracted walkers falling into fountains or running into buildings – one guy nearly ran into a bear! And while these distracted pedestrians are giggle worthy, some would even say "annoying," according to a researcher at Texas A&M University who has studied the phenomenon, the practice could be dangerous.

"I walk and text all the time," admits Texas A&M senior Adriana Nelson. "You don't want to miss out on anything – you want to be informed about what's going on."

Conrad Earnest, a research scientist at the Exercise and Sport Nutrition Lab, said he was walking one day and was "totally frustrated by the drunken weaving about of texters. I thought this would be interesting to study in terms of risk for tripping and falling."

Earnest and his co-authors, who published their findings in the journal PLOS ONE, set up an obstacle course and invited participants to navigate the course walking normally, texting and walking, and texting and walking while being further distracted with a math problem. "We elected to build an obstacle course that imitated common barriers pedestrians might encounter during their walking day and measure a number of walking characteristics with standard techniques used in biomechanics," he says, adding they elected to include the math challenge as a way to standardize each treatment condition.

Among their findings, Earnest says when compared with the non-distracted walkers, the texting and cognitively distracted participants took longer to complete and deviated from the path. "Distracted people slowed their walking speed, took more steps in their approach to common obstacles, and increased the height of their step to go up steps and over curbs," he notes. "Interestingly, we did not see an increase in what we called 'barrier contacts,' which were used as a surrogate measure for tripping."

So while participants may not have been "tripped up," so to speak, the researchers were able to use the results to hypothesize that the slowed walking pace coupled with path deviations will eventually cause a trip-and-fall incident. "This probably not too much of a jump considering recent statistics examining injury to teenagers involving pedestrian-related car accidents," Earnest explains. "Thirteen percent of teenagers who were hit or almost hit by a car didn't look properly while crossing. If inattentional blindness is a part of the reason, this is likely exacerbated by smartphones, where one can listen to music, text, email and even watch videos, relatively all at the same time."

Earnest says the takeaway here is that walking and texting is much like developing any healthy lifestyle habit such as dieting and exercise. "Eventually one has to exercise due diligence and self-protection," he notes. "Perhaps a good middle ground is that if a text or email really can't wait, then 'pull to the side' -- stand still, answer the text and continue along."

For her part, Nelson says she's trying to work on her walking-and-texting habit. "Lately I've started trying to look up more," she laughs. "Really it's more sad than annoying because people aren't saying hello to each other anymore. I think we should put

Weather Whys

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

Q: Is it true that tornadoes always move in the same direction?

A: That's not true, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "Tornadoes can move in any direction," he explains. "Most of them move from the southwest to the northeast, but not all do. It used to be thought that all tornadoes moved to the northeast, but now we know that they can move in any direction. Tornadoes develop out of thunderstorms, and they generally move in whatever direction the thunderstorm is moving.

Q: Do they make sudden changes in direction?

A: They can, but sharp turns are not common, he says. "Most tornadoes keep going along the same general path and any change of direction is slight," McRoberts adds. "When a tornado does make a change in direction, it is usually due to changes in the structure of the thunderstorm from which it was spawned. Perhaps the greatest example of a tornado staying on path was the famous Tri-State tornado of March, 1925. It stayed on roughly the same path for an amazing 219 miles, moving from southeast Missouri, crossing Illinois and heading on to southwest Indiana – the usual path of moving from the south to the northeast that most tornadoes make. It moved at 73 miles per hour, killed 695 people, destroyed 15,000 homes and damaged 164 square miles and was at times one mile in width.

Weather Whys is a service of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at Texas A&M University.

RRC Production statics and allowables for August 2015

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

AUSTIN — The Texas average rig count as of July 17, was 366, representing about 44 percent of all active land rigs in the United States according to Baker Hughes Incorporated. The Railroad Commission of Texas (Commission) reports that in the last 12 months, total Texas reported production was 977 million barrels of oil and 8.4 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

The Commission's estimated final production for May 2015 is 91,026,903 barrels of crude oil and 542,213,968 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) of gas well gas.

The Commission derives final production numbers by multiplying the preliminary May 2015 production totals of 75,309,757 barrels of crude oil and 463,509,974 Mcf of gas well gas by a production adjustment factor of 1.2087 for crude oil and 1.1698 for gas well gas. (These production totals do not include casinghead gas or condensate.)

Texas natural gas storage reported to the Commission for June 2015 was 394,385,958 Mcf compared to 242,335,211 Mcf in June 2014. The July 2015 gas storage estimate is 406,108,196 Mcf.

The Commission's Oil and Gas Division set initial August 2015 natural gas production allowables for prorated fields in the state to meet market demand of 6,998,577 Mcf (thousand cubic feet). In setting the initial August 2015 allowables, the Commission used historical production figures from previous months, producers' demand forecasts for the coming month and adjusted the figures based on well capability. These initial allowables will be adjusted after actual production for August 2015 is reported.

About the Railroad Commission

Established in 1891, the Railroad Commission of Texas is the oldest regulatory agency in the state. The Commission has a long and proud history of service to both Texas and to the nation, including almost 100 years regulating the oil and gas industry. Additionally, the Commission has jurisdiction over alternative fuel s safety, natural gas utility, surface mining and intrastate pipeline industries. Our mission is to serve Texas by our stewardship of natural resources and the environment, our concern for personal and community safety, and our support of enhanced development and economic vitality for the benefit of Texans. To learn more, visit http://www.rrc.texas.gov/.

COTTON NEWS
from Plains Cotton Growers, Inc

WTACI set to meet September 9

By Mary Jane Buerkle

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

The annual meeting of the West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute has been scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 9, at the Bayer Museum of Agriculture, located at 1121 Canyon Lake Drive in Lubbock.

This year represents the 63rd meeting of WTACI, an unincorporated organization of dealers, industry representatives, agricultural producers, scientists, educators, and agribusiness members who support education and research programs promoting safe and effective use of agricultural chemicals and protection and preservation of the area's natural resources.

Topics to be discussed at the conference include pesticide application and laws and regulations, crop rotation and nutrient management strategies, weed resistance and insect resistance management, crop insurance, and much more. A detailed list of presentations and speakers can be found at http://wtaci.tamu.edu. CEUs for the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) and New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) are pending.

Pre-registration for the conference is available online at http://wtaci.tamu.edu/Registration.html. On-line registration fees are $75 for conference attendees and $300 for a booth and must be completed by August 31. On-site registration will begin at 7 a.m. the day of the conference and will cost $95 for attendees and $325 for booth sponsors.

Lunch will be provided as part of the registration fee.

Opportunities also exist to contribute to the WTACI Scholarship Fund, which has provided more than $60,000 in scholarships to students majoring in agricultural fields at many Texas universities.

Contact Ken Legé at 806-773-7310 or KELege@dow.com for questions about the program and CEU's. If you have trouble or questions regarding registration contact David Pointer, 806-746-4021 or dlpointer@ag.tamu.edu.

Comptroller of Public Accounts FORM 50-280 (Rev. 6-06/2)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Lockney Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 8:00 pm, August 25, 2015 in Board Room of the Administration Building, 416 W. Willow Street Lockney, Texas 79241. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax $ 1.14 /$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)

School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters $ 0.00 /$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	3	% increase or		% (decrease)
Debt service	0	% increase or		% (decrease)
Total expenditures	3	% increase or		% (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	$ 184,313,709	$ 184,219,810
Total appraised value* of new property**	$ 2,967,190	$ 2,973,185
Total taxable value*** of all property	$ 107,873,545	$ 108,120,010
Total taxable value*** of new property**	$ 2,967,190	$ 2,973,185

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* $ 0

* Outstanding principal.

50-280 (Rev. 6-06/2) (Back)

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	$ 1.14	$ 0 *	$ 1.14	$ 2432	$ 7484
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	$ 1.14	$ 0 *	$ 1.14	$ 2538	$ 7390
Proposed Rate	$ 1.14	$ 0 *	$ 1.14	$ 2538	$ 7390

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	$ 36,665	$ 37,008
Average Taxable Value of Residences	$ 25,320	$ 21,410
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per $100 Value	$ 1.14	$ 1.14
Taxes Due on Average Residence	$ 289	$ 244
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		$ -(45)

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.14. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.14.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	$ 2,100,000
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	$ 0

Hesperian-Beacon Market Place

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ESTATE SALE

ESTATE SALE – 220 TILFORD, RALLS, TEXAS – Thursday and Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Refrigerator, freezer, Treadle Singer sewing machine, 2 sofas, soft table, 2 coffee tables, end tables, night stands, 2 desks, 2 dressers, 2 Baker's racks, heaters, AC unit, fishing equipment, some tools, and lots of miscellaneous. 8-6p

FARM MISCELLANEOUS

EXPERIENCED FARMER looking to rent farm ground. Stewardship is top priority. Outstanding yield records and references available. Contact RJ at (806) 983-9488. 8-27c

GARAGE SALE

910 W. JACKSON, FLOYDADA – Garage sale on Saturday, August 8 from 8:00-11:00 a.m. Kids clothes, shoes, toys, homemade jewelry and purses. 8-6c

HOUSE FOR RENT

RENT FOR SALE – 4 bedroom home in Lockney. Central heat/air, refrigerator and stove. No pets. Call 806-983-6059. tfn

SERVICES

LARRY OGDEN AUCTIONEERING – FLOYDADA
Estates, Farm, Ranch, Business, Liquidations, State Licensed and Bonded. 806-983-5808. TX #9240. tfn

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LEGAL

FLOYD COUNTY
NOTICE OF PROPOSED PAY INCREASE FOR COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

The 2015-2016 Proposed Budget includes a pay increase for several Elected Officials. The maximum increase for each Official is as follows:

	Proposed Salary	Present Salary	Increase
County Attorney*	$58,352	$52,613	$ 5,739
{*County Attorney's salary includes a State supplement}			
County Clerk	$35,019	$30,451	$ 4,568
District Clerk*	$38,019	$30,451	$ 7,568
{*District Clerk includes $3,000 stipend for on-sight IT support}			
County Treasurer	$38,019	$30,451	$ 7,568
{*County Treasurer includes $3,000 stipend for HR Coordinator}			
County Tax Assessor/Collector	$35,019	$30,451	$ 4,568
Justice of the Peace Pct. 1&4	$35,019	$30,451	$ 4,568
Justice of the Peace Pct. 2&3	$35,019	$30,451	$ 4,568
County Sheriff	$52,165	$47,424	$ 4,741
County Judge*	$60,851	$50,651	$10,200

{*County Judge pay increase due to $10,200 State supplement increase to $25,200}

This Notice published in accordance with Texas Local Government Code § 152.013
{08/03/2015}

FLOYD COUNTY
NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The Floyd County Commissioners Court will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2015-2016 Floyd County Budget. The hearing will be held on Monday, August 17, 2015 at 8:30 AM. The hearing will be held in the Floyd County Courthouse Room 106 {County Courtroom} located at 105 South Main Street in Floydada, TX 79235.

This notice is published in compliance with Texas Local Government Code § 111.0075

THE FLOYDADA HOUSING AUTHORITY PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE: September 25, 2015
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: County Extension Office @ 110 S. Wall. Floydada, TX 79235

The purpose of the hearing is to obtain input from the city residents in reference to the Public Housing Authority's Annual and Five-Year Agency Plan to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for fiscal year beginning January 1, 2016. A copy of the Annual and Five-Year Agency Plan will be available for review from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. during the period of August 10 - September 25, 2015 at the address below. Persons may submit written comments prior to the public hearing to:

Floydada Housing Authority
210 E California
Floydada, TX 79235

The Floyd County
HESPERIAN-BEACON

DEADLINES

Display ads - Friday @ 5 p.m.
Legals - Monday @ 12 Noon
Classified ads - Monday @ 1 p.m.
Editorial - Monday @ 2 p.m.

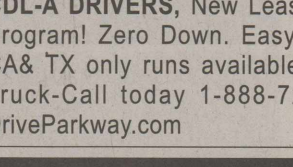
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Telephone: 806-983-3737
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Three reasons homeowners should leave tree work to the professionals

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

For the "do-it-yourself" homeowner, outsourcing tree work may seem like an unnecessary expense. But in reality, the costs of tackling tree care on your own can run high - damaged property, hospital bills, and a ruined landscape aren't cheap.

"Most homeowners simply don't have the tools, knowledge or experience necessary to safely attempt their own tree work," says Tchukki Andersen, BCMA, CTSP* and staff arborist with the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA). "We hear many unfortunate stories each year of homeowners getting severely injured or killed while attempting this dangerous, and often misunderstood, work on their own."

Here are three reasons homeowners should leave tree work to the professionals:

#1 Lack of Knowledge and Training

Safe tree work requires extensive knowledge of tree physics and biology, which can take years of experience and study to acquire.

For example, felling a tree in a controlled manner is not as simple as cutting through the trunk with a chain saw. It requires establishing a drop zone, making precise cuts, and sometimes guiding the tree safely to the ground with ropes as leverage. When homeowners attempt this, many are injured or killed when the tree falls in an unexpected direction.

Up-ended root plates or root balls are also unpredictable. Severing the trunk of a fallen tree from an up-ended root plate releases tension, which may be strong enough to pull the stump and root ball back into the hole, trapping anything or anyone nearby underneath it.

Other hazards may be invisible to the untrained eye; rotten trunks and limbs, pest and fungal infestations, and other diseases and defects can only be identified and treated by an experienced tree care practitioner.

#2 Poor Situational Awareness

Even homeowners who know their way around trees may still fall victim to nearby hazards.

Find a Professional: A professional arborist can assess your landscape and work with you to determine the best trees and shrubs to plant for your existing landscape. Contact the Tree Care Industry Association, a public and professional resource on trees and arboriculture since 1938. It has more than 2,200 member companies who recognize stringent safety and performance standards and who are required to carry liability insurance. TCIA has the nation's only Accreditation program that helps consumers find tree care companies that have been inspected and accredited based on: adherence to industry standards for quality and safety; maintenance of trained, professional staff; and dedication to ethics and quality in business practices. An easy way to find a tree care service provider in your area is to use the "Locate Your Local TCIA Member Companies" program. You can use this service by calling 1-800-733-2622 or by doing a ZIP Code search on www.treecaretips.org.

#3 Improper Use of Tools

Homeowners who use incorrect, faulty or complicated tools may hurt themselves and others while attempting tree work.

Chain saws, for example, are incredibly dangerous and easy to misuse. A common mistake is to use a dull chain saw, which forces the operator to use excess pressure, causing them to lose control. Many homeowners also make the mistake of using the chain saw to cut branches on the ground. This can result in chain saw kickback, and painful injuries, when the bar tip hits the dirt or other foliage.

Misused ladders are another common source of injury. Using a ladder that is too short, set on unstable ground, or supported by a faulty limb can easily result in the homeowner falling - often fatally - from the tree. Ladders are often knocked out from under the homeowner by the same limb that was just cut.

Tree work may also require tools the average homeowner does not own. Stump grinders, wood chippers, and aerial lifts are just a few examples of complex, and often necessary machines that only a trained arborist can handle.

Texas Crop Weather

By Robert Burns

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

COLLEGE STATION – A super-strong El Niño now brewing in the tropical Pacific will likely bring another rain-drenched winter to large parts of Texas, said Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon, state climatologist, College Station.

But the climate scientist said he doesn't expect a repeat of the 2015 wet spring will necessarily follow.

The El Niño of 2014-2015 was only moderately strong, but the rain it brought, followed by a very wet spring, effectively ended the Texas drought. Meanwhile, the 2015-2016 El Niño is shaping up to be a record breaker, said Nielsen-Gammon, who is also a Regents Professor of Atmospheric Sciences at Texas A&M University.

"So far, it is the strongest ever for this time of year," he said. "The (climate) models that have gotten it right so far, are forecasting it to continue to intensify. So it seems like it could be among the five strongest ever going into this upcoming winter."

Typically, the development of an El Niño begins with warmer ocean temperatures in the tropical Pacific — at least about 1 degree Fahrenheit above normal, Nielsen-Gammon said. The situation, once it begins, usually results in a "feedback situation" that further raises ocean temperatures and magnifies the effect.

"As the warm temperatures spread across the Pacific, the winds weaken, allowing the warm water to remain at the surface longer before losing any of its heat," Nielsen-Gammon said.

At this point, tropical Pacific temperatures are already 3 to 6 degrees Fahrenheit above normal, Nielsen-Gammon said. However, a much stronger-than-normal El Niño does not necessarily mean the rain it brings will be proportionally more.

There have been strong El Niños in the recent past that did not drench the state.

"The El Niños of 1982-1983 and 1997-98 were the really strong ones, and nothing really special happened in those years, except for above-normal rainfall and cooler temperatures, which is what usually happens November through March, as long as there's at least a moderate El Niño," he said.

But it's almost a certainty that Texas will have another winter of above-average rainfall.

"There's only about a 10 percent chance, according to the Climate Prediction Center, that the current El Niño could weaken enough that we won't have El Niño conditions this winter," Nielsen-Gammon said. "This is about as solid a bet as you can get for a six-month forecast."

However, he added, the El Niño won't bring any relief during this summer from the dry conditions much of Texas has had for the past month and half.

Texas A&M University says...

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

COLLEGE STATION, Aug. 3, 2015 – Recent reports of unexploded bombs and other military ordnance washing up on the Florida coast bring awareness that material dumped decades ago in the Gulf of Mexico could pose serious threats , say Texas A&M University oceanographers.

Niall Slowey, along with professor emeritus William Bryant, who have more than 90 years of combined research experience, say millions of pounds of bombs and other types of ordnance are scattered over the Gulf of Mexico and also off the coasts of at least 16 states, from New Jersey to Hawaii. The bombs can get caught in fishermen's nets as they trawl along the ocean seafloor, or wash up on shore such as last week near the Tampa area.

The military began a massive dumping of unused bombs into the Gulf and other sites that started in 1946 and continued until 1970, when it was finally banned.

"Up until the 1960s, people thought the seafloor was beyond the reach of human activity," explains Slowey.

"They could not imagine the types of activities that are commonplace today. As more and more of these bombs and other ordnance are discovered, it has to be assumed that they are still dangerous until proven otherwise."

Millions of pounds -- no one, including the military, knows how many -- were sent to the ocean floor as numerous bases tried to lessen the amount of ordnance at their respective locations. The bombs included land mines standard military bombs, and also several types of chemical weapons. It is likely that some of the chemicals are leaking due to 60 to 70 years of exposure on the ocean floor, and this could pose a serious environmental threat, the researchers say.

"When exposed to air, some of these chemicals can be gaseous and can cause burns and nerve damage, and these types of cases have been reported in the Baltic Sea area where some of the most massive dumping occurred," Slowey adds.

There have been numerous reports of fatalities caused by such bombs, such as in 2005 when three Dutch fishermen were killed when they accidentally snared a World War II bomb in their nets.

As for the Gulf of Mexico, Slowey notes that "the seafloor off the Texas-Louisiana coast is among the most active in the world, with constant activity related to energy production. It is exactly in this region where many of the munitions were dumped. As time passes, more and more people are working on the seafloor and the chance of encounter with these bombs and other ordnance is becoming greater."

With the ship traffic needed to support the 4,000 energy rigs, along with commercial fishing, cruise lines and other activities, the Gulf can be a sort of marine interstate highway system of its own. There are an estimated 30,000 workers on the oil and gas rigs at any given moment.

Bombs used in the military in the 1940s through the 1970s ranged from 250- to 500- and even 1,000-pound explosives, some of them the size of refrigerators. The military has a term for such unused bombs: UXO, or unexploded ordnance.

One huge problem is that record keeping of the military dump sites is incomplete and sketchy at best. It's also believed that many of the munitions were "short dumped," meaning they were discarded outside designated dumping areas by private contractors hired at the time.

"The real mystery is that no one knows what is down there, or where all of it is," Slowey notes.

"Although most of these bombs do not have triggers in them, some types of ordnance , such as torpedoes and mines, can become more unstable over time, so their case the chance of an accidental explosion is increasing.

"Because chemical weapons potentially pose environmental contamination risks, and because explosive material in many of the standard bombs and other ordnance may still be viable, we need to determine exactly where they are and then have a plan for removing them or at least monitoring their condition," Slowey says.

Watching weather here on earth

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

COLLEGE STATION, July 14, 2015 – Watching weather here on Earth is a common practice, but watching weather on the surface of the sun – the side opposite Earth – is hardly routine, and a Texas A&M University researcher is trying to capture as many images as possible so that scientists can learn more about solar activity.

Mark Lemmon, an atmospheric sciences professor at Texas A&M is a team member of the Mars rover Curiosity's Mastcam, the camera that usually images the Martian terrain. Occasionally, Mastcam images the Sun to study Martian weather by seeing how much solar power is coming in. As for that weather on the sun, it's in the form of sunspots that can hurl solar flares millions of miles into space, and some of these have the potential to disrupt satellite communications on Earth with their massive amounts of energy.

"For the last few months, weather watching on Mars has turned into weather watching for the solar system," Lemmon explains.

"Sunspots show where potential solar storms are developing, and Curiosity has been watching them from the far side of the sun. We have seen storms that launched into space as coronal mass ejections -- one of these hit Earth as a geomagnetic storm in April – and we can see another big active area coming around right now."

Two NASA satellites – STEREO (solar terrestrial relations observatory) A and STEREO B – give a unique view of the sun-Earth system by orbiting in tandem, but neither one has communicated with Earth since April. So when Lemmon noticed that the Mastcam on Curiositywas imaging spots on the side of the sun not seen by Earth, the Mastcam was able to fill in the missing information usually provided by the satellites.

"It's been great to contribute to our understanding of space weather by watching the weather on the far side of the sun, but we look forward to getting some awe-inspiring views of the sun that STEREO can provide," Lemmon notes.

"Information about sunspots is helpful in predicting space-weather effects of solar emissions related to sunspots. Intense space weather can degrade telephone communications, broadcasting and other electronic technology on Earth. Also, sunspots produce the vivid Northern Lights, the aurora borealis, and in late June, the lights were visible from Virginia to North Texas, a rare occurrence that far south."

Curiosity has been operating on Mars since August of 2012 and has sent back more than 300,000 images of the Martian terrain plus valuable information about climate and geology and Mars' ability to host human activity.

Curiosity is operated by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Mastcam is provided and operated by Malin Space Science Systems in San Diego. For more information, go to http://www.nasa.gov/msl and http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/.



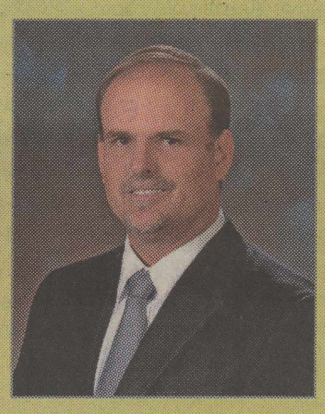
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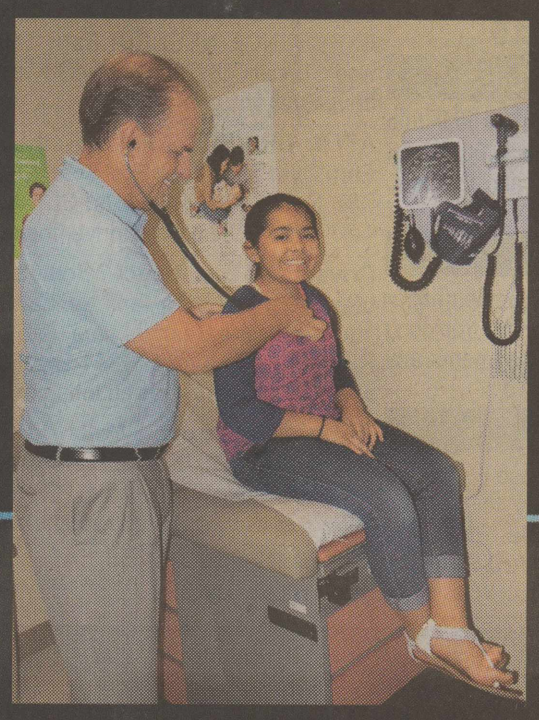
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