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Bethlehem will...
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Muleshoe Journal



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MAHD Board Position Filled

By Larry Thornton
Managing Editor

The Muleshoe Area Hospital District Board of Directors interviewed a couple of candidates to fill the position vacated by the resignation of Chad Nickels during a special session on Thursday, Dec. 29.

After going into executive session, the board asked candidates Isidoro Trevenio and Allen Smyer to join them individually.

Returning to open session about 50 minutes later, board member Bill Liles made a motion to appoint Smyer to the vacant seat, seconded by Scott Brown.

After the meeting, Liles encouraged Trevino to consider running for a board position at the next election.

A second item discussed in the closed session involved legal matters concerning the lease agreement with AccessCare Dialysis,

which is reportedly about \$10,000 in arrears.

According to Liles' motion, AccessCare would have until Jan. 31 to pay the back rent owed, after which the district would seek to evict the company.

Liles' motion received a 2-1 vote, with board member Herb Ramage casting the dissenting vote, and board president Zona Gatewood not voting.

Gatewood, according to MAHD officials, automatically became board president after Nickel's resignation on Dec. 13, under the guidelines of the hospital district's by-laws.

At Thursday's meeting the vice president position, formerly held by Gatewood, was filled by Scott Brown.

In other business, the board voted to participate in a board training session on Feb. 21.



2011
The year in Review

Varsity Mules Honored

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

The Muleshoe Mules definitely had a surprising season and because of their success they are receiving many post-season honors.

The District 1-2 All-District Team was announced after the Mules were eliminated from the Texas State Playoff in the semifinal round.

Mules' head coach David Wood had this to say about the Mules. "The 2011 football season is reflective of the desire and commitment the boys pledged back in January of 2011, the beginning of season. I am so proud of the kids, their accomplishments and their accolades."

The Mules took both the Offensive Most Valuable Player and Defensive Most Valuable Player honors. Beau Avila was named as the Offensive MVP. He threw for over 2,700 yards with a 63 percent completion rate.

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Quarterfinal Win

The Muleshoe Mules celebrate their 2A Division 1 quarterfinal win against the Eastland Mavericks on Dec. 2. Although they advanced to the Texas State Semifinals, against Melissa, the Mules, whom Coach David Wood described as "a great group of over achievers" ended their season without a trip to the state championship.

Photograph by Stacy Conner

2011: A Year Of Hot, Dry

By Larry Thornton
Managing Editor

Part 2
July

The second half of 2011 started off with a bang, even though there was neither the sight nor sound of fireworks.

Due to dry weather, and the continuing ban on burning, both the sale and use of fireworks — whether personally owned or intended for public display, was prohibited.

Still, Muleshoe residents looking for entertainment on Saturday night didn't have to look further than the Dusty Rhodes Arena, where the chamber's first annual ranch rodeo

drew a capacity crowd of onlookers and a surprising number of competitors.

When the final event was over, Sandhill Cattle Company of Earth took first place overall, and received \$2,500 for the team.

Over at Muleshoe city hall, the water problems officials were experiencing had nothing to do with the area's drought as the city's recent problems with the Texas Department of Environmental Quality came to light during a

city council meeting.

Muleshoe City Manager David Brunson explained that TxDQ contracted with a third party to test Muleshoe's water but during the period from July 1, 2010, to Sept. 30, 2010, that third party contractor failed to test the water.

"It's not a sample that we draw and send in," Brunson said in his report to the city council, adding that there was nothing the city could have done to prevent the violation

listed in the water quality report.

"I guess we did (violate the requirements)," Brunson said, "but it wasn't our job... and we wouldn't have been allowed to do so."

The city manager noted that the tests prior to the third party's testing failure and following the period in question were clean tests, but that didn't help the mark against the quality of Muleshoe's water department — the first violation the city has had in more than 20 years under department head Ramon Sanchez.

In July, the Bailey County Commissioners' court found it

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2011
The year in Review

Dust Bowl Day

The West Texas wind and drought caught up with Muleshoe in a big way on Oct. 12, as a dust storm blew in, blanketing the community in a thick cloud of dust.

Photograph by Larry Thornton

It's Never Too Late To Learn In Bailey County

By Larry Thornton
Managing Editor

Sometimes there is a lot of truth in the old adage: You can't teach an old dog new tricks... and then a couple of people come along and prove it wrong.

In Bailey County, the two who are in the process of rewriting the adage are Maria Espinoza and Don

Phelps, both of whom are proving that you don't have to be of high school or college age to put a new spin on life.

In the case of Espinoza, who recently celebrated her 68th birthday, the goal sought and achieved was her GED, which she received through WorkSource.

An area resident

since she moved here with her family in 1953, while in the second grade, Espinoza said she always loved school but with five siblings and a tight family budget she felt it necessary to quit school while in the seventh grade in order that she could work in the fields.

Marrying at the age of 19, and raising 10

children, there was little opportunity to chase her dream of returning to school. Later, it was even more difficult as she cared for her husband Gamilo, who passed away from Alzheimer's in April 2009.

But then, her son Phillip renewed her dream. "Mom," he said,

Continued on A2



Don Phelps at the piano



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OPINION

Bethlehem Will Always Trump Times Square

Around Muleshoe...



Announcements from non-profit organizations in the Muleshoe area.

To post an announcement send an email to editor@muleshoejournal.com

MEDC Meeting

The Muleshoe Economic Development Corporation will be meeting in special session on Thursday, Jan. 5, at 5 p.m., to discuss filling the Muleshoe Economic Development director position, as well as a vacancy on its board of directors.

Curfew Hearing

The Muleshoe City Council has been requested to consider the adoption of a juvenile curfew ordinance. The ordinance would require that persons under the age of 17 be home after a time to be determined by the ordinance with certain exceptions. Violation of the ordinance would be a Class C misdemeanor.

The Muleshoe City Council will conduct a public hearing to receive comments for and against the possible adoption of the ordinance on Monday, Jan. 9, at 5:30 p.m. at Muleshoe City Hall.

We all know what time does, right? Tempus fugit!

I learned that phrase long ago in one of the most practically valuable classes I've ever taken, the Latin class at Amarillo's Sam Houston Junior High.

Mister Craddock would be proud. Tempus (time) fugit (flies)!

As I write, we're slipping into the wee hours of Jan. 2, 2012. Years ago I tried some future-predicting based on a very little math (a very little math is the only kind I've ever done).

I figured that I'd likely live to see this world roll on past 2000, but that I'd be very old — older than 40! — when it happened. It did, and I was. Over a decade ago.



Focus On Faith
Curtis Shelburne

Tempus fugit. In a little over two weeks my oldest granddaughter will be five. In a little over a week, I'll be 55.

Brylan's settled on a "Strawberry Shortcake" theme for her party. I'm leaning toward something from "The Lord of the Rings" for mine. I may go as Gandalf, the wise old good wizard. All I'll need is white hair, a white beard, and a long staff.

(Hmm. The mirror says all I'll need is the staff.) If I hang a banner, it will boast this scripture: "Now Barzillai was old and advanced in years" (2

Samuel 19:32).

I'm way short of the wisdom of a Barzillai or a Gandalf, but I find myself on this eighth day of Christmas doing what old guys do: musing.

What a contrast between the two parties! Not Brylan's and mine, but the one in Times Square and the one in heaven.

It's nice that they drop the big crystal ball in Times Square each new year, but to plot a wise course for the future, it's good to remember that earthly crystal balls are mostly hollow, about as short of real substance as sparklers and confetti.

If you want substance, Bethlehem will always trump Times Square. Mankind messes with sparklers and glitz and trumped up resolutions,

valuable only because they remind us yet again of how valueless is human resolve.

God sends angels from the realms of glory trumpeting the good news of real salvation that comes completely from outside of ourselves, the birth of the Savior, God's power doing for us what we could never do for ourselves.

I don't know how long "tempus" (time) will go on "fugit-ing" (flying). But I'm sure of this: When Times Square has long since gone dark and the last sparkler of human resolve has fizzled, the real party in heaven will just be gearing up, and God's joy will still be wonderfully and forever ablaze.

That's a party I don't want to miss!

2011: The Year in Review... Continued from A1

necessary to extend its burn ban for another 90 days.

Although the ban was temporarily lifted as a result of the heavy localized rain Muleshoe received, allowing rural residents to burn their accumulated trash, the ban was back in place just a couple of days later.

Problems with the county's unemployment benefits also came to the court's attention with the need to increase the county's unemployment insurance by \$18,750.

"We're getting hammered with unemployment insurance," County Judge Sherri Harrison said at the time, adding that better documentation needed to be kept by some of the county departments to support employment dismissals and avoid the high unemployment payments the county has been forced to pay.

But the discussion that caught the most attention was about the Bailey County budget, and whether the effective rate should be used, holding off on a tax increase, or if

the higher rollback rate should be used.

According to the figures presented at the July special meeting, the .7558 effective rate was a total of .1092 for the county's FM funds, .5478 for maintenance and operation, and .0988 for the interest and sinking fund.

At the other end of the scale, the rollback rate of .8102 was a total of .1179 for FM, .5935 for maintenance and operation, and the same .0988 for the interest and sinking fund.

Although Precinct 1 Commissioner Butch Vandiver suggested taking whatever steps were necessary to hold to the effective rate and push back a tax increase for another year — offering to cut his precinct's budget and asking the other commissioners to do the same, the "fly in the ointment" came from the county's need to replace its oldest ambulance, a 1993 model that was described as being of questionable reliability.

The county's newest ambulances, as reported to the court in July are a

2000 model with 210,000 miles and a 2006 model with 144,000 miles.

"I hate to go another year without an ambulance," Precinct 3 Commissioner Joey Kindle said.

"We'll have to go up on equipment repair if we don't get a new

2011 The year in Review

ambulance," County Judge Sherri Harrison said.

"I think we're setting ourselves up for disaster," she added. "We're looking at a six-year-old ambulance with \$150,000 miles... and that's the first out."

After several weeks of debate the Bailey County Commissioners' Court finally approved the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, in September, with a 3-2 vote.

Over at the Muleshoe Are Hospital District, an interim administrator — Shanna Laughton, formerly of Iowa — was hired in June for Park View Nursing Care Center.

While MAHD CEO David Burke's announcement was apparently accepted at face value by the majority of the board, board member Bill Liles seemed to take issue with the CEO rather than the board taking such action.

"Do you have a resume for us to look at?" Liles asked.

"I've looked at it," Burke replied.

August
In August, the Bailey County Commissioners' Court was faced with the same thing all of the public entities were faced with following

the 2010 census, and it took the next step in its redistricting process with a decision to move forward with a proposed plan that was thought would reduce difficulties encountered in determining which precinct a voter was located.

Attorney Curtis Preston of Lubbock, with whom the court had previously contracted to assist in the redistricting process, presented two redistricting drafts for consideration by the court, both of which he noted met the US Justice Department's requirement of being within a 10 percent population variance.

Since the last census, Preston said population movements within the county had created a 12 percent variance, which the court needed to address.

would need to focus on the county seat.

According to the numbers presented to the court Monday, Precincts 1 and 2 — as identified in the current district map, had increased in population in the past decade, while Precinct 3 had decreased.

Preston said Plan A met the justice department requirements, with a 3.8 percent variance, with minimal changes to the current precinct boundaries.

Also in August, county and municipal officials agreed to join with the Muleshoe Heritage Foundation in the construction and operation of an RV park on West American Blvd.

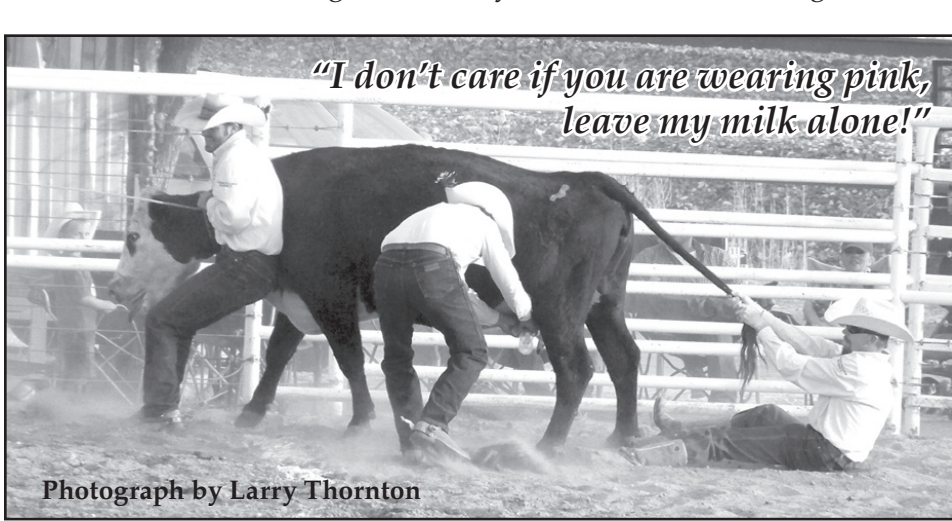
Kenneth Henry and former Muleshoe resident and high school graduate Ray West of

eventually become the foundation's welcome center.

"We're not in competition with anyone (locally) with this type of operation," Henry told the court, explaining that the purpose of the RV park will be to invite travelers through Muleshoe to stop and spend some time in the Bailey County seat... free of charge.

The Heritage Foundation has purchased the former Richland Hills service station at Sherman and West American Blvd., and plans to construct four RV parking spaces, with sufficient room to maneuver the large vehicles. It is also hoped that adjacent property may eventually be purchased to enlarge the project.

Among the other interesting stories



Photograph by Larry Thornton

El Shabaz Land & Cattle Company takes part in the Wild Cow Milking.

"Plan A does what the justice department asks us to do," Preston said, displaying a large map of the redistricting proposal.

According to Preston, the county's total population of 7,165, required the redistricting to attempt to get as close as possible to the "magic number" of 1,791.25 per precinct, and with the majority of the county residents being located in Muleshoe, the redistricting effort

Midland approached the commissioners' court with the idea to construct the recreational vehicle park.

During the presentation to the court, Henry talked about the ongoing efforts at the Muleshoe Heritage Center, including the renovations underway to the Yellow Jacket building, and a temporary building purchased from the Muleshoe Independent School District that well

that arose in August involved the high rate of cancer reported in Bailey County.

Cancer is a serious issue across the Lone Star State, according to Barent McCool, PhD, and Conrad Lyford, PhD, both of Texas Tech University, but according to records for the period of 2009-10, Bailey County... meaning Muleshoe, and Dallam County, with its county seat at Dalhart, show an increased rate

Continued on A2

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David Wedel, Publisher
dwedel@hearstnp.com

Larry Thornton, Managing Editor
editor@muleshoejournal.com

Rhea Gonzales Ad Representative
adsales@muleshoejournal.com

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Never Too Late To Learn...

Continued from A1
 "Why don't you go to school?"

And she did. Working with Linda Latham, an adult educator at Workforce Solutions, whom Espinoza describes as a "very good teacher," she began taking classes with the goal of not only receiving her GED, but also starting a new career.

"I like children," Espinoza said, talking about her new dream of being a substitute teacher.

"The math was very hard," Espinoza said, noting that when she was in sixth and seventh grade it wasn't being taught as it is now. But she said she has always enjoyed reading.

As for her advice to others, Espinoza admitted it was

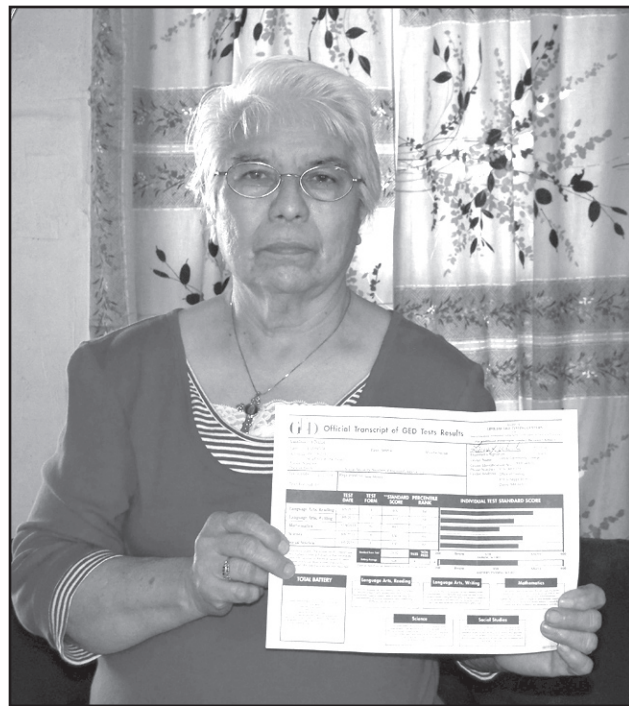
harder to return to the classroom after so many years, "but you can still do it."

After accumulating a decade more years than Espinoza, Muleshoe Independent School District's bus barn employee Don Phelps decided that he wasn't "too old to learn" either, and recently began taking piano lessons.

"I've always wanted to play the piano, even when in school," Phelps said, adding that when he was younger and lived five miles outside of town, transportation and finances precluded his dream of playing his favorite instrument.

"My mother would have had to bring me back into town for lessons, and she didn't drive," he said.

"My goal is to play old time gospel music,"



Maria Espinoza with her certificate.

Phelps said, adding that while he didn't believe he would ever gain the expertise of a favorite musician from the 1960s, he was going to do his best, with the encouragement of his wife Jo.

On Sunday, Phelps sang a hymn at Richland Hills Baptist Church, which was holding a "Fifth Sunday Sing" on the first Sunday of the new year, while his wife played the piano for him.

"The next time it's her turn," Phelps said. "I'll play the piano, and she can sing."

The Year in Review...

Continued from A2
 of cancer fatalities per capita.

Because of those numbers, along with a few other factors, McCool, who is with TTU's College of Human Services, and Lyford, who is with the university's College of Agricultural Science & Natural Resources, applied for and received a grant aimed at trying to reduce future such numbers through the choices local residents make.

And to do that, they have joined with Muleshoe's United Supermarket, and local residents in an effort to "cut cancer by changing behavior."

"A lot of little changes can make a big change," McCool said. "You don't have to diet... eat smarter."

Based upon the work in Muleshoe, Lyford said it's hoped the program can be a blueprint for programs aimed at reducing cancer in other Texas communities.

"The idea behind the project is to substantially prevent cancer by providing expert information — nutritionist, economist, and helping coordinate cancer reduction efforts in a community," Lyford said.

September
 In September, the trial of two admitted burglars — who injured two local officers when they rammed the officers' vehicle in their attempt to flee the scene of their last burglary, ended with a jury recommendation for community supervision.

The trial of Silverio Hernandez, Jr., 19, who was 18 years of age and a resident of Earth at the time of his initial arrest in November 2010, and his brother Edgar Hernandez, 18, who was 17 years old at the time of the burglaries, began with both defendants entering guilty pleas to the burglary of the Eva L. Ramey residence in Muleshoe, on Nov. 6, 2010, which threw the trial into the sentencing phase with much of the same testimony that would have normally been presented in the first phase, prior to deliberation on the defendants' guilt.

"We raced out of the house, jumped in the car, locked the doors and called 911," Ramey said, describing her initial reaction to the discovery that the home she shared with her two children had been burglarized.

She later testified about canceling trips out of town for fear that when she returned she would find herself victimized again, and said her daughter would still ask to sleep in her bed if a noise was heard at night.

Not surprising, Ramey's testimony and fears were discounted by defense attorney David Martinez of Lubbock.

"Did anybody get hurt?" Martinez asked the jury. "Did anyone get pistol whipped?"

Except for "a little emotional fear" on the part of the victim's family, the defense attorney claimed there weren't any injuries related to the four burglaries the Hernandez brothers, and two unidentified juveniles, committed in Muleshoe and Earth.

Some of the City of Muleshoe's good news from 2011 was that after a two-year process, Muleshoe has been approved as Texas' 43rd certified retirement community.

Muleshoe Economic Development Corporation Director Janet Claborn, who has

Continued on A6



Meals Donation Made

The First Baptist Church of Muleshoe recently donated funds contributed during its Christmas Eve service to Bailey County Meals on Wheels. Pictured above, the Rev. Monty Leavell presents Shelby Carpenter of the Agency on Aging with the donation check.

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Senior Citizen News

By Laverne Winn

May all of your Christmas's be as good and blessed as mine.

May your new year be a happy, blessed, and healthy one.

The Oneita Wagnon Senior Center reopened on Monday, Jan. 2. So make plans to come and start your new year with us at the center.

There is good fellowship and fun with your friends.

Tuesday, Jan. 3, was Bunco playing time. Be sure to call a friend and come in to play. It's too late for this week, but not for the coming week.

The games start

at 10 a.m. Prizes are given and a lot of fun is enjoyed.

Thursday, Jan. 5, Rick with Hearing Aids Technology of Lubbock, will be at the center.

If you should need this service please come in around 10:30 a.m., or call to see if he could make a house call.

As we begin our ninth year in the center, we would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to all of you that have supported the center with your presence and contributions.

Without you we could not have the center we have today.

We are considered one of the best in the state and it is because of all of you.

Donations to the center are tax deductible. Perhaps you have some one you need to acknowledge consider making a nice donation to the center.

We are a nonprofit organization and appreciate all your help.

Menu for Jan. 2-6:
Monday, Jan. 2 — Baked chicken dumplings, salad and fruit cup.

Tuesday, Jan. 3 — Lasagna, brussel sprouts, garlic bread and pears.

Wednesday, Jan. 4 — Chicken-fried steak, country gravy, mashed potatoes, stewed okra, seasoned corn and pumpkin squares.

Thursday, Jan. 5 — Creamy mushroom steak, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, whole wheat roll and pears.

Friday, Jan. 6 — Fish or chicken strips, gravy, beans, cole slaw, cornbread and fruit salad.

Drinks: Low fat milk, tea and coffee.

Public Hearing
City Of Muleshoe
Monday Jan. 9, 2012, 5:30 p.m.
Muleshoe City Hall
Receive Comments Concerning The Possible Adoption Of A Juvenile Curfew Ordinance

The Muleshoe City Council has been requested to consider the adoption of a Juvenile Curfew Ordinance. The ordinance would require that persons under the age of 17 be home after a time to be determined by the ordinance with certain exceptions. Violation of the ordinance would be a Class C Misdemeanor.

The Muleshoe City Council will conduct a Public Hearing to receive comments for and against the possible adoption of a Juvenile Curfew Ordinance on Monday, January 9, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall.

Published in the Muleshoe Journal on Jan. 5, 2012.

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| Antelope | Snake | Vulture | Flies |
| Owls | Calf | Oxen | Frogs |
| Bear | Lamb | Roebuck | Horse |
| Dove | Locust | Camel | Leviathan |
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<p>ASSEMBLY OF GOD FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD Pastor Ryan Pate 521 South First Street 272-3017 S.S. 9:45 am, W.S. 10:30 am & 6:00 pm, Wed. 7:00 pm EL BUEN PASTOR 415 E. Ave. F - 272-5455 Pastor Domingo Luna - 272-4542 S.S. 9:45 am, W.S. 11 am & 6 pm; Wed. 7 pm</p>	<p>CATHOLIC IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH 805 E. Hickory Leonardo Pahamtang, Min.</p> <p>EPISCOPAL - CHARISMATIC ST. CLEMENTS CHURCH COMMUNION OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER Hwy. 214 South • 272-5954 Father Sergio Leal Sun. W.S. 10:30 am</p>	<p>Growth Gr. 1:30 pm; Wed. 7:00 pm</p> <p>LUTHERAN ST. JOHN LUTHERAN Lariat, TX • David Symm, Min. S.S. 10:30 am; W.S. 9:30 am</p> <p>METHODIST FIRST UNITED METHODIST 507 W. 2nd St. S.S. 9:45; W.S. 11:00; Praise & Prayer 6 pm; First Sunday of Month 4 pm Parkview Nursing Home Service Mon. 9 am Ladies Bible Stdy; Tues. 6 pm Adult Bible Stdy; Pastor Monty Leavell, 272-5517 LAZBUDDIE METHODIST S.S. 9:30 am; W.S. 10:30 am Pastor Ken Peterson 965-2121 EL DIVINO SALVADOR U.M.C. 619 E. 5th Street & Ave. G, Fernando Sanchez, Pastor 272-6888</p>
<p>BAPTIST CALVARY BAPTIST 1733 W. Ave. C. Rev. Jeff Coffman FIRST BAPTIST 220 West Ave. E Dr. Stacy Conner FIRST BAPTIST Lazbuddie • 965-2126 PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA 223 E. Ave. E Interim Rev. Troy Smith PRIMITIVE BAPTIST 621 South First Elder Bernard Gowens, Min. PROGRESS BAPTIST Progress, TX PROGRESS SECOND BAPTIST Arthur Hays, Min. - 1st & 3rd Sundays</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN TRINITY CHRISTIAN CENTER 1723 W. American Blvd. 272-3877 Reydon Stanford, Pastor Sun. W.S. 10:30 am CENTRO CRISTIANO 117 E. Birch St. Hermanos Barron S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.</p>	<p>PENTECOSTAL UNITED PENTECOSTAL LIGHTHOUSE 207 East Ave. G 1-800-454-6051 S.S. 10 am; Thursday, Bible Study 7 pm</p>
<p>RICHLAND HILLS BAPTIST Bro. Larry Thornton 17th & West Ave. D S.S. 10 am; W.S. 11 am www.rhbc-muleshoe.org TRINITY BAPTIST 314 E. Ave. B - Bennie Wright, Min.</p>	<p>CHURCH OF CHRIST LARIAT CHURCH OF CHRIST Wesley Roach, Min. S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Wed. 7:30 p.m. LAZBUDDIE CHURCH OF CHRIST Nathan Crawford, Min. S.S. 9:30 am; W.S. 10:20 am & 5 pm; Wed. 7 pm MULESHOE CHURCH OF CHRIST 22nd & W. American Blvd. S.S. 9:30 am; W.S. 10:20 am & 6 pm; Wed. 7:30 pm 16th & AVE. D CHURCH OF CHRIST Curtis Shelburne, Min. 272-4619 S.S. 9:30 am; W.S. 10:30 am;</p>	<p>INTER DENOMINATIONAL NEW COVENANT Plainview Hwy. Steve Claybrook, Pastor W.S. 10 am; Wed. 7 pm MULESHOE COWBOY FELLOWSHIP 710 E. American Blvd. Steve Friskup, Minister 272-5199 Service: 7:30 p.m. Thursday</p>

If you have changes to make to church information, please contact the Journal at 272-4536.

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BAILEY COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE



The Sudan Buzz

2011: The Year in Review... Continued from A5

not deserved," Burke said.

"I don't think we can sit here and say everybody deserves a raise," he added.

Park View's interim administrator, Shanna Laughton, expressed agreement, noting that while some of the nursing home's staff needed more money for what they did, it wasn't so throughout the facility.

October

There were a few tense moments at the Muleshoe's police department on Oct. 5, when the department's radio tower gave way, falling across the room of the building and striking the west wall, outside the police chief's office.

Although the building suffered approximately \$6,000 in damage, according to the initial estimates and without the cost of the tower's replacement, no injuries resulted from the tower's fall.

The only communications failures that occurred were to the Muleshoe Volunteer Fire Department's pager system. However, these services were only out temporarily as Plainview's mobile command unit, manned by Plainview Fire Department personnel, was brought in.

Both strong winds and blowing dust assailed the rest of Muleshoe later in the month.

No damage — other than some tree limbs and one cable line down, was reported to the police department due to the storm, according to Police Chief Brian Frieda.

At the Muleshoe Independent School District, in October, it was noted that low interest rates had been a problem.

During his financial report, MISD Business Manager Daniel Harper said the minimal interest currently being received by the school district — .12 percent from Lone Star's government overnight account and .17 percent from its corporate overnight account.

"I've called a bunch of banks, but nobody wants to take our money," Harper said.

A little later, when the public hearing about the school district's Financial Accountability

Management Report was held, it was noted that while the school district received a "Superior Achievement" rating, it lost points because its investment earnings in FY2009-10, the period covered by this year's FIRST audit, were at \$18.7933 per student — below the state's requirement of \$20.

A few years ago, when the interest rates were around four percent, Harper said it appeared inconceivable that a school district would lose points on its FIRST report, but it's different with the current economy.

Superintendent Dr. Gene Sheets said the legislature is trying to figure out what to do, regarding the FIRST report, because of the low interest rates.

Harper noted that the district lost four of the 80 possible points in the FIRST report, all of which were on issues over which the school district has no control. Harper also discussed the district's investment strategy, which once again are hampered by low interest rates.

"I tried to get better interest, but wasn't able to," Harper said. "Every time I got a bank that said they were going to (pay a higher rate), they backed out at the last minute," he added.

"I hope it's better next year," board president Thurman Myers said.

November

"We're going to use the box, and put a truck under it," Jackey Wayne Burris, Bailey County EMS director, told the commissioners' court in November, in his recommendation to refurbish the ambulance service's 1993 ambulance.

Previously, the EMS and Bailey County Commissioners Court had planned to purchase a new ambulance, using county funds along with a \$35,000 state grant; however, Burris informed the court during Monday's regular meeting that for the first time since the ambulance service had been applying for the state grant it didn't receive the additional funds, leaving the EMS scrambling to decide how best to replace the 18-year-old unit.

The answer was to refurbish the 1993 ambulance rather than replacing it.

Burris said the county

could refurbish the '93 ambulance's existing box and place it on a new truck for \$100,025.

In August, the purchase of a new ambulance because of the "questionable reliability" of the 1993 ambulance was one of the items that drew heated discussion because it required the commissioners court to approve the higher rollback tax rate of .8102.

The possible need of a curfew in Muleshoe was discussed by the city council in November.

Although not an "action item" on the council agenda, discussion of what will most likely be a lengthy debate at future meetings over the proposed passage of an ordinance setting a curfew for local youth began and is expected to be on January's agenda.

Also in November, the second trial of burglary suspects Edgar Hernandez, 18, and Silverio Hernandez, 19, ended with a mistrial.

After being delayed, jury selection in the cause against the Hernandez brothers didn't conclude until about 1:30 p.m., with brief opening arguments starting an hour later, but the next quirk in the quest for justice came during a break, around 4 p.m. when one of the jurors in the case informed the judge about a possible conflict.

During the jury selection, both the prosecutor, Dist. Attorney Kathryn Gurley, and the defense attorney, Davis Martinez of Lubbock, "voir dire" the juror pool, an attempt to eliminate potential jurors who may have pre-conceived ideas about a defendant's guilt or innocence that can't be set aside to render an objective verdict.

During the course of the voir dire it's normal

that certain facts about the case and the charges facing the defendants come to light.

The jurors' previous dealings with the defendants; some of the witnesses, such as the investigators involved; or the personal history of the jurors, are all areas that arise during the jury selection.

But rarely do the actual facts about the case being tried come to light in the voir dire, as a result, it wasn't until the actual trial was under way that juror Lisa White of Muleshoe realized she was a witness to the pursuit and arrest of Edgar and Silverio Hernandez on Nov. 11, 2011.

According to White, she was on her way to work when she saw the maroon SUV driven by Silverio slide to a stop and the driver and passengers, including his brother Edgar and two unidentified juveniles flee from the vehicle on foot.

Three of the fleeing suspects were arrested, but Edgar escaped and turned himself in to the police later.

Prior to the break, and the events that followed, Muleshoe Police Department Lt. Benny Parker and Det. Cassie Crandell testified about the events that resulted in the pursuit and arrest of the Hernandez brothers and the two juveniles, part of which had been presented in the September trial of Edgar and Silverio for the burglary of the Eva L. Ramey residence in the 1500 block of W. Ave. C, on Nov. 6, 2010.

Although White told the court she felt she could serve as a juror, and render an impartial decision, the defense attorney asked that a mistrial be granted, noting that a potential witness can't sit on the jury.

Other problems arising in November's news stories involved

the menus for the lock-ins served by Bailey County Meals on Wheels.

With some federal requirements that came to light, the much-needed county program headed up by Shelbi Carpenter at the Agency on Aging was in danger.

The news about possible problems came on Nov. 11 in a letter from Tim Pierce of South Plains Association of Governments, who explained that due to changes in federal requirements menus for both the Meals on Wheels and the lunch

program at the senior center would have to meet strict menu restrictions to continue receiving financial support from SPAG.

As a result of those restrictions, it would be cost prohibitive for the Muleshoe Area Medical Center to continue to provide Meals on Wheels with the meals it requires.

In December, Carpenter and County Judge Harrison approached the Muleshoe City Council, requesting a \$1 donation be added on to the municipal utility bills, only to be declined.

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- 9. te n n is
- 10. k a r a te
- 11. so c c er
- 12. bowli n g ten pi n

These activities had 2 of the same letter missing. Did you fill in the missing letters?

- 1. basketba l l
- 2. ex e rcis e tapes
- 3. ro l l erskating
- 4. vid e o danc e mats
- 5. dance le s s ons
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SECTION 00020 ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS Sealed proposals addressed to the Honorable Mayor and City Council of the City of Muleshoe, Texas, will be received at Muleshoe City Hall, 215 S. 1st Street until January 17, 2012, at 2:00 pm for the City of Muleshoe Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements. Immediately following the closing time for receipt of bids, proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud at Muleshoe City Hall. Any bid received after closing time will be returned unopened. Bids will be tabulated and presented to the Mayor and City Commission for action at a later date. Bidders must submit a Cashier's or Certified Check issued by a bank satisfactory to the Owner, or a Proposal Bond from a reliable Surety Company, payable without recourse to the order of City of Muleshoe, Texas, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the bid submitted as a guaranty that the Bidder will enter into a contract and execute bonds in the forms provided within fifteen (15) days after notice of award of contract to him. Bids without the required check or Proposal Bond will not be considered. The successful Bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond, each in the amount of the contract, written by a responsible Surety Company authorized to do business in the State of Texas, and satisfactory to the Owner, as required by Article 5160, V.A.T.C.S., as amended by H.B.344, passed by the 56th Legislature, Regular Session 1959. Bidders are expected to inspect the site of the work and to inform themselves regarding all local conditions. Information for bidders, proposal forms, specifications and plans are on file at City of Muleshoe City Hall and the office of Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., Consulting Engineers, 4222 85th Street, Lubbock, Texas, 79423. Copies of the plans, specifications and contract documents may be secured at the office of Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., Consulting Engineers, 4222 85th Street, Lubbock Texas, 79423 (Phone 806-473-2200) as follows: 1. Download documents (.pdf file extension format) from PSC's Info Exchange web site after registering as a plan holder with issuing PSC office. There is no cost or deposit required for this option. 2. One set of paper copies for a non-refundable deposit of \$50.00. 3. A digital copy (.pdf file extension format) upon a non-refundable deposit of \$20.00 per each CD. Deposit shall be Company check or cashiers' check made payable to Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc. No partial sets will be issued. Bid Documents (paper and digital) will be shipped pre-paid to the requester. Digital Bid Documents will not be e-mailed. Addenda will not be faxed to document holders. Addenda

will be issued to document holders by one of the two following methods: 1. E-mail notification to document holder with link to download addenda from PSC's Info Exchange web site. 2. For document holders not having e-mail address, addenda may be picked up at the issuing PSC office, or mailed via the United States Postal Service (USPS). Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by the City of Muleshoe, Texas for a period not to exceed 30 days from the date of the bid opening

for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidders' qualifications prior to the contract award. CITY OF MULESHOE, TEXAS David Brunson City Manager. Published in the Muleshoe Journal December 29, 2011 and January 5, 2012

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- PROGRESS- 3-2-2 Home, Cent. Geo, A&H, built-ins, FP, approx. 2064' lv. area on 1.24 acres, 2 wells, 720' insul. shop w/288' awning, carport, storage Bldg., cellar!! MUCH MORE!! \$125K!!
- West of Sudan 3-2-2 Brick Home on 5.57 acres, Cent. A&H, builtins, approx. 2688' lv. area, fenced yd., 40' x 80' quonset barn!! MUCH MORE!! \$135K!!
- NICE 3-2-2 Home on 11 acres at edge of town, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, freshly painted interior, thermal windows & doors, plus 1 bdrm house, workshop, storage, greenhouse, plus 3 garages, barns & outbuildings!! \$155,000!!
- FM 1760 @ edge of town, nice 3-2-2 carport home on 3 ac @ \$8 cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, approx. 2253' lv area, fenced, horse barn w/corrals, hay & tack room!! \$105K!!!!
- Remodeled 3-2 Home on 20 acres, Cent. A&H, built-ins, basement, nice yard, auto. spkrl., wkshp., stor. bldg. approx. 2145' lv. area!! \$150K!!

LENAU • COUNTRY CLUB

- 3 Bdrm, 2 bath, 2 carport, Cent A&H, Dishwasher, WB Stove, approx. 2156' lv. area, 217 E. Elm. \$60K!!
- 3-2-1 CP Brick Home, corner lot, fenced yd., DW, FP, tile & carpet, alarm sys., man. spkrl., 2 cp & 2 stor. bldg.!! \$80K!!

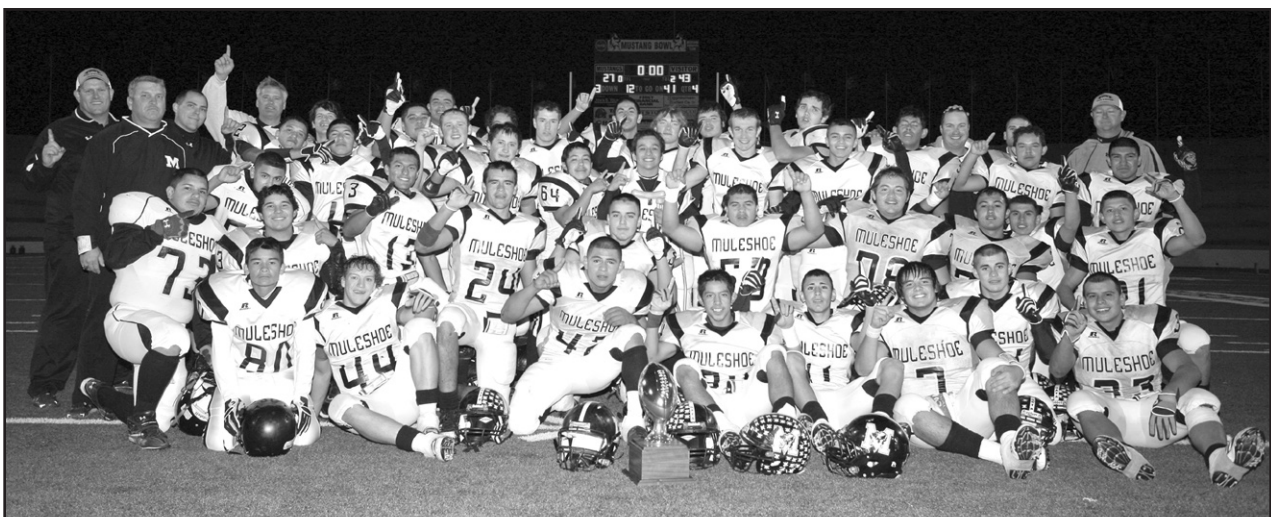
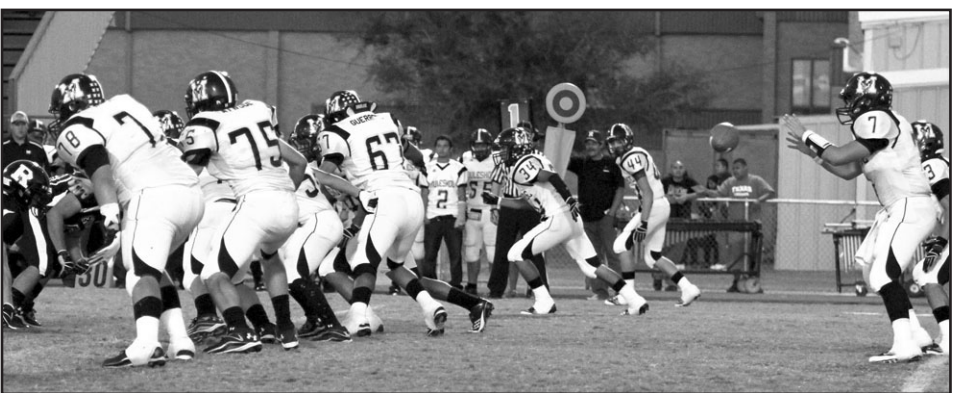
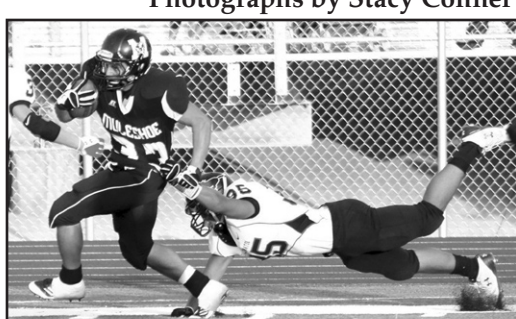
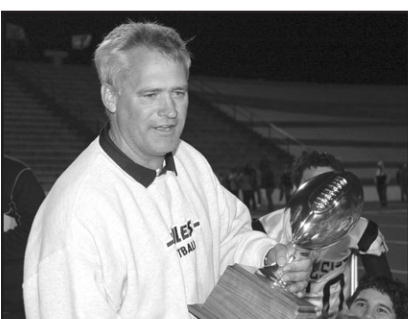
COMMERCIAL

- Building w/approx. 3300' plus 1040' upstairs, Cent. A&H, 2 restrooms, MORE! \$39,500!! MAKE OFFER!!
- Approx. 1080' metal bldg. w/off. & 3 bay garage/workshop area plus chain link fenced area!! \$39,500!!

SPORTS NEWS

Sports Photographs From 2011 (Part 2)

Photographs by Stacy Conner



Varsity Mules Honored...

Continued from A1
Avila tossed for 34 touchdowns and had 15 interceptions. He also rushed for over 900 yards and nine scores.

Issac Baca was named as the league's Defensive MVP. Baca finished the season with 115 tackles, four being for a loss and eight quarterback hurries.

He caused one fumble, recovered three fumbles and intercepted a pass. He also broke up four passes, had a big hit and made one special team tackle. Baca blocked one kick and scored a defensive touchdown.

Baca was chosen to the offensive first team at running back. He rushed for over 1600 yards on offense and scored 19 touchdowns. Baca also made 15 receptions for over 250 yards and scored four TDs.

Saul Elizalde was picked as a wide receiver to the offensive first team. He had 87 catches for over 1200 yards and scored 20 times. Elizalde was also chosen as the first team kicker.

Ryan Johnson and Shaun Atwood were chosen as first team offensive linemen.

Tony Molina joined Baca on the first team defensive team. He made 28 tackles, one for a loss, seven hurries, caused one fumble, made a special team tackle and blocked a kick.

Ryan DeLeon, one of the Mule Ball Hawks, was chosen as a first team defensive back.

He made 54 tackles, two for losses, intercepted two passes, broke up six passes, made two big hits and made one special team tackle.

Saul Elizalde was picked as the first team punter for his third first team position.

Ryan DeLeon was chosen to the Second Team Defensive squad. He caught 57 passes for over 900 yards and scored nine times.

Juan Guerrero was chosen as the second team defensive end. He made 57 tackles, eight for losses, six sacks, had 13 hurries, broke up two passes, made a special team tackle and blocked a kick.

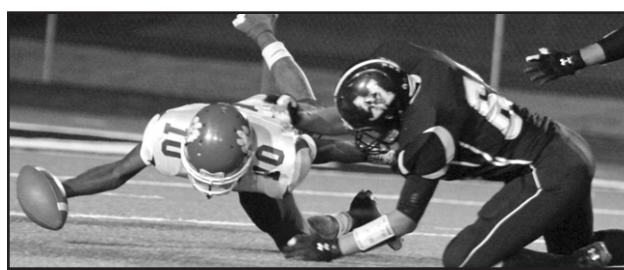
Matthew Ambriz was picked as a second team linebacker. He recorded 86 tackles, seven for losses, made two sacks, ten hurries, recovered

two fumbles, broke up two passes, made three big hits, 12 special team tackles and blocked one kick.

Saul Elizalde was chosen as a second team defensive back. He made 81 tackles, one tackle for a loss, one hurry, seven caused fumbles, recovered one fumble, intercepted seven passes, broke up seven passes, made nine big hits and made four special team tackles.

Honorable mentions to the all-district team included Junior Baca as running back and wide receiver, Juan Guerrero offensive lineman and Ray Martinez as a defensive back.

Caleb Wood, wide receiver, Matthew Ambriz, offensive lineman, and Adelaido Godinez, defensive back.



AUCTION

Tuesday, January 10, 2012 — Sale Time: 9:30 a.m.

Bad Weather Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2012

LOCATED: From Sudan, Texas (Lamb County); 2 Miles North on Highway 303, Then 2 Miles East Then 1 1/2 Miles North Then 1/2 Mile East.

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Jan. 6th • JVB - 5 PM • VB - 8 PM (Tulia, Here)
JVG - 5 PM • VG - 6:30 PM

Jan. 10th • JVB - 5:00 PM • VB - 8:00 PM (Floydada, Here)
JVG - 5:00 PM • VG - 6:30 PM

Jan. 13rd • JVB - 5:00 PM • VB - 8:00 PM (Friona, There)
JVG - 5:00 PM • VG - 6:30 PM