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# Hesperian-Beacon

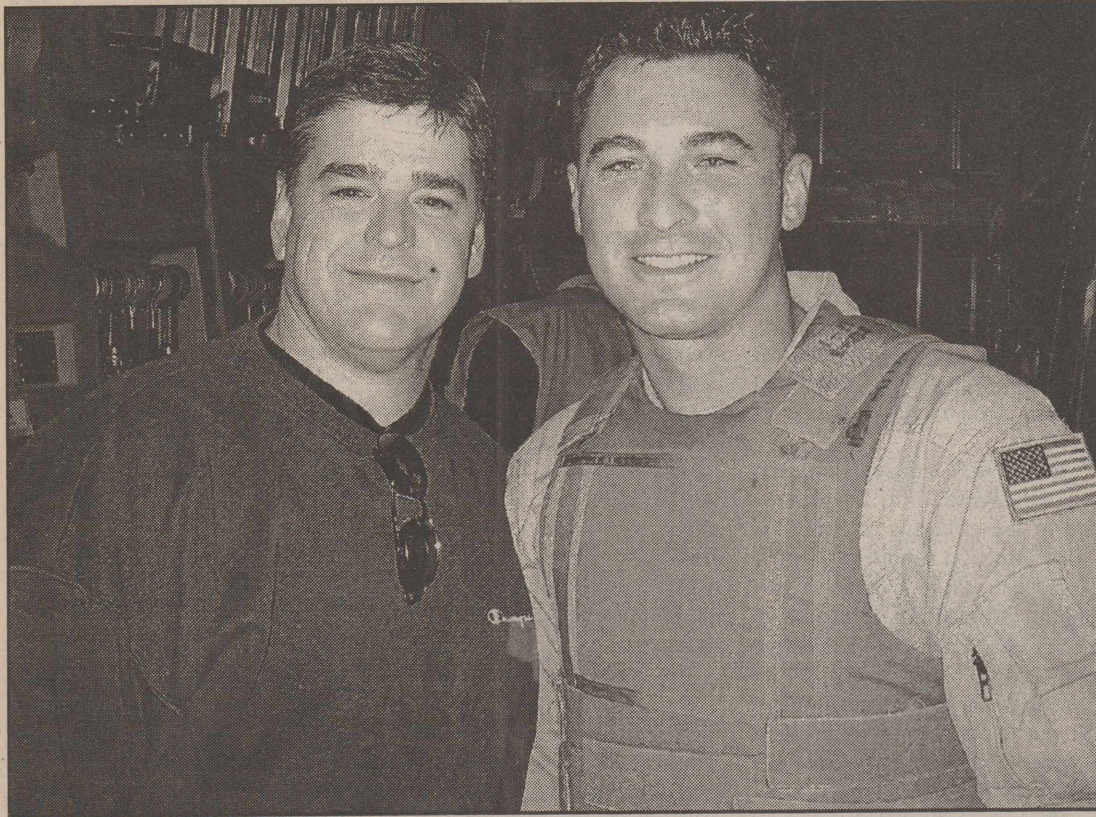
"Celebrating 110 Years of Floyd County News"

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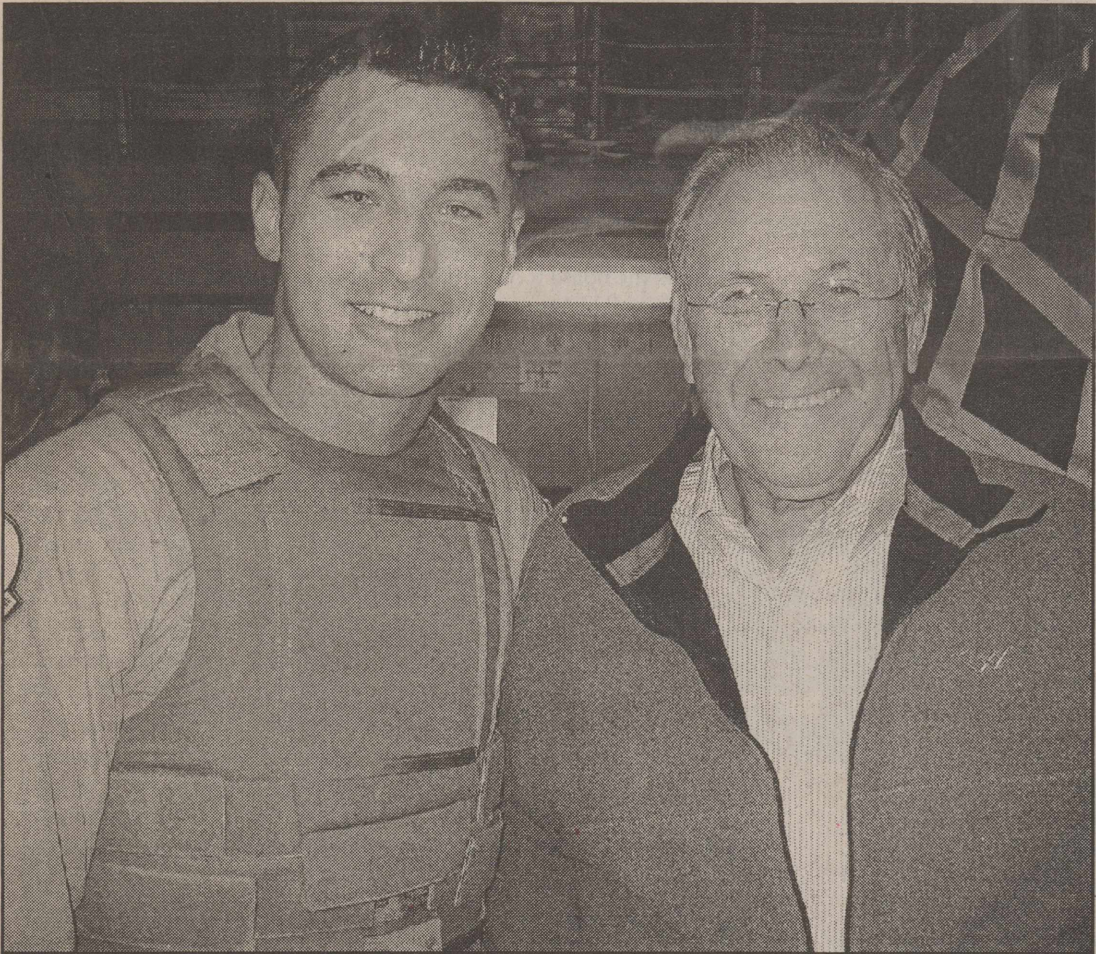
Floydada, Texas 79235 (USPS 202-680)

Volume 110 Number 52



LOCKNEY NATIVE USAF AIRMAN JARED LAMBERT was a member of the C-17 flight crew that flew Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to and from Iraq on his last official visit to the country. Rumsfeld toured Iraq thanking US Troops for their service and dedication to their country. Lambert was able to get his picture taken with FOX News Commentator and Radio Talk Show Host Sean Hannity (above) and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld (below).

Courtesy Photo



## Looking back on '06

In Floyd County the Year of 2006 will be remembered as one of the driest in history. Drought losses for the State of Texas reached \$4.1 billion.

The drought led to failed crops. Dryland cotton failed to produce but irrigated cotton did much better than expected.

This newspaper headlined the accomplishments of our youth and our families. We were there to mourn the deaths in our community and celebrate the births.

The hard work of our citizens were highlighted in stories of community service and sacrifice.

The politics and votes of the governing bodies of our school boards, city councils, and commissioner's courts were covered every month to keep you informed on the work of your elected officials.

As always Floyd County citizens spent one more year working together to get things done and making their community a better place to live and raise a family. Some of the work was quiet and behind the scenes. Some of it made headlines.

The following is a breakdown of what made front page news in the Hesperian-Beacon in 2006.

### January

January 2006 started off with continued drought. The commissioners passed a county fire ban by declaring, "Floyd County under imminent threat of severe damage, and injury or loss of life or property resulting from wildfires."

The Commissioners also declared Floyd County in a state of disaster.

County politics heated up with contested races for the primaries in March and the general election in November.

By deadline day, January 2, 17 individuals had signed up to run for office in Floyd County. Two

others filed their intent to run for District Judge of the 110th Judicial District.

The Republican primary had the most contested races in the county.

Contested primary races included:

Pct. #2 Commissioner Race between incumbent Lennie Gilroy and challengers Linden Morris and Preston Belt; between Craig Gilly, Penny Golightly, and Kirt Wyrick for the Republican contestant for County Judge. (The winner of this primary race would face Democrat challenger Margaret Ponce).

Another contested race in the primary was between Republicans Bill Smith and Tempie Francis for District Judge.

The headline in the January 12 edition was the story of Sgt. Johnny Perez Jr., being killed in An Najaf, Iraq, when a roadside bomb struck the Hummer in which he was traveling. Perez Jr., and four others were killed.

Perez was born in Lockney, February 1, 1980. He was the grandson of Jose and Tomasa Perez, of Lockney.

Tyson Carthel, of Lockney, made the front page when he was named to the 2006 All State Band. He plays the trombone.

County Youth competed in the Stock Show. Grand champions were: Mason Lipham, steer; Morgan Norrell, barrow; McCrae McCormick, gilt; Tyler Chesshir, lamb; Kortney Williams, goat, Tylee Williams, heifer; and Marla Reeves, rabbit.

The January 26 edition told the tragic story of the death of Lauren Powell, 19, as a result of a car accident in Floydada, January 21.

### February

The first paper of February reported on the close of ginning season. The final count was: 202,586 bales ginned in the

County from the 2005 cotton crop. This was down 60,035 bales from the 2004 crop.

June hailstorms and tornadoes were blamed for the reduction in bales.

The paper reported on the new automated voting machines and the county's decision to combine polling locations. The decision was made because of the shortage of new voting machines and bilingual workers at polling places.

The paper also reported on concrete being poured for the Veteran's Memorial Park in Lockney.

Redistricting put both Floydada ISD and Lockney ISD back in 2A. The membership range for inclusion in 2A was 194-414 students.

Lockney had 196 students and Floydada had an enrollment of 277.

The Lockney High School Band had 8 musicians qualify for State competition. They were: Erin Mangold, Patrick Doucette, Zach Montandon, Bryan Cooper, Lauren Stewart, Alex Hall, Aura Rodriguez, and Stephana Villarreal.

The City of Floydada was given a \$10,000 matching grant from TDA for a rural beautification program. The money will be used to buy planters for downtown sidewalks.

### March

The March 2 edition told of Staff Sgt. Wesley Hunter, a 1998 graduate of LHS, being injured in a roadside bomb in Baghdad, Iraq on February 26. Hunter is the son of Bill and Kathy Hunter, of Lockney.

FISD trustees voted to hold a \$5.5 million dollar bond election for new construction.

Floydada High School's Team Tennis advanced to State Playoffs in Round Rock.

Continued On Page 3

## Cotton Conference at PBA January 16

The 2007 Caprock Cotton Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, 2007. Once again this year's conference will be held at the Plains Baptist Assembly Camp between Ralls and Floydada.

Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. with the program starting at 8:00 a.m. The cost remains at \$25 per participant. We will be ac-

cepting preregistration until January 12th, after this date a \$10 late fee will be collected. This includes lunch, conference cap and all program materials.

The conference is open to all area producers as well as anyone interested in the cotton production industry. Over 20 booth exhibitors will be on hand introducing the latest in cotton related

technology and equipment.

This year a total of 7.5 CEU's will be available for all types of applicators. Those hours will be: 4 general, 2 IPM, 1 Laws & Regulations and .5 Drift.

The program will start at 8:00 a.m. with topics on Quality Cotton for Milling, Transgenic Crops, Verticillium With Alternaria Leaf Blight and many others.

By Darwin Robinson

County Judge William D. Hardin has been working at the Floyd County Courthouse for the past 45 years and will serve his last day on December 31st.

Hardin told the Hesperian-Beacon, "I was the court reporter for the 110th District Judge upstairs in the District Courtroom for 25 years before being elected as the County Judge 20 years ago.

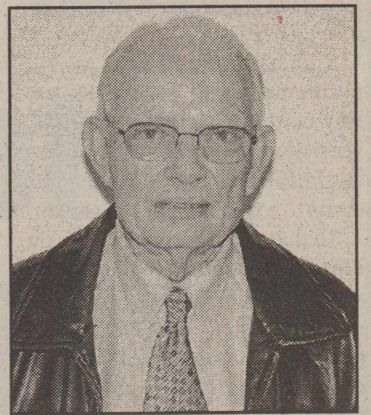
"I have enjoyed, and I appreciate, the opportunity serving the people of Floyd County all of

these years," said Hardin.

Judge Hardin graduated from McAdoo High School and then continued through Lippert's Business School in Plainview.

He and his wife, Roberta, have been married 52 years and they have lived in Floydada all those years.

They have a daughter, Rosemary Finley who lives in Floydada. Rosemary and her husband, Jim, have two sons, Jess, 19, and Robert, 15.



COUNTY JUDGE  
BILL HARDIN

## Martha Farris earns Honorary Doctorate

By Jennifer Sicking

Martha Farris' granddaughter had a simple question when she learned her grandmother would be awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor on Dec. 16.

"One of my granddaughter's said, 'Do we have to call you Dr. Grandmother now?'" Farris, a 1942 UMHB graduate, recounted with a laugh.

While that won't be a requirement for family members, or anyone else for that matter, Farris said the award from her beloved university surprised her.

She received the telephone call at the end of September from Dr. Jerry Bawcom, university president, telling her she had been selected for the honorary doctorate. Family members had flown in to visit that weekend, but she remains sure they were in on the surprise.

"I looked back and they were

all grinning," she said. "I nearly dropped the phone. Dr. Bawcom said 'are you there, are you alright?' I said 'Did I hear what I think I heard?'"

She did and on that recent Saturday morning, she was hooded and presented with her honorary doctorate.

Although this isn't the first time Farris has been recognized for her accomplishments, it is one that means the most to her, she said.

"It would be the epitome," she said.

"I just feel so inadequate. I'm deeply grateful. I feel a great humility," she said. "I never thought it would happen to me. It happens to presidents and ministers."

Yet, university trustees and other officials think otherwise citing Farris' many accomplish-

ments. Bawcom said Farris was recognized for her many years of service to her hometown and the university.

"She demonstrated her love of Floydada where she has lived most of her life," he said.

She taught Elementary and High School English and Speech in Missouri City, Texas and served on the Floydada ISD

School Board. The Study Club of Federated Women's Clubs named her Woman of the Year in 1950. The Floydada Chamber of Commerce also named her Citizen of the Year. After serving as a Girl Scout leader and as an area service chairperson, the Caprock Council of Girl Scouts presented her with the Woman of Distinction Award.

She also has served in the First Christian Church of Floydada for 55 years by teaching Sunday

Continued On Page 2



MARTHA FARRIS, of Floydada (center) receiving her Honorary Doctorate from Mary Hardin Baylor University, December 16. On the right is Baylor President Dr. Bawcom. Courtesy Photo



# Hesperian-Beacon looks back on County news through 2006

## Continued From Page 1

The primary election was over and the only clear winner to represent Republicans in Floyd County was that for District Judge. In this race Bill Smith beat out Tempie Francis. Smith faced no challengers on the Democrat ticket.

In the Commissioner Pct. #2 Race, there was no clear winner and a run-off election was called for between Lennie Gilroy and Lindan Morris.

Another run-off was called for in the County Judge Race. It came down to the two with the most votes--Craig Gilly and Penny Golightly.

The deadline for municipal election signup passed with only one contested race developing. On the FISD board the at-large position was up for grabs between Marty Lucke and Bud Taylor.

The March 23rd paper had a picture of "neighbors helping neighbors". After hearing of all the fires and devastation in the upper Panhandle, some of the neighbors around the Floyd and Motley County area sent truck loads of hay to the people in need in the Pampa and Miami area. Hay was donated by Wes & Lynn Campbell, Vance & Betty Campbell, Rick & Kathy Kellison, and Larry and Kathy Ferguson. Danny and Rhonda Thomas of Thomas Trucking donated the trucks for hauling and Greg Schmiatzried and Shawn Kunselman drove the trucks to Pampa.

Floydada Rotary presented Fred Thayer with the "Service Above Self" award.

**April**  
In the April 13th edition citizens honored in the Lockney and Floydada Chamber of Commerce banquets were highlighted.

In Floydada, Nick Long was named Citizen of the Year; Employer of the Year was County Judge Bill Hardin; Volunteer of the Year was Sharon Hinton; and the Extra Mile winner was Joyce Williams.

In Lockney, Ed Marks was named Citizen of the Year and Joe Marks was named Fireman of the Year. J.D. Copeland and

Claude Brown were Citizens Through the Years.

In the April 11 runoff, incumbent Commissioner Lennie Gilroy beat challenger Lindan Morris by 2 votes.

Penny Golightly beat Craig Gilly by 17 votes for the Republican position in the County Judge's Race. Golightly now faced off Margaret Ponce who was running as a democrat for County Judge.

April 7th, 120 planters, with small trees, appeared on downtown sidewalks in Floydada.

The April 27 edition told of FHS BPA (Business Professionals of America) members who qualified for the National Leadership Conference. They were: Amber Smith, Dustin Ochoa, Trey Helms, J.C. Simpson, Britnee Brotherton, Mary Warren, Tori Terrell, and Kalli Ferguson.

FISD trustee voted to put the bond issue for new construction to a vote on May 13. The \$5.5 million will be used for new construction and renovations at A.B. Duncan Elementary for the purpose of combining the Duncan campus with the Andrews campus.

**May**  
In the May 4 edition, was a story on the April 30 vote of the Commissioners, at the request of County Clerk Marilyn Holcomb, to consolidate voting precincts. The Commissioners also voted to include early voting in Lockney, instead of just in the Courthouse as in years past.

The front page of this first issue in May told of the Memorial flags being stolen at Lockney's Veteran's Memorial Park.

The May 11 paper featured a story on Layne Kirk making the decision to either sell or close down his historical business-Kirk and Sons. The business has been part of Floydada history and downtown landscaping since 1910.

The May 18 paper said Floydada voters approved the school bonds for new construction.

The last paper for the month of May highlighted the top graduates in Lockney and Floydada High School.

Lockney's Valedictorian was Rebekah Thornton and Salutatorian was Emily Mercado.

Floydada's Valedictorian was Jarrett Kirk and Salutatorian was Jeffri Vaughn.

Winning at the State UIL Meet were FHS students: Abel Cortinas, silver, Science Team competition and gold in individual biology competition; Britnee Brotherton and Jarrett Kirk, silver, in Science Team competition, bronze in individual overall; Reagan Heflin and Sean Miller, silver, Science team.

The Floyd County Historical Museum Board was happy to announce the purchase of the building on the corner of Main and Missouri, and attached to the Museum. The Museum plans to restore the historic building to its original appearance.

**June**  
The first edition in June highlighted the Floyd County Pioneers honored at Old Settler's Day. Pioneer Man of the Year was Ham Gammage; Pioneer Woman of the Year was Lahoma Matsler; and Pioneer Couple of the Year were Guy and Margaret Ginn.

The June 15 edition ran what would become the winning photo in The Hesperian-Beacon's photo contest. The photo was of Stacy Reeves and Jay Leno.

Bill Smith was sworn in as District Judge June 13th.

**July**  
The County kicked off July with various 4th celebrations in Floydada and Lockney.

July 13 the Lockney Junior Chamber of Commerce worked hard plugging "turfalo grass" into the open air amphitheater in Lockney for downtown beautification.

With the help of private donations veterans flags were once again flying at the Memorial Park.

Lockney was awarded a grant for downtown renovation which will be used to build new sidewalks and ADA ramps.

**August**  
County Extension Agent J.D. Ragland gave a "failed crop" report to the Commissioners Court August 14.

He reported out of the 181,309 acres of cotton planted, 11,833 acres (6.53 percent) have been declared failed crops due to the lack of rain.

In another story it was reported that estimated drought losses for the State of Texas reached \$4.1 billion. Texas Cooperative Extension economists said the current drought equaled the multi-year dry spell of the 1950's and could go down as the worst ever reported.

**September**  
Gentle soaking rains came to Floyd County, the first weekend in September.

Lockney reported 5 inches and Floydada area received 3-5 inches. Harmony got over 6 inches.

The first edition of this month told of a Bible ministry that had been started to honor Craig Gilly, the former Commissioner of Pct. 3. Gilly passed away August 28, 2006. Bibles were being purchased, in Gilly's name, to be presented to "new" Christians at the Women's Christian Conference. Bibles left over would be given to the Women's Job Corp being started in Floyd County.

September 17 Myria Dade celebrated her 100th birthday.

The paper also told of the Justice Department approving the consolidation of voting precincts in Floyd County and the early voting location in Lockney.

Jim Finley was named Chief Appraiser for Floyd County. His first day was September 25, 2006.

South Plains Baptist Church celebrated 100 years.

September 30, Bearie Coleman celebrated her 103rd birthday.

**October**  
Floydada had another very successful Punkin Day, October 14, despite drizzling rain.

Marla Reeves was declared the winner of the Hesperian-Beacon photo contest with her picture of Jay Leno reading The Hesperian Beacon.

Floyd County had it's first Women's Christian Conference at Muncy's Unity Center, October 21st. The event was well attended by hundreds of women.

Proceeds went to Christian Women's Job Corps.

Enrollment numbers were reported as down at LISD by 12 students, to a total of 604. In FISD, enrollment was down by 35 students to 939.

The October 26 paper reported the MacIntosh lease well was flowing an excellent supply of gas. The large flare was attracting people to the site.

## November

The November 2 paper headlined the County Championship Trophy changing hands. The Floydada Whirlwinds took it back from the Longhorns at Mitchell-Zimmerman Field, October 27. The score was Whirlwinds, 14, Longhorns, 0.

Also in football news, Floydada's undefeated Tiger League Team, the Eagles, earned a trip to Tiger League Super Bowl in Plainview. They won at the Bowl and became the first Floydada Tiger League Team to hold this title.

The November 7 elections brought in Penny Golightly as County Judge, Jon Jones as Commissioner Pct. #4, and Tali Jackson as J.P. Pct. #1 & #4.

County schools honored local veterans in a student led program at FHS, at the Veteran's Memorial, and in a luncheon at Lockney Elementary.

## December

As in years past Floyd County residents spent the month planning ways to help neighbors during the holiday season.

The Spirit of Christmas meal for shut-ins and elderly was being planned. Toys were being collected for children through Reflections of Love. Charity drives were being conducted by the Salvation Army, Boy Scouts, and the Child Welfare Board.

The Veterans Memorial in Lockney announced they would soon be placing white crosses at the Memorial Park in honor of Veterans killed in action.

Superintendents from FISD, LISD and Petersburg ISD clashed over who to hire as the CSSA Coop Director. After a vote by the Floydada School Board that stated any recommendation for a new Director must be unanimous by all Superintendents, the Petersburg ISD and Lockney ISD pulled out of the Cooperative. Both superintendents expressed the opinion that they believed a majority vote on the CSSA Board should be all that is needed to conduct the business of the Coop. The three school districts will now have to find other Cooperatives to join to meet the needs of their handicapped and disabled children.

Amado Morales, the Democrat challenger to Commissioner Jon Jones, filed his intent to challenge the count of the November election in the Pct. #2 Commissioner Race.

The final vote in this race was Jones 275, Morales, 271.

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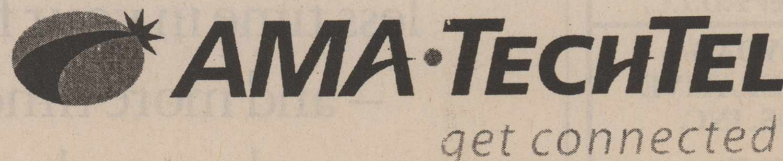
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