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Muleshoe Journal



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December 30, 2010

2010: A year of highs and lows in Bailey County

By **Larry Thornton**
Managing Editor

Part 1
2010 received mixed reviews in the local press with the normal mixture of both good and bad that a community, and county, normally expects during the passage of a year.

January
January brought the political scene back to Bailey County, but just barely, as only a couple of the eight county positions up for grabs entered the new year with actual races.

Candidates for county judge, county treasurer, district clerk, county clerk, commissioner precinct 2, commissioner precinct 4, justice of the peace, and county attorney tossed their hats in the ring back in 2009, but the only elections were for the positions of commissioner precinct 2 and justice of the peace.

The commissioner precinct 2 race was handled in the primary, and the justice race trailed along with little activity

until the November election.

January also found the Muleshoe Police Department seeking assistance from local residents and business owners regarding a



series of burglaries that occurred in December 2009, and were still under investigation a month later.

But plans were also under way at Muleshoe's post office as plans for a special pictorial postal cancellation that was held on Wednesday, Jan. 13, as part of the US. Postal Service's recognition of all 52 counties in the Texas Plains Trail Region.

Over at the Muleshoe Independent School

District, another round of construction excitement was in the air as the school board members talked about improvements to the district's football field.

But that wasn't without some of the board's more interesting moments as board member Bruce Barrett's motion to approve "the whole thing," suddenly went awry when the other board members began second-guessing the district's architects had prepared — with administration and school board input — over the previous two months.

While board member Carol Precure initially voiced the most opposition to both the estimated improvement expenditures and the initial design, it was Barrett's own questions over the proposed design, and the expense of additional parking that would be required,

that led to the additional discussion which sank his own motion to proceed.

Superintendent Dr. Gene Sheets joked that for the past 10 years, he had wondered what previous superintendent made the decision to face the hometown fans into the sun, and then in January he learned he would be the superintendent going rebuilding the stands on the same side.

Other good news from January 2010 included the MISD's Migrant Acceleration Program, which was showing success through its efforts to assist migrant families receive the assistance and encouragement they needed to succeed academically.

And January also marked the board at the Muleshoe Area Hospital District announcing that Park View Nursing Care Center was not for sale, the

announcement coming after a pharmaceutical company from Plainview announced a possible interest in the nursing home's purchase.

But while the good news

cheer to MAHD and the community, Jan. 27 also marked the grand opening of Muleshoe Area Medical Center's Pathways behavioral health unit — an occasion



Muleshoe area residents had the opportunity to take part in a bit of history Wednesday, Jan. 13, by receiving a special pictorial postal cancellation at the Muleshoe Post Office. Pictured above, Muleshoe's Jean Allison receives her cancellation stamp from then Postmaster Richard Decker.

of the hospital district's recovering financial condition brought good

of relatively short-lived glory at the hospital.

February
February brought a definite high note to the city of Muleshoe, and especially the Muleshoe Police Department, where it was announced the requirements had been met for the department to be honored as a "Recognized Law Enforcement Agency"

"It's a real benefit," City Manager David Brunson said at the time, "it's not just a ceremony."

Of the more than 2,500 police department in the Lone Star State, Muleshoe's department was the 27th to complete the accreditation process through the Texas Association of Police

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Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture, Muleshoe Area Hospital District, and Horizon Health officials cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the hospital's Pathway Behavioral Health Unit on Wednesday, Jan. 27.

Elected officials to be sworn in Jan. 3

By **Larry Thornton**
Managing Editor

Bailey County elected, and re-elected, officials will be sworn into office during ceremonies on Jan. 3, at 10 a.m.

Among the officials taking part will be:

County Judge Sherri Harrison, County Treasurer Shonda Black, District Clerk Elaine Parker, County Clerk Paula Benton, Precinct 2 Commissioner C.E. Grant, Precinct 4 Commissioner Juan Chavez, Justice of the Peace Deb Stone and

County Attorney Jackie Claborn.

According to county officials, action concerning the filling of the County Constable position will be discussed in a future Bailey County Commissioners' Court.

Although the county constable position wasn't among the offices included in the 2010 elections, the position was recently vacated by the unexpected death of Gerald Pierce, who had held the position for 30 years.

Christmas Time

By **Larry Thornton**
Part 5 (Conclusion)

Archer was amazed by the thought that the kid he'd seen at Wal-Mart™, who had been tormenting him for the past few weeks was Timothy, the "lost boy," his grandfather had brought home so many decades ago.

That evening, after the teenagers from church left, he sat in his recliner and looked up at the top of the tree, at the crystal angel perched at the top. The crystal angel that had been broken so many years ago, only to be restored by the "real" angel before disappearing from their changed lives.

The more he thought about it, the more he was sure who the kid

in the plaid coat was. In fact Archer was almost positive the coat he was wearing was his own old coat, the coat his mother had given the angel when he briefly became part of the Archer household.

And he was still thinking about it when he finally drifted off to sleep that night... or rather the early morning, as it was well after midnight before he finally went to sleep.

While Archer was snuggled, safely in his bed, the Little brothers were still in a mental fever over their escape.

Fleeing from the courthouse, they pulled an elderly woman from her car as she pulled into a parking place, and fled east toward Mississippi Street, and south out of

town.

They knew escape was necessary, but they were also realistic enough to know that some time down the road their



vigilance would slip, someone would rat them out, or even just a bit of luck on the part of some law enforcement officer would put them back behind bars, and undoubtedly before a judge and jury.

They knew the only way out lay in their return to Ada, and ultimately getting rid of the witnesses to the shooting... both the clerk

and the retired police officer.

It was 6 a.m., just a day before Christmas, as Leroy Thompson stepped off the bus in Ada.

It was a cold morning, and the air was heavy

with the threat of a wet snowfall, and by the time he'd followed the directions to the closet coffee shop—a restaurant around the corner and a couple of blocks down, the temperature had penetrated his coat and was starting to work on the arthritis in his left elbow.

"Do you have a newspaper?" he asked the waitress when she brought his coffee.

"Sure, Sweetie," she replied in the banter common among many waitresses, both young and old, and stepped over to a table she'd cleared off a couple of minutes earlier.

"Hear ya' go," she said as she laid a newspaper on the table next to him. "Decided on breakfast yet?"

After ordering, Thompson picked up the paper and located the front page.

The top headline was about an escape from the Ponotoc County Courthouse... the two shooters former Det. Archer had captured at the convenience store holdup just a few days earlier.

Archer was about to head out the door to Wal-Mart™ when his house phone rang.

"Hello?"

"Lieutenant, it's Jimmy Hamilton."

"Morning, Jimmy."

"I know it's early, but I thought I'd call before I left the office."

"Sure, no problem." "Anyway, I talked with the Department

Continued on page 3

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Around Muleshoe...



Announcements from non-profit organizations in the Muleshoe area.

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

AA meetings set

Those looking for help with problem drinking can do so at open AA and Al-Anon meetings being held at 7 p.m. each Friday at the First United Methodist Church, at 507 W. Second. Please use the west side entrance. For information about these meetings call 806-965-2870.

Food pantry help needed

The Bailey County Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry is in need of volunteers to work from 9-10:30 a.m., one Saturday a month, distributing food, starting in January.

For additional information, contact Donna Jay at 806-272-4224.

Editorial

Presidential admiration does not mean progress

The tomes of history are filled with men who have been admired, honored... even worshipped, but it takes more than public image to get the job done.

At one time or another George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and George W. Bush have been admired by the masses of America. But so were Adolf Hitler, Mussolini, and Sadam Hussein.

The Bible tells us that when King Nebuchadnezzar succumbed to self-admiration, he spent the next seven years on a high-fiber diet. In other words... admiration doesn't necessarily translate into progress.

Pres. Barack Obama may have topped the Gallups Poll as the "most admired man in America" for 2010, but from what we can see from the "gallop polls" of West Texas, he still doesn't have what it takes to even place in a Tuesday night gymkhana.

During the last year, the most agreeable statement we've heard about the current President is that... well, he's way over there... within the beltway of Washington, D.C., and not stuck on an airport runway somewhere — like his predecessor twice removed, awaiting the arrival of a hairstylist.

From the very beginning, Pres. Obama has rode a tide of approval

that is based more on hopes than achievement — a return to Camelot that has narrowly avoided a medieval mud pit time after time.

Health care? The President's role in what has become known by many as "ObamaCare" seems to vary little from the nationalization of the oil industry in some areas of the world. It wasn't a case of "I'm taking my ball and going home," instead he and his DNC lackeys grabbed everyone else's ball and said, "We're taking your ball... and going home."

Instead of finding a working solution, that won't devastate rural health care, the President and his sidekick, Nancy Pelosi, and her Capitol Hill minions, chose to ramrod through legislation that threatens to disembowel rural hospitals such as we have here in Muleshoe.

We're not surprised that a federal judge has ruled portions of it as unconstitutional, but we'd be even more surprised if the ruling held together until it reached the US Supreme Court.

As for the rest of the President's 2010 legacy, from "Don't ask, don't tell," to the handling of the BP oil spill, the results may have occupied the nation's liberal gristmills, but it has been far from the year of progress touted by the White House administration.

2010: Year in Review... Continued from page 1

Chiefs.

But, while the announcement came in February, the actual celebration was postponed until the police department moved into their new quarters.

Even then, the initial celebration was held in March — and while that may have been the cake... the icing was yet to come.

And, of course, the Mules' varsity basketball team's capture of both the bi-district and area championships can hardly be ignored.

"I was so proud of how our kids hung in and never gave up," concluded Coach Matt Mason said to *Journal* sportswriter Delton Wilhite. "I believe after they relaxed and their shots started to fall they could have shut their eyes and made the baskets, but I am glad they didn't."

March

Some of the dimmest times at the Bailey County Courthouse occurred in March, when along with the annual audit report, the commissioners' court was advised of potential problems within the county assessor's office.

"It was noted during the audit process that the cash accounts held within the Office of the Tax Assessor Collector were not being reconciled accurately or on a timely basis. As noted above, reconciliation of all cash accounts on a monthly basis is crucial to proper internal controls over cash. Specific attention should be paid to returned checks and other items that are out of the ordinary day to day operations to ensure that these are accounted properly," the county's auditor Becky Roberts, CPA, said in her report to the court.

Bailey County Tax Assessor/Collector Melba Clark denied the allegations, and said, "My office and my books are open to the state comptroller on down to the county treasurer and auditors, and they are welcome to come in and audit them as they wish."

No action was forthcoming from the court.

April

April was a month of change within the administration of Muleshoe's hospital district.

The month opened with the MAHD board hiring a new administrator, Meagan Chisholm of Lubbock, and ended with CEO Jason Anglin being replaced by CFO David Burke.

Wedged in the middle was the board's decision to opt out of its management agreement with Covenant Health Systems, which had been providing the hospital district's administrator for years.

With this decision requiring the hospital district board to either hire away Anglin from Covenant, or find a replacement... the board exercised its options once again, and Anglin was out.

At least in part,

some would suggest, due to the changes and financial losses from the behavioral unit which he championed.

It wouldn't be much later before the hospital district's board voted to break its contract with Horizon's, Inc., the management company for the behavioral unit.

Changes at Muleshoe High School also came in April, with the resignation of Muleshoe High School Principal Alex Salazar to take on the position of superintendent of Hart Public Schools.

Watson Junior High Principal Steve Myatt was dubbed to take on the leadership of the district's "flagship" campus.

Also in April, just months before her 99th birthday it was announced that Frances Stegall of Muleshoe had finished her fifth novel, *Rafter T Ranch*, and is working on a sequel to *Smokey Mountain Haven*, her fourth book.

When asked about the possibility of movie being made from *Smoky Mountain Haven*. She said, "I'm not a coal miner's daughter... I didn't write these for notoriety."

May

In May, county employees, area firefighters, and emergency personnel were being kept busy with grass fires, such as the one that blazed northeast of Hwy. 54 and County Road 175, Monday afternoon.

According to law enforcement officials, an estimated 16,000 acres were burned by the fire driven by high winds that was initially reported in a non-911 call for assistance.

Although at least one residence, north of Hwy. 54 on CR 175, was threatened by the blaze, the only structure known to be lost was an abandoned farm house near the old Bula School location and a pile of shattered utility poles.

Over at the Bailey County Commissioner's Court, there was

discussion about seeing if the hospital district, which had severed its contract with Covenant might be interested in managing the county's ambulance service.

And at MISD, the school board got a look at the Muleshoe Mighty "M" Band's new uniforms.

May was a success story for MISD, with the graduation of the Class of 2010, and the enthusiastic response

to MISD's preliminary TAKS scores.

"We ought to be jumping up and down and yelling," Superintendent Dr. Gene Sheets said at the May school board meeting. "This is a huge accomplishment!"

The superintendent went on to say the year's results were far beyond the mediocre results, at best, of previous years. "We knocked the top out of this test!" he added.

Continued next week

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Christmas Time... Continued from page 1

of Corrections, and think we've narrowed it down to an inmate that was released a few days ago."

"Who's that?"

"Leroy Thompson. You sent him down for armed robbery ages ago."

"He's just getting out?"

"Yah, he got in more trouble in prison and had extra years tacked on for manslaughter."

"Is it out on parole?"

"No, he ended up serving his full time. DOC says his records shows he was having trouble with anger issues, and didn't get any breaks from the parole board."

There was a pause before Hamilton continued. "I'm trying to get a photograph sent up here, and will get you a copy as soon as possible, but he doesn't sound like somebody you need to mess around with."

"Well, thanks for the information," Archer said. "I'll keep an eye out, but a photograph would probably help. Can you send it to the police department here?"

As he started is truck, and headed off to the discount store, Archer wondered what it must be like to have your entire life consumed by anger, as Thompson must have, and tried to remember the details from the case he'd worked against Thompson back in Oklahoma City.

As his memory still drew a blank, Archer silently scolded himself for not thinking to ask

Hamilton to send him a copy of the old police report.

* * * *

The Little's returned to Ada from the west. They'd ditched their earlier stolen car in Fittstown, at a rural farm house actually, taking a pickup in exchange.

"How are we gonna locate him?" Mike asked Louie as they traveled under the underpass on the west side of town.

"Which one?"

"The old man. I figure the clerk is still in the hospital."

"We can look in a phone book, but it's the holiday season... we'll take a look at Wal-Mart™, also. That's where the newspaper said he worked, and he was wearing one of their blue vests the night of the robbery."

* * * *

Archer wasn't sure how his next encounter with the angel Timothy would go, but one thing he was certain about was that he wasn't going to relay his suspicions to his coworkers.

He rightly figured it would only compound the issue if he tried to explain that the youngster he'd been trying unsuccessfully to tail at the store was the angel who had visited his family during his own childhood.

So, he took his customary place at the front entrance, awaiting the expected mass of customers shopping on the last day before Christmas.

Nothing says "Christmas" like shopping, or so most of the country's retail giants would like you to believe, and it was little different in south central Oklahoma, but Archer couldn't help but experience a little sadness at the consumerism that seemed to draw a noose more tightly around the neck of the season's true meaning every passing year.

The first Christmas story included the exchange of gifts, a realistic representation of the greatest of gifts that had come from God through the birth of his only begotten Son, but to lose the truth of this in the dash to out give each other seemed to ridiculous to Archer, especially with the thoughts of that Christmas so long ago, when he'd first encountered Timothy came to mind.

Shortly after his morning break, Archer returned to his greeting post, and was checking the bag of an early Christmas return when movement caught his attention to his left.

Handing the bag back to the returning customer, Archer took a deep breath and said, "Hello, Timothy."

The angel Timothy grinned widely, and said, "You remember. I was beginning to wonder if you would."

Archer nodded greetings at another entering customer, but

kept his attention on the "youngster" before him. "It's been a long time," he said.

Timothy nodded.

"You haven't changed any," Archer said. "Is that my old coat?"

Timothy nodded again. "Thought I'd hang onto it... just in case," he said.

"Are you back for any special reason?"

"Yes, but I can't talk about it yet."

Archer's left eyebrow arched slightly at the little angel's cryptic response. "Okay... are you here to talk about something... or are you doing a little shopping?"

Timothy's chuckle was the same Archer remembered from the dim past.

"I'll walk around a little bit," he said, "and maybe we can talk during your lunch break."

When they shook hands, Archer was amazed how different it felt. While the angel's hand was no doubt the same size, Archer's understandably had grown a bit since the last time.

Then with another smile, Timothy turned and walked into the store.

* * * *

Leroy Thompson entered Wa-Mart™, and looked around. While he didn't recall the face of the elderly man at the entrance, his name tag identified him as T. Archer.

For just a second, the hatred of a young man

entering prison decades ago returned to his mind, and then it was gone.

"Hello, Archer," he said.

"Can I help you?"

"You probably don't remember me... I'm Leroy Thompson..."

At the sound of the name, Archer's eyes widened slightly, and Thompson knew he'd been spotted.

"Someone told me you'd gotten out. Are you here to cause trouble?" Archer asked.

Thompson shook his head. "Maybe if I'd gotten out a dozen years ago... In fact, I came by just to tell you that I was sorry. I tried to say it in a letter dozens of times, but it just didn't seem right."

"I don't understand," Archer said.

"I was an angry young man when you saw me last, and I was angry for years after going to prison, but about 13 years ago... something happened... I became a believer... a Christian, and God helped me with the anger... so I'm just here to say that I was sorry."

Astonished, Archer nodded slowly, understanding without question how such a change could have come over the former criminal. But, before he could reply, a hard object pressed into his left side.

"Come with us, old man," Mike Little said as he pushed the muzzle of the deputy's stolen handgun into Archer's side. "If you cause a

ruckus, more people will get hurt."

Archer glanced at the man on his left, and then the one at his right, and then back a second at Thompson directly in front of him. For a second, the thought that Thompson was somehow involved flashed through his mind, only to disappear just as quickly at the alarm that he saw in Thompson's own eyes.

"You're not gettin' a chance to testify against us," Louie Little said. "Just walk out the door, and keep quiet."

Archer felt the pressure from the handgun let up as Mike Little pulled it back enough to slip it into his coat pocket. Somewhere, the duo had located clothing and coats to replace the prisoner jumpsuit's they'd probably been wearing at the time of their escape.

Looking over at Thompson, Mike growled, "Tell your friend to back off, and keep quiet."

"Do what they say," said Archer.

Thompson, recognizing these as the two escapees he'd read about in the newspaper at breakfast, shook his head. "You know what's going to happen if they get you out of here?"

Then, he added, "Guys, you're only looking at more trouble... I know, I've been..."

"Shut your mouth," Mike said with a glare, then he pulled on

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CHRISTMAS CARD PROJECT 2010

Individuals

Adams, J.K. and Margaret
Allison, Jean
Black, Gladys
Blackman, Barbara
Bradshaw, Lloyd and Janice
Bryant, Alene
Bryant, Randall
Brown, Mr. And Mrs Scott
Brown, James and Dianne
Burge, Mary Jo
Campbell, Buck and Lynn
Chisholm, Chris and Maegan
Clark, Wayne and Pat
Clements, Delmar and Pat
Clements, Iris
Cook, Marshall and Helen
Coward, Barry and JoEllen
Cox, Ed and Carol
Crawford, Jimmie and Pauletta
Dale, Gary and Glenda
Douglass, Chubby
Field, Randall and Kay
Finney, Bob and Barbara
Gladden, Alvin, Gail, Jayme and Jill
Holt, Ronnie & Sue
Jones, Clara Lou and Mike Jones
Kidd, Hubert, Nancy, and Cari
Killingsworth, O.G. and Loyce
Kitchens, Bunt & Ruth
Kitchens, Kody & Kolter
Kittrell, Wanda
Landers, Bob and Nina
Lemons, Nancy & Timmie
McCamish, Frank and Savannah(Shug)
Messenger, Jay and Sally
Morris, Eddie and Gayle
Morrison, Janis
Nickels, Marilyn & family
Nieman, Mr & Mrs. George
Ovalle, Leon and Josie
Phillips, Eulaine
Powell, Elvis and Billie

Pruitt, Jerrell and Ogaline
Ramage, Herb and Betty
Reeder, Jane
Reeder, Mark, Courtney and Cash
Rennels, Jack and Magann
Royal, Missy and Daisy Mae
Sain, Walt and Rose
Sinclair, Joel and Gwen
Smith, Betty
Stancell, Leamon and Joy
Stancell, Wayne
Street, Lillian
Treider, Raymond and Charlene
Watson, W.T. and Pat
Wedel, James
Wilson, Marian
Wilson, Stanley and Patricia
Winders, Ivanell and Jo Campbell
Winn, M. Laverne
Withrow, James and Bettye

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Dale Oil Company Inc.-Gary and Glenda, Mike and Leslie Dale
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In Memory of Lelia Kelly by Norma Prather, Joe Don and Pam Prather

Curby and Kay Lynn Prather

In Memory of Annie Floyd by Dale and Kay Griswold and Tommy Floyd

In Memory of June Conway by Joy Stancell

In Memory of James Sinclair by Friends

In Memory of Buster Kittrell by Friends

In of Honor Christmas Decorating and Undecorating Crew-Christi Whitt, Tammie Black, Linda Erdmann, Marilyn Riley, Debra Noble, Donna Green, Jerri Flowers, Jeanetta Precure, Judy Wilbanks, Anita Black, Buck and Lyn Campbell, Bill Liles, Danny Maye and Celie Parham

A special Thank You to all anonymous donors for your generous support of Park View Nursing Care Center.

Thank all of you for your expressions of faith and love during the past year. Through your prayers, gifts and service, you have helped each of us at Park View Nursing Care Center. May God's grace & peace overflow from your lives not only at Christmas, but throughout the coming year.

Residents and Staff of Park View Nursing Care Center, Marilyn Nickels and Joy Stancell Volunteer Christmas Card Project Chairwomen

WE HERE AT PARK VIEW
HOPE THAT YOU HAVE
HAD A JOYOUS HOLIDAY
SEASON AND THAT YOU
HAVE THE HAPPIEST
NEW YEAR EVER

Senior Citizen News

By Laverne Winn

We at the Oneita Wagnon Senior Center send our heartfelt appreciation to all who brought the delicious refreshments for the holidays.

For any of you who need to walk the extra pounds of remember the center has a good walking area. Come join your friends.

To everyone who gave gifts of appreciation to us we say a great big thank you.

The center will be open on Friday, Dec. 31, New Year's Eve. So make plans to come and have the regular fish or chicken strip lunch. Joe should be back from Arkansas by then. If not Sherlon will do her great job of cooking.

All you Bunco players remember Tuesday, Jan. 4, will be playing day. Karen Jones with Intracare will

be helping with the games this day. Call a friend and come on in Tuesday, beginning at 10 a.m.

We are anxious for the holidays to be over and all you senior citizens get your routine back to coming to the center. It has bee a little hectic around here but we are looking forward to having new members come and enjoy as well as our old friends.

Thursday, Jan. 6, Rick with Hearing Technology of Lubbock will be at the center around 10:30 a. m. Rick would like for anyone that needs his service to please come by and visit with him.

As the old year ends and the New Year begins we wish all a very happy, healthy year to come.

Menu for Jan. 3-7:


Monday, Jan. 3 — Smothered chicken, carrots, salad, wheat roll and pudding.

Tuesday, Jan. 4 — Hamburger steak, brown gravy, scalloped potatoes, greens, salad and wheat roll cake.

Wednesday, Jan. 5 — Grilled steak, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad and apple cobbler.

Thursday, Jan. 6 — White bear and ham soup, salad, cornbread and cake.

Friday, Jan. 7 — Fish or chicken strips, gravy, beans, coleslaw, cornbread and fruit salad.



FOUND

Questions please call Pat at 806-946-8455

DWIs targeted during the holidays

The Texas Highway Patrol's focus drinking and drinking will continue through the New Years holiday in high-risk locations during the times when alcohol-related crashes are most frequent.

These special DWI patrols are thanks to a TxDOT grant targeting impaired driving.

"We'd prefer that drivers obey the traffic laws on their own, but

we'll be out on the roads to ensure that travelers are as safe as possible,"

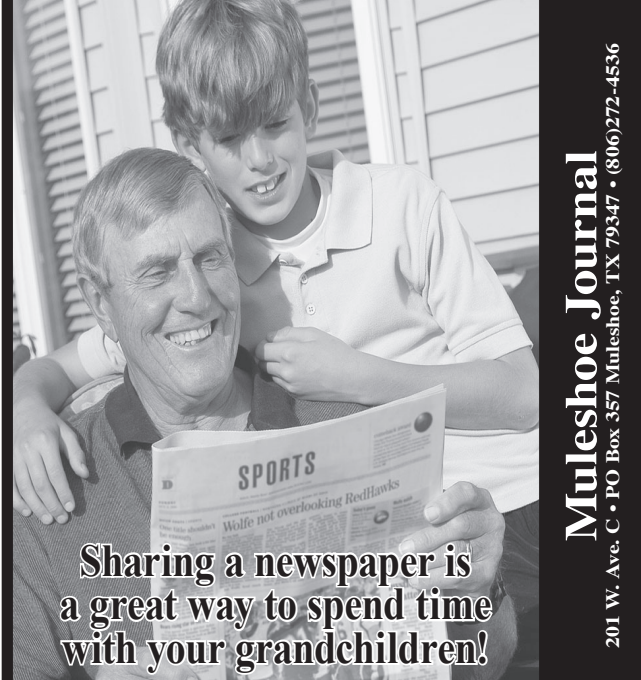
said David Baker, assistant director for the Texas Highway Patrol.

"We'll be looking for intoxicated drivers, as well as speeders and

seat belt violators," he added.

During the Christmas holiday last year, DPS troopers arrested 350 drivers for DWI and issued 9,212 speeding tickets and 658 safety restraint violations.

Have a Happy, and safe, New Year!



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BAILEY COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE

Something worth saying...
By Glen Williams

The use of our talents

It seems a little hard for me to bring one of my writings to the right ending. That is probably because I have too much in the article itself. It's easy to get too much subject matter, and that with me is a habit.

A few years ago I published an eight-page paper named "Handfuls of Purpose."

A few years before that I published one called "Glad Tidings."

They each received good support, but on each one I got to the point I needed help that wasn't available. So I had to stop them.

But I did enjoy working with them about as much as anything I have ever done. But recently some of the folks in Oklahoma have told me they will be glad to finance anything I want to print.

So I am giving that serious thought. But I do enjoy writing for *The Muleshoe Journal*. They are very nice, and I appreciate the words of encouragement that you, the readers, have given me. My wife reads every article before she takes them to the *Journal*. And I am thankful that she feels free to express her self.

I hope you, the readers will feel free to express your selves, or ask any questions you might have.

In that connection, for me it's hard to develop a subject, explain it in detail and close it as I would like. I guess that's where I get to talking to myself again.

For example, in last week's article about the talents my intent was to show how that fits into our total economy and to express a bit of my feelings about the Lord's calling his servants.

You will remember, it was his servants, and he administering them, the talents according to each servant's ability.

And the main point or objective was for the servants to put them to use. I don't know what they did but I feel sure they worked for the betterment of the community where they lived. And in the process they increased

the number of their talents by one hundred per cent.

That proves that whatever ability one has will grow or increase if he puts it to work. Otherwise he will virtually destroy himself.

That is what happened to the servant to whom the Lord gave one talent. But the fact that he is not a good capable workman. And if put to use it will increase as will those that have more. That is a principal of life.

Note verse twenty nine: "For every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance; but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath."

Almost every one I ever heard say he was called it was he was "called to preach." Now I don't have any questions about that, but I think it's obvious that the calling of or by the Lord converts more territory than the ministry of the gospel.

There is nothing any better, and I'm not saying there is, but these scriptures do not assign any of the talents to any particular work.

That's the reason I quoted from Ephesians. "I therefore the prisoner of the Lord beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called." What vocation? What difference does it make? A vocation is a 'calling' or an 'occupation.'

So it was not the vocation or occupation to which they were called that was in question, but Paul's plea was that they walk "with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

That is the attitude in which we should conduct out affairs, what ever they might be. If it was right for them it should be right for us.

I plan to discuss these things a bit farther, and might possibly include some of my personal experiences in it.

But I hope you had a nice Christmas.

Obituaries

Alton Brewster

Church services for Alton Wayne Brewster, 61, of Lubbock, were held on Wednesday, Dec. 29 at the Muleshoe Church of Christ with Curtis Shelburne officiating.

Mr. Brewster died on Dec. 25, 2010, in Lubbock. He was born on July 22, 1949, to R.L. Brewster and Evalyn Patricia (Cooper) Brewster in Lubbock.

Mr. Brewster was baptized at the age of 13, in Petersburg. He was a member of the Sunset Church of Christ in Lubbock.

He was preceded in death by his father, R.L. Brewster.

Survivors include his mother — Evalyn Brewster of Muleshoe; a sister — Sharon Leigh



Alton Wayne Brewster

Dear and her husband Lonnie of Ft. Worth; two brothers — Marion Earl Brewster and his wife Terry of Muleshoe; and Monty Darrell Brewster and his wife Tamara of Midland; five nephews and two nieces.

Memorials may be sent to one's favorite charity.

Services were under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home.

Jimmie Pitcock

Graveside services for Jimmie Pitcock, 86, of Muleshoe, were held on Wednesday, Dec. 29, at Muleshoe Memorial Park Cemetery with Brady Mason of Muleshoe officiating.

Mr. Pitcock died on Dec. 26, 2010, in Muleshoe. He was born on Aug. 7, 1924, to Grover Cleveland and Mary Kate (Hamilton) Pitcock in Plainview. They preceded him in death; as did two brothers — W.T. Pitcock and C.G. Pitcock; and a sister — Peggy and husband Hilliary Morgan

He married Nanna Allene Mills in Portales, N.M., on June 24, 1949.

Mr. Pitcock was a member of the First Baptist Church in Muleshoe.

He served in the US Navy during World

War II.

He grew up in Floyd, N.M., and accepted Christ as a teenager and had served as a deacon in the First Baptist Church in Floyd.

He ran dairies in Floyd and Portales, and raised three children in Muleshoe. He was a farmer, custom harvester, and served as a director of First Ag Credit.

Survivors include his wife — Allene of the home; two sons — David Pitcock of Muleshoe and Randy Pitcock of Clovis, N.M., a daughter — Nina Adams of Tulia; six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be sent to one's favorite charity.

Services were under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home.

Addresses for charitable giving suggested

- Muleshoe Heritage Foundation Center, P.O. Box 201, Muleshoe, Texas 79347, (806) 272-4429 or 5873.
- MOST Scholarship (given to all graduating MISD seniors yearly), c/o Superintendent Gene Sheets, 514 W. Ave. G, Muleshoe, TX 79347.
- Oneita Wagnon Senior Center, P.O. Box 292, Muleshoe, TX 79347.
- Hope Chest, P.O. Box 175, Muleshoe, TX 79347
- Muleshoe Hospital Auxiliary, c/o Muleshoe Area Medical Center.
- Bailey County Food Pantry, P.O. Box 175, Muleshoe, TX 79347.
- Meals on Wheels, 300 1st St., Muleshoe, TX 79347
- Lazbuddie EMS and Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 125, Lazbuddie, TX 79053.
- Park View Nursing Care Center, 1100 W. Ave. J, Muleshoe, TX 79347.
- New Mexico Children's Home, 1356 NM 236, Portales, N.M. 88130-9411.
- Olton Cemetery Association, P.O. Box 1055, Olton, TX 79064.
- Muleshoe Memorial Park Cemetery, Inc., 104 E. Ave. C, Muleshoe, TX 79347, or call 272-5727.
- Muleshoe Area Educational Foundation, P.O. Box 62, Muleshoe, TX 79347.
- Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture, 115 E. American Blvd., Muleshoe 79347.
- Bailey County Child Welfare Board, P.O. Box 234, Muleshoe TX 79347.
- Rainbow Room, P.O. Box 234, Muleshoe TX 79347



Who are they?

Among the older photographs at the *Muleshoe Journal* is this photograph of youngsters sharing a cool treat. If it's a photograph that you need to complete your family photo album, drop by the *Journal* during business hours.

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Proverbs 3:5, NIV



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Sports

Lady Mules' slow starts prove hard to overcome

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

Slow starts have hurt the Lady Mules since their district season started.

The Tulia Lady Hornets may have been aware of the Lady Mule tendency to start slow and raced out to a 22-7 first quarter

lead. The Lady Mules finished the game strong but could not overcome their 15-point first period deficit. They out scored the Hornets 48-45 in the final three periods but left Tulia with a 67-55 defeat.

It seems to take eight

full minutes for the Lady Mules to adjust to the opposition's press. Yvonne Gardea made two free throws and a 3-pointer in the opening period. Dominique Mata made a basket to cap the Lady Mules seven-point quarter.

Tulia led 22-7 after one

quarter. Gardea opened the second quarter with a pair of free throws. She drained a 3-pointer and finished a break with a lay up.

Mata sandwiched a 3-pointer between a pair of baskets. Alyssa Leal made back-to-back jump

shots as the Lady Mules roared back with an 18-point quarter. They had cut to three points off the Tulia lead and trailed 37-25 at the half.

The Lady Mules continued to chip away at the Tulia lead in the third period. Gardea made three hoops and free throw after Mata opened the period with a hoop.

Devine Orozco and Carly Krug both chipped in buckets. The Lady Mules had trimmed the Tulia lead to 49-38.

The Lady Mules stormed the floor in the final frame and cut the Tulia lead to two points on two occasions but could never take the

lead. The Hornets held off the Lady Mules with a late charge of their own.

Jandy Gomez opened the period with a pair of free throws. Gardea sank four baskets and two free throws in the final period. Leal and Krug added a hoop each.

Gardea set the scoring pace with a game high 29 points. Mata finished in double digits with 11 points, Leal added six and Krug made four. Orozco dropped in three points and Gomez chipped in two.

The Lady Mules will play in the Littlefield Wildcat Tournament Dec. 28-30. The Bobbies of Dimmitt will visit the Lady Mules Jan. 4.

Mules open district action with a win

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

The Mules opened district action with a single game prior to the Christmas break.

They hit the road to Tulia and dominated the Hornets 81-58.

The Mules found the range from behind the arc in the opening period and dropped in four 3-pointers in the 24 point quarter.

Tyson Turnbow sandwiched a deuce between a pair of treys.

Nick Hurtado made a pair of baskets and nailed a trey before the quarter ended. Mark

Quezada hit a 3-pointer from the corner.

Cooper Washington, Zack Toscano and Isaias Guerra all made a basket. The Mules led 24-7 after one quarter.

The Mules continued to apply defensive pressure and poured in the points.

Beau Avila sank a 3-pointer to open the second quarter. Quezada and Guerra made a pair a baskets each.

Turnbow hit his third trey of the night. Jonathan Perez and Toscano chipped in a basket each and Sergio Montejano made a free throw.

The Mules had out

scored the Hornets 19-11 and led 43-18 at the half.

The Mules exploded on the Hornets in the third period with 28 points. Toscano got the Mules going with a move in the lane. He added three more buckets before the quarter ended.

Hurtado hit a trey and a pair of buckets and Washington made strong moves to the basket for a pair of hoops.

Turnbow, Matthew Martinez and Guerra drained a 3-pointer each. The Mules had pushed their lead to 71-58.

The Mules hit cruise in the final period and finished with a 10-point

quarter. Toscano, Hurtado and Turnbow shared the scoring pace with 14 points each. Guerra was just off the pace with 13 points.

Washington made eight, Quezada had seven and Martinez finished with five.

Avila added three points, Perez two and Montejano chipped in one.

The Mules will be back in action in their final tournament of the season in Littlefield Dec. 28-30.

They will host the Dimmitt Bobcats Jan. 4 to restart district play.

JV Mules swat the Tulia Hornets, 85-22

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

The JV Mules hit the road for their only district competition before the Christmas break.

The Mules traveled to Tulia and swatted the Hornets 85-22.

Juan Guerrero made a basket to get the Mules offense started. The Mules pressed the Hornets hard and converted turnovers to points. Guerrero added a second basket before the period ended.

Eric Orozco hit the floor fired up and drained a 3-pointer. He would finish three fast breaks before the quarter end for a total of nine points.

The Mules led 13-4 after one period.

The Mules continued to pressure the ball in the second quarter. Louie Guzman popped back-to-back 3-pointers and added a hoop.

Mateo Castillo made a pair buckets as did Guerrero. Guerrero also made one from the charity line.

Saul Elizalde led off the period with a basket and made a second before the half.

Matthew Barron and Blaine Hurtado both added baskets before the period ended.

The Mules had pushed their lead to 38-9.

The Mules hit the floor

running in the third period with their second 25-point quarter. Elizalde dropped in three hoops and Guerrero made two.

Barron made one from the charity line and one from behind the arc. Ryan Johnson added a free throw and a bucket.

Christian Roach hit a lay up and two free throws. Eli Leal made a hoop and Guzman also added a bucket.

The Mules led 63-17 with one quarter left to play.

The Mules continued to pour in the points in the final quarter. Elizalde led the parade with two hoops and a free throw. Orozco and Johnson

both dropped in a pair of buckets. Barron nailed his second trey of the game and Guerrero and Shawn Atwood made a basket each.

Elizalde and Guerrero led the charge for the Mules with 15 points each. Orozco dropped in 13 and Guzman made 10.

Barron added nine points, Johnson made seven and Castillo and Rocha finished with four each.

Leal, Hurtado and Atwood chipped in two each.

The Mules will be back in action when they host the Dimmitt Bobcats on Jan. 4.

Early basket serves notice to seventh grade 'Winds

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

Simone Chavez sank a 3-pointer early in the game when the seventh grade Mules hosted the Floydada Whirlwinds just prior to the Christmas break.

That trey served notice that the Mules were serious about basketball.

The Mules stayed close to the Whirlwinds for three quarters and pulled out a 30-28 win.

Tony Castillo made back-to-back baskets for

the Mules only other points of the opening quarter. The Mules trailed 9-7 at the end of the first quarter.

Chavez found the range inside the arc in the second quarter and added three buckets.

Castillo chipped in one hoop and the Mules continued to trail 16-15 at the intermission.

Aaryn Ross opened the third quarter for the Mules with a hoop. The Mules could not score

Continued on page 7

Eighth grade Mules 'blow away' the Whirlwinds

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

The eighth grade Mules blew away the Floydada Whirlwinds before taking their Christmas break. The Mules scored enough points in the first half to win the game if they never scored again.

The Mules defeated Floydada 47-25.

JJ Gandara put the Mules on the board first and added a second basket before the period ended. Saul Sanchez made two hoops and Francisco Gonzales and Gerald Torres hit a bucket each.

The Mules led 12-5 after one quarter.

Braden Bessire made his first basket to start the Mules in the second quarter. He added a second hoop before the half ended.

Sanchez heated up with three baskets in the period. Grey Johnson and Blaine Shipman each made a basket and the Mules led 26-10 at the half.

The Mules picked up where they left off in the third quarter. Shipman scored first and added a free throw later in the quarter. Israel Rubio and Gonzales hit a basket each.

Johnson completed an old fashion three-point play and dropped in a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

The Mules held Floydada to a third consecutive five-point period. The Mules had pushed their lead to 39-15.

The Mules slacked off some in the final period. Gandara hit two hoops and Rubio and Torres added a basket each.

Sanchez led the Mules with 10 points. Johnson and Gandara dropped in eight each. Shipman finished with five points. Gonzales, Rubio, Torres and Bessire added four points apiece.

The Mules will start 2011 on the road in Friona and Abernathy. They will finally return home to host the Idalou Wildcats.

Helen and the staff of Lasting Impressions wishes you a Joyous New Year! Thank you for your continued support and friendship throughout the years!

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<p>Muleshoe Tire</p> <p>107 Main Street, Muleshoe 272-4594</p>	<p>A Brighter Image Paint Contractor</p> <p>Jack Gilliam, Owner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint • Carpentry • Power Washing • Small Remodel <p>(Call For An Estimate)</p> <p>Contractor # 90936 P.O. Box 24 Fairwell, TX 79325 Email: jclintongilliam@gmail.com</p> <p>806-206-1714 806-481-2222</p>	<p>MULESHOE VARSITY / JV BASKETBALL 2010 WILDCAT CLASSIC</p> <p>Dec. 28th, 29th, 30th • Littlefield (There)</p> <p>VG • Tuesday, 12:00pm • New Gym • Muleshoe vs. Artesia VB • Tuesday, 9:30am • Old Gym • Muleshoe vs. Anton</p> <p>Additional game times TBA</p> <p>JVG • JVB • Tues., Jan. 4th, 5:00 p.m., vs. <i>Dimmitt (Here)</i> VG- Tues., Jan 4th, 6:30 p.m. • VB- Tues., Jan. 4th, 8:00 p.m., vs. <i>Dimmitt (Here)</i></p>		<p>minsa</p> <p>Hwy. 84 E. of Muleshoe • 272-5545</p>	

What does Christmas really mean?

"Christmas is saying 'yes' to something beyond all emotions and feelings," writes Henri Nouwen.

"Christmas is saying 'yes' to a hope based on God's initiative, which has nothing to do with what I think or feel. Christmas is believing that the salvation of the world is God's work and not mine."

Christmas is choosing for a change to take a look through the right end of the telescope and thrilling to the sight of God's work written large rather than cringing before a universe shrunken, shriveled, and constricted, bounded on all sides by the nearsighted view of mortals almost as blind and dull as me.

Christmas means that the real question is not, "What must I do to be saved?" Not such a bad question for a jailer back in Philippi scared stiff



Focus On Faith
Curtis Shelburne

about losing his head because of almost losing his prisoners (Acts 16).

But the far better question for me is, "What has God already done to save me?" Christmas means finding that answer all wrapped up in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.

Christmas means bringing the most precious of gifts to the Baby King not to enrich or impress him or add to the net worth of the One who owns the cattle on a thousand hills and who gives me the gift of my every breath, but simply because I love him and want to joyfully place before him the best that I have.

Christmas means finding a fleeting moment

of sanity when I'm less full of myself and more filled with Heaven as I focus not on me but on the God of all life and joy.

Christmas means that instead of trying to save humanity theoretically through my unceasingly serious efforts, I sit down with one or two giggling and very specific pint-size children or grandchildren and tell a story about how once upon a specific time in Bethlehem a star twinkled and angels sang, and then I hum them to sleep with "Silent Night."

If I've got Christmas right and know the real story, then Christmas also means I'm free to laugh with the little ones and tell them old new stories about how Scrooges get over taking themselves too seriously and what happens on "The Night Before Christmas."

Christmas, for me, is realizing that the

wonderful writer G. K. Chesterton discovered something as important as the law of gravity when he wrote, "Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly." It was through pride, he wrote, that Satan fell, and "the very skies were cracked across like a mirror, because there was a sneer in Heaven." Christmas means that sugar plums always win over sneers, that the deadly self-serious always crash and burn, and that angels aren't the only ones lifted into flight by Joy.

Christmas means that though you may get a tiresome tax form in January, all you have to do is look up on a Yuletide night to see that Bethlehem always beats Caesar and that the twinkling tinsel of Heaven's stars all point forever to the One brightest, the One eternal.

"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."

Proverbs 3:9-10, NIV



**H·A·P·P·Y
NEW YEAR**

**DODD
COTTON GIN**

*We would like to take
this time to thank the kind
and loyal people who have
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Looking forward to a New Year and a new Congress

At the end of each year, we reflect back on what brought us to this point. While 2010 was a difficult year for many, I have great hope for 2011.

In November, the American people chose a new majority in the House of Representatives to focus on less government spending, more accountability for the legislative process, and practical ways to help create more jobs here in the U.S.

The new Congress will not only bring new members and effective legislation, but a new way of doing business altogether.

The new House Republican rules for the



112th Congress will help ensure that the "People's House" operates with more efficiency and transparency.

The new rules require that all legislation be available to the public "in electronic form" for 72 hours before a vote.

Members will now have time to actually read the bills, instead of voting on legislation no one has ever seen before.

Committees will be required to post their rules and upcoming business on the internet at least 72 hours in

advance and broadcast all hearings online.

The rules are also changing when it comes to federal spending. Tax cuts will not be permitted to pay for mandatory spending increases.

Additionally, if mandatory spending is increased, it must be equally cut elsewhere in the budget.

Perhaps most importantly, every bill introduced in the House must include a "statement citing as specifically as practicable the power or powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact."

These were promises made to the American people in the Pledge to America. The incoming House Republicans intend to operate the House of Representatives in a way that reflects these promises and

allows the American people to follow along at home every step of the way.

Next week marks the start of the 112th Congress. I look forward to continue serving the people of the 19th District and fighting for a stronger America for future generations. I wish a very Happy New Year to you and your family. God bless.

Don't forget your photos

Do you have any blank spots in your photo albums?

Have some photos "walked" away?

Photographs that have been submitted for publication in the *Muleshoe Journal* may be picked up during regular business hours.

At this time, a number of photographs have been accumulated, and may include your missing photographs.



Fireman of the Year

Muleshoe Fire Chief Tom Ladd recognized Josh Clark as the Muleshoe Volunteer Fire Department's Fireman of the Year, at the department's recent Christmas party. The honor is awarded to the member who has shown the most dedication and commitment to the department and community during the past year.

Seventh grade...

Continued from page 6 again and fell behind 22-17 with one quarter left to play.

Chavez sank his second trey of the game to open the final frame for the Mules. Castillo dropped in a bucket and Chavez made back-to-back hoops to bring the Mules closer to the Whirlwinds.

Josh Lopez tied the game with a short jumper at 28-28. Chavez drove for the final hoop of the game and put the Mules on top since early in the first period.

Chavez led the Mules

with 18 points. Castillo finished with eight and Ross and Lopez made two points each.

The Mules open the New Year on the road in Friona and Abernathy.

They will make their first home appearance Jan. 17, and host the Idalou Wildcats.

NOTICE OF SCHEDULED ENTRY INTO FIELDS

Pursuant to Tex. Agric. Code, Sec. 74.117, cotton producers in the Northwest Plains Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, which consists of all of Bailey, Castro, Deaf Smith, Lamb, and Parmer counties and part of Randall County are hereby notified that Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation personnel will be conducting eradication activities in and around their fields, beginning **January 16, 2011**. All cotton fields will be mapped, and treatment will begin during the cotton-growing season. For notification prior to any chemical treatment, call 1-800-687-1212 with the exact location of your field and appropriate telephone numbers. Field entry and treatment is expected to last until all cotton is harvested in the zone. For more information regarding this program, please call the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation at 1-800-687-1212.

Local AA meetings available

Those looking for help with problem drinking can do so at open AA and Al-Anon meetings being held at 7 p.m. each Friday at the First United Methodist Church, at 507 W. Second.

Please use the west side entrance. For information about these meetings call 806-965-2870.

Carolyn's After Christmas SALE

Begins **Mon. Dec. 27th**

All Carolyn's merchandise at least **50% off**

Carolyn's Christmas Creations' Florals & Gifts
106 E. American Blvd. • 272-5911

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thank you for your continued loyalty throughout the year. We appreciate you all.

~Dawn & Roger

Look for inside Sales

All purses 1/2 Off

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Reopen Monday Jan. 3, 2011

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May happiness and good cheer be yours in 2011!*

Happy New Year!

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The Sudan Buzz



Sudan basketball ready for 2011

By Savannah Sain
Sudan Correspondent

With the ushering in of a new year, the Sudan Hornets and Nettes are busy preparing for their upcoming district schedules.

The varsity and junior varsity teams will be playing at Vega on Tuesday, Jan. 4, starting at 4 p.m.

After this series of games, the varsity and JV Nettes will begin district play against Springlake Earth in an away game on Friday, Jan. 7, while the varsity Hornets will

travel to Nazareth for a non-district game.

The JV boys will play the Varsity Lazbuddie team at Lazbuddie.

Starting Jan. 11, the teams will be playing at the same venues while competing in district play.

Their first four-game district night will occur when the teams travel to Lockney.

Sudan's first four-game district night will be when Olton travel to Sudan to play the Hornets and Nettes on Friday, Jan. 14.

Games are scheduled with the JV girls playing first at 4 p.m., followed by the JV boys at 5 p.m.

The varsity girls' games are scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m., and the varsity boys' games will begin at 8 p.m.

The district schedule has changed little since redistricting last year. Sudan will still play Bovina, Farwell, Springlake-Earth, and Olton.

The Hornets no longer play Morton for district games, but gained Lockney in the district.

Photographs by Savannah Sain

Sudan Basketball Schedules

Jan 7... Springlake-Earth (T), girls teams only; Nazareth (T), non-district varsity boys; Lazbuddie (T), JV boys only
 Jan 11... Lockney (T)
 Jan 14... Olton (H)
 Jan 18... Bovina (T)
 Jan 21... Farwell (H)
 Jan 25... Springlake-Earth (H)
 Jan 28... Lockney (H)
 Feb 1... Olton (T)
 Feb 4... Bovina (H)
 Feb 8... Farwell (T)
 Feb 11... Springlake-Earth (T), Boys teams only

Carolyn's After Christmas SALE
 Begins **Mon. Dec. 27th**
 All Carolyn's merchandise at least **50% off**
Carolyn's Christmas Creation's Florals & Gifts
 106 E. American Blvd. • 272-5911



Wall work

The walls are beginning to pop up as construction continues to run smoothly on the new field house at Sudan High School.

Photograph by Savannah Sain

NEWSPAPER POLICIES

Editorials are the opinion of the newspaper. They are written by staff members of the *Muleshoe Journal*. They are not signed because they express the position of the publisher, owners and the newspaper staff.

Letters to the Editor are written by readers of the newspaper. They are "brief" expressions of opinion (limited to 200 words), most concerning issues of local interest. Letters must be legible, with a single endorsement. All letters must be signed by the writer and must include a daytime telephone number for verification. Third party, form letters and unsigned letters will not be published.

Columns are the personal opinion of the writer whose byline appears with the column. Columns are assigned by the editor, and may be edited for content, length and space.

Letters to the Editor can be sent to:

Editor - Muleshoe Journal

P.O. Box 449, Muleshoe, Texas 79347

Fax: 806.272.3567 or e-mail: editor@muleshoejournal.com

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR**



## Grand opening celebrated

Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce held grand opening ceremonies at Frontera Feedyard (previously WestTex Feedyard) on Tuesday, Dec. 21, and as part of the celebration, the new owners hosted an open house on that day as well. Pictured on the right are: Front row — Isaac Tovar and Beto Hernandez; second row — Mark Anthony, Paul Coleman, Jeff Provence, Jim Koontz, Mark McCollum and Ted McCollum; third row — Oscar Rodriguez, Tracie Claybrook, Angel Vega, Nancy Baker, Eugenia James, Don Taylor and Joe Osterkamp; and fourth row — Howie Zimmerman, Raul Sanchez, Juan Simmental, Jesus Gomez, Jeff Matsler, Delbert Atwood and Brian Wooten.



## Food pantry help needed

The Bailey County Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry is in need of volunteers to work from 9-10:30 a.m., one Saturday a month, distributing food, starting in January.

For additional information, contact Donna Jay at 806-272-4224.

# CLASSIFIEDS

Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. to place a classified ad. Call 272-4536.

### LEGAL/PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Zuma Jauree Smallwood, Deceased, were issued on the 21st day of December, 2010, in Cause No. 2540 pending in the County Court of Bailey County, Texas, to: Shirley Jean McCollum and Ricky Joe Smallwood. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Shirley Jean McCollum Rickey Joe Smallwood C/o Mickie Patterson Attorney at Law 312 W. 2nd Street P.O. Box 1004 Muleshoe, TX 79347 Dated the 21st day of December, 2010. Mickie Patterson Attorney for Estate State bar No. 24001756 POOL LAW FIRM, PC. 312 W. 2nd Street P.O. Box 1004 Muleshoe, TX 79347 Telephone: (806) 272-8900 Facsimile: (806) 272-8903. Published in the Muleshoe Journal Dec. 30, 2010.

### FOR SALE

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| G U E S T<br>R O O M ? ? ? ?<br>BRAND NEW<br>full size pillowtop<br>mattress, in plastic,<br>warranty, \$150.<br>Twin size set \$120<br>806-549-3110. | resistant neutral<br>color, Brand new<br>& boxed from<br>mfg. Forfeit \$499.<br>Wood coffee table<br>\$75. 806-686-4797. | original packaging.<br>List \$2980.<br>Sacrifice \$550.<br>806-686-4797.             | nightstand, \$399.<br>, 806-549-3110.                                                                                          |
| Must see!! COUCH<br>and loveseat, stain                                                                                                               | SECTIONAL, earth<br>tone euro suede,<br>pillows, new in                                                                  | CHERRY bedroom<br>suite, brand<br>new, SOLID!!<br>Full or queen,<br>dresser, mirror, | BRAND NEW<br>2010 HOT TUB,<br>lounger, lights, free<br>cover, warranty.<br>MSRP 5990.00,<br>forfeit \$2900.00<br>806-831-4896. |

### HELP WANTED

The Bailey County Sheriff's Office is now accepting applications for the positions of Jailers and Cooks. No experience necessary. Jailers must have a High School Diploma or GED. No High School Diploma required for Cooks. Must be 21 years of age with no criminal history. Drug test is mandatory. Must be willing to work shift work, weekends and holidays. County paid insurance after 30 days. Paid vacation and sick leave after six months. Apply in person at 405 W. 2nd between 8am and 5pm, Mon thru Fri.

Muleshoe ISD is seeking qualified applicants for Teacher Assistant for Special Ed students at Muleshoe High School.

Applications may be obtained at www.muleshoeisd.net or by calling 806-272-7404. Full time Maintenance Position must be willing to live on site. Must have maintenance, elect., plumbing, HVAC experience and must be bilingual. Apply at Muleshoe Housing Authority 301 E

6th St. M-F, 8-5. Muleshoe Housing Authority office at 301 E. 6th St. Part time accountant position for an application. M-F 8 - 5. at Muleshoe Housing Authority. Come by the

**LVN NEEDED**  
Full time 2:00 pm to 10:00 pm shift. Flexible days and benefits available. Apply in person. Runningwater Draw Care Center Non profit skilled nursing facility  
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The position we are seeking to fill is the Assistant Manager. This individual will report directly to the Restaurant General Manager and be accountable for restaurant operations. The candidate would need to have excellent Leadership and Analytical Skills. Be Results Oriented, Self Disciplined and a people developer. They would be thoroughly trained in Pizza Hut Operations and Financial Accountabilities. This opportunity comes with a salary range of \$24,000-\$36,000.

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To apply, please submit your resume via e-mail or fax to the attention of Angela Carter, HR Director at acarter@integracarehh.com fax at (817) 310-4990.

### REAL ESTATE

This ad is just a small sample of the properties that we currently have for sale. Please check our website and give us a call! We need your listings both large and small. all types of ag properties. (ESPECIALLY CRP)

**LONE WOLF RANCH** -EASTERN, NM- approx. 30 sections, mostly deeded some BLM & State, employee housing & three sets of steel pens, county maintained, all weather road. Mild climate year round

**TOM GREEN CO. TX DAIRY**-capable of milking 1500 in a parallel double 16 rapid exit parlor. large brick home recently remodeled, 171 acres, additional adj. land available, pavement & all weather road, near San Angelo.

**HARTLEY/MOORE COUNTY LINE** - corn, wheat, cotton, cattle with all the perks. 992 acres, sprinkler irrigated with some improved pasture, large brickhome, large set of state of the art steel working pens with concrete feed bunks & covered working area, on pavement. House, shop & horse barn on 2 acres may be bought separately.

**CASTRO COUNTY FARMS** -Three parcels- 413 acres, 609 acres on Hwy. 86, 160 acres in strong water Flagg area. To be sold separately or together. Sprinklers, irrigation wells.

**BAILEY/ LAMB CO. TX.**- 177 acres, 176.4 acres in CRP, Elm tree grove.

**EARTH 160**-¼ section, pivot sprinkler, two irrigation wells, close proximity to area dairies and deedyards

**WE CAN DIVIDE!**-Castro Co., TX-4949 acres +/- in four tracts, 7,200 cow dairy permit (4,000 milking), precon. pens permitted for 10,000 head, fully developed with pivot sprinklers, irr. wells, homes, barns, cattle pens with feed bunks on each tract, grain storage with dump pit and elevators, hwy. frontage. Nice owners home.

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Bailey County

**South of Muleshoe**- 354 acres of expired C.R.P. Good for grazing or to return to cultivation.  
**696 acres on State Line** - Expired C.R.P. Good Soils. A good farm to return to cultivation.  
**1598 acres** - 578 acres in C.R.P. w/one payment left. Balance of acreage is native grass. Joins Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge. Frontage on Texas Highway 214.  
**320 acres**- joins wildlife refuge, good well, fenced and cross fenced, good turf.  
**1083 acres of grassland** - good Mule Deer area. Good quail & dove hunting. 2 bedroom 2 bath house with fireplace. 2 bedroom bunkhouse with one bath, horse stall & pens, tack room/shop area and garage.  
**263 acres north of Bula** - 2 years remain on C.R.P. contract. A good farm if it does not remain in C.R.P.

**Lamb County**  
**Amherst Area**- 137 acres C.R.P. New 10 Year Contract.  
**177 acres of C.R.P.** - 2 **SOLD** on contract.  
**Earth Area**- 400 acres 2 sprinklers, 500 g.p.m. Good direct payment. On pavement.

**Castro County**  
**Dodd area** - 156 acres. 400 g.p.m., excellent soils, lays good, good pivot, on pavement.

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Thank you for reading the Muleshoe Journal!

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- 3-2-1 carport Home, Cent. A&H, DW, workshop/storage, fenced Yd.!! \$39.5K!!
- VERY NICE 3-2-2 Brick Home, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, approx. 2336' lv. area, auto. splkr, fenced yd, MORE!! \$125K!!
- VERY NICE 3-3-2 CP Home, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, approx. 2653' lv. area, covered deck & patio, workshop/ store cellar!! Auto. splkr. (front yd.) \$140,000!!!
- NICE 3-2-2 Home, corner lot, built-ins, Cent. A&H, workshop/storage plus storage building!! 1974' lv. area!! \$96K!!
- Very Nice 3-2-2 Brick Home, Cent. A&H, built-ins, nicely remodeled, Anderson windows, fans, utility, lots of storage, fenced yd., RV hookups in back!! \$95,000!!!

**RURAL**

- EARTH- NICE 3-2-2 Brick, Cent. A&H, Built-ins, FP, basement, cov. patio, 2 CP & insulated metal workshop/ storage in the fenced backyard!! \$92,900!!
- 4-2 Home on 2 acres, DW, duct for Cent. A&H, 2story, approx. 2153' lv. area. Selling "AS IS" \$42,925!!
- VERY NICE CUSTOM BUILT 3 Bedroom, 3 Bath, 2 car garage home, at edge of town on 80 acres!! Geothermal heat & air, built-ins, FP, ash cabinets, approx. 2544' main lv. area plus 625' finished basement w/safe & storage, splkr system, beautiful trees and landscaping, circle splkr, 5 wire barbwire fence. 36' x 48' metal insulated bldg w/2 12' doors!! MUCH MORE!!
- VERY NICE 4-3 doublewide (2006) on 7.38 acres, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, fenced yd., 25' x 40' Metal Bldg. septic system, domestic well, on pavement close to town!! \$152K \$130K!! MAKE OFFER
- NICE 4.8 acre homestead, deed restricted!! \$17,500!!
- S. of FM 145 on FM 303 - 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath home, plus a 4 Bedroom, 2 Bath doublewide on 2.12 acres with barn & workshop/storage!! \$116,000!!!
- LARIAT AREA - 3-1 Home, Cent. heat, 5 acres, 1989' lv. area (2 story), 2880' quonset barn, out bldgs., \$49.5K!! POSSIBLE OWNER FINANCE!!
- 3-2-1+ 2 CP Home on 6.4 ac. at edge of town, Cent. heat, DW, nice carpet & tile, fans w/lights, cellar, wkshop/ storage, fenced!! \$135K!! REDUCED \$110K!!!

**LENAU ADDITION**

- 3 Bdrm, 2 bath, 2 carport, Cent A&H, Dishwasher, WB Stove, approx. 2156' lv. area, 217 E. Elm. \$60K!!

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# Christmas Time...

Continued from page 3  
Archer's arm. "Come on."

With the handgun on Mike's right pocket, Thompson thought he might have a chance and grabbed for the hand, arm and hopefully control of the firearm.

There was a brief struggle that caught the attention of nearby customers and store associates, but half a second later, the handgun fired twice.

A pained expression crossed Thompson's face before he slumped to the floor, and at the same time, Archer shoved Louie Little away long enough to through a hard left into Mike's jaw. He fell back, tripping on Thompson's twitching foot, and hit the floor himself, with Archer on top of him.

When he climbed back to his feet, Archer had control of the handgun, and the situation. Covering the escapees, he paused long enough to shout for an ambulance and the police.

Then, as he waited for help to arrive, with customers gathering, Archer felt someone at his side again... it was Timothy.

"Can you help him?" Archer asked.

Timothy nodded. "I already have... he'll make it."

Archer felt an amazing sense of appreciation. "Thank you."

"Thank God," Timothy said.

"Thank God," Archer said, his eyes threatening tears, even while he held the gun on the Littles.

Within a couple of minutes, ambulance personnel were treating Thompson, and the Littles were handcuffed and back in custody.

"Why all of this?" Archer asked Timothy. "And at Christmas?"

## Births

**Buddy Nieto**  
Buddy and Erika Nieto of Earth announce the birth of their son, Buddy Nathanyal Nieto on Dec. 25, 2010, at 5:19 a.m., at Lamb Healthcare Center of Littlefield.

He weighed six pounds, four ounces at birth, and was 18-1/2 inches in length.

The Nieto's have one other child — Haylee.

His grandparents are Susie Mendez, and Max and Margarita Nieto.

"There's always been pain associated with Christmas," the angel said. "There is joy because of Christ's birth, but the purpose of his birth was for the salvation of man, through the sacrifice only the Father's only begotten Son could provide."

"Besides," Timothy said, the smile returning to his lips, "you're not as old as you think you are. God has more work for you... and he," Timothy paused and tilted his head toward Thompson, whom the ambulance crew was lifting into the back of the elevator, "is your Barnabus... or come to think of it, your Timothy." With that, the angel Timothy was gone.

Archer stood for a second in thought—remembering the traveling companion and student of the apostle Paul, before walking over to the ambulance, and opening the door. "Can I ride with him to the hospital?" he asked the paramedic.

"Is he a relative?" Archer nodded. "Yes, he's my brother in Christ... and I need to get to know him better."

The paramedic, who knew Archer from his time at the sheriff's department, nodded his ascent, and turned back to his work as Archer climbed in, sat down, and began to pray.

The End  
*(Editor's note: We hope you've enjoyed this year's "holy day" story, and the end of the saga that began with "The Christmas Angel.")*

Happy, healthy New Year to everyone!



# Newspaper Fun!

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It's a great time for new beginnings!



## Happy New Year, Everyone!

A happy, healthy New Year to you and your family.

I love celebrating on New Year's Eve and Day! I decorate, bake and make little snacks for my family's party. I write a short list of my resolutions - promises and ideas for little changes that I can work on - and then welcome in the New Year at midnight.

What do you like best about the New Year? Read my clues to fill in my puzzle:

- falling, shining globe
- its hands tell us the time
- what we do when we gather at parties
- the new year can give us a clean slate
- last month of the old year
- the world's most famous New Year's party is held here
- the Rose Bowl is always played on New Year's Day
- when you see this infant, it means new beginnings
- explosions in the sky
- a march through the center of town
- 5, 4, 3, 2, 1
- old man, stands for the past year, history
- the exact moment that the old year becomes new
- a promise to yourself to change
- first month of the new year
- tool to help keep track of dates in the new year
- these 'ring in' the new year
- group of people playing instruments
- Auld Lang Syne is a very popular one of these
- great time had by friends, family with music and food

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
We celebrated our 5th anniversary by giving out tons of fun, free puzzles all year long...our gift to our readers! Print out more puzzles at: [www.readingclubfun.com](http://www.readingclubfun.com)  
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Clues for crossword puzzle:  
1. resolution  
2. Baby New Year  
3. new beginnings  
4. celebrate  
5. Times Square  
6. countdown  
7. fireworks  
8. bells  
9. clock  
10. band  
11. party  
12. song  
13. parade  
14. January  
15. 5th  
16. What will we be doing in the New Year?  
17. You'll just have to come to find out!  
18. Grandfather Time  
19. December  
20. midnight  
21. dropping ball  
22. football game  
23. calendar

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