



Muleshoe Journal

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Court Says 'No' To SPAG Money, Menus

By Larry Thornton
Managing Editor

The Bailey County Commissioners Court voted not to continue acceptance of financial support for the local Meals on Wheels program during a special session on Nov. 21.

The court's decision was the result of the heightened menu restrictions received from the South Plains Association of

Governments which oversees the federal funds for such programs.

At the same time, the court urged local residents to contact their congressional leaders to complain about the onerous meal restrictions that have come down from the federal level.

"Call (Cong. Randy) Neugebauer's office," Precinct 3 Commissioner Joey Kindle said, "and

light up his phones."

"Either we abide by the new menus or we

don't

take the

SPAG

money,"

County

Judge Sherri

Harrison

said,

referring to a

Nov. 11 in a letter from

Tim Pierce of SPAG

which said that due

to changes in federal

requirements menus

for both the Meals on Wheels and the lunch program at the Oneita

Wagon

Senior

Center

would

have to

meet menu

restrictions

to continue

receiving

financial support

through SPAG.

In Pierce's letter he

noted that both the

menus and the recipes

for the meals had to be followed to receive the federal subsidy.

"I'm very agitated with them," Harrison said.

Following receipt of Pierce's letter, the judge contacted

representatives of Muleshoe Area Medical

Center, where the

program's meals are

currently prepared, and

was told the new menu

requirements were cost

prohibitive, and that the

county would need to contract with another organization to provide the meals if the menu changes remained in place.

The hospital's kitchen supplies the meals for the program at \$4 each, not including the cost of the meal containers.

While the local senior center, which also receives SPAG funding, will be required to follow the same menu

Continued on A3

County Faces Jailer Dilemma

By Larry Thornton
Managing Editor

In 1961, a book by Joseph Heller used the phrase "Catch-22," referring to situations in which an individual or organization needs something that can only be achieved by actions that lead the person or organization to an already existing situation... in other words a paradox.

For several months, the Bailey County Commissioners Court has been debating whether it should reduce the number of beds in its law enforcement center, with much of the discussion arising during the budget talks for FY 2011-12.

Low "out-of-county" inmate numbers had dramatically reduced the county revenues, leading to suggestions that the number of beds should be cut in half, and some of the jailers laid off as a means of balancing the budget. However, to do so would mean more of the funds needed to meet the law enforcement center's

Continued on A3

Rainbow Suggests Bright Future

The legend of the rainbow and the "pot of gold" fabled to be at its end inspires hopes of a bright future.

The truth of the legend was visible after the Friday, Nov. 25, rainfall which seemed to say that one of Muleshoe's treasures is Dillman Elementary.

Photograph by Larry Thornton



Photograph by Stacy Conner

Kicking Mule

Muleshoe fans are familiar and proud of their "kicking mule" logo, but spectators at Friday's game saw the real thing when Mule Isaac Baca was carrying the ball.

Mules' Road To State Continues

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

The Mules knew little about the Merkel Badgers other than what their coaches had been telling them and the film they had seen.

The Badgers had been sailing along under most of the Mules and their fans' radar, but hanging around in the top 10 of most of the rating polls.

It is tough to recover after a big win like the Mules had over the Godley Wildcats and get ready to play the

next week. The Badgers preferred to run the ball and have a true Division I prospect at tailback in the form of Frankie Harris. He had rushed for over 1400 yards on the season and had accrued over 5000 yards in his high school career.

The game turned into a battle but Saul Elizalde was determined that it would not be the last time he and his Mule team mates would play this season. It turned out that Elizalde was

Continued on B1

Court Considers Reissuing Certificates

By Larry Thornton
Managing Editor

The Bailey County Commissioners Court recently postponed a decision about about refinancing the 2003 certificates of obligation against the Bailey County Law Enforcement

Center until additional information could be received.

During its special session on Monday, Nov. 21, the court spoke with Steve Perry of Wells, Nelson & Associates who suggested the commissioners court consider a new series

of certificates with lower interest rates and payments.

He estimated a saving for the county, after his company's charges, of at least \$150,000.

"You've got better standing than bonds without a tax base," he said.

Currently, the certificates are at an interest rate of about six percent, Perry said, but reissuing the certificates could save the county almost 3.050 percent

by lowering the rate to about 2.966 percent.

If the certificates can't be reissued within a six month period, Perry said, there would be no cost to county.

There is currently 12 years remaining on the law enforcement center's certificates, and reissuing them would not extend the life of the certificates, Perry said.

Before making a decision on the issue Precinct 3 Commissioner Joey

Kindle suggested that additional bond counsel companies be contacted for comparison, and suggested that advice be sought from local banking officials and the county attorney.

Although Perry was originally scheduled to appear at Monday's court, that morning's weather conditions prevented him from flying to Muleshoe, as a result he spoke to the court members by telephone.



File Now For County Elections

County residents thinking about filing for office have a couple more days to consider their options according to Bailey County Clerk Paula Benton.

Although the first day to file was Monday, the final day has been extended to Thursday, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m.

County positions

up for reelection, and their current office holder, include County Sheriff, Richard Wills incumbent; County Constable, unfilled since the death of Gerry Pierce; Tax Assessor - Collector, Melba Clark incumbent; Precinct 1 Commissioner, Floyd "Butch" Vandiver incumbent; Precinct 3 Commissioner, Joey

Kindle incumbent; and

County Attorney, Jackie Claborn II incumbent.

The upcoming primary election is set for March 6, 2012, with the last day to register to vote being Feb. 6

Early voting for the primary will be from Feb. 21 to March 2, and the general election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 8.



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OPINION

Super news from MISD

By
Superintendent
Dr. Gene Sheets

Around Muleshoe...



Announcements
from non-profit
organizations
in the Muleshoe area.

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

FSA Ballots

Ballots to all eligible voters in LAA-1 (A Community) started being mailed out on Nov. 4. Dec. 5 is the final date that ballots must be postmarked if mailed, or be received in the Bailey County Farm Service Agency Office.

Producers are encouraged to vote and return ballots timely. Ballots must be signed in order to be eligible. "Powers of attorney" cannot be used to sign for individuals.

Ballots will be counted on Dec. 8, at the Bailey County FSA Office, 111 E. Ave. D, Muleshoe.

Project Christmas Card

Project Christmas Card is under way at Park View Nursing Care Center. Mail donations to Joy Stancell at Park View, 1100 w. Ave. J, or drop donations off at Muleshoe State Bank or First Bank by Dec. 13.

MAMC Blood Drive

Muleshoe Area Medical Center will be hosting a blood drive with Coffee Memorial Blood Center on Wednesday, Nov. 30, from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m., in the hospital's dining hall. Photo identification or a donor identification card is required, and you must be 17 years of age to donate. For an appointment call 1-800-574-8800 or the MAMC lab to make an appointment to donate.

Scouting For Food

Muleshoe's Pack 620 cub Scouts will be picking up canned goods on Saturday, Dec. 10. Individuals wishing to donate items should place them on their front porch.

Local students injured during lab demonstration

Two Muleshoe High School students were treated and released from Muleshoe Area Medical Center Monday, Nov. 21, after receiving minor injuries during a chemistry

demonstration gone awry, according to Superintendent Dr. Gene Sheets.

While several other students also received minor injuries when a glass beaker exploded during the demonstration, Sheets said they were treated on campus by school district nurses.

According to the superintendent, the science and math teacher involved, Ian Campbell, has performed this particular demonstration in the past without any problems.

However, pursuant to school district policy, he remains under paid leave while the school district investigates the incident.

More Turkey

Two students in Joan Nix's class turned in their turkey recipes too late for last week's issue.

My mom gets a turkey where the store is. Cook it 3 weeks. She knows it's cooked because she sees it in there. It is green.

— Axel

Grandma gets a turkey from the Dollar Store. She puts salt on it. She puts it on... I forgot. She cooks it 500 hours. It is 6 degrees. She knows it's finished when it smells different. We eat it with chicken

— Jacob

Superintend Says Muleshoe ISD Is Truly Blessed

I love this time of year. The time between the Thanksgiving Holidays and the Christmas Holidays is a wonderful time to reflect on the blessings we enjoy. Muleshoe Independent School District has been very blessed this year. We have a quality faculty and staff, quality programs, and quality students.

We have had other schools come to visit Muleshoe campuses this year to learn why we have been so successful.

When you are successful, others want to know what you are doing. That's a great



compliment to our faculty and staff.

Our employees are dedicated to doing whatever it takes to help our students be successful. They love

our students, and they work as hard as any group I've ever seen.

One of the blessings the school district has received is a Recognized Rating from the Texas

Education Agency.

We are the only school district within 50 miles that received a Recognized Rating from the TEA for 2011.

Continued on A3

Letter to the Editor

MoW Director Talks About Program's Problems

To the Editor:

I know you have heard about the Meals on Wheels program and the trouble it is in. During the month of November, Meals on Wheels received notices of new menu items that had to be followed or federal funding would not be sent out to our program.

The new menu changes were given to Muleshoe Area Medical Center's dietician and she was put to the test of fitting the new menu in with the hospitals current menu, however as of Nov. 16, the menu changes put a demanding strain on the current menu and the dietician came to the conclusion that if they had to go by these new rules MAMC would no longer be able to continue preparing Meals on Wheels.

Meals on Wheels is funded by donations and a small amount from South Plains Association of Governments, however in the past months we have not received enough donations to make our monthly payment of \$4,500.

Meals on Wheels is currently behind two months payments to MAMC, making this total about \$9,000.

Bailey County Meals on Wheels met with the Bailey County Commissioners Court on Monday, Nov. 21, and the court voted to reject all funding from SPAG (for the Meals on Wheels program) due to these strict menu changes and to keep business ties with Muleshoe Area Medical Center.

As of Dec. 1, Meals on Wheels will no longer be federally funded through SPAG. This, however, causes Meals on Wheels to run only on donations from our community.

As you are all aware each meal costs \$4 a day. Due to the new funding situation, I will have to change the guidelines and regulations associated with Meals on Wheels to meet our monthly payment for the meals.

Some of those guidelines will eliminate clients from Meals on Wheels unless they are willing to pay a monthly payment of \$90.

I will be evaluating

clients sometime in the upcoming months.

Meals on Wheels is a program that should be kept for our elderly here in Bailey County; however, if things do not change, I am afraid we may lose this program for good.

If you have any questions or concerns,

please don't hesitate to contact me, I am hoping and trusting for the best as I know you all will too. My contact information is above; thank you all for your attention.

Shelby Carpenter,
Bailey County
Meals on Wheels
Director

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'Poppa' Article Impresses Reader

To the editor:

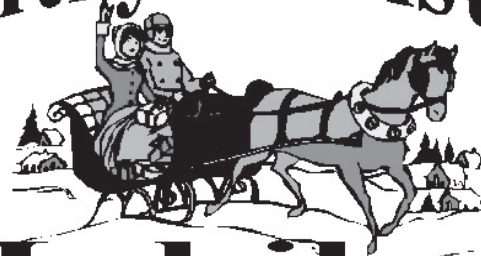
I was so impressed with the article submitted by Turner Wiggins about his Poppa Turner.

Thank you Muleshoe Journal for giving young people (or older) the chance to share their thoughts about the cancer disease of someone the love (or loved.)

The article written by Turner was very touching as we also knew his "Poppa."

Mamie Blaylock
Mineral Wells

Country Christmas Jubilee



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Research Grant For Cancer Prevention Announced

Texas Tech University and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, in partnership with United Supermarkets has announced a public-private partnership to develop, implement and evaluate a multi-tiered approach to enhance primary cancer prevention and help cancer survivors reduce their risk for cancer recurrence, within rural communities.

This project is funded by the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) and runs through February 2013.

The goal of the project is to substantially prevent cancer and cancer recurrences in one rural community — Muleshoe.

If successful, this

project will develop a feasible intervention program which could be replicated and enable other small, rural communities to successfully address multiple cancer risks and ultimately reduce the cancer incidence within the community.

“United Supermarkets is very excited to be part of this important research study. We strive to make a positive impact on our guests’ lives every day and, through this partnership with the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center,” said Tyra M. Carter, PhD, RD, LD, corporate dietitian for United Supermarkets, LLC.

“We will be actively working to reduce cancer risks and change behaviors in our very own community,” she

said. The project aims to address the most preventable sources of cancer — obesity, tobacco use and sunburn.

Randomly selected participants will be evaluated through repeated measurements of body mass index (BMI) and blood pressure levels, combined with an analysis of the participants’ three-day food records, supermarket sales records, and survey data assessing health status and cancer-preventing related behaviors.

Additionally, behavior changes in both the type and frequency of sunburn prevention practices and tobacco product usage will be monitored.

“There appears to be little difference in

the cancer incidence and mortality rates of rural and urban populations, however evidence suggests that cancer tends to be diagnosed at a more advanced stage among rural populations,” said Conrad Lyford, PhD, Texas Tech professor and project director.

“Rural areas often have limited services available to foster the prevention of cancer,

and this project implements and tests the effectiveness of an accessible program designed to reduce cancer risks,” he said.

Through the collaboration with United, participants will be exposed to cancer prevention educational materials emphasizing nutrient rich, cancer-

preventing foods. Additionally, food demonstrations and consumer education classes that focus on cancer risk factors, cancer prevention, and the importance of appropriate preventive actions will be conducted at United locations and other community venues.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Muleshoe ISD will hold an AEIS — Academic Excellence Indicator System and AYP — Annual Yearly Progress, public hearing on December 12, 2011 at 12 noon, at the MISD Administration Office, 514 West Avenue G, Muleshoe, TX, for the purpose of presenting an overview of the District’s 10-11 accountability rating.

Published in the Muleshoe Journal on Dec. 1 and 8, 2011.

HealthTip

Do you know that over half of all cancers are preventable by your behavior?

For example, small changes in eating will have a big impact on health. Just don’t take that second helping or skip the dessert

Look for messages in the *Muleshoe Journal* to help you do your part in preventing cancers with those you love.

Support the merchants who support the Mules!

Super News

Continued from A2
This rating comes at a time when accountability standards in Texas have increased to the highest levels ever. Muleshoe ISD has been rated Recognized academically for three years in a row!

To celebrate our

Recognized Rating, we recently changed our

billboard on the west side of town.

If you have not seen the new school billboard in front of the Muleshoe ISD Transportation Department building on the west side of town, go by and look at the side that faces west.

The east side of the billboard shows the 2008 Football State Championship picture.

The west side of the billboard shows the Texas Education Agency’s “Recognized” academic rating for three years in a row.

Successful in academics and successful in athletics... that’s worth putting up on a billboard!

It’s a great time to be a Mule!

Meals On Wheels...

Continued from A1
restrictions, the judge said her meeting with center officials hadn’t provided a solution to the problem.

She explained that the senior center had decided it would need more than \$5 per meal, with the additional requirement that all donations toward Meals on Wheels be turned over to the center.

“It’s a no brainer,” the judge told the commissioners, referring to the senior center’s offer. She

explained that the SPAG funding provides only \$1.18 for each meal, and that the Meals on Wheels donations pay the remaining cost.

Handing over the donations along with the SPAG funding, the judge said, would still require the county to fund more than \$3.82 per meal.

Although the county receives some other SPAG funding, it is for the separate county senior transportation program.

By not accepting the

SPAG money, the county will not have to meet the additional menu requirements, and MAMC will continue preparing the meals at the \$4 per meal rate.

“I don’t see any choice but to reject the funding,” Kindle said prior to the motion and vote to reject the SPAG funding.

Letters to Cong. Randy Neugebauer may be addressed to 611 University Ave., Suite #220, Lubbock, Texas 79401. Or call (806) 763-1611.

County Jailers Needed...

Continued from A1
certificates of obligation payments, which were issued to pay for the center’s construction, would have to be funded from other sources.

But now that the jail census is recovering — with Bailey County receiving prisoners both Curry County, N.M., prisoners, and federal prisoners

— Sheriff Richard Wills says the jail is rapidly approaching a “catch-22” situation.

The law enforcement center may have to cut back on the number of “out-of-county” prisoners received unless more full-time and part-time jailers can be hired.

Although the jailers work some difficult

hours, including nights, weekend and holiday shifts, according to the sheriff, they receive an annual salary of \$24,500, with retirement, group life and medical insurance.

“It’s a good place to start, with benefits, especially for someone with an interest in law enforcement,” the sheriff said.

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Seventh Billion Baby Is Born and Social Security Changes

A seventh billion baby is born...

How an accurate count of that can be had, I don't know, but evidently they believe they can do it. And if the counts are accurate, as I suppose they are, they show a gradual but steady increase in the earth's population.

Which means an increase in the facilities that will be necessary to produce the food, shelter, medical attention, the schools and training, the automobiles, repairs, roads, air ports and countless other things. And that will all cost money, which will mean more taxes. In my opinion we

Something worth saying...

By Glen Williams

are going to grow, as a nation, I mean population wise. And therefore we will have to come to grips with these things.

But I would say also, that if we do grow as a nation and continue to prosper, we are going to need to change some of our ways. Which means we need to change the purpose for which we plan to devote our time and efforts.

I am aware of the fact that a majority of the people will likely

not agree with me on this. But I would say, too, that what we are as a nation is the sum total of what we are as individuals. And that will be, or is, the way we relate to each other.

And that, I think, is a reflection of the moral values we seek, hold and teach our young ones.

I have observed that carefully for 75 years, or perhaps a little more, and the changes have been almost unbelievable — I'm sorry to say, not for

the better. But now I need to deviate a little because yesterday I received a two-page letter from Cong. Randy Neugebauer relative to our social security and Medicare programs. I had written him about those things and this is his response. The problem is, as you know a financial one. And if we are to continue with them they must have attention.

I have been concerned about them for some time because that is where "we get our living."

I have paid my taxes, and I was glad to do that because I really believe I

get as much good from the money I spend for taxes as from any I spend.

Mr. Neugebauer explained the programs like this;

"I believe that in order to save these important programs for future generations, we must reform them. I do not support eliminating them and I do not support making any changes that would affect anyone currently 55 or older. However, I want to make these programs better so they are sustainable for the long term."

And he let it be known that he would appreciate any

suggestions about reforming the programs that any of us might have.

Social Security was designed by Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt and passed by the Congress. It has proven to be the most successful of any federal program ever developed and passed.

So let me suggest, any thoughts that we might have about this, let's pass them on to our public officials for they want to hear from us.

I will try to get back to the other subject the next time around. Until then, thanks for your goodness and kindness.

BAILEY COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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Matt 1 Genealogy (Part 1) (Solutions on B6)

L	M	V	W	A	P	P	L	G	I	R	J	H	V	U	E	M	Q	M	C	F	M	J	F	A
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B	I	R	V	M	O	N	V	J	O	Y	X	Z	A	O	O	T	Q	C	C	N	L	Y	O	F
C	E	Q	X	Q	V	X	Y	E	D	L	T	V	X	B	T	R	A	P	H	W	M	Q	I	D
P	K	I	D	Y	Y	D	B	F	G	S	I	P	Z	A	X	V	H	L	C	A	S	V	M	Q

Jehoram	Solomon	Salmon	Perez
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 6 p.m.; Wed. 7:30 p.m.
LAZBUDDIE CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Nathan Crawford, Min.
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 & 5 pm; Wed. 7 pm
MULESHOE CHURCH OF CHRIST
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BAILEY COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE

Obituaries

Norma Lee Mayben

Graveside services for Norma Lee Osborn Mayben, 82, of Abilene were held on Tuesday, Nov. 22, in Muleshoe Memorial Park under the direction of The Hamil Family Funeral Home of Abilene.

Norma Lee Mayben was born on Aug. 27, 1929, in Clovis, N.M., to Jesse M. Osborn and Grace May Osborn. She died on Monday, Nov. 21, 2011, at her residence in Abilene.

The family moved from Friona to Muleshoe in 1931.

Mrs. Mayben received her bachelor's degree from Texas Woman's College in Denton and taught at Muleshoe.

She married G. W. "Bill" Mayben on Jan. 27, 1951, in Muleshoe. They farmed at Bovina until he joined Amoco Oil, and they lived in a number of locations including London, before moving to Houston.

Mrs. Mayben moved to Abilene in 1996.

She was a member of John Wesley Methodist Church of Houston; Alibates Chapter, Daughters of the American Colonists; Panhandle Colony, Magna Charta Dames; and Daniel Wing Chapter, Colonial Dames XVII Century and other local genealogical societies.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband — G.W. Mayben; her brother — Edward Marion Osborn; her daughter — Norma Sue Mayben; her son — George William Mayben; and five grandchildren — Cary Crofts Best, Josiah Best, Victoria Lee Luke, Meagan Bethel Luke and G.W. Joseph Luke.

She is survived by her daughter — Sherri Allyson Mayben-Stockner and husband Robert Christian Stockner of Palmdale, Calif., and her sister — Mary Sue Osborn Coleman of Amarillo; and her niece — Susan Lee Coleman of Amarillo.

Other survivors include six grandchildren — Darcy Jane Radcliffe and her husband Justin of Abilene; Grace Mae Robinson and her

husband Michael of Warwick, R.I.; Mark Abram Best of Miami, Fla.; Abigail Browning Taylor of Seattle, Wash.; Hannah Elizabeth Best Denton and her husband Anthony of Fredrick, Md.; Sarah Golden Best of Seattle, Wash.; and two great-grandchildren — Elaina Aubrey Robinson and Nathanael Avery Robinson of Warwick, R.I.

The family request memorials to Brenham State School, Brenham, Texas 77833.

Online condolences may be posted at www.hamilfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Turkey, Tofurkey, And No Pardon For The White House Turkey

After much deliberation and serious soul-searching, I've come to a conclusion. If I'm ever elected President of these United States and Thanksgiving rolls around, I'm not pardoning the turkey.

I'm sorry if that flies in the face of tradition, but if it's ever up to me, that bird's a goner. If you disagree, fine.

Pray all you want for a "stay of execution." My prayer will simply be that the white meat be as juicy and tender as the dark meat and that it not be overcooked.

Our nation has recently been embroiled in a poultry scandal. A major supplier of eggs (chicken eggs, not turkey eggs) has come under fire for alleged cruelty to chickens.

I'm all for kindness to animals of all sorts. I don't even like the idea of anybody pulling the wings off of flies, though, with apologies to frogs and users of medical maggots, and admitting there would likely be some negative ecological consequences, I'd be quite happy if they'd all

Congratulations To Our Mules For Merkel Win

By Brittany Gibbs

Congratulations once again to our wonderful Mules on the victory over Merkel!

We hope everyone is staying warm and enjoying this cold weather we have been having.

Don't forget this Saturday, Dec. 3, is our pancake breakfast so come down and have a good homemade breakfast then stay and watch the Christmas parade with us.

This week at the Oneita Wagnon Senior Center we have Bunko on Tuesday morning and Bingo Thursday afternoon, so grab a friend and come join in on all the fun down at the center.

We would like

Senior Citizen News

everyone to know that we are continuing to work with the nutritionist from South Plains Association of Governments on the menus.

We can assure you that we will still have are good nutritious meals at the center, and would like to invite all of our wonderful seniors to come have lunch with us! A \$3 donation is greatly appreciated for a meal.

Wishing everyone a wonderful week, from all your friends at the senior center.

Menu for Dec. 5-9:

Monday, Dec. 5 — Vegetable beef stew,

salad, cornbread and orange- pineapple cup.

Tuesday, Dec. 6 — Barbecue brisket, beans, coleslaw, cornbread and strawberries.

Wednesday, Dec. 7 — Chicken-fried steak, gravy, mashed potatoes,

stewed okra, seasoned corn and pumpkin squares.

Thursday, Dec. 8 — Baked chicken breast, baked potatoes, peas and chocolate pudding.

Friday, Dec. 9 — Breaded fish, tarter sauce, potato wedges, coleslaw and peach chantilly.

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Focus On Faith
Curtis Shelburne

die (flies, that is).

"Suffer not a fly to live" is my motto. But I don't see any reason to be mean even to a fly before splattering its innards across a flyswatter.

On up the scale, I'd say chickens are even more deserving of kindness. Down with cruelty to cluckers! They should be free to lay their eggs in peace and tranquility. I'd like to think I'm eating an egg laid by a contented bird or a leg from a clucker that was happy as a clam before it went the way chickens were created to go.

But I wonder if I could be forgiven (probably not) for wondering how much actually registers in a chicken's very small brain. When I was a kid visiting my grandparents at Robert Lee, I remember Granddaddy walking out the back door of

the house and into the "pen."

He deftly chased down a chicken, caught it by the neck, made a wish (maybe), twirled it the way he might have cranked the engine on a Ford Model T car, and off flopped the bird's head.

What happened next surprised me. The now-headless brainless bird began to run wildly all around the pen. For chickens, at least for a little while, brains are

Continued on A8

ADVENT PRAYERS & DEVOTIONS

WEEKDAYS
DEC. 5-16
10:00 A.M.



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and prayers led by Curtis Shelburne are designed to help us in this busy season "prepare our hearts" as we approach the wonderful celebration of Christ's birth.

We hope these devotions offer a wonderful few moments of quiet, beautiful, and worshipful reflection. Whether you can come once, or twice, or every day, you're most welcome!

For more information, call: (806) 272-4619



You are invited to Trinity Christian Center Church's Annual

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Dates:
Thursday, December 1st

Time and Place:
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Trinity Christian Center Church
1723 W. American Blvd.
Muleshoe, Texas

Doors will open at 6:00 p.m.

Admission is free with a free-will donation taken up during the concert for Muleshoe Meals on Wheels.

All proceeds will go directly to Meals on Wheels. Invite friends and family, and come to celebrate the Season with us!

HealthTip

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AGRICULTURAL NEWS

Drought To Be Focus Of Cow-Calf Conference

By Kay Ledbetter
ag.tamu.edu

Drought will be the focus of the Cattle Trails Cow-Calf Conference, a joint effort between Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, to be held Jan. 6 in Wichita Falls.

This annual conference provides cow-calf producers the most up-to-date information on topics that influence cattle profits, said Stan Bevers, AgriLife Extension

economist in Vernon. The slogan of the annual conference is "driving your cattle to profits," and Bevers said this year's drought made it tough to generate any profit. "However, ranchers have been through droughts before," he said. "The difference now is the additional rising input costs and market volatility," Bevers added. "Coming out of this drought will require a new level of understanding and

pencil pushing." The conference, which alternates between Texas and Oklahoma each year, will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Multi-Purpose Events Center, 1000 Fifth Street in Wichita Falls. Registration is \$25 per person and includes educational materials, a copy of the conference proceedings, a noon meal and refreshments. Additional information can be obtained at <http://agrisk.tamu.edu>.

The keynote speaker for the event will be Bryan Rupp, KFDX TV 3 meteorologist from Wichita Falls. Rupp will provide his forecast as well as what to expect from changing weather patterns in this area. "While nobody knows what the 2012 weather will be, ranchers should start preparing their response to improving weather," Bevers said. Additional speakers include Extension faculty from both Oklahoma and Texas. Topics to be discussed

include drought-related effects on the area's cow herd, reinvesting after the drought, the drought's impact on natural resources, and how herd dynamics can and should change. Industry sponsors also will have their products on display during the event. West Texas producers

are encouraged to preregister by contacting their local AgriLife Extension county agent, their Oklahoma Cooperative Extension county educator, or by contacting Karen Thompson at 940-552-9941, extension 217 or kethompson@ag.tamu.edu.

Fuel Costs To Impact Electricity Bills

Xcel Energy has submitted plans to the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) for a revised fuel cost factor that will add \$6.30, or seven percent, to a typical winter residential bill of 1,000 kilowatt-hours. The company also seeks revision of the formula used to calculate the factor. If approved, the added charges primarily will cover anticipated increases in the company's natural gas purchases when it cuts back on coal-fueled power generation to comply with the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency's (EPA) Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR). CSAPR requires Texas electricity generators to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxide (NOx) and sulfur dioxide (SO2) by as much as 50 percent starting Jan. 1. Company officials said the only realistic, short-term compliance option is to reduce output of coal-fueled plants, which emit more NOx and SO2 than natural gas-fueled plants. Riley Hill, president and CEO of Southwestern Public Service Company, an

Xcel Energy company, said natural gas is more expensive than coal, and the current fuel factor formula used to figure average fuel costs will be outdated when the company starts leaning more heavily on natural gas as part of its short-term CSAPR compliance plan. Customers are charged for the cost of fuel through a line-item charge called the fuel cost factor. As fuel costs rise and fall, the fuel factor is changed to reflect the market. The company does not profit from fuel charges. "We have a long track record of implementing reasonable, cost-effective emission control strategies, but we can't possibly retrofit our coal-fueled plants in time to meet the new requirements," Hill said. "We'll have to shift the burden of our generating requirements to the higher-cost natural gas plants until new emission control

technologies can be installed at our coal plants." Xcel Energy and other Texas power companies were not included in year-round emissions requirements until the EPA rule was issued and published this summer. The company already had budgeted for new emission controls at its coal-fueled plants, but anticipated having

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Easy Plant Identification, Management Webinar Set

By Kay Ledbetter
ag.tamu.edu

Plants of all kinds spring to life after a rain or disturbance, but how does one go about identifying what role it plays on the range and how to manage it? On Thursday, Dec. 1, the final presentation in a series of webinars offered by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service's ecosystem science and management unit will be "Online Resources for Plant ID and Management." The program will be presented by Dr. Megan Dominguez, AgriLife Extension range specialist in Corpus Christi. The webinars are offered from noon to 1 p.m. every first Thursday of the month. This webinar, as well as others in the series, can be accessed at <http://naturalresourcewebinars.tamu.edu>,

and qualifies for one general pesticide license continuing education unit, according to Dominguez. With so many options available, it is important to understand where to go to easily identify plant species and find information about rangeland, such as the Rangeland Plants of Texas Database and the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resource Conservation Service Web Soil Survey, Dominguez said. This webinar will also cover PESTMAN, a free, web-based decision support system that assists rangeland managers in making economically beneficial brush and weed management decisions, she said. For more information on the webinars, contact Brittany Grube, graduate assistant, at Brittany.grube@agnet.tamu.edu.

Continued on A7

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The Sudan Buzzy

April's Christmas Doll... Continued from A8

tingling she felt in her head than the conversation with the neighbor.

"Is that short for Mrs. Browning?" the neighbor asked.

"No, just Mrs. Bea." Then April went outside to play, soon to forget about how her new doll acquired its name.

"Oh, Mrs. Bea," April said to the doll as it rested next to her on the bottom step of the porch. "It's just a few days until Christmas, and there's not any presents under the tree yet."

Things hadn't improved much in the Browning household during the months since April's birthday. Although her father was working part-time now, and there had been plenty of food on the table — even if too much of that was vegetables — April didn't have many hopes about the present of which she continued to dream. Since there weren't any presents at all under the tree in the living room, there was absolutely no chance that April would get "Arika" for Christmas.

Several days after Morris left the North Pole, Santa did indeed go to Mrs. Bea's cabinet. With Christmas Eve only a week away and the final preparations for this year's trip being made, it was time for him to prepare his final Christmas list.

Long ago, Santa had learned that what a child really wanted or needed didn't always appear in the letters sent to him, so he began to sit and listen to children's thoughts as they traveled north from places around the world. Then when the world's population began to grow, he made Mrs. Bea to help him listen. For most of the year, she chose to sit quietly in the seclusion of her cabinet, listening to the dreams and sometimes the tears of the world's children.

Every once in a while throughout the year, Santa would stop by and they would work on the list for the next Holiday season. Although Mrs. Bea was

a magical creation, and not really a living being, he deeply appreciated her assistance. It was a hard thing to be able to listen in on the too often troubled thoughts of the world's children, and know that your magic wasn't sufficient to take all the hurt or longing away. Between their efforts and those of all the elves and creatures who helped Santa, at least a few of each child's dreams would appear under the tree or inside a stocking on Christmas Day. But now, with this year's Christmas list still incomplete, especially large portions in the United States, Mrs. Bea along with all the information she'd accumulated since the last time Santa had visited her was missing.

Morris' trip south would have lasted days beyond Christmas had he been limited to "normal" means of transportation. Anyone who deals with elves on a frequent basis can tell you that few things can outdistance an elf. Of course, there are the obvious things such as Santa's sleigh pulled by its magical reindeer, or an angel. Elves, you see, travel like the wind. To be more accurate, they travel with the wind.

Throughout the centuries, elves have maintained their friendships with the various winds circling the globe, and have come to rely on this relationship for transportation. When Morris left Santa's village it was a simple matter to catch a ride on the next icy gale headed south.

Fortunately, however, since all winds blowing from the North Pole are blowing south, the wind he asked was one which would carry him to North America. It's a long way from the north coast of Canada to Oklahoma and Mrs. Bea, but its a lot closer than the other route through the snow-covered forests of Siberia.

After dropping the young elf off at Chicago — which incidentally got its

nickname of "the windy city" from the annual air current convention which is traditionally held there — the north wind continued on with the delivery of snow and sleet which it was scheduled to drop over Kentucky.

The streets of Chicago can be rough even when you aren't four-feet tall and wearing a pointed cap and shoes with curled toes and a tiny bell. Fortunately, the business district in which Morris eventually found himself had enough department stores with their seasonal holiday decorations that his attire if not his physical stature was almost totally ignored.

Still, it wasn't long before Morris' quest started to attract a little attention. While he was walking through the toy department of a rather large department store, Morris suddenly had the feeling he was being watched. He looked around, looking down the aisle up at the toy shelves surrounding him, but didn't see anyone or anything. With a shrug of his shoulders, he went back to his search.

Expect for the odd feeling he had, it had been a very uneventful day. Neither the department store's elves nor the toys lining all the shelves knew anything about Mrs. Bea. And while he hadn't actually expected any type of answer from the dolls, since even in Santa's workshops the number of dolls created greatly exceeded the number of magic dolls, he was more surprised by the reception he received from what he believed to be fellow elves.

Although Morris couldn't see anyone watching him, he was right about being watched. While the young elf was familiar with life at the North Pole, he had a great deal to learn about mankind and the trappings of "civilization." Overhead, its lens concealed by a dark plastic inverted dome, was a remote-controlled camera operated from a console store's security department.

Harry Lipton, the head of the department store's small security force, continued to watch the television screen

showing the short man in the elf costume in the toy section. "You're sure he's not extra holiday help," he asked the security officer seated next to him.

"Not absolutely. We don't have a name yet to check out with Personnel, but it was one of the store elves who called him to our attention. ...This guy was asking a bunch of weird questions about a doll," the officer said, nodding toward the television screen.

"Could he be shopping?" asked Lipton.

"...For a magical doll?" said the officer.

Lipton glanced over at the officer. "Are you serious?" he asked.

The officer gave a quick smile. "A stocker got close enough to hear him talking to the stuffed animals. Think he's a nut?"

Lipton sat back in his chair, and began to rub his chin slowly. When the small man on the screen turned and walked further down the aisle, Lipton leaned forward and pushed a series of buttons on the console. Just as the small man was about to walk out of view, the screen switched to another view — this one showing the man's approach.

"You'd better bring him up here for a talk, just to be safe," Lipton said as he sat back in his chair again.

"Should I call the police," asked the officer. Lipton shook his head and said, "Not until we know what we've got."

Back in the North Pole, a very puzzled Santa Claus was doing his best to learn Mrs. Bea's whereabouts. A quick check of the remaining cabinets in the workshop revealed nothing else was missing.

"I just don't know where she could be," Santa said, as he ran his fingers through his thick white beard. Percy, Santa's chief assistant, shrugged his shoulders. "Someone must have taken her," he said. "She couldn't have just walked away... she's a doll."

Santa chuckled softly. "After all these years, Percy, you still haven't realized there isn't such a thing as 'just a doll.'"

Maybe I've had you pushing pencils and counting the supplies too long? Each doll we make is special ...they have to be. They're like piggy banks storing love until some little girl needs to make a withdrawal to give to someone who needs a little more love."

Santa suddenly rose from his chair by the fireplace and walked across the room to his big rolltop desk. "Just a moment," he said as he wrote a name down on a long sheet of paper. "So, Bobby McClure wants a new pair of gloves. We'll have to see what we can do about that. It's going to get very cold in Montana this winter."

"Doesn't that ever bother you?" Percy asked.

"What, taking a moment to write down someone's Christmas wish?" The elf nodded his head.

"No, not really. But trying to write a note when I'm helping Mrs. Claus pull taffy can be tricky." Santa's chuckle turned into a full-blown belly laugh. "The last time... you almost had to come cut me loose," he added as he held his sides from mirth.

It was several minutes before their conversation returned to Mrs. Bea's location. "Dolls are special, and Mrs. Bea is 'extra-special,'" Santa said. "She was created from a Christmas wish of my own, and to be perfectly honest, I don't know what all she can do. Walk? Probably, if she wants to... and maybe many other things besides, but if we don't locate her, it will be a sad Christmas for thousands of hopeful children."

(Watch for "April's Christmas Doll" to be continued in next week's issue of the Muleshoe Journal.)



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Higher Energy Costs...

Continued from A6

several years to make the changes. Now the company must comply by Jan. 1.

Hill said Xcel Energy will comply with new rules, but is challenging the EPA through a lawsuit that seeks to throw out CSAPR so a more reasonable plan can be worked out.

"The outcome of the legal action probably won't be known until after the first of the year, so we have to be ready to comply by January," Hill said. "Today's fuel cost filing is part of that plan. If the EPA rule changes and the resulting higher fuel costs don't materialize, we will not implement the planned increase."

Hill added that customers can play a role in reducing fuel costs by making their homes more energy efficient and by reducing their use of heating and cooling systems, which account for most of their energy dollars.

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April's Christmas Doll

(As part of the Muleshoe Journal's effort to help make Christmas a joyous for parents and children, the following serial story will be featured in the Journal beginning this issue.)

By Larry Thornton

Far to the north, in a land blanketed in snow, ice and magic where the months of spring or summer didn't exist, Morris the youngest elf in Santa's village, made a startling discovery Mrs. Bea wasn't in her cabinet.

Ever since he started working in Santa's collection of workshops, Morris had been amazed by the doll, Mrs. Bea, and the other magical instruments and tools which Santa kept in this particular cabinet. In fact, on more than one occasion, he had been scolded by the head elf for visiting with Mrs. Bea rather than getting his work done.

On the morning Morris discovered

Mrs. Bea was gone, he had been told to sweep the workshop before the next shift of elves arrived for work. Although he knew he shouldn't, Morris took a peek in the cabinet, intending only to say a quick "good morning" to the doll. But where he should have found Mrs. Bea, sitting on the self with her painted smile, there was only empty space.

Puzzled about what could have happened to Santa Claus' magical doll and fearing that he would be scolded once more for bothering her, Morris quietly closed the cabinet door and went about his cleaning. Occasionally he would glance at the cabinet door as he worked, and wonder what became of the doll.

When the head elf toured the workshop a few minutes later, Morris almost told Santa's chief assistant about Mrs. Bea's disappearance, but

decided against it at the last minute. As the head elf told Morris what a wonderful job he was doing, the youngest elf smiled sheepishly and remained silent.

Morris remained silent for several weeks. He listened for gossip about the doll in the village, but the topic was never brought up.

Eventually, Morris knew, Santa would stop by to see Mrs. Bea and the chances that he would do so became greater as Christmas drew nearer.

As the days passed, and still no one said a word about the doll being missing, something else began to trouble the youngest elf: Should he have told someone about his discovery weeks ago?

As Christmas drew closer, Morris decided his only hope to avoid trouble was to locate Mrs. Bea himself. He didn't know how he'd accomplish the task

or where she had gone to, but one day when everyone else was busy preparing for Santa's Christmas Eve journey Morris left the North Pole.

* * * *

Morris wasn't the only one to be displeased by the rapid approach of the Christmas Season. In central Oklahoma, a ten-year-old girl sitting on the steps in front of her house was also having troubled thoughts of Christmas.

April would have been a lot happier if it was May, or better yet October. May had always been one of her favorite months because school would let out for the summer. As for October, both her birthday and Halloween were in October, making it an extra special month.

This year's birthday party wasn't as big as the parties she'd had when her father was working. Her parents, Aunt Elizabeth and

Tommy from next doors were the only people at the party, but April hadn't minded too much. "...Not really," she muttered to herself.

The sudden memories of her birthday saddened April even more, and she glanced over at Mrs. Bea, the gift she'd received from her parents.

April recalled the brief look of pain on her father's face as she unwrapped Mrs. Bea and realized it wasn't the doll with the golden hair and sparkling pink dress which she'd seen on television and for which she repeatedly asked.

Although she had tried not to show it, April knew that her parents knew she was disappointed. She thanked them for the gift and hugged them both, but her heart wasn't in it. In fact, she didn't even have the heart to name her new

doll. Ever since she saw the first commercial about the golden-haired doll with the pink dress, April knew she would get the doll... she just knew it. So, before the afternoon was over, she had already decided to name it "Arika." That way, the doll would have the same initials as April. April Browning... Arika Browning, both "AB." The thought thrilled her.

But when April got Mrs. Bea instead, she just couldn't name it "Arika." Several days passed before the new birthday gift received a name. For some reason, the name popped into April's head when a neighbor who had dropped by one morning for coffee with April's mother asked about the doll's name.

"...Uh, Mrs. Bea," April replied, more interested in the slight

Continued on A7

Focus On Faith

Continued from A5
evidently optional accessories.

I learned a good bit watching Granddaddy that day. I was a city kid. We bought chickens at the grocery store; we didn't catch them behind our house and personally dispatch them before they hit the frying pan.

Recently, it seems that

the PETA folks (all city-bred, I'd wager) wanted the folks in Turkey, Texas, where my wife is from, to renounce real turkey on Thanksgiving and rename the town Tofurkey for a week.

It didn't happen. Folks from Turkey use their brains. They know what turkey is for, and they know that tofu ain't turkey. So, no

Tofurkey.

Thanksgiving is all about being grateful to God for his good gifts. Turkeys are among his good gifts, and my gratitude for them reaches its highest point at the moment I'm eating them and thereby ensuring that many, many more will be produced than if we declared them off-limits

and gorged ourselves on tofu.

So, no pardon for turkeys during the Shelburne administration. No tofu, either. We're supposed to be thankful "in all circumstances," but I think eating tofu at Thanksgiving would make gratitude particularly challenging.

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The Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its annual Christmas parade on Saturday, **Dec. 3rd at 10:00 am**. The theme for the parade will be "Muleshoe Western Heritage". We invite everyone to participate in this event! All floats/entries must be turned in to the Chamber no later than **Friday, Dec. 2nd**. The best float will be awarded \$300 in Mule Bucks! Pick up your registration form at the Chamber Office.

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SPORTS NEWS

Mules Defeat Badgers; Head To State Quarterfinals

Continued from A1
not only a good prognosticator but he inspired and led the Mules back three times for a 33-27 win in the Regional round of the Texas State Playoffs.

The Mules trailed three times in the game and each time they found a way to rally back to tie the game. The Mules appeared to have two touchdowns taken away in the first half. They put that behind them at the intermission and came out firing in the second half.

"The game went a lot like we thought it would," said Mule coach David Wood. "Our special teams did a great job for us and helped turn the game around in the second half."

"Even when we would get behind Saul (Elizalde) just kept saying "It is not going to happen tonight." And they did not let it happen. Saul wanted the ball and we wanted him to have it."

"We were determined to not allow Frankie Harris to beat us. If they were going to win somebody else was going to have to do it for them and their fullback almost did. They have a great team and played hard tonight."

"We managed to hang toe-to-toe with them and then Saul (Elizalde) had those three great run backs. Those three returns and his long catch for a touchdown really gave us a boost. He really stepped up for us."

"We came out of tonight in really good shape and will celebrate tonight. But tomorrow we will start working to get ready for a tough game with Eastland," concluded Wood.

The Mules trailed 14-7 and had to kickoff to start the second half. The Mule defense pushed the Badgers back three yards to force an obvious punt on fourth and 13 need for a first.

Merkel's quarterback, Baylor Mullins, also served as their punter and used the rugby style of punting. Mullins took the snap on fourth down and rolled to his right while looking for an open receiver. The Mule rush prevented him from punting on the run and he was forced to throw the ball away to avoid an interception or a sack.

The Mules took over on downs at the Bader 18. Beau Avila started right on what appeared to be an option play but reversed his field when both his and Issac Baca's paths were blocked by Badgers.

Avila managed to make at least two tacklers miss as he picked his way to the Badger 10. Avila hit Elizalde on a short-post pattern just behind the linebackers to tie the



Photograph by Stacy Conner

Mules Adelaido Godinez strips the ball during Friday's game against the Merkel Badgers.

game at 14-14 after the extra-point kick split the uprights.

Merkel returned the ensuing kick to the Badger 40. Reed went 60 yards up the middle to put Merkel back in front. 21-14.

Elizalde caught the kickoff in stride at the Mule 30 and raced up the Merkel sideline to near the 50. Ryan DeLeon acted as Elizalde's guide and led him laterally across the field.

The duo then cut up field to the Badger 30 where DeLeon made a block and Elizalde cut behind him and the Mules convoyed him to the end zone. Juan Guerrero booted the point after to tie the game for the second time.

Merkel strung together a 19-play drive that ate up nine minutes and five seconds of the third period. The Mules called time out to force the Badgers to punt into the wind from near mid field. The punt rolled dead at the Mule 23.

The stiff head wind held up Avila's pass on second down and it was picked off by Mullins and returned to the Mule 14. The Badgers pounded in with Mullins keeping for the final two yards. The fake kick and two-point conversion attempt failed and the Badgers led 27-21 with 9:22 left in the game.

Elizalde almost got

loose for his second kickoff return of the night. He made the catch at the Mule eight and the Mules' opened a path to the Badger 35.

Avila kept up the middle for four yards, threw and incomplete pass and a high snap force him to carry up the middle again leaving the Mules needing four yards on fourth down.

The Mules sent two wide receivers to each side of the field. Avila started left faking the option pitch to I. Baca and fired a bullet to Junior Baca streaking straight down the field.

J. Baca made the grab at the six and stiff armed his defender to get free for the final steps to the end zone. The point after failed and the game was tied for the third time at 27-27 with 7:40 remaining on the clock.

The Badgers returned the kick off to the Merkel 36. They ran nine plays and reached the Mule 37 before being forced to punt. The punt rolled out of bounds and the Mules started on their own 20 with 4:23 left to play.

I. Baca took the pitch on first down and managed to spin out of two tackles and stayed inbounds with a Badger on his back for nine yards. He then went through a gap up the middle for 10 more yards to the Mule 39.

Possibly the most

exciting 16 seconds of football for the Mule fans started with Avila changing the snap count. He called a hard count that caused the Badgers to jump off sides. The Mules knew they had a free play. Guerrero shoved his man to the inside and Avila managed to avoid the leaping defender and rolled to his right.

Avila threw a rainbow over a defender to Elizalde just inside the numbers at the Badger 42. Elizalde looped back toward the center of the field and J. Baca cracked back with a block. DeLeon caught up to

Elizalde and escorted him to the end zone for the 61-yard winning TD. The PAT failed.

Merkel returned the ensuing kick to the Badger 45. DeLeon made the stop on the fullback on a dive up the middle for only two yards. Joel Regalado made the stop on second down after a three-yard gain. Mullin threw an incomplete pass before the Badgers tried some razzle-dazzle.

Mullins threw a backwards pass to Harris near the Badger sideline. Mullins then drifted out for a screen pass but Caleb Wood

recognized the play and stayed glued to Mullins. Harris was forced to scramble and then threw the ball away to avoid a sack.

The Mules took over on downs at mid field. A motion penalty cost the Mules a first down and their punt rolled into the end zone.

Merkel started their final drive on the Badger 20. Mullins kept two backs in to block and threw a pass to the left side. The throw was high and his intended receiver only managed to tip the ball.

Ray Martinez zeroed in on the ball and had to tip the ball back into the air in order to make a diving catch to seal the game for the Mules.

Late in the opening quarter Guerrero stripped Mullins of the ball and Matthew Ambriz jumped on the loose ball at the Badger 20. Five plays later Avila hit Elizalde on a slant over the middle for a two-yard TD. Elizalde gave the Mules a 7-0 lead.

The Badgers scored twice in the second period to lead 14-7 at the intermission.

The Mules gained a season low 251 yards with 93 coming on the ground and 158 through the air. Beau Avila was 10 of 26 passing for 158 yards, four touchdowns and one interception.
Continued on B2



Photograph by Stacy Conner

Mule Saul Elizalde makes a touchdown during Friday's game.

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SPORTS NEWS

Slow Start Leads To Maiden Victory

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

The Lady Mules were a bit slow out of the gate Tuesday night when they hosted the Morton Maidens. Ivana Agundis and Carly Krug both found the range for a basket each in the opening period. The Lady Mules warmed up in the

second eight minutes but the Maidens matched them point-for-point. The Lady Mules trailed 10-4 after one quarter and 21-14 at the intermission.

The Maidens held the Lady Mules off in the second half to take the game 35-30 and leave Muleshoe with a win.

Baylee Bessire hit

from 15 feet in the second quarter and Linda Sanchez made both free throws for two points.

Alyssa Leal made a turn around jumper from near the elbow. McKenna Dunham made a pair of charity shots and made a move in the paint for two points.

Neither team returned to the floor very hot after the intermission and ended the third period with five points apiece. Adrienne Precure made two free throws and hit a bucket.

Dunham added one from the line to round out the Lady Mule scoring with eight minutes left to play.

Krug got hot in the final frame with a pair of hoops and a free throw. Leal made back-to-back hoops from near eight feet and Sanchez added

a basket.

Krug led the Lady Mules with seven points. Leal added six points and Dunham dropped in five.

Sanchez and Precure made four points each and Bessire and Agundis chipped in two points each.

The Lady Mules hosted the Hereford Lady Whitefaces Tuesday and will compete in the Nazareth Tournament Dec. 1-3.

They will travel to Brownfield to tangle

with the Lady Cubs Dec. 6 before starting district competition.

MHS Varsity Girls Basketball

Partial schedule for upcoming girls varsity games:

- Dec. 1-3 — Nazareth Tourney, there, TBA
- Dec. 6 — Brownfield, there, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 13 — Abernathy, here, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 16 — Idalou, here, 6:30 p.m.

Varsity Football

Continued from B1

TDs and had two intercepted. He also rushed eight times for 29 yards.

Issac Baca had 11 rushes for 62 yards. Junior Baca carried once for two yards and had one reception for 29 yards and a TD.

Saul Elizalde had five catches for 96 yards and three scores. He had TD receptions of two, 10 and 61 yards and had kickoff returns of 21, 56 and 70 yards.

Caleb Wood and Ryan DeLeon had two catches each for 18 and 15 yards respectively.

Merkel gained a total of 312 yards.

The Badgers rushed 54 times for 237 yards and completed six of 15 passes for 75 yards. The Badgers accumulated 21 first downs and were penalized 12 times for 118 yards.

Baylor Mullins rushed for a negative 12 yards and one TD. He also completed two of four passes for 11 yards and had one picked off.

Frankie Harris carried 26 times for 109 yards and completed four of 11 passes for 64 yards and a score. Joseph Reed rushed 22 times for 140 yards and two scores.

Kelby Jordan had the only touchdown reception for 37 yards.

Joel Regalado led the Mules with 26 tackles, Issac Baca made 14 stops and Caleb Wood recorded 13.

Saul Elizalde and Shaun Atwood had 10 tackles each.

Ryan Johnson and Juan Guerrero made six stops apiece. Adelaido Godinez made seven tackles and Ray Martinez had five tackles and one interception.

The Mules will travel to Odessa Friday night to play the highly ranked Eastland Mavericks. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Go Mules!



FOOTBALL CONTEST 2011

By Rhea Gonzales

First off, I would like to say, "How 'bout them Mules!" Big congrats to our Muleshoe Mules on a big win against the Merkel Badgers! Way to go!

Well last week's playoff games were huge and very exciting to see and hear.

This week's picks will be even more so, as the final eight teams in 2A Division 1 and 1A Division 2 headoff into the State Quarter Finals.

This week's Playoff Picks will consist of 2A Div. 1- Muleshoe vs. Eastland, Crockett vs. Tatum, Melissa vs. Daingerfield, Blanco vs. Hempstead, 1A Division 2- Springlake vs. Wellington, Munday vs. Windthorst and Burton vs. Falls City. Good luck!

We had only one contestant pick 7 of 7 games correctly, so this week's winner of the Playoff Picks \$25 Pizza Hut™ gift card will be Scott Brown. Congrats Scott on your win!

Your score for the week will be the amount of games you guessed correctly.

If you have any questions about your current standings in the contest, you can give us a call here at the Muleshoe Journal 806-272-4536 and we would be happy to give you your updated totals.

Here are the current total for the Playoff Picks: Butch Green 5, Sherri Harrison 6, Terry Field 5, Shelbi Harrison 9, Gerald Bond 5, Scott Brown 12, Debbie Weir 8, Conner Harrison 7, Hilbert Wisian 10, Roberto Ramirez 5, Ruben Mata 5, Josh

Garza 10, John Paul Garza 10, Anna Lopez 6, Gabriel Toscano 6, Sue Bond 6, Darin Bratcher 11, Fernando Toscano 11, Claire Brown 12 and Raymond Villalobos 4.

Please play every week to increase your chances of winning the weekly \$25 Pizza Hut™ gift card and end of season Playoff Picks Tailgate prize.

There are lots of ways to enter the football contest. You can come by the office and drop off your entry (201 W. ave. C), our hours of business are Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. - noon.

You can send an

e-mail to: adsales@muleshoejournal.com (Please indicate Football Contest Entry as the message's subject) with your picks for the winners and for the tie breaker game.

You can send a fax to 806-272-3567 or you can mail your entry to the Muleshoe Journal, PO Box 449, Muleshoe, Tx 79347, (Entries must be postmarked by Friday) or if we are not here, you can put it in the black contest entry box on the front of the building. Just make sure it is here by noon on Friday.

As always, please make sure your name and picks are legible on the entry forms.

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

The freshmen Lady Mules just slipped by the Tulia Lady Hornets Monday night in the new high school gym.

The Hornets made a run at the Lady Mules in the final quarter but the Lady Mules held on for a 42-39 win.

Shanice Rosas led the Lady Mules out of the gate with a pair

of baskets in the first period. Angelina Perez and Bethany Prater dropped in a hoop each but the Lady Mules trailed 10-8 after one quarter.

The Lady Mules heated up in the second period to take a 20-18 lead at the intermission. Perez poured in three hoops to get the Lady Mules rolling. Adriana Loya, Daniela Diaz and

Yanette Orozco added a hoop each for a 12 point Lady Mule quarter. The Hornets only made eight points.

The Lady Mules continued to pump up the heat in the third period with 10 points while holding the Hornets to six for a 30-24 third period lead. Perez continued with the hot hand and added

Continued on B5

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RULES- Circle your choice of the winning team in each of the 7 games sponsored by these local businesses. The entry with the most correct choices will win the weekly \$25 Pizza Hut™ gift card. In the event of a tie, the contestant that guesses closest to the combined tiebreaker score will be the week's winner (Example: Muleshoe 21 vs. Friona 7, tiebreaker score is 28). The player with the most correct guesses at the end of the playoff pick season will win the Muleshoe Journal Tailgate prize. So we encourage you to play every week to increase your chance of winning the Grand Prize. Entries may be mailed to the Muleshoe Journal, P.O. Box 449, Muleshoe, Texas 79347, dropped off at the office (201 W. Ave. C), faxed to 806-272-3567 or e-mailed to: adsales@muleshoejournal.com. Please indicate FOOTBALL CONTEST ENTRY. Need not have original entry form to enter. Entries for each week's contest must be postmarked before or received in our office by **12 PM ON FRIDAY OF THAT WEEK'S GAMES. NO EXCEPTIONS!** Muleshoe Journal employees and their families are not eligible to win. Decision of the judges is final. Games not marked will not be counted. Must be at least 12 years old to play. We encourage your support of the businesses that sponsor this contest.

MULE

Muleshoe VS Eastland

@ Ratliff Stadium in Odessa at 7:00 PM



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Love You!
 Grandparents Toscano,
 Mom & Dad, Felicity, Anzley
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 Jeremiah 29:17

#1

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#53 Proud of you Joey!!
 Rachel, Dom, &
 Josh Mata
 Dad, Mom, Jasmyrn,
 Jiana, & Zayda

SPORTS NEWS

Eighth Grade Ladies Defeat Tulia Lady Hornets

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

The eighth grade Lady Mules jumped out to an early lead in the first quarter and shut out the Tulia Lady Hornets in the third period.

The Lady Mules ran away from the Hornets with a 24-8 win.

Cas Moore led the Lady Mules out of the gate with a pair of baskets.

Yasmine Sandoval added a hoop to give the Lady Mules a 6-2 lead after one quarter.

The two teams battled to a 4-4 draw in the second quarter.

Sasha Esparza made

her first basket of the game and Sandoval added her second.

The Lady Mules led 10-6 at the half.

The Lady Mules turned up the defensive pressure in the third quarter and Esparza heated up with a pair of hoops.

Moore dropped in

a pair of free throws and Sandoval made a basket.

The Lady Mules had pushed their advantage to 18-6 with one period left to play.

Sandoval made her final hoop and had scored a basket in each period.

Kennedi Nickels

made her only hoop of the game and Esparza dropped in her the final basket of the game.

The Lady Mule had held the Hornets to a single basket in the second half.

Esparza and Sandoval led the Lady Mules with eight points each. Moore added six points and Nickels chipped in

two.

The Lady Mules traveled to Dimmitt on Monday evening and will return home Dec. 5 to host the Littlefield Lady Cats.

The Floydada Lady Winds will visit the Lady Mules Dec. 12.

Subscribe!

Seventh Grade Ladies Escape Hornets' Sting

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

The seventh grade Lady Mules squeaked by the Tulia Lady Hornets Monday night in a heart stopper for their fans. The Lady Mules used big second and third periods to put the Hornets away.

The Lady Mules escaped the sting of the Hornets with a 22-18 win.

Sydney Sudduth and Emily Precure made the Lady Mules first two

hoops of the game. The Lady Mules trailed 5-4 after one period.

The Lady Mules turned up the heat in the second quarter with full court pressure that resulted in hoops for the home team. Brittany Mendoza, Sy. Sudduth and Precure made a basket each. Reagan Reynolds rounded out the scoring in the half with a hoop.

The Lady Mules had scored eight points and held the Hornets to five

for a 12-9 Lady Mule lead at the half.

The Lady Mules duplicated their second period feat in the third quarter. Sadie Sudduth made a lay up to get the Lady Mules rolling and Sy. Sudduth dropped in a jumper from the free throw line.

Reynolds added a hoop as did Marilyn Melendez. The Lady Mules had increased their lead to 20-13.

Precure made the Lady Mules final hoop

in the last period and the Hornets cut into their lead with five points.

Sy. Sudduth and Precure led the Lady Mules with six points each.

Reynolds added four points. Sa. Sudduth, Mendoza and Melendez chipped in two points each.

The Lady Mules traveled to Dimmitt Monday evening and will host Littlefield on Dec. 5 and Floydada on Dec. 12.

Freshmen Lady Mules

Continued from B2

two hoops. Diaz made two free throws, Rosa dropped in a hoop and Prater made two from the charity line.

The Hornets came charging back with

15 points in the final quarter but the Lady Mules held on with 12.

Rosas led the Lady Mules with three baskets in the final quarter.

Perez added a pair of hoops and Diaz chipped in a basket.

Perez led the Lady Mules with 16 points and Rosas added 12.

Diaz dropped in six points, Prater four and Loya and Orozco chipped in two points each.

The Lady Mules

traveled to Dimmitt on Monday and will return home to battle the Littlefield Lady Cats Dec. 5.

The Floydada Lady Winds will visit the Lady Mules on Dec. 12.

God's People Are To 'Overflow' With Thanksgiving

Due to the early deadline, Focus on Faith didn't arrive in time for the Thanksgiving issue of the Muleshoe Journal.

Sometimes we just make things too hard.

I was listening to one of Garrison Keillor's "News from Lake Wobegon" stories one day as he was talking about the deer hunting season that had just closed up in (fictitious) Lake Wobegon right before Thanksgiving.

Keillor painted a word picture (which I've embellished a bit) of the locals watching as city folks came up in droves in their high dollar Hummers and SUVs.

The city guys flocking over to the Chatterbox Cafe for Dorothy's coffee (any way you want it as long as it's black and doesn't end in — as in latté or brevé) and a chance to retell last year's hunting tales, were armed with brand new rifles with electronic scopes.

They had their faces painted black, anti-scent scent sprayed all over their skin and the "camo" clothing engulfing their bodies, a dozen assorted deer calls stuck in their pockets along with their GPS devices, and you knew they'd just been



Focus On Faith
Curtis Shelburne

tracking deer because of the tell-tale pieces of bark still stuck behind their ears from the tree branches they'd been wearing on top of their hats.

If you walked in the café door and hollered, "Hey, Bubba!" half the guys in the restaurant would break their necks even though these guys might be computer programmers or investment financiers in their day jobs.

They went up to Lake Wobegon both to bag a deer and to snag the unique excitement that buying meet at \$200 per pound gives.

But the local guys who can go out and get a deer pretty much whenever they want one?

Keillor says they

drive out and park their old pickups, set up purple and lilac recliners, smoke cigars, play cards, tell jokes (often about city boys who dress like Rambo and spend \$200 per pound for meat) and "ever so often a deer comes along and they shoot him."

I'll leave you to guess whose deer-bagging average is better.

Sometimes we just make things too hard. Like giving thanks.

I'll admit it — some biblical commands in that regard are a bit daunting.

Giving thanks "in all circumstances" is a pretty tall order. I'm still working on "most" — with somewhat modest results. "In everything give thanks"? Well, ditto.

I'm afraid the witness of the church and Christian experience is unanimous: we don't get to pick just the easy commands to try to obey.

But the "giving thanks" injunction I'm focusing on this week, also from St. Paul's pen, is this one: "overflow with thanksgiving."

In my experience, "overflowing" usually holds a significant element of surprise. I'm thinking of "overflowing" sorts of experiences after eating too much Halloween candy as a child.

Or too much paper down the porcelain. Or forgetting to turn off the water while filling the baptistry.

Nobody plans those things; they surprise you — negatively.

Ah, but "overflowing" with thanksgiving is a great experience!

First, we choose to be grateful people.

Then God surprises us by opening our eyes over and over again to the bottomless depth of his goodness and grace, and the countless reasons, large and small, we have to be thankful.

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Thanks for reading the Journal!

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- #3 **It's wrapped and ready for pickup.**

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Congratulations

Luke Del Toro, Ean Hasley, Rudy Ruiz and Raul Sierra participated with the **West Texas Phenoms** at the **National Youth Football Championship** that were held **Nov. 18-20 in Lubbock, TX**. Where they defeated the Clovis Wildcats 22-0, Lubbock Raiders 20-0, and the El Dorado Eagles of Albuquerque 20-0 to win the **Central Division Youth Championship title!!!**

Screening mammograms provided by Covenant Mobile Mammography in Muleshoe.

December 15, 2011
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To schedule an appointment or for more information call **1.877.494.4797**.

Financial assistance, for those who qualify, is funded in part by the Lubbock Komen for the Cure.

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Covenant Health System

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

This month we open our hearts...



...and help to make the holidays bright!

Newspaper Fun!

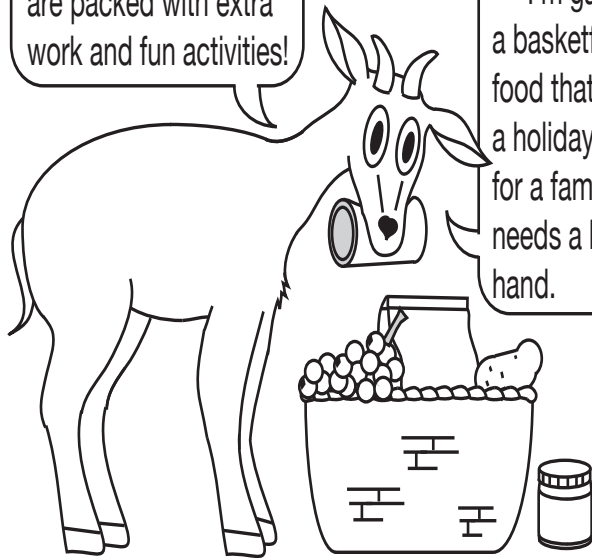
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December Days!

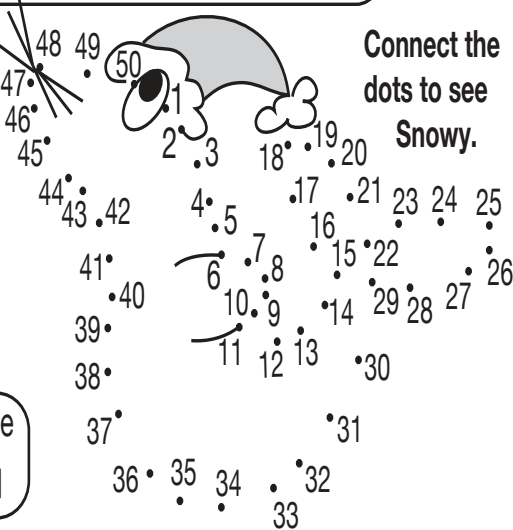
December days are packed with extra work and fun activities!

I'm gathering a basketful of food that will be a holiday dinner for a family that needs a helping hand.



Hi! My name is Snowy. I'm a friend of Echo the dolphin. I'm buying Christmas Seals this year to support the American Lung Association®.

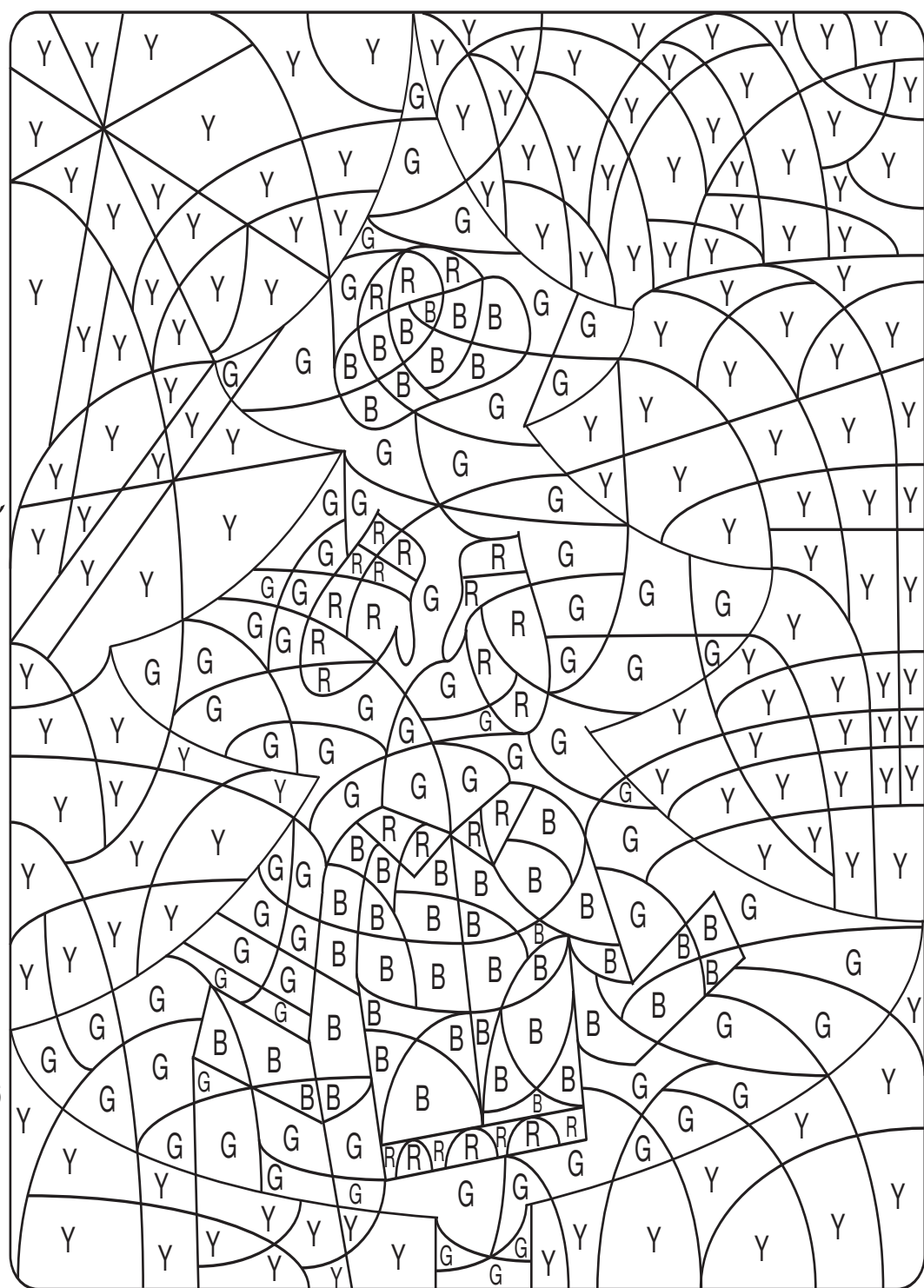
Use this color key to finish the color-in puzzle to see what kinds of items people are collecting to keep others warm.



Connect the dots to see Snowy.

Y = yellow B = blue
G = green R = red

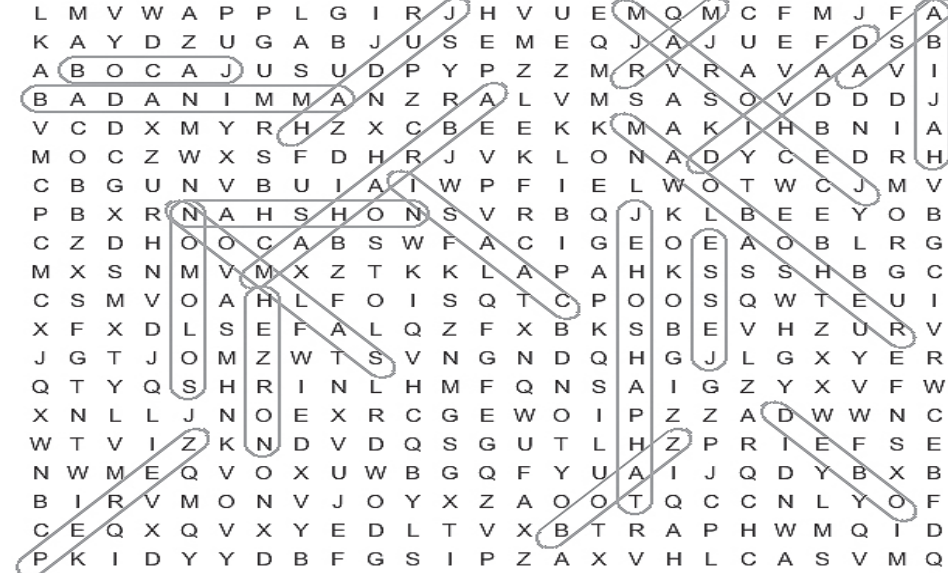
Giving Trees



Mules (2-44)



Matthew 1 Genealogy (Part 1)



Tell them you saw it in the Journal!

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 C Y P P Z Q W I N R L K C G A B M Z P C L Z Y V C
 U P A V A E D T D X V D C I M L A C V W R N U E Y
 Q A W B S I R Q N O E C A A E L A P G A L I V A R
 K C C C U Z F A W F G F L V D P M D W Z G B O J Z
 L U R G E S X K V F J G L E G I W S O X C H N O H
 K P X G G R Z U M I O X L G W C O S P F D N R W Q
 H X N R P U K Z E J L T X H U T A G M U Q O L N C
 B K O Z F B S X Y C O O N A U C E G L P Z V F D C
 F Q E H M J J S S R M V Z S V X U J E C C U V L K
 D L L Y X P U R O L A O E L J A R V O Y Z K B K L
 A C E S F M H F F R D P N K A E J I I J M Q S O X
 N H D E S K O Y B N H N I H C B P S O S A H Z L K
 R W Y X S O Z J E K T C T Z A Z Y M K W K A L A H
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 E B G B I E Y U T P I G A U W S H F Y O J F Q P R
 U V L H E U O J E N S E M N I N G H C D R Y S D B
 Y Q K X U V X Y I A U N Q T M O R V B I T K F I Y

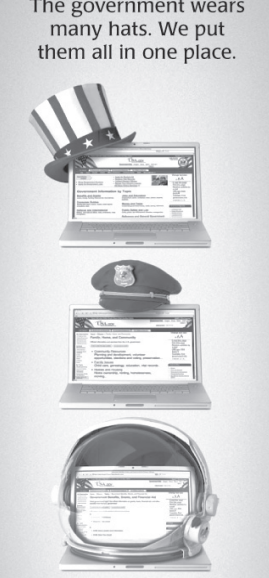
Mules (2-44)

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| Reyes | Mendoza |
| J Baca | Martinez |
| Lozano | Elizalde |
| Cage | McCall |
| Avila | I Baca |
| Ross | Godinez |
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| DeLeon | Olivarez |
| Del Toro | Regalado |
| Sosa | Wood |

Solutions on B6
 (Watch for the rest of the lineup next week.)

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding..."
 Proverbs 3:5, NIV

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required. Stedman Farms, Glenfield, ND. **Apply at nearest ND Job Service using job listing # 260188.**
 2 temp positions: Farmwork general, 12/31/11 to 04/30/12 @ 11.52 p/hr. Housing provided, 48 hrs p/wk, 3/4 guarantee, and transportation and subsistence expenses to worksite paid after 50% completion of contract. Tools, equipment provided at no cost. Min. 3 months experience. Duties: Maintenance and repair of equipment, hauling grain and fertilizer, 3 months exp, basic literacy and math skills required. Cedar Estates, Pierre, SD. **Apply at SD Dept of Labor office job listing # SD1542090.**

fertilizer, Must be able to lift 60 pounds. Driver's license is required. Minimum 3 months exp. No education is required. Sam Ongstad, Harvey, ND, Interested? **Apply at ND Workforce Solutions office job # 260126.**
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required. Stedman Farms, Glenfield, ND. **Apply at nearest ND Job Service using job listing # 260188.**
 2 temp positions: Farm work general, 01/01/12 to 04/30/12 @ \$12 p/hr. Housing provided, 48 hrs p/wk. 3/4 guarantee, and transportation and subsistence expenses to worksite paid after 50% completion of contract. Tools, equipment provided at no cost. Min. 3 months experience. Duties: Perform AI for livestock operation. Injects prepared bull semen to breed, observes animal in heat to detect approach of estrus. Selects semen specimen according to breeding chart. Assists vet to prep cows for the AI breeding process. Maintain log of semen specimens used and cows bred. Exercises animal to induce estrus. Assist cows with calving problems (dystocia). Ensure calves receive proper nutrition first few days after birth. Monitors cows for repeat AI. Assists milking cows that need special attention following calving. Must be able to work in extreme weather conditions. Minimum three months experience. No minimum education

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1513 W Ave J - 3/2.5/2 + basement, Geo-thermal heat and air, double pane windows, open concept, neutral colors, 2 water heaters, large workshop, many extras, Price reduced to \$144,895.

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 Paducah Area 470 acres on pavement. 326 acres in C.R.P. Balanced in native pasture. Excellent hunting. Good Wildlife cover & feed.

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HIGH SCHOOL AREA

- VERY NICE 3-2-2 Brick Home, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, approx. 2336' lv. area, auto. spktr, 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. spktr. (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!!
- 3-1 Brick Home, enclosed garage, Cent. A&H, DW, Refrig., utility, workshop/storage!! MORE!! \$76.5K!!

RICHLAND HILLS • PARKRIDGE • HIGHLAND

- 2 Nicely Remodeled Duplex Units & 1 NEW Duplex Unit!! **Price Reduced!! \$410K!!!!**
- NICELY REMODELED 3-2-2 Brick, new Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, 3125' lv. area, spktr. sys., fenced yard, MORE!! **REDUCED \$195K!! MAKE OFFER!!**
- NICE 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 1 car garage w/opener, New Pk. A&H, HWY 84, approx. 1844' lv. area, fenced yard, storage bldg.!! \$89,000!!!
- Nicely Remodeled 3-2-2 Brick, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP w/wood pellet insert, corner lot, fenced yd., auto. spktr., + lot w/stor. bldg.!! 2159' lv. area!! **\$179K!! REDUCED!**
- **VERY NICE 3-2-2 Brick Home**, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, approx. 2749' lv. area, lots of storage, nice courtyard & landscaping, workshop/storage/fenced yd., Much More!! Reduced-\$175K!
- **VERY NICE 3-2-2 Brick Home**, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, enclosed patio, auto. spktr., fenced yd., Det. insulated garage workshop, lg. RV port, 2 other wkshp/stor. bldgs., adjoining lot, beautifully landscaped! MUCH MORE!! \$165,900!!!
- **VERY NICE 3-2-2 Brick Home on corner lot**, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, remodeled bathrooms, nice carpet & tile, sunroom, fenced yd., auto. spktr., approx. 2216' liv area!!! \$125K!!
- 2-2-2 Brick Home, corner lot, built-ins, approx. 1695' lv. area, fenced yard., wkshp/stor., storm cellar!! \$67K!!
- 3-2-2 Brick, Cent. A&H, built-ins, approx. 2310' lv. area, 2 Franklin wood stoves, storm shelter, fans, fenced yd., man. spktr.!!! \$120,000!!

RURAL

- 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, spktr system, beautiful trees and landscaping. circle spktr. 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 homesites, deed restricted!! \$17,500!!
- LARIAT AREA - 3-1 Home, Cent. heat, 5 acres, 1989' lv. area (2 story), 2880' quonset barn, out bldgs., **Reduced \$39K!! POSSIBLE OWNER FINANCE!!**
- 3-2-2 HOME ON 2 AC. (2860 FM 303)- APPROX. 2146' lv. area, DW, ceiling fans, thermal windows, lg. conc. patio, workshop/storage!! \$89,000!!
- **PROGRESS-** 3-2-2 Home, Cent. Geo, A&H, built-ins, FP, approx. 2064' lv. area on 1.24 acres, 2 wells, 720' insul. shop w/288' awning, carport, storage Bldg., cellar!! MUCH MORE!! **\$125K!!**
- West of Sudan 3-2-2 Brick Home on 5.57 acres, Cent. A&H, builtins, approx. 2688' lv. area, fenced yd., 40' x 80' quonset barn!! MUCH MORE!! \$135K!!
- NICE 3-2-2 Home on 11 acres at edge of town, Cent. A&H, built-ins, FP, freshly painted interior, thermal windows & doors, plus 1 bdrm house, workshop, storage, greenhouse, plus 3 garages, barns & outbuildings!! \$155,000!!
- FM 1760 @ edge of town, nice 3-2-2 carport home on 3 acrs, det. insul. bldg, approx. 2253' lv. area, fenced, horse barn w/corrals, hay & tack room!! \$105K!!!!

LENAU • COUNTRY CLUB

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

COMMERCIAL

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

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