



Lady Mule picked for all-district team
Page 6



Sudan's 'Nettes finish their season
Page 9



Muleshoe Journal



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Muleshoe, Texas

March 3, 2011

Mules dominate in Texas playoff games

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

The Mules have dominated both their opponents since entering the 2011 Texas State Playoffs.

They blew away the District 1-2A third place Spearman Lynx 69-35 to earn the Bi-District gold ball in Canyon Tuesday night.

The Colorado City Wolves gave the Mules more of a tussle through the first three quarters. The Mules took over in the final period and held the Wolves to a pair of 3-pointers.

Tyson Turnbow was six-of-six from the charity line in the final frame to nullify the Colorado City offensive out put. The Mules made 10 more points in the frame to dump the District 3-2A champions 61-46 and win the Area gold ball.

The Mules entered the Canyon gymnasium with just one thing on their mind and that was to extend their playoff run as long as possible.

Cooper Washington controlled the paint on both ends of the floor and scored the Mules first points on a pick-n-roll. Nick Hurtado got the Mules rolling as

he nailed back-to-back 3-pointers. The Mules had opened a 10-0 lead before the Lynx could score.

dropped in a basket and then dropped in a trey. Jonathan Perez added a bucket to lead Spearman 25-9.

a hoop in the lane and added a second before the half ended.

Turnbow scored from the elbow and then hit

The Lynx could never dropped the Mules under a double digit lead in the second half. Matthew Martinez hit a pair of

pair of free throws and a hoop before the quarter ended.

Beau Avila made his first hoop of the game and Turnbow hit a deuce. The Mules had out scored Spearman 15-7 in the quarter to push their advantage to 51-23 with eight minutes left to play.

Turnbow opened the final frame with the Mules first hoop. He added a charity toss and a trey before leaving the game. Martinez nailed a 3-pointer from the corner and Sergio Montejano made a pair of free throws after being fouled while shooting.

Eric Orozco hit a basket and Isaias Guerra added a pair of hoops. Eli Leal made his first point of his varsity career with a charity toss. The Mules had finished with 18 points to 12 for the Lynx.

Turnbow paced the Mules with 19 points. Toscano finished with 14 points and Washington scored 10.

Martinez added seven points, Hurtado had six and Guerra made four. Perez, Avila, Montejano and Orozco made two points each and Leal

Continued on page 12



Photograph by Stacy Conner

Mule Tyson Turnbow receives a foul during a recent game against the Colorado City Wolves.

Washington and Turnbow both made two hoops and two charity tosses in the opening quarter. Zack Toscano ran the baseline and

The Mules cooled down in the second period to add just 11 points to their total by the half. Washington opened the second period with

a trey. Toscano added a hoop and the Mule defense held Spearman to seven points in the period. The Mules led 36-16 at the intermission.

hoops in the second period.

Toscano made a free throw to complete an old-fashioned three-point play. He added another

MAHD receives encouraging audit

By Larry Thornton
Managing Editor

The Muleshoe Area Hospital District's board of trustees was obviously thrilled with Thursday's annual audit report... the most optimistic report it's received in several years.

Michael Oatman of Parrish, Moody & Fikes, the district's auditing firm, spoke of the problems rural hospitals are having at this time, saying that such hospitals with tax support and cost-based reimbursements are going out of business.

"Critical access, and cost-based hospitals," such as Muleshoe Area Medical Center, "have a better chance of making it," Oatman said. "For better or worse,, you're not as dependent on Medicaid as others."

Still, if the federal critical access program should stop, Oatman said about 40 rural hospitals would go out of business.

According to Oatman, the primary problem with the hospital district's finances is its liquidity,

which he said "has slipped some," but he also noted that the district's cash flow "has improved a bit."

There were no major irregularities noted in the audit report, but Oatman said there was a "going concern" referred to in the report. He said this referred to the fact that the hospital district has had some financial problems, out of which it is trying to work itself.

"For a hospital your size, your accounts payable are pretty significant," Oatman said, but it was noted that \$215 of the accounts payable on the hospital's books is from the amount owed to Horizon Health. According to Oatman, the district should try to keep its accounts payables down to around \$400,000.

"You're heavily leveraged," he added. "Your accounts payables are twice the fund balance," he said.

Although the district has been doing a good

Continued on page 3

Five Area is confident about the future

By Larry Thornton
Managing Editor

Five Area Telephone Cooperative officials are



Sandy Vandevender addresses the membership.

confident about the future of the company, according to the information shared with the cooperative's membership during Saturday's annual meeting.

"We're doing the right thing at the right time," Sandy Vandevender, Five Area's general manager, who recently became president of the National Telecommunication Cooperative Association's board of directors.

"Five Area is known

nation-wide as a great cooperative," Vandevender said.

Vandevender said telecommunication cooperatives are under fire from the FCC through its "notice of public rulemaking," — which he described as a "very dangerous document," and which he said was being used to eliminate areas of success for cooperatives, apparently as a result of large telecommunication

companies that have abused certain federal programs.

However, he also said the NTCA was on the front line of the problems facing the industry in Washington, D.C., protecting the interests of Five Area and the other smaller telecommunications companies and cooperatives.

"We have a digital Grand Canyon,"

Continued on page 3



Photograph by Larry Thornton

Wow!

Don't you wish you'd been here?

Taking part in the annual Five Area Telephone Cooperative's annual meeting, a local youngster seems to be all atwitter as he helps to distribute some of the door prizes... in this case, a heavy one.



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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

Mayor calls for prayer

Mayor Cliff Black invites the citizens of Muleshoe and the surrounding area to gather on Monday, March 7, at 6 p.m., at the Mule Memorial, 107 E. American Blvd., to pray for "much-needed rain."

Energy assistance available

South Plains Community Action Association, Inc., has received additional funding from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to operate the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program during 2011.

The primary intent of this is to make funds available to enable SPCAA to respond to energy needs affecting low-income households. Priority will be given to eligible households containing one or more persons age 60 or above, a handicapped individual, and families with young children under the age of six.

For additional information concerning this program contact Janie Posadas or Bonita Drennan, at Muleshoe's SPCAA office, 804 W. American Blvd., or call 272-7537.

Free computer classes

Free computer classes are being offered at the Muleshoe Area Public Library. The courses are: E-mail basics, searching for a job online, and Applying for a job online.

Call the library at 272-4707 to sign up or for additional information.

Yellow Jacket donations

The Muleshoe Heritage Foundation continues asking area businesses and individuals to partner with them in the restoration of the Yellow Jacket Inn.

Business may join in the program with a donation of \$100 or more, and have a permanent sign of recognition placed in the restored structure, while former students who ate in the historic building may donate \$50 or more to have their names, and memories, included in a book that will be placed on display at the Yellow Jacket.

Accounts have been set up at both Muleshoe State Bank and First Bank for donations to the renovation project.

Ash Wednesday services

The First United Methodist Church of Muleshoe will hold two Ash Wednesday services, in the church chapel, on March 9.

One at 7 a.m., and one at noon. The service will include a message, Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes. For more information, contact the church at (806) 272-5517.

Rotary flag service

The Muleshoe Rotary Club provides a flag service to individuals and business' in Muleshoe on eight national holidays as a fund raising event to support the club's various community projects throughout the year.

The cost for the service is \$25. If you would like to begin or continue your participation this year, contact Brian Frieda at 806-272-4569, or Mark Morton at 806-272-4569, or another member of the Muleshoe Rotary Club.

Jury summons error announced

There was an error in the jury summons for March 22, according to Bailey County Dist. Clerk Elaine Parker. While the summons states 11:59 a.m., the correct time for the jury pool to appear is 9 a.m.

Call 272-3165 for additional information.

Morning 'blessings' can easily turn sour

One of my favorite bits of wisdom is Proverbs 27:14... "If anyone loudly blesses their neighbor early in the morning, it will be taken as a curse."

It comes right before another great one: "A quarrelsome wife is like the dripping of a leaky roof in a rainstorm." — Proverbs 27:15

I take verse 14 to mean that on any given day before, say, 9:30 a.m., the most civilized and eloquent thing to say is nothing. Speech early in the day rarely improves on silence.

Back to verse 15. God has blessed me with a wife who is not at all quarrelsome, but this morning she pretty well flew in the face of the aforementioned verse 14. No quarrel ensued.

Of necessity, my wife, on several days a week, gets up earlier than I do. (She likes to have a devotional quiet time early, and that's good.)

I am the son of my mother and tend to do my best work in the peace and quiet of late evenings. I've never understood why folks get all gushy about early risers and are not nearly as teary about those of us who work long hours burning the midnight oil.

Most of the time, once my wife is up, I'm already approaching consciousness, but the real wake-up call comes when she bangs on the TV and the obnoxiously perky and loud morning



Focus On Faith
Curtis Shelburne

show anchors start spewing out their verbal drivel.

This morning was worse than usual. First, she assaulted me by loudly singing a medley of the "Good Morning to You/Rise and Shine!" sort of stuff. Then she turned up the volume on a morning show, and good grief!

The TV folks are all atwitter about an unbelievably spoiled and self-destructing TV star. The guy's face and voice are on every channel, and you could not possibly find a better (worse!) example of what happens when we become our own gods and abandon ourselves to our own worst appetites. He's completely out of control and spiraling toward despair, effectively dead already. Not fun to watch.

Then, right after that heartwarming piece of pseudo-journalistic voyeurism comes another.

Regarding homosexuality, Canadian journalist Robert Davies wrote, "The love that dare not speak its name has become the love that won't shut up."

The next "news" interview was with a gal I used to think was kinda cute who has now decided to "come out" and write a lucrative tell-all book. Great.

Maybe I do need to get up earlier, before the

drivel starts. The quiet of the morning really is a good time to read God's word, something I'm afraid we Christians talk about a whole lot more than we do.

It's a good time also to devote to reading some truly good books by, say, folks who have walked with the Lord down through the ages. Some good ones are

being written even today. It's strange. Living in a supposedly literate land with so many good books and the Good Book itself never more available, we so often choose to be basically illiterate.

We stand knee deep in spring water and die of thirst rather than drink.

I could be in a bad mood. I blame the morning shows.

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News about your college student

If your college student is graduating or has made the Dean's or President's List, in order for that information to appear in the *Muleshoe Journal*, we must receive notice from the respective educational institution.

Your son or daughter must sign a release so the information can be sent to us.

Have them visit their bursar's office to sign a form indicating they wish to share their good news!

Once permission has been granted, the college or university should send the info via email to: editor@muleshoejournal.com.

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West Texas Press Association

MAHD meeting held... Continued from page 1

job at controlling expenses, Oatman said, "You can't 'cost control' your way to long term success. The revenue numbers have to move up."

However, Oatman also noted that the recent news concerning the litigation issue is facing with Horizon Health, and the financial improvements at Park View Nursing Care Center are positive.

"The good news is the cash money is positive," he said.

According to Oatman, 2010 was the best year for the hospital district — including both the hospital and the nursing

home, then the previous three.

He said Park View was currently "doing better than break even."

"Overall, you're a low cost provider, compared to other hospitals in the area," Oatman said.

"I like what you are trying to do with your clinics," he added.

"We personally believe in you, and what you are trying to do," Oatman said.

During the audit report, the issue of the Pathways geriatric behavioral unit and the agreement was discussed and Oatman expressed astonishment in the projections Horizon presented to the board

compared to what was actually accomplished.

He indicated he had observed similar issues at other locations.

"Will you testify about that?" board president Bill Liles asked.

Oatman paused for a moment before replying, "Yes... I'm a good expert witness."

Oatman said that even though the hospital district is a million dollars in the hole, he felt that things were improving district wide.

"At least this time you haven't come in again and told us we need to sell the nursing home," Liles said.

In response, Oatman

dipped his head and admitted the board had proved him wrong on that particular issue.

When asked about what could be done about the district's liquidity problem, Oatman suggested that one thing that might be considered to help with the issue would be the formation of a "501a" non-profit organization under Texas statutes.

He explained that while hospitals are precluded by law from directly hiring physicians, the district could set up a separate "501a" organization that could perform this function with the intent

of drawing in a wider patient base.

He also suggested that the district work with the current physicians to establish better admission criteria.

"In some ways, you've cleared the woods and are headed into the positive," Oatman added.

In other business, the MAHD board:

- Received a report from the Park View Nursing Care Center administrator, Megan Chisholm, concerning the damage suffered from a pipeline break during the recent cold weather.

She noted that eight residents had to be moved to other rooms due to the water damage and subsequent repair efforts.

Regarding the reconstruction, the MAHD board declared an emergency to waive the publishing of bid requests because of the displacement of the residents, and to shorten project's completion time.

Currently, it is thought the work will take from four to six weeks.

"It's a terrible deal, what happened out

there," Liles said.

The nursing home administrator complimented the efforts of Park View's staff, noting they were doing what they could to "make the residents' home... home again."

It is their home," Liles added, "and they depend upon you to take care of them."

- Discussed a packet that had reportedly been sent to John Hedrick of AccessCare concerning the company's leasing of space for a dialysis unit at the nursing home.

While discussing the content of the letter she'd sent Hedrick, Chisholm noted that the nursing home's records indicate Park View hadn't received a single lease payment from the company since March 2010.

The discussion also noted that a large expense would be incurred returning the space to normal resident use.

Action on the item was tabled until Hedrick could appear at the board's March meeting.

- Held a 15-minute executive session to discuss the hospital's Q&A report and pending litigation.



Grand 're'-opening held by BCEC

The Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture held a grand reopening at Bailey County Electric Coop on Monday, Feb. 28 at its new location.

Along with the chamber members, the Bailey County Electric Coop board of directors, employees and management were part of the ribbon cutting for the grand reopening.

Five Area meeting... Continued from page 1

Vandevender said, with urban telecommunication capabilities exceeding those in the rural areas of the nation, but added that Five Area was doing what it could to provide its customers with as wide-ranging and up-to-date service as possible.

Through the use of its "fiber by the node" system and its new "soft switch," Vandevender

Annual fine arts event set for March 21

"The stars at night are big and bright!"

Especially in Muleshoe! The Muleshoe High School Fine Arts Department will be presenting its annual Fine Arts Night to Shine on Monday, March 21.

There will be a meal starting at 6 p.m., and the students will begin performing at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets for the event will be available at the door, or can be purchased in advance at First Bank, Muleshoe State Bank or Muleshoe City Hall for \$7 per person.

The Fine Arts Boosters will be serving brisket, beans, potato salad, rolls and sopapilla cheesecake.

It will be an evening of choral and band performances, art exhibits and finally the One Act Play.

Signature ads on the event program can be purchased for \$25 by calling Terry Brewster at 806-893-0473, or Lori Bales at 946-8633.

All proceeds will go to support the MHS Fine Arts Department.

said Five Area has been able to save considerable money and still improve its customer's rural broadband service from the average of four megabytes to six megabytes.

He also said the "fiber by the node" system helped to "future proof" the cooperative because it would allow equipment to be updated when necessary in the future.

"We know it's coming, we just don't know when," Vandevender said.

"Rural access is very important," he said. "We know it, and we want everyone else to know it."

"I'm so pleased to tell the congressmen what our cooperative is doing," Vandevender said about his trips to the nation's capital representing NTCA and Five Area.

In his financial report to the membership, Wade Wilson, CPA, of Bolinger Segars Gilbert & Moss, the cooperative's accountants, said the cooperative was financially sound, and while the most recent audit had yet to be completed, the cooperative's debts were low, and its assets totaled \$15,935,778.

The cooperative's property taxes in 2010 totaled \$51,270, with the majority, \$42,316, going to Bailey County. The remainder of its 2010 tax expenses, totaling \$91,950, were for federal taxes, Wilson said.

In the cooperative's annual elections, the new board members are Jake Timmons (Dist. 5 - Maple), Jim Newman (Dist. 6 - Bula), and Glen Lyon (Dist. 7 - Lehman).

In his recognition

of current and past cooperative employees, Vandevender honored the memory of past general manager Hubert Kidd.

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IMPORTANT MEETING NOTICE

The Corn Producers Association of Texas encourages producers and the public to attend an educational session to learn about High Plains Underground Water District's proposed water regulations, and fully understand the impact it will have on their businesses and community. CPAT will explain the regulations and be available to answer any questions, so citizens can present testimony and comments to the water district. Meeting schedule and locations:

- March 9 at 9 a.m. - Castro County Senior Citizens Center, 218 W. Jones, Dimmitt, Texas
- March 9 at 1:30 p.m. - Farwell Community Center, 209 9th St., Farwell, Texas
- March 10 at 9 a.m. - Ollie Liner Center, 2000 N. Columbia St., Plainview, Texas
- March 10 at 1:30 p.m. - Olton Stock Show Barn, 104 Ave. D, Olton, Texas

For further information, please contact CPAT at 800.647.2676 or visit our website, www.TexasCorn.org.

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Senior Citizen News

Happy March to everyone. Pray for rain. We don't need lovely days like we had Sunday.

Remember! The Saturday, March 5, pancake breakfast is from 7-11 a.m.

The menu will be pancakes with a variety of syrups, sausage, bacon, orange juice, milk, water and coffee.

Adults cost will be \$5, and children under 10 will be \$3. The public is welcome. Come support the center.

Wednesday, March 9, Kathy Carr of the Bailey County Extension Office will present the nutritious program during the lunch hour.

Kathy always presents

an informative and fun program.

As of Feb. 28, Katrina Scott has come on board to assist Laverne Winn in keeping the Oneida Wagnon Senior Center a great place to come and enjoy.

"I am excited to meet everyone and feel free to visit anytime," Scott said.

Remember, everyday is play day for our senior citizens center. Come meet your friends and enjoy.

Menu for March 7-11:
Monday, March 7 — King Ranch chicken, pinto beans, salad, chips, salsa and strawberry cake

Tuesday, March 8 —

Salmon patties, black eyed peas, carrots, salad, cornbread, fruit and cookies

Wednesday, March 9 — Grilled steak, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, wheat rolls and peach cobbler

Thursday, March 10 — Hamburgers, cheese, pork and beans, pickles, peppers, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, chips and pudding

Friday, March 11 — Fish or chicken strips, gravy, beans, coleslaw, cornbread and fruit salad

February cattle on feed up from last year

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in Texas feedlots with capacity of 1,000 head or more totaled 2.88 million head on Feb. 1, up seven percent from a year ago.

According to the monthly report released by the Texas Field Office, the estimate was up one percent from the Jan. 1 level.

Producers placed 440,000 head in commercial feedlots during January, up five percent from both a year ago and the December 2010 total.

Texas commercial feeders marketed 390,000

head during January, unchanged from last year and down two percent from last month.

On Feb. 1, there were 2.44 million head of cattle and calves on feed in the Northern High Plains, 85 percent of the state's total.

The number on feed across the area was up four percent from last year and two percent from the January total.

January placements

in the Northern High Plains totaled 391,000 head, up 13 percent from the December total.

Marketings were down three percent from last month to 339,000 head.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States in feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or more totaled 11.6 million head on Feb. 1.

This inventory was six percent above last year.

Jury summons error announced

There was an error in the jury summons for March 22, according to Bailey County Dist. Clerk Elaine Parker. While the summons states 11:59 a.m., the correct time for the jury pool to appear is 9 a.m.

Call 272-3165 for additional information.

PARK VIEW NURSING CARE CENTER RESIDENTS & STAFF

Would like to thank everyone for your thoughts, prayers and assistance during our recent weather facility flood. We appreciate your support and anticipate that all repairs will be done soon. As always thank you for giving us the honor of serving this community.

Thank you

Thank you!
The Life in Christ Academy Preschool expresses a sincere thank you to members of the local communities for making the fundraiser dinner on February 20th a huge success!

We greatly appreciate anyone who generously donated or offered their service for the event.

May God Bless You!

BAILEY COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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(Solutions on page 10)

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BAILEY COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE

Obituaries

Bonnie Jean Flinn

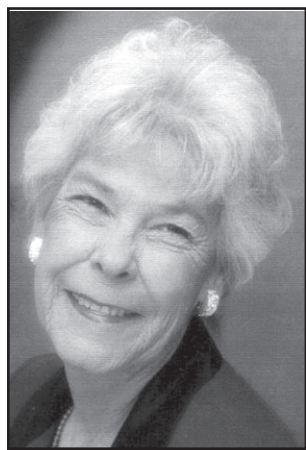
Bonnie Jean (Garvin) Flinn, 79, passed away at her home in Phoenix, Ariz., on Jan. 16, 2011.

Jean was born on May 22, 1931, to Wayland and Katie Garvin in Maple, and went to school at Three Way, where she graduated in 1948.

After graduation she moved to Lubbock where she attended nursing school. She was working at the hospital in Amherst, when she met John William Flinn III, a Navy veteran from Clovis, N.M.

They were married at the home of her parents on Sept. 4, 1949.

She is survived by three children — John William IV, Arilla Flinn Svoma and Steven Earl;



five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; two sisters — Anna Jewel Gillentine of Buffalo Gap and Janella Fox of Clovis, N.M., and one nephew who was like a son to her, Wayland Glen Fox.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, one brother, one grandson and one great-grandson.

Beulah Pingel

Church services for Beulah E. Pingel, 91, of Amarillo, were held on Tuesday, March 1 at the First United Methodist Church of Muleshoe, with the Rev. Monty Leavelle officiating.

Burial followed in Muleshoe Memorial Park Cemetery.

Pingel died on Febr. 26, 2011 in Amarillo. She was born on Dec. 3, 1919, in Iowa to Charles L. and Martha Marie (Bischel) Pingel.

She had lived in Amarillo since 1943, after moving from

Vega.

She was a real estate agent and a member of the Polk Street Methodist Church.

Survivors include as brother — Dale Pingel of Arlington; three sisters — Betty Compton of Roswell N.M., Marcella (Sally) Ellis of Muleshoe, and Patricia Skelpsa of Payson, Ariz.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother — Wayne Pingel.

Memorials may be sent to your favorite charity.

Death Notices

Nell Stanley

Sudan resident Nell Stanley, 68, died on Feb. 27, 2011, in Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. She was born on Jan. 29, 1943, in Bakersfield, Calif., to Maurice and Mildred Kinnie, and married Olie Stanley in Sudan on Nov. 10, 1960. Church services will be Thursday, March 3, at 2 p.m., at the First Baptist Church.

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.
- 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 243, Muleshoe TX 79346, or call 272-3204.
- Muleshoe Boy Scouts, 609 W. Seventh St., Muleshoe TX 79347, or call 806-946-9908.

Muleshoe Country Club Ladies Association

The Ladies Association of Muleshoe Country Club started the New Year at the Jan. 18 meeting with a wonderful lunch of chicken spaghetti, cranberry salad and peach cobbler.

The meal was provided by Deborah Noble, Christie Whitt and Lavern Winn.

Then the meeting was started by newly elected president Lavern Winn by introducing the rest of the new officers.

This year's officers are: president, Lavern Winn; vice-president, Christie Whitt; secretary, Deborah Noble; treasurer, Pat Kirk; reporter, Tammy Black.

The play day chairperson for 2011 is Jeri Flowers, and the tournament chairperson is Linda Erdman.

The High-Plains chairperson is Treena Matthews and Jeanetta Precure will serve as head of the food committee.

Marlene Martin was selected as the finance chairman and Lynn



Campbell is in charge of our monthly drawing.

There were 16 members present, and general plans for the year were discussed.

Jeri Flowers, Lavern Winn and Deborah Noble were recognized for their January birthdays.

During the meeting, Tammy Black received the exciting news that her brand new baby

granddaughter had just been born.

After a few reports, the meeting concluded and it was decided the wind did not permit golf, but eight ladies played cards.

The February meeting was on Wednesday, Feb.

16.

Winn presided over the meeting with 19 members, and one guest, Shari Jenkins, in attendance. Lunch — provided by Martin, Elinor and Black — was chicken and beef Mexican casseroles, salad and mini-cherry cheesecakes.

During the business meeting it was reported that, earlier in the week, Black got a hole-in-one.

The birthdays celebrated for February were Donna Glover and Helen Templeton.

At the end of the meeting, three teams were assigned for the golf scramble, and four ladies played cards.

The winning team's members for February's golf scramble were Jeri Flowers, Anita Black, Helen Templeton and Kay Field.

Sports

Seventh grade Mules win first track meet of season

By Delton Wilhite
Sports writer

The seventh grade Mules defeated 14 other teams in the Olton Mustang Relays Thursday to win their first track meet of the year.

Jeff Black got the Mules off to a great start with a silver medal performance in the 2400-meter run.

Triston Boehning earned a bronze medal in the discus. Jaxon Lee earned the silver medal in the shot put.

Julian Borunda placed fifth in the shot.

The 4x100-meter relay team of Aaryn Ross, Josh Lopez, Brandon Chavez and Felipe Guerrero won the bronze medal.

Tony Castillo won the gold medal in the 800-meter run and Simone Chavez finished in fourth place.

Borunda took the gold in the 110-meter hurdles and Daniel Campos

placed fifth in the event.

Jose Mendoza ran sixth in the 100-meter dash.

The 4x200-meter relay team of Ross, Lopez, Brandon Chavez and Guerrero took the silver medal.

The 4x400-meter relay team of Ross, Lopez, B. Chavez and Guerrero took the bronze medal.

The Mules will be running in the Eagle Relays at Lubbock Roosevelt March 3.

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Sports

Mules open baseball season with 'run-rule' victory

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

The Mules opened their 2011 baseball season Monday with a 10-run rule win over the Plains Cowboys.

The Mules blanked the Cowboys 11-0 in five innings.

The Mules did not fair as well against the Crosbyton Chiefs in a double header Saturday afternoon.

The Mule defense and bats were sporadic in both games but Crosbyton took the first game 10-9 in seven innings.

The two coaches had agreed the second game would only go five innings and the Chiefs took it 13-9.

"It is early in the season," said Mule coach Lee Fletcher. "Anything can and usually does happen this early in the season. Our pitching was pretty good Monday against Plains but we struggled today at times."

"We looked like I hope we will begin to play in a couple of weeks at times and like we had not thrown a ball since last season at times. We play these early games searching for the right chemistry between players and to get much needed experience for our younger kids."

"I am looking for good things out of this group



Photograph by Stacy Conner

Mule Juan Sanchez makes a catch in centerfield against Crosbyton

of kids. They should come together and put together a strong season that should see us in the playoffs."

Rico Alarcon singled in the first inning against Plains and went to second on an error by the centerfielder.

He scored on a single to center by Dameon Snell. The Mules led 1-0 after one inning.

Ryan DeLeon drew a walk on four straight pitches in the second inning. He stole second and then scored on Alarcon's single to increase the Mule's lead to 2-0 after two innings.

Juan Sanchez reached first on a slow roller to third for an in-field hit. He went to second on an error and scored on

an error on the second baseman. Saul Elizalde drew a walk and Alfredo Sanchez singled to right field. Ryan DeLeon blasted a triple to the fence to score Elizalde and A. Sanchez. The Mules led 5-0 after three innings.

Matthew Ambriz walked to open the bottom half of the fourth inning for the Mules. Saul Elizalde received a free pass on patches out of the strike zone. J. Sanchez scored the two base runners with a triple and he later scored on an error.

The Mules led 8-2 at the end of four innings.

DeLeon, Lupe Campos and Chris Lozano all drew walks to load the bases in the bottom of the

fifth inning.

DeLeon scored on a passed ball before Ambriz lined a triple to the fence in left center to score two more runs and end the game.

The Mules were held scoreless through the first three innings on Saturday by Crosbyton. The Chiefs put four runs on the board to lead the Mules 4-0 through three innings.

The Mules blanked Crosbyton in the third and fourth innings. The Mules batted around in the bottom of the fourth inning to score five runs. J. Sanchez, Isaac Baca, Ambriz, Joey Ramirez and Alarcon all scored to give the Mules a one run advantage at 5-4 after four innings.

J. Sanchez led off the bottom of the fifth inning and scored the Mules sixth run of the game.

The Chiefs fought back in the sixth inning to take a 7-5 lead after six innings. Crosbyton added three more runs in the top of the seventh. Baca, Trevor McCall and Ambriz all scored in the bottom of the seventh but the Mules could not catch the Chiefs.

The Mules gave up two runs in the top of the first in the second game against Crosbyton.

The Mules shut out the Chiefs in the top of the second inning.

Ten Mules batted in the second inning and pushed six runs across the plate. Lozano walked to lead off the second inning for the Mules.

Felipe Espinoza hit a fly ball to short right field. Ambriz doubled

down the right field line to score two.

Snell doubled to left to bring Ambriz across and J. Sanchez doubled down the left field line to score Snell.

DeLeon singled home J. Sanchez and scored on a single by Baca. The Mules led 7-2 after two innings.

Crosbyton roared back in the third with four runs and took the lead in the fifth with five more. The Chiefs added two more in the top of the fifth.

The Mules only other runs came in the bottom of the fourth inning.

McCall drew a walk to lead off the run and Snell brought him home on with a red on a double by DeLeon for the Mules final run of the day.

The Mules will play in the Littlefield Wildcat Tournament March 3-5.



Up and in!

The Mules have been playing some devastating basket ball during the playoffs, sending their opponents home without a win, and advancing on to the next level of play. The Mules will face the Stanton Buffalos tonight, Wednesday, March 2, at 6 p.m., in the Lubbock Christian University Rip Griffin Center.

Pictured above, Mule Matthew Martinez shoots around a Colorado City player during the recent playoff game. The shot was good.

Photograph by Stacy Conner



**Go,
Mules!**

Lady Mule selected for all-district team

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

The District 2-2A girl basketball coaches met at the end of the season and elected the District 2-2A elite.

The Lady Mules only placed one member on the All-District Team but it was in a very big way.

Yvonne Gardea was elected as the Most Valuable Offensive Player for District 2-2A.

She led the Lady Mules with an average of 20.8 points per game and that included a 32 point performance against Abernathy and 29 against Tulia.

Gardea led the Lady Mules in all categories. She grabbed nine rebounds, made 3.2 assists, had 4.6 steals and blocked a shot per game.

Lady Mule coach Val Acree said, "I was very happy that even though we didn't do very well this year, that the other coaches in the district recognized Yvonne (Gardea)."

The bottom line was that every single time she touched the basketball; other teams were running 2 and 3 girls at her," he said.

"She took a beating game in and game out, and still kept coming at



Yvonne Gardea plays against Morton

them," he added.

Gardea is a senior and will complete her high

school athletic career on the track for the Lady Mules.

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Sports



Eighth grade Lady Mules track team, from left to right: Standing — Samantha Vasquez, Mariah Alfaro, Bethany Prater, Michelle Chavez, Gabriela Chavez, Kayla Preston, Bernie Delgado, Roxanne Mata, Yannette Orozco, Jaida Gandarilla, Abigail Perez and Ruby Andrade; kneeling — Shanice Rosas, Megan Cantrell, Daniela Diaz, Celeste Flores, Angelina Perez and Adriana Loya.

Eight grade ladies take fourth place

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

The eighth grade Lady Mules track team finished fourth from a field of 14 teams Thursday afternoon in the Mustang Relays in Olton.

Celeste Flores won the Lady Mules only gold medal in the triple jump.

Adriana Loya finished sixth in the same event.

Flores took fourth in the long jump.

Mariah Alfaro finished fifth in the 2400-meter run.

The 4x100-meter relay team of Angelina Perez, Shenice Rosas, Daniela Diaz and Magen Cantrell finished in sixth place.

Cantrell won the bronze medal in the 100-meter dash.

The 4x200-meter relay

team of Loya, Perez, Rosas and Flores placed fifth.

The 4x400-meter relay team of Loya, Rosas, Diaz and Flores ran a time of five minutes and seven seconds to win the silver medal.

The Lady Mules will compete March 3 in the Eagle Relays at Lubbock Roosevelt.

Eight grade Mules win track meet

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

The eighth grade Mules won the Olton Mustang track meet Thursday afternoon by defeating the 14 other teams in the meet.

The Mules utilized gold medal performances by all three of their relay teams for their first win of the track season.

Cristian Lopez placed fifth in the high jump. Blayne Shipman had a bronze medal leap in the

high jump.

The 4x100-relay team of Braden Bessire, Saul Sanchez, Jorge Martinez and Medardo Andrade won the Mules first relay team gold medal.

Eshoya Lopez took the silver medal in the 110-meter hurdles. Grey Johnson placed sixth in the 100-meter dash.

Israel Rubio finished sixth in the 400-meter run. Francisco Elizalde won the bronze medal in the 200-meter dash.

Andrade picked up a gold medal in the 300-meter hurdles.

The 4x200-meter relay team of Bessire, Elizalde, Lopez, and Martinez won the gold medal.

The 4x400-meter relay team of Israel Rubio, Andrade, Martinez and Sanchez won the Mules final gold medal of the day.

The Mules will compete in the Eagle relays in Lubbock Roosevelt on March 3.



The seventh grade Lady Mules track team, from left to right: Standing — Yulissa Sanchez, Shyanne Carpenter, Lisett Mojica, Lupita Andrade, Yasmine Sandoval, Ruby Regalado, Rosa Munoz, Kennedy Nickels, Lisa Marie Martinez, Denisse Ramirez, Megan Pierson, Baylee Ruthardt and Rachelle Whitworth; kneeling — Desiree Gutierrez,

Aimee Rosas, Cassidee Moore, Kaytlin Moore, Sasha Estrada, Zoe Apodaca, Brooklyn Beall, Keidi Salas, Blanca Ramirez, Jasmine Garza and Jazmin Arellano.

Seventh grade Lady Mules win Olton track meet

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

The seventh grade Lady Mules opened their track season in the Olton Mustang Relays with a win over 14 teams.

The Lady Mules used a combination of events for the win.

Kaytlyn Moore got the Lady Mules started with a gold medal win in the triple jump.

Desiree Gutierrez earned the silver medal in the same event. Brooklyn Beall earned the Lady Mules first medal on the track with a silver medal time in the 2400-meter run.

K. Moore won the silver medal in the long

jump. Cassidee Moore placed fourth and Zoe Apodaca placed fifth in the same event.

C. Moore tied for the gold medal in the high jump but lost the coin flip and brought home the silver.

Sasha Esparza had a gold medal throw in the discus.

The 4x100-meter relay team of Jazmin Arellano, Gutierrez, K. Moore and C. Moore earned the silver medal.

Keidi Salas won the gold medal in the 800-meter run.

Blanca Ramirez was close behind for the silver medal in the 800.

Baylee Ruthardt

finished fourth in the 100-meter hurdles. K. Moore earned the bronze medal in the 100-meter dash.

The 4x200-meter relay team of Arellano, Guterrez, Jasmine Garza and Blanca Ramirez won the bronze medal.

C. Moore took the gold medal in the 400-meter run and Ramirez finished in fourth place in the same event.

Apodaca took the bronze medal in the 300-meter hurdles. Ruby

Regalado place third in the 300-meter hurdles.

Arellano won the bronze medal in the 200-meter dash.

The Lady Mules 4x400-meter relay team of Aimee Rosas, Apodaca, K. Moore and C. Moore won the gold medal with a time of four minutes and 56 seconds to clinch the win for the Lady Mules.

The Lady Mules will run again in the Eagle Relays at Lubbock Roosevelt March 3.



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Who must file a rendition?

You must file a rendition if you own tangible personal property that is used to produce income—such as the inventory and equipment used by a business. If you render late, don't render or file an incomplete or false rendition, a 10 percent to 50 percent penalty may be imposed.

Are there any advantages to you?

The advantages of filing a rendition are:

- ☑ You give your opinion of your property's value. The appraisal district must notify you in writing of any value change and explain how you can protest that value to the appraisal review board.
- ☑ You record your correct mailing address so your tax bills will go to the right address. If your bill is mailed to the wrong address, the law still holds you responsible for paying your taxes on time or paying extra charges for late payments.
- ☑ You can also file a "report of decreased value" to notify the appraisal district of significant depreciation of the value of your property in 2010. The district will look at your property before assigning a value in 2011.

What's the deadline?

The last day for filing 2011 renditions is April 15. You can get an automatic extension to May 15 (or the next business day if a weekend) if you ask for it in writing on or before the April 15 deadline. The chief appraiser may grant an additional 15 days after the deadline for an owner who shows good cause in writing.

Where do you file?

File renditions with your local appraisal district at:

Bailey Central Appraisal District
302 Main St.
Muleshoe, TX 79347
806-272-5501

Or contact:



Texas Comptroller Susan Combs
Property Tax Assistance Division
P.O. Box 13528
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When is the application deadline?

If your land has never had a productivity appraisal or you are a new owner, you must apply to your local appraisal district before May 1 to take advantage of this benefit on your 2011 property taxes. You may get up to 60 extra days if you have a good reason and ask for it before May 1. If you miss this deadline, you may still be able to apply, but you will pay a penalty. Check with your appraisal district office.

Do you need to reapply annually?

If your land already receives agricultural or timber productivity appraisal, you normally don't need to reapply unless the chief appraiser requires you to do so. If a new application is required, the appraisal district will notify you by mail.

For more information, call or come by:

Bailey Central Appraisal District
302 Main St.
Muleshoe, TX 79347
806-272-5501

Or contact:



Texas Comptroller Susan Combs
Property Tax Assistance Division
P.O. Box 13528
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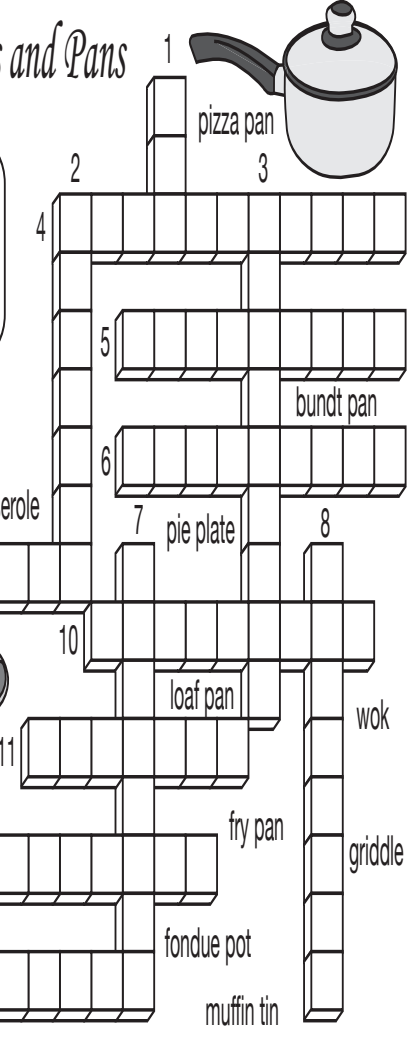
It's Cool to Cook!

I enjoy cooking and baking. I like putting foods together to make new, hopefully delicious, combinations. One of my favorite hobbies is to take an old recipe that everyone loves, like cheese and macaroni, and "lighten" it to make it a healthier dish that's just as tasty.

Can you read the clues to fill in my puzzles about cooking?

Pots and Pans

1. bowl-shaped pan used to cook Chinese food
2. pan that comes in many shapes and sizes, usually metal
3. very deep pans with a handle and a lid
4. flat sheet of metal for laying out cookie dough
5. bowl heated from below - keeps cheese and chocolate melted for dipping
6. mixed foods cooked in a large, deep, usually uncovered dish in the oven
7. round, doughnut-shaped baking pan
8. shallow, round, glass or metal dish used to bake one of America's favorite desserts
9. round, flat pan with sides, may be iron, may have a non-stick surface, has a big handle
10. sheets that have tiny cups for dough, the perfect shape for cupcakes or these
11. square or rectangular "frying pan," may be flat or have ridges, drains off extra grease
12. rectangular pan that is deep, used for breads and a favorite meat dinner
13. large, round, flat metal pan, sometimes deeper for "deep dish"



How We Cook It

1. cook in oven using dry heat
2. heat up liquid until it starts to bubble and steam
3. cook over an open fire
4. cook in a pan or griddle usually in very hot oil
5. cook a food just below its boiling point
6. heat using water in the form of wisps of _____
7. cook meat in oven, uncovered in a shallow pan without adding liquid
8. cook at high temperature using direct heat from the top of the oven
9. turn something into liquid over heat
10. cook in a pan with a little bit of oil or butter

Visit our web site to print out our new fun crossword puzzles: **Kitchen Fun and Winter Words** (synonyms). While there, print out the newest reading log and certificate set: www.readingclubfun.com

Mayor calls for prayer

Mayor Cliff Black invites the citizens of Muleshoe and the surrounding area to gather on Monday, March 7, at 6 p.m., at the Mule Memorial, 107 E. American Blvd., to pray for "much-needed rain."

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Todd Shipman
Garry Shipman

MISD school board approves band trip

Muleshoe High School's band students can begin making their plans for Corpus Christi, following Monday's approval by the MISD school board.

"It's a good trip, and gives them good performance opportunity," said band instructor Nicholas Stephenson.

Band students have been involved in various events to raise funds for the trip, which will cost about \$200 per student.

"It's almost half the price of the band's previous trip, which will allow more students to go," Stephenson said.

It's hoped, he added,

that at least 50 of the band students will avail themselves of the opportunity.

In other business, the school board:

- Approved the district's food service and financial reports.
- Approved the district's second budget amendment, the school calendar for the 2011-12 school year, and the district's emergency operation plan, and the minutes from its Feb. 11 board meeting.
- Accepted the resignations of Brian Arnold, Jan King and Lenda Trussell, all of whom are retiring.

School News

Last week, Muleshoe High School competed in an academic contest that resembled an athletic contest.

Sixteen teams from across the South Plains area competed in the Area 5 Academic Challenge, sponsored by the Texas Association of Community Schools.

The contest was held on Feb. 23 at the Muleshoe High School Gymnasium.

Each team consisted of three High School students (three levels based on GPA averages).

There are four rounds of five questions each that are asked of each team member.

The students have 15 seconds to answer each question. The competition gets intense and exciting as students compete for college scholarships.

The top five teams from each of the six area contests held around the state qualify for the state contest in April held at The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas.

The next five highest scoring teams in the state also qualify for the state contest as "at-large" teams.

I have the honor of being the state director for the Academic Challenge.

April Smith, Business & Technology teacher at Muleshoe High School, was the area contest director.

Assisting Mrs. Smith in conducting the contest were Muleshoe ISD Asst. Superintendent Carl Krug, Superintendent secretary Pam Thomason, MHS Principal Steve Myatt, MHS English teacher Vickie Burch, MHS Librarian Belinda Head, MHS special education teacher Staci Buie, and judges — MHS social studies teacher Val Acree, former English teacher Sharry Jenkins, MHS science teacher Loretta Ray, MHS Counselor Heidi Moore, and MISD Federal Programs Director Dave McNeill.

One team from Muleshoe High School won fifth place and automatically qualified

for the State Contest at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton on April 10.

Team members included Belinda Pacheco, Michael Martinez, and Jonathan Perez.

A second team from MHS also qualified for the State Contest. This team qualified as an At-Large Team. Five teams from across the state qualify for the State Contest because their scores were the five highest scores in the state after the top five teams in each Area Contest. Members of this team included Jenna Whitworth, Dameon Snell, and Val Olivas.

Results for the contest and total amount of scholarships won for each team for 1st - 5th places:

First place — Sundown

High School Team I, \$2,370; second place — Denver City High School Team I, \$1,974; third place — Alpine High School Team I, \$1,575; fourth place — Denver City High School Team Q, \$1,185; fifth place — Muleshoe High School Team Q, \$ 786; sixth place — Olton High School Team I; seventh place — Denver City High School Team U; eighth place — Muleshoe High School Team I; ninth place — Crosbyton High School Team I; 10th place — Sundown High School Team Q.

We want to congratulate each team that participated.

We are proud of the way our students represented Muleshoe High School in this year's Academic Challenge.

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The Sudan Buzzy

Nettes end season with loss to Smyer

By Savannah Sain
Sudan Correspondent

The weekend for the Sudan Nettes started with a decisive victory over Wheeler at the UIL 1A Regional Tournament in Levelland on Friday afternoon.

The Nettes started the game with a 19-6 lead over their rival. By the end of the first half, the Nettes were outscoring Wheeler by the score of 36 to 16.

The Nettes' defense held Wheeler to just 16 more points as the Nettes ended the night with a 62-32 victory.

Danielle Logan ended the game with 25 points followed by Bailee Black with 18. Other key players for the Wheeler game included Victoria Williams with 10 points and Janelle Vanderlei with four points.

The Nettes shot 52 percent from the floor and shot 21 percent from the 3-point range.

The Nettes also dominated the stats with more rebounds, assists, and steals.

Fouls for the night were almost dead even with the Nettes owning 10 fouls while Wheeler had 11 fouls.

Wheeler, however, put up significant points from the bench with a total of 26 out of 32 points from their non-starters.

With the win, the Nettes earned the right to play in the regional final game against Smyer for a chance to go to the State Meet in Austin.

Smyer and Sudan had played a year ago for the chance to represent the region at the State Basketball Tournament.

The Nettes had hoped for a different outcome than the previous year's defeat. Sudan got off with a strong start in the first quarter.

Logan and Black had key shots in the first half leaving Sudan up by the score of 15 to 5.

But, Smyer came raging back in the second quarter outscoring the Nettes as they put up 18 points versus Sudan's nine points.

The half time score was Sudan 24 and Smyer 23.

The third quarter featured one of the best defensive struggles that had occurred at the Texan Dome.

Neither team scored in the third quarter even though many shots touched the rim. Nothing was falling for either time.

The fourth quarter came down to precision. The Nettes only scored six points while Smyer posted up 11 points.

Smyer won the game and earned their chance to repeat last year's performance.

Logan led the Nettes with 13 points and 11 rebounds.

Black had 11 points and nine rebounds. Jade Goen and Mariah Steinbock each left the court with four points.

The Nettes only had a 26 percent field goal rate compared to Smyer's 36 percent field goal rate.

Free throws also hurt the Nettes as they only shot 45 percent from the free throw line versus Smyer's free throw rate being 67 percent from the line.

The Nettes played with fewer fouls, fewer turnovers, and more assists and rebounds.

The biggest difference was the points from the paint with Sudan earning only two points from the paint versus Smyer's 10 points from the paint.

"Our game plan was to limit Fowler and we did that. Farr was averaging about 14 points per game and she got that so I was not really surprised by that," said Head Coach Jason Cooper.

"I thought we did a great job defensively, but offense was a different

story. We got tight after the first quarter, and we did not play to win. We just seemed a little timid and passed on several shooting opportunities. You just can't account for the enormous amount of pressure that the girls feel in that big of a game," he said.

"I am proud of how far we came this year. I felt like the girls worked extremely hard and performed amazingly well this year. I appreciate



their effort very much," he added.

The Nettes ended their season with a record of 27-8 beating major teams such as Muleshoe, Canyon Randall, Lubbock High, and Frenship.

The next season brings great promise as the most of the team from this year will be returning next year.

The Nettes had two seniors this year, Mariah Steinbock and Chelsea Locke.

Locke had been injured since the beginning of the season, so Steinbock was the only senior left playing this year.



Photographs by Savannah Sain

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County JP attends seminar

Judge Deb Stone was certified at the recent 20-hour Justice of the Peace Seminar held Feb. 20-23 in Austin.

The seminar was sponsored by the Texas Justice Court Training Center, a division of Texas State University - San Marcos, with offices in Austin.

The seminar is held for elected justices of the peace so they can fulfill their continuing judicial education requirements as set forth in Article 27.005 of the Texas Government Code.

The seminar addressed topics such as pre-trial



Justice of the Peace Deb Stone

procedure, discovery and evidence, trial procedure, post-judgment procedure, residential and commercial evictions, landlord/tenant rights and

obligations, juvenile law, traffic law, magistration, the technology fund and technology, teen courts, justice court records and Rule 12, online death reporting, administrative hearings, rights of the accused, family violence and peace bonds, civil and criminal round table discussions, adjudication of failure to attend school cases, alcohol and tobacco, complaints and determining probable cause, search warrants, writs, judicial demeanor, ethics, social media, and assessing witness credibility.

Lazbuddie ISD honor rolls released

Lazbuddie ISD recently released its honor rolls for the fourth six-week period of the 2010-11 school year.

Among the students honored are:

Elementary "A" — Jacy Carpenter, TJ Chavez, Ethan Martinez, Aidan McDonald, Carlos Perea, Wyatt Rainey, Trail Townsend, Presley Agee, John Henry Schacher and

Devon Pacheco.

Elementary "AB" — Kaitlyn Cooper, Audel Porras, Aidan Ruiz, Isabella Salazar, Maggie Vasquez, Garison Bohler, Renske Crujisen, Maribel Gomez, Austin Hester, Kyler Admire, Adrian Fernandez, Miranda Salazar, Jorge Albarran, Sydney Urbantke, Andres Solano, TJ Ballard, Tristan

Bomer, Bernardo Lopez and Ginsyn McGehee.

Junior High "A" — Ashley Scott.

Junior High "AB" — Casey Bartley, Mattison Hester, Destry Ivy, Jesus Montes, Kenton Parish, Karsyn Youngblood, Iridian Fernandez, Derick Gibbins, Juan Samarron, Micah Vera, Anais Andrade, Femke Crujisen, Haldan Ivy and Lacey Jesko.

High School "A" — Shyann Rainey, Autumn Townsend, Shea Scott, Carrie Beth Gilly, Jordan Hernandez and Colton Weaver.

High School "AB" — Haley Beasley, Keena Diaz, Ashton Mason, Allison Weaver, Jessica Estrada, Karina Galaviz, Denise Sanchez, Ross Steinbock, Weston Griswold, Jarrod Jesko, Jordan Mason, Kylie McGehee, Todd Nichols, Justin Schacher, Katie Scott, Keeley Burris, Joseline Garcia, Cassidy Lowe and Summer Townsend.

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AUCTION

LAND AUCTION - 637 Acres of Irrigated Cropland in Roosevelt County, NM. March 22, 2011 - 11:00 a.m. (MT) at The Days Inn - Clovis, NM. Irrigation equipment is in great condition, with 6 wells and 4 pivots connected in one system. Contact Bob Pifer, Pifer's Auction & Realty, 877-477-3105, www.pifers.com. In cooperation

with Nick Cortese (Broker), Fallon - Cortese Land. 575-355-2855.

FARM EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

AGCO Finance LLC will offer the following repossessed equipment for sale to the highest bidder for cash, plus applicable sales tax. Equipment: Massy Ferguson 9635 Swather, S/N: HS46256, Massy Ferguson 9175 Header, S/N: HS 05348, Massy Ferguson 1839 Baler, S/N: HS65380. Date of sale: Wednesday March 9, 2011. Time of sale: 11:00AM Place of sale: Earl Ladd & Sons, 602 American Blvd., Muleshoe, TX. Equipment can be inspected at place of sale. The equipment will be sold AS IS without warranty. We reserve the right to bid. For further information please contact Tracy Calhoun (505) 301-0726 Cell, Reference Number 837513 & 862075.

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LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICE

Cause No. 8773 IN THE 287TH DISTRICT COURT IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF ERNESTINA DELEON AND JUAN PABLO DELEON AND IN THE INTEREST OF OF CRYSTAL DELEON, NATALIE DELEON AND ESTEVAN DELEON CHILDREN BAILEY COUNTY. TEXAS TO JUAN PABLO DELEON, Defendant-GREETING NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:

“You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 am on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date this citation was issued, a default judgment may be taken against you.”

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Original Petition For Divorce at or before 1000 o'clock AM. on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation the same being Monday Apr 11, 2011 before the Honorable District Court of Bailey County at the Courthouse in said County in Muleshoe, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court on the 23rd day of February 2011 in the above entitled cause. A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: Original Petition For Divorce, as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit. Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Muleshoe, Texas this 24th day of February 2011. Attorney for Plaintiff or Plaintiff Jeff Actkinson PO Box 286 Farwell, TX 79325 Clerk of the Court: Elaine Parker Bailey County, Texas, By Becky Espinoza, Deputy. Published in the Muleshoe Journal, March 3, 2011.

NOTICE TO RECEIVE PROPOSALS MULESHOE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Muleshoe Independent School District will receive sealed proposals for the following: 1. DeShazo Wireless Network Equipment 2. DeShazo Network Equipment 3. Watson Jr High Wireless Network Equipment 4. Watson Jr High Network Equipment The proposals should be returned in a sealed envelope with the name of the category and the word PROPOSAL clearly indicated on the outside of the envelope. Return the sealed proposal to Erik Craig, Technology Director, Muleshoe ISD, 514 West Avenue G, Muleshoe, Texas, 79347, or delivered to Mr. Craig at the Technology Office, 514 West Avenue G, Muleshoe, Texas. **The sealed proposals will be received until 3:00 p.m., March 15, 2011.** Proposals mailed will be deemed as delivered only when received by Mr. Craig. A proposal that has been opened may not be changed for the purpose of correcting an error in the proposal price. Specifications on the above category can be obtained at the Muleshoe ISD Technology Office, 514 West Avenue G, Muleshoe, Texas. The Board of Trustees of Muleshoe Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals and to waive all informalities or irregularities and to make the proposal award in the best interest of Muleshoe ISD. This is a solicitation for proposals and is not an offer. All proposals and information received in response to this solicitation will become the property of Muleshoe ISD. Any questions concerning the proposal forms and specifications should be directed to Mr. Erik Craig, Technology Director, 514 West Avenue G, Muleshoe, Texas, or by calling (806) 272-7319.

HELP WANTED

10 Temp positions: Farm work, 03/18/11 to 12/31/11 @ \$2200-2000p/month + R&Bor\$10.66-9.78 p/hr, depending on worksite. Housing provided, 48 hrs p/wk. 3/4 guarantee, transportation and subsistence expenses to worksite paid after

50% completion of contract. Tools, equipment provided at no cost. Min. 3 months experience. Duties: drive, plant, harvest, store grain, repair operate tractor, rock picker, plow, disc, drill, harvest equip, sprayer, grain truck, basic literacy math skills required. Ken Brull, Pierre, SD. Apply at nearest SD Dept of Labor office use job listing # SD1509706

2 Temp positions: Organic farm work, 04/14/11 to 12/31/11 @ 12.00 p/hr. Housing provided, 48 hrs p/wk. 3/4 guarantee, transportation and subsistence expenses to worksite paid after 50% completion of contract. Tools, equipment provided at no cost. Min. 3 months experience. Duties: Apply organic pesticide, herbicides, fertilizer, harvest crops, repair and maintain equipment, fences, buildings, assist in irrigation activities. Load and unload trucks and farming equipment. Whitman Ranch, Robinson, ND, Interested? Apply at ND Workforce Solutions office job # ND235243.

Need experienced Automotive technician. Contact Terry Burton, 806-272-5330. RN needing at Interim Health Care - Muleshoe, available to work from 8-5 Mon-Fri. and will be ON-CALL at least 1 week a Mth. Must be able to travel around Muleshoe and surrounding areas. Please contact Kim Hill @ 806-897-1485 for any information needed.

2 Temp positions: Farm work, 04/15/11 to 12/31/11 @ 15.00 p/hr. Housing provided, 48 hrs p/wk. 3/4 guarantee, transportation and subsistence expenses to worksite paid after 50% completion of contract. Tools, equipment provided at no cost. Min. 3 months experience. Duties: drive, plant, harvest, store grain, repair operate tractor, rock picker, plow, disc, drill, harvest equip, sprayer, grain truck, read and speak sufficient English. Savelkoul Harvesting, Lansford, ND, Interested? Apply at ND Workforce Solutions office job # 234915.

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2 Temp positions: Farm work, 03/24/11 to

12/31/11 @ 15.00 p/hr. Housing provided, 48 hrs p/wk. 3/4 guarantee, transportation and subsistence expenses to worksite paid after 50% completion of contract. Tools, equipment provided at no cost. Min. 3 months experience. Duties: drive, plant, harvest, store grain, repair operate tractor, rock picker, plow, disc, drill, harvest equip, sprayer, grain truck, read and speak sufficient English. Harold Eidsness, Brocket, ND, Interested? Apply at ND Workforce Solutions office job # 234915.

2 Temp positions: Farm work, 03/21/11 to 12/31/11 @ 12.00 p/hr. Housing provided, 48 hrs p/wk. 3/4 guarantee, transportation & subsistence expenses to worksite paid after 50% completion of contract. Tools, equipment provided at no cost. Min. 3 months experience. Duties: Apply pesticide, herbicides, fertilizer harvest crops, repair and maintain equipment, fences, buildings, participate in irrigation activities. Load and unload trucks and farming equipment. Drug testing after hire. Sundhagen Farms, Tioga, ND, Interested? Apply at ND Workforce Solutions office job # 234915.

One Temp position: Farm work, 03/29/11 to 12/31/11 @ 15.00 p/hr. Housing provided, 48 hrs p/wk. 3/4 guarantee, transportation and subsistence expenses to worksite paid after 50% completion of contract. Tools, equipment provided at no cost. Min. 3 months experience. Duties: drive, plant, harvest, store grain, repair operate tractor, rock picker, plow, disc, drill, harvest equip, sprayer, grain truck, read and speak sufficient English. Savelkoul Harvesting, Lansford, ND, Interested? Apply at ND Workforce Solutions office job # 234787

2 Temp positions: Farm work, 04/15/11 to 12/31/11 @ 15.00 p/hr. Housing provided, 48 hrs p/wk. 3/4 guarantee, transportation and subsistence expenses to worksite paid after 50% completion of contract. Tools, equipment provided at no cost. Min. 3 months experience. Duties: drive, plant, harvest, store grain, repair operate tractor, rock picker, plow, disc, drill, harvest equip, sprayer, grain truck, read and speak sufficient English. Savelkoul Harvesting, Lansford, ND, Interested? Apply at ND Workforce Solutions office job # 234787

Duties: drive, plant, harvest, store grain, repair operate tractor, rock picker, plow, disc, drill, harvest equip, sprayer, grain truck, read and speak sufficient English. Robert Schneider, Crary, ND, Interested? Apply at ND Workforce Solutions office job # 236014

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- 3 bdr, 1 3/4 bath brick home** 2 car garage, built-ins, cent. A&H, fenced backyard, storage bldg. Call for more details.
- 3 bdr, 1 3/4 bath home, 2 car carport, fp, cent. A&H, fenced backyard, metal roof, large play or game room, all on corner lot.**

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2011 Area Champions!



The 2011 Area Champion Muleshoe Mules

Varsity Mules dominate games

Continued from page 1
chipped in one.

Turnbow hit a trey to open the Area game in Lubbock Coronado's gym Friday night. Washington owned the lane and made a pair of hoops. Martinez finished a break and hit a trey from the corner. Hurtado hit a 15-foot jumper. The Mules opened an early lead but Colorado City cut the Mule lead to 14-10 by the end of the quarter.

The Mules rallied in the second period to increase their advantage back to double digits for most of the period. Washington opened the quarter with a hoop by turning toward the baseline and putting the ball on the glass. He added a second hoop before the half ended.

Turnbow sandwiched an old-fashion three-pointer between a pair of baskets. Toscano and

Perez both hit hoops as the period wound down. A late rally by the Wolves had the Mules clinging to a five-point lead as the clock wound down.

Guerra fired up a fall-away shot from out side the arc with 0.07 seconds on the clock. The shot was flat and did not appear to be above the rim. But it just cleared the front of the rim and hit only nylon as the buzzer sounded.

The Mules led 32-24 at the half.

Colorado City managed to out score the Mules 16-13 in the third period.

Turnbow opened the second half with a deuce. He made one-of-four from the charity line and hit a final hoop. Washington made three hoops in the frame and Guerra finished a break.

The Mules led 45-40 with eight minutes left to play.

Hurtado and Martinez both nailed 3-pointers in the final frame and Hurtado added a free throw. Perez made

one from the line and Washington finished with a hoop.

Turnbow paced the Mules with 21 points and was eight-of-11 from the line. Washington finished with 16 points and Martinez had eight.

Hurtado dropped in six points, Guerra made five, Perez three and Toscano two.

The twos advanced the Mules to the Regional Quarter Finals.

The Mules will face the Stanton Buffalos on Wednesday, March 2, at 6 p.m., in the Lubbock Christian University Rip Griffin Center.

The Buffs finished third in the District 3-2A race behind Colorado City and Denver City.

They defeated Kermit in the Bi-District round 57-48 and narrowly escaped Bushland 49-47 in the Area game to earn the right to meet the Mules.

The winner of the Regional Quarter Finals will play in the Regional Tournament in Midland Friday and Saturday.

**Thanks
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Donald Turner,
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Farm Bureau is part of the community

Whether it is the annual Bailey County Junior Livestock Show, the annual Rotary Roping or sponsoring a fireman at the annual Texas A&M Fireman's School, Bailey County Farm Bureau (BCFB) has made community part of its everyday business.

In addition to numerous local donations to all kinds of activities, BCFB also sponsors the Bailey County Farm Bureau scholarship, which is awarded each year to a graduating senior from Muleshoe High School. They also cosponsor two or three local juniors and seniors who are sent to participate in Texas Farm Bureau's annual citizenship seminars.

Bailey County Farm Bureau is your local full service insurance agency serving clients in Bailey County. Agent Rickey Barrett has been serving clients for Bailey County Farm Bureau for 29 years.

Agent Toby Kitchens has been with BCFB for three years.

You'll also find two smiling faces to greet you in the office. Letty Guerra and Carla Estrada are the secretaries for Bailey County Farm Bureau. The office also employs one full time adjuster, Julie Vasquez, to service any claims you may have.

The local agency, branch of Farm Bureau Insurance has been serving farmers, ranchers and their families for over 50 years and has always committed themselves to supporting agriculture and the people who work hard to make a living in the industry "We're committed to backing agriculture," said Barrett. "Our economy is dependent on keeping agriculture strong."



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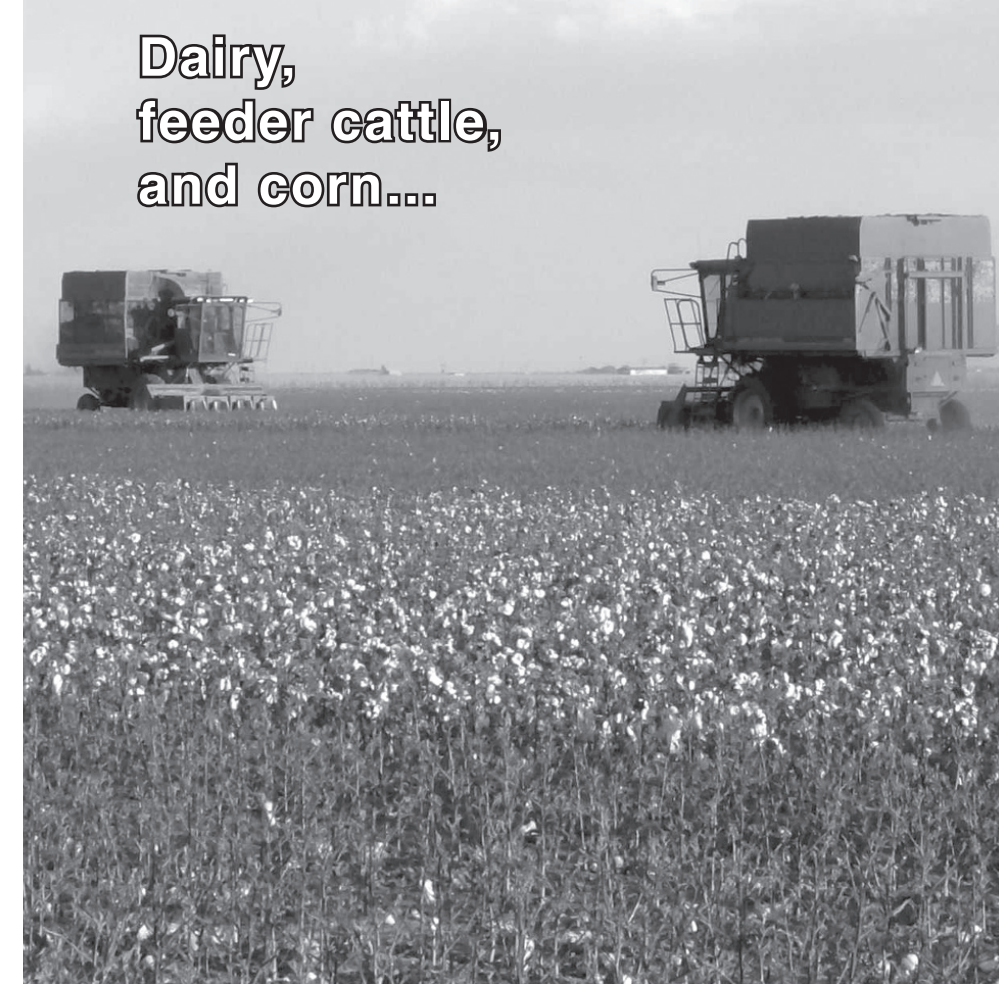
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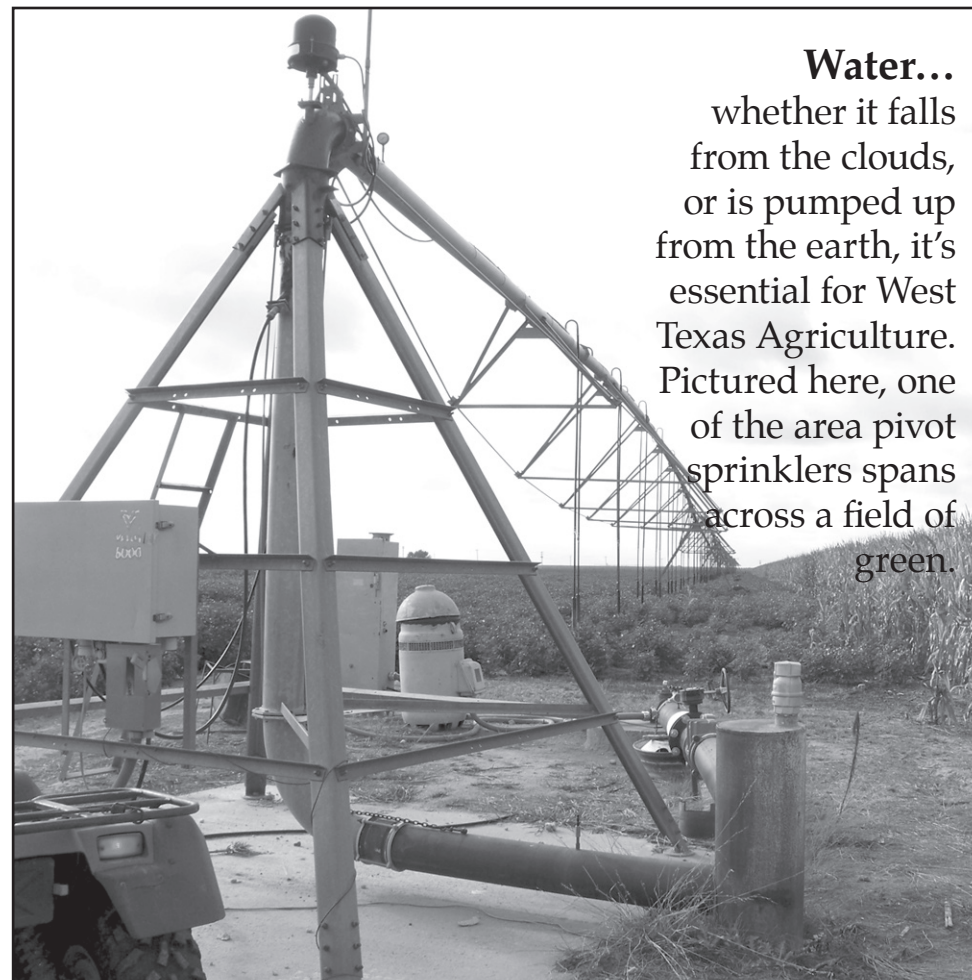
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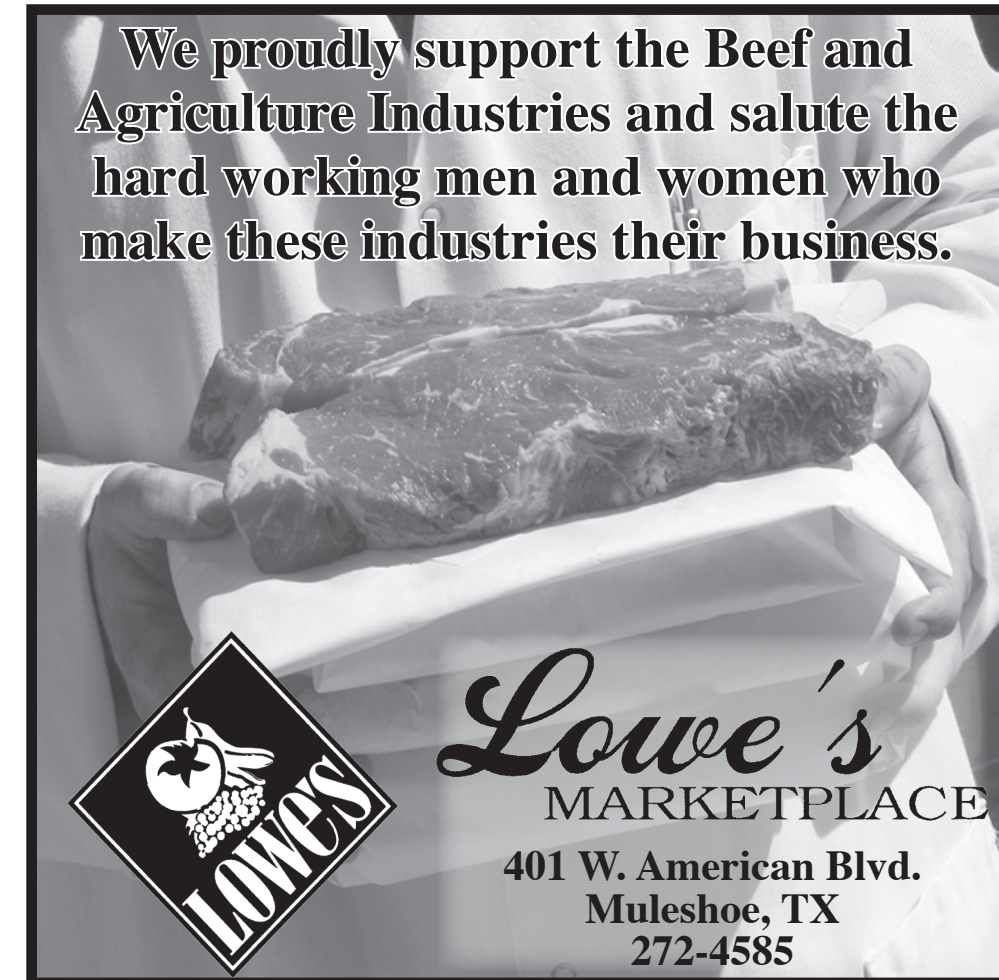


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This "Salute to the West Texas Agriculture Industry" was produced by the staff of the *Muleshoe Journal*, 201 W. Ave. C, Muleshoe, TX 79347



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Economics, groundwater use of bioenergy feedstocks studied

By Kay Ledbetter
AgriLife.org

Biofuel feedstock production in the Texas High Plains could significantly change the crop mix, which could affect regional income and groundwater consumption, according to Texas AgriLife Research and Texas AgriLife Extension Service economists.

Dr. Steve Amosson, AgriLife Extension economist in Amarillo, and Dr. Seong

Park, AgriLife Research economist in Vernon, are joining other economists to model the socio-economic effects of climate change on the Ogallala Aquifer.

The project, Economics and Groundwater-Use Implications of Bioenergy Feedstocks Production in the Ogallala Aquifer Program Region, is funded by the Ogallala Aquifer federal research program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research

Service.

"The High Plains' crops, livestock and meat processing sectors, as well as oil and gas production, literally run on water from the Ogallala Aquifer," Amosson said. "However, this region is facing an uncertain future, after significant pumping for the past 50 years has caused water tables to fall generally across the aquifer."

With water demand so strong and the aquifer serving as the primary source of that water, it is important to know how climate change and biofuels development in the future could affect availability, Amosson said.

"Projections of a warmer and drier future for this region threaten to raise cropping water needs and thus, the rate of aquifer depletion, while also lowering the natural recharge," he said. "The current biofuels policy and associated high commodity prices contribute additional pressures on those water resources."

The information generated from the study will present a comprehensive characterization of the economic and groundwater implications regarding allocation of limited agricultural land and water between crops and biofuel feedstock production, Amosson said. Then they can determine potential implications for farm income and regional activity.

Park said if more farmers begin producing a cellulosic feedstock or a drought-tolerant one, those changes would affect the Ogallala Aquifer water use.

"We want to look at the effects, look at the changes of land use, and see what the regional impact will be both economically and socially," he said. "In addition to the job creation aspect, we want to look at the environmental or carbon footprint as related to water use. We want to see what water consumption versus greenhouse gas production is."

"What if carbon emission rates change, how does that affect things?" Park said. "This is a key point for our stakeholders."

It will be important for producers to know how to adjust water use, cropping and land-use practices, and water-management practices to adapt to climate change

and increasing agricultural demands to provide sustainability of the Ogallala Aquifer, he said.

Through the study, Park said, they hope to be able to outline the implications of climate change for the region and biofuel feedstock production possibilities. They will look particularly at cellulosic production using perennial grasses such as switchgrass on marginal land with fewer inputs of water and fertilizers.

"We think this study will make a contribution to science addressing the issues of groundwater sensitivity to climate change that are explicitly called out as needing further work in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change special report on water," Park said.

The two-year project began in January with the assimilation of information already gathered by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and local scientists, he said.

The plan is to develop over the next two years a dynamic multi-county land allocation model that integrates agriculture, hydrology, climate and geography, he said. This has already been completed for Dallam County, which is serving as the test county.

The economists will use land distribution of crops from 2009 as a baseline in each county, Park said. With that, they will calculate groundwater consumption and project the optimal land allocation or crop mix at the county level over the 2010-2050 period using IPCC climate change scenarios and projected regional mandates for crop ethanol production.

Another component of the study will include greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration, based on the Forest and Agricultural Sector Optimization Model-Greenhouse Gas Version developed by a team led by Dr. Bruce McCarl, Nobel laureate and Texas A&M University Distinguished and Regents professor of agricultural economics.


"Once it is developed, this linked hydrological land-use regionalized groundwater model can be used to address a variety of future issues regarding land-use and water-use planning," Park said.


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In March, 2010, Bailey County Electric Cooperative Inc. began work on the construction of a new building located on East American Boulevard in Muleshoe. The construction of this building is now complete.

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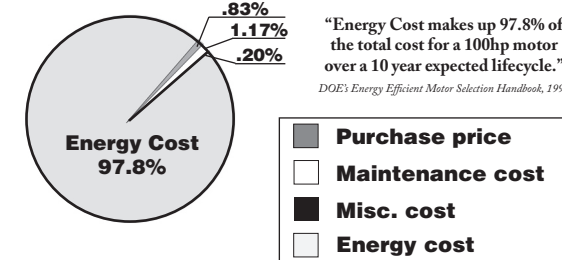
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What is an energy-efficient motor?

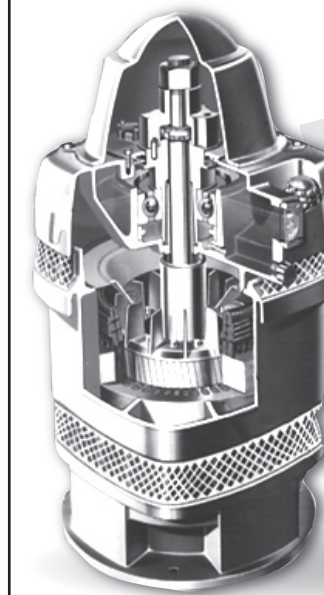
Motor efficiency is the ratio of mechanical power output to the electrical power input, usually expressed as a percentage. Considerable variation exists between the performance of standard and energy-efficient motors. Improved design, materials, and manufacturing techniques enable energy-efficient motors to accomplish more work per unit of electricity consumed. Energy efficient motors offer other benefits. Because they are constructed with improved manufacturing techniques and superior materials, energy-efficient motors usually have higher service factors, longer insulation and bearing lives, lower waste heat output, and less vibration, all of which increase reliability. Most motor manufacturers offer longer warranties for their most efficient models.

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- Continually seeking new markets and growth opportunities
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Agribusiness addresses crop challenges and individual grower needs with tailored solutions in crop protection, nutrition and seed technology. We maintain a full network of field specialists who live in the regions they serve. This enables them to gain a clear understanding of the problems their customers face, recognize and respond quickly to opportunities and develop strong one-to-one relationships.

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Muleshoe Animal Clinic has a tradition of service

Muleshoe Animal Clinic began in 1960 with Jerry Gleason, DVM, as a mixed animal practice. It continues to grow and expand to fit the needs of area cattle growers and dairymen.

Muleshoe Animal Clinic serves an area in the Texas Panhandle and Eastern New Mexico that extends to more than an 80-mile radius around Muleshoe.

Currently, Muleshoe Animal Clinic is staffed by eight veterinarians with more than 75 years of practice experience.

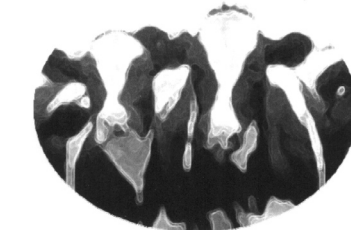
These individuals have dedicated themselves to providing the best veterinary services available to the cattle growers and dairies on the Panhandle of Texas and Eastern New Mexico.

"If you are in need of a service that we do not currently provide, please let us know and we will meet your needs as soon as possible," says the staff at Muleshoe Animal Clinic. "We look forward to getting to know you and working with you. Please, feel free to give us a call anytime, or come by the clinic for a cup of coffee and visit."

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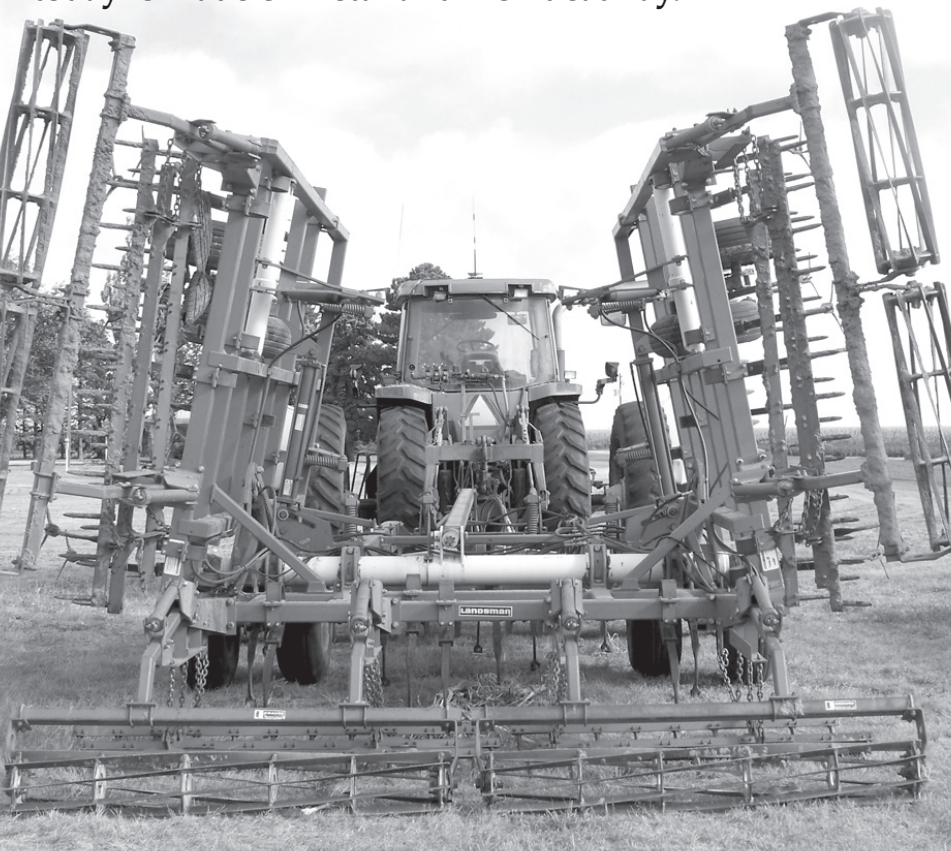
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Five Area Telephone Cooperative, Inc. was chartered May 1, 1950. This is providing telephone service to approximately 1200 access lines in 6 exchanges, covering a 2000 square mile area in portions of Bailey, Parmer, Lamb, Castro and Cochran, and Hockley counties of West Texas.

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West Plains Telecommunications, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Five Area Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and began operations October 1, 1995. West Plains Telecommunications, Inc. serves the communities of Earth, Muleshoe, Olton, Springlake and Sudan using the latest in fiber optic and digital technology in telephone central office equipment.

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Researchers collect 'signals intelligence' on insect pests

By Jan Suszkiw
 United States Department of Agriculture

Using commercially available parts, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) scientists and colleagues have developed a new automated system for detecting insects based on the peculiar sounds the insects make while moving.



According to entomologist Richard Mankin of USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS), one likely application will be to automate routine monitoring of industrial-scale traps, especially those placed in hard-to-reach areas like crawl spaces or near food processing equipment.

Entomologist Richard Mankin examines signals collected by an inexpensive prototype system (on the bench, at his fingertips) for automated insect detection and identification. (Photo by Peggy Greb.)

Automated insect monitoring could also be useful in situations where frequent checking of traps is impractical, adds Mankin, with the ARS Insect Behavior and Biocontrol Research Unit in Gainesville, Fla.

ARS is USDA's principal intramural scientific research agency, and the research supports the USDA priority of promoting international food security.

Mankin developed the device in collaboration with North Carolina State University researchers Ryan

Hodges, Troy Nagel and Coby Schal, all in Raleigh, and Roberto Pereira and Philip Koehler, both at the University of Florida in Gainesville. The team's objective was to make automated insect monitoring affordable, easy to use and reliable.

Toward that end, they integrated commercially available sensors (LEDs, microphones and piezoelectric film) with high-gain amplifiers and laptop-run software for analyzing signals.

The system uses the sensors to collect infrared, acoustic and vibration signals generated by three kinds of insect movements: wriggling, crawling and scraping.

The software analyzes the signals to create a profile of the target insect that distinguishes it from other species.

The researchers tested the device on three stored-product pests (rice weevil, red flour beetle and drugstore beetle) and two household pests (German cockroach and bed bug). In tests, individuals of each pest species were placed in small arenas where their signals could be collected and analyzed for differences in profile, amplitude and duration.

All species tested generated all signal types, but red flour beetles mostly wriggled, German cockroaches typically ran or crawled, and bed bugs mostly scraped.

Mankin envisions users placing the devices in traps or near infested structures and monitoring them remotely.

Read more about the research in the March 2011 issue of *Agricultural Research magazine*.



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Julie DeBruin is the agent for Farmers Insurance Group in Muleshoe.

She has been a resident of Bailey County for nine years, moving here from central Texas. She and her husband are currently in the dairy business in Bailey County. Julie has been involved in agriculture all of her life. It is a way of life she is proud to be a part of.

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Julie DeBruin and Armida Rascon

Better insect control when air is pulled down through grain bins

By Jan Suszkiw

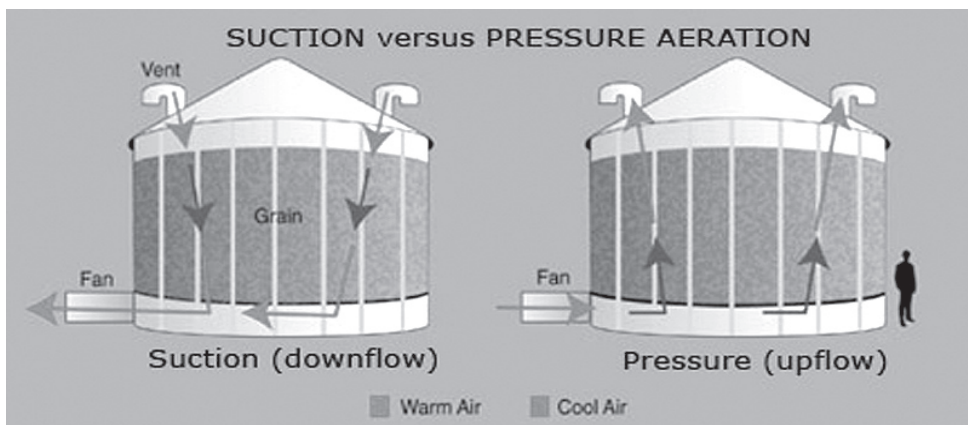
United States Department of Agriculture

Aeration — blowing ambient air through grain storage bins — has been used for decades to maintain the quality of grain by keeping it cool, as well as to manage stored insect pests.

But few recent studies have examined whether it's better to direct air from above or below as a means of using temperatures of 60 degrees Fahrenheit or below to control insects.

To find out, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) entomologist Frank Arthur and agricultural engineer Mark Casada experimented with storage bins whose grain masses were cooled with either pressure aeration or suction aeration.

Pressure aeration uses fans to push ambient air from the bottom of the bin upwards, while suction aeration



involves reversing the fans to pull air from the top downward.

Arthur and Casada work at the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Center for Grain and Animal Health Research in Manhattan, Kan. ARS is USDA's chief intramural scientific research agency.

The researchers conducted two eight-month trials using six metal

storage bins with perforated floors and grain storage capacities of 1,250 bushels of wheat.

Stored insects examined in the study were rusty grain beetles, foreign grain beetles, hairy fungus beetles, red flour beetles, saw-toothed grain beetles, rice weevils and lesser grain borers.

The data showed that, during the summer, suction aeration cooled the stored wheat's upper portion, or "surface zone," more quickly

than pressure aeration, and that the difference correlated to fewer insect pests.

For example, in pressure aeration-cooled bins, 3,290 rusty grain beetles and 8,210 red flour beetles were found in surface-zone traps, versus 662 and 722 respectively in suction aeration-treated bins.

Suction aeration's rapid cooling of the grain's surface zone is advantageous because that's where insects initially infest the grain after flying in from outside, according to Arthur.

Larger-scale studies are needed. But one expected benefit to using suction aeration could be reduced reliance on the fumigant phosphine to control insects.

The research, published in the journal Applied Engineering and Agriculture, supports the USDA priority of promoting international food security.

New regulations must consider impact on people, not just water

The process of drafting new water use restrictions must consider the lives of people as well as the water in the aquifer, David Gibson, executive vice president of the Corn Producers Association of Texas, said Thursday, March 24, at a public meeting on proposed water regulations.

"If this process is only about water, with no consideration for people, then something has gone tragically wrong with our system of government," Gibson said.

The meeting in Lubbock was one of five public meetings held by the High Plains Underground Water Conservation Dist. #1 to hear comments on draft regulations approved by the district board on Feb. 22.

"These draft rules have the potential to diminish economic activity, eliminate jobs, reduce land values, affect loan repayments, reduce revenue to school districts, cities and counties and crush prospering farms that hardworking families have worked for generations to build.

Gibson requested that the board delay final adoption of the rules to allow time for affected individuals, businesses and communities to work with the board on modifications to the draft.

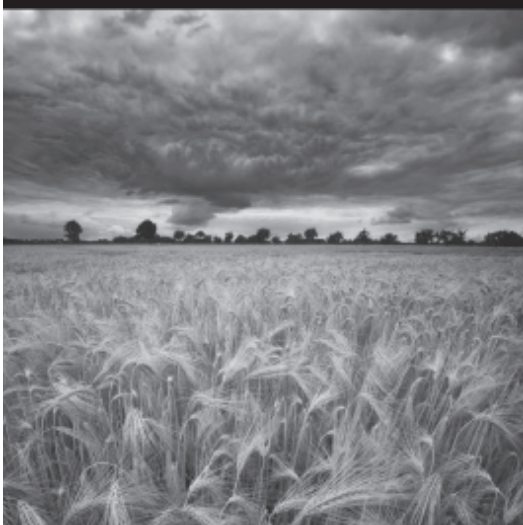
"Agricultural producers recognize that something must be done to conserve water and slow the decline of the Ogallala Aquifer. We realize the time has come and we are ready and willing to work with the board members to ensure the new rules will be fair and effective," Gibson said.

"There is no required deadline the board must meet to adopt new rules so there is no reason for not taking the time to get this right."

"All we ask is that you give us some time and let us work with you to make modifications to these draft rules so that they can be implemented fairly and reasonably without devastating consequences."

If residents are unable to attend these meetings to present comments, Gibson said written comments must be submitted directly to the water district by 5 p.m. on April 1.

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Middle East unrest will likely drive nitrogen fertilizer costs higher

By Robert Burns

Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Escalating unrest in the Middle East is not only going to continue to drive gasoline and diesel fuel prices up to 2008 levels, but there's a good chance it will do the same to the costs of fertilizing pastures, according to a Texas AgriLife research expert.

Even if it doesn't further contribute to rising fertilizer costs, they're high enough already that livestock producers "absolutely must learn to better manage nitrogen applications to stay in business," said Dr. Monte Rouquette, AgriLife research forage scientist.

Rouquette is one of the instructors at the upcoming Pasture and Livestock Management Workshop that was held March 29 -31 at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Overton.

The course was about helping both novice and experienced producers how to better manage inputs and utilize forage resources.

Now, with fertilizer costs rising again, it's more critical than ever for those in the cow/calf business to "fine-tune livestock production inputs and management skills from the grass roots up," he said.

"The cost of ammonium nitrate today is \$460 per ton, or about 68 cents per pound," Rouquette said.

"Last year about this time it was 53 cents per pound."

For the last six to 10 years, fertilizer costs have been rising, he said.

The prices relaxed somewhat in the last three years from 2008 when they reached 70 to 75 cents per pound. But even before the Middle East meltdown, prices had been steadily climbing.

Though nitrogen fertilizer is made from natural gas, all fuel prices are linked, he explained, so the increase in one leads to a rise in others.

There's also the associated cost of transporting and applying fertilizer as the cost of diesel rises.

This all could mean that cow/calf and other livestock producers will have to drastically rethink their production strategies as all the modern, improved warm-season grasses are big users of nitrogen.

"We are revisiting the dilemma of the price of fertilizer becoming a major constraint on pasture use, and that would indicate that if managers don't have efficient cattle that have sales value — as well as a plan for utilization of the forage that is produced — then fertilizers may wind up on the endangered list," Rouquette said.

Dealing with these issues and others was a major thrust of the grazing school.



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Small grower meeting set

Continued from page 3
and marketing, the Texas Department of Agriculture's GO TEXAN program and other practical aspects of running a small enterprise.

The May 17 and June 7 workshops will be held at the Texas AgriLife Extension Service office in Bexar

County, 3355 Cherry Ridge Dr., Suite 208 in northwest San Antonio.

The May 17 workshop will focus on good agricultural practices, or GAP, training for the small-acreage enterprise. Registration will be at 7:30 a.m. with presentations from 8:15 a.m.-2:15 p.m. Presentations

will address health department concerns, an overview of U.S. Department of Agriculture practices, farm microbiology, and employee training and documentation.

The June 7 workshop will address funding for new and transitioning small-acreage producers. Registration will be at 7:30 a.m. with presentations from 8:15 a.m.-noon, followed by lunch and an educational tour to end about 4 p.m.

Presentations will include a Farm Bill 2008-2012 update, Farm Service Agency programs and insurance, TDA's Young Farmer Program, an overview of the NRCS and value-added funding sources.

"We're happy to be hosting these business-related workshops and feel they will be of great benefit to

small-acreage grower-entrepreneurs throughout South and South Central Texas," said David Rodriguez, AgriLife Extension horticulturist in Bexar County and a local series coordinator.

"We'll also be getting feedback from participants to find additional opportunities for topics of interest to address in future small-acreage grower workshops."

The cost for the workshops is \$20 each or \$60 for all four. Seating for the May 17 and June 7 workshops is limited to 45, so attendees are asked to register for these as soon as possible. To register online for any of the series workshops, go to <http://texaslocalproduce.tamu.edu>.

For more information, contact Rodriguez at 210-467-6575 or dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu.

Small-grower business series to be offered

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service and others will be presenting a new educational series on the business aspects of running a small-acreage vegetable- or fruit-growing enterprise.

The "Small-Acreage Fruit and Vegetable Grower Business Series" will be presented as four separate workshops to be held April 19, May 3, May 17 and June 7 at two different locations in San Antonio.

Other presenting agencies and individuals include the Texas Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service, Frost Bank, the Metropolitan Health Office and several South Central Texas area small-acreage growers.

"This series is designed for those

interested in or already involved in small-acreage production of fruits and vegetables on plots anywhere from the size of a backyard garden to up to 100 acres," said Dr. Luis Ribera, AgriLife Extension economist-management and a series developer. "If you're interested in operating a small-acreage entrepreneurial business, this series will provide valuable information and discussion on how to go about doing it."

Ribera said the series was developed by AgriLife Extension in response to the growing number of small-acreage producers wanting to sell directly or indirectly to the consumer, but needing more information on business planning, resources available to them, quality standards and other important factors related to a successful small-acreage enterprise.

He added that the business series was made possible through a USDA-Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers grant awarded to the developers.

"Smaller growers have various bits and pieces of information on the production of crops but really need more detailed information to understand the pros and cons of a small-acreage enterprise and marketing to outlets in order to be successful," said Dr. Juan Anciso, AgriLife Extension vegetable specialist and series co-developer.

The first two workshops — April 19 and May 3 — will be held at the San Antonio Livestock Exposition's International Room on the exposition grounds, 3201 E. Houston St. in southeast San Antonio.

The April 19 workshop registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. with

presentations 8:15 a.m.-noon, followed by lunch and a tour of Peterson's Nursery. Presentations will include an introduction to the "Farm-to-Table" training series, programs for small-acreage producers, a panel discussion with small-acreage growers, the pros and cons of growing transplants of recommended varieties, and an overview of production from start to finish. Lunch will be from noon-1 p.m., and the tour will be from 1-3 p.m.

The May 3 workshop will address business planning and marketing for the small-acreage operation. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. with presentations from 8:15 a.m.-noon, followed by lunch and an educational tour to end about 4 p.m. Presentations will cover business planning and budgeting, outlook

Continued on page 14



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The Muleshoe Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) is committed to the promotion of high quality development in the Muleshoe Area and to improvement in the quality of life for its citizens.



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MEDC: A source of vision, commitment and cooperation

Vision, commitment and cooperation — these three words describe the attitude of the Muleshoe Economic Development Corporation.

Coupled with the local government's pro-business attitude, the MEDC promotes quality development of the West Texas region and is always searching for ways to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Muleshoe and the surrounding area.

Formed in 1993, the MEDC has assisted in the creation and expansion of several businesses. Offers of incentives to businesses are based upon job creation and retention and the increase in tax base.

"We have seen the growth and the numbers have been published showing the increase we have experienced in our sales tax."

Muleshoe Economic Development Corporation is proud to be serving this area and asks that all citizens please advise them of any opportunities to further service this community.

The Muleshoe Economic Development Corporation welcomes Gilrobert Rennels as the newest member of its board of directors.

Gilrobert's enthusiasm, energy, and long-term dedicated commitment to promoting Muleshoe and Bailey County will be an asset to MEDC, the community of Muleshoe, Bailey County, and the surrounding area.

Gilrobert works with the family business, Gil Lamb Advertising, which has broadcast the "Muletrain News" program for 57 years.

Gilrobert is filling the unexpired term of Max King whose leadership and business expertise has served this community for several years.

The Muleshoe Economic Development Corporation would also like to take this time to recognize Max for his many hours of service and thank him for a job well done.

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