

# Muleshoe Journal

## MAHD Board Begins Due Diligence

**By Larry Thornton**  
*Editor*

The Muleshoe Area Hospital District's board of directors voted to begin the "due diligence" process necessary before actual negotiations with an Oklahoma company interested in leasing and operating Muleshoe Area Medical Center during a special meeting on Monday, March 17.

The board's 3-2 action, with president Herb Ramage and Allen Smyer casting dissenting votes, on Monday, March 17, followed another special meeting on Wednesday, March 12, in which the Shawnee, Oklahoma-based company — Preferred Management

Corporation — presented information about the company to the local hospital district board.

Preferred Management has a long history in Texas, having managed the Parmer Medical Center since 1990.

According to PMC's owner, Andy Freeman of Shawnee, the company manages three hospitals and leases and operated six others, with the majority being in Texas.

Although the company which began in 1987 originally offered management services, according to Freeman, the company changed primarily to leasing hospitals in 2004.

**Continued on A3**



Photograph by Gabby Perez

## Annual Chamber Banquet Features Hat Contest

In 1939, country comedian Sarah Colley Cannon stepped into a department store in Aiken, South Carolina purchased a flowered hat for \$1.98.

Later that day, she stepped on the stage to perform as the character Minnie Pearl for the first time, and country music history was made.

The following year, on Nov. 30, 1940, her impact on country music, and country comedy increased with her first appearance on the Grand Ole Opry.

She continued to do so for more than 50 years, charming her fans with her traditional

opening line: Howww-dieeee! I'm just so proud to be here!"

And throughout those years, she continued to appear time-honored hat with its inevitable price tag.

In honor of her memory, and as part of the Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture's 64th annual awards banquet, with this year's theme of "the Grande Ole Opry," those in attendance are encouraged to wear similar country-styled chapos, and participate in a "Minnie Pearl hat contest."

The doors will open **Continued on A3**

## Things Are Looking Up

Looking up isn't always the safest thing to do in West Texas, especially with the blowing dirt and sand of late — not to mention those flocks of noisy black birds that roost in many of the trees around Muleshoe, but in a game of softball, it's often a requirement, whether

playing in the field or behind home plate.

Pictured above, Lady Mule catcher Adriana Loya looks up and scrambles after a foul ball during the recent game against the Abernathy Lady Lopes. Turn to A8 for game details.

## Roadrider's Rally Set For The Weekend

The Muleshoe Roadrider's 32nd annual motorcycle rally is set for this weekend, March 21-22, at the Bailey County Coliseum.

The event opens Friday, March 21, with

an indoor light show, beginning at 8 p.m. Registration for

participants begins at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, and will resume from 7:30 a.m. until noon on Saturday, March 22.

Field events will be held during the same time period on Saturday; followed by games at 1 p.m., a show at 3 p.m., a parade through town at 4 p.m., followed by an awards presentation.

Call Robin Dickerson for more information at 806-272-4143.

## Olton Continues To Dominate Area Sales Tax Collections

**By Larry Thornton**  
*Editor*

The City of Muleshoe's sales tax allocation for the March shows an increase, but falls far below the percentage of increase of Olton, according to information received from the Texas State Comptroller's office.

During the preceding six months, Olton has placed either first or second in the percentage of sales tax increase in all but two months —

October and November in which the Lamb County community's numbers dipped into negative numbers.

Averaging Olton's percentage of increase during the last six months shows an average monthly sales tax increase of 28.29 percent.

In comparison, averaging Muleshoe's percentage of increase over the same period shows its average monthly percentage of increase was 4.58 percent.

In regards to the March allocation numbers — which represents sales tax collected by local merchants in January, and reported to the state in February — indicate Olton's sales tax reimbursement was an increase of \$2,748.15, while Muleshoe which took sixth place in the race for the area sales tax dollars increased its reimbursement by \$958.19, when compared to the same period in 2013.

At the bottom of March's list of **Continued on A3**

Sales Tax Results			
City	Net Payment	Same period Prior year	Percent Change
Muleshoe	\$39,443.98	38,485.79	2.48%
Dimmitt	\$31,309.79	34,624.77	-9.57%
Morton	\$ 9,819.00	8,775.15	11.89%
Littlefield	\$81,402.89	93,116.50	-12.57%
Earth	\$ 3,885.45	3,712.26	4.66%
Olton	\$ 11,771.67	9,023.52	30.45%
Sudan	\$ 4,087.82	3,984.98	2.48%
Farwell	\$ 8,223.50	9,415.66	-12.66%
Bovina	\$11,167.25	8,748.02	27.65%
Frona	\$30,379.15	34,393.00	-11.67%

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# OPINION

## Suffering Is A Solvent That Strips Away Easy Answers

### Around Muleshoe...



Announcements from non-profit organizations in the Muleshoe area.

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

### Fine Arts Night to Shine

Fine Arts Night to Shine will be held on Monday, March 24, in the Muleshoe High School Commons area.

The meal served will include brisket, beans, potatoes, bread and a dessert. Tickets are \$8 each are currently on sale. No meal deliveries will be made.

Serving will begin at 6 p.m., and the performance will begin at 6:30 p.m.

For any questions call Zonelle Baker at (806)946-9152 or Lori Bales at (806)946-8633.

### Weekly Fish Fry

Immaculate Conception Catholic Center, 805 Hickory, will be hosting a fish fry fundraiser on Friday nights, March 14 through April 11, from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

The menu includes fish, fries, beans, coleslaw, hush puppies and desert.

Adults plates are \$8, and children 6 to 10 years of age are \$5 per plate. Carry out and delivery is available. Call 272-4167 for additional information, or to order.

### Annual Chamber Banquet

In just a couple of weeks, Muleshoe area residents will have an opportunity to show off their "Grand Ole Opry" best at the annual Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture's annual banquet on March 29.

This year's event has a western theme, and features "an evening at the Grande Ole Opry," with the stars from the Cactus Theater, including a "Minnie Pearl" Hat contest.

The doors will open at 6 p.m. at the Bailey County Coliseum for the gathering, which includes catered meal of baked chicken and chicken-fried steaks.

There will also be a silent auction.

### Celebrate Spring

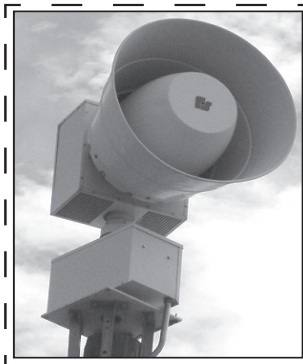
Bailey County Extension Office will be hosting "Celebrate Spring," craft ideas and snack recipes on Thursday, March 20, from 2-3 p.m., and from 6-7 p.m., at the Bailey County Coliseum.

Admission is \$10, and the program will be presented by Kathy Carr, Mandi Seaton, Shana Fleming and Felice Acker.

Call Kathy at 272-4583 for additional information.

### Baseball, Softball Sign Ups

Muleshoe Youth Baseball and Softball sign ups are the set for Tuesday, March 25, at the Five Area Telephone Cooperative building, from 6-8 p.m.



### Muleshoe's Storm Siren Signals

"Hi-lo" wavering signal... seek more information by radio, television or internet.

Long steady signal, break, long steady signal... "all clear."

(Cut and keep!)

### Muleshoe Journal USPS 367820

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Michael Distelhorst, Publisher

mdistelhorst@hearstmp.com

Larry Thornton, Editor

editor@muleshoejournal.com

Rhea Gonzales Ad Representative

adsales@muleshoejournal.com

Ad Design / Classified Advertising

advertising@muleshoejournal.com

classifieds@muleshoejournal.com

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Suffering. It's the solvent that strips away easy answers.

At every time of suffering, some well-meaning somebody is around to toss out poorly thought-out, nonsensical, and unwittingly cruel "pious" platitudes: "God won't put more on you than you can stand."

That kind of drivel. Well, God probably did not put this suffering on you at all; you got it by living in a fallen world.

"Life" doesn't — life can't — care what it does to you any more than the iceberg that sank the Titanic did so out of maliciously icy

### Pesticide Applicator Program Offered

A Texas private pesticide applicator training and testing program will be conducted on Wednesday, March 26, at the Texas AgriLife Extension Service office for Bailey County, 118 West Ave. C., in Muleshoe.

The training will begin at 8:30 a.m. and testing should conclude by 2 p.m.

An abbreviated lunch break will be taken between the training and testing sessions according to Monti Vandiver, AgriLife Extension Integrated Pest Management agent for Bailey and Parmer counties.

Texas A&M Extension will provide the training and Texas Department of Agriculture will administer the test.

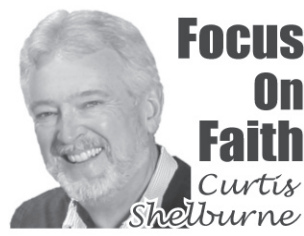
Registration is \$60 at the door and includes a Private Applicator Manual, a current TDA Laws & Regulations Manual, and lunch.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a calculator for use during testing.

A private pesticide applicator license is required if someone uses or supervises the use of restricted-use or state-limited-use pesticides or regulated herbicides to produce an agricultural crop on personally owned property, rented property, property owned by his or her employer, property under his or her general control, or the property of another person if applied without compensation, other than the trading of personal services between producers of agricultural commodities.

Individuals who want a Texas private applicator license must attend a private applicator training

Continued on A3



Focus On Faith Curtis Shelburne

motives. Ship hits hard ice. Ice puts hole in ship. Ship sinks. People die. Life doesn't care. Not because it's mean or evil. Because it can't. It's an it.

Here's the paradox. Life is not alive, if by "alive" you mean personal.

The Author of Life cares deeply about what happens to you and how you feel about it, deal with it, bear up under it. He sees when even a sparrow falls. But life does not. It can't.

Life is a great gift from God, but living in a fallen world is not easy. We will all go through times when life is agonizing.

Let's try to be honest for a change — in times of great pain, the only thing worse than being alive would be not being alive.

One important way God helps us through the agony is by reminding us of the real times of joy we've had, and will have, that make life precious.

But that does not mean that the present "agony" is anything less than agonizing. We don't help ourselves — and I know we don't help other sufferers — by lies: "Oh, it's not so bad" when, yes, it is.

"God will use this to make you stronger." Probably. I know he wants to because he loves the sufferer.

I know he can, if we let him. But folks who lightly toss out that line richly deserve the opportunity themselves to be made stronger. Then we'll see if they prattle on about it.

Yes, our redemptive God can use suffering to strengthen us as fire tempers steel. If we survive suffering, we'll come through stronger.

Not everyone does. And no one in their right mind enjoys it. I've never met a soldier who saw thick combat who liked talking about it. Never.

It's hard for me to imagine anyone who has ever experienced the real thing saying to a sufferer in the midst of the fire: "God will use this to make you stronger."

The right to say those

words is hard-earned, and those who have earned the right have also earned the wisdom to almost never say them.

Through his own suffering, Dr. Paul Tournier, a man of deep faith, dared to write a book entitled, "Creative Suffering."

I remember it because he threw down no platitudes. He faced suffering's dark night without lying to himself or others about it's "not being so black."

Through his own tears, he found that God helped him endure it, even when he felt like he could not, would not, and when just remembering to breathe on some days seemed like incredible success.

That's real and honest. Those whose faith and presence are most helpful when we suffer are not those who say, "It's not so bad"; they are those who know that it is bad, very bad.

But they've endured horribly black times, weren't sure they could, but are still breathing, living, and managing to find hope — sometimes just one moment at a time — in Him.

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# MAHD Board Considering Hospital's Lease



Hospital District Board reads through the confidentiality agreement during Monday's special meeting.

**Continued from A1**  
It was explained that a lease gave the company more authority in the hospital's operation than a management agreement.

"If it (the hospital) loses money, we lose money," Larry Stephens of Oklahoma City, Okla., the chief financial officer of PMC, who along with the company's COO Mike Easley of Austin, accompanied Freeman to the March 12 meeting.

While discussing the possible lease or management of Muleshoe Area Medical Center, the PPMC representatives also touched on the future of Park View Nursing Care Center.

"We're not in the long-term care business," Freeman said. "Our niche is the critical access care hospital."

According to Freeman all of the hospital's PMC

is associated with is a critical access hospital, as is MAMC.

Stephens added that critical access hospitals "don't mesh well" with nursing homes, but he and Freeman indicated that it was important for a critical access hospital to have the support of a local nursing home.

"We are very supportive of long-term care," Freeman said in response to a question from the director of nurses at Park View.

"It's advantageous to have a nursing home in the community."

According to Freeman, PMC typically enters into an agreement with a hospital agreement for a five-year lease.

Freeman indicated that the management agreement in Friona was an exception to this practice, because PMC assisted in the formation of the Parmer County Hospital District after the company took

on the management responsibilities.

"We come in for the long haul," Freeman said, adding that some of the hospital districts they dealt with had been pleased enough with the relationship with PMC to offer a 30-year lease.

"So far, no one has gone back," Freeman said. "Some have gone to a 3-year lease, saying, 'We don't want to go back.'"

Freeman also

addressed the issue that it is becoming more difficult to operate hospitals, especially with the federal changes that have already taken place, and with additional changes on the horizon.

Regarding what the company would need from the community, Freeman indicated it was a working relationship with the community and its physicians, and an active and supportive hospital district board.

"We want to partner with a community," Freeman said.

"We're not a 'cash and dash' company," he said later.

"We've got to keep the community together," Stephens added, "or its not going to work."

They said the hospital district board was important because it "carried the flag," of the hospital, and in turn was important in communicating the needs of the community to PMC.

After the company's presentation to the board, Freeman and his associates responded to questions from various hospital district employees covering issues such as the continued employment of existing employees, and the hospital's agreement with Health Plan.

They also discussed how PMC handles the replacement of needed hospital equipment, grant writing and employee benefits, which include a 401K.

According to Freeman, although MAMC employees

would have to apply for their positions with PMC, he wasn't aware of any employees at the other hospitals who didn't continue with PMC.

He also said that an employee with 22 years at MAMC, would come into the PMC organization with the same years of seniority.

Although board board vice president Landon Nichols offered to make a motion to begin negotiations with PMC, board president Herb Ramage pointed out that the agenda didn't include an "action item."

Therefore another meeting was set for March 17, to take the necessary action.

After spending several minutes examining the confidentiality agreement needed for the due diligence process, the board voted on member Zona Gatewood's motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Dana Rasco, and supported in the vote by Landon Nichols.

Prior to the vote, it was noted that the hospital district's attorney had examined the agreement, and hadn't reported any concerns about its content.

According to information received at the March 12 meeting, after the due diligence process, if both entities agree they will enter into a negotiation process, which will include a 60-day interim management agreement.

## Muleshoe Foundation Elects New Officers

The Muleshoe Area Educational Foundation recently elected new officers, and approved new board members.

Officers for 2014 are LeAnn Gallman, president; Sandy Vandevender, vice-president; Barbara Finney, secretary; and Juana Shelburne, treasurer.

Newly elected board

members are Leonor Arrieta, Kylee Kerby, Kody Kitchens, Noemi Mora, and Liz Tipps.

Other board members include Tiffany Boehning, Sharon Grant and Chuck Smith.

MAEF is a non-profit organization that supports the South Plains College Muleshoe Center, located at 621 W. Second in Muleshoe.

MAEF is dedicated to providing help for South Plains College to deliver basic college credit classes such as math, English, government, art appreciation, music, history, and nursing classes.

"This is a good way to start post-high school classes without leaving Muleshoe," an MAEF representative said.

In the spring of 2015 a session will begin for LVN students transitioning to RN.

Prerequisites for the RN program will be offered this summer and fall.

Continuing education classes offered at the Muleshoe Center include English as a Second Language (ESL); customer service (learning how to greet and treat customers); basic hand gun and concealed handgun, computer skills, anything Apple™ (ipad, iphone, ipod, etc.), basic phlebotomy, pharmacy tech and much more.

If you are interested in registering for classes or need more information, contact Connie Kenmore, the director of the Muleshoe Center, or Cordy Aguirre, assistant director at 806-272-3346.

Kenmore also can give the Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSI) for students who need to test for college entrance.

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## Sales Tax Allocations... Continued from A1

area communities was Farwell, with a 12.66 percent drop, representing an \$1,192.16 monetary decrease.

Littlefield, which placed ninth according to the comptroller's office numbers, while taking in the most actual dollars in its sales tax allocation — \$81,402.89, received \$11,713.61 less, a 12.57 percent decrease.

Joining Olton at the top, this month, was second place Bovina with a 27.65 percent increase, representing an increase of

\$2,419.23.

In year-to-date totals, Olton remains at the top with a 53.17 percent increase, followed by Bovina, with an increase of 21.29 percent.

Muleshoe is at fourth place in the Y-T-D totals, with a 9.13 percent increase.

This means Muleshoe has collected \$12,665.05 more in sales tax than it did during the first three months of 2013.

Farwell with a 15.71 percent decrease and Earth with an 8.82 percent drop show the largest decreases in Y-T-D totals.

According to information received from the office of Texas Comptroller Susan Combs, the state sales

tax revenue in February was \$2.2 billion, up 5.8 percent compared to February 2013.

"Sales tax revenue continues its growth streak and has now increased for 47 consecutive months," Combs said.

"Growth in tax collections was seen across all major economic sectors including oil and gas, wholesale trade and the services sector," she added.

Combs' office will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts their March local sales tax allocations totaling \$553 million, up 4.1 percent compared to March 2013.



### The Coldest Day Ever In Texas

Q: It's been very cold lately. What's the coldest it's ever been in Texas?

A: Texas is no stranger to below zero temperatures, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University.

"There have been numerous times in the last 100 years when parts of the state have been below zero," he explains.

"But one day stands out among all others. On Feb. 8, 1933, the temperature was minus-23 degrees in Seminole to set the state's all-time low. It should be noted that the elevation of Seminole is over 3,200 feet, which is no doubt one reason the temperature that

day was a record," he added.

Q: What about surrounding states?

A: In Arkansas, the all-time low temperature is minus-29 degrees (set in 1905), while in Oklahoma the record low is minus-27 set in 1930.

"In Louisiana, the all-time low is minus-16 degrees set in 1899, and in New Mexico, it gets a lot colder than most people think," McRoberts said.

"In 1950 in the town of Gavilan, the temperature reached minus-50 degrees. The elevation of Gavilan is 7,350 feet, which means the mountain air got mighty cold that day."

## Chamber Banquet...

**Continued from A1**  
at 6 p.m. at the Bailey County Coliseum for the gathering, which will feature a catered meal of baked chicken and chicken-fried steaks, along with a "mystery desert", and entertainment from the stars of the Cactus Theater in Lubbock.

Tickets are \$15 per person, \$8 for children, and a table of eight is also available for \$100.

## Pesticide Class...

**Continued from A2**  
program offered by AgriLife Extension, pass the Texas Department of Agriculture private applicator exam, and purchase a license.

For more information or to obtain study materials early call AgriLife Extension at 806-272-4584.

**32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MULESHOE ROADRIDERS MOTORCYCLE RALLY**

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REGISTRATION:	FRIDAY	7:30 PM
	SATURDAY	7:30 AM - NOON
TOUR RUN:	FIRST BIKE OUT	9:00 AM
	LAST BIKE IN	1:00 PM
FIELD EVENTS		7:30 AM - NOON
BIKE GAMES		1:00 PM
BIKE SHOW		3:00 PM
PARADE THROUGH TOWN		4:00 PM
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# Senior Citizen News

With school back in session, now is the time for you senior folks to come to your Oneita Wagnon Senior Center for some visiting and good nutritional lunches.

You might even find an exercise machine, or a game, or a puzzle that will hold your interest.

Don't forget the Bunko games on the first and third Tuesday mornings

of each month, with the Bingo games on every Thursday afternoon.

Kathy Carr will be at the senior center on Wednesday, March 26, for our monthly good eating report.

You need to be here to hear her good advice.

March 24-28 menus:

Monday, March 24 — Oven-fried chicken, bow-tied pasta, broccoli raisin salad, and fruit

cocktail.

Tuesday, March 25 — Roast beef, baked potato with sour cream, buttered carrots, whole wheat roll, margarine and chocolate pudding.

Wednesday, March 26 — Chicken-fried steak with brown gravy, scalloped potatoes, tossed vegetable salad, Italian dressing, green peas, and fruit salad.

Thursday, March 27 — Charbroiled hamburger, tomatoes with pickles and onions, herbed potato fries, berry cobbler, and whole wheat roll.

Friday, March 28 — Fish or chicken strips, borracho beans, green peas, tossed vegetable salad, French dressing, whole wheat roll, and tropical fruit mix.

## 'Celebrate Spring' Program Set For Thursday, March 20

Bailey County Extension Office will be hosting "Celebrate Spring," craft ideas and snack recipes on Thursday, March 20, from 2-3 p.m., and from 6-7 p.m., at the Bailey County Coliseum.

Admission is \$10, and the program will be presented by Kathy Carr, Mandi Seaton, Shana Fleming and Felice Acker.

Call Kathy at 272-4583 for additional information.

## Publications In The Muleshoe Journal

The Muleshoe Journal invites your news of weddings, engagements, showers, anniversaries and births.

But, in order to be fair to everyone, we must limit the amount of space for certain events.

For weddings, 25 column inches, which includes a photo if desired, is the limit. If the photo and announcement runs longer, we reserve the right to eliminate parts of the story.

However, if a longer write-up is desired, it may be placed in purchased space.

For anniversaries, the space will be free for anniversaries of 50 years or 75, specifically, and will be limited to a single photograph. A fee will be charged for other anniversaries.

Birth announcements with one-column photos are run free of charge with the names of the immediate family, including grandparents. Great-grandparents, etc., will not be included.

The permission of both parents is required for a birth announcement to be published.

Small stories describing showers are run free of charge after the fact and may include the names of the principals, the hostess gift, the names of special or out-of-town guests, and a one-column photograph of the honoree.

It is the responsibility of the party providing the information to provide all of the information.

News releases in which names were left out by the party providing the information will not be re-published free of charge.

A deadline of three months after an event will be the rule for free publication.

Information must be received by Monday noon. Publication cannot be guaranteed in the week it is provided.

Drop by the Journal office, or go to [www.muleshoejournal.com](http://www.muleshoejournal.com), for a form. The information may be e-mailed to [editor@muleshoejournal.com](mailto:editor@muleshoejournal.com).

# BAILEY COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE

### ASSEMBLY OF GOD

#### FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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(Solutions on A5)

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

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# Obituaries

## Jo Anne Head

Funeral services for Jo Anne Head, 82, of Muleshoe, were held on Monday, March 17, at the First United Methodist Church of Muleshoe with the Rev. Mindy McClanahan officiating.

Burial will be in Muleshoe Memorial Park Cemetery.

Jo Anne died on Thursday, March 13, 2014, in Muleshoe. She was born on June 5, 1931, in Thomas, Okla., to Chet and Hattie Marie (Graves) May, and married Marshal Head in Custer, Okla., on Oct. 7, 1951.

Jo Anne moved from Tucson, Ariz., to Muleshoe in 1954. She attended Western Oklahoma State Hospital Nursing School and was a registered nurse.

She was the Director of Nursing at West Plains Hospital in Muleshoe, and the Director of Bailey and Cochran County Texas Department of Health.

Jo Anne was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Muleshoe, where she was a Sunday



School teacher. She was also a member of the Emmaus Walk Reunion Group.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother — J.P. May.

Survivors include her husband — Marshal; a son — David Head of Muleshoe; three daughters—Janice Eddy of Lawton, Okla., Lynda Couch of Lubbock, and Susan Hollingsworth of Merkel; a sister — Helen McDonald of Alton Mo.; 10 grandchildren — Douglas Widener, Monica Burchett, Katie Hodges, Trevor Couch, Weston Couch, Courtney Harris, Beau Henry, Brad Henry, Natalie Head and Marshal Wayne Head; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church of Muleshoe, 702 W. Second St., Muleshoe, Texas, 79347.

Online condolence may be made at [www.ellisfuneralhome.com](http://www.ellisfuneralhome.com).

# Weddings

## Burris, Dudley United In Matrimony

Amy Elizabeth Burris and Austin Thomas Dudley were united in matrimony in a double-ring ceremony on Saturday, March 1, 2014, in the Trinity Christian Church.

Justice of the Peace Todd Ellis presided over the ceremony.

Parents of the couple are Jackey Wayne and Staci Burris of Muleshoe, and Rick Dudley of Lubbock and Shelia Dudley of Hart.

The church was decorated with lighted pine trees draped in turquoise tulle, candles were draped with tulle, branches and peacock feathers and spread across the back of the church.

The bride was given away by her father.

She wore an ecru long sleeve wedding dress with fitted dropped waist bodice covered in lace and pearls.

The skirt was satin with boxed pleats



Mrs. Austin Dudley

covered in pearl appliques.

The train was cathedral-length satin with pearl and lace appliques.

Her veil was ecru tulle with a sparkling tiara.

The bridal bouquet was an arrangement of calla lilies and peacock feathers wrapped in chocolate brown and turquoise ribbon.

The parents and grandparents were escorted into the church with "Starlight" by Jim Brickmon playing.

The attendants were escorted into the church

with "When You Saying Nothing At All," by Keith Whitley playing.

When the bride and father of the bride came into the church, "Butterfly Kisses," sung by Charles Schovajson was played.

During the lighting of the unity candle, Morgan Jarrett sang "1,000 Years," by Khritina Perri.

The bride and groom exited to "Stuck Like Glue," by Sugarland.

In keeping with tradition, the bride wore a blue garter for something blue; something new, her tiara, something old was her pearl ring and earrings belonging to her great-grandmother, and borrowed was her dress.

Jamie Sanders of Whiteface served as maid of honor.

Bridesmaids were Rebecca Caswell of Muleshoe and Morgan Jarett of Lamesa.

Javier Velaquez of Morton served as best man.

Groomsmen were Andrew Dudley of Canyon and Brandon Burris of Lubbock.

Ushers were Colt Ellis of Muleshoe and Garrison Myers of College Station.

Following the ceremony a reception was held in the church fellowship hall.

The brides table was covered in chocolate brown table clothes with a burlap runner.

Marki Stearmer served punch, Heather Barker served the grooms cake, and Shelby Hodges served the brides cake.

Following a wedding trip to San Antonio, the couple will make their home in Morton.

The bride is a 2005 graduate of Muleshoe High School.

The groom is a 2004 graduate of Hart High School.

## Obituaries and Death Notices

Death notices will be published free of charge in the *Muleshoe Journal*.

Obituaries will be published at the rate of \$4.50 per column inch.

In all cases, the death notice and obituary information should be submitted by the funeral home for verification purposes.

The guidelines that will be used to determine if, and how much the publication will cost is as follows:

### Death Notices...

Death notices may include the deceased's name, city of residence, age, date and place of birth, date and place of death, and the names of parents. Survivor information will not be included.

If the notice is to be published prior to any services, the time, date and location of services, and location of burial may be included.

If publication will be after said services, the time will not be included.

### Obituaries...

Obituaries printed in the *Muleshoe Journal* are printed at the rate of \$4.50 per column inch, and may contain a variety of information, including but not limited to: Date and details of funeral and place of burial; date and place of birth and parents names; date of marriage; biographical information; names of parents, spouses or children who have preceded the person in death; names of survivors; and where memorials may be directed.

A black and white photo will be included; however, there is an additional charge of \$75 to include a color photograph.

## Outlaw, Price United In Marriage

Tami Outlaw and Dr. Kermit Price were wed in an evening ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 28, 2013, in Lubbock.

The bride is the daughter of Ronnie and Debbie Outlaw of Devine.

The groom is the son of Arnold and Kristy Price of Muleshoe.

The bride wore a mermaid gown of satin and tulle with a bouquet of cotton bolls and burgundy roses.

The couple currently reside in Lakeside at Lubbock, where Kermit is employed at Bayer Crop Science.

Tami is self-employed at Tami Outlaw LMT.



Dr. and Mrs. Kermit Price

## Wedding Showers

### Conner Reception, Shower Held

Caleb and Erin Conner were honored Saturday, March 8, at the First Baptist Church of Muleshoe, with a wedding shower and reception to celebrate the couple's marriage.

The groom is the son of Dr. Stacy and Debbie Conner of Muleshoe. The bride is the daughter of Vernon and Tracy Autrey.

Their wedding took place at the Vines Restaurant in Portales on Jan. 10, 2014.

The wedding shower was hosted by Sharon Agee, Rayniel Bamert, Cindy Barrett, Donita Behrends, Brenda Black, Martha Jo Black, Virginia Bowers, Vickie Burch, JoEllen Cowart, Barbara Finney, Billie Graves, Karen Harris, Sheri Hawkins, Belinda Head, Dani



Caleb and Erin Conner

Heathington, Sue Holt, Debbi Hutto, Donna Jay, Connie Kenmore, Kay Leopard, Eileen Morton, Marilyn Riley, Juana Shelburn and Jody Wood.

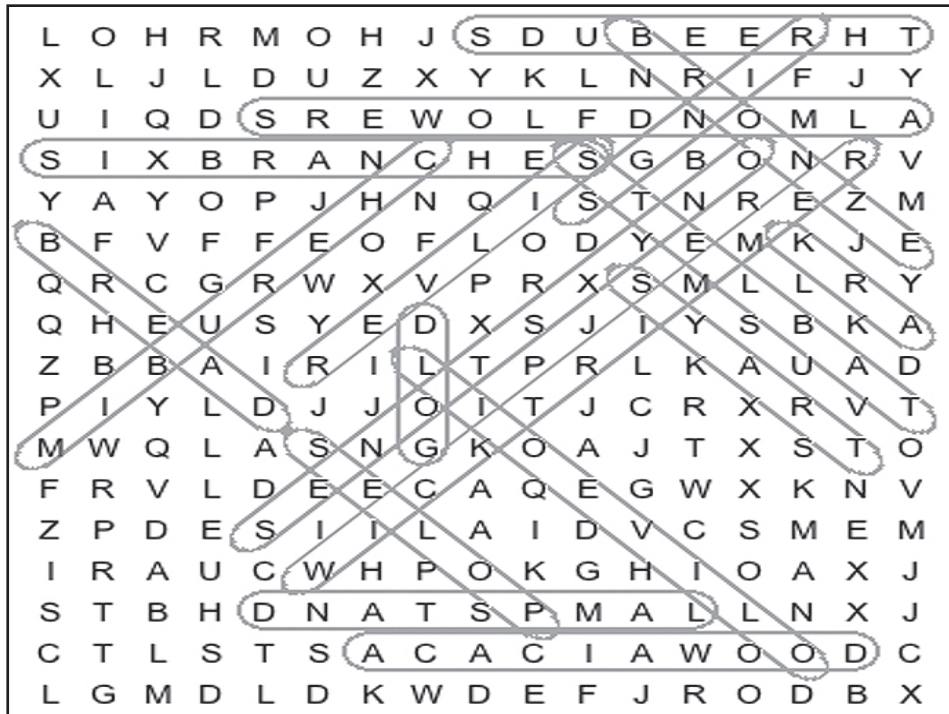
The hostesses gave the couple a gift of money to purchase a dining table and chairs.

Special guests

attending were Roger and Genava Malone and Linda and R.W. Waller, Cindy Lewis and Denise Merritt and Bethany Lewis.

Other special guests were the bride's parents, Vernon and Tracy Autrey and brothers Chandler and Jacob Autrey.

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# You Can't Keep Money You Receive By Mistake

Q. Do I have to give money back to a bank that gave me \$50 too much?

I went to a drive-thru window to make a credit card payment.

When I left, I realized they gave me too much money back. I immediately returned in good faith to give back the overpayment, but the teller said everything was fine, "I was not overpaid."

Can I keep the money?

A. This is an interesting twist on what would otherwise be a simple legal question. As you seem to know, you have no legal right to keep money you receive by mistake.

You did the right thing by offering to return the money. But when the teller said there was no mistake

## Ask A Lawyer...

By Richard Alderman

and the amount you received was correct, my opinion is that you have no further legal obligation to convince them that they overpaid you.

Of course, if they discover the mistake and ask for the return of the money, you must return it.

Q. I have a will that was prepared some time ago. It is not notarized. Is it still valid?

A. In Texas, a printed or form will is valid if it is signed and witnessed by two witnesses.

A "holographic will," one written entirely in your own handwriting, is valid as long as it is signed.

There is no

requirement that any will be notarized.

Having said that, however, there are two things in your question that suggest you might want to get a new will prepared.

First, you say the will was prepared "some time ago." I am not sure how long ago "some time" is, but it may be a good idea to get a new updated will.

Both the law and your situation may have changed.

Second, although a will does not have to be notarized to be valid, it should be notarized to make it easier and less costly to probate.

My suggestion is to get a new will with a

"self-proving affidavit," the formal name for the notary's statement.

Q. I would like to know what we can do about a debt collector that continually calls our house.

The collector is not looking for anyone in my household, but is asking about a relative, my uncle.

We have stated that the uncle does not live in our household and we don't know where he is.

We told the collector to stop calling our home immediately. His response was he would continue to call us because he has our number and thinks we know where my uncle

is. One time he asked for the last four digits of my social security number to confirm I was not the person they were trying to contact.

Is there anything I can do?

A. I suggest you first review the debt collection section on my website listed at the end of this column.

Under a federal law called the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, it is unlawful for a debt collector to contact anyone except the debtor, unless it is to obtain location information about another person.

In other words, it is legal to call you to ask if you know where your uncle is.

In my opinion, however, once you told the debt collector that

your uncle was not at your house and you didn't know where he was, the collector cannot call again.

Under this law, you could be entitled to \$1,000 in statutory damages if you were to sue in justice court.

Let the collector know you know about this law and will consider a lawsuit if he calls again. You also should file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission.

Q. I was not married at the time my son was born. I have since married his mother.

How can I get the birth certificate to show I am the father?

A. If you are the parent of a child and not named on the child's birth certificate you can change the birth certificate to include your name.

This link provides the form used to change the birth certificate.

The form can be processed with both parents providing notarized signatures or one notarized parent signature and a court order stating that the parent being added to the birth certificate is the child's parent.

For a copy of the form go to: [www.dshs.state.tx.us/vs/reqproc/amendparentage.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/vs/reqproc/amendparentage.shtm)

Do you want to know more about your legal rights? Visit my website, [www.peopleslawyer.net](http://www.peopleslawyer.net).

## Neugebauer Talks About The Situation In The Ukraine

The Ukrainian people — like all people across the globe — deserve to choose their own government, and determine their own future.

Russia's escalating intervention in Ukraine is an insult to Ukraine's sovereignty and to the principles of democracy.

Ukraine and Russia have a complex history and tensions have deepened since this past November.

Ukrainian Pres. Viktor Yanukovich rejected a deal to further ally Ukraine with the European Union.

Since then,

Yanukovich's regime has collapsed and Russian forces have invaded the Ukrainian region of Crimea.

This threatens the interim government's security and stability.

Pres. Obama has repeatedly condemned Russia's actions in Ukraine, and today he authorized expanded sanctions against Russian officials responsible for the current conflict.

I find it disturbing that when the United

States President speaks out against Russian action in a sovereign nation, he is largely ignored by Russian Pres. Vladimir Putin.

In fact, the latest news is that despite Pres. Obama's recent actions, Putin has declared Crimea to be a separate nation from Ukraine.

The House has passed a series of bills supporting the people of Ukraine and providing for enhanced economic support.

One challenge for Ukraine is that they rely almost entirely on Russia for oil and natural gas.

Furthermore, Russia exports \$160 billion in fossil fuels to the EU and US, making it difficult for our allies in Europe to impose the strictest possible sanctions.

One way we can address that is by speeding up the approval of US exports of liquefied natural gas. The Administration's slow approval process essentially prohibits American natural gas exports to Europe and Ukraine.

I hope we can rectify that quickly, because it's imperative that we do everything in our power to return democratic control to the people of Ukraine.

### Congressional Art Competition

I'd like to invite all high school artists to participate in this year's Congressional Art Competition.

The competition is open to all high school students in Texas' 19th District, and the lucky winner will have your original artwork on display in the Capitol Building for a full year.

I walk through the hallway that displays each district's winners almost every day that I'm in Washington on my way to vote.

Visitors from across the country who come to tour the Capitol will

see your work too.

It's a beautiful display of America's young artists.

You can learn more about how to submit your work here, and you can contact Lisa Brooks at [lisa.brooks@mail.house.gov](mailto:lisa.brooks@mail.house.gov) or at (432) 264-0722 with any questions.

Remember, the deadline to submit your work is April 25.

**Thank you for reading!**

## RANDY'S ROUNDUP

UPDATE BY CONGRESSMAN RANDY NEUGEBAUER

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## Super news from MISD

By Superintendent Dr. Gene Sheets

The Muleshoe High School Fine Arts Department will host their annual Fine Arts Night to Shine this Monday, March 24, in the Muleshoe High School Commons Area.

You will be able to see and hear a sampling of many of the successful programs of the Muleshoe High School Fine Arts Department.

Beginning at 6 p.m., there will be a brisket dinner for everyone to enjoy in the MHS Commons Area.

This is a "dine-in" meal only. There will be no deliveries.

Musical performances by award-winning ensembles of the MHS Band, MHS Choir, and MHS Speech team will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The performances

will feature many of the students who qualified for state competition in both band and choir.

The MHS One Act Play will perform "Those That Play the Clowns" at 8 p.m. in the Kerry Moore Auditorium.

The MHS One Act Play will perform today, March 20, in Tulia in the District UIL One Act Play contest.

The award-winning Muleshoe High School Art Department will have students' art work displayed for everyone to see during the evening.

There will be an auction during the evening with various items donated from our community to support the Fine Arts Booster Club.

To purchase tickets, see any Fine Arts

student, or call the Muleshoe High School office and ask for any of the fine arts teachers.

Tickets are \$8.00 for the meal and all performances. The Fine Arts Night to Shine is hosted by the Muleshoe High School Fine Arts Booster club.

All proceeds go directly to Fine Arts student activities.

Fine Arts students from Muleshoe High School have had a particularly successful year, so come out for some very special performances, as well as a few surprises!


See you March 24!

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# The Sudan Buzz

## Powerlifters Qualify For Regional Meet

**By Cheri Sain**  
*Sudan Correspondent*  
The Sudan Power Lifting team had three boys qualify for the Region I Power Lifting Meet.

### State competition on March 22

132-weight class, Reece Harper competed in the 148- weight class, and Barry Johnson qualified in the 165-weight class. Martin finished

second and will advance to the state meet with a total of 1,020.

Reece finished seventh in a very competitive 148 weight class with a total of 1,035.

Harper competed in the same weight class with a lifter who broke the state records for that weight class at the regional meet.

Johnson did not compete.

"I would like to thank Coach Edwards for going and helping out, Damion Montes, Edwin Delgado, and Xavier Baker for going and helping wrap and keep stats," Powerlifting Coach Patrick Odom said.

"I would also like to thank Ross Steadman and Noah Baker for going and working the meet," he added.

The state competition will be in Abilene on March 22, at the Taylor County Expo Center.



Adam Martin holds his state qualifying plaque and medal with Coach Patrick Odom. Martin will compete in the state competition in Abilene.

## Hornet Track Team Competes At Sundown

**By Cheri Sain**  
*Sudan Correspondent*  
The Sudan Hornet Track Team competed at the Sundown Roughneck Relays on March 7.

Williamson also placed seventh in the 400-meter dash. Schovajsa placed third in the 110-meter hurdles and also placed seventh in the 300-meter hurdles.

Harper placed first in the 100-meter dash while Fisher placed seventh. Barry Johnson placed second in the 300-meter hurdles.

In the 200-meter dash, Jelmer Vanderlei placed fourth.

In the relays, the varsity boys placed second in the 4x400-meter relays and second in the 4x100-meter relays (Johnson, Vanderlei, Fisher, Harper), and placed fifth in the 4x200-meter relays (Marcos Gonzales, Landon Williamson, Xavier Trillo, and Carson Phillips).

In the girls' relays, the Netties placed third in the 4x100-meter relay (Sawyer, Tinajero, Shultz, and Johnson), seventh in the 4x200-meter relay (Herrera, Valdez, Thorn, and Tinajero), and sixth in the 4x400-meter relay (Black, Binion, Thorn, and Herrera).

The boys team placed second overall while the girls placed fourth.

Individual results in the varsity events are as follows:

In the field events for the varsity girls, Madi Edwards placed third in high jump.

Ashton Sawyer placed third in pole vault.

Ashton Shultz placed first in the long jump with Kristina Thorn placing third.

Shultz also placed third in the triple jump while Sawyer placed seventh.

In the running events for the varsity girls, Joanie Miller placed third in the 3200-meter run.

In the 100-meter hurdles, Sawyer placed first and Shultz placed fourth. Sawyer also placed eighth in the 300-meter hurdles.

In the 100-meter dash, Shaylee Johnson placed first and Shultz placed second.

Johnson also placed first in the 200-meter dash.

Edwards placed fifth in the 400-meter dash.

In the boys field events, Stephen Schovajsa placed fifth while Tanner Fisher placed sixth in long jump.

Carson Phillips placed fifth in pole vault while Tommy Whitehurst placed sixth.

Reece Harper placed first in the long jump and Barry Johnson placed fourth.

Harper also placed first in the triple jump and Schovajsa placed third.

Luke Tiller placed sixth in discus throw.

In the boys running events, Branden Locke placed fourth in the 3200-meter run.

In the 800-meter run, Landon Williamson placed third and the Greg Wood placed seventh.



Scott Harrell



George Martin

## School Board Selects New Superintendent

**By Cheri Sain**  
*Sudan Correspondent*

At Monday night's school board meeting, High School Principal Scott Harrell was named the next superintendent for the Sudan Independent School District.

Bo Lance, Sudan's current superintendent, is retiring after six years at the helm. Harrell will take over superintendent duties effective July 1.

Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Gordon Martin was also given the news that he is the next high school principal for Sudan ISD.

Martin and Harrell will both slowly transition into their new duties during the course of the spring and summer.

"I have no doubt that the district has made a great choice in selecting (Harrell) to lead a fantastic staff," Lance said.

"I would also like to congratulate Gordon Martin. These are two great individuals moving into new positions who along with Elementary Principal DeAnn Wilson will work tirelessly to keep Sudan ISD one of the best in the state," he added.



Photograph by Cheri Sain

## Sudan Medical Clinic Ground Breaking Held

**By Cheri Sain**  
*Sudan Correspondent*

A ground breaking ceremony was conducted at the new site of the Sudan Medical Clinic on Hwy. 84 on Tuesday, March 11.

Members of the city and the city council including Mayor Sam Miller, Kermit Witten, Sam Miller, Richard Salazar, and Monty Edwards,

along with First United Bank president Clay Carr and the construction company representatives broke ground with Lisa Allen, the physician assistant in charge at the current medical clinic.

Allen thanked the city for providing the land for the project, and the entire Sudan community for its support.

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Thanks for reading the Buzz!

# SPORTS NEWS

## Lady Mules Defeat Abernathy In District Opener

By Delton Wilhite  
Sportswriter

The Lady Mules jumped on top of the Abernathy Lady Lopes early Saturday afternoon and cruised to a 13-6 win.

It was the district opener for the Lady Mules. Both Sasha Esparza and Amber Lopez collected three hits and scored two runs each.

Marissa Cortez struck out six, walked one, hit three with a pitch and gave up six hits.

The Lady Mules committed four errors.

Adrianna Loya took the count full, fouled off a pitch and then drew a lead-off walk to start the game against Abernathy.

Diamond Lopez drove the ball to deep left field and the left fielder got a glove on the ball but could not hang on and Loya raced to third and D. Lopez stopped at second.

Cortez drove the first pitch she saw to right center field to score both Loya and D. Lopez.

A. Lopez blasted a shot right at the third baseman and hit her on the knee. The ball rolled into left field and Cortez motored home.

Esparza doubled up the middle to move A. Lopez to third base. Miranda DeBruin sent a line shot right back through the pitcher's circle for a single and scored both A. Lopez and Esparza to give the Lady Mules a six run lead before the Lopes had an opportunity to bat.

Cortez got a called strike on the first Lady Lope at the plate. The pitch just nipped the inside corner of the plate.

The second batter grounded out to A. Lopez at short stop. The final out was soft hit ground ball back to Cortez in the circle.

Cortez scooped up the ball and fired a strike to Gabi Chavez at first.

The Lady Mules did not score in the second inning but Abernathy turned a single and a

double into a run. A second Lady Lope run scored on an error to cut the Lady Mule lead to 6-2.

The Lady Mules got the two runs back in the top of third inning and added a third. DeBruin walked to lead off the inning.

Samantha Vasquez doubled to right center field and DeBruin was running on the crack of the bat.

DeBruin scored easily as Vasquez rolled in to second base standing up.

Vasquez went to third on a passed ball and Cortez walked. Vasquez and Cortez both scored on a double to left center field by A. Lopez.

The Lady Mules led 9-2 after two and half innings.

The first Lady Lope to the plate was drilled by Cortez. She scored on a triple after a strike out.

The next batter was called out on strikes and D. Lopez fielded a ground ball for the final



Photograph by Gabby Perez

Lady Mule Amber Lopez stops the ball a bit to far from the base for an out during the recent game against the Abernathy Lady Lopes.

out of the inning. Vasquez reached on a fielder's choice in the fourth inning and scored on a base hit to shallow center field by D. Lopez.

The Lady Mules led 10-3 after four innings as the Lady Lopes did not get a runner past first base in the bottom

half of the inning. The Lady Mules added two runs in the top of the fifth inning with both A. Lopez and Reagan Reynolds both scoring on a single by DeBruin.

The Lady Mules final run came in the sixth inning. An error allowed D. Lopez reach first base. She went to third on a base hit to left field by Cortez. D. Lopez scored on a fly ball to deep center field by A. Lopez.

Abernathy scored one run in both the sixth and seventh inning. Earlier in the week the Lady Mules had their game against Shallowater stopped.

After three and third innings a cold dirty blast from the north struck Shallowater and

the umpires called the game.

The Lady Mules were trailing 8-0 at the time.

But the Lady Mules bounced back the next day against the Estacado Lady Mats.

This time the Lady Mules blew the Mats away 20-1 in a non-district game against an AAA opponent.

The Lady Mules traveled to Littlefield Saturday for their second district game against the Lady Cats.

Both teams were undefeated in district play.

The Lady Mules will travel to Brownfield to meet the Lady Cubs Thursday evening at five in the afternoon and return home to battle the Floydada Lady Winds Saturday at noon.

## Mules Defeat Longhorns In Pickup Game

By Delton Wilhite  
Sportswriter

Spring sport athletes must learn to adjust to revised schedules on the fly.

The Mule baseball game with Morton was cancelled on Monday because the Indians did not have enough for a team.

But the Lockney Longhorns were also in need of a game so they traveled to Muleshoe on Tuesday evening.

The Mules fell behind in the first inning on an unearned run. They began to rally back in the bottom of the fourth inning to tie the game.

The rally continued into the fifth and sixth innings. The Mules defeated the Longhorns 9-1 in preparation for the Littlefield Tournament.

The Mules played two games on Friday and defeated the Trinity Christian Lions 7-5.

The original bracket would have had the Mules going against the Bushland Falcons

on Friday afternoon but they had to withdraw because the Falcon basketball team was playing in the Region I Tournament.

The Mules were then rescheduled to play the host Littlefield Wildcats. The Mules gave up eight runs in the second inning and went down to defeat 12-2 to Littlefield.

The Mules defeated Amarillo's San Jacinto Christian Academy 7-1 to take the third place trophy.

Lockney's first batter singled. Wes Clarkson fielded the second batter's ground ball and threw to Matt Barron covering second base.

The new base runner stole second and advanced to third base as Clarkson struck out the third batter.

The run scored on a balk before Clarkson struck out the final batter. The Mules held the Longhorns scoreless after that.

Clarkson struck out

13 batters in the first six innings.

Nathan Rejino came on in relief and popped the first batter up and Mule catcher Braden Bessire camped under the ball and made the catch for out number one. Rejino struck out the final two batters.

The Mules tied the game in the bottom of the fourth inning blasted a standup triple off the fence in left field to lead off the inning.

Rejino laid a sacrifice bunt down the first baseline to score Barron and tie the game.

The Mules did most of their damage to Lockney in the fifth inning when six Mules crossed the plate.

Danny Campos got the rally started with a single to right-center field. Clarkson bunted between third and the pitcher and Campos was running on the hit and run.

Both Campos and Nacho Elizalde

reached first on an error by the short stop and Campos scored to put the Mules ahead to stay.

Bessire laid a sacrifice bunt down the first baseline and scored Clarkson.

Barron singled to left to score Elizalde and went to second on the throw. Dustin Smith and Keagan Gonzales both reached base on errors by the Longhorns.

Smith scored on the error by the second baseman and Gonzales went home on a passed ball.

The Mules had increased the lead to

Continued on A10

### Corrections

Muleshoe powerlifter David Rodriguez was misidentified in a sports story in last week's issue as David Gonzales.

The Muleshoe Journal apologizes for the error, and regrets any difficulties it might have caused.

### ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



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### BASEBALL

Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup> • V vs. Tulia • 12:00\*  
JVW vs. Tulia • 2:30\*  
Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> • V @ Littlefield • 7:00\*  
JVB • 4:30\*  
Mar. 29<sup>th</sup> • V vs. @ Olton • 12:00\*  
JVW • 2:30\*

### SOFTBALL

Mar. 20<sup>th</sup> • Brownfield • There  
5:30 V • 7:00 JV  
Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup> • Floydada\* • Here  
12:00 V • 1:30 JV  
Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> • Abernathy\* • Here  
5:00 V • 6:30 JV

### TRACK

Mar. 20<sup>th</sup> • Jr. High @ Muleshoe  
Mar. 21<sup>st</sup> • H.S. @ Muleshoe  
Mar. 27<sup>th</sup> • Jr. High @ Abernathy  
Mar. 28<sup>th</sup> • H.S. @ Abernathy  
April 5<sup>th</sup> • Jr. High @ Abernathy\*  
April 4<sup>th</sup> • H.S. • Brownfield



# Sudan Tennis Team Brings Home Medals

By Cheri Sain  
Sudan Correspondent

The Sudan Tennis Team competed at the SPCHEA on Thursday, March 13, bringing home several medals.

In the A bracket, Kort Hill brought home the first place medal in boy's singles.

In a near sweep of the boys doubles bracket, Hornet athletes Dex Baker and Tanner Fisher captured second place while Adam Martin and Luke Tiller defeated two Sundown teams to take the consolation bracket.

In the B bracket, Marco Godinez placed first while Ezra Herrera edged out Derek Tovar for the third position in boys singles.

Joanie Miller and

Shaylee Johnson placed first in girls doubles, and Jazmin Solis won the consolation in her first outing this year.

"All the Hornets in the competition continue to improve and strive to get better," Coach Lawrence Altum said.

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## LEGAL/PUBLIC NOTICE

The Annual Report of South Plains Community Action Association-Head Start Division for 2012-2013 has been completed and is now available upon request at SPCAA-Head Start located at 410 Houston, Levelland, Texas 79336 during regular business hours or online at <http://www.spcaa.org/uploads/media/AnnualReport2012FINAL2 website.pdf>.

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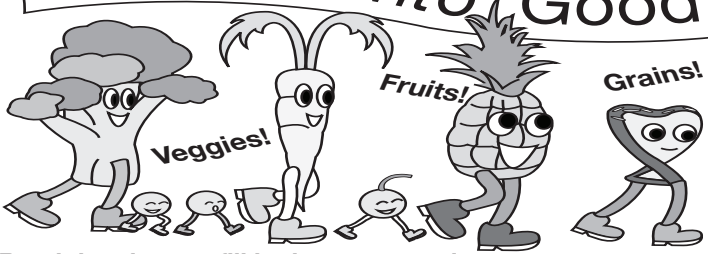
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- FM 303-4 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 2 Det. Garage, 2 acre tract, Par. Cent. A&H, Dw, disposal, thermal windows, storm doors, fans, stor. bldg.!! \$60!! \$69,500!!
- STEGALL 3-2-2 Austin Stone Home on 3.67 acres, Cent. A&H, built-ins, gas log FP, approx. 3064' living area, workshop/storage, 24'x36' metal shed, MORE!! \$125K!!
- MAPLE - 3-2.5-2 Brick Home on 2.48 acres, Cent. A&H, built-ins, gas log FP, approx. 2557' lv. area, (garage enclosed), storage unit!! MORE!! \$65K!!

**LAND & COMMERCIAL**

- Approx. 1080' metal bldg. w/off. & 3 bay garage/ workshop area plus chain link fenced area!! \$39,500!!
- GREAT BUSINESS LOCATION - 13000' Bldg., 7000' paved parking, corner lot, Hwy. 84 & Main. A&H, \$100,000!! **Price Reduced \$80,000!!**
- 101.8 acres, edge of town, pasture & farm land, 1 irrig. well!! \$122,244!!
- FOR LEASE - 2100' office space + 20,500' warehouse area!!
- 308 W. 2nd - 2856' bldg. - former Odd Fellows Lodge, PRICED TO SELL!! \$31,500
- 1020 S. Main - 200' x 104' tract w/ 1000' Bldg.!! \$20K!! **Price Reduced \$18K!!**
- 2.95 acre tract with 2140' office + 17000' & 3465' ware houses 4 miles east on U.S. 70 - \$430K!!! \$99K!!
- CASTRO CO. / FM 303 - Approx. 440 acres, 6 subs, 1 turbine, 2 valley & 1 Zimmatic circle!! \$1750 per acre!!
- NICE OFFICE/SHOP/WAREHOUSE on approx. .7 acre tract, metal bldg. one 1/2 bath & one 3/4 bath, cent. A&H, city water, insulated \$85K **REDUCED - \$50K!!**
- NICE 1680' office, Cent. A&H, plus 1120' storage/ workshop w/gar. door + 2 carport!! \$30K!!

## March Into Good Nutrition!

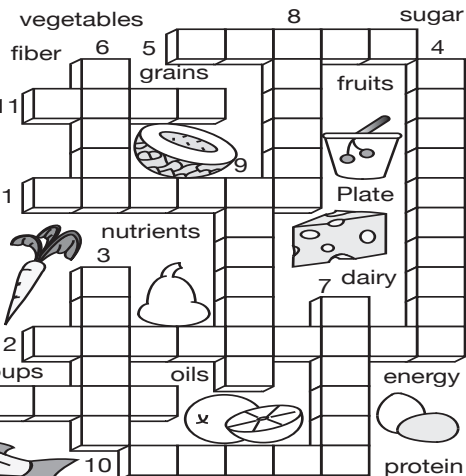


Read the clues to fill in the crossword:

- the food \_\_\_\_\_ help us to choose different kinds of foods every day: vegetable and fruit, grain, meat and bean, dairy
- "My \_\_\_\_\_" is a tool to help you see at a glance what and how much you are eating of each food group at a meal
- \_\_\_\_\_ and vegetables are loaded with vitamins A and C for good skin, eyes and healing
- the largest area of "MyPlate" is for \_\_\_\_\_: carrots, lettuce, squash, asparagus, tomatoes, green beans, broccoli, peas, cauliflower, celery...
- fruits have lots of vitamins, but may have a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ too
- it's better to eat fruits than to drink their juice: when you eat an apple instead of drinking its juice, you get \_\_\_\_\_ too
- foods in the grains group have carbohydrates that give you \_\_\_\_\_
- whole \_\_\_\_\_ have more fiber, so try whole wheat noodles or pizza crust
- \_\_\_\_\_ to build muscles comes from meat, fish, beans and nuts
- foods in the milk or \_\_\_\_\_ group have calcium to build strong bones and teeth
- some fat is needed for your body and brain to run well; choose \_\_\_\_\_ over fats that are solid
- eat foods of all colors from all the different food groups and you will get lots of \_\_\_\_\_ for good health

**Fun Dinner Idea Yum!**  
Whole wheat spaghetti or spaghetti squash with turkey meatballs and chunky tomato sauce.

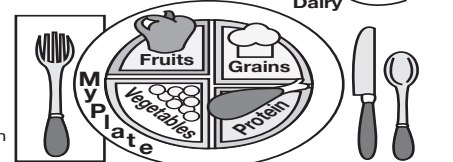
**March into good nutrition this month!** It's easy to learn about the food groups and how you can choose fresh foods to get vitamins, minerals and other nutrients your body needs to grow and be healthy.



Give peas a chance...then find and circle words that have a long "ā" sound as in the word "peas."

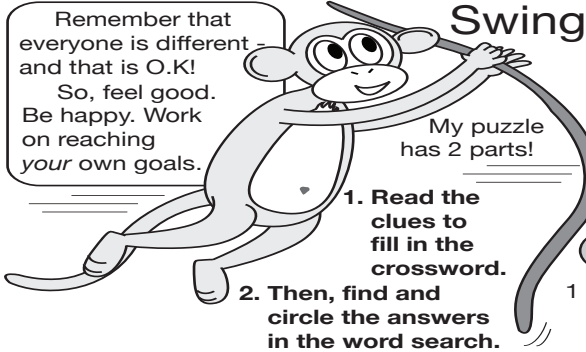
I'm baaaaack...and I'm showing people that the area for "vegetables" is the largest!

Come to print out free puzzles:  
**Veggie and Fruits Crossword and The Magic of Movies @ www.readingclubfun.com**

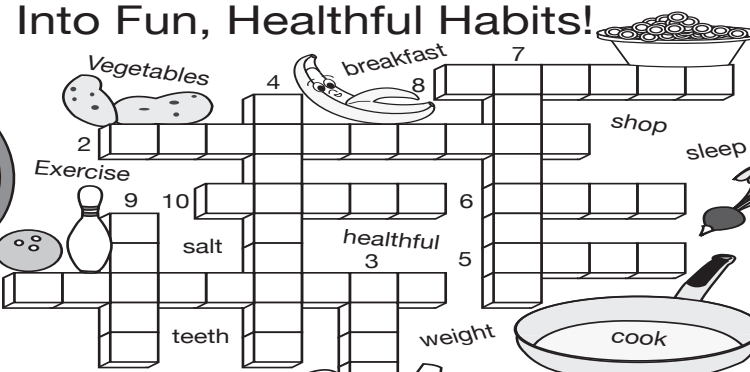


Remember that everyone is different and that is O.K!  
So, feel good. Be happy. Work on reaching your own goals.

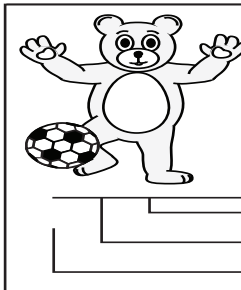
## Swing Into Fun, Healthful Habits!



My puzzle has 2 parts!  
1. Read the clues to fill in the crossword.  
2. Then, find and circle the answers in the word search.

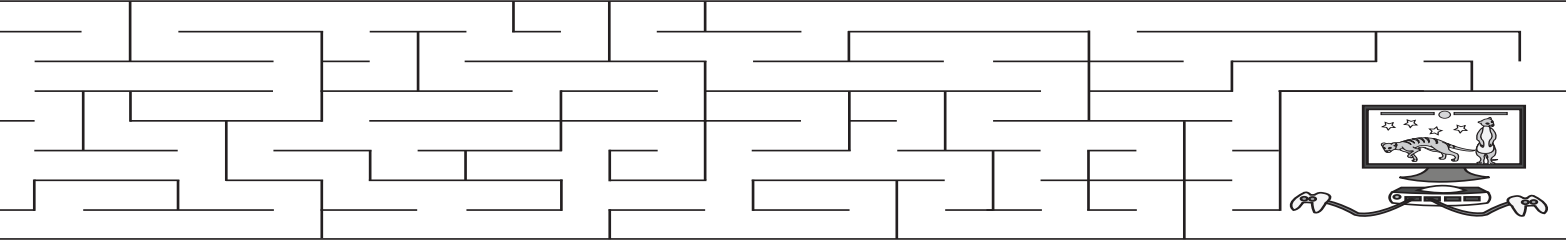


- Start your "engine" in the morning with a good \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ can be included in breakfast, as in an omelet (broccoli, onions, mushrooms, tomatoes), and are great for snacks in between meals.
- Choose snacks that have less fat or \_\_\_\_\_ and cereals with less sugar.
- When you eat out, choose items that are fun, but also more \_\_\_\_\_ - such as a baked sweet potato instead of french fries, etc.
- Help to \_\_\_\_\_ for and choose vegetables and fruits that everyone likes!
- Help to plan and \_\_\_\_\_ meals that are more healthful for everyone.
- \_\_\_\_\_ every day for at least 30 minutes.
- Keep a good \_\_\_\_\_. Your family doctor can help you to decide what is healthy for your size and activities.
- Brush your \_\_\_\_\_ twice a day and floss once too.
- Get enough \_\_\_\_\_ so you wake up ready to take on the day!



## At the End of the Day

Forest has been to soccer practice, helped with dinner and finished his homework. Now, he has 30 minutes before bedtime to play video games with his brother. **Help him get to the game console.**



## Varsity Baseball... Continued From A8

Boehning both scored on a double by Bessire to end all scoring. This was the third meeting between the Mules and Trinity Christian. The Mules had opened a 5-3 lead by the end of the third inning. Trinity mounted a come back but the Mules held them off with two runs in the fifth inning to secure the win. Bessire doubled to right field and Barron brought him home with a single to left field. Barron went to second on the throw. Rejino bunted back to the pitcher to sacrifice Barron to third. Barron was off and running on the pitch, rounded third and raced home for the Mules second run of the inning. Johnson drew a two out walk and scored on a triple to right in the top of the second inning to put the Mules on top 3-0. Trinity scored their first run in the bottom of the second inning. Gonzales hit a two-out double passed the third baseman and Chuy Manzanares brought him home with a single to right field to score Gonzales. Elizalde lined a single to right field to score Gonzales and give the Mules a 5-1 lead. Trinity battled back with two runs in the bottom of the third inning to stay close to the Mules at 5-3. Smith led off the top of the fifth inning with a double to right field. Elizalde lined a single to right field to score Smith. Elizalde went to second on a single to

right by Campos. Elizalde stole third base and then stole home to extend the Mules' lead to 7-3. Trinity made one final run at the Mules and scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning but could not catch the Mules. The Mules had a tough second inning against Littlefield and gave up eight runs to the Wildcats. The Mules could not recover and went down to defeat. Saturday was a better day for the Mules as they faced San Jacinto in the battle for third place in the tournament. San Jacinto broke the scoring ice in the top of the fourth inning to take a 1-0 lead. Manzanares led off for the Mules with a double to left field and advanced to third on a wild pitch. Elizalde drew a walk and then stole second base. Manzanares took a walking lead and stole home for the Mules first run. Rejino moved Elizalde to third with a sacrifice bunt back to the pitcher. Clarkson beat out a bunt down the first baseline and Elizalde scored on the base hit to put the Mules in the lead to stay. Nether team scored until the Mules added two runs in the fifth inning. Barron singled up the middle and then stole second base to start the bottom of the fifth inning. Gonzales singled and Barron went to third base. Barron scored on a wild pitch and Gonzales went to second. Smith singled to center to score Gonzales. The Mules added two insurance runs in

the bottom of the sixth. Clarkson doubled to right field and was followed by a double to centerfield by Johnson that scored Clarkson. Johnson stole third base and scored a single to center by Gonzales. The Mules slammed the door on San Jacinto in the top of the seventh inning. Rejino struck out the first batter and the second grounded out to Clarkson at first base. Barron scooped up a ground ball and fired it to Clarkson for the final out of the game. The Mules traveled to Lockney to face the Longhorns Tuesday and return home to host the Hale Center Owls Saturday.

### Capital Farm Credit Distributes Largest Ever Cash Patronage Refund

**Mulshoe, Texas** — Capital Farm Credit stockholders will soon receive an all-time record \$65 million cash patronage payment this spring. The customer-owned lending cooperative continued its track record of strong earnings in 2013, enabling it to maintain its long tradition of returning profits to stockholders through its patronage program. Since 2006, Capital Farm Credit has returned over \$385 million to its stockholders — equating to an effective annual rate reduction of 1.10 percent on an average loan. "Capital Farm Credit is committed to the cooperative principle of managing our capital, and our business in general, for the benefit of our customers," said Ben Novosad, chief executive officer. "Our ability to return patronage each year sets us apart from other financial institutions. We believe this is a benefit that strengthens customer relations and reinforces our mission to provide financing and related services to support Texas agriculture — while affording our membership lower net borrowing costs." Capital Farm Credit has provided financing to Texas farmers, ranchers and rural property owners for nearly a century. Headquartered in Bryan, it has nearly 70 offices spanning most of Texas. For more information about Capital Farm Credit and its patronage program, visit [CapitalFarmCredit.com](http://CapitalFarmCredit.com).

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# Welcome to Bailey County

When you receive your electricity from Bailey County Electric Coop, you're more than a customer... you're an owner. At Bailey County Electric, "Owned by those we serve," is not just a slogan, it's our goal in achieving customer satisfaction.

The BCE Co-op website is designed to help our members learn more about the co-op, alert you to current events and inform you on all the programs that the co-op offers its members. For your convenience, we have added a calendar that keeps you updated on all upcoming holidays and a weather app that keeps you updated on current weather conditions. In addition, you can browse our photo gallery and see our



crews at work.

We completed our move to the new building located at 610 East American Blvd. in Muleshoe, TX. Included in our new building is our brand new community center that is available to members and the community. Call the co-op to book the community center for your next event.



## WE SUPPORT THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY!

We thank you for choosing Muleshoe and the surrounding area as your home. You pour your heart into farming, ranching and operating dairies and feedyards in this area and your hard work doesn't go unnoticed. Your innovative, forward thinking industries keep our West Texas economy strong and we pledge our full support today and in the future!



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- (Solutions on page 11)

**Come Catch Rainwater!**

The High Plains Underground Water Conservation District is sponsoring workshop on April 24 in Muleshoe to share concepts of rainwater harvesting with area residents.

The cost of the workshop is \$20 and includes all presentation materials.

The workshop will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Bailey County Electric Cooperative, 610 E. American Blvd.

"We never know when the next rainfall event will occur. Therefore, it's important that we be ready to maximize the benefits of the free moisture provided by Mother Nature.

Rainwater harvesting allows us to capture water that would normally be lost to runoff and use it later during dry times," said Adeline Fox, HPWD education and outreach

coordinator.

The district's presentation includes an overview of basic rainwater harvesting techniques for both small and large scale applications.

Installation of gutters, rainwater harvesting barrels, and rain chains for home and businesses will be discussed. In addition, information will be provided about water conservation in the landscape.

Persons are encouraged to register for the event at [rsvp.hpwd.com](http://rsvp.hpwd.com) or by calling the district office in Lubbock at (806) 762-0181. The first 20 persons to RSVP for each of the four workshops will receive a free rainwater harvesting barrel, courtesy of HPWD.

Additional information is available by contacting the HPWD office in Lubbock or visiting the district's web site at [www.hpwd.com](http://www.hpwd.com).

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# Texas Tech Scientist Raises Concern Of Using Beta Agonists In Beef Cattle

Use of certain animal drugs known as beta agonists in cattle production has received considerable national attention.

A Texas Tech University veterinary epidemiologist has found that although there are significant societal benefits to the practice, an increase in death loss of cattle raises questions about welfare implications of its use.

In an article published March 12 in PLOS ONE, Guy Loneragan, professor of food safety and public health in Texas Tech's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, adds to this ongoing national dialogue.

"Beta agonists improve the efficiency of beef production and this improvement provides important societal benefits," Loneragan said.

"The beta agonists approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in cattle increase muscle growth and may reduce the amount of

fat the cattle accumulates," he said.

"This means the cattle converts more of the feed it eats into beef, and it does this more efficiently."

The article is co-authored by Daniel Thomson and Morgan Scott of Kansas State University and is titled "Increased mortality in groups of cattle administered the -adrenergic agonists ractopamine hydrochloride and zilpaterol hydrochloride."

The manuscript is freely available at <http://dx.plos.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0091177>.

With the use of beta agonists, cattle require less feed and less water to produce the same amount of beef than if no beta agonists were used.

Less land would be used to grow the crops used to feed the animals and, therefore, less fuel to produce the same amount of beef. The improvement in the efficiency of production has meaningful societal benefits.

"However, through our extensive analysis, we found that the incidence of death among cattle administered beta agonists was 75 to 90 percent greater than cattle not administered the beta agonists," Loneragan said.

"This increase in death loss raises critical animal-welfare questions. We believe an inclusive dialogue is needed to explore the use of animal drugs solely to improve performance, yet have no offsetting health benefits for the animals to which they are administered. This is particularly needed for those drugs that appear to adversely impact animal welfare, such as beta agonists."

At a recent symposium held at Texas Tech, the world renowned animal behaviorist and welfare expert Temple Grandin headlined a discussion of beta agonists and animal welfare.

In a recent joint NPR interview with Loneragan and Grandin about beta

agonists' affect on animal welfare, Grandin said, "These problems have got to stop. I've laid awake at night about it. I've worked all my career to improve how animals are handled and these animals are just suffering. It has to stop."

Grandin generally speaks on issues at the slaughter houses with lame cattle due to beta agonists, whereas Loneragan's work covers beta agonists in feedlots, which is the topic of the newly published paper.

"To paraphrase Dr. Grandin, we owe the animals we raise for food a decent life and a decent death," Loneragan said. "We certainly need to better understand the manner in which animals fed beta agonist die at the feedlot and work out how to balance the societal benefits of beta agonist use with societal expectations concerning the welfare of animals raised for food."

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## The Five Area Communications Family...

**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.

Since the early years, the story of Five Area has been one of steady growth and development. The changes in the industry have been tremendous and have taken their toll on all telephone cooperatives, but Five Area has met the challenge of the times. Five Area Telephone Cooperzative, Inc. is actively pursuing technology that will allow for the cost-effective deployment of broadband services in areas of low density and great mileage distances. More than 60 percent of our subscribers are located farther 10 miles form the central office and many are more than 20 miles .

**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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# Vision, Commitment And Cooperation

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

Vision, commitment and cooperation- these words describe the attitude of the Muleshoe EDC. 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.

Coupled with the local government's pro-business attitude, the MEDC promotes quality development of the West Texas region. The MEDC has assisted in the creation and expansion of several businesses. Incentives to an eligible business are based upon job creation and retention and an increase in tax base.

The MEDC welcomes new board member Joe Osterkamp. Joe will be a valuable asset because of his extensive knowledge of the agricultural industry and his dedication to our community.

The Muleshoe Economic Development Corporation would like to thank all the area residents who work in the agricultural industry for their hard work and diligence in providing quality products.



[www.muleshoejournal.com](http://www.muleshoejournal.com)

# Ag Law Blog Serves As Resource For Texas Producers



By Blair Fannin  
Tam.edu

Tiffany Dowell, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service economist and agricultural law specialist in College Station, has seen her Texas Agriculture Law Blog continue to gain popularity due to timely topics addressing issues affecting landowners across the Lone Star State.

"I continue to field many questions over the phone or at workshops dealing with oil and gas leases, as well as water law across Texas," Dowell said.

"Questions about pasture and hunting leases are also popular. To keep the latest updated information flowing on these topics, as well as others, the agricultural law blog is a central source of information that

serves as a good reference."

The law blog can be found online at <http://agrillife.org/texasaglaw/>. It features a number of different topics, including updates on current ag-related litigation and events, information about basic laws in Texas, and information on specific legal issues such as pipeline easements and leasing.

In January, the blog had more than 2,100 visitors. The source serves not only farmers and ranchers, but Texas landowners as well, she said.

Site visitors can access information online or sign up for email subscriptions receiving the latest information as soon as it's posted to the site.

"Every Friday I provide a

roundup of the week's hot topics and news with links to more information," Dowell said.

She also incorporates questions she receives via email and telephone calls and, while respecting confidentiality, shares those questions and answers with readers.

Some of the most recent topics Dowell has addressed in the blog include:

- Underground trespassing. Earlier this month, the Texas Supreme Court heard oral arguments in a case that could determine whether Texas recognizes underground trespassing.

This case involved a landowner drilling an injection well used

**Continued on Page 13**

# Ag Law Blog... Continued From Page 4

to dispose of wastewater one mile underground, which then crossed over property lines to a rice farmer's neighboring land.

The case could have major impacts on the oil and gas industry and landowner rights. The Texas Supreme Court is currently considering the case and no decision has been issued.

- Interaction of rights between surface owners and mineral owners.

Dowell has addressed what rights the surface owner has in the event the minerals have been leased and an oil company wants to drill on the land.

Other topics Dowell has previously addressed include eminent domain and water law.

"Water law continues to be a hot topic," Dowell said. "This along with pasture leases is what I've been doing a lot of presentations on across the state."

Prior to joining AgriLife Extension in 2013, Dowell was an associate attorney with the law firm of Peifer, Hanson and Mullins in Albuquerque, N.M.

She received her law degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law and bachelor of science in agribusiness from Oklahoma State University.

Dowell grew up on a family farm and ranch in New Mexico.

"Agricultural law has always been my interest and my background has prepared me well for this type of work," she said.

## Rangeland Management...

Continued from Page 7

going out there and wasting money now trying to plant."

- Maintain stocking rate within carrying capacity. "If you are overstocked, I don't care what you do, you are a numerical failure going in."

- Maintain or improve resilience of the plant community. A variety of plants in unstable conditions is a positive thing; there's always something there to respond to rain.

Steffens said feeding hay on rangeland does not stop overgrazing, because if any grass does grow, the cattle will go to it before eating the hay.

"Get cattle out of abused areas and to areas that still have feed," he said.

"If you have to continue to feed cattle, I suggest getting them into a pen and feeding them there, where they won't be overgrazing plants," he added.

Steffens said "planting fence posts and pipe" or dividing up pastures and allowing periods of rest for the grass may be more cost effective than planting or buying hay.

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# Agriculture Secretary Message... Continued from Page 5

products aren't right for their business model. Equally important to the viability of an operation is access to markets. We've made some changes in this area, too, with the goal of helping small and mid-sized farms and ranches find and break into new markets. Market News, which provides real time price, volume, supply and demand information, has expanded to include data on grass-fed beef and local foods — valuable to folks engaged in those marketplaces. We've also hired seven new Farm to School regional coordinators to help farmers and ranchers tap into the growing potential in the school food market. In school year 2011-2012 — before USDA had even established a formal Farm to School program—schools spent nearly \$355 million on food grown by their local farmers and ranchers, and more than half of schools at the time planned to spend even more in the coming year. Opportunities for small and mid-sized farms span the meal tray. Fruits and vegetables, fluid milk and baked goods are among the most popular, but schools are interested in increasing purchases of meat, poultry and eggs as well. Our coordinators are on the ground helping farmers and ranchers do business directly with school customers, a move that supports both healthy foods in schools and a healthy farm economy. Our work to support these and other local and regional food systems at USDA

continues to be coordinated and strengthened through our Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food initiative. These changes are just a start. We must do more to foster and protect the wide diversity of thriving farms and ranches across rural America. We will continue to ensure that our programs and policies meet the evolving needs of American agriculture, and will adjust policies and strengthen outreach to better reach small and mid-sized farmers and ranchers. With you, we will build an agricultural landscape where there is room and opportunity for all.

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# Growing Opportunity For Farmers And Ranchers

The recent Census of Agriculture shows that there is tremendous potential for growth among the smaller producers that make up the middle of American agriculture, but they need our support to get there.



That can mean a lot of different things. Some small and mid-sized farms and ranches are happy just the way they are, and simply need stability to help them keep afloat during tough times. Others want to grow and expand, but don't know how to access support that meets their specific needs.

to small and mid-sized farmers and ranchers. One major challenge that can make or break an operation is access to capital, so USDA has recently updated some of our loan programs to make them more accessible and navigable for small and mid-sized farmers and ranchers.

Recognizing these challenges, we have launched a new package of education, credit, technical assistance, and marketing tools and resources geared specifically

For example, our hoop house cost share program is now available in all 50 states, helping small and mid-sized farmers produce and sell more over an extended growing season. Soon, we'll make an additional \$15 million available to help farmers in

persistent poverty areas in 19 states build hoop houses.

Our new microloan program allows small and mid-sized farmers and ranchers to use a simplified application process to apply for up to \$35,000 in loans. So far, we've helped more than 4,900 farmers and ranchers access capital through the program — to the tune of \$97 million.

One of many success stories that has come out of this program is that of a Native American beginning rancher in Washington State. He operates in a remote area where commercial lending is not easily accessible. Thanks to the microloan program, he was able to receive a loan to purchase cattle and was paired with a more seasoned

mentor to provide council and support during his first years of ranching.

We've also made some changes to the Farm Storage Facility Loan program to make it more accessible and better tailored to the needs of smaller producers. Fruit and vegetable farmers can now use the program to purchase wash and pack stations along with their cold storage equipment, improving food safety and efficiency on the farm. In addition, diversified producers like those selling Community Supported Agriculture shares are eligible for a waiver to the requirement they carry crop insurance or NAP coverage when they apply, if those

Continued on Page 12



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- Identifying challenges and working side-by-side with customers and suppliers to solve problems
- 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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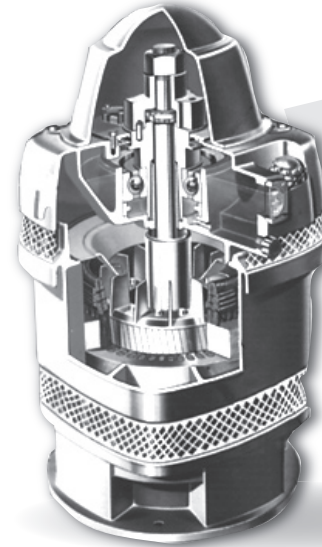


### Harvesty Bounty

A combine offloads wheat during the harvest at the ARS Central Great Plains Research Station in Akron, Colo.

ARS photo by Scott Bauer

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### Pulling Stalks

Field technician Emilio Chavez drives a tractor-drawn stalk puller that uproots plants after harvest. This prevents regrowth, water loss, and overwintering of pests in cotton and grain sorghum fields.

ARS photo by Jack Dykinga

Have you taken the time to thank Bailey County's farmers, ranchers and dairymen for what they bring to this community?



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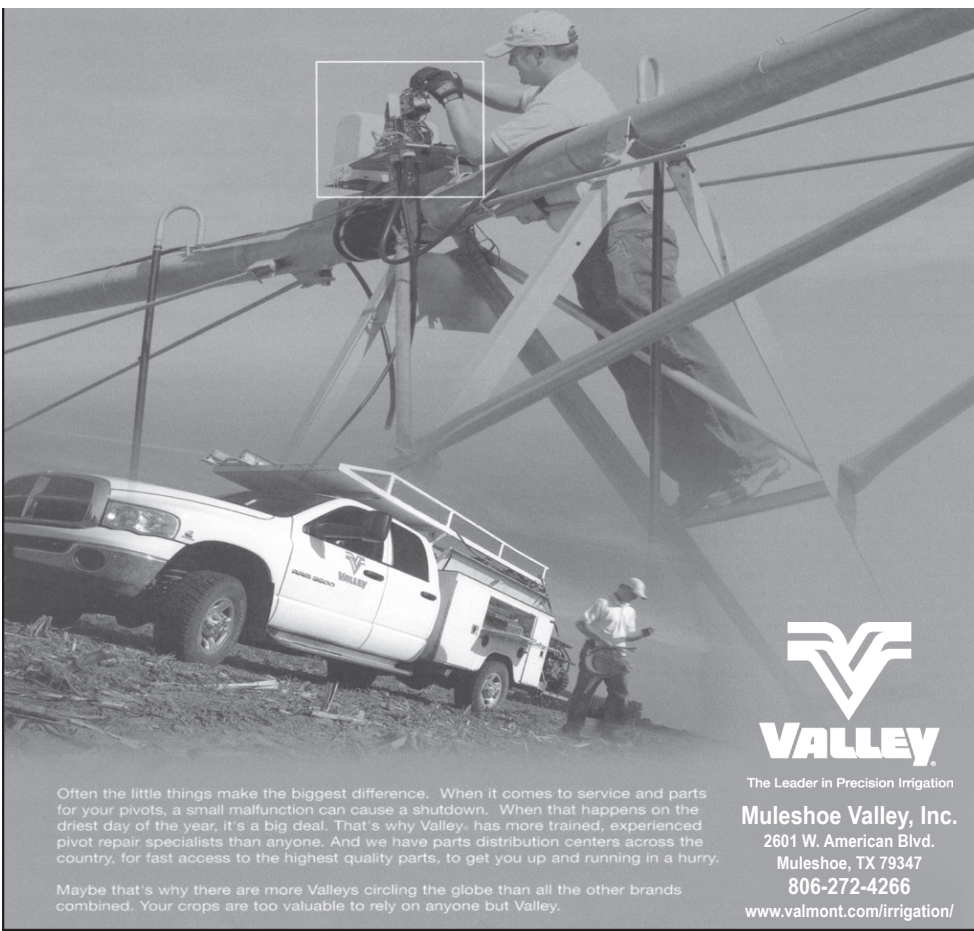


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## USDA Enhances Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

On March 11, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the expansion of the Farm Storage and Facility Loan program, which provides low-interest financing to producers.

The enhanced program includes 22 new categories of eligible equipment for fruit and vegetable producers, and makes it easier for farmers and ranchers around the country to finance the equipment they need to grow and expand.

This is part of a broader effort to help small and mid-sized farmers and ranchers.

Producers with small and mid-sized operations, and specialty crop fruit and vegetable growers, now have access to needed capital for a variety of supplies including sorting bins, wash stations and other food safety-related equipment.

A new more flexible alternative is also provided for determining storage needs for fruit and vegetable producers, and waivers are available on a case-by-case basis for disaster assistance or insurance coverage if available products are not relevant or feasible for a particular producer.

Additionally, Farm Storage and Facility Loans security requirements have been eased for loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

Previously, all loans in excess of \$50,000 required a promissory note and additional security, such as a lien on real estate. Now loans up to \$100,000 can be secured by only a promissory note.

"The Farm Storage and Facility Loan program has helped American farmers and ranchers to finance on-farm storage for almost 13 years," said Farm Service Agency

Administrator (FSA), Juan M. Garcia.

"We anticipate these changes will increase the number of individuals who qualify for these loans and help them access new market opportunities," he said.

The low-interest funds can be used to build or upgrade permanent facilities to store commodities. Eligible commodities include grains, oilseeds, peanuts, pulse crops, hay, honey, renewable biomass commodities, fruits and vegetables.

Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for fruits and vegetables.

Other new changes to the Farm Storage and Facility Loan program will allow FSA State Committees to subordinate Commodity Credit Corporation's lien position.

These changes to the program were issued via an official notice to state and county Farm Service Agency offices and are effective immediately.

More than 33,000 loans have been issued for on-farm storage, increasing grain storage capacity by 900 million bushels since May 2000.

More information about tools and resources available to small and mid-sized farmers will be rolled out in the coming months, including information about access to capital, risk management, food safety, and locating market opportunities on USDA's Small and Mid-Sized Farmer Resource webpage.

Visit an FSA county office to learn more about FSA programs and loans, including the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.

## Rangeland Management Is Key To Surviving Drought

By Kay Ledbetter  
Tamu.edu

Improved management adapted to changing rangeland conditions will be a key to surviving three back-to-back years of drought, according to Tim Steffens, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service rangeland management specialist in Canyon.

"We have just had three of the driest growing seasons in recorded history in a row," said Steffens, who is also a West Texas A&M University assistant professor, spoke at the recent Panhandle Ranch Management event. "We've had one of the driest falls. We've had one of the driest winters.

"So this coming year, don't be in any hurry to increase numbers until we find out for sure how much rain we've got, and how much grass we're going to have that can respond to further rain showers later in the year."

Steffens warned that if grass starts in bad shape from last year, it probably will remain in trouble this year, even if it rains normally.

If we don't get rain in the spring to get things started and have some grass growing by mid-June, it's probably not going to be a good year. So by early July, you need to assess the conditions and make decisions then.

Then look again in the fall and determine if you have enough grass and if you have had enough rain to take care of the grass."

Steffens said keys to management include providing adequate recovery for grass before grazing,

which means letting the plants get a full complement of leaves before cattle re-graze a plant.

A grazing "system" that does not provide adequate recovery following grazing won't do much good, he said. Whatever management strategy a rancher chooses, adequate recovery for severely defoliated plants and leaving enough residue after a grazing period "is what is going to get you where you want to go."

Steffens said grazing decisions can prepare resources to respond favorably in the good times or not go down so far when things are not good.

"Right now, I am not worried about weeds," he said. "If it will grow, I'm tickled to death. Get something to cover up that ground, provide some shade, protect it from the wind, keep it from eroding and provide some cover so that something can grow later."

A few other items on his management list include:

- Provide adequate regrowth for heavily defoliated plants, and do that every year, if possible.

- Improve distribution — get the animals away from the places they are overusing and get them to places they are underusing.

- Provide every opportunity for recruitment of new plants. Most plants in pastures reproduce vegetatively; they don't have to come up from seed. But some areas may need more seed.

"If you have to have the seed, try to get some. But I wouldn't advise

Continued on Page



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### Field Work

*Hooded sprayers operated by field technician Victor Valladares direct herbicide just to areas between rows of grain sorghum.*

**ARS photograph by Jack Dykinga**

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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*Greg Lance* (NMLS 612366)

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### Sunny Field

*A field of sunflowers face into the sun.*

**ARS photograph by Bruce Fritz**

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