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MULESHOE JOURNAL



Volume 84, No. 51

50¢

Published Every Thursday at Muleshoe, Bailey County, Texas 79347

50¢

Thursday, December 18, 2003

NEWS BRIEFS

Vandiver announces commissioner candidacy

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The *Journal* has been informed that Butch Vandiver has officially announced his candidacy for Bailey County Commissioner Precinct 1, subject to the Republican Primary for the upcoming election.



Vandiver

are his key to winning the election.

"I served Precinct 1 from 1993 to 2000 and know how to get the job done," he said.

Vandiver has been a resident and farmer in Bailey County for the past 45 years.

He said, "I want to be a servant to the people of Precinct 1 and to the citizens of Bailey County."

Chamber businesses extend sales promotion

By LEAH BELL

Journal writer

Due to tremendous local response to the Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce's "Muleshoe After Hours" holiday promotion, Saturday, Dec. 20 is the new last chance to register for the 61-inch RCA big screen television and 12 gift certificates being given away by participating businesses through this promotion.

Purchases made all day on Sat., Dec. 20 are eligible for the giveaway. The cut-off time is 6:00 p.m. and prizes will be drawn for at 7:00 p.m. that same day.

On the 20th, for every ten dollars spent up to \$100, the purchaser will get an entry in the giveaway. Entries received during five previous dates designated as "Muleshoe After Hours" will all be added together and then 13 winners will be drawn.

Participating businesses are: Catfish Cove, The Connection Warehouse, M-Pyre Auto Sales, Inc., Leal's Restaurant, Antiques & Fine Things, Williams General Store, Muleshoe Motor Co., Viola's Mexican Restaurant, Fry & Cox True Value, McDonald's, Sheree's Attic and Carolyn's Christmas Creations.



Drawing date: Saturday, December 13
Winning numbers: 10-12-14-26-40
Bonus Ball: 06
Estimated jackpot: \$22 million
Winners: 0
Next drawing: Wednesday, December 17
Estimated jackpot: \$24 million

LOCAL WEATHER

Sunny skies remain through Thursday, turning mostly sunny on Friday. Highs are forecasted to be in the upper 50s to lower 60s. Lows will be in the upper 20s. The weekend should bring partly cloudy skies which will remain through Wednesday (Christmas Eve). Highs remain in the upper 50s and lows dip down to the mid 20s over the weekend.

General Manager Marshall Stinnett can be reached at 272-4536 or ctyankee@fivearea.com

Missed your paper? Call carrier Yolanda Martínez at 272-4536 during business hours, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.



Journal photo: Beatrice Morin

The big man arrives

Children eagerly awaiting the arrival of the "big guy" got an unexpected treat as Santa, played by Jim Milner, made his way through the crowd at the Dec. 14 Christmas Concert of Muleshoe's high school and junior high bands and choirs. Milner is the father of high school band director, Becky Jones, and a former resident of Muleshoe.

School board okays leveling practice field

By MARSHALL STINNETT
Journal writer

The MISD Board voted at their regular monthly meeting to authorize the school administration to level and improve the high school football practice field.

The board authorized the work to proceed providing the cost did not reach \$25,000,

which is the expense level that requires the administration to go out for bids.

The project was originally scheduled for next year but the board moved it up on the recommendation of Superintendent Gene Sheets.

Sheets explained that the administration was not ready to present a plan for the improve-

ment of DeShazo that had been planned for this year. He told the board the administrators were still trying to figure out how to improve the traffic at DeShazo to make it more convenient and more safe for delivery and pickup of the children.

The board approved a new high school action plan and did

a budget adjustment.

The board did a self-evaluation of their performance and rated themselves very good in carrying out the duties and objectives the board had set for the year.

According to school board members, they will continue to stress their main objective is to educate children.

Christmas miracle brings hope to mom

By BEATRICE MORIN
Journal writer

Just in time for the holidays, a Christmas wish has come true for a mother of two. Eight months after her employment with the *Muleshoe Journal*, Vaneta Gregory has recently become the new rehab



skills trainer and service coordinator at Central Plains Center for Mental Health

Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse in Muleshoe, a position she knows is "right up her alley."

As an Eastern New Mexico University graduate with a bachelors degree in psychology, her patience and hard work has finally paid off. The struggling

see **MIRACLE** on page 2

Muleshoe Co-Op ginning season about to wind up

By LEAH BELL
Journal writer

Workers at Muleshoe Co-Op Gin will get to spend time with their families this upcoming holiday thanks to some help from nasty hail and wind that wiped out about 75 percent of the area cotton crop earlier this year.

In a telephone interview with gin Manager Darwin Robertson last week, Robertson said that the Co-Op is just about finished ginning the 10 to 11 thousand bales of cotton brought to them by area farmers this season.

Ginning should be finished by December 19 according to Robertson.

He said the normal number of bales ginned each season is usually above 35 thousand, so this year's numbers directly correspond to the crop loss suffered in the area.



Journal photo: Leah Bell

Muleshoe Co-Op Gin employee Jose Barrón drive a forklift around a large pile of cotton burs. Manager Darwin Robertson expects ginning to wind down this week.

"We're lacking only about 500-700 bales to finish for the season. Three or four of our customers are still in the fields," Robertson said.

Such decreased amounts of cotton should have allowed ginners to already be through ginning, but the late freeze has slowed down the process.

"It took so long to freeze. It only came a few weeks ago," he said. "Some folks are behind."

The decrease in cotton brought to the Co-Op Gin left Robertson no choice but to cut labor.

Instead of running two 12-hour crews day and

see **GIN** on page 2



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AROUND MULESHOE

Senior Center to close for holidays

Oneita Wagon Senior Center will be open Tuesday, Dec. 23 at 9:00 a.m. for games. All senior citizens are invited to come and play. The center will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 24-25 for the Christmas holiday. It will reopen Dec. 30-31 but will be closed New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 2004.

Covenant Home Health will be at the center on Tuesday, Dec. 23 at 11:00 a.m. providing health screenings and blood pressure checks for those who wish to have them done.

MISC announces monthly meetings

The Muleshoe Investment Strategist Club (MISC) would like to announce that it meets every third Thursday of each month in the Muleshoe Public Library at 7 p.m. If interested in investment discussion and education, call 272-4332.

Farm Bureau to hold open house

An Open House will be held by Bailey County Farm Bureau on Thursday, Dec. 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited to attend and visit with Farm Bureau employees, neighbors and friends.

Mutschler retirement party set

The faculty and staff of Watson Junior High are hosting a retirement reception honoring Barbara Mutschler. It will be held at Watson Junior High Library on December 17 from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. Please come visit, reminisce and enjoy refreshments.

Candlelight service set in Lariat

The community is invited to the "God Sent Us Salva-

tion" candlelight service at St. John Lutheran Church of Lariat on December 21, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. The service will include scripture, service and prayer.

Learning Center to close for holidays

The Muleshoe Adult Learning Center will be closing for the holidays on Friday, December 19 through January 5, 2004. The Center will reopen January, 6 and will be enrolling for the spring semester at that time. For information contact Sharon Grant at 272-7540 or 5766.

Church to host candlelight service

The First United Methodist Church of Muleshoe will host a Christmas Eve Candle Light Service on December 24 at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Christmas Card Project in full swing

The Annual Christmas Card Project has begun! Proceeds will benefit the residents of Park View Nursing Home. Anyone can donate whatever amount he or she can afford. Names of contributors will be published in the paper in December. Checks should be made out to Christmas Card Project and they can be mailed to P.O. Box 202, Muleshoe, Texas 79347 or 1100 W. Ave J, Muleshoe, Texas 79347. Donations can also be given directly to Joy Stancell, activity director of Park View, or to Joyeline Costen, chairwoman of the project. Donations can also be given to any teller at the First Bank of Muleshoe or Muleshoe State Bank. Mrs. Costen will pick them up.

Public Calendar

Dec. 23 thru Jan. 5, 2004 — The Muleshoe Driver's License Office will be closed for the holidays. Regular business hours will resume January 6, 2004.

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GIN

from page 1

night, Robertson has ginned this season with just a day crew.

"All we can do is look forward to next year," he said. A myth being passed

around the area indicated that the area gins were in a sort-of "lottery" as to which would be open for the season. Robertson denied this myth.

"Opening a gin in a situation like this is determined on an individual basis. I would have opened even if I had only one or two customers. Every gin is differ-

ent," Robertson said.

He stated that his idea of customer service is being there for his customers. Had he not opened, he would have risked losing customers who had to take their cotton elsewhere.

Robertson said, "In a season like this, you're going to lose money anyway. Why would I risk making my customers mad by closing when, either way, we're going to lose money? I'd rather keep my customers."

MIRACLE

from page 1

mother of two boys, Tyler, 10, and Robby, 9, has had her prayers answered as she tried desperately to make ends meet.

The many challenges she has faced are overwhelming especially during the holidays, but thanks to some good Samaritans in Muleshoe, local charitable organizations and Gregory's own determination, she now has a less stressful life. Word of her misfortune reached people around her and through joint efforts of citizens wishing to remain anonymous, two tires and a window were replaced on her car.

Recently a group from Muleshoe State Bank generously donated money and gave her a turkey.

She had gone without proper heating and cooling for a year because the compressor had gone out. South Plains Community Action Association helped her replace the unit. Her children

have also received used clothing donated by local citizens.

"Everything seems to be falling into place," said Gregory. "And everyone's help is so greatly appreciated." Just when it seemed like nothing would ever go right in Gregory's life, everything took a turn in the right direction.

"The Lord is working overtime for me," said Gregory.

According to Gregory, she had to take a job outside her degree because nothing was available. It took four months before she found a job because she was deemed "overqualified" for most jobs available in Muleshoe at the time.

She has taken some master level classes and plans to return to college to receive her master's degree.

She is currently in training for the rehab skills trainer and service coordi-

nator position and will not see clients until the end of January. She enjoys working with people and the personnel at the main office at Plainview seem "happy to have her" according to Gregory.

Of her previous employment with the *Journal*, she said, "Everyone was helpful and good to work with. I also enjoyed that the hours were flexible."

"When someone as kind as Vaneta succeeds, it makes you realize that being a good person is well worth it," said *Journal* employee Leah Bell.

"I hate to see her leave. For someone who had no previous experience with newspapers, she did very well. She will be missed and we wish her nothing but the best," said *Journal* manager Marshall Stinnett.

The *Muleshoe Journal* personnel would like to wish her continued success in her endeavors.

HOSPITAL NEWS

Muleshoe Area Medical Center reports the following patient load.

Dec. 4 — Jeremiah Barron, Viena Barron, Martha Cano, Baby Chavez, Julia Chavez, Winnie Chintala, Dee Hall, Ruth McClellan, Alva E. Moore, Erma D. Templar and Maurice Wilkomm.

Dec. 5 — Jeremiah Barron, Viena Barron, Martha Cano, Winnie Chintala, N. Chisman, Dee Hall, Carroll Hunton, Alva

E. Moore, Baby Que, Rosa Sanchez and Erma D. Templar.

Dec. 6 — Mendy Davis, Carlos Garcia, Mary F. Holt, Alva E. Moore, Maria T. Orozco and Maria D. Toscano.

Dec. 7 — Mendy Davis, Carlos Garcia, Mary F. Holt, Alva E. Moore, Maria T. Orozco and Maria D. Toscano.

Dec. 8 — Mendy Davis, Carlos Garcia, Mary F. Holt, Alva E. Moore,

Maria T. Orozco and Maria D. Toscano.

Dec. 9 — Bethanie Arvizo, Willie M. Davis, Ruth Faulknew, Mario Gomez, Pauline Guinn, Alva E. Moore, Kerry G. Moore, Elias Sanchez, Priscilla Sanchez, Maria D. Toscano and Mae Stone.

Dec. 10 — Ruth Faulkner, Mario Gomez, Alva E. Moore, Kerry G. Moore, Mae W. Stone and Maria D. Toscano.

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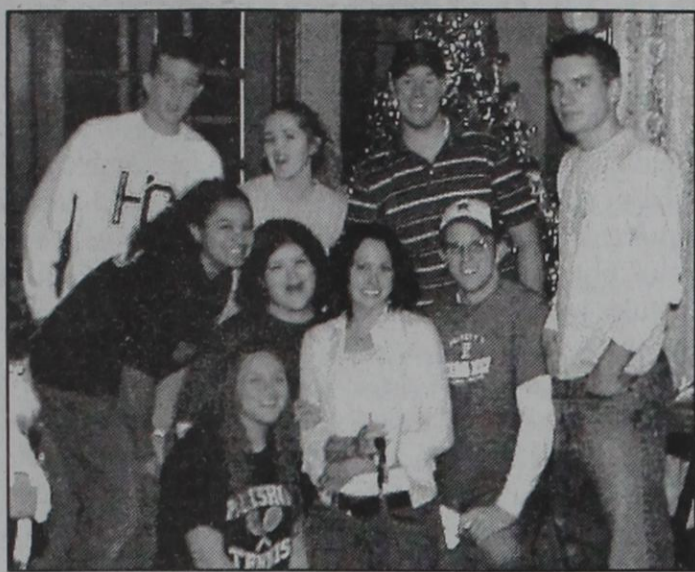
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29⁹⁹

2-Pc. Harley Fat Boy Replica Phone

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Courtesy photo

Student-Community Action Club members decorated the Christmas tree at the Jane's Ranch House Monday night in preparation for the December 13 Open House from 5-7. Jessie Hanna and Marlie Black provided goodies for the club's annual Christmas get-together. Pictured are Jordan Bonds, Shanna Rempe, Tyrel Gear, Landon Sheets, Minerva Martinez, Stacy Mata, Meghan Wills, Tatom Heathington, Ashley Beggs, and Kelsey Beggs. Marlie Black, Paje McRoberts, Amber Cowart, Elida Diaz, Kory Atwood, and Shanna Rempe painted signs for the Heritage Foundation float for the Christmas parade.

JV Mules grab the gold

By DELTON WILHITE
Journal sportswriter

The JV Mules continued to roll over the competition and grabbed the gold in the Sundown Roughneck JV Tourney. On Tuesday, the Mules pounded the Seagraves Eagles 64-31. The Mules record is spotless with 10 wins and no losses.

The Mules struggled a little offensively against Lorenzo in the opening game of the Sundown Tourney. They only scored 29 points but they utilized a very stingy defense to hold Lorenzo to 22.

In the second round, the Mules had to fight back from a four-point deficit in the first period against the Tahoka Bulldogs. They went ahead by one just before the intermission and dropped the Bulldogs 54-49.

Abernathy fell to the Mules 40-28 in the finals. The Mules raced away from the Abernathy Antelopes in the second half by outscoring the Antelopes 27-16.

Cory Wallace set the tone for the Mules by draining back-to-back threes in the opening frame in Seagraves. As the second half got under way, the Mules got their post-to-post passing going when Derek felt the double team and passed across the paint to Brad Henry for a layup.

Henry cleaned up backside offensive rebounds twice in the next minute to put the Mules up by 10. Trent Black dropped in a trey and Wallace sunk his third 3-pointer of the night. They had pushed their lead to 49-28 by the start of the final frame.

The tenacious Mule defense held the weary Eagles to a single 3-pointer in the final frame. Henry set a

screen for Erwin Lewis to get free along the baseline. On the Mules next trip down the floor, Henry set a screen for Barry Morris along the baseline.

Jarad Flores paced the Mules with 14 points, Wallace added 11 and Henry dropped in 10. Rudy Gonzales made nine points, Black five; Lewis and Arsenio Jeter had four points apiece. Morris chipped in two points and Purdy had one for the Mules.

The Mules scored 29 points against the Lorenzo Hornets with Purdy and Flores setting the pace with six points each. Henry had five, Wallace four, Myles James and Jeter dropped in three points each and Eddie Alvarado had two for the Mules.

The Mules used balanced scoring against Tahoka in the second game of the tourney. Black set the pace with 11 points; Henry and Flores added eight points each. James dropped in seven points and Morris had six. Gonzales and Wallace chipped in four each and Purdy and Jeter had three apiece.

James went three-for-three from the charity line to lead the Mules in scoring with nine points in the finals against Abernathy. Henry added eight points; Wallace and Purdy made six each and Gonzales had five. Flores, Black and Jeter each chipped in two points for the Mules.

The Mules traveled to Levelland December 16 and return home on Friday for their last home appearance of 2003 with the River Road Wildcats. The Mules return to action in the New Year when Denver City visits January 2. Game time will be at 11:00 a.m.

HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Muleshoe is a great place to live because it has heart! Anyone wanting to send or give an unusual gift this Christmas, shop in Muleshoe.

The Christmas parade was held Saturday morning. Those who missed it, missed the opportunity to get in the Christmas spirit. The two Muleshoe school bands played jubilantly. The floats displaying the theme "I Believe" were a sight to see and all of the decorated cars and bright red fire department vehicles all brought the holiday spirit.

All day at the Arts and Crafts Bazaar, people were doing last minute shopping and were buying everything. And those who were hungry could get a bite to eat.

The last activity of the day was the annual Heritage Center Open House from 5:00-7:00 p.m. All of the buildings at the center glowed with Christmas lights and inside were decorated Christmas trees. It takes work, planning and community cooperation to have a Heritage Center happening. The director this year was Dianne Brown and she did a "bang-up" job of coordinating everything. United Supermarket employees helped replace bulbs on all of the buildings which was a tremendous help. Those who did not get to come to the Open House, do drive through the center some night during the Christmas season and see how lovely it looks. Bring guests out as well.

Pictures with Santa were taken Saturday night in the Janes Ranch House with the SCAC Old Fashioned Christmas tree as a backdrop. Upstairs Sally and Jay Messenger along with Curtis Shelburne entertained with Christmas carols. Joan Lewis would have been there with them except an emergency trip to the

hospital prevented this. Board members furnished Christmas cookies, wassail and punch at the old Santa Fe Depot. At 6:30 p.m., the drawing for the western picture donated by the Alairs of Springlake and painted by artist Hillburn was drawn for. The lucky winner was Pat Butts, wife of one of the out-of-town hunters.

The SCAC (Student-Community Action Club) students were there assisting wherever needed as they have in past years. People brought canned goods to place under the SCAC Christmas tree, and the students will take the donated items to the Muleshoe Food Pantry.

And Muleshoe does not forget what Christmas really means. Nearly every church in the city had a special Christmas program to celebrate God's gift to the world, Jesus Christ. Everyone was invited to attend each of these programs, so Christian people all celebrated together. And all of this is a small part of what Christmas in a small county town is all about.

Last Muleshoe After Hours
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Journal photo: Beatrice Morin

Local citizen converse with one another and enjoy refreshments during the Bailey County Courthouse Annual Open House held last Thursday.

BIRTHS

MENDOZA

Abraham Mendoza and Elizabeth Rodriguez of Muleshoe announce the birth of a son, Hayden Fate Mendoza, born at 6:30 a.m., November 10, 2003 at University Medical Center, Lubbock.

He weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and was 19 1/4 inches long.

Grandparents are Alberto Mendoza of Portales, N.M. and the late Pat O. Mendoza of Muleshoe, and Sally and Abelino Flores of Levelland. Great-grandparents are Jose and Maria Orozco and Joe and Esther Rodriguez, all of Muleshoe. Great-great-grandparents are Antonio and



Mendoza

Justa Flores and Clara Castorena, all of Muleshoe.

PYLANT

Brett and Lisa Pylant of Double Oak, Texas are the parents of a daughter, Alexa Catherine Pylant, born at 1:32 p.m., November 25, 2003 in Baylor Health Care Center of Grapevine.

She weighed 7 lbs., 5 oz. and was 20 inches long.

She is the couple's first child. Grandparents are Dick and Lola Pykant of Muleshoe, Freddie and Terry Frerich of Bracketville, and Don and Tammy Williams of Plainview.

BARRON

Jaime and Viena Barrón of Muleshoe announce the



Pylant

birth of a son, Jeremiah Jaden Barrón, born at 5:47 p.m., December 3, 2003 at Muleshoe Area Medical Center.

He weighed 8 pounds, 12 ounces and was 21 inches long.

He has a brother, Jacob Oscar.

Grandparents are Doroteo and Maria Barrón and Oscar and Liberty Hernandez, all of Muleshoe.

LEWIS

Marthella Lewis of Muleshoe announces the birth of a son, Elijah Dion Lewis, born at 3:05 p.m., December 10, 2003 at Plains Regional Medical Center in Clovis.

He weighed 6 pounds, 12.3 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Grandparents are Clarence and Sadie Lewis of Muleshoe.

Eighth grade Mules skin Cubs

By DELTON WILHITE
Journal sports writer

The eighth grade Mules skinned the Brownfield Cubs 41-23 in the Muleshoe Athletic and Convocation Center Monday night. The Mules only allowed the Cubs a single bucket in the opening frame.

Garrett Riley posted up on the blocks to crank the Mule offense. Adam Zamora made both ends of a two shot foul and Riley put back a rebound as the Mules jumped in front 6-0.

Dusty Clayton finished a fast break and less than a minute later, Julio Bustillos was out running on another. Riley finished the period with a drive down the lane to put the Mules on top 13-2.

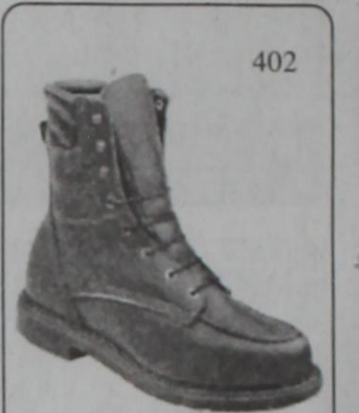
The Cubs tried to come back in the second period with a 6-2 scoring run. Zamora interrupted the run and Riley put six on the board to keep the Mules in front 21-9 at the half.

Clayton drained a three to begin the second half. Jordan Marlow made a bucket to push the Mule lead to 31-9 late in the third frame. The Mules outran the Cubs 10-5 in the third quarter and 10-4 in the final period.

Riley led all scorers with 20 points and Clayton added seven. Zamora made five points, Carpenter three; Marlow, Ely Alvarado and Bustillos made two points each for the Mules.

The Mules take a short Christmas break and re-

sume action January 8-10 in the Levelland Tournament and return home January 12 to meet the Lubbock Cooper Pirates to begin the second round of district.



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JV Lady Mules win championship

By DELTON WILHITE
Journal sportswriter

The JV Lady Mules picked up four wins this past week to push their season record to 9-3. The Seagraves Lady Eagles fell victim to the Lady Mules on Tuesday night 63-18. December 11-13 the Lady Mules scattered the competition in the Sundown Tournament.

The Lady Mules stopped Petersburg in the opening round 49-37 and then set down the Lady Bulldogs of Tahoka 38-29 in the second round. In the game for the gold, the Lady Mules blew past the Lorenzo Lady Hornets 40-22.

Against Seagraves, the Lady Mules got out to a fast start with Madison Smith hitting a bucket from the elbow and Chelsi Hawkins stole a pass in the back court and was fouled on the layup attempt.

Hawkins sank both tosses from the charity stripe and on the Lady Mules next trip down the floor nailed a 3-pointer to push the Lady Mule lead to 7-0. The Lady Eagles went on a 6-1 scoring run before Kate Lepard drained a three.

Cecelia Reyna picked up the Lady Mules final six points of the period. Seagraves trailed the Lady Mules 17-11 as the second period began. Hawkins sandwiched an eight-foot baseline jumper between Jenna Rasco's baseline jumper and a free throw that

pushed the Lady Mule lead to 22-11.

Reyna and Kasey Wood each hit from behind the arc in the final three minutes of the half. The aggressive Lady Mule defense held Seagraves to only one free throw in the second frame. The Lady Mules led at intermission 31-12.

The Lady Mules kept up the pressure in the second half and out scored Seagraves 14-4 in the third period and 18-2 in the final eight minutes. Hawkins led the Lady Mules scoring with 15 points, Lepard added 13 and Reyna dropped in 11.

Wood made nine points; Smith eight, Rasco four, Hillary Tipps two and Ashley Dickson chipped in one for the Lady Mules.

"We did not play good defense in the first period against Petersburg in the Sundown Tournament," said Lady Mule coach Carey Sudduth. "But after that, we got back on track and played well the rest of the tournament. It is always fun to bring home the championship trophy."

Petersburg led the Lady Mules 14-13 after the first eight minutes. The Lady Mules picked up the pressure to hold Petersburg to only five points in the second frame while recording 15.

Wood set the scoring pace against Petersburg with 14 points and Dickson and Rasco each added

seven. Lepard and Hawkins each dropped in six points, Reyna had five and Smith chipped in four for the Lady Mules.

Tipps nailed a three in the second period against the Tahoka Lady Bulldogs and the Lady Mules owned a 15-8 advantage at the intermission. Hawkins led the Lady Mules scoring with eight points and Reyna added six.

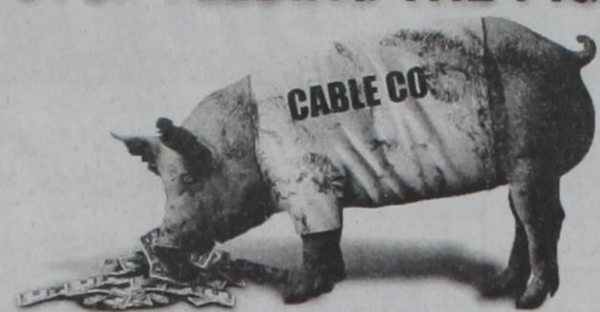
Wood dropped in five points, Dickson, Rasco, Smith and Lepard made four points apiece and Tipps had three for the Lady Mules.

In the finals, Wood exploded for nine points in the first period as the Lady Mules ran out to a 14-4 advantage over Lorenzo. The Lady Mules owned a 25-9 lead at the half and out ran the Lady Hornets 15-13 in the final half.

Wood led the charge for the gold with 20 points and Dickson and Hawkins added six points each. Tipps, Reyna, Rasco and Lepard chipped in two points each in the contest.

The Lady Mules traveled to Levelland to meet the Lady Lobos December 16 and return home on Friday to meet the River Road Lady Wildcats before the Christmas break. January 2 the Lady Mules host Denver City and travel to Friona January 6 before starting district play when the Cooper Lady Pirates come for a visit.

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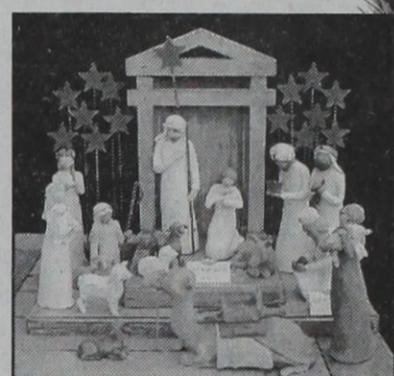
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OBITUARIES

NOLAN L. LAMBERT

Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 16 at Kerrville Funeral Home

Chapel for Nolan L. Lambert, 93, of Kerrville, Texas. Greg Cummings, minister of Sidney Baker Church of Christ, officiated. Burial was in Garden of Memories Cemetery.

Kerrville Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Mr. Lambert was born in Concan, Texas to the late James Thomas and Nettie Harp Lambert. He died in a Kerrville hospital on Sunday, December 14, 2003.

He grew up in the Muleshoe area where he married his wife, Gladys Merle Fuller, in 1932. They moved to Kerrville for the first time in 1948. He owned and operated a trucking business which supplied ranchers with feed. He then accepted a position with Coastal States as a driver and the Lamberts moved to Corpus Christi and then Houston before retiring to Marble Falls, Texas in 1969. After the death of his wife, Mr. Lambert moved back to Kerrville in 1986. He was a member of the Sidney Baker Church of Christ.

Mr. Lambert is survived by two brothers, Bill and Woodrow Lambert of Muleshoe; two sisters, Marie Lane and Freda Foss, both of Muleshoe; six chil-

dren, Rita M. Baker and Nan Mosty, both of Kerrville, Patsy Pruett of Corpus Christi, Jerry Lambert of Cuero, Texas, Joe Lambert of Victoria, Texas, and Linda Petty of Spring, Texas; 18 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, four brothers, five sisters, a son, James Nolan Lambert; and a daughter, Sally Mary Carney.

Pallbearers were: Jim Lambert, Jack Lambert, Joey Lambert, Justin Lambert, Ben Lambert, Bobby Mosty and John Ryan Cooley.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested memorials be made to Sid Peterson Memorial Hospital, specifically for the Palliative Care Unit or to the Sidney Baker Church of Christ Building Fund.

J.M. HEFNER

A chapel service was held Wednesday, December 17 at Ellis Funeral Home Chapel in Muleshoe for J.M. Hefner, 84, of Lubbock. Pastor Scott Malone and Howard Rhodes officiated. Burial was in Muleshoe Memorial Park Cemetery.

Ellis Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Mr. Hefner was born July 31, 1919 in Chime, Ark. He died Sunday, December 14, 2003 in Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock.

He married Leta Mae Dickerson in Frederick, Okla. December 6, 1941.

She died January 29, 2000. On September 9, 2000, he married Leona Evans in Lubbock.

Mr. Hefner was a graduate of Hills Business College in Oklahoma City. He was in WWII serving as a Master Sergeant in the United States Army. Upon his discharge from the Army, he moved to Altus, Okla. where he lived from 1945-1963. He lived in Muleshoe from 1963-1983. He was a member of the Muleshoe American Legion and owned and operated Hefner Bookkeeping and Tax Service in Muleshoe from 1968 to 1983. He was a member of the Broadview Baptist Church in Lubbock.

He is survived by his wife of Lubbock; a daughter, Tana Young, and husband, Marshall, of Dimmitt; a sister, Eula Mathis of Clinton, Ark.; three brothers, Lloyd Hefner of Mira Loma, Calif., Jesse Hefner of Madera, Calif., and Clovis Hefner of Antioch, Calif.; two grandchildren, Dana Jameson of Friona and Jim Holmes of Lubbock; four step-grandchildren, Patricia Conduff of Lubbock, Velma Grisham of Texas City, Jimmy Evans of Little Elm and Darla Rice of Canyon; and seventeen great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, and two brothers, Leon and Orville.

The family suggests memorials be made to a favorite charity.

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-Psalm 18:2

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Lady Mules claim third spot in shootout; lose to Seagraves

By DELTON WILHITE
Journal sportswriter

The Lady Mules won four of five games in just five days this past week. They traveled to Seagraves on Tuesday night and out lasted the Lady Eagles 59-56 in over time. Thursday morning, the Lady Mules opened the Abernathy Shootout with the Wall Lady Hawks and claimed the third place trophy on Saturday.

The Lady Hawks are a state ranked team and it took all four quarters for the Lady Mules to put them away 45-40. The Lady Mules met the Post Lady Lopes at noon on Friday and hung on in the final frame to beat Post 42-39.

Friday afternoon at six p.m., the Lady Mules returned to the floor with Seagraves for a rematch of Tuesday night's game. The Lady Eagles had 24 hours to rest after their opening game and were ready for Muleshoe.

The Lady Eagles had added a third six-foot player since the two teams had met in Seagraves. The Lady Eagles defeated the Lady Mules 46-34 and went on to take the gold in the Shootout.

Saturday afternoon, the Lady Mules got a preview of a district opponent and ran away from the Lady Cats of Littlefield 53-24.

Tuesday night was a battle on the inside between two of the best post players in the region. Sara Benham held Seagrave's Darrice Griffin to only seven points that included two baskets and three free throws.

Benham only had nine points in the contest, with three points coming in the over time period to seal the

game for the Lady Mules. The Lady Mules had built a large lead in the third period but Seagraves began to pressure the ball and chipped away at the deficit. The Lady Eagles made three treys in a row to take a two-point advantage with three minutes left in the game.

Tori Barton made a steal at center court and laid the ball up and in to knot the game at 48 and extend the contest by four minutes. Teddy Griffin scored for Seagraves off the tip as the extra period began.

Kelsi Friskup blocked out and was fouled on a defensive rebound. Friskup sank both ends of the one-and-one to retie the game. Seagraves added a bucket before Friskup drove the weak side for a layup to again tie the game.

With one and a half minutes on the clock, Friskup hit a 15-footer to answer a Seagrave's tally and tie the game at 54-54. The Lady Mules got a defensive stop and set up their offense as the clock wound down.

Jamie Carpenter made a perfect pass to Benham posting up on the blocks. Benham spun around the defense and laid the ball on the glass. Benham was fouled on the shot and she added the bonus to put the Lady Mules on top to stay.

The Lady Eagles cut the Lady Mule lead to 57-56 with 15 seconds remaining. Lindsey Wood added two free throws to seal the deal for the Lady Mules. Barton slapped the ball out of T. Griffin's hands and did not give her an open shot behind the arc before the game ended.

Lady Mule coach Shana Simms said, "This was critical game for us tonight. We learned to expect to win no matter what the situation is. We lost a big lead but fought back and did what had to be done to win in over time."

Barton paced the Lady Mules with 20 points and Friskup added 15. Friskup had six in the overtime to keep the game tied on three occasions. Benham had nine points, L. Wood made seven and Brandi Wood dropped in four. Ashley Gutierrez and Carpenter each chipped in two points. Carpenter led the Lady Mules with five steals and pulled down six rebounds.

The Lady Mules trailed the Wall Lady Hawks 31-22 at the intermission. Following the half time break, the Lady Mules began to put pressure on the Lady Hawks outside the arc with a trapping half-court press.

L. Wood fired a warning shot as the second half began and sank a 23-foot 3-pointer to inspire the Lady Mule's comeback. The Lady Mules outran and outscored Wall 15-5 in the third period

to take a 37-36 advantage. Wall briefly regained the lead before B. Wood drained a 3-pointer from the top of the key.

Benham led all scorers with 18 points and Tori Barton added six. L. Wood, Carpenter and B. Wood each made five points; Friskup four and Amber Cowart chipped in two for the Lady Mules.

The Wall game took its toll both mentally and physically on the Lady Mules. The Post Lady Lopes took advantage and pulled ahead of the Lady Mules in the final period. B. Wood dropped in a short shot in the paint to put the Lady Mules on top with only 10 ticks left on the clock.

Benham iced the game with two charity tosses and led the Lady Mules with 21 points. Barton added nine points, B. Wood six, Friskup three, Gutierrez two and Carpenter one.

With only two and half-hours of recovery time, the Lady Mules tangled with the Lady Eagles of Seagraves for the second time in four days. The Lady Mules

stayed close in the first period and trailed 9-8.

Seagraves took advantage of the Lady Mule's fatigue in the second frame and claimed a 25-15 margin at the intermission. The Lady Mules trimmed one point off the Seagraves lead in the final frame.

B. Wood paced the Lady Mules with 12 points and Benham added seven. Barton made five points, Carpenter and Cowart had four points each and Friskup made two.

In the battle for the third place trophy, the Lady Mules raced out to a 17-7 advantage in the first eight minutes. Full court pressure kept the Lady Cats of Littlefield bottled up in their end of the court.

Benham took advantage of the smaller Lady Cat defenders and racked up 24 points in the contest. Friskup got her touch back and recorded 13 points and Barton and Cowart added five each. Carpenter had four points and B. Wood chipped in two for the Lady Mules.

The Lady Mules traveled to Levelland on Tuesday

December 16 and returns home on Friday to meet the River Road Lady Wildcats before the mandatory five-day Christmas break. The Lady Mules return after the break and have one day to prepare for the 31-team Caprook Holiday Tournament in Lubbock.

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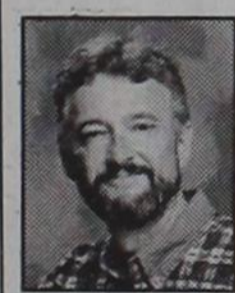
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God's Plan Almost Always Surprises Us

Does God ever do anything just like we'd expect him to?

A world to save,
a Gift to give,
a Baby to send.

And the greatest Christmas Present ever given is all wrapped up in swaddling cloths and laid in a feed trough.



Focus On Faith
Curtis Shelburne

And the mother of the King is a poor Jewish girl whose wedding, the thin-lipped gossips around Bethlehem would be quick to tell you, was much less than a discreet nine months before the birth. Mark it down, those gals could count to nine just as quickly as their modern counterparts.

And the birth announcement for God's Son? It was proclaimed by angels whose glory split the skies, but ("who'd-a-thunk-it?") the amazing proclamation was not made at a grand meeting of pompously assembled and well-robed religious moguls of the Judean Diocese or the Southern Palestinian Convention or the Greater Bethlehem Ministerial Association.

No, it was proclaimed to terrified shepherds whose collars, if they'd had such, would have been decidedly

blue, whose theology, if you could call it that, had more to do with the ancient equivalent of Starr Cut Plug tobacco than it did with heavenly lights. These were simple and rough-hewn men who'd spent lots of time on hills herding sheep and precious little time at all in synagogues.

They'd seen angels? Yeah, right. The folks back in town knew full well that the last time old Issachar had seen an angel he'd found him at the bottom of a wineskin.

But not this time. Oh, some of them had been a bit sleepy just a moment before, but that had changed in a heartbeat, in the blink of an eye, as the night sky exploded with light and angels ripped apart the firmament to emblazon Heaven's message across the shimmering sky.

God's promise of salvation and the coming of the great King had been made long centuries before. Generations of kings had come and gone. And generations of shepherds had kept watch over their sheep on these same hills while Bethlehem slept below and, slumbering uneasily with the little city, a careworn world waited for God to rouse it with good news.

But then the message of Heaven came. The message of your salvation and mine. And it came to shepherds.

Who'd a thunk it?

Curtis Shelburne is minister of the 16th & D Church of Christ in Muleshoe.

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Mules tenderize Seagraves, Tahoka; lose twice

By DELTON WILHITE
Journal sportswriter

The Mules tenderized the Eagles of Seagraves 87-47 with Landon Sheets canning 8 of 12 3-pointers. Ln. Sheets led all scorers with 35 points. The Mules opened the Abernathy Shootout with a return match with the Tahoka Bulldogs.

The Mules scalded the Bulldogs 68-36 Thursday morning before falling to the Morton Indians 85-42 that afternoon. The Johnson twins led Morton. One is a six foot nine post and the other a six foot four wing.

The Nazareth Swifts eliminated the Mules from the tournament by a 66-61 margin Friday.

Seagraves may have had to replace their nets after the Mules got through wearing them out from behind the arc on Tuesday night. Chris Kindle, Sterling Via, Ln. Sheets and Trevor Turnbow each canned a three in the opening period as the Mules raced out to 25-9 lead.

The Eagles cut the Mules lead to 10 in the first three minutes of the second frame. Turnbow executed an old fashion three-point play by converting the charity toss after being fouled on a layup.

Ln. Sheets went on a scoring rampage in the final four minutes of the second period and racked up 12 points. Tatom Heathington dropped in a trey as the Mules stretched their advantage to 52-21 by intermission.

Ln Sheets added three treys to the Mule's side of the board in the third period as the Mules expanded their lead to 73-33. The two teams played to a 14-14 dead heat in the final frame.

In addition to Ln. Sheets 35 points, Turnbow added 13 and Kindle had 11. Heathington dropped in nine, Via five and Landon Wilson chipped in four points.

Tahoka jumped out to a 13-7 lead in the first eight minutes. Layne Sheets drained a 3-pointer to cut the Bulldog lead to 14-12 with 6:30 left before half time. Turnbow knotted the game at 14 on the Mules next trip down the floor.

The Mules used pressure defense to shake Tahoka loose from the ball and went on a 17-1 scoring run in the final three minutes of the half. The Mules were on top 35-19 at half time.

The Mules picked up where they left off after the break and outran Tahoka 16-5 in the third quarter and finished with a 17-12 final period.

Ln. Sheets led the Mules with 15 points and Daniel Campolla recorded 10 in his first outing of the year. Turnbow added nine, Ly. Sheets eight and Kory Atwood made six points. Landon Wilson dropped in five points, Sterling Via, Kindle, and Tyler Sheets each made four and Heathington chipped in three for the Mules.

Campolla, Ln. Sheets and Ty. Sheets each drained a 3-pointer in the opening

period against the Morton Indians. Morton eased out to a 13-9 advantage in the first eight minutes.

The Indians opened the second period with three buckets before the Mules could get started. The Mules exploded for a 9-2 run in the next two and a half minutes. Ly. Sheets and Campolla sandwiched a Morton bucket between their 3-pointers.

The two teams battled to a 17-17 dead heat in the second period with the Mules trailing 30-26 at the intermission. Morton clamped on a tight defense in the third period and outran the Mules 26-10 and 29-6 in the final two frames.

Ln. Sheets led the Mules with 12 points, Campolla added six and Atwood dropped in five. Ly. Sheets, Via, Kindle, Wilson, and Ty. Sheets made three points apiece and Turnbow and Brady Black made two points each.

Ty. Sheets completed a three-point play against Nazareth by adding the charity toss after Campolla set him up with a great pass inside the paint. The Mules owned an 11-9 margin over the Swifts after the first period.

Wilson exploded with back-to-back-to-back treys in the second frame as the two teams battled to a 17-17 scoring draw. The Mules owned 28-26 margin at the intermission.

Nazareth picked up their pace in the third quarter and outscored the Mules 22-15 to take a 48-43 advantage

into the final period. Turnbow made the front end of a two-shot foul and missed the second shot.

Black pulled down the miss and put it back to cut the Nazareth lead to 58-55. The Swifts sank six of eight free throws in the final minute.

Ln. Sheets put up 11 points for the Mules, Turnbow added 10 and Wilson and Black made nine each. Ty. Sheets dropped in six, Ly. Sheets five, Campolla four, Kindle three and Heathington had two points.

The Mules traveled to Levelland December 16 and returned home on Friday to tangle with the Wildcats of River Road. Following the mandatory five-day Christmas break the Mules will have one day to get ready for the Caprock Holiday Tournament in Lubbock December 29-31.

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COUNTY COURT NEWS

December 16, 2003
Jorge Dominguez Mirelez pled guilty to two charges of driving while intoxicated. He will serve two 90-day sentences which will run concurrently. Mirelez also has to pay \$1,300 in fines and \$422 in court costs.
Chuck Fabela was found guilty of family violence. He was sentenced to 120 days probated for two years and fined \$1,000 plus \$211 in costs.
Oscar Cano, who is charged with driving while intoxicated, was granted a waiver until February 26.
Shawna Jean Dale, who is charged with theft, was arraigned and was appointed

an attorney. Hearing was set for February 26.
Misty Ann Garcia, who is charged with theft, had her hearing set for January 13.
James Matthew Hood pled guilty to driving while license suspended. Sentencing was set for January 6.
Sylvia Dawn Norman, who is charged with theft, was appointed an attorney. Her hearing was set for February 26.
Joe Nino Orozco was arraigned, appointed an attorney and had his hearing set on February 26 for a charge of theft.
Eddie Villegas Ortega, who is charged with theft, was arraigned, appointed an attorney and had his hearing

set for February 26.
Michael Joshua Villalobos, who is charged with theft, had his hearing set for January 13.
James Andre Williams was arraigned and appointed a lawyer. He had his hearing set for February 26 to answer a charge of theft.
Julian Tenorio, who is charged with theft by check, had his hearing set for January 6.
Nicholas Thomas, who was charged with motion to revoke probation, was granted a negative termination.
Thomas Fuentes had his probation extended one year and was fined \$80 in costs and \$50 probationer motion.

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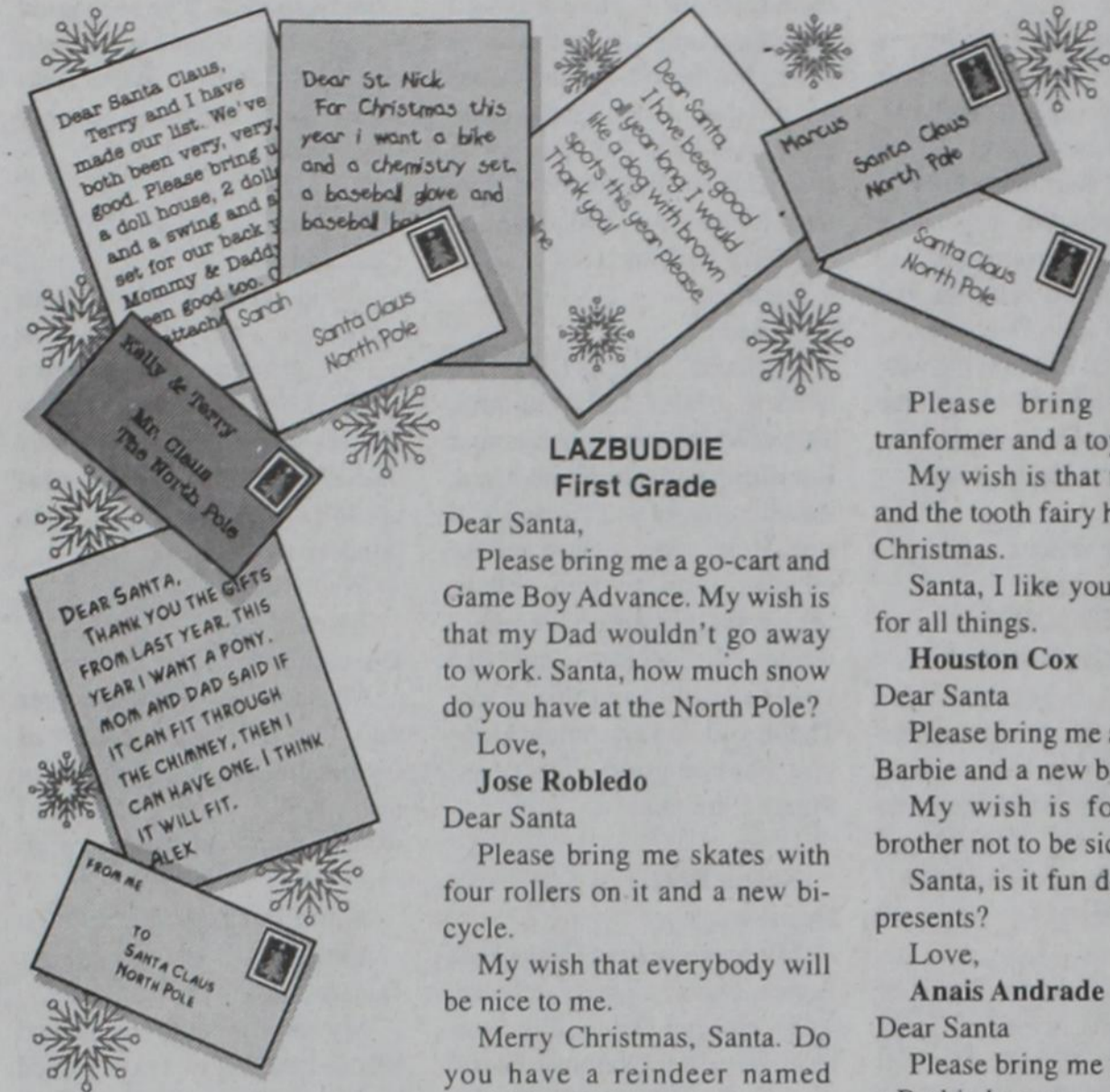
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LAZBUDDIE First Grade

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a go-cart and Game Boy Advance. My wish is that my Dad wouldn't go away to work. Santa, how much snow do you have at the North Pole?
Love,
Jose Robledo

Dear Santa
Please bring me skates with four rollers on it and a new bicycle.
My wish that everybody will be nice to me.
Merry Christmas, Santa. Do you have a reindeer named Rudolph still?
Love,
Nancy Marrufo
P.S. Tell the elves thank you for making toy and colors.

Dear Santa
Please bring me Dragon Ball-z toys and a four-wheeler.
My wish is my family would move to St. Louis to be with my grandparents.
Santa, is it cold at the North Pole?
Love,
Brandon Rowland

Dear Santa
Please bring me a remote control scorpion and a scorpion set.
My wish is for a new chair for my great-grandma.
Sandá, do you really have magic?
Love,
Jonathan Jesko
Thank you, Santa

Dear Santa
Please bring me a kitchen that has dishes and 2 books.
My wish is that mom could have more books.
Santa, thanks for everything.
Love,
Celeste Lucio

Dear Santa
Please bring me the car that has an airplane on top that can fly and the Nintendo fishing game.
My wish is that my baby brother won't get sick again.
Santa, can I see Rudolph?
Love,
Albert

Dear Santa
Please bring me a toy car I can ride in and a doll that can walk.
Thank you for the toys. I wish you have a Merry Christmas.
Thank you for coming by.
Love,
Haicha Hood

Dear Santa
Please bring me a stuffed animal Collie and a baby dog that you can feed and change clothes.
My wish is for Jonathan to get better.
Santa, how are all your reindeer?
Love,
Natalee Oliveras

Dear Santa
Please bring me a go-cart and a Superman toy.
My wish is that my mom could get a new car.
Santa, how do your reindeer fly?
Love,
Zach Butler

Dear Santa
Please bring me a bicycle and a remote control monster truck.
My wish is that my Grandma gets back home safely.
Santa, do you still have Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer?
Love,
Haldon Ivy

Dear Santa
Please bring me a Lap Top and a TV.
My wish is that my Mema starts felling better.
Santa, how do you make your reindeer fly?
Love,
Lacey Jesko

Dear Santa
Please bring me a bicycle and a stuffed animal turkey.
My wish is for someone to help my mom clean the house.
Can the reindeer run fast?
Love,
Haley Ivy

Dear Santa

Please bring me a toy transformer and a toy Morfer.
My wish is that the sandman and the tooth fairy have a Merry Christmas.
Santa, I like you. Thank you for all things.
Houston Cox

Dear Santa
Please bring me a Swan Lake Barbie and a new backpack.
My wish is for my baby brother not to be sick anymore.
Santa, is it fun delivering the presents?
Love,
Anais Andrade

Dear Santa
Please bring me a Barbie and a Barbie house.
My wish is that all girls and boys will get presents.
Love,
Andrea Lule

LAZBUDDIE kindergarten

Dear Santa,
I want to give you some cookies when you come and some milk. I would like for you to bring me a pickup and a trailer and some horses.
What does it look like at the North Pole?
Merry Christmas,
Austyn Steinbock

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? I like Rudolph. I like his bell. I would like a skate board and a motorcycle.
I will leave you some candy and cake.
Merry Christmas,
Isaac Romero

Dear Santa,
I want a soft blanket and a Barbie.
I love you Santa.
Abigail Jesko

Dear Santa,
You are the greatest. You bring us toys. I want some shoes and a toy motor scooter. Would you please bring Jaegan a Teddy Bear?
I will leave cookies and milk.
Love,
Kennedi Nickles

Dear Santa,
I want a swing set for me and my brother. How are you? How are your reindeer? I have been good. Have a good Christmas.
Love,
Megan Pierson

Dear Santa,
How are you? How are the reindeer? I would like you to bring me a pickup truck to play with. I want a trailer to hook on to the truck.
I will leave some milk and cookies for you.
Merry Christmas,
Alonzo Soto

Dear Santa,
Why do you eat cookies and drink milk? I like milk and cookies, too. Why do you have those bells on your reindeer? Can you bring me a 4-wheeler? Be sure and tell your elves to build to build a thing to hook it on the sleigh. Can you bring me a Hot Wheel Video Cam? Bring my sister a Baby Born that can go in the water.
I like your sleigh.
Love,
Dylan Miller

Dear Santa,
I would like you to bring me a new bike. I want you to bring me a new trampoline. I want you to bring my baby sister a Little Elmo and a Little Elmo DVD. Would you bring Emily some makeup and a track of cars?
Can you send me a play elf? I would like to play with an elf. What kind of cookies and milk would you like?
Happy Christmas,
Regan Agee

Dear Santa,
I want a Lee Middleton baby and a Leap Pad. Monica wants a Bratz car and a Bratz doll. How is the North Pole?
Love,
Micah Vera

DILLMAN ELEMENTARY Mrs. Whitworth's Kindergarten class

Dear Santa,
I want you to bring me a Teddy Bear. I want a little drum and a horn to play in the parade. I also want a little boat to play in the tub.
I love you Santa,
William

Dear Santa,
I want a real baby so that I can change his diapers. I also want a fish, a jeep and a Barbie. A bear for a present for my brother.
Merry Christmas and Thank You,
Tamra

Dear Santa,
I want a tractor toy, a football game because I want to be a football player. I also want a fish tank, water and fish. I want a bucket so that I can pick corn.
Merry Christmas!
Jose M.

Dear Santa,
I want a Strawberry Shortcake watch, some pencils and pens because I like to write. I want some play make-up, and a Teddy Bear. A doll, stickers and a book so that I can read.
"I'd love to see you."
Chasity

Dear Santa,
I want a dirt bike with a ramp, a camera so that I can take pictures of everybody. I also want new clothes, a dog and a cat. I want a tank full of fishes. I'll be waiting for you.
Sergio

Dear Santa,
I want a remote control airplane, cam like a Army guys clothes. Robotic T-Rex Dinosaurs. A new coat would be nice. I few things for my sister like (new baby dolls). For my mom, a new coat, my dad a remoted Monster truck.
Thank you,
Dacoda

Dear Santa,
I would like for you to bring me a bear, a book so that I can read. I also want a girl doll so I can play with her. My mom would like some flowers.
Merry Christmas!
Alina

Dear Santa,
I want a teddy bear, and their is a doll called the Brat, that's what I want. I also want stickers, and Santa Clause stamps. A Barbie book would help me read.
Lisa Maries

Dear Santa,
I want a power ranger that fights with the bad guys. A power ranger glasses that the power ranger has so I can play with them. I also a real monkey that has a cage and a drum.
Merry Christmas!
Joseph

Dear Santa,
I want a B-B gun, a bike a little train track with trains. I also want a rocking horse so my sister can ride on it.
Merry Christmas!
Ismael

Dear Santa,
I want a bike a scooter and some fish to put in the water, I also want a Go-cart, a monster truck and a computer, so I can play my games. I also a train that is at Wal-Mart.
Gabriel

Dear Santa,
I want a Brat Doll. I already have two at home. I want a doll named "Polly."
I love you Santa,
Lauren

Dear Santa,
I want a baby doll, a stuffed bear and a doll. A train so I can play in my room. I also want a diary with a lock on it.
Merry Christmas,
Kenzie

Dear Santa,
I want Teddy Bears, barbie and baseball with a bat. A doll so I can play with her. A football so that me and my cousin can play.
I love you Santa,
Sasha

**Mrs. Bermea-Toscana's
Kindergarten class**

Santa,
Quieres venir a mi casa? Yo quiero una bicicleta y una muñeca para jugar. Quiero zapatos blue. Mi mamá quiere zapatos para ir a jugar afuera
Martha Cisneros

Santa,

Por favor quiero que llege a mi casa porque quiero una moto y zapatillas para dormir. Tambien quiero una bicicleta que sea como un arco irius
Julio Alvarez

Santa,
Quiero que pase por mi casa para decirle Hi. Me puede traer una moto blue de control remoto? Mi mamá quiere un pantalón y mi papá quiere botas.
Kevin Mendoza

Santa,
Quiero un wagón, una bicicleta, una guitarra, y un rompecabezas.
Manuel Lopez

Santa,
Hi. I want a toy and a bike and a barbie. I want a Christmas tree.
Bye.
Keren Regalado

Santa,
Estas bonito. Me puede traer un monito? Quiero unos columpios para pasearme tambien una brinca-brincas. Por favor vaya para mi casa. Feliz Navidad.
Mireya Soto

Santa,
Hi! Me puedes traer una bicicleta. Quiero un juguete.
Vanesa Mojica

Santa,
Puede llegar por mi casa, por favor? Quiero una bicicleta y una moto. Quiero ropa y camisas y pantalones.
Javier Peña

Santa,
I want toys. Un mono de Santa. I want a green bike. Bring my mom food and shoes to put in her room. Quiero una pelota green.
Jose Salas

Santa,
I want a truck, a camisa, a chamara, a box, and a backpack. I want some pantalones, a new crayon box and a Gameboy so I can play with one.
Samantha Chacon

Santa,
Quiero un lipstick purple. También unos zapatos anaranjados. Un pantalón morado. Para mi hermano Randy un Teddy Bear y papeles para escribir.
Alicia Montejano

Santa,
I would like for you to bring me some candy. I want to say Hi! to you Santa and come to my house. I want a hug and I like you. I like your pants too!
Merry Christmas, from
Jonathan Gonzalez

Santa,
Yo quiero un motorcycle. I also want a scooter, a bike. I want a Christmas tree. Tambien quiero una ropa y zapatos. I want a new books para leer. Merry Christmas!
Timothy Perez

Santa,
Merry Christmas. Hi Santa Claus. Bye-Bye Santa Claus. Quiero una moto y un anillo para mi mom y botas para mi dad.
Erick Tovar

Santa,
Good morning. Quiero una bicicleta pink y una Barbie para mi hermanita. Mi mamá dijo que quiere un conejito. Ella se llama Yvonne. Mi papá quiere un perrito. Quiero que estes en mi casa.
Wadet Hamden

Santa,
Hi! Me puede traer una casa de Barbie? Quiero un pantalón y para mi hermanito un chupón. Para mi mamá una blusa pink y para mi papá unos pantalones para que lleve a trabajar
Esmeralda Cabrera

Santa,
Si te quiero mucho. Quiero una bike y un pantalón green. Tambien un carro de control. Mi mami quiere zapatos para ir a Albuquerque. Mi papi quiere una camisa
Joshua Lopez

Santa,
Buenos dias. Me puedes traer una bicicleta blue bajiot y un carro de Jeep. Para mi papá un sombrero y botas. Un pantalón para mamá y una camiseta morada. Adios Santa.
Gustavo Loya

Santa,
Hi! Te quiero mucho. Quiero una truck de control y un carro de control tambien. Quiero ser grande como los grades para estar en 2nd grade.

Jesus Najera
Santa,
Hello — Buenos Dias. Quiero una moto y una bicicleta azul. Le puede dar a mi mamá pintura color de rosa para los labios. Una muñeca para mi hermana y un carro para mi hermano. Para mi hermanito, un oso.
Diego Benavides Mrs. Powers' First Grade class

Dear Santa,
Thank you Santa for the toy from last year. I had fun playing with it but for this year I want a stuff dog its a blue heelr.
Kari Mendoza

Dear Santa,
How are the elves doien Satha can you give me a Playstation II, and an X-Box.
Nathan

Dear Santa,
Want doo you Whant for Chrimes Santa. I want a tatoon- maker and I want a puppy. and a squeyky toy for my puppy.
Lyzette

Dear Santa,
I am glad to see you. I want a play station. and games fro your because. I like you Santa.
Bobby

Dear Santa,
I love you and I will always love you for ever. Can I plase have a new playstation II football game. and a hot wheels playstation II game.
Braden Bessire

Dear Santa,
I want a snobord game that plugs into a tv and a Donkey Com gameBoy game and 2 games to my play stashon.
Cade Box

Dear Santa,
I want a bike for Christmas. Santa how are the elves? Santa can you bring a uther toy can you bring all the Bratz. that is all
Ruby Andrade

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the things that you gave me last year. Have a merry Christmas and tell Rudolph I said hi.
Love,
Blane

Dear Santa,
I want presents. I want toys trucks and books to read. I will be good and be nice to other people. I wish you a Merry Christmas.
Joseph Carrion

Dear Santa,
I love you becus last tum you give suten speshl that maone so much houge so wut I want ot bay a siverado and a begam and a play statin and a moberbike and a drt bike and a skooter and a game of pauer of ool and or tirt and a sede gair and a indoor champue and ahong and ochran and a snowardng ngles.
Issac Acosta

Dear Santa,
I want a diary and a book and a love from you and a love from Jesus.
Cristian Mora

Dear Santa,
Santa whant do you want for Christmas.
Santa my dad want's a modersickle for christmas and Xman 2. My mom whant's a milein dollars for christmas.
Santa my Gramol Reyna want's a now haus for christmas.
I want a amyhad set for christmas. my sister won's a pyce for christmas.
Christian Reyna

Dear Santa,
I like what you brought me and my brother last time sometimes I play with my brother on the game but I'm sorry we get mad at each other so I hope you get me something and tell your elves that they do a good job on the toys.
Daniela Diaz

Dear Santa,
I like the things I got last year. this year I want somting different this year. I want go go my walking pup and a new bike that has bigger wheels than my other one. and a bunch of birbes and a horse that I can ride. And a real puppy.
Miranda DeBruin



SANTA'S MAIL BAG



**LOOK FOR MORE
SANTA LETTERS
NEXT WEEK!**

NURSING HOME NEWS

By Joy Stancell

The Christmas Tour of Homes and Open House at Park View was a lot of fun and a great success. Our thanks to Carolyn Johnson and everyone who participated in the event.

Monday, Bobby Quesenberry, Anna B. Lane and Nadine Macha visited the residents and staff at Park View.

Molly Johnston attended the Christmas pageant at the First Baptist Church Sunday evening with her niece, Cindy Purdy.

Aubrey Heathington and Dimples visited Hattie Heathington Monday.

Rev. Gary and Judy Hubbard directed a memorial service for Harriet Cummings Tuesday morning.

Pat Watson, Ruby Henderson, Eva Nell Dale, Josie Ovalle, Mary Jo Burge and Beverly Wagnon shampooed and set the ladies hair Tuesday afternoon. Josie Ovalle gave hair cuts. Linda Nowell gave manicures.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Nowlin visited the residents and staff Monday.

Elsie Kendall visited Guy Kendall Sunday.

Rheata White had lunch

with her mother, Jewel Peeler, Sunday.

The 16th and Ave. D Church of Christ hosted a pie party for the residents Thursday afternoon.

Donna Locker visited Aline Locke this week. Donna and her family have just returned from a few days vacation in Florida.

Harold and Mary Jo Burge and Buster and Wanda Kittrell served coffee and doughnuts to the residents at coffee time Wednesday morning.

Delphine Gruda went Christmas shopping in Lubbock with her daugh-

ter, Shary Jenkins, Saturday.

Marlene Martin and Trenton visited Fannie Maye Black and other residents Monday.

Elsie Damron will celebrate her birthday December 23.

Clifton Finley celebrated his 91st birthday Friday, December 12. Mr. Finley received many cards, phone calls and gifts.

Clara Coffman's daughter and son-in-law, Maudie and Jerry Mudford from Arkansas, were here visiting her over the weekend.

Area McDonald's supports fund-raiser

SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

McDonald's Restaurants of the South Plains presented on Dec. 4 Ronald McDonald House Charities of Lubbock checks totaling \$5,500 from the first annual "Give-A-Hand" fund-raiser.

The restaurants sold paper cut-out "hands" for \$1 each and displayed them in their stores.

McDonald's restaurants in Brownfield, Denver City, Lamesa, Levelland, Lubbock, Muleshoe, Plainview, Post, Seminole and Snyder were part of the McDonald's "co-op" which raised the money.

McDonald's restaurants of eastern New Mexico are still collecting donations.

The promotion, which was sponsored by McDonald's and Coca-Cola, offered a simple way for communities to help support the families served by Ronald McDonald House Charities of Lubbock.

The money raised will



Courtesy photo

Susan Maxwell (far left), executive director of the Lubbock Ronald McDonald House, is presented "Give A Hand" donations by McDonald's owner/operators (left to right) Rick Robillard, Jerome Sena, Susan Credle, Ken Taggart and Bill Cohen.

help to operate the Lubbock Ronald McDonald House which is a home-away-from-home for families of critically ill children who are receiving treatment in local hospitals.

The Ronald McDonald House of Lubbock serves over 500 families per year.

More than 95 percent of the families come to Lubbock from the South Plains of Texas or from Eastern New Mexico. Over 70

percent of the Ronald McDonald House budget is generated from donations and fund-raisers.

Locally, McDonald's is owned and operated by Susan and Steve Credle of Clovis, N.M.

Carolyn's
106 E. American Blvd. • Muleshoe • 272-5911

Just back from market with new jewelry & purses!
All would be great Christmas gifts!

This December, altar her plans

Propose with a diamond that gives her something new to start planning for.

Woody's Jewelry

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356-5641

Thanks for reading the Journal!

Like some breast cancer patients, Tammy developed a condition called secondary lymphedema after her treatment. Characterized by serious swellings in the limbs, face or neck, lymphedema can disrupt an individual's quality of life. Fortunately, Tammy's doctors diagnosed her condition

How Tammy OVERCAME a disease she'd never heard of.

early and initiated an effective treatment through the **Arrington Lymphedema/Edema Center**, the only center of its kind in the region. **The members of our Lymphedema Support Group, The Swell Gang, helped Tammy see that she wasn't alone.**



Physician-Driven. Patient-Oriented. Goal-Directed.

For more information on our Lymphedema/Edema Center, call us or log on to our web site.

Covenant Joe Arrington Cancer Center
Lubbock, Texas
806-725-8000
www.joearrington.org

Nobody does more. Nobody does it better.

Simply the best.

A note to thank everyone who comforted our family during the recent loss of our mother and grandmother, Eloisa Anguiano. We are very appreciate of the kind words of encouragement, sympathy, food and the floral arrangements that adorned her final right of passage at her memorial service.

Our mother chose to make Muleshoe, Texas her residence for fifty years and I hope that the citizens who crossed paths with hers are better people for having met her. Many thanks to all the staff of Park View Nursing Home of Muleshoe who cared for our mother during her last days.

On behalf of Hilma Rojas, Amelia Gonzalez, Leopoldo Anguiano, and the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Eloisa Anguiano, our deepest and fondest gratitude for your support and comfort.

Lupe Rosales
Grandson, San Antonio

Compassionate Care Center would like to thank all who participated in and helped make our 1st Annual "Tea & Christmas Gala" a success. Also, thanks to those who brought food, painted chairs and donated funds. A special thanks to the First Assembly of God Church for the use of your facility.

SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS

The senior citizens of Bailey County kicked off the Christmas season with a potluck lunch and bake sale at the Oneita Wagnon Center on Thursday, December 11 at noon. More than 130 seniors and their families attended.

In addition to celebrating the season, the event was intended to recognize the contributions from a variety of donors.

O.B. Brooks and Paul Moore from South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG) presented information about how SPAG funding can be used to support the center. Currently, SPAG provides operating support for the center and has also funded the commercial kitchen equipment which will allow the center to eventually serve noon meals.

Tami Swoboda, director of grants and scholarships for the Lubbock Area Foundation, presented the center



More than 130 seniors gathered to enjoy fellowship and fun at a potluck luncheon held Thursday, December 11 at the Oneita Wagnon Senior Center.

with a check for \$4,000. These funds will be used for upgrading the restroom facilities and making the center accessible to the handicapped.

After the presentations, the crowd joined in a Christmas sing-along led by Mary Alice Ramm. Piano accompaniment was provided by Eva Nell Dale.

Buster Kittrell, president of the board, said, "We are so grateful for the support we have received from everyone. Turning this facility from an empty building into a functioning senior center is a huge job. We're making progress but we still need help. We welcome contributions of time or money from everyone."

The senior citizens host a potluck meal each month. January's event is scheduled for the 8th at noon. All senior citizens are invited. The center's regular hours are Tuesday-Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The center may also be reserved for special events. Call Nelda Merriott at 272-4969 for information.

I want to thank each one who has shown love and concern during my surgery — for your prayers, cards, visits, calls and food. You have been wonderful. God bless you.
Pat Clements

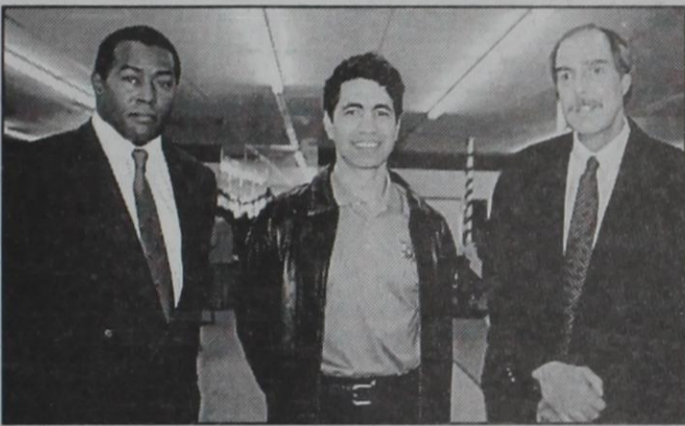
NEW HOURS

EMILY TOWNSEN

of Family Hair Salon is now taking appointments on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 5:30-9:00 PM. & Saturday from 1-5 PM.

For appointments, call Edie

Family Hair Salon
272-5987



(Left, above) South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG) representatives pose with Mayor Victor Leal at a luncheon held at the senior center on December 11. Pictured are (left to right) O.B. Brooks, Leal and Paul Moore. (Right, above) Tami Swoboda (left) of the Lubbock Area Foundation presents a \$4,000 grant check to Ann McElroy and W.B. "Buster" Kittrell, representatives of the Oneita Wagnon Senior Center. The grant is to help make the center accessible to the handicapped and for updating the restrooms.



Courtesy photos

7th grade Mules lose to Cubs

By DELTON WILHITE
Journal sportswriter

The seventh grade Mules battled the much taller Brownfield Cubs Monday night. The Cubs took advantage of their size and put the Mules away 39-28. Wes Wood got the Mules started with a free throw after the Cubs jumped in front with two buckets.

Austin Wright stole a Cub pass and drove the court for a layup to cut the Cub lead to 6-3. Victor Vasquez grabbed a loose ball and scored. Vasquez was fouled and completed a three-point play by adding the charity toss.

Nathaniel Chavez ran on the break and Wright found him for a bucket as the first period ended with the Mules trailing 14-8.

Lane Wood trimmed two off the Cub lead with a steal and drove the court to lay the ball up and in. The Cubs went on a six-point run before W. Wood scored on an in bound play. L. Wood scored back-to-back buck-

ets to continue to trim away the Cub lead.

Dillon Gallman answered a Brownfield tally with a bucket of his own and added a free throw for good measure. The Mules had trimmed the Cub advantage to 22-20 at the half.

The Mules could not hang on in the final half and the Cubs out ran them 17-8. Vasquez paced the Mules

with eight points and W. Wood added seven. Gallman made five points, L. Wood four, Wright and Chavez each chipped in two for the Mules.

The Mules will resume action January 12 when the Lubbock Cooper Pirates visit to begin the second round of district. The game is scheduled to start at 5 p.m.

Letters to the Editor make a difference!

REPRESENTATIVE SALES

953 head of cattle, 142 hogs and 334 sheep and goats for a total of 1,429 animals were sold at the December 13th sale. Market steady on lightweight calves 2-375 lbs. Stocker heifers steady. Stocker steers 4-600 lbs. 2-5 lower. Pairs and bred cows steady. Packer coes steady.

The Muleshoe Cattle Market is brought to you each week by Muleshoe Livestock Auction, located east of Muleshoe on U.S. 84. Muleshoe Livestock conducts sales every Saturday, beginning with hogs, sheep and goats at 10 a.m. and cattle following at approximately noon.

FOR INFORMATION ON SALES OR TO CONSIGN CATTLE, CALL (806) 272-4201



Muleshoe Cattle Market

SATURDAY, DEC. 13, 2003

Seller, City	#	Type	Wt.	CWT or PH
L&F Cattle, Lazbuddie	28	Hol. str	436 lbs.	at \$90.00
L&F Cattle, Lazbuddie	70	Hol. str	508 lbs.	at \$88.25
Lucas Aranda, Portales, NM		Hol. str	205 lbs.	at \$116.00
Dallen Shelley, Causey, NM		Hol. str	240 lbs.	at \$108.00
Ismael Bueno, Hereford	3	Bik. bulls	213 lbs.	at \$142.50
Luis Azua, Sudan	2	Mxd. str	228 lbs.	at \$137.50
KC Land & Cattle, Muleshoe	4	Char. str	318 lbs.	at \$134.00
Ronald Coleman, Morton	2	Bik. bulls	335 lbs.	at \$133.00
Ronald Coleman, Morton	12	Bik. bulls	386 lbs.	at \$119.00
Ronald Coleman, Morton	7	Bik. bulls	540 lbs.	at \$95.00
Bo Chunn, Causey, NM	3	Bik. str	420 lbs.	at \$119.00
Bo Chunn, Causey, NM		Red str	595 lbs.	at \$94.50
Leroy Radcliff, Elida, NM		Char. str	510 lbs.	at \$101.00
Libra Armendariz, Portales, NM		Bik. bull	605 lbs.	at \$90.00
Douglas Walden, Littlefield	3	Red bulls	905 lbs.	at \$73.50
Jose Almanza, Muleshoe	3	Mxd. hfrs	302 lbs.	at \$115.00
KC Land & Cattle, Muleshoe	5	Mxd. hfrs	318 lbs.	at \$119.00
Ronald Coleman, Morton	5	Bik. hfrs	328 lbs.	at \$124.00
Ronald Coleman, Morton	15	Bik. hfrs	407 lbs.	at \$111.00
Roy Taylor, Rogers, NM		Bik. hfr	395 lbs.	at \$105.00
Ismael Bueno, Hereford	4	Bik. hfrs	405 lbs.	at \$114.00
Sallie Carter, Morton	3	Brang. hfrs	432 lbs.	at \$96.00
Sallie Carter, Morton	3	Brang. hfrs	562 lbs.	at \$86.00
Gerald Boehning, Earth	6	Bik. hfrs	448 lbs.	at \$93.00
B&C Cattle, Seminole	14	Mxd. hfrs	516 lbs.	at \$90.00
Doug Walden, Littlefield		Red hfr	690 lbs.	at \$84.00
H.G. Morgan, Muleshoe	2	BWF hfrs	735 lbs.	at \$85.50
J.D. Cage, Muleshoe		RWF hfr	905 lbs.	at \$72.50
George Nichols, Farwell		Bik. cow P6		\$700.00
Pat Moberly, Littlefield	4	Mxd. cows P6		\$660.00
Tye Powell, Plains	2	Char./Bik. cows P8		\$630.00
Don Sanders, Portales, NM	2	Bik. cows	1508 lbs.	at \$52.00
Duane White, Farwell	2	RWF cows	1313 lbs.	at \$51.25
J.D. Cage, Muleshoe	2	Red cows	1203 lbs.	at \$49.75
B&C Cattle, Seminole		Yell. cow	1055 lbs.	at \$48.00
Last Sale for 2003 will be Dec. 20th. No sales Dec. 27th or Jan. 3rd.				

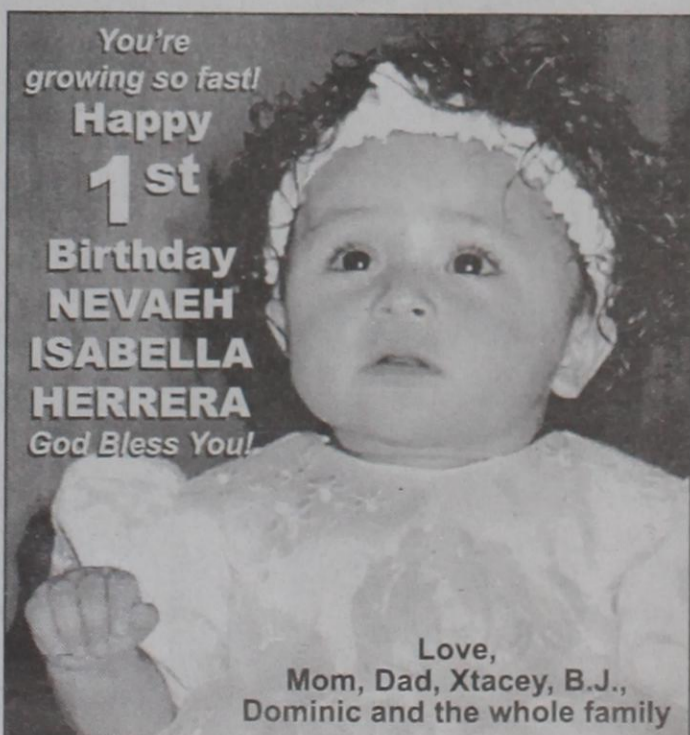
Our hearts are filled with love and appreciation for the many that have helped us during the loss of Cleve. He was our loving husband, father and grandfather and he is greatly missed. Thank you for your prayers, cards, food and phone calls. Our prayer is that God would bless each of you.
Frances Bland
Rhonda & Weldon Eagle, Ryan & Rendi
Mike Bland & Christin
Wendi & Mark Woods

HONOR

AMARILLO COLLEGE

The Amarillo College Associate Degree Nursing program conducted ceremonies recently pinning 53 program graduates. Recognition went to several students for academic achievement including outstanding major and clinical awards.

Graduating from Muleshoe was Donna Bevers Guinn.



You're growing so fast!
Happy 1st Birthday NEVAEH ISABELLA HERRERA
God Bless You!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Xtacey, B.J.,
Dominic and the whole family

'04 advance direct payments authorized

USDA's Farm Service Agency authorized '04 advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1. The '02 farm law authorizes USDA to make a 50% advance direct payment for covered commodities for crop years '02-07.

The annual direct payment for upland cotton is

6.67 cents, meaning that eligible producers may request an advance payment of 3.34 cents for the '04 crop. Direct payments are decoupled and are made based on the payment acres (85% of base acres) and payment yield for the covered commodity. Producers may request an advance di-

rect payment in any month beginning on Dec. 1 through October '04. Producers may change the selected month for an advance direct payment from crop year to crop year provided adequate notice is provided to the Secretary of Agriculture.

USDA also announced '04 loan rates for wheat, barley,

oats and other oilseeds as follows: wheat \$2.75/bu; barley \$1.85/bu; oats \$1.33/bu, each "other" oilseed 9.30/cwt. Loan rates for corn, grain sorghum, soybeans and pulses will be announced early in '04. The '04 upland cotton loan rate will be announced in mid-April.

HOSPITAL DISTRICT NEWS

On Friday, December 5 Jim Bone and Missy Royal were honored at the "Values in Action" luncheon held at Covenant Hospital in Lubbock. Bone was recognized under the value of "Dignity," and Royal was recognized under the value of "Justice."

The Muleshoe Area Hospital District Christmas party will be held December 17 at 2 p.m. Park View residents will be celebrating Christmas on Thursday, December 18.

Mare Osburn is the new PA-C at the Farwell clinic. The door decorating contest

was held Monday, December 15. Nineteen departments entered the contest at the hospital, clinics and Park View. First place was the administration department which will receive a cash prize of \$50. Second place went to physical therapy with a \$30

cash prize. Third place was won by medical records along with a \$20 cash prize.

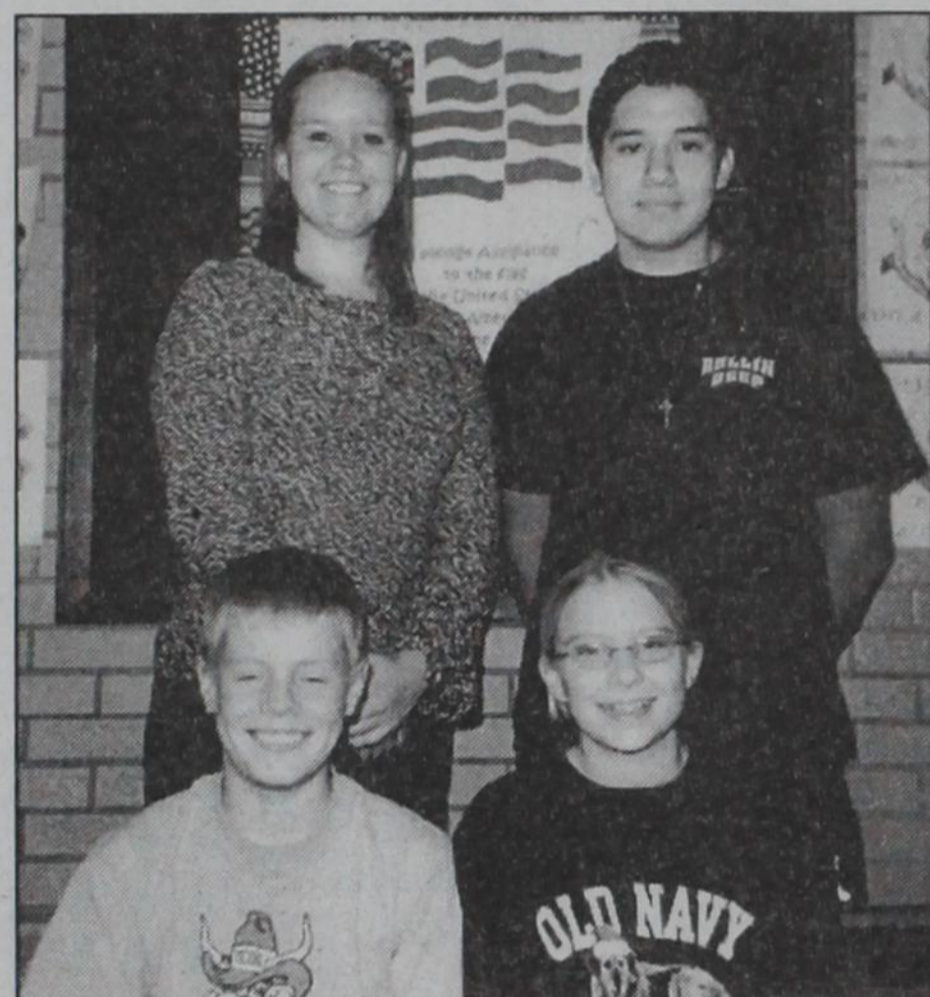
DATES TO REMEMBER
Thurs., Dec 18 — 1:00-5:00 p.m., Dr. AK, orthopedics, Suite No. 3 in hospital.
Thurs., Dec 18 — 7:00 p.m., board meeting.

Lazbuddie recognizes November students

Raul Mata is the senior son of Eraul and Valentina Mata. His favorite change from last year is that he is a senior. The funniest part of his day is watching "Big Star" and Adam play basketball first period. His favorite subject in school is P.E. He sees himself eating donuts on a couch in five years. The best advice his parents have ever given him is "go home." His favorite line is "shake ya tailfeather." The worst part of his day is coming to school.

Shawndee Nichols is the senior daughter of Mike and Sherrie Nichols. Her favorite change from last year is getting to eat lunch at 12 instead of 1 p.m. The funniest part of her school day is listening to Mrs. Weir's crazy stories. Athletics ranks as top subject in school. Shawndee sees herself attending Texas Tech University and graduating with a degree in accounting. The best advice her parents have given her is "give 100 percent in everything and you'll never have any regrets." Her favorite line is "life's a lot to think about sometimes." The worst part of her day is having to get up and go to school.

Jacob Schacher is classified as a seventh grader at Lazbuddie Jr. High. His parents are Daniel and Mary Jo Schacher. His favorite change from last year is getting out earlier. The funniest part of his school day is talking with his friends at lunch. His favorite subject in school is wood



Pictured are (back row, from left) Shawndee Nichols, Raul Mata; (front row, from left) Jacob Schacher and Megan McGuire

shop. He sees himself graduating and attending college in the next five years. The best advice his parents have ever given him is "don't do drugs." His favorite line from a poem is "rubbery, blubbery maca-

roni." The worst part of his day is homework.

Megan McGuire is classified as an eighth grader at Lazbuddie Jr. High. Her parents are Marty and Donna McGuire. Her least favorite

change from last year is having to do much more homework. The funniest part of her school day is lunch. Her favorite subject in school is ag. She sees herself graduating from high school and beginning college to become an architect in five years. The best advice her parents have ever given her is treat others like you would want to be treated. Her favorite song line is "you got stars on the water." The worst part of her day is when she has to get up at 6:50 a.m.

The family of Jay Claborn would like to thank each and every one of you for your prayers, calls, food, cards, visits, flowers and memorials following the death of our dad, grandpa, husband and friend N'a true gentleman. Your friendship, love, support and many acts of kindness are greatly appreciated and will always be remembered. Your thoughtfulness has meant so very much to us during this time of sadness. It is comforting to be part of such a caring community as we continue to celebrate his life.
The Claborns,
Jobey, Janet, Jackie, Jason, Jonell and Amy

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25% Off Walls Hunting and Work Clothes
25% Off KIDS ATH. SHOES
25% Off Men's Justin Crepe Sole & Double H Ice Sole Boots
20% Off ALL WORK BOOTS
30-50% Off Women's Leather Shoes
20% Off Black & White Sale

OPEN SUNDAY, DEC. 21 FROM 1 P.M. TO 4 P.M.

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