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Muleshoe Journal

Volume 85, No. 9

Muleshoe, Texas

50¢

March 4, 2004

News Briefs

No one filing for city council seats

What if they had an election and nobody ran?

That appears to be the case so far in the city council races.

While there is still a little over a week left to file, as of press time no one has filed for any of the three seats up for election.

"People may be waiting for the run-off for District 1 on March 6 or to see how the primaries turn out before they file," said City Secretary LeAnn Gallman. "But so far, no one has filed and the deadline for filing is March 15."

Although the vacant District 1 seat will be filled in the March 6 run-off between Richard Orozco and Daniel Guzman temporarily, the winner, and anyone else interested in the seat, will have to file by March 15 to get the position for the regular term which begins the week of May 24.

Muleshoe ISD has parents meeting

The Muleshoe school district is conducting a meeting in both English and Spanish for parents of Muleshoe students at 7 p.m. Monday in the high school cafeteria.

Women's Day of Prayer Friday

All women in the Muleshoe area are invited to bring a covered dish and join in the World Day of Prayer 2004 service to be held on Friday, March 5 from noon - 1:00 p.m.

"In Faith, Women Shape the Future!" is the topic for the program, which is being sponsored by the United Methodist Women and will be held in the fellowship hall of the First United Methodist Church.

Local Weather

Thu	Rain	59°/32°
Fri	Wind	57°/28°
Sat	Sunny	59°/32°
Sun	Sunny	57°/28°
Mon	Sunny	67°/32°
Tue	Sunny	64°/33°
Wed	P/C	66°/37°

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



Journal photo: Norman Brantley

Mixing it up with champions

Brandi Wood (10) struggles against competitors from Ballinger as Jamie Carpenter (14) comes to help. The Lady Mules won the night and moved on to fight a tough contest against the Canyon Lady Eagles.

School district looking at changing some class schedules

By JEFF WEST
Managing Editor

Muleshoe Independent School District is considering making some major changes for pre-kindergarten and the junior high, perhaps as early as next year.

Officials are investigating the possibility of making the "pre-k" program a full day program rather than the current half day. They are also discussing the possibility of

changing junior high from an eight period schedule to a seven period schedule similar to what the high school now uses.

Changing the pre-k to full day would mean moving the second grade from the Dillman campus to DeShazo. Two portable buildings would also make the move but would not be used by the second grade students, Superintendent Gene Sheets said.

Sheets has told the MISD board the people who run the Head Start program in Muleshoe have approached the district about having the school system run that program. It currently is operated by a private company called SHAPES (South Plains Head Start Profession Education Service), across the street from the high school in a building MISD owns.

Head Start is a federal

program, administered by the state that works with disadvantaged 3 and 4-year-olds. That program currently runs all day.

"Head Start has been successful in school systems elsewhere. We already have the necessary administrators," Sheets said.

Even if MISD takes over the Head Start program, they would not have to make the current pre-k program go for a full day, but Sheets be-

lieves doing so could help children become more prepared for school.

"Pre-k is a voluntary program, as is kindergarten," he said. "If a parent wants to keep a child home, I understand. But for those children who might need a little extra help to be ready, it would be a big advantage."

While state funding would pay for the cost of teaching the Head Start program, see school on page 9

Muleshoe PD finds lack of insurance, licenses and vehicle registrations

By JEFF WEST
Managing Editor

Perhaps Muleshoe drivers should make sure they carry uninsured motorist insurance, because there is apparently a lot of drivers out there without insurance, a license or a registered vehicle.

The Muleshoe Police Department has released statistics for several categories of services they have provided, one of which was a breakdown of citations issued.

Police issued 730 citations overall in 2003 but the largest number of citations by far, 169, was for no liability insurance. In second

place, and also far ahead of almost every other offense, was no driver's license. Police issued 94 citations for that offense.

Speeding came in third in the number of citations with 62 but right behind it was operating an unregistered vehicle with 59 cited violations. Inspection sticker violations were next with 32 drivers cited.

No seat belts would have been higher on the list if all the cited violations were bunched together but they were broken apart with no seat belts, driver ending up sixth with 28. No seat belts see citations on page 9

Caught on video tape, convicted burglar still declared not guilty

By JEFF WEST
Managing Editor

A Castro County man was handed a directed not guilty verdict by District Judge Gordon H. Green on charges of cashing a forged check in Muleshoe.

The directed verdict came after Rodger Mitchell's defense attorney, Kathryn Gurley, argued that District Attorney Johnny Actkinson had not shown intent.

Mitchell was accused of passing a check from the account of Dimmitt resident Terry Stovall made out to Mitchell. Stovall testified in court that he had not written the check to Mitchell and did not owe him any money.

Mitchell is already serving a six year sentence for burglary of a habitation for breaking into a building owned by Stovall. The sentence was due to a plea bargain but among the items listed as stolen in the burglary were checks, according to police sources.

At the trial in Muleshoe last week the prosecution introduced pictures from a video tape of Mitchell cash-

ing a check at First Bank in Muleshoe and bank employees were called to identify him. Stovall testified he had not written a check and Mitchell's Dimmitt employer at the time the check was cashed testified that Mitchell had taken an hour and forty-five minutes for lunch that day.

Norma Porter, who told Actkinson she had been Mitchell's common-law wife during the period, testified that between \$2,000 and \$3,000 in bills the couple were behind on were paid just days after the check was cashed and she had wondered where the money came from.

After Porter's testimony the state rested and Green called for a short recess.

Before the jury returned Gurley made a motion that the charges be thrown out for insufficient evidence, which is a fairly common defense tactic. Gurley, however, brought several previous judicial rulings to back up her point.

"The evidence is insufficient as a matter of law. The see trial on page 4



Journal photo: Jeff West

Is Alfred Hitchcock around?

We wonder sometimes if the birds gathering at sunset are planning something or whether its just happy hour for the winged creatures. Or whether Hitchcock was right.

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AROUND MULESHOE

Breast cancer clinic in Muleshoe

The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center Comprehensive Breast Center will conduct a breast cancer screening clinic at Muleshoe Area Medical Center, 708 South First Street, in Muleshoe on March 1 & 16, 2004.

Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are done by appointment only.

Call 1-800-377-4673 for more information.

Business tax incentive training

The Texas Workforce Commission and Worksource Business Services will provide free tax incentive training aimed at informing businesses about available tax incentive opportunities. The training will be conducted March 23, from 10 a.m. until noon at the Lubbock Business Center 1301 Broadway. To register call Jonita Oliver at 806-687-5627.

Flags at the courthouse

The Muleshoe Rotary is still offering residents a chance to sponsor an American flag on the grounds of the Courthouse on holidays for only \$25 a year. Contact any Rotarian for more information.

Babe Ruth signup

Signup for boys ages 13-15 will be conducted Thursday at the Muleshoe Junior High School gymnasium from 6-7 p.m. For information call Carroll Precure at 272-4884 or 946-7322 after 5 p.m.

Fine Arts Boosters to meet

The Muleshoe Fine Arts Boosters have scheduled a meeting for Monday, March 8, at 7 p.m. at the band hall.

Gospel music in town

The First Assembly of God in Muleshoe is presenting Ann Downing, a Dove Award winning female vocalist and member of the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, March 14 at 6:30 p.m. at 521 S. 1st St. For information call 272-3017.

Election workers school

Since many of the election rules have been changed by the Texas Legislature, there will be an election school for those judges and election workers who will work in the March 9, 2004 primary. The school will be held at the Bailey County Civic Center meeting room on March 8, 2004, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Those who attend the school are eligible to earn up to \$7.00 per hour, rather than the minimum of \$5.15 per hour, and all judges and workers

are encouraged to attend.

Energy payment funds available

South Plains Community Action Association (SPCAA) has received funds to operate the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program through December.

The primary intent of the program is to make funds available to respond to energy needs affecting low income families. Priority will be given to households where at least one resident is over 60 years old, handicapped or a child under six years old. Contact Janie Posadas or Leonor Arrieta at 272-7537 or 272-7538.

Ebony Fashion Fair

The 46th annual Ebony Fashion Fair will be March 23 at 8 p.m. at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center. The event is produced by Ebony Magazine and is sponsored the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Lubbock alumni for the benefit of the Luella Scott Memorial Scholarship Fund Fashions from Bill Blass, Bob Mackie, Dior and others will be shown. Call 806-7941256 for ticket information.

Lazbuddie serves enchiladas

Those hungry for enchiladas with all the trimmings should plan to be at the Lazbuddie ISD cafeteria Sunday, March 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Students will be serving beef and/or cheese enchiladas, Spanish rice, beans, tossed salad, tostados with guacamole dip and homemade dessert for \$6.50 (regular plate-three enchiladas) or \$5.50 for a light plate (two enchiladas). Takeouts and deliveries are also available. Profits will go toward the senior trip. Call 965-2130 to order your plate today!

Landers scholarship deadline near

Applications for the Kristy M. Landers Memorial Scholarship are available from the MHS counselor. Final day to apply is March 10, 2004.

Motorcycle rally planned

The 22nd annual motorcycle rally is scheduled for Friday and Saturday March 26-27 at the Bailey County Colliseum in Muleshoe. Registration through March 17 will be \$10 for singles and \$20 per couple. Registration will be \$12 and \$24 the day of the event. For information call 272-4465, 2724841 or 272-5741.

The deadline for Around Muleshoe is Monday at 5 p.m.

State of Texas begins selling special cotton boll vehicle license plates

The Texas Department of Transportation has now made available a special cotton boll license plate for anyone who wants to identify their participation in the cotton industry.

The new cotton license plates are a great way for cotton people to show the pride they have in working in one of the states oldest and most respected industries.

To request a set of Cotton Boll license plates use TXDOT Form VTR-999 (Click

link to download a copy of the form), Application For A Specialty License Plate. You can also get a copy of the application form from the TXDOT website (www.dot.state.tx.us).

When completing the form just check the box for Cotton Boll and mail the form in with the \$30 application fee.

A majority of the proceeds from the application fee (\$22 of the \$30 application fee) will be credited to the general revenue fund for

use only by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in making grants to benefit Texas Cotton Producers, Inc., for the sole purpose of providing scholarships to students who are pursuing a degree in an agricultural field related to the cotton industry while enrolled in an institution of higher education. The remaining \$8 will be used to defray TXDOT administrative costs associated with providing the plates to the public.

END OF GAME

These games will be closing on April 1, 2004. You have until September 28, 2004, to redeem any winning tickets for these games.

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-  #384 **9's In A Line** (\$1)
*Overall Odds are 1 in 4.68
-  #394 **Summer Sizzler** (\$1)
*Overall Odds are 1 in 4.82

You can claim prizes of up to \$599 at any Texas Lottery® Retailer. Prizes of \$600 or more are redeemable at any one of the statewide Texas Lottery Claim Centers or by mail. Questions? Call the Texas Lottery Customer Service Line at 1-800-377-LOTTO (1-800-375-6886).



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Notice: A Scratch Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. For current information on prizes remaining in a Scratch Off game, call 1-800-377-LOTTO. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Lottery ticket. *The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes.
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Muleshoe Journal USPS 367820
Established February 23, 1924. Published by CJB Publications, Inc.
Every Thursday at 304 W. Second, P.O. Box 449, Muleshoe, TX 79347.
Periodicals Postage paid at Muleshoe, TX.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Muleshoe Journal, P.O. Box 449, Muleshoe, TX 79347.
We are qualified members of:
Panhandle Press Association, National Newspaper Association,
West Texas Press Association and Texas Press Association

Chris Bradford, Publisher
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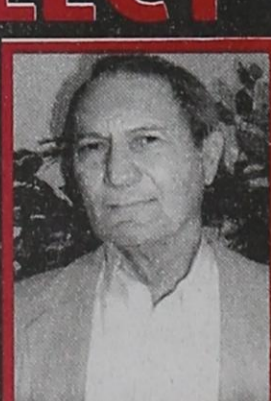
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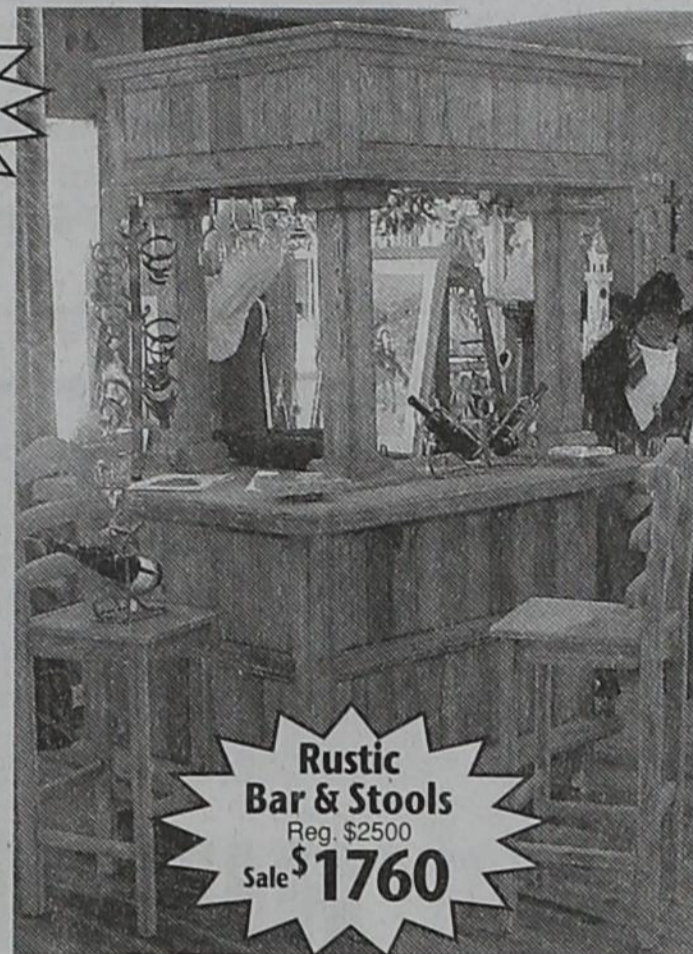
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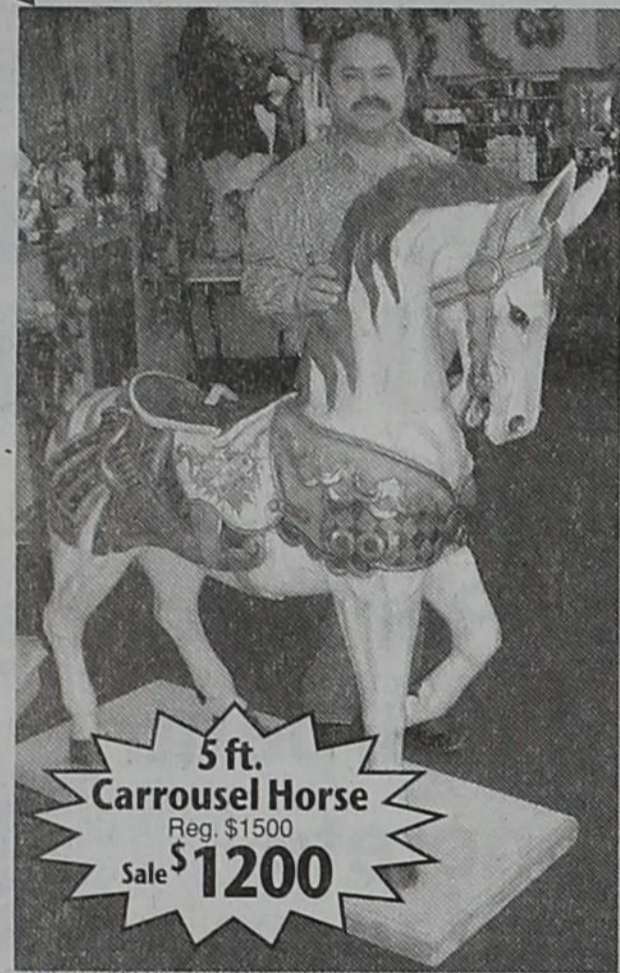


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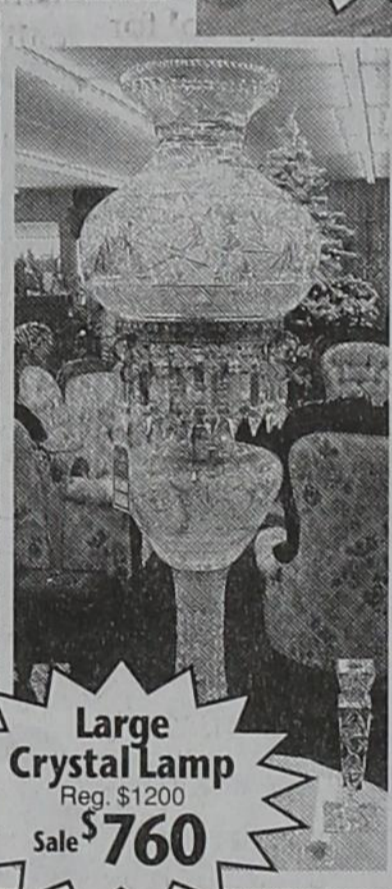
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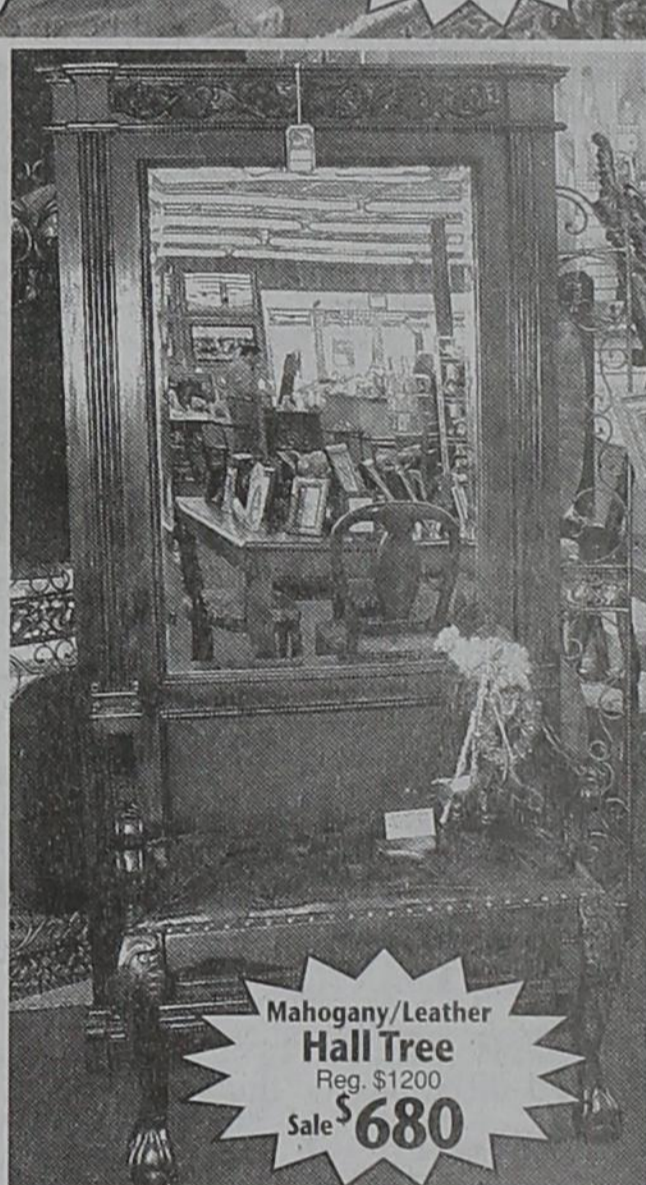
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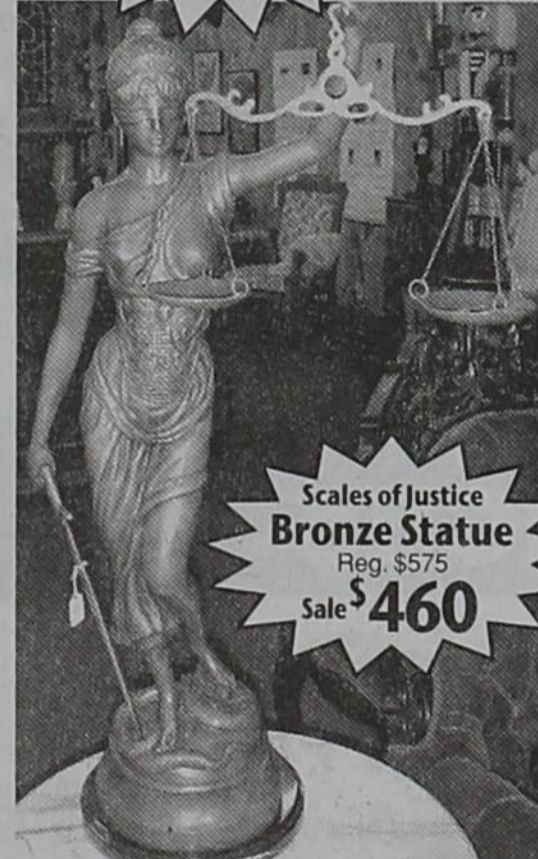
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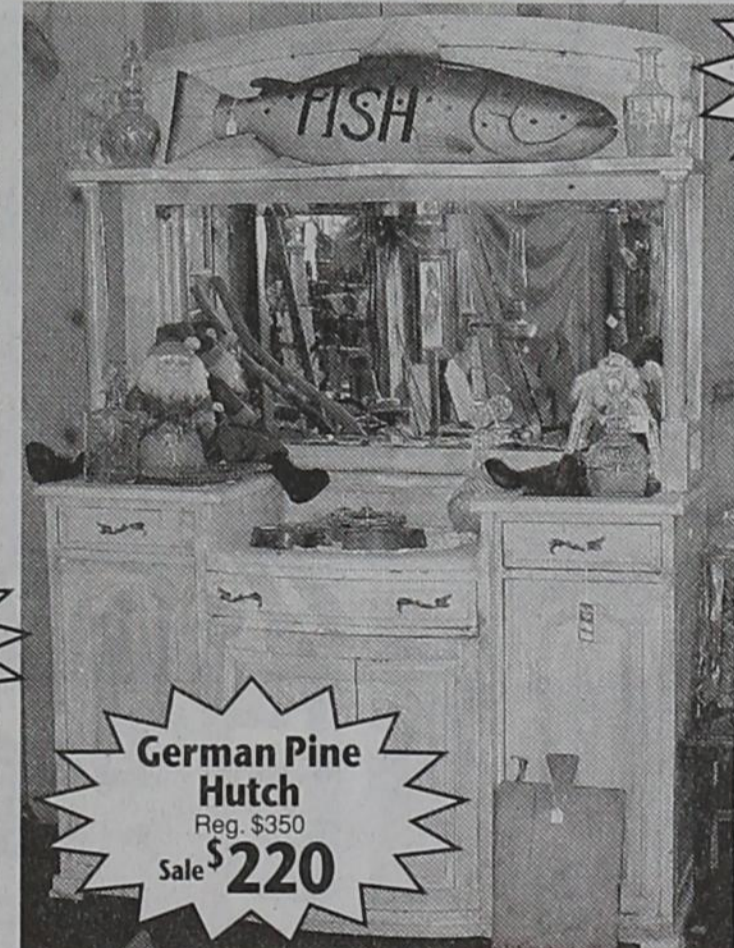
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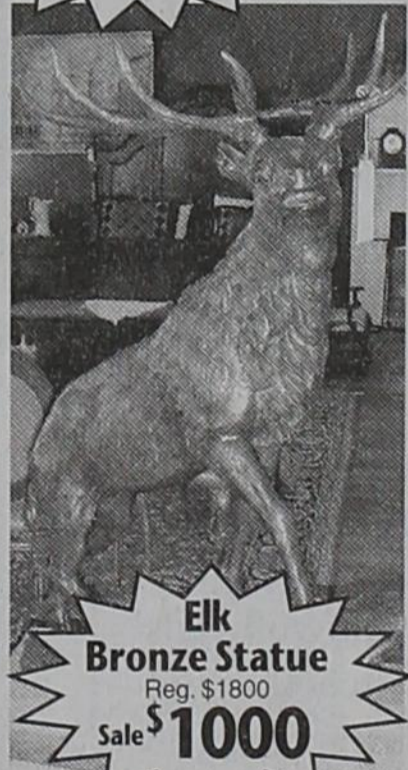
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Lady Mules win quarterfinal game against Tulia team

By DELTON WILHITE
Journal Sportswriter

The Lady Mules began to pull away from the Tulia Lady Hornets in the third period of the regional quarterfinals. This was the Lady Mules fourth trip to the quarterfinals in the last six years but they had not advanced.

The Lady Mules out scored Tulia 27-10 in the final period to break into new territory with a 67-47 win.

The Lady Mules met the Tulia Hornets in the Rip Griffin Center on the Lubbock Christian University campus. Tulia owned a 17-16 advantage after the opening eight minutes with the Grubb sisters (Sierra and Desiree) each dropping in a trey.

Sara Benham set the pace for the Lady Mules in the opening frame with 12 of her 23 game high points. Benham's scoring run in the period included six of six from the charity line.

Jamie Carpenter finally put the Lady Mules in front 21-19 in the second period with a pair of free throws. Tulia tied the game twice in the third period before Benham dropped in two from the charity line to put the Lady Mules on top to stay.

The Lady Mules led 40-37 as the final frame began. The Lady Mule constant defensive pressure took it toll in the final frame as the Lady Mules exploded for 27

points. The Lady Mules were a perfect 12 of 12 from the free throw line in the final period and made 29 of 34 in the contest.

Benham led all scorers with 23 points, Tori Barton had 15 and Lindsey Wood added nine. Amber Cowart, Carpenter and Kelsy Friskup each made six points and Kasey Wood dropped in a two-point buzzer beater as the game ended.

K'Lynne Perkins and Desiree Grubb paced Tulia with 12 and 10 points respectively.

"This is the greatest bunch of kids...their heart and determination is phenomenal," said Lady Mule coach Shana Simms. "We stayed in the press tonight to wear down Tulia, even though they were hurting us some. The kids really got after them and made the coaches look good."

"We are so excited about winning tonight and being in the regional tournament," said Tori Barton. "We finally got things in gear after the first quarter and when the final quarter began I told the girls, 'We are going to the regional tournament.'"

"It feels really great to be over this hump and to be advancing," said Sara Benham. "It is a relief, very exciting and I do not think Friday can come fast enough for us. We are pumped."

The Lady Mules met the Ballinger Lady Bearcats in the regional semi-final game at 7 PM Friday night.



Courtesy photo

Artists garner honors

Muleshoe High School art students competed in and won in the regional VASE competition held Saturday, Feb. 14.

Because of her "Superior" rating at this competition, Alyssa Lopez will move on to the state competition in April.

"We don't have a lot of competitions for art, and those that we do participate in have really tough competition, so I am really proud of all our kids," said teacher Hellen Adrian.

The work will be on display at the Fine Arts Night to Shine March 29 at the High School Cafeteria.

The art of the draw

Front row: Martin Rodriquez (excellent rating); April Morgan (2 superior ratings); Mitci Hawkins (1 superior); Christi Morgan (1 superior, 1 excellent); Kendall Johnson (2 superior); Billy Grey (1 excellent); Alyssa Lopes (superior rating-state qualifier); Ricky Trevino (1 excellent). Back row: Cristobal Almanza (1 superior); Andy Dale (2 superior); Brandy Wood (1 superior), Tyler Wood (2 superior); Robby Bomer (1 superior); and Jamie Carpenter (2 superior). Not pictured but competing were: Andrew Padilla (2 superior) and Keri Copley (1 superior).

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trial from page 1

prosecution has not shown intent to defraud another. The mere presentation is not enough. Even if the defendant presented the check, there is no evidence of his intention to defraud or harm," she said.

Green reviewed the cases presented and then said the previous cases would suggest the prosecution had not shown intent.

"The defendant took a check from the victim that he knew he wasn't entitled to, cashed the check and kept the money. We believe that shows intent," Actkinson said.

Gurley said that no one

had proved that the defendant's handwriting was on the front of the check, and when asked, presented his own driver's license so he made no false or fictitious statement.

Green said, "The state has proved that a forged instrument was passed and money received."

He went on to say Actkinson did not prove intent and would therefore, "direct a verdict in favor of the defendant."

Castro County officials said that Mitchell could face more charges in an unrelated case later this year.

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Lady Mules declaw Lady Cats in Region 1 playoffs

By DELTON WILHITE
Journal Sportswriter

The Lady Mules made their first appearance in the Texas Region I Tournament since beginning to play five-on-five. They met the Ballinger Lady Cats on Friday night in the regional semi-finals.

Ballinger had no answer for the Lady Mule pressure defense and the high flying Sara Benham. The Lady Cats could only tie the game twice in the first two and half minutes and never led in the contest.

The Lady Mules went on a 14-1 scoring run to finish the first period leading 18-5 and went on to defeat Ballinger 63-36. The defending state champion Canyon Lady Eagles defeated the Graham Lady Blues. The Lady Mules and Canyon tipped off the finals on Saturday afternoon.

The Lady Eagles used their mystique and playoff experience to defeat the Lady Mules 42-26. The game was much closer than the final score as the two teams battled for the right to go to Austin.

Ballinger tied the game at 4-4 at the 5:30 mark in the opening period. That was the last time the Lady Cats saw anything except the Lady Mules taillights. Benham drove the lane to break the tie and Tori Barton drained a trey from the corner to begin a Lady Mule 14 point run.

Jamie Carpenter chased down a Ballinger rebound and pushed the ball ahead to Benham. Benham made the final pass to Friskup to complete the break. Brandi Wood scored on an in bound play and added a put back as the period end.

The Lady Mules continued to dominate in the second period and out scored Ballinger 15-4. The Lady Mules led after an unbelievable first half of play 33-9.

The large winning margin allowed the members of the Lady Mule JV team to play the final two minutes. They showed no signs of fear and attacked Ballinger on both offense and defense. Kate Lepard collected a put back and a pair of free throws for the Lady Mules.

Benham again led all scorers with 23 points, Friskup added 19 and Barton dropped in 10. B. Wood and Lepard each made four points, Lindsey Wood had two and Carpenter chipped in one.

Jamie Buxkemper paced Ballinger with 15 points. "The weight of the world

was lifted off our shoulders on Tuesday," said Coach Simms. "The kids were ready to play tonight and it is very tough to stop Benham and Friskup inside. Barton drained a couple of threes that really kept us going."

"We knew we could get to the finals tomorrow and I think we wanted it more tonight than Ballinger did," said Barton. "Our coaches did a great job in getting us ready for tonight."

"We started well tonight and our defense really kept our momentum going," said Kelsy Friskup. "We were crashing the boards and pushing the ball up and down the floor because we knew they could run. It was one of the most fun games I have ever played."

"For a change we started out really well and jumped on them early," said Benham. "We knew we had to stop Jamie Buxkemper and our guards really shut her down. Once we got things going tonight it all came together for us."

The Lady Eagles of Canyon had history on their side in the championship game. About 3500 fans watched the much-anticipated defensive battle in the United Spirit Arena.

Friskup drained a 3-pointer as the first period ended with the Lady Mules trailing 7-4. Canyon went on a 12 point scoring run in the first three minutes of the second period.

B. Wood broke the Lady Mule scoring drought with a drive down the lane and Benham went coast to coast as the Lady Mules chipped away at the Canyon lead. Benham added two free throws to end the half with the Lady Mules trailing 19-10.

L. Wood saw Carpenter breaking down the base line and delivered her the ball as the third period began. Carpenter was hammered on the shot but converted both charity tosses. Benham drew the defense inside and fired the ball to the corner to Barton.

Barton drained a trey to cut the Eagle lead to four points with six minutes left in the period. Canyon answered with a trey before Benham hit a 15-foot jumper. L. Wood answered an Eagle bucket with a put back.

Benham blocked back to back shots as the period wound down. Canyon managed to score the final two points to take a 26-19 advantage into the final frame.

Barton nailed her second trey of the night to again

trim the Canyon lead to four points. Canyon made eight of 10 free throws down the stretch to seal the game.

"Our defense held Canyon to 46 points tonight," said Simms. "If a few of our shots in the first period had

fallen, it could have been a different ball game.

"I am so proud of these girls. They have been a joy to coach and to be with all season. We will miss Sara and Tori next year, but they have really raised the stan-

dards for Lady Mule basketball in the future,"

Benham paced the Lady Mules with 10 points and Barton had seven. Friskup made three points; L. Wood, Carpenter and B. Wood each added two for the Lady

Mules.

The Lady Mules finished their historic season at 31-6. Three of the five teams that had beaten the Lady Mules during the regular season played Saturday afternoon in regional finals.

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Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI
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JEPHTHAH'S DAUGHTER!

JEPHTHAH, WHO JUDGED ISRAEL FOR SIX YEARS, WHEN HE WENT TO WAR WITH THE AMMONITES, MADE A VOW UNTO THE LORD THAT SHOULD HE BE VICTORIOUS HE WOULD SACRIFICE, FOR A BURNT OFFERING, WHATEVER FIRST CAME TO HIM OUT OF HIS HOUSE, ON HIS RETURN TO IT, AFTER THE VICTORY! (JUDGES 11:30-31). IT WAS HIS ONLY CHILD, HIS DAUGHTER, WHO RUSHED OUT TO GREET HIM ON HIS RETURN. HIS DAUGHTER AGREED THAT HE HAD TO KEEP HIS VOW, BUT ONLY AFTER SHE HAD TWO MONTHS TO BEWAIL HER VIRGINITY IN THE MOUNTAINS. THIS BECAME A CUSTOM, DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS, FOR THE ISRAELITE MAIDENS TO GO INTO THE MOUNTAINS, FOUR DAYS A YEAR, TO LAMENT FOR THE DAUGHTER OF JEPHTHAH, THE GILEADITE! (JUDGES 11:40).



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—2 Corinthians 4:2

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Honors

Cyndi Vandiver

Texas Woman's University has released its deans' List for the spring 2003 semester. To qualify for the dean's list, students must complete at least nine hours with a minimum grade point average of 3.5, with no failing grade.

Cyndi Vandiver of Muleshoe, made the grade this past spring. Her major is music.

Candice Randolph

Candice Shae Randolph, a recent MHS graduate has been notified that she is among 18 Amarillo College students selected for inclusion in the 2004 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges is.

Student selection for the honor was based on academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success.

A.J. Buhrman

Included on the fall 2003 semester of Wichita State University's (Kansas) Dean's List is A.J. Buhrman, a 2002 graduate of Muleshoe High School.

Buhrman had a perfect 4.0 GPA for the semester. He is pursuing a degree in aeronautical engineering.

Maria Victoria Martinez

Maria Victoria Martinez has qualified as a Dean's List honoree for the fall 2003 semester at South Plains College of Levelland.



Martinez

Students eligible for the Dean's List must attain a grade point average of 3.25 or better during the semester.

Martinez is the daughter of Florencie and Margie Martinez of Muleshoe.

Jami Wedel

Jami Wedel, a first year student at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, is included on the recently released undergraduate honor roll for the fall semester.



Wedel

To be listed on the SMU honor roll, student must be in the top 15 percent of their school of record.

SMU's Fall 2003 enrollment included 5,078 undergraduate students pursuing degrees in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, Meadows School of the Arts, Edwin L. Cox School of Business, and the School of Engineering.

Jami attained a 3.70 GPA while in the honors program.

Jami is the daughter of Susan and Jimmy Wedel of Muleshoe.

Bridal Shower

Shani Rasco Nichols of Muleshoe was honored with a bridal shower on February 21 in the home of Trae McNeill.

The bride is the daughter of Wes and Dana Rasco of Muleshoe.

The groom is the son of Joe and Mitzi Nichols of Fort Sumner, NM.

Special guests attending were Dana Rasco, mother of the bride; Lela Ann Smith, maternal grandmother of the bride; and Marcha Rasco, paternal grandmother of the bride.

Hostesses for the occasion were: Paula Benton, Louvenia Garlington, Holly Hooten, Trae McNeill, Jean Richardson, Doris Vandiver, Marilyn Wilson, Dianne Brown, Melanie Hill, Lavon Hunt, Jan Morris, Misty Simmons, Lisa Whalin, Joella Flowers, LaDonna Holmans, Debra Jennings, Billie Powell, Lenda Trussell and Wanda Wiley.

The hostess' gift was a bedding ensemble.

Shani and Randy were married on January 24 at Muleshoe Church of

Christ. The couple is making their home in Muleshoe.



Marcha Rasco (left), Shani Nichols, bride, Dana Rasco and LelaAnn Smith.

The annual Bake Auction will be held over Channel 6 on March 6 from 8:30-12:30. Place your bids by calling 272-3990 or 272-4989. All proceeds will benefit Muleshoe Heritage Foundation.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I just had to say something about this new commentary done by this man named Jon Spears. I don't know how he is, but how I wish I did.

What he writes makes a lot of sense and for the first time I love the idea of how he's letting everybody know there is a wonderful, loving, compassionate and forgiving God.

A-lot of people may know that, but "Hey!" when you find it in the newspaper, it's an awesome feeling. I love how Mr. Spears uses verses from the bible to write his message.

All they need to do is open up their bible and they will find what Mr. Spears is writing about.

Anyway, I just had to write to the *Journal* and let you guys know that the commentary section is the best in the Muleshoe paper.

Sincerely,
Oneida Lopez

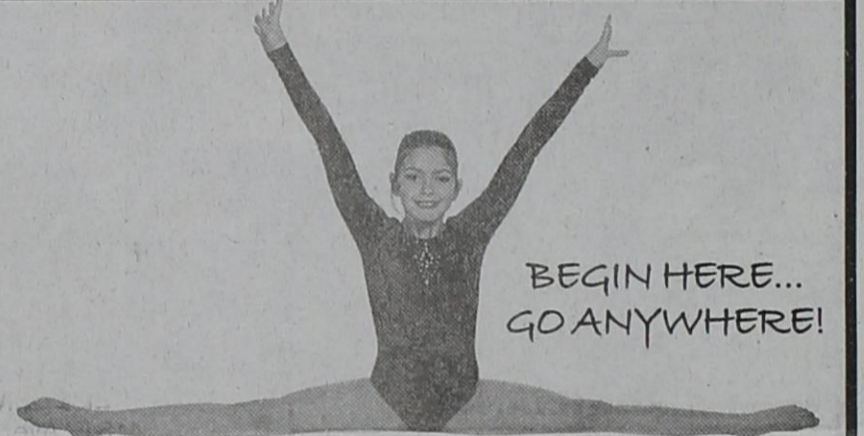
University needs science fair judges

The Southeastern New Mexico Regional Science and Engineering Fair, at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales on Saturday, March 6, needs volunteer judges. No previous experience is required. Judges will receive refreshments and lunch.

Categories to be judged include: Behavioral and Social Science, Botany, Computer Science, Medicine and Health Science, Chemistry, Physics, Earth and Space Science, Microbiology, Engineering, Environmental Science, Zoology, Biochemistry and Mathematics.


For more information or to volunteer, e-mail science.fair@enmu.edu, or call 505-562-2309.

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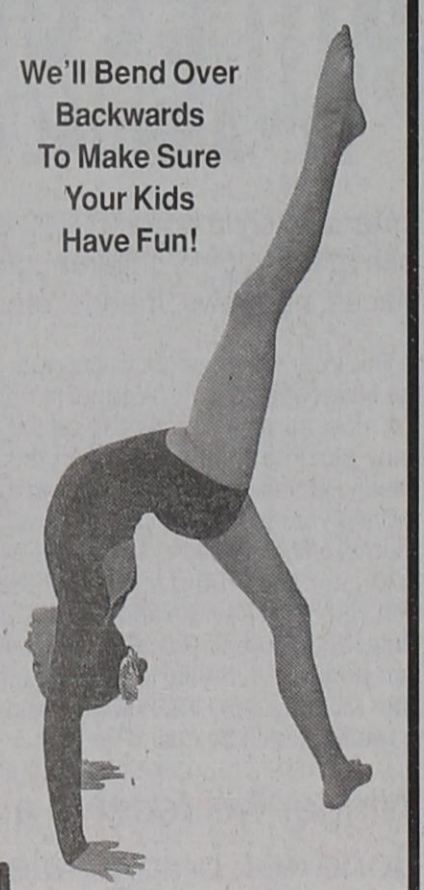


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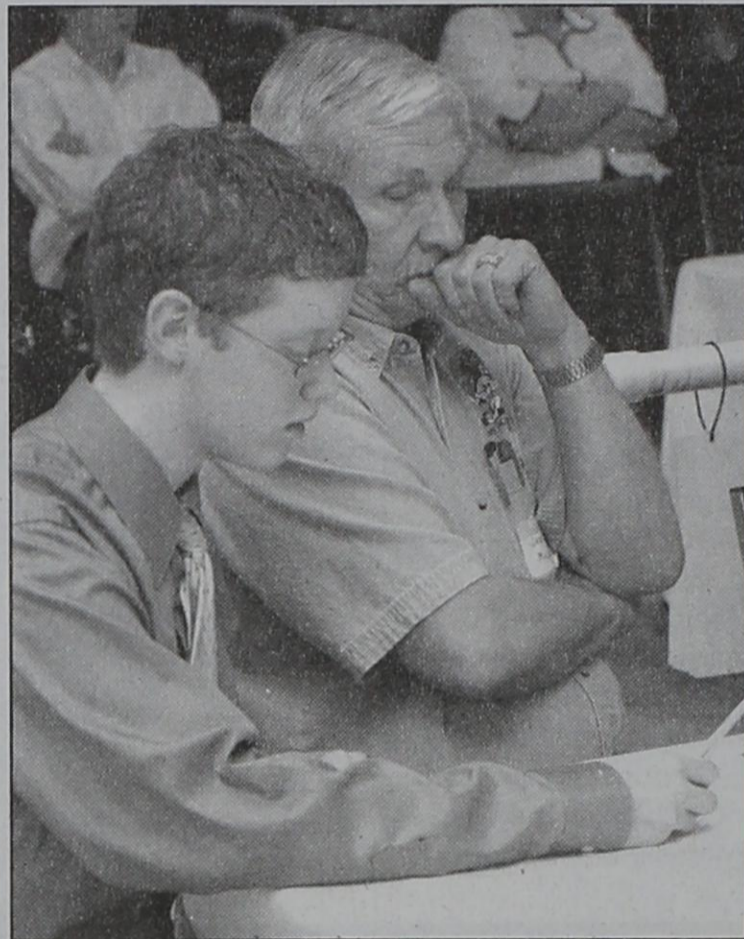


Pictured are winning Watson Junior High choir students who participated in the Region 16 UIL Solo and Ensemble Competition held Feb. 7 at Frenship High School. Thirty-two students represented Muleshoe. Junior high students receiving a first division rating on their solo and progressing on the state competition to be held in May are (above, top left) Erika Martinez, Kathryn Owens, Kasey Hearn, Odysse Anderson, Shelby Carpenter; (middle row) Ashley Johnson, Chelsea Moore, Chriselda Trevino, Sonia Regalado, Katherine DePalma, Irene Dominguez; and (bottom row) Vanity Garcia, Maria Zubia, Ana Sigala, Anna Andrade and Kaitlyn Wiseman. Also doing well at the competition (below, top row): Daniel Mendoza, Juan Vidaña, Dillon Gallman, Ismael Mendoza, Julian Peña; (bottom row) Ruben Campos, Jon Orozco, Victor Hernandez and Junior Garcia.



Springlake-Earth High School announces honor roll students

4th Six Weeks "A-B" Honor Roll	12th Grade - Curt Bills, Daniel Ibarra, Tisha Marquez, Matt Sadler, Chasity Spencer and Elizabeth Zaragosa.	Bottleman, Zeth Collom and Shelly York.
9th Grade - Andrew Lancaster, Jose Vega, Judith Gonzales, Jayme Howard, Haley Lunsford, Kristi Miller, Tanner Dear and Chris Allen.	"A" Honor Roll	11th Grade - Bonnie Bagwell and Alex Loucks.
11th Grade - Erik Olvera.	9th Grade - Laurie Davis and Logan McCurry.	12th Grade - Hannah Bustin, Alyssa Davis, Dustin Graham, Russell Miller, Heather Moore, Jessica Vaughan and Krista West.
	10th Grade - Brook	



Courtesy photo: SPC

A watchful eye

Dallas Key, a student at Whiteface High School, participated Feb. 18 in the Small School Academic Competition hosted by South Plains College in Levelland. At right is Jack Willis, head of the Science Department at Muleshoe High School. A Spearman High School team won first place. Five teams from Muleshoe, Spearman and Whiteface will advance to the state contest March 28 at the University of Mary Hardin Baylor in Belton.

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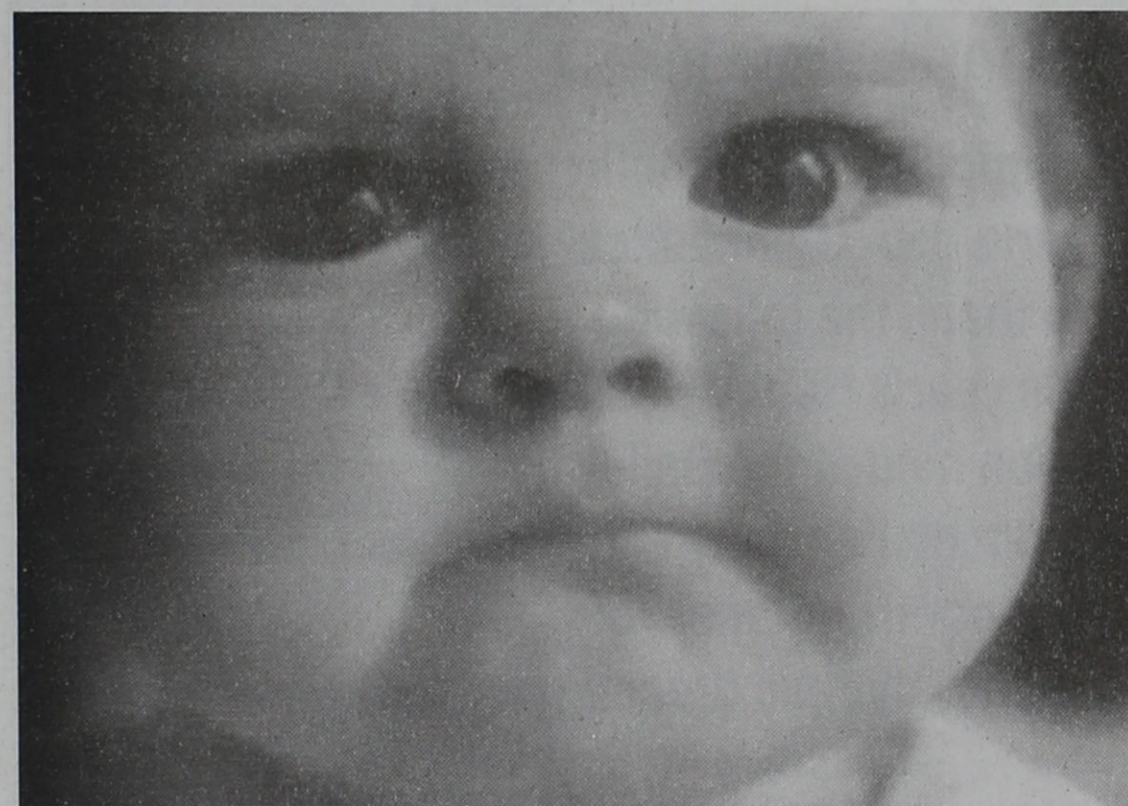
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MULESHOE JOURNAL'S 10TH ANNUAL CUTEST BABY CONTEST

Enter any child born in 2003 who you fell in love with at first sight - children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends, etc...

This year's contestant will appear in the April 8 edition of the Muleshoe Journal. A panel of unbiased judges will pick the most attractive picture to be the 2003 Cutest Baby. All baby pictures will be printed in this Easter edition of the paper. Babies need not be born in this area.

Bring your favorite photo along with \$13 to the Muleshoe Journal office at 304 W. 2nd Street, Monday-Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or mail the coupon below along with your child's photo and \$13 to Cutest Baby Contest, c/o Muleshoe Journal, P.O. Box 449, Muleshoe, Texas 79347. You may pick up your baby's picture during office hours after Monday, April 12, 2004. Arrangements must be made to return photos by mail.

Winner will receive a \$50 Savings Bond for being selected 2003's Cutest Baby!

ENTRY DEADLINE

Wed., March 31 at 5 pm

Please provide phone number or address (it will not be published) so that we may contact you if we need additional information.

Baby's Name:

Date of Birth:

Weight at Birth:

Length at Birth:

Place of Birth:

Mom & Dad's Name:

Grandparent's Name:

Contact Info:

Attention

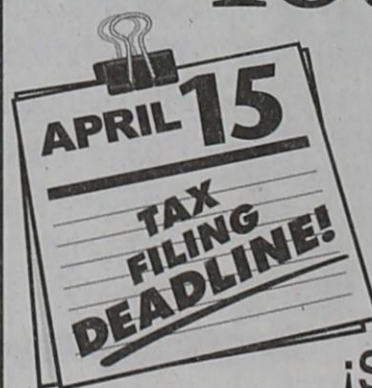
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school from page 1

program, officials are looking for money to make the move and for renovations that would be necessary.

"If we make pre-k a full day program and take over Head Start we would need about six additional classrooms," Sheets said. "By dividing some of the computer labs and the music room we could probably make six new classrooms."

Officials have already drawn up plans in case the changes are approved by the board. The second grade would be all together in one area of DeShazo, the third grade in another. The portable building already there would be joined by the two others and would be used for special classes such as music, art and perhaps computer instruction.

The moves and the remodeling would cost about \$60,000 according to school estimates.

"It's a onetime cost, but it is a cost," Sheets said. "We are also going to have some new students coming in when the new dairies open."

To help pay for the start-up costs, Assistant Superintendent Don Wood has applied for two grants, one from the federal government, the other from the Texas Education Association (TEA).

"We probably won't know about those for another four to six weeks. If either one comes in and the board approves, we will probably go ahead with the changes," Sheets said.

School officials are also considering changing the junior high school schedule from the current eight class periods a day to seven. This change would make the junior high schedule more closely resemble the high school schedule, but might limit some of the choices that junior high students now have.

"There are a couple of reasons for changing to a seven period day," Sheets said. "We could eventually save on personnel costs by offering one less class a day.

"We certainly don't plan on laying anyone off but through attrition we could consolidate some of the positions. We might also be able to share teachers between high school and junior high over the next few years with the change."

While the district doesn't plan to eliminate any elec-

tives there may be some consolidation necessary.

"We would still offer band but may have to consolidate some of the sections," Sheets said.

He said that teaming periods, where teachers get together to plan, might have to be moved to after school eventually as well.

The change from eight classes to seven would increase the length of each remaining class by five minutes, which doesn't by itself appear to be significant.

"Over the course of the school year it could equal more than 17 days of instruction. It would also give students one less class a day they have to prepare for," Sheets said.

Sixth graders would have about the same number of electives as now while eighth graders might have one less. Good grades in the reading portion of the TAKS test from the state could give the students more options.

If a fifth grade student scored high enough in that portion of the test he or she could be exempt from having to take reading in junior high, giving him time for an extra elective.

"The plan should also make us a little more efficient. We've been doing that but with school finance the way it is we have to be as efficient as possible without hurting instruction of the core subjects," he said.

Both the potential changes to the pre-k program and the junior high schedule are designed to prepare students for tougher state requirements for testing.

"Children now need to be reading by the time they reach first grade, if possible," Sheets said. "That didn't used to be the case."

Neither change would go into effect until the school board approved them but Sheets has said decisions needs to be made soon so that schedules for next year can be prepared.

SCAC News

The Student-Community Action Club (SCAC) met on February 23 in the home of Amber Cowart.

SCAC President Elida Diaz called the meeting to order and asked Chaplain Landon Sheets to give the opening prayer. Secretary Megan Mason read the minutes.

Club member Christy Morgan then introduced the guest speaker, Steve Friskup, who spoke to the club members about leading the cowboy church and being an auctioneer. He said he helps in the community because of the change Jesus has made in his life. Then Treasurer Marlie Black pre-

sented Friskup with a boutonniere, proclaiming him SCAC February Citizen of the Month.

Old business discussed included the progress of the bake auction committee.

New business included a discussion about the bake auction, which is scheduled for March 6 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The auction will be broadcast on Channel 6.

A Citizen of the Month for March was chosen and will be the next guest speaker. Sara Benham will contact the guest speaker.

The next meeting will be March 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the home of Bryan King.



Courtesy photo

Pictured above are SCAC member Megan Mason, SCAC February Citizen of the Month Steve Friskup, and club member Christy Morgan.

citations from page 1

on children 4-14 drew 10 more citations and no seat belt, passengers was the charge on four other citations. Unrestrained children under 2 drew 13 citations and unrestrained children under four drew 10 more.

Also high on the list were disregarding signs at construction at 26 and permitting unlicensed drivers to operate a vehicle with 22 citations issued.

Some of the citations issued weren't for traffic violations but minor criminal offenses.

Disorderly conduct, minor in possession of alcohol and public intoxication ended the year in a three way tie with 14 citations each. Consumption of alcohol by

a minor drew eight citations while minor in possession of tobacco drew two citations last year.

Four citations were issued for theft under \$50 and two more issued for assault by threat.

(Editor's note: Other statistics released by the Muleshoe PD will be covered in future editions of the Journal.)

Breathe Easy...

If you are over 65 and have a chronic illness that affects your breathing, your nebulizer and medication may be covered by Medicare.



For individuals who use Albuterol & Ipratropium, we can provide you with a premixed solution that may significantly reduce your treatment time.

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POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Muleshoe Journal has been authorized to list the names of the following candidates for public office:

CITY COUNCIL #1 RUNOFF

Daniel Guzman
Richard Orozco

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

PRECINCT 1
Rodney Baker (D)
Jack Dunham (R)
Butch Vandiver (R)

PRECINCT 3
Joey Kindle (D)

PRECINCT 4
Juan Chavez (D)
Ginger Damron (D)
Lewis W. Shafer (R)

SHERIFF
Otis Carpenter (R)
Richard Wills (R)

EVERY VOTE COUNTS

Political advertisement paid by candidate

REPRESENTATIVE SALES

1,286 head of cattle, 171 hogs and 331 sheep and goats for a total of 1,788 animals were sold at the February 28th sale. Market 2-3 higher on all classes of stocker and feeder cattle. Pairs and bred cows steady. Packer cows also sold steady from a week ago.

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, FEB. 28, 2004

Seller, City	# Type	Wt. CWT or PH
George Wilson, Felt, OK	10 Blk. bull clfs	225 lbs. at \$152.50
Phillips Farms, Portales, NM	3 Red bulls	212 lbs. at \$152.50
Phillips Farms, Portales, NM	3 Mxd. bulls	315 lbs. at \$135.00
Travis Bessire, Muleshoe	BWF bull	345 lbs. at \$134.00
Alan Belcher, Pep, NM	5 Blk. bulls	352 lbs. at \$131.00
Alan Belcher, Pep, NM	4 Mxd. bulls	394 lbs. at \$127.00
FM Farms, Brownfield	3 Char. str	413 lbs. at \$121.00
Kennith Johnson, Littlefield	Yell. str	445 lbs. at \$119.00
Karl Cox, Jr., Rogers, NM	7 Mxd. str	467 lbs. at \$115.00
NM Ranch, NM	39 Mxd. str	460 lbs. at \$119.00
NM Ranch, NM	90 Mxd. str	518 lbs. at \$113.00
NM Ranch, NM	21 Mxd. str	601 lbs. at \$101.00
NM Ranch, NM	44 Mxd. str	648 lbs. at \$98.25
NM Ranch, NM	36 Mxd. str	763 lbs. at \$89.00
Alex Aguirre, Muleshoe	12 Mxd. str	680 lbs. at \$94.50
Norris Conklin, Muleshoe	2 Blk. str	688 lbs. at \$94.50
Norris Conklin, Muleshoe	5 Mxd. str	791 lbs. at \$88.25
Alan Belcher, Pep, NM	15 Mxd. hfrs	338 lbs. at \$116.00
Phillips Farms, Portales, NM	3 Char. hfrs	307 lbs. at \$118.00
Ruben Nuñez, Anton	Red hfr	345 lbs. at \$117.00
Travis Bessire, Muleshoe	4 BWF hfrs	378 lbs. at \$113.00
NM Ranch, NM	44 Mxd. hfrs	420 lbs. at \$115.50
NM Ranch, NM	30 Blk. hfrs	476 lbs. at \$111.50
NM Ranch, NM	49 Char. X hfrs	488 lbs. at \$106.50
Karl Cox, Jr., Rogers, NM	4 Blk. hfrs	586 lbs. at \$96.50
Flossy Osborn, Abilene	Char. hfr	600 lbs. at \$94.00
Alex Aguirre, Muleshoe	17 Mxd. hfrs	611 lbs. at \$93.25
Norris Conklin, Muleshoe	10 Mxd. hfrs	700 lbs. at \$88.00
George Wilson, Felt, OK	4 Blk. pair	\$810.00
George Wilson, Felt, OK	2 Blk. cows P7	\$670.00
George Wilson, Felt, OK	3 Blk. cows	1225 lbs. at \$48.75
B&C Cattle, Seminole	3 Mxd. cows P7	\$710.00
B&C Cattle, Seminole	2 Red cows	1300 lbs. at \$49.50

1954

Johnny and Betty Henry
Celebrated their
50th Wedding Anniversary
At a dinner with family and friends
On Saturday, March 6, 2004

Johnny married the former Betty Braddock on March 5, 1954 in Hernando, Mississippi. The couple previously lived in Muleshoe, Kilgore, San Marcos, Austin and Irving. They have lived in Canyon thirty two years.

Johnny is a former real estate broker and owner of a book store in Canyon. Mrs. Henry is a retired registered nurse and professor emeritus from West Texas A&M Division of Nursing. They are members of the First Baptist Church of Canyon.

Children of the couple are Johnny, Jr. of Canyon and Gail Henry of Burleson.

2004

New election laws affect voters

By **DAVIE BROWDER**
For the Journal

As the primary elections loom, County Clerk Sherri Harrison warns that there are some new twists and turns in election law.

"When you come to vote on March 9, you need your voter registration card," she said. "If you've lost it, you need some kind of identification. It doesn't matter whether the election judge knows a voter or not, voters still must have IDs."

Acceptable IDs would include a bill with your address, a birth certificate, a driver's license or citizenship papers.

If a voter's name doesn't appear on the list of registered voters or if the voter does not present a voter registration certificate or other form of acceptable identification, then the voter is entitled to vote a provisional ballot.

Provisional voting has replaced the challenge affidavit process.

However, on election day

anyone using a provisional ballot is told that his or her vote may not be counted. Before that vote is counted, a voter registrar will review the ballot for a determination on the voter's registration status and then will forward it to the early voting ballot board for a final determination on whether the voter is a qualified voter and whether the ballot should be counted.

There are a number of factors to determine whether a person may vote a provisional ballot, Harrison said.

They are:

- A voter who claims to be properly registered and eligible to vote at the election precinct, but whose name does not appear on the list of registered voters and whose registration cannot be determined by the voter registrar, or

- A voter who is designated as a first-time voter on the list of registered voters, but who is unable to produce the required identification; or

- A voter who has applied for a ballot by mail, but has

not returned the ballot by mail, or

- A voter who votes during the polling hours that are extended by a state or federal court, or

- A voter who is registered to vote but attempting to vote in a different precinct other than the one in which the voter is registered, or

- A voter who is required to present identification, but does not.

A person voting by mail may not vote a provisional ballot, and a voter can only vote in one primary, Harrison said.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 9.

Republicans have only one voting location on March 9, the Earl Ladd Fire Station in Muleshoe.

Democrats in voting boxes 1, 2, 4 and 6 (all in town precincts) will vote at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Voting box 3 will vote at Three Way School and voting box 5 at Enochs Baptist Church.

Weevil eradication program lists rates

The Texas Department of Agriculture has established the 2004 assessment rate, due date and discount date for the Northwestern Plains Zone (NWP) of the boll weevil eradication program. The NWP encompasses Bailey, Castro, Lamb, Deaf Smith and Parmer Counties.

The assessment for 2004 in the NWP is \$5 per dryland

acre and \$12 per irrigated land acre, the rate established by growers and landowners in the original referendum.

Growers with failed acres are eligible to receive a credit on those acres destroyed before the final certification date. Qualifying failed acres must remain free of all hostable cotton until a killing freeze to receive the

credit.

Assessment notices will be mailed by Aug. 20, and payment is due Sept. 25. Growers who pay by Sept. 10, are eligible to receive a two percent discount on their assessment.

The Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation is a non-profit, grower initiated and funded organization,

One More Time!

Republican Primary: Tuesday, March 9th

The Battle's Not Over Yet!

★ Republican Primary Election: Tuesday, March 9th ★

Please Mark Your Calendar: This is the vote that counts the most!

Thank you for your support in the recent special election. With your help, we won 56% and 18 of 26 counties. **But the election battle is not over yet!** Your support in the Republican Primary is now needed to determine who will hold this State Senate seat from 2005-2009.

This is the third time in the past three months I've asked for your support. I would be honored to earn your vote one more time.

Re-elect



Vote For Kel "One More Time" In The GOP Primary: Tuesday, March 9th

Campaign Hotline: (806) 373-5500
Email: kel4senate@seliger4senate.com • www.seliger4senate.com

Political ad paid for by State Senator Kel Seliger Campaign: Ken Kelley, Treasurer

Is your tax preparer as sophisticated as your tax situation?

We have trained tax professionals who can prepare even the most complex returns. And since they receive annual tax training updates, they're ready to handle most any tax situation. Even yours. It's just another part of the H&R Block Advantage.

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272-3332**

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 to 6; Sat. open at 9 a.m.; Call for early or late appts.

Nursing Home News

Brother Gary and Judy Hubbard directed a memorial service for Tomasa Garcia Tuesday morning.

Rick Hunter was presented a U.S. flag folded in a case, in memory of his dad, the late Don Hunter, who served in the U.S. Air Force.

Tuesday afternoon, Beverly Wagon, Pat Clark, Pat Watson, Beckye Conklin and Eva Nell Dale gave the ladies fresh hairdos. Pat Clark and Beverly Wagon gave some of the ladies haircuts. Norma Eaves came Monday and gave manicures.

Herman Morrison has some of his Texico Memorabilia on display in the lobby area of Park View.

Wednesday morning, Mary Jo Burge, Janis Morrison and Eva Nell Dale served coffee and donuts to the residents at during coffee time. Mary Jo, Janis and Eva Nell also directed the devotional and "singsperation" time.

Glenda Jennings directed the sing-along Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Mike Miller visited Clifton Finley Wednesday. James Wedel came Fri-

day to go shopping and run errands for the residents and activity department.

Aline Bryant did volunteer work for the residents and activity department Wednesday morning.

Mary Helen Tally and Aubrey Heathington played dominoes after supper Wednesday evening.

Thursday morning, Coralynn Jarman played the piano for our gospel sing-along.

Janet Denton came to entertain with her singing and electric piano Friday afternoon.

Melvin and Wanda Griffin, Roland and Martha McCormick, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Nowlin and Hubert Kidd were among those visiting Park View recently.

Buster Kittrell came Saturday and cut the men's hair.

Harold and Mary Jo Burge directed the bingo bash Saturday afternoon. The Burges served and furnished refreshments following the game.

The Muleshoe Church of Christ directs the communion services on Sunday mornings.

Buster Kittrell and

Harold Burge teach the Sunday school class each Sunday morning.

Gladys Black visited with George and Clydetta Mitchell and Jewell Perry on Friday.

Mrs. Guzman's class from MHS came Monday to decorate the halls for St. Patrick's Day and to play bingo with the residents.

The 16th and D Church of Christ hosted the pie party Thursday afternoon. Joe and Clara Harbin and Dan and Millie Throckmorton served and visited with the residents.

The cowboy church came Sunday for church services. Jearl James and members of the church improved and added to our sound system.

Pauline Chappel was visited by Melvin and Wanda Griffin, and her daughter Deanne and Sandi Friday.

Josie Ovalle gave Lora Dale and Gladys Wilson a perm Monday.

Our deepest and sincere sympathy goes to the family of friends of Alda Odom.

Re-Elect BAILEY CO. SHERIFF



Richard Wills

***** VOTE *****
March 9th
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Or Vote Early Now At The Courthouse!

Sheriff Wills has Diligently Worked for 2 Years on the New Jail Facility. Vote for a Proven Sheriff and a Safer Bailey Co.

Paid for by Richard Wills.



50th Anniversary Celebrated

Billy and Lorene Weir of Muleshoe will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on March 6, 2004

They are the parents of Doyle and Debbie Weir of Lazbuddie and Byron and Lynn Weir of Lubbock. They are the grandparents of Dawn Weir of San Angelo, Dustin Weir of Dallas, Wesley Weir of Lubbock, Brennen Weir of Lubbock and Eric and Lauren Weir of Lubbock.

Billy Weir and the former Lorene Kennedy were married March 6, 1954 in Lubbock.

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2004 Mercury Mountaineer Premium

AWD, Heated Leather Seats, Moonroof, Auto Wiper.

MSRP \$37,115

Muleshoe Motor Co. Everyday Low Price \$31,582

Includes \$3,000 Rebate or choose 0.0% for 60 months on \$34,582

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Grade A Prime

599 lb.



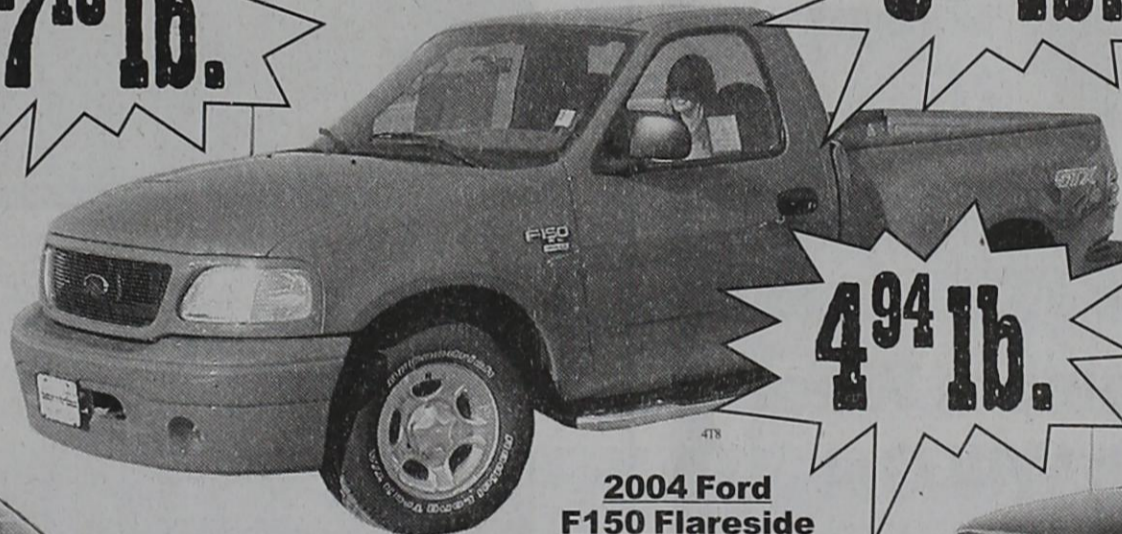
2003 Expedition XLT

4x4, Leather, Power 3rd Row Seat

MSRP \$40,630

Muleshoe Motor Co. Everyday Low Price \$32,620

Includes \$4,000 Rebate or choose 0.0% for 60 months on \$36,620



2004 Ford F150 Flareside

STX, MP3 Player, V8, Auto

MSRP \$23,955

Muleshoe Motor Co. Everyday Low Price \$19,467

Includes \$2,500 Cash Rebate or choose 0.0% for 60 months on \$21,967

494 lb.



2004 F150 Supercab

V8, Auto, Cruise, Tilt, CD, Trailer Tow

MSRP \$25,470

Muleshoe Motor Co. Everyday Low Price \$22,256

Includes \$1,000 Cash Rebate or choose 0.9% for 48 months on \$23,256



2003 Ford Escape LTD

Leather, Moonroof, Heated Seats

MSRP \$26,635

Muleshoe Motor Co. Everyday Low Price \$22,792

Includes \$2,500 Cash Rebate or choose 0.0% for 60 months on \$25,292

SUPER SAVERS

'02 Escort Was \$8,800	Now \$7,950	\$3.06 lb.
'00 Grand Marquis Was \$9,990	Now \$8,990	\$2.82 lb.
'00 Expedition Eddie Bauer 4x4	Only \$19,600	\$3.63 lb.
'00 Ford Windstar	Only \$8,875	\$2.22 lb.
'99 Town Car Was \$13,800	Now \$11,800	\$3.03 lb.
'99 Explorer 4x4	Only \$7,900	\$1.91 lb.
'99 F350 Crew Cab 7.3L Diesel, DRW	Only \$16,950	\$2.69 lb.
'97 Taurus	Only \$4,900	\$1.53 lb.
'92 Chevy Caprice	Only \$2,900	.71¢ lb.
'86 Chevy 2500 Reg. Cab Service Body	Only \$1,900	.49¢ lb.



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Obituaries

RUTH H. ROCKEY

Ruth H. Rockey, a resident of Omak, WA for many years and a former resident of Muleshoe, died Monday, February 23, 2004.

She was born November 10, 1911 in Bailey County to Hiram B. and Lilla Danton Bearden.

In 1933, she married Richard M. Rockey. The couple lived in Muleshoe until they moved to Omak in 1936.

Mrs. Rockey graduated in 1928 from West Texas State Teachers College High School in Canyon and went on to college for one year. In her early life, she was employed by the U.S. Post Office in Muleshoe and later in Omak and Twisp, WA. From 1956 until her retirement in 1972, she was employed as school lunch supervisor for the Omak School District and for several summers in that period she served as camp cook for youth camps in various locations. For some years after her retirement from Omak schools, she served as the cook for the Senior Nutritional Program at Omak Senior Center. Mrs. Rockey was a founding member of Omak United Methodist Church and Omak Senior Citizens.

Mrs. Rockey played piano for her church in Texas and was the organist at Conconully United Methodist Church for over 40 years. She also served as the organist and pianist at Omak United Methodist Church. She played piano at sing-alongs at the Omak Senior Center and nursing homes in Okanogan and Tonasket, where her husband resided from 1978 until his death in 1998. Mrs. Rockey also entertained at Apple Springs care facility in Omak where she resided from late 2002 until her death.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Rockey was preceded in death by her parents, three sisters and four brothers.

She is survived by two children, Rylla Goldberg of Shoreline, WA, and James "Jim" Rockey of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; two grandchildren; a step-granddaughter; eight great-grandchildren; a sister, Emma Myers of Spokane, WA; and many nieces and nephews.

The family suggests memorials to Cancer Care of North Central Washington, Wenatchee, WA, Omak United Methodist Church or Omak Senior Citizens.

RAYBURN LANCASTER

A funeral service with full military honors was held Thursday, March 4, 2004 at Lacy Funeral Home Chapel for Rayburn D. Lancaster, 83, of Stephenville. Rev. Neil Wade officiated. Burial was in Upper Greens Creek Cemetery.

Lacy Funeral Home handled all arrangements.

Mr. Lancaster was born July 3, 1920 to Warren and Lela Ann (Loveless) Lancaster in Stephenville. He died February 28, 2004 at his home.

He married Barbara Sutherland on September 1, 1944 in Dallas. She preceded him in death November 5, 1996.

Mr. Lancaster was a retired USAF Colonel, leaving the Air Force in March 1972 after 30 years of service. He served in WWII, the Korean War and Viet Nam. He was highly decorated during his military career as a fighter pilot. He was a member of the VFW, American Legion and was an avid outdoorsman. Mr. Lancaster attended Duffau Baptist Church.

In addition to his wife, he

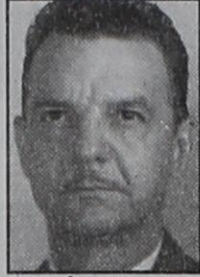
was preceded in death by his parents and one daughter, Rita Lancaster.

Survivors include four sons and their spouses, Ray and Marlys Lancaster of Las Vegas, Nev., Burt and Gladys Lancaster of Tampa, Fla., Bill and Laurie Lancaster of Austin, and Marc and Jennifer Lancaster of Stephenville; two daughters and their spouses, Rayna Lancaster and husband, Dan Robinson, of Tampa, and Mari and Karl Schneider of Dale; a special friend, Barbara McMahan of Stephenville; one brother and sister-in-law, Wayne and Phyllis Lancaster of Tomball; one sister and brother-in-law, Pansy and Ernie Bernard of Pleasanton, Calif.; and three grandchildren.

Honorary pallbearers were Brad Thompson, Marshall Sherrod, Charlie Lockhart, Billy Buster, J. Louis Evans, Gary Lewellen, Brent Wolf, Arnold Johnson, Herman Son and Barry Sanders.

Condolences can be made at www.lacyfuneral.com.

The family suggests memorials to the Barbara Lancaster Journalism Scholarship Fund, Tarleton State University, Box T-0767, Tarleton Station, Texas 76402.



Lancaster

"And He Was Gathered To His People . . ."

My wife has been collecting and displaying some old family photographs. She's been after me for awhile now to scan a small old photograph of my maternal grandparents that has long sat on a shelf in my office. And I just did.

I knew that little framed photo has been with me for a long time, but I had forgotten just how long until I carefully pulled it out of its



Focus On Faith
Curtis Shelburne

frame to place it on the scanner—and I noticed the handwritten inscription on the back of the picture. I recognized the distinctive hand immediately. It was Grandmother Key's writing for sure.

To Curtis Kline, 1965. Granddaddy and Grandmother Key.

One look at that script sent me on a trip down Memory Lane. I remembered my little grandmother's gentle but raspy voice and how she always called me "Curtis Kline."

To some of my family, I'm "C. K." To a couple of brothers and a few friends, I'm "Curt." And I come to "Curtis" just fine. But to Grandmother, I was always "Curtis Kline." And as I saw that fountain-penned script, I could almost hear

Grandmother saying to my mother, "This is for Curtis Kline for Christmas, and here's one for Jimmy." (You see, I'm pretty sure my younger brother Jim got one, too. And I'm sure his would be inscribed to "Jimmy.")

Looking closely at that picture, I was also struck by the fact that, though I've always looked something like Granddaddy Key, the resemblance is increasing. The mouth. The eyes. The face. And, yes, increasingly, the white hair! I never knew his to be any other color. He had it all, thick and full, but he ran out of pigment early. It was snowy white cotton for as long as I remember.

Granddaddy ranched and trucked all of his life. He died in 1975. It was sometime in the early 80s when Grandmother followed. But they don't seem that long gone. They're still a big part of who I am every day.

A good many of the writers of the Old Testament, after they've told the story of someone's life, say something like this: "And he was gathered to his people." Sometimes they add, "old and full of years."

I don't think I'm old yet, though I guess I'm middle-aged (47) if I plan to live to be 94. I am filling up with years, but not "full" yet. I love life and am in no undue hurry. But, you know, being gathered to my people, in God's good time, strikes me as not at all a bad thing.

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

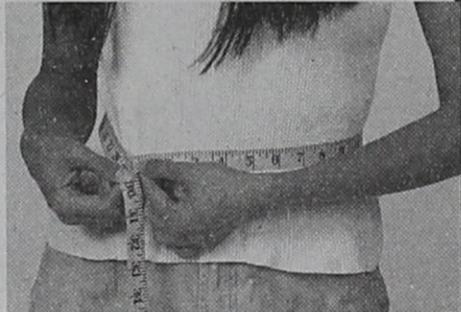
Have story or photo ideas?
Let us know! 272-4536

March IS Your Lucky Month!

Save Some Green... Then Get Lean!

Are you ready for swimsuits and shorts? If not, take advantage of our

March Madness Special



The First 25 Customers Who Sign-Up In March Will Get Their Enrollment Fee Waived!

But don't worry. Even if you're not one of the first 25 clients, you'll still get a deal. Sign up with a buddy and split the enrollment fee or sign up by yourself and get 1/2 off enrollment in March!



BODY & MORE FITNESS & WELLNESS CENTER

122 S. 1st St. • Muleshoe • 272-4363

Listen for the SCAC Bake Auction Saturday, March 6th on Channel 6 TV



Roy Aviles, Scott Jefferies, Craig LaDuke, Kyle Noack, Daniel "Booner" Smith, David Light (a SPI satisfied customer) and Carlos Rodriguez



Christy DeLaCruz, Tanya Noack and Stephanie Medina

Come in and meet our team this Friday! We will be serving refreshments and don't forget to sign up to win a new KAWASAKI MULE 3010 4X4 and for our monthly drawing!

We at South Plains Irrigation, Inc. have always strived to meet the needs of you, the farmer, with a good line of products that make life a little easier. We have knowledgeable service and sales staff that have had years of experience. You can rest assured that you and your pivot will be taken care of in a timely manner. We welcome you to come meet our team. Our "girls" will always greet you with a smile and help you in any way possible. Everyone at South Plains Irrigation, Inc. wants to thank each and everyone of our customers for their patronage!

CHOOSE FROM ONE OF THESE MONEY-SAVING OFFERS ON NEW ZIMMATIC IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

- Cash rebates up to \$150 per tower or \$1,200 U.S. on eight-tower Zimmatic systems.
- 6.3% low interest with 10% down and delayed first payment in 12 months. Five-year financing.
- Interest free for 12 months with only 10% down.

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Hurry in and be one of our eight customers eligible for our "FARM PLAN" 90-Day No-Payments/No-Interest* financing on any single "Farm Plan" purchase of up to \$25,000.

Hospital News

Muleshoe Area Medical Center reports the following patients:

February 19- James Burris, Cecilia Cumpian, Didi Esquivel, Hubert Faulkner, Raul Moreno, Olin Nix, Leonardo Ovalle, Bernardo Salcido, Maria Salinas, J. Shanks, Danny Wheeler and Laila Williams.

February 20- Cecilia Cumpian, Hubert Faulkner, Raul Moreno, Leonardo Ovalle, Bernardo Salcido, Maria Salinas, Audrey Smyer, Danny Wheeler, Laila Williams and Sherry White.

February 21- Celia Cardenas, Donald Clayton, Cecilia Cumpian, Margaret Epting, Hubert Faulkner,

Velta Fyie, Dorothy Hood, Mary Johnson, Jo Mayhugh, Raymond Robertson, Margie Rush and Sherry White.

February 22- Celia Cardenas, Donald Clayton, Cecilia Cumpian, Margaret Epting, Hubert Faulkner, Velta Fyie, Dorothy Hood, Mary Johnson, Jo Mayhugh, Raymond Robertson, Margie Rush and Sherry White.

February 23- Celia Cardenas, Donald Clayton, Cecilia Cumpian, Margaret Epting, Hubert Faulkner, Velta Fyie, Dorothy Hood, Mary Johnson, Jo Mayhugh, Raymond Robertson, Margie Rush and Sherry White.

Lela Ann Smith and Sheri Hawkins have joined the Central Billing Office in the hospital. Lela Ann has assumed the duties of Director of business Office Operations.

Sheri will preform the billing duties for Dr. Purdy's Family Medicine Clinic. Julie Mason is now the primary insurance biller and liaison for APS and the computer software system.

New employees at Park View are: Kimberly Harris, Olivia Barrera, Lisa Ybarra, Charlene Pinkston, Chyla Torres, and Leticia Gutierrez. Clifton Parker and Laura Wright are new RN's at the hospital.

The Hospital Auxiliary has been able to support the

hospital by purchasing a new paper folding machine and having the furniture in the Radiology/Lab waiting area reupholstered.

At the present, the OB Department is being refurbished and redecorated. It is exciting for the Auxiliary to be able to help.

Muleshoe Area Hospital

District experiences a deduction of revenue of 26 percent of every dollar charged.

For every dollar charged by the hospital and clinics, twenty six cents is not going to be collected. Subtract another nickel of each dollar of those charges that will not be paid by patients. The "deductions from revenue" is the

difference between what we charge and what payers, like Medicare, Medicaid, HMOs, PPOs and insurance companies actually pay. Do you know of any other business that would be happy to accept twenty-six cents off each dollar you owe? No, but that is the way it works for hospitals.

The People's Lawyer

By Richard M. Alderman

No one has to do business with you.

Q. I just received a bill from a company I do business with, for services rendered almost ten years ago. The company said they will no longer do business with me unless I pay this old bill. I probably owe the money, but isn't there a time limit on collecting debts?

A. Actually, there is no time limit on how long you owe a debt. Until it is paid, it exists. On the other hand, there are time limits on what steps may be taken to collect it.

For example, a lawsuit generally must be filed within four years of the time you default. If the person waits longer than the statute of limitations provides, it is a defense to any lawsuit. Also, negative information on your credit report becomes obsolete after seven years and generally may not be reported.

There is no legal limitation, however, on a business refusing to deal with a past customer. Every business has the right to decide with whom it will do business. If the company does not want to deal with someone who still owes money, the company has the right to do so. Your choice is to "pay-up" or do business somewhere else.

Q. I live in an apartment and have a lease until April 2005. My landlord told me he wants me out in 30 days to use my apartment as an office. Is this legal?

A. If you are paying your rent and have not violated the lease, the landlord cannot force you to move. The only way he has a legal right to require you to move early is if there is a clause in the lease giving him this authority. I suggest you read the lease carefully. Then, let the landlord know that you intend to abide by the lease and pay rent through next April. If he wants you to leave early, he can ask, and you can either accept or reject his proposal. You may be able to negotiate a settlement that will entice you to move out early.

Q. I was recently laid-off. I want to know what wages I am entitled to for vacation and

severance pay.

A. You may not be entitled to anything. Your rights depend on your contract. If you had an agreement about vacation pay and severance pay, you are entitled to what the employer agreed to pay. On the other hand, if nothing was said about vacation pay or severance pay, you are not entitled to any. There is no legal requirement that an employer give you vacation pay or a severance package.

Q. I bought an AKC registered dog. I recently received a letter stating that our AKC certification was denied. Do I have a claim against the seller?

A. In my opinion, the seller has violated the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act. The seller has misrepresented the quality of the dog, and breached a warranty that it was AKC registered. Under the law, you should be entitled to a refund, or, the difference in value between an AKC and a non-AKC registered dog.

I suggest you discuss this with the seller and try to work things out. If you cannot, consider small claims court. I should point out that if the

seller knew the dog could not be AKC registered, he could be liable for up to three times your damages under the Deceptive Trade Practices Act.

Q. I had an automobile accident. I am being sued by the person I hit for \$3,000. I have no insurance and no money. Can I force them to settle with me?

A. Whether you have insurance has nothing to do with whether you owe the money or may be sued. If you were at fault, you may be responsible for damages. The fact that you have no money does not mean the other side must settle with you. It is also important to note that if you are sued, lose and do not pay, the other person may have your driver's license and car registration suspended. He may also try and collect through the courts.

Although there is no way to "force" a settlement, it is always in everyone's best interest to try to "work things out." I suggest you talk to the other person, explain your situation, and see if you can work something out.

Want to know more? Check out my website, www.peopleslawyer.net

Hospital District News



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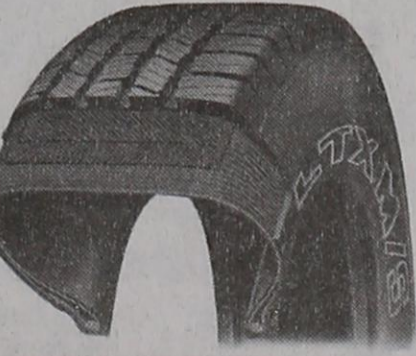
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P225/75R15 102 S	ORWL
P235/75R15 105 S	ORWL
P235/75R15 108 S XL	ORWL
LT195/75R14 93/90 R LRC	ORWL
LT215/75R15 100/97 R LRC	ORWL
LT235/75R15 104/101 R LRC	ORWL
30X9.50R15LT 104 R LRC	ORWL
31X10.50R15LT 109 R LRC	ORWL
31X11.50R15LT 110 R LRC	ORWL
32X11.50R15LT 113 R LRC	ORWL
33X12.12.50R15LT 108 R LRC	ORWL
LT225/75R16 110/107 R LRD	ORWL
LT235/85R16 120/116 R LRE	ORWL
LT245/75R16 120/116 R LRE	ORWL
LT265/75R16 112/109 R LRC	ORWL
245/70R16 107 S	ORBL
P275/70R16 114 H	ORBL
LT195/75R14 93/90 R LRC	ORBL
LT215/85R16 110/107 R LRD	ORBL
LT225/75R16 110/107 R LRD	ORBL
LT225/75R16 115/112 R LRE	ORBL
LT235/85R16 114/111 R LRD	ORBL
LT235/85R16 120/116 R LRE	ORBL
LT245/75R16 120/116 R LRE	ORBL

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2000228	LT265/75R16 (ROWL)	6	16.5
2000230	LT215/85R16	8	16.0
2000231	LT215/85R16	10	16.0
2000232	LT235/85R16	10	16.5
2000233	30X9.50R15 (ROWL)	6	16.5
2000234	31X10.5R15 (ROWL)	6	16.5

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Lady Mules end season in intense game against former champs

By DELTON WILHITE
Journal Sportswriter

The Lady Mules and Canyon tipped off the finals on Saturday afternoon and the Lady Eagles used their mystique and playoff experience to defeat the Lady Mules 42-26. The game was much closer than the final score as the two teams battled for the right to go to Austin.

The Lady Eagles of Canyon had history on their side in the championship game. About 3500 fans watched the much-anticipated defensive battle in the United Spirit Arena.

Friskup drained a 3-pointer as the first period ended with the Lady Mules trailing 7-4. Canyon went on a 12 point scoring run in the

first three minutes of the second period.

B. Wood broke the Lady Mule scoring drought with a drive down the lane and Benham went coast to coast as the Lady Mules chipped away at the Canyon lead. Benham added two free throws to end the half with the Lady Mules trailing 19-10.

L. Wood saw Carpenter breaking down the base line and delivered her the ball as the third period began. Carpenter was hammered on the shot but converted both charity tosses. Benham drew the defense inside and fired the ball to the corner to Barton.

Barton drained a trey to cut the Eagle lead to four points with six minutes left in the period. Canyon an-

swered with a trey before Benham hit a 15-foot jumper. L. Wood answered an Eagle bucket with a put back.

Benham blocked back to back shots as the period wound down. Canyon managed to score the final two points to take a 26-19 advantage into the final frame.

Barton nailed her second trey of the night to again trim the Canyon lead to four points. Canyon made eight of 10 free throws down the stretch to seal the game.

"Our defense held Canyon to 46 points tonight," said Simms. "If a few of our shots in the first period had fallen, it could have been a different ball game."

"I am so proud of these girls. They have been a joy

to coach and to be with all season. We will miss Sara and Tori next year, but they have really raised the standards for Lady Mule basketball in the future," concluded Simms.

Benham paced the Lady Mules with 10 points and Barton had seven. Friskup made three points; L. Wood, Carpenter and B. Wood each added two for the Lady Mules.

The Lady Mules finished their historic season at 31-6. Three of the five teams that had beaten the Lady Mules during the regular season played Saturday afternoon in regional finals.



Journal photo: Norman Brantley

Great players all

Sara Benham (52) goes for a basket with the Lady Eagles working the defense they're know for. This team went further than any Lady Mule team since the 60s.

Lady Mules place five on all-district team

By DELTON WILHITE
Journal Sportswriter

Five Lady Mules were named to the District 2-3A All-District team.

Sara Benham was named as the district's Most Valuable Player.

Brandi Wood was honored as Co-Newcomer of the Year.

Kelsy Friskup, Tori Barton and Lindsey Wood were honored as members of the elite team.

Mekayla Cowen of Littlefield was named as the Defensive MVP and Chelsea Francis of Slaton was Co-Newcomer of the Year.

Renee' Andrews and Sarah Mitchell of Slaton, Casey Serbantez of Brownfield and Jordan Perry of Lubbock Cooper were also honored.

Tawannami Mitchell, Whitney Demel and Ashley Cunningham of Littlefield round out the squad.

Mules land on 2-3A All District Team

By DELTON WILHITE
Journal Sportswriter

Landon Sheets and Brady Black were honored as members of the District 2-3A All-District Team. Nicky Guana of Dimmitt was named as Most Valuable Player, Brian Cloud of Lubbock Cooper as the Defensive MVP and Epi Salazar of Littlefield and Jervon Fisher of Brownfield were named as Co-New-

comers of the Year.

Charlie Saenz and Adam Wright of Dimmitt, Joe Richards and Jensen Sexton of Littlefield and Tyron Nedd and Adrain Perez of Slaton were also honored. Chase Clark and Rhyne Fuller of Lubbock Cooper round out the elite team.

Tyler Sheets, Sterling Via, Tatom Heathington and Layne Sheets were named as Honorable Mentions to the squad.

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Lady Mule softballers beat Dimmitt, but not weather

By DELTON WILHITE
Journal Sportswriter

The Lady Mule softball team won their opening game of the season by blasting the Dimmitt Bobbies 28-4. Deanne Cody held the Bobbies to only four runs on five hits.

Both teams are playing their first season of softball. Cody moved to Muleshoe this year and has pitching experience that gives the Lady Mules an edge over most first year programs.

Sarah Sexton led off the game by being hit by a pitch and stole second on the first pitch to Erica Sanchez. Sanchez picked up an infield hit and moved Sexton to third. Sanchez moved to second on a passed ball.

Cody stroked a single to right field and collected two RBIs to put the Lady Mules on top to stay. Madison Smith reached on an error and Minerva Martinez walked. Both scored on a series of passed balls before the Lady Mules final out.

The Bobbies first batter grounded out to Kyla Ellis at third and the second grounded out to Smith at shortstop. The Bobbies got their only hit of the inning with a single to center and added a second base runner with a hit batsman.

Dimmitt's final out came on a ground ball to Jenna Rasco at second base. The

Lady Mules led 4-0 after one full inning.

Sexton and Sanchez both drew walks after Keri Copley grounded out to start the second inning. Cody blasted a hot grounder to third and an over throw to first scored both Sexton and Sanchez. Cody to move to second on the error where Zannia Avilla replaced her as the base runner.

Smith drew a walk before Martinez blasted a line drive single to the right field fence. Martinez's hit scored Smith and Avilla. A series of walks and errors allowed the Lady Mules to score 13 runs in the second inning on two hits.

It was another short at bat for the Bobbies as they sent six batters to the plate and scored a run on one hit before making their third out. The Lady Mules added five runs with five hits in the third inning.

Dimmitt collected three hits and three runs in the bottom of the third to trail the Lady Mules 22-4.

The Lady Mules padded their run count with six runs on two hits in the top of the fourth inning. It was three up and three down in the bottom of the fourth for the Bobbies.

Three ground balls in a row to Smith, Cody and Ellis set the Bobbies down in order.

"We made too many er-

rors today," said Lady Mule coach Steve Dunn. "We have to cut down on mistakes and hit the ball when we take on teams that have been playing for a while."

"We are a good team now but when we get our full team out we will be a lot better. We will have more depth and be a fun team to watch," concluded Dunn.

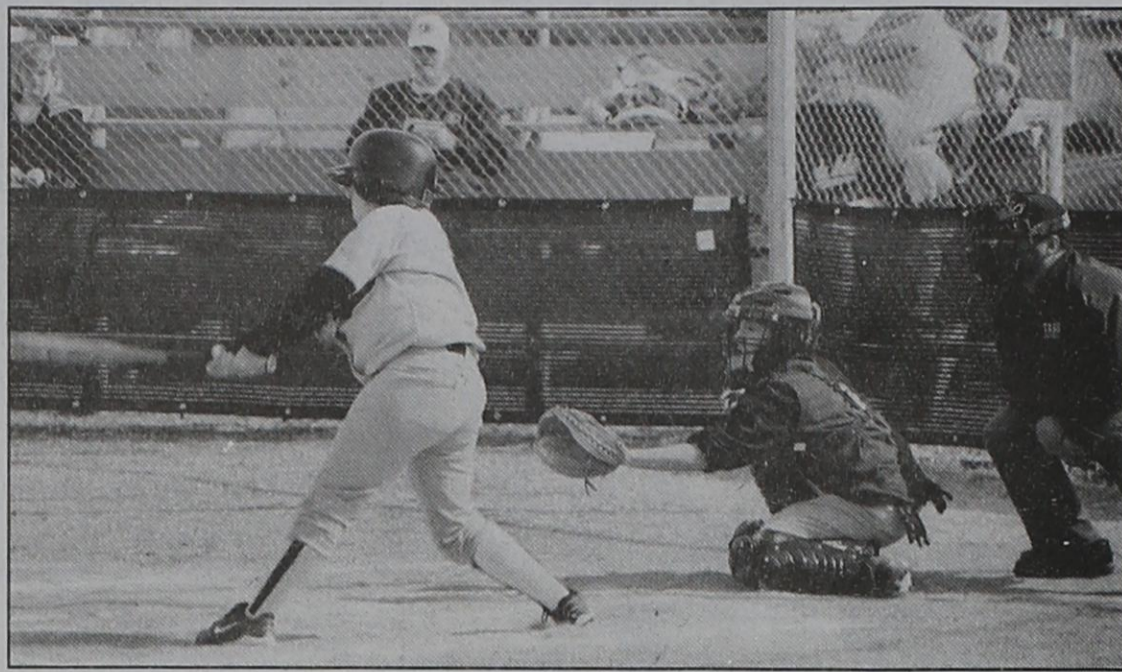
The Lady Mules game with Levelland was changed to Monday because of the Lady Mules playoff basketball game scheduled for Tuesday. The game was called because of rain. The Lady Mules are scheduled to play Denver City Saturday.

The Lady Mules were well on their way to Coach Steve Dunn's 100th win when Mother Nature intervened on Saturday. The Lady Mules had a 10-0 lead after two innings when lightning stopped the game.

Rain and hail soon followed and the umpires were forced to call the game.

The Lady Mules traveled to Levelland to battle the Loboettes on Tuesday in the Lady Mules first real test of the season. March 6th the Lady Mules go to Seminole and then travel to Idalou on Saturday.

The Lady Mules will host their first tournament March 11-13. Dimmitt, Littlefield, Idalou, New Deal, Seminole JV and Portales will all participate.



Journal photo: Davie Browder

Batta batta batta swwwing

The Lady Muleshoe softball team is off to a great start and some local observers think they will be real contenders, even though this is the first year for the program.

Heritage Board news

The Muleshoe area has some secret ingredient which leads to success. Citizens of this area do not spend much time mulling over why a project cannot be accomplished but rather how it can and when to get started. This enthusiasm is evident at the Heritage Board meetings. The monthly meeting was held at the Santa Fe Depot Monday, March 1 with Joe Bollinger conducting the business meeting in the absence of the president, Dustin Wilhite. Board members present in addition to Bollinger were Jenne McVicker, Dan Throckmorton, Larry Nickels, Gary Hooten, gene Rogers, LaVonne McKillip, Betty Kerby, Sammie Simpson, Vivian White and Jean Allison

Hooten led the opening prayer and Secretary McVicker read the minutes which were approved after two corrections were made. Hooten presented the financial report and noted

that a number of large bills were paid in the past month. Throckmorton reported that the fencing is in and will be stored until a work day. Members decided to have a work day Sat., March 6 to also dig ditches for the new shrubs and trees which should arrive this month. The work day will begin at 11 a.m. A short report was given about the Virginia City Hotel which will soon be moved to the Center.

Simpson gave a report about the Texas Trails tours which will be coming to this area soon. She said brochures are being made to advertise the tours and will soon go out as well as be on the website. She is a member of the Texas Trials Board and she said the board will meet at the Heritage Center April 15 at 11 a.m.

It was noted the hostess, Dolores Harvey, is in the local hospital. Members hope she's well soon.

Bollinger gave a report on the United Bike Ride which is planned for next year and will go to all United stores. He noted this will be the biggest bike ride in the United States with the largest purse. United recently donated \$350,000 the Lance Armstrong fund for cancer research. Armstrong has recognized the ride and all money made will be used for cancer research. Bollinger further stated some of the top bike riders in the world will be riding in the United Bike Ride coming to Muleshoe.

It was reported advertising for the annual Tour de Muleshoe bike ride has gone to the annual Hotter Than Hell bike ride held in Wichita Falls each year. Lonnie Adrian noted how many bike riders will read about the Muleshoe ride form this advertising.

Members voted to meet in the future at 7 p.m. rather than 5 p.m. before voting to adjourn.

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02 Pontiac Grand Am SE	\$12,645	\$8,994
01 Buick Century	\$11,890	\$8,994
00 Buick LeSabre	\$11,195	\$9,994
03 Pontiac Sunfire SE	\$11,515	\$9,994
02 Olds Intrigue	\$13,695	\$10,994
03 Pontiac Grand Am SE	\$14,040	\$10,994
03 Buick Century	\$13,840	\$11,994
03 Pontiac Vibe	\$15,815	\$12,994
03 Pontiac Grand Prix SE	\$16,475	\$13,994
03 Buick Regal	\$17,285	\$14,994
03 Buick LeSabre	\$18,275	\$15,994
03 Buick Park Avenue	\$25,045	\$23,994

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03 Chevy Blazer LS 4x4	\$20,345	\$17,994
01 Chevy Silverado LS 4 Door 2x2	\$19,790	\$18,494
00 GMC Sierra SLE 1/2 Ton 4 Door 2x2, only 25,000 miles	\$21,395	\$18,994
01 GMC Sierra SLE 4 Door 4x4, only 20,000 miles	\$24,395	\$21,994
02 GMC Sierra SLE 4 Door 2x2, only 20,000 miles	\$24,095	\$21,994
03 Chevy Silverado LS 4 Door, 2x2	\$22,210	\$21,994
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03 Chevy Silverado LS 4 Door 4x4	\$25,835	\$24,994
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Police Report

**Muleshoe Police Department
Weekly Arrest Reports
Week of Feb. 22, 2004**

Sunday, February 22, 2004
CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL BY MINOR
Juvenile
200 block E Ave B ST

Monday, February 23, 2004
ASSAULT CAUSE BODILY INJURY
Juvenile
W 100 block of J Ave

Saturday, February 28, 2004
DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED
REYNA, ISRAEL JR
100 W Cedar St
(Names of juveniles can not be released by police according to state law.)

Muleshoe Police Department reports the following calls:
February 22 — An officer made contact with a woman who was later arrested for an alcohol related offense.
February 23 — Complainant came to the MPD to report customer had not returned movies rented from her business. The Police Department was notified of a missing person. The Amarillo Police Department was notified since the missing individual was last known to be in Amarillo.
 Muleshoe High School reported that someone had set off the fire alarm in the weight room of the Athletic Department.
 MPD notified of an assault (14-year-old male assaulted mother). Juvenile transported to Lubbock per JPO.
February 24 — An adult male fled on foot from a police officer.
February 25 — The MPD received an animal related complaint. Officers responded.
February 26 — MPD was contacted in reference to a minor collision without injuries. An officer responded.
 An officer responded to a disturbance call at the high school weight room.
 MPD received a report of retaliation. An officer responded to the call.
February 28 — An adult male was arrested in the 200 block of East Cedar and charged with Driving While Intoxicated. Subject called PD in reference to suspicious check cashing activity at the local grocery store.
 Officers were dispatched to a criminal mischief call where an intoxicated female was taken into custody after making suicidal statements.
 A citizen reported harassing phone calls received at a residence.

City government now has web site

The city of Muleshoe has now taken up a residence on what has been called the information super highway. Starting Tuesday morning the city has created a web site that citizens, visitors and other interested parties can use to find out what is going on in the city. "We've been working on getting the site up and are proud of this first attempt to communicate through the web," said Muleshoe City Manager David Brunson. The address is: city-of-muleshoe.com. It is necessary to put the hypens between the words. Each city department is represented on the site, with e-mail addresses to most of the department heads and city officials available. Besides e-mail addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers and the like the site offers agendas and minutes of council meetings, amount of fines from city court and more. Under the public safety category the arrest and incident reports will be posted on a week by week basis, allowing interested parties to see who has done what, or at least who got caught at it. "This is a work in progress and we welcome residents to offer any suggestions they might have to make the site better," Brunson said.

Sheriff's Report


February 21 — Rene Robles, 32, displaying fictitious tags;
February 22 — Ashley Nicole Lopez, 17, minor in consumption; Jose Navarro Rosales, 33, DWI; Tommy Ray Marlow, 47, theft;
February 26 — Juanita Delapaz, 41, Potter County warrant;
February 27 — Rpsa Sigala Romero, 45, cruelty to animals;
February 28 — Israel Reyna, 38, DWI;
February 29 — Akeem Johnson, 18, probation violation - Clovis;
March 1 — Rudolpho Toscano, 42, warrant Scurry County;
March 2 — Randy Jaramillo, 47, blue warrant on parole violation.

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Alpha Zeta Pi invites you to be a part of Muleshoe history. We are compiling a cookbook full of the community's best-loved and sought-after recipes. Submit yours today. Join us in this new Muleshoe tradition!

Instructions: TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY IN INK. One recipe per form. If you wish to submit additional recipes, please use a separate sheet of paper. List all ingredients in order of use in ingredients list and directions. Include container sizes, e.g., 16-oz. pkg., 24-oz. can. Keep directions in paragraph form - not in steps. Use names of ingredients in the directions, DO NOT use statements like "Combine first three ingredients." Your recipes should fit into the following categories: APPETIZERS & BEVERAGES, SOUPS & SALADS, VEGETABLES & SIDE DISHES, MAIN DISHES, BREADS & ROLLS, DESSERTS, COOKIES & CANDY, and THIS & THAT.

Category: _____ Recipe Title: _____

Submitted by: _____ Phone: _____

INGREDIENTS: (Use abbreviations: pt., qt., pkg., env., c., tsp., T., oz., lb., gal., doz., sm., med., lg.)

DIRECTIONS: _____

Reserve your books now, they will be available in September. Please reserve _____ cookbook(s) for me. Detach and mail this form to 334 West Ave. J, Muleshoe, TX 79347. For questions, call 272-3172 or email muleshoecookbook@hotmail.com. Proceeds from this cookbook benefit upcoming Alpha Zeta Pi projects.

Ladies Golf Association news

Laverne Winn, president, opened the meeting with prayer led by Sheryl Engelking.

The club welcomed a special guest, Analita Haley's daughter Karen Lechner. Everyone wished Helen Templeton a happy birthday on February 25.

Muleshoe Country Club served the ladies prime rib with creamed potatoes, green beans, dinner rolls, a garden salad and banana bread.

The secretary and treasurer's reports were given by Deborah Noble and Judy Wilbanks, which were approved as read.

As for old business, a thank you card from Lynn Box was read.

In new business, Winn suggested that the club come up with a community project. The ladies were asked to be thinking about it and a discuss will take place during the next meeting.

Linda Elder gave the Hi-Plains playday report. The directors of the tournament will meet here at the club March 3. She reminded us that Hereford has gone up on their green fees. The West Texas Women's Longstar is having a Spring Fling at Big Springs, April



Scramble Winners Sheryl Engelking, Pat Kirk and Helen Templeton

20-21. This will be on a Tuesday and Wednesday.

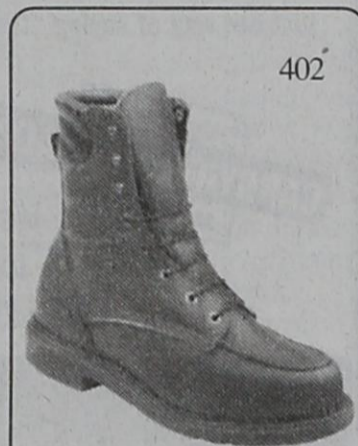
Our Playday Chairman, Helen Templeton, reported that there were no playday balls to be given as there were no golfers who have competed since the last meeting.

She then divided us up into two scramble teams. Team one was Winn, Noble, Neats Foster and Haley. The second team consisted of Templeton, Pat Kirk and Engelking. Team two won.

Elder asked Engelking to draw for the door prize, which Elder won.

Members present were Elder, Engelking, Foster, Haley, Darlene Henry, Kirk, Pamela Miller, Noble, Jo

Rempe, Dorothy St. Clair, Templeton, Wilbanks, Winn and Jenny Bamert.



402



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One More Time!

Republican Primary: Tuesday, March 9th

The Battle's Not Over Yet!

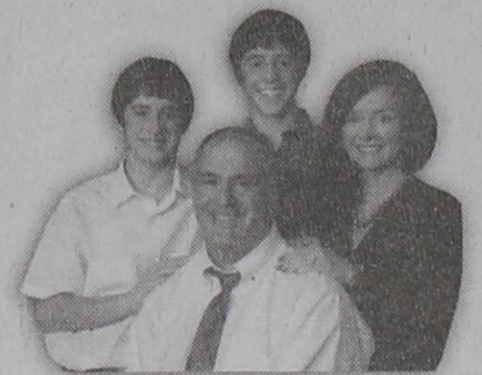
★ Republican Primary Election: Tuesday, March 9th ★

Please Mark Your Calendar: This is the vote that counts the most!

Thank you for your support in the recent special election. With your help, we won 56% and 18 of 26 counties. **But the election battle is not over yet!** Your support in the Republican Primary is now needed to determine who will hold this State Senate seat from 2005-2009.

This is the third time in the past three months I've asked for your support. I would be honored to earn your vote one more time.

Re-elect



Vote For Kel "One More Time" In The GOP Primary: Tuesday, March 9th

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Sports Academy sends gymnasts to first competition of season

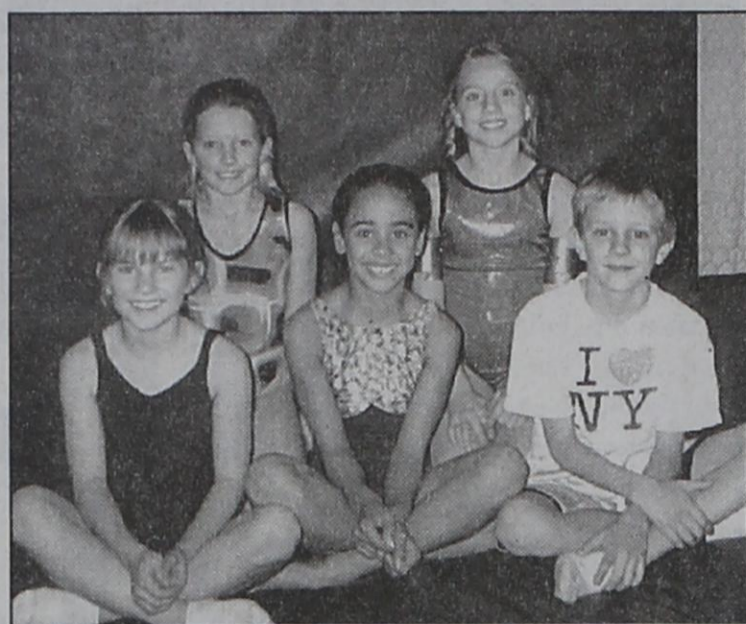
Muleshoe Sports Academy recently sent a team to Levelland for their first competition of the new season. USA Gymnastics has started a new program to develop young athletes in the sport of trampoline and tumbling by starting USA Gymnastics Division 1.

This program is a non-stressful competitive program starting at age 2 and going to age 17.

West Texas Training Center in Levelland hosted the first of these events along with a more competitive Division 2 competition.

"This was a good way for us to start this year. We had lots of participation from the athletes at the Sports Academy and hope this program will build and more athletes will take advantage of the it," said Will Green, MSA director.

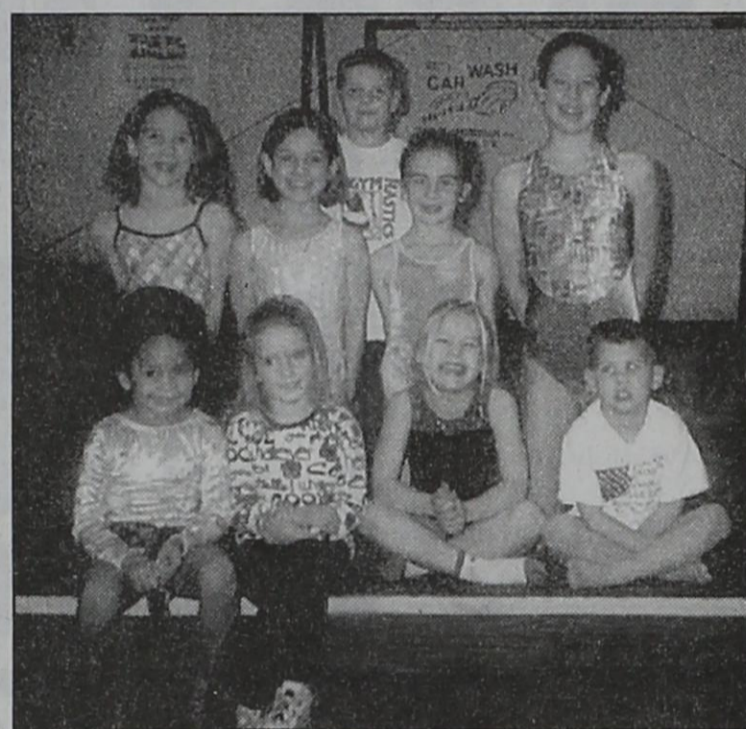
Athletes that participated in the competition in Levelland were: Jessica Kube, Kaylie Miller, Garrison Myers, Adrienne Precure, Baylee Bessire, Hanna Miller, Emily Precure, Rachel Precure, Treg Box, Madeline Precure, AnnMarie McClelland, Cade Box, Madison Chester, and Katlin Luscombe.



Courtesy photos

Gymnasts take to the mat

Muleshoe Sports Academy gymnasts recently competed in the first meet of the 2004 season. Pictured above are (top row left to right): Adrienne Precure and Baylee Bessire, (bottom row) Jessica Kube, Kaylie Miller and Garrison Myers. (Below, top row) Also competing were: Madeline Precure, AnnMarie McClelland, Cade Box, Madison Chester, Kaitlyn Luscombe and (bottom row) Hannal Miller, Emily Precure, Rachel Precure and Treg Box.



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Mules open baseball season with pair of wins

By DELTON WILHITE
Journal Sportswriter

The Mules won their first two games of the young baseball season by downing Friona and Lockney. The Mules dropped the Friona Chiefs 17-1 and dumped the Lockney Longhorns 7-2.

Brian King pitched the season opener and against the Chiefs and allowed only three hits and one run. The Mules only error was in the first inning and cost the Mules no runs.

The Mules set Friona down in order in the top of the second inning. Jarad Flores gathered in a ground ball at shortstop and fired the ball to Tyrell Gear for the first out. King came off the mound to field a bunt for the second out. Arium Perez recorded the final out by fielding a pop fly to second base.

King helped his own cause with a high fly to fence in center for a triple and scored on a passed ball. Jarad Flores drew a walk and stole second on the first pitch. Ryan Marricle blasted

a line drive over the left center field fence for the Mules first home run.

Gear blasted a line drive single to right that tailed away from the fielder. Geoff Sirkle reached on an error and moved to second on a walk to Robby Bomer. Perez put a two strike swinging bunt down the first base line

Friona made back to back throwing errors that scored Gear, Sirkle and Bomer. Perez moved to third on the errors. Landon Wilson lofted a sacrifice fly to center to collect the Mules seventh and final run of the inning.

Flores gathered in a hard hit ball for the Chief's first out of the third inning and King struck out the second. Friona strung together three base hits to score their only run of the game before a ground ball to Flores led to the final out.

The Mules more than batted around in the third inning to stop the Chiefs on the 10-run rule.

The Mules scored seven runs on seven hits against

Lockney. The Longhorns only pushed two runs across on seven hits. Flores collected his first win of the season and struck out four batters in four innings.

King picked up the save with seven strikeouts in three innings. Flores helped his own cause with three hits on four at bats and scored two runs. Juan Nunez was two for two at the plate and picked up a RBI.

Brant Hamilton and King each had a hit and scored a run for the Mules.

"The kids are working hard in practice," said Mule coach Gilbert Ramirez. "Because of their hard work the games have been a lot of fun for them."

The Mules are in the Lockney Tournament March 4-6 and travel to Idalou March 9. The Mules host Plains March 15 at 2 PM.

Due to the sale of our leased facilities by ADM on East American Blvd., Muleshoe Pea & Bean, Inc. would like to notify our customers that all offices will be centrally located at the processing plant off of West Hwy. 84 as of March 1.

Thank you for your continued patronage and we look forward to serving your future needs.

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Precinct 4 County Commissioner

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March 9, 2004

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4. Spend citizens' tax dollars wisely.
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Your vote will be appreciated.

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Preserving the Pledge of Allegiance

BY GREG ABBOTT
Attorney General of Texas

Half a century after Congress added the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance, the U.S. Supreme Court is poised to consider whether those words make it impermissible for children to recite the Pledge in our nation's public schools.

Michael Newdow, the man at the center of the case now before the Court, contends that requiring students to say the words "under God" in the Pledge unconstitutionally establishes religion. An overwhelming majority of others, including Texas and all other states, strongly disagrees.

The case, which originated in California, has obvious implications for every state. In a brief I submitted this week to the Supreme Court, I argue on behalf of all 50 states that reciting "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools is well within the confines of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In Texas, for example, schools must teach students to be "thoughtful, active citizens who understand the importance of patriotism."

One way school districts are accomplishing that goal is by having students recite the Pledge of Allegiance once during each school day. Yet, an adverse ruling from the Court would undermine that law and those of at least 42 other states that specifically provide for public school children reciting the Pledge.

It's no secret that many of the founders of our nation and state not only believed in God, but also sought Divine guidance in fashioning our system of government. That they chronicled this reliance on God stands to reason, and it explains why so many of our historical documents, speeches and even architecture acknowledge God in one way or another.

The Declaration of Independence alone contains four references to God, including its unambiguous statement that all persons are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights."

Likewise, the Texas Constitution begins by "invoking the blessings of Almighty God."

The Pledge of Allegiance, too, is part of our common heritage. After an early form first appeared in a youth publication in 1892, the Pledge grew in acceptance and changed form until Congress officially adopted it in 1942.

Twelve years later, Congress changed it once more, inserting the phrase "under God" to make the Pledge more reflective of the nation's character.

Congressional committee reports from the time of the 1954 amendment echo the Declaration of Independence, noting that our government recognizes the importance of each person as being "endowed by (God) with certain inalienable rights which no civil authority may usurp."

The addition of "under God" meant the Pledge was not the first, but simply the latest, historical and patriotic acknowledgment of our nation's undeniable religious heritage.

I am encouraged by the fact that virtually every reference to the Pledge of Allegiance by the Supreme Court and by at least 12 individual justices over the decades has agreed the Pledge is entirely consistent with the First Amendment.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, for example, expressed her view in 1985's *Wallace v. Jaffree* that the reference to God in the Pledge of Allegiance "serve(s) as an acknowledgment of religion with 'the legitimatesecular purposes of solemnizing public occasions, (and) expressing confidence in the future.'"

Even Justice William Brennan, one of the Court's more liberal members, admitted in the 1963 case *School District of Abington Township v. Schempp* that "(t)he reference to divinity in the revised pledge of allegiance . . . may merely recognize the historical fact that our Nation

was believed to have been founded 'under God.' "

The Court clearly has acknowledged a key distinction between government-sponsored religious ceremony or display, and simple historical and patriotic recognition of religion by government institutions.

To be certain, there are others like Mr. Newdow - a self-described atheist - who do not see themselves as personally "under God."

The U.S. Constitution protects their right not to believe

in God, just as it safeguards others who choose to do so. But that is not the issue here. Ultimately, what is at stake in preserving the Pledge in its current form is whether our school children will continue to be taught the truth that acknowledgment of God is woven just as tightly into our nation's fabric as are the other elements of our heritage.

Information on this and other topics is available on the Attorney General's Web site at www.oag.state.tx.us.

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Assessment, dates, rates set

ABILENE - The Texas Department of Agriculture has established the 2004 assessment rate, due date and discount date for the Northwest Plains Zone of the boll weevil eradication program.

The assessment for 2004 in the NWP is \$5 per dry land acre and \$12 per irrigated land acre, the rate established by growers and landowners in the original referendum.

Growers with failed acres are eligible to receive a credit on those acres destroyed before the final certification date.

Qualifying failed acres must remain free of all hostable cotton until a killing freeze to receive the credit.

Assessment notices will be mailed by Aug. 20, and payment is due Sept. 25.

Growers who pay by Sept. 10 are eligible to receive a 2 percent discount on their assessment.

The Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation is a nonprofit, grower-initiated and funded organization dedicated to eliminating the cotton boll weevil from the state in the most cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner possible.



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Beware of 'tax reduction' scams

BY GREG ABBOTT
Attorney General of Texas

Protecting senior citizens is a top priority of my administration. We do not tolerate individuals or businesses that target senior Texans for financial exploitation. That is why we recently took legal action to halt alleged violations of the Deceptive Trade Practices Act by an outfit offering "tax reductions" to seniors for a fee.

In Texas, certain tax advantages are available to persons over the age of 65. Any homeowner, not just a senior, can apply for a homestead exemption on a primary place of residence. However, there are special, additional exemptions available to seniors. You can contact your local tax assessor/collector for more information. There is no fee for making the application for a homestead exemption. However, certain companies offer to "process" the application for a fee. Generally, the company is simply filling out the application and filing it for you. You could easily save the fee by filling out this simple application for yourself. Some companies in the past have styled their advertising to make it appear that they are an official taxing authority, or that their fee must be paid in order for the homeowner to receive the exemption.

In fact, the law requires the company to make it quite clear that they are not a governmental agency. Our regional Consumer Protection Office in Dallas, acting on consumer complaints, filed a lawsuit and obtained a temporary restraining order recently against a company that presented itself as a "tax processing center."

The company mailed a solicitation to Collin County seniors, seeking a \$55 fee. In addition to taking immediate legal action, we issued a Senior Alert to inform homeowners that the reductions offered in the sales pitch were all available directly from their local taxing authority.

The solicitation also mentioned a tax "freeze" for the elderly. This is a reference to another option available to seniors. The option is better described as a ceiling, rather than a freeze, because it provides that their property taxes will not go up for that home so long as there are no new improvements, once they have registered as over-65

homeowners.

If, for some reason their property is reassessed at a lower value, their taxes may go down, but they may not go up. There is no fee for applying for this benefit. Another tax provision that may benefit a senior homeowner is the property tax deferral. This is an arrangement that makes it so that seniors may defer, or delay, the payment of taxes. The tax must still eventually be paid, but it is allowed to simply accrue during the homeowner's lifetime.

The unpaid taxes do accrue interest, however. The deferred taxes and interest are then eventually paid out of the estate after the homeowner's death.

The tax deferral can be a great benefit for certain homeowners with limited income. If the homeowner has applied for deferral, there are no penalties for delaying the payment of the taxes.

However, a tax lien is placed on the property. Seniors may choose not to use the deferral option, because it can significantly reduce the value of their estate and the amount their heirs will inherit. But for some senior homeowners, it may providemuch needed relief. Beware of any solicitation that involves a fee to apply or register you for tax reductions, freezes, ceilings or deferrals. You can apply for anyof those benefits yourself from your local taxing authority.

POINTS TO REMEMBER TAX BREAKS FOR SENIOR TEXANS

- * No fee to apply for special homestead exemptions
- * No fee to register for tax ceilings
- * No fee to apply for deferrals
- * Deferrals are recouped from the estate, with interest
- * Tax deferral creates a tax lien on the property

Contact your local county tax assessor-collector for more information. Sign up to receive our Senior Alerts in the Senior Texans section of our Web site at: www.oag.state.tx.us Contact your local Area Agency on Aging to inquire about programs and services for seniors at (800) 252-9240. Legal Hotline for Older Texans free legal advice to Texans age 60+ at (800) 622-2520 Information on this and other topics is available on the Attorney General's Web site at www.oag.state.tx.us.

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7475	'02 Honda Accord SE	\$16,995	\$13,700
7477	'02 Honda Accord VP	\$13,995	\$12,000
7501	'01 Kia Optima	\$8,995	\$7,000
7500	'01 Mazda Millenia	\$14,995	\$12,500
7449	'00 Nissan Maxima SE	\$14,995	\$12,000
7573	'03 Toyota Camry LE	\$15,995	\$14,000
7564	'96 Chevy C1500 4x2	\$7,995	\$6,500
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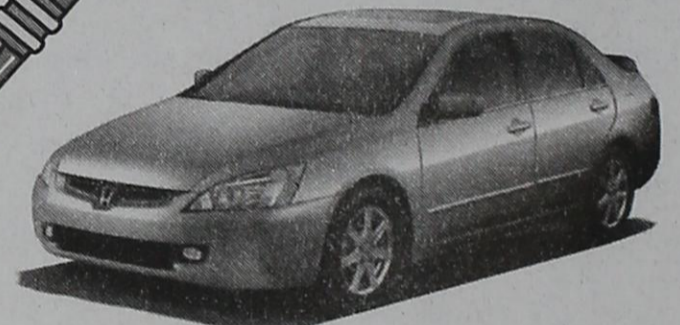
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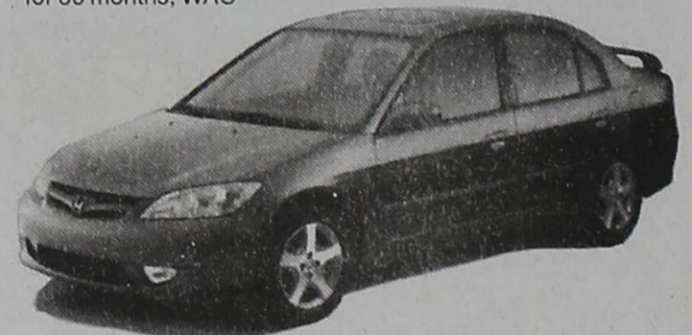
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HONDA

The 'baby boomers' guide to Social Security

BY MARY JANE SHANES

Social Security Manager, Plainview

Not too long ago, it seemed all "baby boomers" were citizens of Woodstock Nation, convinced that they would never grow old. Now they all know better.

The oldest baby boomers will turn 58 next year, and they are more likely to sing along with elevator music than with the new rock bands on MTV.

In just a few short years, around 2008, the first wave of these baby boomers will become eligible for Social Security retirement benefits.

So here is a short guide to Social Security for those "baby boomers" who are soon to be "senior boomers."

First, you have probably already heard that your full retirement age is going up. Pegged at 65 for the first six decades of the program, the age at which a person can begin collecting full Social Security benefits is on its way up to 67.

But to give people time to plan for the future, this increase, which was part of the Social Security Amendments of 1983, did not begin until this year.

And it is going up in gradual steps. People born in 1938 must be age 65 and 2 months to collect full Social Security benefits.

Those born in 1939 must be 65 and 4 months. The two-month per year increase continues until it reaches 66 for people born in 1943. The retirement age levels off at age 66 for many baby boomers - those born from 1943 through 1954 - then rises again in two-month increments until it reaches 67 for people born in 1960 and later.

Second, boomers should know that although Congress changed Social Security's full retirement age, it did not change the early retirement age. It is still 62.

But the reduction in your benefit for taking retirement at age 62 is gradually increasing from 20 percent to 30 percent over the next 20 years.

Third, there are certain facts of life that, in particular, baby boomer women need to be aware of.

Boomer women will be the first generation of women who are more likely to get higher benefits on their own Social Security record than on a spouse's record.

Boomer women are also more likely than earlier generations to have been divorced.

And boomer women who are married are likely to outlive their husbands.

All of these situations can affect their Social Security entitlement and, for that reason, boomer women should check out Social Security Information for Women at www.socialsecurity.gov/women/ <<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/women/>>

And here is a final tip for baby boomers of both genders: think online.

Most boomers are now comfortable using computers to conduct business, so they expect and appreciate online government services.

And Social Security delivers. Boomers can use our online retirement planners and calculators to figure out how future Social Security benefits will fit into overall financial plans - www.socialsecurity.gov/planners <<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners>>

And as they edge ever closer to Social Security retirement age, they can file for their benefits online - www.socialsecurity.gov/applytoretire <<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applytoretire>>

All of this and more is available at www.socialsecurity.gov <<http://www.socialsecurity.gov>>

Social Security Q&A:

Q: I receive Social Security benefits, but work part time and still pay into Social Security. Will the extra taxes I'm still paying increase my Social Security payment? If so, how do I apply for that increase?

A: If your current earnings will increase your monthly Social Security benefit, then you will get it automatically. You do not have to apply for it. You generally get the increase by October of the following year. In other words, if you worked in 2002 and your earnings

increased the amount of your monthly Social Security benefit, you would get a benefit adjustment by October 2003 that pays you back to January 2003 and increases your monthly amount thereafter.

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Cotton Report

New York cotton futures rallied to a strong finish on Feb. 26 as trade and speculative buying was spurred on by discussion that China will be purchasing more cotton in the coming weeks. Traders said unconfirmed reports that China has issued additional cotton import permits whipped through the market Thursday.

China is a large importer of U.S. cotton, and industry observers expect the trend to continue. According to USDA figures, since the start of the 2003-04 marketing year China has bought 4.09 million bales of U.S. cotton compared with 1.02 million bales at the same time one year ago. Continuing the recent trend, China again was the top buyer of U.S. cotton in USDA's latest weekly export sales report.

Several sources said the report fell below analysts' expectations of 300,000 to 500,000 bales of cotton while others said the sales figure seemed to be in line with expectations.

Export shipments of 271,800 bales for the same period were 5 percent less than the previous week and 6 percent lower than the four-week average. Primary destinations included China, Mexico and Turkey. Some analysts believe export shipments need to be higher to reach USDA's goal for the marketing year.

The Step 2 program now is in its second week of positive calculations. In order to be re-established, the Step 2 program requires four consecutive weeks of positive calculations. If Step 2 is re-established, export shipments likely will accelerate. On the spot cotton scene, online sales by Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas producers in the five trading days ended Feb. 26 totaled 41,826 bales, more than six times the previous week's sales of 6,434 bales. Prices received by producers selling their cotton online ranged from 61.91 to 63.95 cents per pound versus the prior week's 57.68 to 60.74 cents per pound range. The large sales figure for the week was due in part to the market surge on Feb. 26 which boosted online sales to 24,049 bales for the day. In other news, meteorologists now say rainfall totals are up this year in areas of West Texas where farmers have been in the midst of a nearly decade long drought that has cost billions of dollars in lost agriculture revenues. According to the National Weather Service in Lubbock, the city and its surrounding area is 1.76 inches above its normal of 1.15 inches for both January and February.

The region has been in a drought for at least eight years, the Texas Department of Agriculture said. During the first four of those years, the state lost \$5.5 billion in agriculture revenues, a department spokeswoman said. Figures for the more recent years haven't been compiled yet, she added.

The increase in rainfall will be beneficial for the region's farmers. Cotton growers in West Texas who plant fields in late April or early May have had to pre-water their fields due to the drought in recent years. With the recent precipitation, however, fields may need less pre-planting water. Of course, additional rainfall would be welcome.

"If we don't get natural rainfall to give us a solid moisture profile in the soil, farmers will have to spend money on expensive irrigation before they are able to plant," one area observer noted. "Hopefully, we'll get enough rain over the entire season to keep irrigation to a minimum and help cotton producers increase their bottom line."



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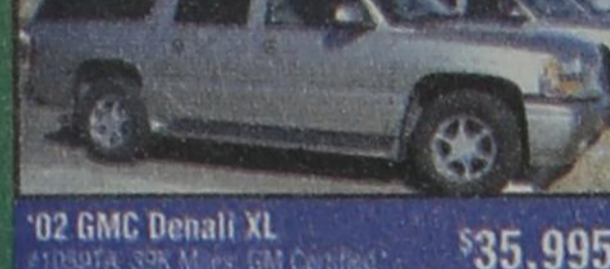
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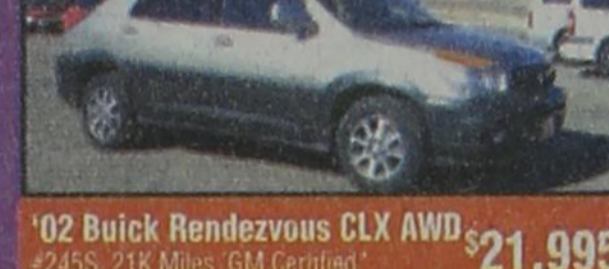
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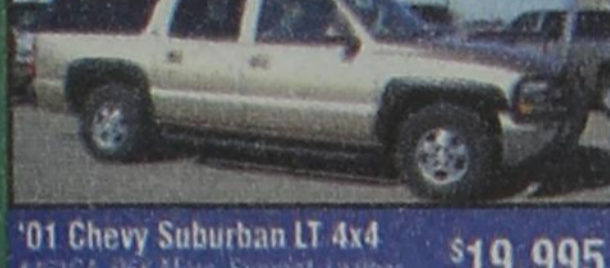
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