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The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020

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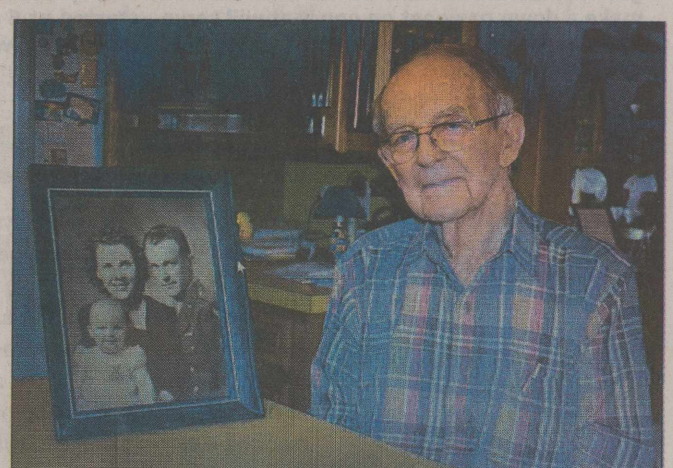
Brown turns 99 years old...Part 4

By Teresa Bigham
 The Hesperian-Beacon

Brown share one of his favorite memories, he said, "One time I traded for a little Shetland pony for my grandson. I had this van, that we called the peanut wagon, we would load his pony in and drive down the highway with his head sticking out the window. That's when I decided I needed to buy some land for that pony.

As time passed Brown bought more land and today him and his daughter work together to run the farms. Brown still takes care of the books, but his is starting to teach Ann his daughter the ropes.

Once the Browns retired, the couple enjoyed fishing and spending time with their grandchildren. Every day the



Claude proudly sits by one of favorite pictures. It was taken just a few days after he made it home from WW1. Claude met his daughter Ann just a few days before this picture was taken. (Courtesy photo)

couple enjoyed their daily trip to local Dairy Queen during happy hour where they would sit and talk the friends while having a cup of coffee.

Over the years Brown has taken great pride in this community. In 1958 Brown was chosen as the Outstanding

Citizen of the Year. He held the job of Mayor in 1965. He was re-elected for another team. He ended up serving as Mayor for 16 years.

He has served two separate terms as President of the Rotary Club and two different

See **BROWN**, Page 2



In 2013 Claude had the opportunity to go on the Honor Flight. (Courtesy photo)

One of Claude and Wilma's favorite past times was to go the local Dairy Queen in the afternoon during happy hour and have a cup of coffee. They enjoyed visiting with friends. (Courtesy photo)



Dollar General opens early for senior citizens

By Teresa Bigham
 The Hesperian-Beacon

LOCKNEY - Grocery stores across the country are looking more like a scene from doomsday movies, with empty shelves, ransacked shelves and wiped-out canned good aisles.

Dollar General in Lockney will open their doors early just to special senior citizens and those with compromised immune systems. The hours for senior shopping will be from 8

a.m. to 9 a.m. Dollar General wants to help seniors' shop in a less busy environment. They want to give our senior customers an opportunity to have a little better shopping experience with less stress.

Older adults and people with underlying health conditions are at a higher risk of contracting any viruses. There's no such thing as being too cautious as a senior citizen during this time, that is why Dollar

General will be closing at 9 p.m. every night in order to sanitize the store.

Dollar General is encouraging customers who aren't elderly to give the older shoppes the time and space they need to shop more safely, they need items to, and they really haven't had the same chance as other shoppers.

The Dollar General in Floydada is currently under construction, and the manager wasn't available for comment.

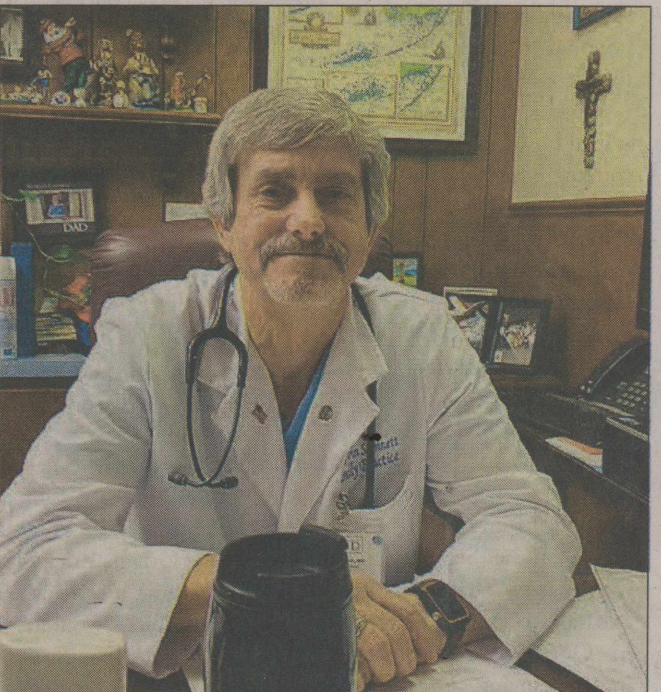


The Dollar General located in Lockney at 515 US Highway 70. (The Hesperian-Beacon/Teresa Bigham)



Dollar General in Lockney is trying hard to keep the shelves fully stocked and customers happy. (The Hesperian-Beacon/Teresa Bigham)

COVID-19 important things you need to know



Alex Cauat

(Courtesy photo)

By Teresa Bigham
 The Hesperian-Beacon

FLOYD COUNTY - There are few confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus in Lubbock and Amarillo area, so one should educate themselves on the proper way to prevent the spread of this virus.

By now, you may have memorized some if not all the symptoms of the coronavirus: fever and a cough. In other words, those are the same symptoms as the common cold or flu.

Some of the things people are questioning is how long does this virus survive on surfaces. According to Harvard Health, a recent study found that the COVID-19 can survive up to four hours on copper, up to 24 hours on cardboard and up to two hours to three days on plastic and stainless steel.

Not only can you self-manage from the comfort of your own home, but the Texas Department of Health wants us to do just that. Stay home if you are not feeling well or if you are running a fever. You should stay at home if your symptoms can be handled with over the counter cold and flu aids from your local drugstore.

According to Dr. Kevin Stennett, "If a person is experiencing the symptoms of the virus using over the counter Tylenol is the first fever reliever to try and after an hour or so if your fever still hasn't gone down you may then take the recommended dose of Ibuprofen. If that works you may rotate between the two pain relievers."

If everyone with a cold or flu like symptoms floods our local emergency rooms, it will be harder for health-care workers to treat patients who are critically ill.

"Lockney Cogdell Clinic is taking all precautions necessary for their staff to stay health but take care of their patients at the same time. We do have a very few tests available, but they will only be used on the most needed cases," said Dr. Stennett. "If you are experiencing the systems the best thing to do would be to go to one of the drive-thru testing sites. The test is a nasal swab and will

need to be sent off. While you wait for the results you will be asked to self-quarantine."

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention states "If you feel well enough that if it wasn't for the coronavirus you wouldn't see a doctor, don't see a doctor."

The CDC recommends taking every day preventative actions to help prevent the spread of the respiratory viruses. These every day habits include:

- Wash your hands often with warm soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - Stay home if you are not feeling well or if you are running fever.
 - Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw it away in the trash.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
 - Practice social distancing.
- If you are feeling sick, here are a few steps you can take to help prevent the spread and protect others.
- Stay home except to get medical care
 - Separate yourself from others
 - Call ahead before visiting your doctor
 - Wear a face mask
 - Cover your cough and wash your hands
 - Wash your hands

See **COVID-19**, Page 2

Stay Home Stay Safe

Upcoming

Events are listed free of charge for nonprofit civic organizations, schools and community events. Please submit listings at least two weeks ahead of the date. Listings will run through the date of the event. Emailed submissions are preferred to banderson@lknewsgroup.com.

FLOYD COUNTY MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Floyd County Memorial Library in Floydada is offering curbside service for those who can't or prefer not coming inside for a book. Call me ahead of time and I will gather the books and bring them out to you. Library phone # 806-983-4922.

CITY OF LOCKNEY COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

The City of Lockney will have a community-wide clean up June 15 - 20 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Drop-off point for junk/trash will be at the 600 block of Main St. (old Webster's gas station). For more information call the City of Lockney at 806-652-2355.

LIGHT THE CROSS MEMORIAL DONATIONS

"Light the Cross" Memorial prints are available from lantha Smith or Karen Houchin Law Office. Prints start at \$20 each. Help keep the Cross lit in Blanco Canyon by making memorial donations or purchasing a print. Donations may be made at First National Bank, Floydada, or by mailing the donations to: lantha Smith, P.O. Box 143, Floydada, Texas 79235.

Corrections

If you spot an error of fact, contact the FCHB office email: banderson@lknewsgroup.com

News on the go



Use your smartphone to scan the quick response, or QR, code to visit us online.

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 205 FM 784, Floydada, Texas 79235
 806-983-2737 (office) • 806-983-6146 (cell)

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It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the rights of individualism in the American Declaration of Independence. The right of life, liberty and ownership of property are the cornerstone of freedom. Government's sole purpose is to enhance our liberty and freedom. Therefore, we hold every elected and appointed agent of government accountable to that standard.

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MEMBER 2020
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Shop Local
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Between the lines

The unofficial national candidates quiz



BRUCE W. GREEN

As I write this, I am sitting in my den, looking through a wall of picture windows at the blossoming Bradford pear tree looming over the driveway.

Things are slow here this weekend and I can only read so many hours in a day. So, it's either the Bradford Pear tree or reruns of "The Andy Griffith Show".

I don't have live television programming and, besides, there hasn't been anything worth watching on it since Andy Griffith went off the air in the late 60s.

That reminds me of a favorite quote by Barney Fife, which sort of captures the goings on in the world today, "All I'm saying is that there are some things beyond the ken of mortal man that shouldn't be tampered with. We don't know everything, Andy. There's plenty goin' on right now in the Twilight Zone that we don't know anything about and I think we oughta stay clear."

So, I am staying clear of the Twilight Zone today by fasting from live television and staring at my Bradford pear tree.

But when I sit still, I think. And, since I love national politics so, my mind is naturally drawn there when I have a spare moment.

I have come up this morning with the "Normal Citizen's Non-Partisan National Candidates Quiz". If you miss between five and ten of the questions, you probably think the 1969 moonwalk was faked, and if you miss them all, your penalty should be a week of being confined in a room with a global warming activist and an opponent of gun control. Fur will fly!

Take as long as necessary to complete the following quiz.

1. Of the following, pick the MOST interesting thing about President Trump's current administration. A. The open positions. B. Vice President Pence.

2. Which of the previously held jobs would presidential candidate Joe Biden say helped him the most in understanding the average working man. A. Being a senator for most of his adult life. B. Being vice president.

3. Bernie Sanders was born in: A. 1492. B. 1776. C. Argentina.

4. The primary difference between the candidates for president in 2020 is: A. Their shade of Just for Men or Clairol Natural Instincts. B. Their gender. C. Their net worth.

5. In the beginning, which of the following candidates was MOST likely to win the Democratic nomination: A. Andrew Yang. B. Deval Patrick. C. Amy Klobuchar. D. Ronald McDonald.

6. Bernie Sanders is: A. A senator from Vermont. B. A pre-octogenarian. C. A socialist. D. A multi-millionaire. E. All of the above.

7. Of the following, select the thing that BEST prepared Pete Buttigieg to become president: A. Being a former mayor. B. Previously being a congressional campaign worker. C. Graduating from Harvard.

8. Which of the following slogans has NOT been made by President Trump's re-election campaign: A. "Keep America Great". B. "Promises Made, Promises Kept". C. "He Wasn't Convicted".

9. One (among many) of the lesser known Democratic candidates who ran for the nomination this year is named "Gabbard". Her first name is: A. Hortense. B. Andromeda. C. Celestial. D. Tulsi.

10. What apparent shoo-in for the Democratic nomination previously said this: "Hillary Clinton is as qualified or more qualified than I am to be Vice President of the United States of America. Let's get that straight. She's a truly close personal friend. She is qualified to be President of the United States of America. She's easily qualified to be Vice President of the United States of America. Quite frankly, it might have been a better pick than me." A. Bill Clinton. B. Mike Pence. C. Joe Biden.

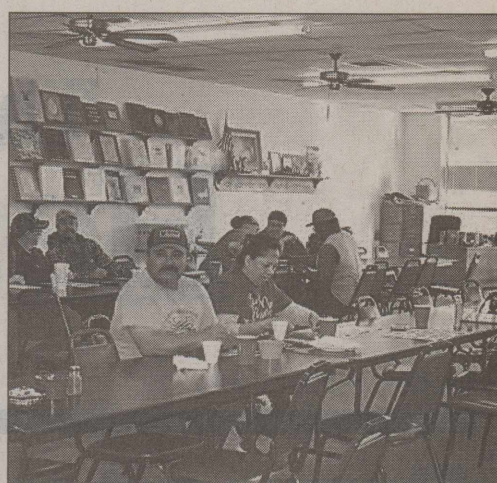
It's all in good fun, folks. And it helps, for a while, to take my mind off the Twilight Zone.

Stay safe. Keep your distance, and don't forget to wash your hands. bgreen@lknewsgroup.com

Lockney Senior Citizens



Lockney Senior Citizens has been in desperate need of a new refrigerator, since the one they had finally quit a few weeks ago. Threw very gracious donations the center was able to make a down payment on one that will serve their needs for many years to come. (The Hesperian-Beacon/Teresa Bigham)



Monday night Lockney Senior Citizens held their monthly bingo night. Homemade hamburgers, French fries and a delicious cherry cobbler was served. The festivities started at 6-8. Prizes were given out for the bingo winners. (The Hesperian-Beacon/Teresa Bigham)

The Razzle Dazzle Red Hat Sisters

March 5, 2020

By Mary M. Carter
Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

The Razzle Dazzle Red Hat Sisters met at the Lockney Senior Citizens Center at 118 West College St., Lockney, Texas on March 5, 2020 for lunch. Their phone number is 86-652-2745. The time was 11:30 a.m.

Virginia Taylor, our Queen Mother, informed us of the business we needed to know. The Lacy Style show which was to be our next meeting on April 1, 2020 was canceled!!!! We usually have our meetings on a Thursday but once in a while, because of scheduling of the event, it is moved so we can attend.

Lunch was served. It was BBQ beef and ribs with potato salad, beans, salad, and drinks. Dessert was peach cobbler and vanilla ice cream. It was a Texas lunch and good as always. Renee Armstrong heads up the center for all activities

and also cooks. She is always busy and does an excellent job. Thank you, Renee!!

Ethelyn Vernon was our program speaker. The program: Twenty-five uses for a Bandana. She told about or showed each use. Some of the ladies told of what they had done with bandanas. Who knew there was that many ways we could use a bandana! Thank you, Ethelyn. You always come up with subjects that surprise us and are interesting.

Then we played three games of Bingo and handmade prizes were made out of bandana material by Ethelyn.

There was a Memorial Table of Bandanas. This was for those who have passed on. It is out of respect. A song by Aaron Watson called the Red Bandana was played.

The hostesses were Ethelyn Vernon and Sue Daniels. They had red and purple bandanas all over the place. Thirty bandanas hung around the room.

Red tablecloths and pint jars of beans with candles inside had a bandana strip tied around it. A fun item Ethelyn made was a potato chip with a Rolo candy on top which looked like a cowgirl hat. You two went to a lot of trouble and it was great. They worked hard. Thank you both for it!!

I, Mary M. Carter, could not be there and I truly wished I could. I missed the fun and the people. I was suppose to be one of the hostesses. I did get a purple bandana and a chip hat. Thanks, you two.

Ethelyn Vernon helped me out by writing down some notes for me. Again, Thank you Ethelyn!

Those attending were Sue Daniels, Barbara Edwards, Gloria Fannon, Sandy Fus-ton, Karla Kindberg, Elaine McNeill, Emma Pate, Donna Pernel, Mary Quattlebaum, Margie Sue, Virginia Taylor, Joy Turner, Ethelyn Vernon, Betty Jean Williams, and Mary Lou Zinck.

BROWN

From Page 1

terms as President of the Chamber of Commerce. Brown was also a member of the Masonic Lodge and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

If that wasn't enough Brown served on the WJ Mangold

Memorial Hospital board for nine years and he served as Board of Directors for the First National Bank in Lockney and was Chairman of the Lockney Housing Authority. He was on the school board and the water board, all while running his business and raising his family.

In 2013, Brown was accompanied by his loving daughter, Ann on the Honor Flight. He enjoyed the trip so much. Brown said, "That trip meant the world to me and I am truly honored to have been part of that Honor Flight."

Brown's Department Store was in business for 48 years. "I couldn't have had this a wonderful business without this community's support and the help and dedication of my beautiful wonderful wife and daughter. Those two ladies have been everything to me," said Brown.

Brown just had a birthday. He turned 99 years young, and he still tries to stay active as much as he can. He enjoys going to the Senior Citizen Center for a meal or to just sit and talk to people who come in. One thing he loves doing is dancing. Every Monday Brown goes dancing at the First Christian Church in Plainview and on Thursday nights he goes to Plainview's Senior Citizens to enjoy another night of dancing.

Brown's family would like



Claude and Wilma enjoys retirement. (Courtesy Photo)



Claude is spending time doing what he loves, and that's spending time with his grandkids and horses. This little pony was the reason Claude bought his first piece of land and this little pony got to ride in the "peanut wagon" up and down the highway. (Courtesy Photo)

to thank the girls who help to care for him. Jessica Gonzales, Aracely Casares, Miramar Soto, Stacy Griggs, Erica Castillo and Yesenia Irlas. Without these ladies, things wouldn't be the same.

Mr. Brown, I am so blessed that you invited me into your home and shared countless wonderful memories that I will also cherish.

The Hesperian-Beacon wishes Claude Brown a very "Happy 99th Birthday."

COVID-19

From Page 1

According to Harvard Health, the time from exposure to symptoms, based on current information, symptoms can appear as soon as three days after exposure to as long as 13 days later.

The coronavirus is thought to spread mainly from one person to person. This can happen between people who are in close contact with one another. The virus can also spread from contact with

infected surfaces. For example, a person can get the virus by touching a surface of object that has the viruses on it and then that person touching their own mouth, nose or possible their eyes.

Dr. Stennett said, "Educated yourself, wash your hands, and no large gatherings. If you feel sick please stay home and don't expose this or any other virus to other people."



Floydada - Memphis, Texas

Dear Member:

The safety and well-being of our employees and members is of the utmost importance to all of us at Lighthouse Electric Cooperative. To that end, while our nation confronts the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic and considering the recommendations from the CDC and our federal government limiting group gatherings, Lighthouse District and Annual meetings have been postponed until such time it has been deemed safe to hold these meetings considering the well-being of our employees, members and the general public.

While it may seem an overreaction to postpone events and practice "social distancing" given that so far there have been no reported cases of infection in our local communities, the point of these actions is to do our part to help stop the spread of the Coronavirus. We must also do what is necessary to keep the elderly and those with health issues safe.

While we are postponing the District and Annual meetings, we will not be postponing the distribution of capital credit checks. Checks will be mailed out the week of April 27th.

In response to the two cases of COVID-19 reported in Lubbock, effective immediately Lighthouse is closing our lobby in the Floydada office until April 6th. We encourage you to make payments through our member portal, SmartHub. Payments can also be made via e-check or by credit card online at www.lighthouse.coop or by calling 833-890-7727. If you need assistance with any of these payment methods, please contact our office at 806-983-2814. Payments may also be placed in the night deposit at our office here in Floydada or at GreenLight Gas in Memphis.

Be assured, Lighthouse crews are ready to respond to potential outages or emergencies and our normal construction operations have not been curtailed at this point. We have been in close contact with our supply chains and we do not anticipate any disruptions.

We will continue to monitor the situation and will keep our members and the general public updated regarding any potential changes. Please monitor our website at www.lighthouse.coop, or like us on Facebook @ Lighthouse Electric Cooperative for updates.

It is out of an abundance of caution and deep concern for our employees and members that we have decided to postpone these meetings. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 806-983-2814.

Albert Daniel
General Manager

SOCIETY

Lockney Senior Citizens News

By Renee Armstrong

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

LOCKNEY—To our family of Lockney Senior Citizen guests:

Family is the strongest source of comfort during times of uncertainty. So, as you focus on the well-being of yours, we want you to know how seriously we take the trust you have in our Center.

The health and safety of our guests and staff has always been our first priority. We are taking additional steps to ensure our Center remains a safe place for you and your loved ones to eat.

We know the comfort that comes from sharing a meal around the table. We are committed to keeping our Center open to you and your family for as long as conditions allow. Should you prefer to eat at home, we are also ready to make it as easy as possible with delivery or carryout.

We are proud to serve the community. Thank you for being part of our family and allowing us to be part of yours. —**By the Lockney Senior Citizens Board & Staff**

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

MARCH CALENDAR:

March 27 – Family Night Fish Fry – 5-8 p.m.
March 30 – Board Meeting – 5:30

Lockney Senior Citizens is a 501 c3 nonprofit organization, we receive no government funding, we rely on the generosity of our community. We appreciate any and all donations.

Breakfast is served here at the Center from 5:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Monday thru Friday only. Lunch is served Monday thru Friday from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Be sure and call the Center by 9:30 a.m. if you would like to eat lunch at the Center. Our phone number is 806-652-2745.

Remember to come exercise with us on Wednesday, and Friday, 8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Coffee time – Monday- Saturday – 9:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m.

Our Thursday night potluck is from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. Bring a dish and a friend and enjoy games afterwards.

Floydada Senior Citizens News

By LuAnn Collins

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

FLOYDADA—The Center will be open for carry outs and deliveries. Call us at 806-983-2032. The prices of our meals are \$6 for members, and \$7 for non-members. Anyone that is breathing is eligible to eat with us, or right now for a carry out or delivery.

MEMORIALS:

In Memory of Jon LaBaume – Donna Pernel, Bob Hambricht

In Memory of June McGaugh – Raymond, Mary, Becky Poole, Louis and Arlene Bearden, Bob Hambricht

In Memory of Greg Bishop – Louis and Alene Bearden, Mike and Lu Ann Collins, Bob Hambricht

In Memory of Virginia Pyle – Louis and Arlene Bearden, Mike and Lu Ann Collins

In Memory of Jerrold Vinson – Margaret Soudelier, Louis and Arlene Bearden, Mike and Lu Ann Collins

Look for an announcement for Bingo posted on the bulletin board at Lowe's. Our Second Tuesday Bingo has been changed to 2nd Thursday Bingo. Next bingo date will be April 9. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and play will begin at 6 p.m. Bingo special includes: 2 cards, meal, drink, dessert for \$5. Extra cards: 3 for \$2

or \$1 a card. Prizes include meal vouchers, cash, and household items and merchant gift cards from businesses in Floydada. The Progressive Bingo game is over \$125 cash.

We are in need of a volunteer delivery driver for one day or more. You will receive a delicious meal as payment for your time. The driver will report to the Center at 11:15 a.m. The deliveries take about 30 minutes.

Remember, Tuesday meals are \$4 meals. Check the menu to see what is offered each Tuesday.

Call us at 983-2032 for home delivery by 11 a.m. Our delivery drivers will begin delivering at 11:30 a.m.

Our mailing address is P.O. Box 573, Floydada, Texas 79235. Our phone number is 983-2032. Thank you for remembering the Center with your donations or memorials.

MENU

March 30 – April 3

Monday – Chicken spaghetti

Tuesday – Frito pie - \$4

Wednesday – BBQ chicken

Thursday – Chicken strips

Friday – Cheese enchiladas

(Menu subject to change without notice)

Recipe of the Week

By Teresa Bigham

The Hesperian - Beacon

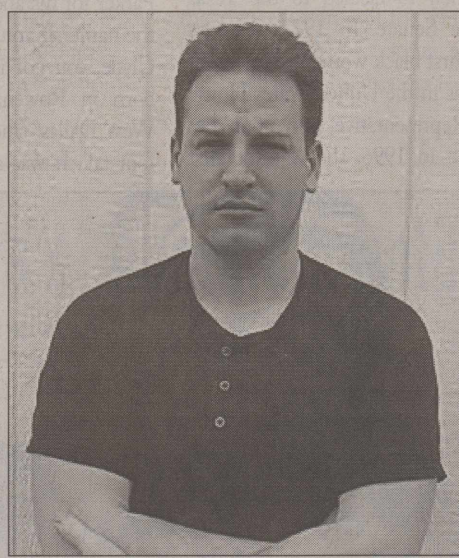
Josh Armstrong is this week's cook of the week. He enjoys baking, playing video games.

Josh says he lives in a great community and is proud to call Lockney home and that is why he loves his job. He helps delivering meals for the Senior Citizens.

He was born in Fort Sill Oklahoma while his dad was serving in the Army.

He graduated from Lockney High School in 2011. Josh is a natural when it comes to sports. He is very proud to say that he competes in Special Olympics.

Josh is sharing his recipe for Chocolate Suicide



Chocolate Suicide

1/2 of your favorite chocolate chip cookie recipe or 1 roll of ready made

1 pkg. of oreo double stuff cookies

1 recipe of your favorite brownie batter

In a grease 9x13 baking dish, press cookie dough to cover the bottom, place enough whole

oreo cookies to cover the chocolate chip cookie dough.

Mix your favorite brownie batter, pour over the oreo and chocolate chip layers. Bake at 350 degrees, until brownie layer is done, while hot drizzle Hershey's chocolate syrup over brownie layer, serve with ice cream and enjoy.

The South Plains Hobby Club

March 11, 2020

By Mary M. Carter

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

The South Plains Hobby Club met at The South Plains Baptist Church in South Plains, Texas on March 11, at 2 p.m.

Our President, Helen Teeple, opened the meeting. She prayed for the sick. She filled us in on the business of the South Plains Hobby Club.

One thing is very important to let people know is the meeting for the month of April is CANCELLED due to the Coronavirus. It was to be the program of "Lacy's Dept Store Style Show". They will have it at a later time.

Also, our program for today "Marvelous Miniatures" was cancelled. Our speaker, Jennifer Harbin was ill. That program will be at a later time too.

Helen read "Texas Independence Day". Ethelyn had a reading also. Snacks were

ready and everybody enjoyed them.

The program today was "Game Day". One of the games was new to some and semi-new to others. It was called Nuts. Questions about nuts. Another one was called Left - Right - Center. People were given makers and dice were tossed to see which to do. The games were fast and fun. Some the ladies are going to buy them. So, they really enjoyed them. Some ladies just talked and caught up with their friends. An all around fun and relaxing day for all.

The hostesses were Peggy Roberts and Carolyn Marble. Ladies no matter what you serve it is always set out pretty and delicious. Thank you so much for your caring.

I want to thank Ethelyn for the notes to help me with this article. I was unable to attend. I really wanted to be there.

Those attending were: Helen Teeple, Janis Julian, Carolyn Marble, Peggy Roberts, Neta Marble, Sue Daniels, Denise Doucette, Mary Lou Zinck, Margie Young, Mary Quattlebaum, and Ethelyn Vernon.

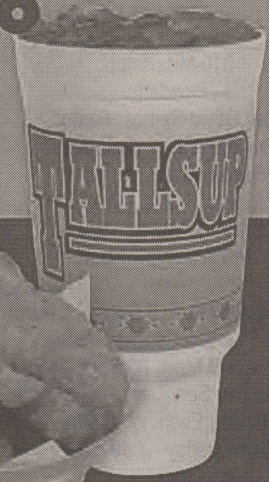
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TO OUR VALUED CUSTOMERS:

These are challenging times, but we are here for you, and to ensure that we do our part to keep everyone safe, here are some of the steps we are taking:

- Refillable Mugs: Until further notice, we will not allow the use of refillable mugs or cups, to prevent the transfer of viruses or bacteria on the cup rim.
- Cleaning: For the past few weeks, our Managers and Associates have increased their attention to our cleaning practices, and we continue to remain diligent in these areas. This includes, but is not limited to, more frequent cleaning of counters, equipment, restrooms, door handles and fuel pumps, as well as other high-touch areas throughout the store.

• Health and Hygiene: We are taking hand-washing and personal hygiene to the next level, making every effort to keep our stores as safe a haven as possible during this time. We are also further reinforcing our policy that employees stay home, and seek medical attention, if they become ill.

Lastly, we are doing our best to keep up inventory so that you can get what you need during this time. We ask that you also consider your neighbors and only buy supplies for what you need. After all, we are all in this together.

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU, AND APPRECIATE YOUR UNDERSTANDING. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

Floyd County Commissioners hold emergency meeting due to COVID-19

By Teresa Bigham
The Hesperian -Beacon

FLOYDADA - Judge Marty Lucke called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. Mr. Snowden from the First Baptist Church in Floydada was asked to lead the prayer.

The next item on the agenda was open discussion with all elected officials, community leaders, business owners and citizens concerning the threat to the citizens of Floyd County from COVID-19. Judge Lucke waved the usually sign in request but asked that people state their names.

Dr. Gilbert Trevino, Superintendent of Floydada ISD was asked to speak first. He stated that the school is being very proactive in keeping up with the news on this virus. Trevino stated, "Everyone's safety is the most important. There is a plan in place for the temporary closing of Floydada ISD."

Floydada school kids will start distance learning on March 27 through April 6. At that time the situation on the

virus will be re-evaluated. Trevino also stated that hard copies will be provided for students who do not have internet.

Mr. Baum, Lockney ISD Superintendent spoke next. He stated, "Lockney also has a plan in place for distance learning, and like Floydada students who do not have internet they will also be provided hard copies. The health and safety of all our students and staff is my main concern."

Both schools reported that they plan on offering meals to students during this time of closure. Floydada is planning to transport meals to students who do not have a way to pick those meals up.

Lockney City Manager Buster Poling reports that it's been business as usual. He stated, "We don't have a lot of traffic coming in, most of our business is done through the drive-thru. But the other concern is the customers using cash, so credit cards or debit cards are encouraged. Our staff has been told if they do not feel good, if they have a fever to stay home."

Floydada City Manager state that they have shut down the lobby area and doing most business through the drive-thru.

Judge Lucke commented that keeping our local economy together is very important. Gathering have been limited to 50 people or less.

The CEO of the WJ Mangold Memorial Hospital stated they have been moderating this virus very closely and the hospital and staff are equipped to handle the situation should anyone test positive. The hospital has restricted the visitation at the hospital and the nursing homes will not allow visitors.

Every staff member is being screened before work and they are following the CDC guidelines. The clinic is still currently still seeing some flu cases. COVID-19 testing is limited to patients who show the signs of the virus. Should anyone feel like they may have come in contact or showing signs of the virus should call the clinic, inform the staff of systems and they will give further instructions.

It was talked about Sheriff Raissez getting with the dispatcher to have a list of questions to ask anyone who calls 911. More research will be done to see if this is allowed.

Judge Lucke asked the crowd how they felt about the schools in Floyd County closing until March 30, and at that time the commissioners could meet again to re-evaluate. Any gathering will be limited to no more 50 people.

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to declare a state of disaster ending date of March 28. Meeting to re-evaluate will be on March 30 at 8 a.m. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

The Commissioners present were Nathan Johnson, David Martinez, Clint Bigham and Tanner Smith.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 30, at 8 a.m. in the Commissioner's Court room 106.

Xcel Energy suspends service disconnections

Special to The Hesperian-Beacon

ages if necessary.

MINNEAPOLIS - As communities and families face the challenges caused by the spread of COVID-19, Xcel Energy will not disconnect residential customers' electric service until further notice. This step will help ensure people have the energy they need to power their homes and keep their families safe. In addition, for customers who have difficulty paying their electric bill, the company will work with them to arrange payment plans that meet their circumstances.

"We want to assure our customers that as part of our commitment to the communities we serve, we're here to support them during this difficult time," said Brett Carter, executive vice president, Chief Customer and Innovation Officer. "The energy grid is essential to the nation's critical infrastructure and we're taking a well-planned, heightened approach to all threats, including COVID-19. We will work with our customers, our communities and government leaders to ensure the lights and heat stay on and that those we serve are cared for and protected."

Ensuring reliable service Xcel Energy has robust staffing and operational plans in place to ensure power plant operators, line workers, customer care representatives and others are delivering reliable electric and natural gas service in the eight states we serve, while responding to out-

The company continues to monitor the spread of COVID-19 and will remain in constant communication with local, state and federal agencies, as well as other health organizations, during this time. It is also in contact with other companies within and outside the energy industry to share best practices around delivering service to customers while keeping employees safe.

About Xcel Energy Xcel Energy (NASDAQ: XEL) provides the energy that powers millions of homes and businesses across eight Western and Midwestern states. Headquartered in Minneapolis, the company is an industry leader in responsibly reducing carbon emissions and producing and delivering clean energy solutions from a variety of renewable sources at competitive prices. For more information, visit xcelenergy.com or follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

Business listing hours of operation until further notice

By Teresa Bigham
The Hesperian -Beacon

FLOYD COUNTY - Given the rapid evolving situation with COVID-19, business hours for some businesses have changed. Below is a list of business and hours of operation.

Azteca Café: Will have normal business hours. They offer window pickup (window is located on the Eastside of the building) or pickup orders.

Barney's Mexican Food: Dine in is limited to 8 people. For carry-outs please call 806-685-3181

Dairy Queen: Offers window pickup.
Subway: Will be open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Seven days a week.

Taste Burger: Carry out only.

Main Street Pizza: Carry out only.

Ray Ray's Café: Window pickup only.

Texas Donuts: Window pickup only.

Goen & Goen: Will still maintain normal business hours, but the doors will remain locked. If you need assistance, please give the office a call (806) 983-3524.

Floyd County Farm Bureau: Has a drop box for payments. Please call 806-983-3777 for further assistance.

AgriLife Extension Office: You can reach Cristen Brooks on her cell 806-317-2877. The Extension office will be following what Floyd County Courthouse does.

Floyd County FSA: Business in my appointment only. You may call 806-983-2050.

CHS: Business as usual.

Nutrien Ag: Curbside service or delivery please call 806-983-2233

Helena: Asking that you call first 806-652-3326

Wilbur Ellis: Curbside service. Please call 806-778-8028 and they will be able to help you out.

W J Mangold Hospital and Clinic: Business hours 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. You will need to call first for specific instructions.

Hometown Pharmacy: Open and fully functional.

Payne Pharmacy: Open business as usual with daily delivery at 2:30 for your convenience.

Floydada First United Methodist Church: Canceled in-person worship, but will be broadcasting on Facebook and YouTube live streaming and FLIP FM.


Roxi's Attic: Will be open regular hours with 10-person limit in the store at a time. They will be offering curbside pickup for paint and delivery in Lockney. Appointments can also be made by calling 806-983-1229.

Joyful Creations: Open normal business hours

Oh Charlie: Will continue to be open normal business hours for the time being.

The Wild Hare Salon: Open for appointments on Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays only. Please call 806-241-1984.

Lowe's Floydada: Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Seven days a week.



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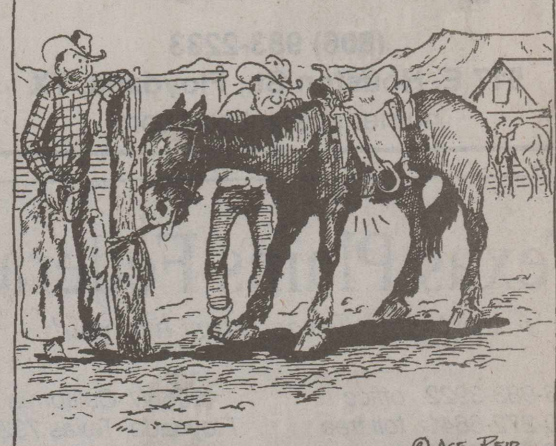
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SCHOOL NEWS

FISD extends spring break, prepares to practice distance learning

By Yelena Serrato
FHS Correspondent

FLOYDADA—The Board of Trustees of the Floydada Independent School District held an emergency meeting on March 18 in response to the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19.

The board members along with Superintendent Dr. Gilbert Trevino, chose to extend spring break through March 27 and offer distance learning to Pre-K-12 students through the weeks of March 30 and April 6.

Students in grades 1-5 will be issued school laptops to aid them with the distance learning. Students in Pre-K and Kindergarten will be offered online resources as well as packets of instructional resources they can complete at home. Students 6-12 will use the laptops already assigned to them to complete their assignments. If a student has an issued laptop but has to leave it at school every day, they will be able to pick it up and take it home.

Floydada ISD is currently working to provide an effective plan to aide students in special education during closure. Teachers will provide instructional support in a variety of ways and will check in with each student or parent during designated times.

FISD will provide breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday at no cost for the children in Floydada. They plan to start their meal program on Tuesday March 24 which they will deliver to homes in and outside the city limits.

A decision like this was not taken lightly

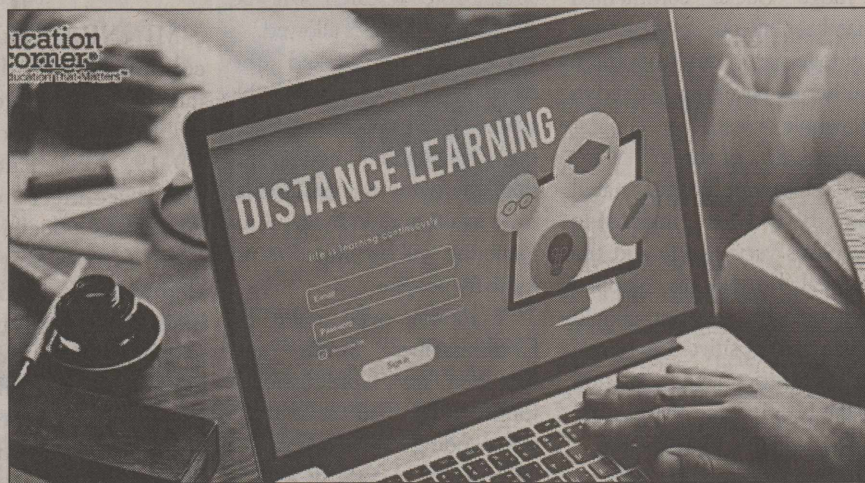


Photo courtesy of Education Corner

but with the best intentions to ensure the safety of our children and staff at FISD. To the parents of children enrolled at A.B. Duncan Elementary, Floydada Junior High and High School: FISD needs your full cooperation and understanding to ensure the success of students during this transition to distance learning. Together we can overcome this and continue providing a quality education to the children of our community.

To keep up with updates from FISD you can follow them on Facebook by searching Floydada Independent School District.

During times like these, it is important we do our part to support our nation's need to slow the spread of the coronavirus and follow the proper precautions below.

- Don't shake hands
- Wash your hands regularly

- Limit movement within the community, especially avoiding crowded places and maintaining 3 to 6 ft of distance between people (at least an arm's length)
- If you are moving around in the community, don't congregate in large groups
- For those who have traveled to areas with known COVID-19 cases – both inside and outside of the country – we ask that you self-quarantine and monitor for symptoms. Students who have traveled should plan to stay home for two weeks after arriving home.
- If you suspect you have symptoms of COVID-19, call your health care provider for medical advice.
- Keep your child at home if he/she feels ill, even if you think it is just a cold.
- Do not leave the house if you are ill, except to access medical care

Lockney ISD important school closing information

By Teresa Bigham
The Hesperian-Beacon

LOCKNEY – The Floyd County Commissioners' court ruling and the Governor's declaration of emergency, Lockney ISD will extend spring break by one week. Distance learning will be provided through the week of March 30.

The closer of LISD is being implemented in effect to slow the spread COVID-19. Health care officials report that cases are continuing to spread in our state, and the likelihood of confirmed cases in our area seems likely.

The LISD staff will be utilize the week of March 23 to establish quality options for distance learning. These options will be communicated to the students and parents prior to March 27. During this time all extracurricular activities, practices and athletic events are suspended while the schools are closed.

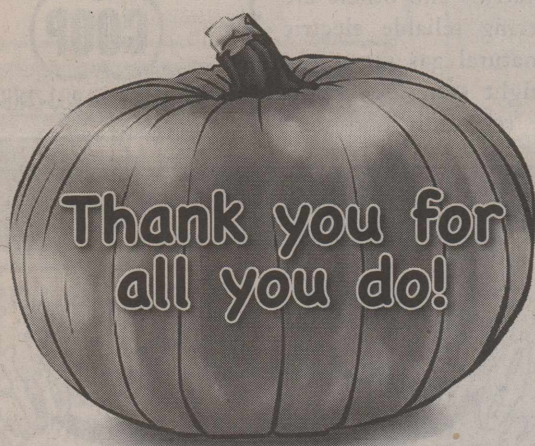
The week of March 30 through April 3 will be an instructional week with assignments for students, but those assignments will be completed at home. LISD are making provisions for breakfast and lunch for any child through the age of 18.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has outlined the need for all communities to implement a social distancing protocol. Follow reasonable precautions to prevent the spread of the illness:

- Don't shake hands
- Wash your hands regularly
- Limit movement 3 to 6 feet of distance between people (at least an arm's length)
- Keep your child at home if she/he fills ill, even if you think it is just a cold
- Do not leave the house if you are ill, except to access medical care

For more information please visit the Lockney ISD Facebook page or web site.

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Lockney neighbors getting in a good ol' fun basketball game on a pretty Sunday afternoon. Keeping with the 10 people limit for a group gathering. They divided up into two teams with team A consisting of Randell and Virginia Stapp, their granddaughter Teagan Rogers and neighbor Wyatt Bigham. Team B consisting of Jason and Tessa Stapp and their two daughter Scout and Remi Rogers. (The Hesperian-Beacon/Teresa Bigham)

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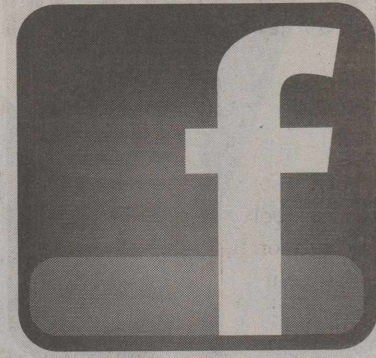
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