

# Quanah Tribune-Chief

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## eclipse

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PAYTON MCCORMICK/QUANAH TRIBUNE-CHIEF

Dozens of locals gathered around the Hardeman County Courthouse in Quanah Monday to view the solar eclipse. The viewing party was organized by Three Rivers Foundation which provided telescopes and specially made glasses for the viewing. Becky Barker of 3RF reported several area schools called to participate in the event and made short work of the supplies. "We are overwhelmed by the number of people

out here," Barker said. "It is so wonderful that this size crowd has come together." The last total eclipse to pass over the U.S. was reportedly in 1918.

(Photo of eclipse in headline taken through 3RF telescope by Payton McCormick/Quanah Tribune-Chief. Design by Shelby McCormick)

## Hawkins, family celebrate 80 years

PAYTON MCCORMICK  
QUANAH TRIBUNE-CHIEF

Robert "Dan" Hawkins has lived in Hardeman County for nearly his entire life.

"My family moved to Acme in 1942 when I was only five years old," Hawkins said. "He was a master mechanic but came to work as an electrician and became the foreman of maintenance."

Hawkins said he is one of the last people around that grew up in Acme.

In 1956, he moved to Quanah as a junior in high school. He has lived in his parents home for 61 years.

Hawkins and his late wife Deane were married in 1966 and remained together for 47 years before her passing.

They were married at St. Lukes Methodist Church, which used to be Acme Methodist Church. That church has since been removed from Quanah.

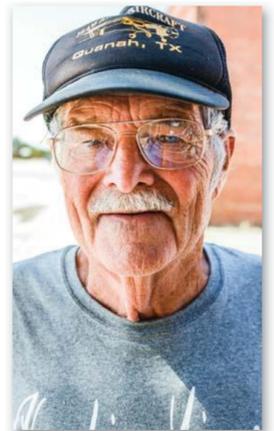
Together they had three children, Dolly Hawkins, Robert "Dean" Hawkins, and Dawn Wilder.

Hawkins will celebrate his 80th birthday among friends and family Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m.

"My kids have organized some sort of party for me," he said. "They won't tell me anything about it but my daughter Dolly said she had talked to more than 200 people!"

Hawkins operates his own business to this day. A business he started with his father 51 years ago.

"My dad was a partner in financing the business but in 1966 we opened up at the airport offering flight training, ground school and aircraft repair," he said. "We brought an instructor, Al Parker, from Wichita



DAN HAWKINS

Falls."

According to Hawkins, when the economy dipped in the late 60's, he removed flight training from the business in 1971.

"We sold all of our planes and went back to maintenance," he said.

Hawkins explained the importance in the perfection required to repair planes.

"The thing about repairing planes is that you have to do it right every time," he said. "You can't just pull over and park it if something goes wrong."

He spoke highly of the people in Quanah and Hardeman County saying he always feels connected and cared for.

"It's been a fantastic journey out in the middle of nowhere surrounded by people I love and people who love me," he continued.

"If everything works out, my son, daughter, and son-in-law will get their license and take over the business so that I can retire."

## Summer field day to be held August 30

CHILLICOTHE – The Rolling Plains Summer Field Day, hosted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Vernon, will be Aug. 30.

The field day activities will focus on many of the cotton trials at the AgriLife Research Chillicothe Station, 1340 Farm-to-Market Road 392, south of Chillicothe.

"It is an important year for cotton production in Texas as new technologies came onto the market," said Dr. Emi Kimura, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agronomist in Vernon. "Producers will benefit from side-by-side variety demonstrations for their variety decision making next year."

"The field day is also a good opportunity for interaction between AgriLife personnel from both Vernon and College Station, agribusiness personnel and producers in the Rolling Plains," Kimura said.

Registration is set for 7:45-8:30 a.m., followed by the field tour.

There is no charge for the

program and lunch will be provided.

Three Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education credits will be offered – two general and one integrated pest management.

### TOUR STOPS, TOPICS AND SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE:

– Cotton Trials: Replicated Agronomic Cotton Evaluation (RACE) Trials, and Management of Enlist and Extendflex Technologies, Kimura.

– Advancements in Cotton Development: Phenotyping, and Breeding for Yield Potential, Drought Tolerance and Insect Resistance, Dr. Steve Hague, associate professor of cotton genetics and breeding in the Texas A&M AgriLife Research Cotton Improvement Lab in College Station, and Dr. Curtis Adams, AgriLife Research cropping systems agronomist in Vernon.

– Conservation Systems: Conservation Tillage; Cover Crops; Irrigation Management; Soil Health and Producer Experiences, Dr. Paul DeLaune, AgriLife Research environmental soil scientist in Vernon, and area producers.

At 11 a.m., the event will move indoors for a

SEE FIELD DAY, PAGE 2

## Quanah ISD Elementary paraprofessional receives \$5000 Texas Trailblazer Scholarship

QUANAH - WGU Texas, a nonprofit online university, has awarded a \$5,000 Texas Trailblazer Scholarship to Quanah ISD paraprofessional Sasha Deel, who specializes in early intervention education, a program designed to bolster struggling students.

Deel, a paraprofessional who worked with elementary and high school students for 14 years, always wanted to earn her teaching degree, but time and financial resources were scarce. Her hopes for attending college were further dampened by a counselor who told her she was not college material.

"Sadly, that discouraging and wrong label stuck with me for many years and kept me from pursuing my dream," said Deel.

After receiving lots of encouragement from her husband and work colleagues and qualifying for student loans, Deel enrolled in an area college. After a semester of evening classes and working full time, she learned classes for her education degree for the following semester were only offered during the day, which conflicted with her teaching job. That's when she learned about WGU Texas, which is an accredited, online and self-paced university and decided to apply for the Texas



RICKY, RYAN, & SASHA DEEL

Trailblazer Scholarship.

"I am honored that WGU Texas considers me a 'Texas Trailblazer.' I believe that by investing in my future they are also investing in the future of hundreds of Texas school children. This award gives me the opportunity to show my students who they are, what they can do, and teach them to believe in themselves and their futures" Deel added.

"We know that affordability and flexibility are

important factors in many students' ability to complete their undergraduate and graduate degrees," said WGU Texas PR Manager Kathy Koza. "It is gratifying to see our teachers set an example for their students and never stop learning."

WGU Texas' competency-based learning model is ideal for adult learners—because it allows students to study and learn on their own schedule and at their own pace. Students can apply what

they've learned at work and in previous courses to move quickly through what they already know, while taking the time they need to focus on what they still need to learn. Students who devote additional time to their studies can often accelerate their programs, saving both time and money. WGU Texas faculty members work one-on-one with students as mentors, offering guidance, support, and individualized instruction.



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