



City Council approves ordinances

Janet Felderhoff
News Editor

With the amending of its zoning ordinance, sign ordinance, and the adoption of a Sexually Oriented Business Ordinance, City Administrator Stan Endres advises City property owners to check with City Hall prior to making any changes to structures, fences, roofing materials, and signs.

At the Monday, March 4 City Council meeting, Mayor Joey Anderson explained, "We've been through a process of taking an old ordinance and starting with something brand new and shaping it a little bit for our community and bring-

ing it up to modern standards and modern rules of law."

A public hearing was opened, but there was nobody present who had comments or questions regarding the proposed amendments. Endres noted that they wanted wind generators outlawed completely in residential districts. This was not addressed in the ordinances amendment. According to Karen Mitchell and Steven Cook, who assisted with reworking the ordinances, it could be changed during the vote that evening.

The Council approved the new Zoning Ordinance as written with the exception of wind generators in R1 and R2 (they will not be allowed).

Endres stressed that these new ordinance changes will not affect anything that is on property at this time. However, those who plan to add on to their present structures or to add accessory buildings, such as a shop or carport, should first check with the City to be sure it will meet with the new ordinance.

In regard to roofing materials, that should also be checked. Metals roofs will be allowed, but they must be of a color and appearance that blends with surrounding homes. Fences and buildings must also follow new set back regulations.

The adopted Title 10 of the Muenster Code of Ordinances regulates and restricts the location and use of buildings, structures, and land for trade, industry, residence, and other purposes, and provides for the establishment of zoning districts of such number, shape, and area as may best be suited to carry out these regulations.

Mayor Anderson remarked, "It was pointed out in the See ORDINANCES, pg. 2

Jan Cain lobbies for women's cause

Janet Felderhoff
News Editor

Muenster resident Jan Cain traveled to Austin where she joined other members of the Mary Kay independent sales force and Mary Kay employees to raise awareness with lawmakers at the State Capitol in regard to funding needs for family violence programs and rape crisis centers across the State. They, in partnership with the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCVF) and the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA), visited with State legislators to remind them of the importance of funding for these programs.

Jan remarked, "The walk was basically to lobby and to talk to our legislative people and senators just to let them know that we need full funding for domestic violence and sexual abuse. They had cut that funding in half. We had three speakers that day who were victims of domestic violence. They spoke on how shelters helped them get through and survive what they've gone through."

"It was very touching. One lady was getting her MBA. It was neat to see women who actually go through that, when they get help, they can make steps forward. Most of the time, people don't know where to get help, or if they left the abuser, if they could get help or even be able to take care of their family."

Referring to a local situation, Jan noted that in July 2012, Abigail's Arms Cooke County Crisis Center received 90 clients who came needing help. Cooke County currently must send women in need of a shelter to either Grayson or Denton counties for help.

The Abigail's Arms Shelter to house 44 women is slated for completion some time this summer. The staff there is aware of women just waiting for a place to go to escape their abusive partners.

See CAIN, pg. 2

Hummer hits four parked vehicles

Janet Felderhoff
News Editor

According to Muenster Police Chief Mark Blankenship, there was a five vehicle accident on Muenster's Main Street Saturday afternoon at 2:43 p.m. The driver of a 2007 silver Hummer was southbound on Main Street when he veered across the street hitting four cars parked in front of Girlfriends Boutique.

The vehicles were unoccupied at the time and nobody was in the vicinity. All four vehicles were heavily damaged and included a 2013 white Lexus, 2011 Ford Fusion, 2008 Chevy Tahoe, and a 2007 Ford Expedition.

Muenster Police Officer Dan Lintner investigated the accident and the Department of Public Safety is handling the criminal investigation.

Chief Blankenship said that the driver of the Hummer was taken by DPS officers for a blood draw to determine if he was intoxicated. Results will not be known for five to six weeks. There could have been a number of causes including the driver falling asleep, having a seizure, or being under the influence.

Three against one ...



Janie Hartman photo

The Muenster Volunteer Fire Department responded to a grass fire in the vacant corral lots behind the old sale barn west of Muenster Monday around noon. The blaze is believed to have been started by a cutting torch.

Speed limit upped on parts of U.S. 82

The speed limit on U.S. 82 West of Henrietta increased to 75 MPH on Wednesday, March 6. U.S. 82 (in Clay, Montague, and Cooke counties) between Henrietta and Lindsay will change from 70 to 75 MPH. The speed will decrease through the cities of Ring-

gold, Nocona, and Muenster.

A new law went into effect Sept. 1, 2011 allowing roads that were signed 70 MPH to be considered for an increase to 75 MPH. After a series of traffic and speed studies, it was determined that many State

and U.S. highways in the Wichita District of TxDOT should be converted. The Texas Transportation Commission approved the speed limit change in December. Nine thousand miles across the state are part of this round of increases.

Reminder: The speed

limit isn't 75 MPH unless you see the new sign up. In the meantime, State troopers and local law enforcement can write tickets at the lower speed. Some cities along these highways have lower speed limits. Those limits will remain in place.

Here a goat, there a goat at the Youth Fair



Janie Hartman photo

Muenster hosted the lamb and goat division showings in last week's Cooke County Youth Fair. A large crowd filled the MISD Ag Barn Thursday as hundreds of animals were put on display for judging.

Candidates named by area entities

Janet Felderhoff
News Editor

Muenster Memorial Hospital was set to hold an at-large election for three three-year term Board of Director positions. Candidates who filed were incumbents John Aytes, James Walterscheid, and T.J. Walterscheid, and

former Board member Kenny Klement. James Walterscheid withdrew his name on Monday, the last official day to withdraw from the election. That left three candidates to fill three places and the election was canceled.

Muenster ISD will not have an election. Incumbents Neal Flusche, Place 1,

and Mel Walterscheid, Place 2, signed up to run. There were no others signing for those Places and the election was canceled.

Muenster City Council will not hold an election. There were three positions open on the City Council. Muenster City Council has two Places and the mayor position open

to election. They are Place 5 currently held by Jack Flusche and Place 3 held by Tim Felderhoff, and Mayor Joey Anderson. All filed for another term and nobody else filed.

Lindsay ISD has two at-large positions up for election. Incumbents Jill See ELECTIONS, pg. 3

With the coming of Spring - outdoor sports activities begin



Janie Hartman photo

Junior High athletes gather at the holding area in preparation for the sprint relay at Muenster's meet Monday afternoon.

ORDINANCES

.....continued from pg. 1

process of evaluating our zoning ordinances that we are somewhat wide open to having a sexually oriented business come to town and basically locate in any area. With that, we were advised and accepted the recommendation that we create an ordinance that would control such businesses and limit their impact on the community. By law, we are required to provide a location under some set of guidelines and standards that prevents us from discriminating against a sexually oriented business."

The ordinance restricts a sexually oriented business (SOB) to a certain process of approval and they could only be located in a heavily industrial district. The Council unanimously approved the SOB Ordinance hoping never to have to deal with such a business.

Although the City has an existing Sign Ordinance, Anderson noted there were a great many parts of it that needed to be brought into compliance with current Texas code and the standards of surrounding communities. The new Sign Ordinance passed unanimously.

Anderson quipped, "I feel sorry for the next person who comes in and needs a sign. That first one may be a challenge."

Catching dogs running loose inside the City limits has always been a problem. Leo Lutkenhaus and Police Chief Mark Blankenship went to the City of Bowie to visit with the animal control officer. He uses a tranquilizer gun on a daily basis.

Lutkenhaus described the problems of catching dogs. "We had four dogs in a row where any one of us could have been bitten," he said. "If we get this tranquilizing gun, it will change the way we chase dogs. In the past, you have seven people chasing a dog. That's what we do is catch him, but if he's

a mean dog, you don't want to catch him. If you get this, then one or two people can go to try to catch the dog by hand, and if you can't catch it, then get the tranquilizer gun. It is safer than trying to catch a dog. Somebody is going to get bit."

Lutkenhaus has used a tranquilizer gun in his cattle operation when pens were not available. The cost of the gun is around \$600. The Council approved the purchase of the gun and needed supplies, about \$800.

Endres said that in the last couple of years since the City raised its water, sewer, and garbage rates, some of the renters leave town and skip out paying the last one or two bills. At present, the City requires a \$125 deposit from renter. There is not a deposit required when the account is the home owner or in the name of the home owner. The average residential bill is around \$70 a month. Since \$125 does not usually cover what they owe, Endres recommended that the Council consider raising the deposit fee to at least \$150. Commercial businesses that do not own the real estate where the business is located might also need to be increased to cover two months of what the trash pick up bill would be, he added. The cost of a dumpster is at least \$100 per month. There has been one incident where the City was left to cover that bill.

It was decided that Endres should create an ordinance for consideration at the April meeting.

The three drying beds at the City's waste water plant have been there since 2003. There are three plastic filters on each bed that allow liquid to drain away while the sludge remains behind to be hauled to a landfill. The filters are starting to deteriorate from the sun and wear and tear from tractor tires.

Endres explained that a tractor is used to scoop the sludge up. The tractor has special tires that are made to protect the filters, but the tires pick up rocks from the gravel road there. Lutkenhaus explained that the rocks are creating holes three and four inches in diameter. He recommended purchasing enough filter squares to replace one bed and to use the remaining good squares to fix the broken squares in the remaining two beds. The cost of replacing the filters one bed is about \$6,600.

"If we replace this, we need to get rid of that gravel

somehow," said Lutkenhaus. "That is what is causing part of the problem."

The Council considered several solutions. Alderman Tim Felderhoff suggested concrete which would last a long time. The concrete would also need to be placed around the roll away.

It was agreed to seek information on the cost of concrete and how thick it needs to be to hold up in the situation. The Council approved Endres spending up to \$10,000 to purchase new filters with instructions to get the best available ones.

In his report on City projects and activities, Endres said that the water taps have all been installed in the mobile home park. The residents will receive their first bills in April.

On Feb. 18, KMB members, Alderman Jewel Otto, and Endres met with TxDOT representatives to discuss a use for the \$90,000 GCAA prize. KMB would like to build a walking trail in the area on the west side of the City Park. TxDOT will be determining the cost of the sidewalk and how long the trail can be. They hope to make it as long as possible, going all the way around the area. Items such as lights, picnic tables, benches, and trees can be added.

Terry Rohmer and Kirk Klement purchased land from Jerry Fleitman that is in the City's ETJ (extraterritorial jurisdiction). They asked to be annexed into the City to receive City water and sewer services. Klement has built a shop and Rohmer has started on an office and shop building. The land owners would pay to have the water and sewer extended to their properties.

The properties are located east of Magnolia Street and north of East Fourth Street. The City limit ends at Magnolia Street, said Endres.

Endres said that the property owners would be in touch with City Attorney Chuck Bartush to get the annexation paperwork started.

"In the future, before Jerry (Fleitman) can get anything going out there, he is going to have to get it plat. That is the only way we can have some control over where stuff is going to be located - where we want the roads to be or something like that," stated Endres.

In other business, the City Council:

- Approved payment of bills totaling \$123,110.03.
- Heard monthly police report by Police Chief Mark Blankenship.



Lobbying at the Capitol were, from left, Jan Cain, Kim Cook, Rene Trimble, Dee Hayden Beasley, and Brenda Kitchen.

CAIN

.....continued from pg. 1

Jan said that in order to get grant funding, there must be a shelter. Already over a \$1 million has been raised for the Abigail's Arms Shelter. That is in-kind money, said Jan. She added, "Now we are going to have to furnish it and have some money to run the place, so we are still asking for donations." Jan is serving on the fundraising committee for the Shelter.

"I feel that we in Muenster lead a very sheltered life. We mostly come from loving families and have good relationships. We need to make people aware of what really goes on in our world and how we can touch somebody's life just through answering a call to help women through domestic violence or a child. It has just become a priority in my life. It is something that I want to do and help. I feel that's where God is leading me right now."

Jan spoke of the people in Muenster and how it is a giving community that steps up and helps with overwhelming support when needed. "That's the beauty of Muenster and the community, but I do think that they need to be educated on domestic violence and sexual abuse. Those are the things that I'm working on."

It has always been Jan's feeling that she was called to make women feel better. She remarked, "I always felt that God was calling me to be influence an in women's lives to make them feel better inside and outside through my speech or through giving a facial and making them feel better about themselves."

With no personal experience or knowledge of a person who needed help because of domestic violence, Jan said, "It's really been tugging on my heart to be a part of it and it's a dream to see that place get finished."

The thing about it is, it is not only to give some shelter for the person, but to end the abuse. One of the things at Austin was the BIPP where the perpetrator is court ordered to get anger management counseling and maybe that will help to put an end to the domestic violence."

Last year, Mary Kay gave out over \$3 million to domestic violence shelters across the country. Jan has been with Mary Kay for more than 40 years. She now manages a unit of 150 plus. She is also a licensed esthetician and does hands-on facials out of Girlfriends Boutique.

On Friday, March 8, Jan will be at the First State Bank Conference Center in Gainesville from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. She will be giving free facials to women to make women feel better about themselves. Also, the proceeds from any products purchased will be donated to Abigail's Arms. Jan said the goal is to do 50 facials that day. Mary Kay has a make-over contest going on. The make-over voted the best

will get a \$5,000 check written to the shelter or charity of their choice. "We're trying to win that. I want to win that money," Jan said. "It'll be a fun event and take an hour out of your day."

Jan is married to Chris Cain. They have four children and six grandchildren. She remarked, "I've always tried to live my life God, family, career. Career being Mary Kay. My life has always been called to service. I feel that as I grew up as an oldest child that I was taught to be a servant. So, I like to make people feel better about themselves."

Jan enjoys watching kids play sports, especially her grandchildren who range in age from 17 to two months.

In conclusion, Jan commented, "I just wish that people would take a special interest in serving and see what they could do to make this world a better place. And really listening and hearing from God on what He has for us to do and how we can bless people."

Disabled veterans may have some property taxes waived

Veterans with a service-connected disability are encouraged to file an exemption form to have their 2013 property taxes lowered. Some veterans may even qualify for a 100% exemption of their taxes.

The law provides partial exemptions for any property owned by veterans who are disabled, spouses and survivors of deceased disabled veterans, and spouses and survivors of military personnel who died on active duty.

A veteran's percentage of service-connected disability determines the amount

of the exemption — from a \$5,000 to a \$12,000 deduction from the veteran's property value.

Any eligible person who has not received this exemption should apply before April 30. An applicant may claim the exemption on only one piece of property, such as a home or any other property the applicant owned on Jan. 1. The applicant must also be a Texas resident.

A disabled veteran who receives 100% disability compensation due to a service-connected disability and a rating of 100% disabled or of individual unemployability from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its successor is entitled to an exemption from taxation of the appraised value of the veteran's residence homestead. Beginning this year, this benefit has been extended to the surviving spouse upon the veteran's death with certain restrictions. The residence homestead application must be filed if this exemption is claimed.

For more information about the property tax exemption for disabled veterans or to file an exemption, contact the Cooke County Appraisal District at 940-665-7651. More information is also available from the state Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division at 1-800-252-9121 and press "2" to access the menu, and then press "1" to contact the Information Services Team or visit website www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/.

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2-WEEK EVENTS CALENDAR To list your event, call 759-4311 BEFORE NOON WEDNESDAY!

Sunday, March 10, 2013	Monday, March 11, 2013	Tuesday, March 12, 2013	Wednesday, March 13, 2013	Thursday, March 14, 2013	Friday, March 15, 2013	Saturday, March 16, 2013
Muenster Museum Open 1-4 	MMH Aux. mtg. 5:30 pm KMB mtg. 6:45 pm VFW mtg. 7:30 pm SPRING	Library open 10 am-6:30 pm BREAK	Library open 10 am-5:30 pm Kiwanis mtg. noon, Center NO Religious Ed class MSD Board mtg. 7:30 pm SH Alumni & Supp. 8 pm NO	Muenster Museum open 1-4 pm Library open 10 am - 6:30 pm M Historical Comm. Mtg. SCHOOL	Museum open 1-4 pm 	Library open 10:00-2:30
Sunday, March 17, 2013	Monday, March 18, 2013	Tuesday, March 19, 2013	Wednesday, March 20, 2013	Thursday, March 21, 2013	Friday, March 22, 2013	Saturday, March 23, 2013
Muenster Museum Open 1-4 KC Pancake Breakfast 8-10 	VFW Aux. Mtg. 7:30 pm	Library open 10 am-6:30 pm Saint Joseph's Day Mass 7 pm MMH Board mtg. 7 pm	Library open 10 am-5:30 pm Religious Ed class 7 pm !st Day of Spring! 	Museum open -1-4 Library open 10 am-6:30 pm	Muenster Museum open 1-4 KC Fish Fry 5:30-8:30 pm	Library open 10:00-2:30 Cooke Co. Friends of Scouting Event CCEC 4-7 pm

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Obituary

Leonard Mize 1921 - 2013

Leonard William Mize, age 92 of Muenster, died Sunday, March 3, 2013 in Muenster. He was born Feb. 12, 1921 in Cement, Oklahoma to James and Ethel Love Mize.

Leonard served 20 years in the United States Army, first as a drill sergeant in Fort Still, then as a tank commander with General Patton's 3rd Army through Europe. He finished up his Army career as a Sergeant E-6. Leonard was then affiliated with the ROTC in Stillwater as a supply sergeant.

Survivors are his wife Betty Mize; daughter Lucretia Walton; brothers Ernest Mize of Bowie and Billy Ray Mize and wife Carole of Burkburnett; sisters Verna Lee Elkins and husband Guy of Fort Stockton, and Gustina Cash and husband Sam of Burkburnett; two grandsons and one granddaughter; and



Leonard Mize

sister-in-law Iva Jo Mize of Burkburnett.

Memorial services for Mr. Mize are Monday, March 11 at 2:15 p.m. at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to Shaw's Funeral Home, Bowie.

Dr. Khaira joins MMH staff for surgical procedures

General surgeon Bhupinder Khaira, M.D. FACS now offers his patients the option of having certain surgical procedures performed at Muenster Memorial Hospital. "We have always had quite a few patients from the Muenster, Saint Jo, and Forestburg area, and some of them mentioned that if we could do these procedures here in Muenster, that it would be a little bit easier for them. That is why I decided to come here and provide that service."

Dr. Khaira has an office in Gainesville where he sees his patients. He plans to come to Muenster on Tuesdays when his patients request that their surgical procedures be done at the Muenster Hospital. He is a general surgeon. Most of the surgeries that he plans to do at MMH are colonoscopies and gastroscopies. "If there is demand or if there is a possibility, we could always do some of the general surgery cases here too," said Dr. Khaira. "Mostly now it is going to be colonoscopies and upper endoscopies."

The general surgeon has practiced in Gainesville for more than 25 years. He was trained in Michigan and at-

tended medical school in India.

In response to what inspired him to become a doctor, Dr. Khaira responded with a chuckle, "Interesting. I was visiting our grandparents at the ranch, which was always hard work. My Dad said, 'Well, do you want to do this for the rest of your life or do you want to do something else?' One of his friends was a doctor and I thought I am going to be a doctor like his friend. So, it was sixth grade when I decided to become a doctor."

Dr. Khaira and his wife Bunny have two sons Aaron and Julian. He enjoys outdoors sports such as golf, fishing, and hunting. He also does wood working, a craft he learned from Muenster resident Eugene Yosten many years ago.

"This is a nice hospital and I think it is a good facility," observed Dr. Khaira. "I like what they've done here. They've come a long way from last time I was here. They've got a good facility, no doubt about it. I think the rehab has been wonderful for this area."

Appointments may be scheduled with Dr. Khaira by calling 668-6878.



Bhupinder Khaira, M.D. FACS

DAYS GONE BY.....

65 YEARS AGO March 5, 1948

George Swirczynski uninjured as bridge collapses under truck. Gunshot wounds received entering wrong house are fatal to Ralph Richards, 48. City retains \$1.50 tax rate for 1948. The Tony Felderhoffs move into their new home. New Arrivals: Carol to Ed and Genevieve Pels; a daughter to Rolland and Nina Patrick. Henry Weinzapfel is recovering nicely from a throat irritation as a result of swallowing a fish bone Monday noon.

50 YEARS AGO March 8, 1963

The City's new fire alarm siren is loud enough to do its job. New Arrivals; Margie to Bernard and Christine Gieb; Patty to Henry and Jeanette Popp; Redgy to the Melton Ramseys; a daughter to Eugene and Patsy Evans. Obituaries: Father Anthony Schroeder, 60; Mary (Mrs. Henry) Luke, 59; William Schneider, 81. Pagel's Store advertises chuck roast for 46¢ per lb. and 10 oz. breaded shrimp 59¢.

25 YEARS AGO March 4, 1988

Sacred Heart Tigerettes are the 1988 State Division II Champs! New Texas Tourist Bureau near the Red River is officially opened. Obituaries: Gertrude Fisher, 79; W.E. "Pete" Ewing, 85. New Arrivals: Mary to Marla and Chris Wolf; Andrew to Joseph and Barbara Bartush; Jeremy to Darell and Stacy Sicking. Hennigan Auto Parts advertises: Pennzoil Motor Oil, 30 wt. 89¢ qt. and Chieftain Oil Pressure Gauge \$3.49 each.

Police Notes

from Muenster Chief of Police
Mark Blankenship

February 2013, Muenster Police Department responded to 46 CALLS FOR SERVICE resulting in four INCIDENT/OFFENSE reports. Three persons were ARRESTED/BOOKED by officers. There was one reported vehicle accident in the City. Officers issued 53 traffic CITATIONS. This is in addition to routine security and enforcement duties.

Patrol vehicles were driven 2,480 miles during the month and officers logged 645.5 man hours on duty.

Ninety day history:
January - CFS 44, Incident 7, Arrest 8, Citations 38
December - CFS 33, Incident 5, Arrest 9, Citations 54
November - CFS 38, Incident 7, Arrest 7, Citations 59

Officer Dan Lintner has shown interest and ability in conducting criminal investigations resulting in 2 cleared felony cases this month. These cases, as with others, require an enormous amount of leg work and paperwork. His assistance to me is necessary to provide professional and thorough investigations. I have decided to appoint Dan to the position of Investigator which will require even more effort from him than in the past. He has agreed to take on this challenge. Dan will continue to provide his normal patrol duties also.

The City has provided the Department with a much needed new computer which will aid us in case preparation.

With baseball season here, we want to remind everyone to pay extra attention while driving near our ball parks. Also, remember the parking ordinances at the ball parks. We have stepped up traffic patrol near our schools at their request, so slow down. Safety is our #1 goal.

ELECTIONScont. from pg. 1

Fuhrmann and Jim Ott filed along with Eddie Hughes, Jennifer Worth, Julie Martin, and Phil Metzler.

The City of Lindsay has three at-large Council seats up for election. These are now held by Jeff Arendt, Jeff Neu, and Robert Sharp. Incumbents Neu and Sharp filed for reelection, but Arendt did not. There were no other candidates. According to City Secretary Betsy Fleitman, the City Council will cancel the May 11 election at its next City Council meeting. Arendt will continue to serve until his term expires in May. At that time, the City will appoint someone to serve in that position until the next election.

Voters in Justice of the Peace Precinct 4 will be deciding on a local option liquor election for that area.

Voting precincts affected are 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, and 22. Commissioners Court voted to combine voting precinct 12, 14, and 15. That would have Myra and Rosston voting with Era in the Era Community Center, 102 Malone Street.

Early voting for the May 11 election begins on April 29 and ends on May 7.

A Note Of Thanks

Words cannot adequately express how much the outpouring of love and support from family, friends, and community has meant to us during Mary's illness and death.

We are so thankful for your prayers, visits, food, flowers, Mass offerings, cards, and memorials to Sacred Heart Church and Saint Mary's Church. We are also grateful to Father Ken Robinson and Father Victor Cruz for the beautiful funeral Mass and singers Brenda and Phillip Flusche and Bonny Prescher.

Also to so many who helped in so many ways. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness.

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Hess and Dennis wed in St. Peter's Catholic Church

Christy Hess and Marcus Dennis, both of Lindsay, were united in holy matrimony on Sept. 29, 2012 at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Lindsay. Fr. Raymond McDaniel officiated for the double ring nuptials.

The bride is the daughter of Doug and Natalie Hess of Lindsay. She is the granddaughter of Pete and Jeanette Hellinger of Lindsay, Alfred Hess of Lindsay, and the late Ann Hess.

The groom is the son of Doug and Jenny Dennis of Lindsay. He is the grandson of Helen Dennis of Nocona and the late Wayne Dennis and the late John and Annie Pelzel.

Readings during Mass were done by Cody Anderle of Lindsay, friend of the couple. Eucharistic gifts were presented by Pete and Jeanette Hellinger, grandparents of the bride, and Evelyn Walterscheid of Muenster, aunt of the groom. Eucharistic ministers were Jeanette Hellinger, grandmother of the bride, Doug Dennis, father of the groom, Don and Marilyn Weber of Pilot Point, Godparents of the groom, and Gene and Emma Pelzel of Lindsay, aunt and uncle of the groom. Music was provided by organist Andrew Kinney. Soloist was Theresa Thompson of Fort Worth, cousin of the groom.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore

a satin gown embellished with pearls and crystals with intricate embroidery at the bodice and front of the skirt. Her cathedral length train was a cascade of puffed ruffles. She wore pearl and crystal jewelry designed and hand-made by her mother. Her fingertip veil was held by a pearl and crystal headband. She carried a hand-tied bouquet of Black Magic and Lipstick roses, green hypericum berries, and yellow solidago accented by pheasant feathers. Tucked in her bouquet were pictures of the couple's late grandparents.

ATTENDANTS
Serving as maid of honor and matron of honor were the bride's sisters, Vanessa Hess and Elaine Goldsmith, both of Lindsay. Bridesmaids were Michelle Wilkinson of Keller, sister of the groom, Amber Schroeder of Lindsay, Kaylee Copeland of Frisco, and Kim Williford of Lindsay, friends of the couple. They carried nosegays of Gypsy Leonidas roses and green hypericum berries tied with silver ribbons to accent their navy Vera Wang courtier gowns. Flower girls were nieces of the bride Emily and Aubrey Goldsmith of Lindsay and niece of the groom Addison Wilkinson of Keller. They wore tea-length, white gowns with crystal embroidered sashes and navy headbands embellished with navy flowers and crystals. They

carried twig pomander balls filled with roses.

Best men were Brandon Schroeder and Andy Zimmerman, both of Lindsay and friends of the groom. Groomsmen were Blaine Wilkinson of Keller, brother-in-law of the groom, friends of the couple Chad Stoffels of Lindsay and Cody Mask of Gainesville, and cousin of the groom Billy Dwayne Dennis of Gainesville. Andrew Goldsmith of Lindsay, nephew of the bride, served as ring bearer. The groom wore a black tuxedo with silver vest. His boutonniere was quail feathers and hypericum berries. Attendants wore black tuxedos with navy vests and boutonnieres of hypericum berries.

RECEPTION
A reception was held in Centennial Hall hosted by the parents of the couple. Dinner was catered by Rohmer's of Muenster. Tables were dressed in chocolate brown linens with ivory table runners and navy accents. Tall iron candelabra held arrangements of green verburnum branches; red hydrangea, orange roses, red gerbera daisies, orange mums, and eucalyptus with clusters of glass vases at the base containing candles and small clusters of flowers. The groom's duck decoys and Indian corn from the couple's garden were accents mixed with assorted iron candle-

holders and cut wood pieces. The head table was set with buffet lamps, gold chargers, and china. Napkin rings of twig held the napkins. Lanterns, cut wood, duck decoys, and pheasant feathers mixed with candles and floral arrangements completed the head table. Designer was Vine & Branches of Gainesville.

The bride's cake was a white, four-tiered confection embellished with intricate scrolling and navy ribbon. The couple's crystal initials and fall flowers completed the design. The groom's cake was a square butter cake with chocolate frosting adorned with cascading chocolate-covered strawberries and fall flowers. The bride's and groom's cakes were presented on wood risers in front of an iron arbor twined with curly willow branches. The cakes were created by Betty Rose Walterscheid of Muenster.

Music was provided by The Entertainer of Muenster. A special Czech wedding march was led by Johnny and Martha Pelzel of Fort Worth, aunt and uncle of the groom.

The bride is a 2005 graduate of Lindsay High School and is employed at Peterbilt. The groom is a 2001 graduate of Lindsay High School, 2006 graduate of Texas A & M University, and a 2008 graduate of Oklahoma State University. He is employed at Plano Machine.

After a wedding trip to the Dominican Republic, they are at home in Lindsay.



Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Dennis ...nee Christy Hess ...

New Arrival

Stapleton

Ethan and Kenzie Stapleton of Muenster are happy to announce the birth of their son Eli John Stapleton. Eli was born in North Texas Medical Center on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013 at 10:18 p.m., weighing 6 lb. 8 oz. and measuring 20 inches in length. Welcoming him to the family is sibling Ziek Stapleton, age two. Grandparents are Gayle Richardson and Pete Abbott of Muenster, Barbara and Mike Hudgins of Era, and Ken Stapleton of Lake Dallas. Great-grandparents are Barbara Kirkpatrick of Saint Jo, Augie Knabe of Iowa Park, and John Schaefer of Perris, California.



Eli Stapleton

Save the date to see County Scouts in Action

The date is quickly approaching for the fundraising event sponsored by Cooke County Friends of Scouting that will feature the Scouting units of Cooke County in action. On March 23, the Scouts will display many of the skills they have learned and perfected through Scouting. The public is invited to observe them as they celebrate 103 years of Scouting in the community.

This year's Cooke County community fundraising event is chaired by Neil Hesse, general manager for Cooke County Electric in Muenster. The program will take place at Cooke County Electric, 11799 W. U.S. Hwy. 82, Muenster. Visitors will see Scouts in Action from 4 to 6 p.m., with dinner and a program from 6 to 7 p.m. Local businesses are invited in the hopes of raising funds for the Scouts.

For questions on how to be a table host or to RSVP, contact Greg Brock at 214-929-0168 or 622FrontierTrail@bsa-mail.org

Relay For Life Team registration

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Cooke County is just around the corner and your help is needed! Relay For Life is a fun-filled, overnight event that mobilizes communities throughout the country to celebrate survivors, remember loved ones lost, and raise money for the fight against cancer. The Society wants every cancer survivor in Cooke County along with every caregiver recognized for their amazing accomplishments.

Survivors, register today by contacting Brita Adkins at 940-736-3442, or brittany_adkins@teamhealth.com or by visiting <http://www.RelayForLife.org/CookeCoTX>. Survivors and current cancer patients, caregivers, families, businesses, civic organizations, and the public are invited to take part in this exciting, team event. Relay For Life of Cooke County takes place on Friday, May 3 from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. on Saturday, May 4 at Gainesville High School Football Stadium.

Listen to inspiring stories of courage from survivors and learn more about Relay For Life, Friday March 8 at 7:45 a.m. on the Community Service Report airing on Hometown Radio 1580 KGAF.

Register or join a team today by contacting Amanda Riley at 940-634-4848, or ariley_06@yahoo.com.

"The funds raised enable us to continue our investment in the fight against cancer through research, education, advocacy, and services to patients," said Kyle Ingram, spokesman. "Due to the generosity of our sponsors, the money raised by participants goes directly to the American Cancer Society's lifesaving programs." Help celebrate more birthdays and connect with other relayers in the community and across the nation by visiting www.RelayForLife.org/CookeCoTX to make a donation, register a survivor, team, or caregiver, and find out how you can help.



Courtesy photo

GIRL SCOUT BRONZE AWARD PROJECT

The Girl Scout Juniors from Troop 4657 are collecting items to make Easter baskets for the Muenster Nursing Home. The girls have a donation basket set up at Fischer's to help fill the baskets. Items they are looking to collect are: slippers, kleenex, hand sanitizer, toothbrushes, wash cloths, large print books, word search books, shampoo, lip balm, lotion, and socks with grips. Pictured are, from left, Kelsey Hennigan, Audrey Kubis, Lily Haley, Mary Fisher, Preston VanBrakel, and Katherine Klement.

Enjoy the music of Willson & McKee

Willson & McKee are... Two Voices with guitars, bouzouki, harp, accordion, dulcimers, stories, dances and FUN!!!

Willson & McKee, a nationally touring duo specializing in traditional Irish, Scottish, and original acoustic music, will be performing on Monday and Tuesday, March 18 and 19 at Sacred Heart

Community Center, working with Sacred Heart students. There will also be a free concert Tuesday, March 19 at 7 p.m. in the Community Center.

Rocky Mountain Celtic... what Celtic becomes when it settles comfortably, three generations in the west! Americans doing what they do best - interpreting their

roots music in fresh and original ways!! The combination of their Celtic heritage plus their Montana and Colorado roots gives audiences a distinctive musical experience. Original compositions with an ancient sound, and traditional pieces re-dressed in their customized style.

Performing and studying with master musicians, storytellers, and dancers in Ireland and Scotland, guarantees sparkle and depth with a Willson & McKee event! Repeated honors at such events as the Walton's of Dublin International Songwriting Competition at the Milwaukee Irish Festival and instrumental awards such as a National Instrumental Championship guarantee the highest quality performances. The concert will include material from their nine recordings, including their latest collection from their last tour to Scotland.

Kim McKee received 15 years of classical training

before turning to traditional Irish and Scottish music 30 years ago. She moves effortlessly between her instruments, and her palate includes accordion, folk harp, guitar, dulcimers, and bodhran. She never passes up an opportunity to teach a Ceilidh dance!

Ken Willson is the pulsing folk drive, with an engaging tenor voice, tasteful guitar, and bouzouki foundations enhancing the distinctive material. A weaver of wit and tales, he can also spin a fine Ceilidh swing on the dance floor!

Collecting experiences, stories, and humor from 20 years of touring together, this pair has focused on educational programming, concert venues, college campuses, master classes, workshops, cultural events, and festivals, and they have fine-tuned their stage performances to be anything but predictable, traditional, or expected.



Retirement May Be Far Off, But the April 15 Deadline for IRA Contributions Isn't.

You have only so many years to prepare for retirement. That's why contributing to your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is so important. Fortunately, you still have time to maximize your 2012 IRA contribution before the April 15, 2013 deadline.

By contributing now, your retirement savings can have more opportunity to grow. Even if you already have an IRA elsewhere, it's easy to transfer it to an Edward Jones IRA and begin receiving the face-to-face guidance you deserve.

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JUST A SHORT DRIVE AWAY

Juntado is winner in Cooke County Spelling Bee



Courtesy photo

Jianne Juntado, center, is pictured with her award at the Cooke County Spelling Bee. Also shown are the other County contestants, from left, Jayden Jackson, Colby Brasher, Blake Hogan, Colby Endres, and Aedan Kemp.

Jianne Juntado, Sacred Heart Catholic School fourth grader, was the winner of the Cooke County Scripps National Spelling Bee on Wednesday, Feb. 13. With the correct spelling of the word "societal," Jianne earned the right to compete in the 55th Annual Dallas Morning News Regional Spelling Bee to be held on Saturday, March 23. The Bee will be taped at WFAA Studios in Dallas at 1 p.m. and will air on Sunday, March 24 on WFAA, Channel 8 at 2 p.m.

Jianne was in competition with five other students from around the county, including Blake Hogan of Muenster Junior High and Colby Endres of Muenster Elementary. She is the daughter of Radny and Marilen Juntado.

Area Event

Childbirth class is March 9

North Texas Medical Center is holding its bi-monthly childbirth class Saturday, March 9, in the Board Room at NTMC. Childbirth classes are recommended at 32 weeks gestation. The class covers all the basics of labor and delivery and is held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lunch is included and the class is FREE! Registration is required - call (940) 612-8669. The next class will be in May.

Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says, "Relax, it's just a bend, not the end!"

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NCTC photo

North Central Texas College dual credit coordinator Debbie Endres (left) assists Muenster High School juniors Tuesday in filling out applications for dual-credit classes. NCTC offers high school students the chance to obtain both high school and college credit simultaneously.

The Gene Henry Fuhrman Scholarship is available

Nortex Communications is proud to be one of several challenging workplaces that encourages and emphasizes trained professionals. In an effort to encourage the relationship between students and the opportunity to work and live in rural America, Nortex Communications developed a scholarship in 2003 that awards \$1,000 and \$500.

The Gene Henry Fuhrman College Scholarship is awarded each spring to a graduating senior who lives in the Nortex area. The awards, given each year to two students, are based on

need, grades, and community involvement. The students should be enrolled in an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, or vocational-technical school.

Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 and \$500 will be awarded during the May graduation ceremonies and the actual check will be given to the students during the month of August. The student must provide proof that they have been accepted to an accredited school.

Please visit www.nortex.com to find a scholarship application with instructions on submitting the form to

Nortex Communications. Completed applications should be sent to the attention of Maggie Fuhrmann at Nortex Communications no later than March 30. If you have any questions, please

contact Maggie Fuhrmann at (940) 759-2251.

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MISD photo

On Feb. 2, Muenster High School Band students received five Superior medals and one Excellent medal at the annual UIL Solo-Ensemble Competition. Georgia Taylor-Saavedra will advance to State competition in late May. Pictured are, from left, Georgia Taylor-Saavedra, Rachel Hare, Tara Gunnels, Abby Walterscheid, and Lora Walterscheid. The Band program is under the direction of Justin Bell.

Thank You

Many thanks to everyone who offered prayers and support to our family.

Special thanks to Sacred Heart Parish, Muenster ISD, Muenster Jaycees, First Baptist Church, to our family and many friends. We appreciate everything!

Karl, Charla, Blake, and Allison Haubold

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MISD students participating in TMSCA meets.

MISD photo

MISD students place in TMSCA meets

Muenster students, grades 5-8, have been competing in TMSCA (Texas Math and Science Coaches Association) meets since January. Students practice and compete in the areas of Number Sense, Calculator, Math, and Science. Students attend practices after school and compete in meets on Saturday.

Competing in the last two meets, Kirby and City View, gave students the opportunity to qualify to compete at the State TMSCA meet in San Antonio which will be held in April. Thus far, four students have qualified to compete in the State meet. Eighth grader Alyssa Barnes will be competing in Science and 6th graders Tom Davis, Morgan Hennigan, and Rut Rodriguez will be competing in Math. Students will have one more opportunity to qualify for State competition.

Teachers are: 5th and 6th Grade Number Sense – Vicki Eldridge; 7th and 8th Grade Number Sense – Amy Binder; Mathematics – Deanna Hellman; Science – Bernadette Otto.

The results from previous meets follow.

Kirby, Wichita Falls Meet, March 2:

Number Sense
5th grade - Colby Endres, 1st Place; Major Eldridge, 3rd Place.

6th grade - Tom Davis, 3rd; Nathan Hacker, 9th Place.

Calculator
5th Grade - Zachary Sanders, 4th Place; Noah Clure, 7th Place.

6th Grade - Morgan Hennigan, 3rd Place; Tom Davis, 6th Place.

7th Grade - Bailey Anderle, 8th Place; Alaina Kubis, 10th Place.

Math

5th Grade - Colby Endres, 2nd Place; Savannah Bohl, 6th Place; Zachary Sanders, 7th Place.

6th Grade - Rut Rodriguez, 4th Place; Tom Davis, 5th Place; Morgan Hennigan, 8th Place.

8th Grade – Alyssa Barnes, 7th Place.

Science
5th Grade - Major Eldridge, 3rd Place; Hunter Haverkamp, 4th Place; Zachary Sanders, 6th Place; Kolby Endres, 8th Place; Savannah Bohl, 9th Place.

6th Grade - Ashleigh Fisher, 7th Place.

8th Grade - Alyssa Barnes, 5th Place.

Other students competing in this meet include Hannah Lamar, Hannah Clure, Ixel Meza, Sadie Sandmann, MacKenzie Sicking, Kody Walterscheid, Kyle Wolf, Megan Rohmer, and Erin Schniederjan.

City View, Jan 26:

Number Sense
8th grade - Brenna Binder, 10th Place.

Calculator
5th Grade - Noah Clure, 1st Place; Lane Trubebach, 3rd Place.

6th Grade - MacKenzie Sicking, 5th Place.

Math
5th Grade – Zachary Sanders, 9th Place.

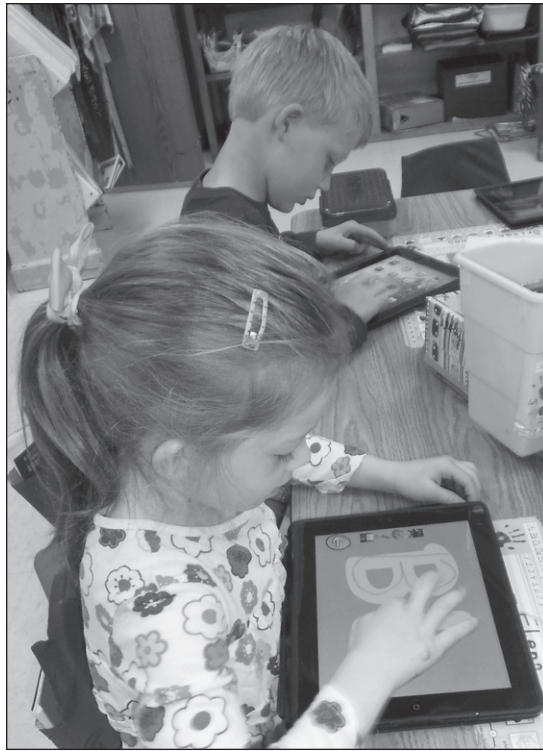
7th Grade - Erin Schniederjan, 4th Place.

Science
5th Grade - Lane Trubebach, 1st Place.
Santo Forte Junior High, Azle, Jan 19:

Math
6th Grade – Rut Rodriguez, 6th Place.



MISD photo



MISD LEARNING WITH IPADS
Muenster Elementary Kindergarten students experience self-directed learning with iPads. The Kindergarten teachers Amy Huchton and Sabrina Truebenbach are incorporating self-directed learning into their classrooms weekly with the iPads. Every Wednesday is “iPad Day.” The students will have access to the iPad cart in their classroom where they will be able to practice a variety of skills including handwriting, math concepts, spelling, reading practice, and more. Kindergarten students learning with the iPad are counterclockwise from above, left to right - Emma Walterscheid, Caden Klement, Karissa Harrison; Elena David, Landon Hacker; Ayden Gray, Austin Freeman, Carter Sicking, and Annsley Budish.



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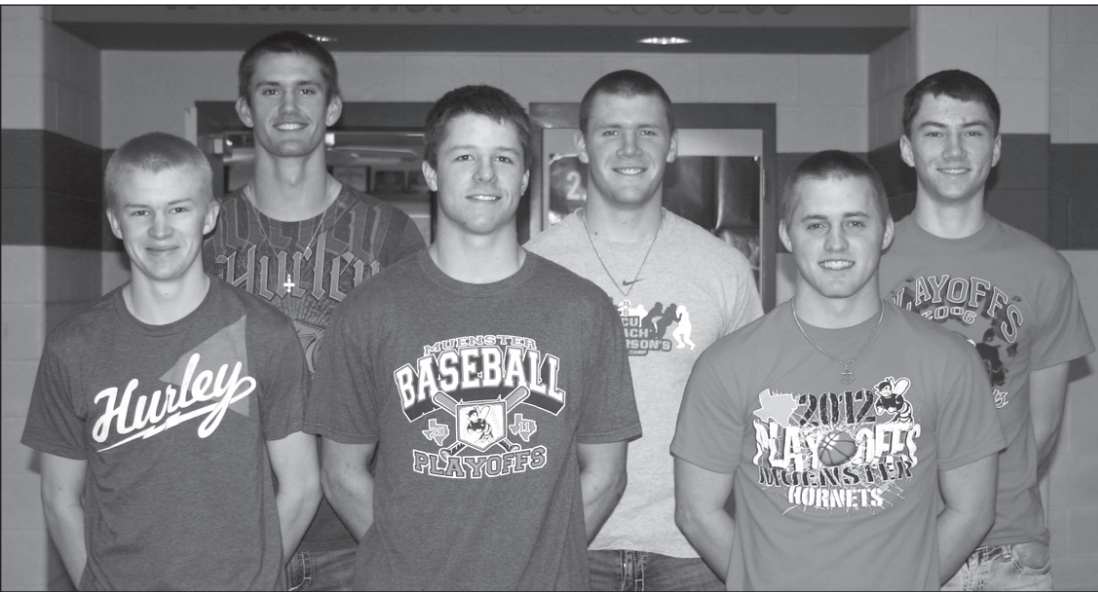
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SPORTS



Janie Hartman photo

Lady Hornets named to the 13-A All-District team: from left - Kassie Dangelmayr, Michelle Sicking, Paige Herr, Lauren Rohmer, Hannah Bayer, Amber Walterscheid, Cedy Burnett, Sydney Huchton, Kristen Reiter, and Coach Jason Atcheson.



Janie Hartman photo

All-District Hornets: from left - Austin Hennigan, Cole Walterscheid, Trevor Hess, Andy Flusche, Clint Sidwell, and Hunter Klement.

20 12-13 DISTRICT 13A ALL DISTRICT BASKETBALL

GIRLS

MVP:

Amber Walterscheid - Muenster

OFFENSIVE POY:

Michelle Sicking - Muenster

DEFENSIVE POY:

Cedy Burnett - Muenster

Erika Sappington - V.View, 6th MAN OF THE YEAR:

Kristen Reiter - Muenster

Courtney Neu - Era

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR:

Lauren Bierschenk - V.View

Hayley Knabe - Era

COACH OF THE YEAR:

Jason Atcheson - Muenster

1st TEAM

Lauren Rohmer - M

Paige Herr - M

Sydney Beuthien - E

Logan Knabe - E

Sydney Ott - L

Lydia Zimmerer - VV

2nd TEAM

Hannah Bayer - M

Shelby Huddleston - E

Hannah Erwin - E

Jalyn Anderle - L

Hayley Skinner - L

Makayla Johnson - VV

Bailey Whilte - VV

Brooke Johnson - C

HONORABLE MENTION

Sydney Huchton - M

Kassie Dangelmayr - M

Tara Atkins - L

Maddie Zimmerer - L

Savanna Schniederjan - VV

Morgan Ireland - C

ACADEMIC

ALL DISTRICT

Muenster - Amber Walterscheid, Lauren Rohmer, Brooke Walterscheid, Kristen Reiter, Sydney Huchton, Hannah Bayer; Valley View - Makayla Johnson, Bailey Wilhite, Callie Wilhite, Lydia Zimmerer, Erika Sappington, Caly Wilson, Lauren Bierschenk, Savanna

Schniederjan; Collinsville

- Morgan Ireland, Jessica Jetton, Laurine McAden, Brooke Johnson, Cally Johnson; Era

- Sarani Balthrop, Shelby Binford, Shelby Huddleston, Logan Knabe, Hannah Erwin, Sydney Beuthien, Heather Brown, Courtney Neu, Darian Fuller, Haley Knabe; Lindsay - Tara Atkins, Maddie Zimmerer, Nicole Fleitman, Teresa Boles, Jalyn Anderle.

Austin Hennigan - M

Hunter Klement - M

Lyndon Cook - L

Travis Krahl - L

Jace Claytor - C

Connor Daley - C

Andrew Harris - C

John Lewis - C

Tanner Peska - C

Collyn Shewbirt - C

Jake Vella - C

Dylan Brown - E

Caleb Comer - E

Tim Farr - E

Avery Fortenberry - E

Jacob Metzler - E

Caleb Thompson - E

Wrange Walther - E

Sam Weber - E

Connor Bierschenk - VV

Austin Collett - VV

Hunter French - VV

Ryland King - VV

Kollin Meyer - VV

Rusty Shell - VV

BOYS

MVP

Lyndon Cook - Lindsay

OFFENSIVE MVP

Jake Vella - Collinsville

DEFENSIVE MVP

Cole Walterscheid - Muenster

6th MAN OF THE YEAR

Andy Flusche - Muenster

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

Andy Dieter - Lindsay

COACH OF THE YEAR

Lynn Cook - Lindsay

1st TEAM

Austin Hennigan - M

Trevor Hess - M

Kedrick Boaz - L

Connor Daley - C

John Lewis - C

Avery Fortenberry - E

Kollin Meyer - VV

2nd TEAM

Hunter Klement - M

John Haverkamp - L

Zach Mlinar - L

Jace Claytor - C

Caleb Comer - E

Tim Farr - E

HONORABLE MENTION

Clint Sidwell - M

Jacob Metzler - E

Caleb Thompson - E

Hunter French - VV

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Lindsay ball

The Lady Knights went 0-3 in the Swinging for the Cure Softball Tournament last weekend. They fell to Bonham 7-2, Whitewright, as the snow fell, 15-0, and Farmersville, who went on to win the tournament, 2-1.

The Lady Knights traveled to Celina on Tuesday and took on the 3-A Lady Cats. They went 7 innings, but fell short in the game by a score of 9-0.

The Lady Knights played in the Aubrey tournament, playing four games, coming up short in all four.

Game one was a 6-1 loss to Ponder, followed by a 12-1 loss to Gunter. Game three saw Aubrey defeat Lindsay 10-0, with the final a 13-3 loss to Sanger.

Scoring runs were Kailie Klement, Scout Tatum, Chandler Herr, and Tara Atkins. Atkins pitched all four games.

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Lab discounts good on all appointments booked for the month of March, 2013. All prices are cash prices. Insurance will not be billed.

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Polly Klement, RN, MSN, FNP-C
Mary Eberhart, RN, MSN, WHNP-BC

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KC Free Throw State participants



Courtesy photo

Roy Endres made 18 of 25 free throws in the 13 year old boys division; Brenna Fleitman, 20 of 25, 1st place, 13 year old girls; Karlee Tucker, 15 of 25 and 5 of 5 in tie breaker to place 3rd in the 12 year old girls group; Sandra Christian, 16 of 25 and 2 of 5 in tie breaker, 4th place, 11 year old girls; Briana Knabe, 18 of 25 and 3 of 5 in tie breaker to win the 10 year old girls division; and Lex Knabe, 2nd place in 10 year old boys. Roy, Karlee, Briana and Lex represented Muenster Knights of Columbus Council 1459 and Brenna the Lindsay KCs.

Did you know?

A baby kangaroo weighs only a little more than a thumbtack, is blind and helpless at birth. In its mother's pouch, it finds warmth and food for the first six months of its life.

Elephants do swim. Top speed, 2 mph. But they can't jump.

An ant can lift 50 times its own weight.

In 1890, a cow named Mollie from Ohio began giving black milk. The milk tasted very good and had scientists of the day baffled.

An adult flea can live up to one year without eating.

Whales cannot swim backwards.

A horse lowers its head to see in the distance and raises its head to see close up.

When camels are born, they don't have humps.

The ruby-throated hummingbird moves its wings at a rate of 200 wing beats per second.

The state bird of Utah is the Sea Gull.

A baby rabbit is called a kit.

A baby ostrich can run as fast as its parents - 40 mph.

A flea can jump up to 10 inches high.

A MOTHER'S GOOD LUCK HUG



Courtesy photo

Marine Corps Trials archery competition: Marine Veteran Cpl. Jake Stalder of Muenster receives a big hug from his mom Claudia before the start of the archery finals at the 2013 Marine Corps Trials. The Trials are a Paralympic style competition that includes swimming, wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, track and field, archery, cycling, and shooting. The Trials concluded March 6 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California. The top 50 performing Marines will earn the opportunity to compete on the All-Marine Warrior Games Team in Colorado Springs, Colorado in May.

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Muenster Junior High Track Meet
March 4, 2013

*Photos by
Janie Hartman*



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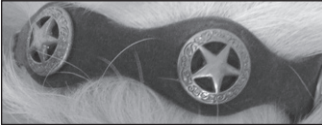
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This poor pup was hit on Hwy. 82 Tuesday a.m. in front of the lot just east of Muenster Antique Mall. She (I think) is fine. After a quick check up at Muenster Vet Clinic, she



was released. Here is a close up of the collar but no tags. If this dog belongs to you please call 727-9978. We can't keep her. We don't want any money for the vet, we just want her back home with her owner.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice to Muenster Youth Organizations: Submit your budget for United Way funds to the Muenster Youth Council. Deadline is March 18, 5 p.m. at City Hall, 400 N. Main 3.8-2

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FARM & RANCH

County Agent's Report

USDA reminds producers of March 15 closing date for non-insurable crops

Cooke County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Scott Tiemann urges producers who want to purchase coverage through the Non-insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) to do so before the sales closing date of March 15.

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields/grazing loss, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to normal disasters.

The following crops have a NAP application closing date of March 15: sorghum forage (haygrazer) for grazing and hay, pecans.

"Purchasing a crop insurance policy is an easy way for producers to practice risk management," said Tiemann. "The 2013 crop year has proved that natural disasters can directly affect the profitability and recovery of agricultural operations," he

said. In the event of a natural disaster, NAP covers the amount of loss greater than 50% of the expected production based on the approved yield and reported acreage.

Eligible producers can apply for coverage using form

CCC-471, "Application for Coverage." Producers must file the application and service fee of \$250 by the March 15 deadline.

For more information on sales closing dates and NAP, contact the Cooke County FSA office at 940-668-7794.



AG TALK

By Mike Barnett
Publication director

Who cares about water in Texas?

So who cares about water in Texas? Farmers and ranchers, obviously. The rest of the state? Not so much.

At least that's the conclusion faculty members at the University of Texas made after examining public opinion polls of issues that matter most to Texans.

The economy, immigration, and education are top of mind for most. Yet water—that life-giving resource—registers as a top issue with only 4%.

That's a real concern. Rural Texans understand burn bans, dry wells and short pastures. Drought is not a word. It is a reality they live with every day.

For most urban Texans, water is something that comes out of the tap. Every time there's plenty to keep the lawn green. There's plenty to keep the pool brimming. Urban areas are an oasis in a sea of Texas brown. And that's a dangerous mirage for our future.

How long this lack of concern continues is a \$53 billion question.

That's the amount the Texas Water Development Board estimates it will take to fund the State Water Plan, a roadmap to meet the needs of a booming Texas population for the next 50 years.

Fortunately, the Texas legislature is paying attention, and both Texas House and Senate leadership has expressed the need this session to kick-start the plan with revenue from the Rainy Day Fund.

And that's good. But there's also a danger. Agriculture—with a stellar record of improving efficiency and conservation and doing much more with less over the last two decades—is still the top water user in the state.

And as water gets more expensive and sources disappear, a clamor could arise to take agriculture's water—drying up livelihoods, a rich agriculture heritage, and ultimately, the food supply.

That's why water needs to be a top concern of all Texans. Conservation and planning for future water needs is a conversation all Texans need to be engaged in now.

Waiting until the tap runs dry is far too late.



Drip irrigation

Drip irrigation is the precise application of water where and when plants need it. It is the most efficient method for irrigation, with efficiency of up to 90%. Conversion to drip irrigation is potentially a great water conservation tool for homeowners. The most practical applications for drip irrigation in the home landscape are in gardens, hedge rows, flower beds, trees, and/or any combination of these. The water conservation achieved by drip irrigation comes from the precise application of water, minimal runoff, less evaporation from an essen-

tially closed system, and less water lost to weeds and undesirable plants, because the system is placed exactly where the desirable plants need it.

Installing a drip irrigation system does not have to be expensive or complicated. You can install drip irrigation by using the existing pipes, valves, and controller, and installing a conversion or retrofit kit, or by simply attaching the tubing to the outdoor faucet. If you are short on time, or intimidated by the process of converting your irrigation system, hiring a Licensed Irrigator is always an option.

There are many drip irrigation products on the market. The basic component parts of any drip irrigation system are similar: water source (well or city), filter, delivery lines, and emitters. There are different types of drip systems, some use higher pressure than others, some come with holes already in the line, some without.

There are different types of lines also. In general, all systems are basically good, and there is no great advantage of one over another. Drip systems must be maintained and cared for, as with other water systems; hence, it is best to leave the emitter and loops on top of the ground so they can be checked regularly. Maintaining two to four inches of mulch covering over the tubing and the plant root zone keeps the system working at its highest efficiency.

Dates to remember

March 12 - Cooke County Marketing Club Meeting, Cooke County Farm Bureau Building, 7 p.m.

March 27 - "Build Your Own Hoop House," educational program at the Frank Buck Zoo, details TBA.

Foreign investors up the stakes in U.S.

The amount of agricultural land owned by foreign investors rose by more than 1.5 million acres in the most-recent reporting period, says United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency.

Foreign owners are required to report purchases to USDA, according to the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978. As of the end of 2010, the most recent data available, foreign investors held an interest in 24.2 million acres of U.S. agricultural land (forest and farm land). That is an increase of 1.53 million acres from Feb. 28, 2010.

Of that, forest land accounted for 56% of all foreign-held ag land; cropland, 17%; and pasture and other ag land, 27%. Foreign-held land represents 1.9% of all privately-held ag land in the U.S.

Foreign holdings were relatively stable from 2000 to 2006, but jumped nearly eight million acres since, due to acquisitions by Canadian timber firms. Maine has the largest amount of foreign-held ag land—2.87 million acres, mostly timber. Texas has the second largest amount with 2.79 million acres, which is only 1.8% of privately-held ag land. Alabama is the third highest at 1.57 million acres, 5.5% of privately-held ag land.

Sequestration could lead to temporary shut-down of meat plants

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is reporting that the effects of sequestration, or mandatory budget cuts, at the end of the month could have a wide range of effects on the American people. In a letter to legislators, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack states that the cuts would force the USDA to place up to one-third of its workers on furlough, which would prompt meat plants across the nation to also close during that time due to loss of meat inspection personnel.

Vilsack said cuts could also mean the closure of 670 recreational sites across the nation during the spring and summer.

Other effects, according to Vilsack, could include a pause on the Census of Agriculture and a slowdown in USDA aid to landowners.

\$14 billion paid in crop insurance

Crop insurance payments for the 2012 crops now total more than \$14 billion with claims still pending. This is a record payout, exceeding the previous record of \$10.84 billion in 2011. Insurance payments are expected to exceed \$16 billion by the time all the claims for the 2012 crop are processed. Farmers pay about \$4 billion for insurance premiums each year. About 85% of the corn, soybean, and wheat acreage had crop insurance coverage in 2012; for cotton acreage it was close to 90%.

Source: Doane's Ag. Report



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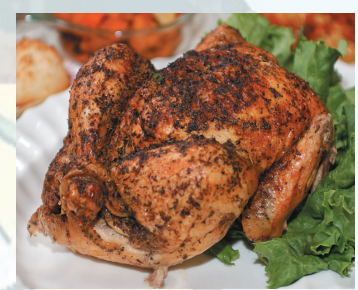
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30 PK EACH **Keystone Light, Miller, Natural Light, or Busch \$19.27**

- PREFERRED TRIM BONELESS BEEF **Chuck Roast LB. \$2.86**
- BAR S 12 OZ. **Sliced Bacon EACH \$2.86**
- OSCAR MAYER 12 OZ. **Turkey Bacon EACH \$1.86**
- OSCAR MAYER SELECT VARIETIES 8.9-11.1 OZ. **FunPack Lunchable EACH \$1.86**
- OSCAR MAYER SELECT VARIETIES 7-9 OZ. **Deli Fresh Lunch Meats EACH \$2.86**
- OSCAR MAYER BEEF OR BUN-LENGTH 1 LB. **Beef Franks EACH \$2.86**
- ECKRICH 9 OZ. COOKED HAM OR **Oven Roasted Turkey EACH \$1.86**
- ECKRICH BEEF 14 OZ. **Smoked Sausage EACH \$2.86**

LENTEN SPECIALS

- FARM RAISED 1 LB. **Catfish Nuggets EACH \$1.86**
- SEA BEST BREADED JUMBO OR COCONUT 9-10 OZ. **Shrimp EACH \$2.86**
- SHURFINE 31/40 CT., 1 LB. **Cooked Shrimp EACH \$6.86**

Fresh Produce

- FRESH FIRM HEADS **Green Cabbage 4 LBS. \$1**
- FRESH **Large Avocados 2 FOR \$1**
- RED RIPE **Tomatoes LB. 99¢**
- ROMAINE OR GREEN **Leaf Lettuce BUNCH 99¢**
- FRESH BULB **Green Onions BUNCH 79¢**
- BAGGED SWEET **Yellow Onions 3 LB. \$1.99**
- FRESH EXPRESS **Spinach 9 OZ. \$1.69**
- FRESH SPICY **Jalapeño Peppers LB. 99¢**
- FRESH BUNCH **Cilantro BUNCH 2 FOR \$1**
- TANGY, JUICY **Lemons or Limes 4 FOR \$1**
- U.S. NO. 1 **Red Potatoes 5 LB. \$1.69**

Dairy & Frozen Foods

- BROWN OR GOLD RIM 1/2 GALLON **Blue Bell Ice Cream 2 for \$9**
- OREO CREME, KEY LIME, OR TURTLE CREAM **Edwards Pies 26-36 OZ. \$5.99**
- NEW YORK SELECT VARIETIES **Garlic Breads 7.3-12 OZ. \$2.49**
- SELECT VARIETIES **Banquet Chicken 24-29.5 OZ. \$3.49**
- BIRDS EYE SELECT VARIETIES **Vegetables 10-16 OZ. 5 FOR \$5**
- VAN DE KAMP'S SELECT VARIETIES **Fish Fillets or Sticks 14-26.4 OZ. \$3.99**
- GROWER'S PRIDE SELECT VARIETIES **Orange Juice 59 OZ. 2 FOR \$4**
- ASSORTED VARIETIES **Sunny D Drinks 64 OZ. \$1.69**
- SELECT VARIETIES 7.5 OZ. CANS **Pillsbury Biscuits 4 PACK \$1.99**

Health & Beauty Care

- WESTERN FAMILY **Epsom Salts 1 LB. 2 FOR \$4**
- DIAL COMPLETE ASSORTED VARIETIES **Foaming Hand Soap 7.5 OZ. \$2.69**
- WESTERN FAMILY REGULAR OR SUPER **Tampons Plastic Applicator 18 CT. 2 FOR \$5**
- Midol 24 CT. \$4.29**