

Ice halts business as usual for many



Janie Hartman photo

Rain began on Sunday morning. By late afternoon, temperatures fell and rain turned to sleet. With temperatures in the 20s Sunday night, the precipitation made wet roads icy and hazardous to travel. Temperatures remained in the 20s on Monday. By Tuesday, roads began to thaw and travel became easier in Cooke County. The icy spell had school canceled until 10 a.m. Wednesday morning. Cooke County's Youth Fair participants had to shuffle times for showing their animals and bringing in items to the food and art and crafts. More bad weather is in the forecast for this weekend.

Hospital District compromises on tax abatement

Janet Felderhoff
News Editor

OwnEnergy representative Nathan Vajdos was scheduled to speak at the Tuesday, Feb. 17 meeting of the Muenster Hospital District Board of Directors. He was late in arriving and missed the open meeting, but did arrive in time for the Board to consider his proposed wind farm's tax abatement following their executive session.

At the January meeting, Vajdos requested that to make the wind farm project viable, the Board consider granting a 50% abatement for the first 10 years. The Board informed Vajdos that this was at odds with what the hospital needed and felt was reasonable.

In January, the Board had told Vajdos that the timing on the abatement was not what was best for the Hospital District. Board Secretary John Aytes noted this was, "Because the first few years of the life of the project would be the most important to us due to our financial requirements and needs."

Aytes said that Vajdos' new suggestion was to cut the abatement time in half. He requested an abatement for the first five years rather than 10 years of 50% abatement. Aytes said that the Board pointed out that this was not in line with the requirements and needs of the Hospital District.

The Board informed Vajdos that Cooke County Chief Appraiser Doug Smithson had cautioned them about what would be lost in that first initial year of the project. "The amount of any new tax base was very important to our position on down the line," said Aytes. "Because if we had to at some point raise the tax rate for the Hospital District what happened that first year, the figures for that first year were the most important thing." The Board said they would give their offer that night, but it was with the proviso that it be passed first by their tax and legal counsels. Aytes added that Vajdos agreed that OwnEnergy would pay for that provided they get an abatement.

They then went into another executive session. During executive session, the Board determined it should offer an abatement of five years at 50%, but that the five years would be in the second five years rather than the first five as requested by OwnEnergy.

Coming out of executive session, The Board voted unanimously to make that offer. Vajdos asked them if this was their best offer and he was told yes, that was the final offer.

In a telephone interview, Aytes said, "We have an understanding of agreement as long as nothing comes up untoward of either counsel that will be our agreement."

During the regular meeting, Ronnie Felderhoff addressed the Board during public comments. He spoke in support of granting OwnEnergy the requested abatement. He said that when Vajdos addressed Commissioners Court, he said that today without an abatement the wind farm would not get built. Felderhoff said it would create eight to 10 jobs, increase employment while it is built, bring in more taxes, and bring money into the community.

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Sr. Roberta appeals for African Sisters

Janet Felderhoff
News Editor

Many young women in Africa have vocations that come from their hearts, but who may not be able to follow the path that God is calling them to unless they receive help. Most of these young Sisters of St. Mary of Namur (SSMN) have their high school education, but need higher training to pursue their mission in life.

Muenster native member of SSMN Sr. Roberta Hesse has served about 35 years as a missionary in Africa. She has come to know and love the people of that country. Sr. Roberta remarked, "The im-

portant thing was they have hearts exactly like the hearts of mothers and fathers here. They want the best for their children. I found the most beautiful people there like the beautiful people here."

This past November, Sr. Justine and Sr. Immaculate from the Democratic Republic of Congo visited Muenster with Sr. Roberta. It was during this time that Sr. Roberta learned of the dilemma faced by Sisters serving in Africa.

Sr. Mary Justine said that they are trying to be financially independent from Europe by earning their own money. The Sisters in Africa have been able to get along even though they must make

some sacrifices. "But now, we have all of these young Sisters and we can't get them to school," explained Sr. Justine. They asked the General Superior and were told that she didn't have any funds to send them. They would just have to turn the young women away.

Sr. Justine then appealed to Sr. Roberta, "Is there any way somebody could help us so that we wouldn't have to turn away young people who feel they have a vocation?"

Sr. Roberta said that the young Sisters need training for their apostolates - their ministry such as nursing, education, pastoral work, administration, finance, etc.

"It is not the diploma that gives them their vocation, it's their heart, that gives them the vocation," reflected Sr. Roberta. Some of the young ladies come with more education than others and the easy way would be to accept those who were better educated. "But, that's not a vocation. A vocation comes from the heart," said Sr. Roberta. "We don't want to turn anybody away, but we have this great responsibility of educating. They are hoping that within the process of five years that they would be able to educate the Sisters who come. Sr. Roberta said that five years is because in two years the Democratic Republic of Congo will have elections. The man who is president wants to change the constitution so that he

See SISTERS, pg. 6



Courtesy photo

There are four women from Muenster who are with Sisters of St. Mary Namur. They are pictured, from right, Sr. Francesca Walterscheid, Sr. Anselma Knabe, Sr. Mary Helen Fuhrmann, and Sr. Roberta Hesse.

Friday is last day to file

Janet Felderhoff
News Editor

Friday, Feb. 27 is the final day to file as a candidate for any of the local elections.

City Council has three positions up for election. They are that of Mayor held by Joey Anderson, Place 3 held by Tim Felderhoff, and Place 4 held by Jack Flusche. As of 5 p.m. Monday, only Felderhoff had come in to sign on for another term.

Since that time, Anderson announced that he did not plan to seek another term as mayor. Tim Felderhoff changed his filing from that of Place 3 to mayor. Jack Flusche signed up to run for another term for Place 4. Clifford Sicking has signed

up for Place 3. Candidate applications for these positions will be taken at City Hall until 5 p.m. Friday.

There are still positions on the Muenster ISD Board of Trustees with no candidates. There are three positions with expiring terms on its Board of Trustees. Those are Place 5 held by Richard Dangelmayr, Place 6 held by Kimberly Hess Walterscheid, and Place 7 held by Steve Trubenbach.

As of Wednesday, only Walterscheid had signed up seeking another term. There were three applicants pending at that time. They had picked up packets, but had not yet returned them. School was closed from Friday until Wednesday morn-

ing due to icy road conditions. Application packets for these places are available at the MISD Administration Office and must be filed by 4 p.m. this Friday.

Muenster Hospital District's Board of Directors has three at-large positions open. They are held by Mary Del Olmo, Bob Ambrose, and Ronnie Weinzapfel. All three signed up as candidates expressing their willingness to serve another three-year term. As of Wednesday, there were no other candidates. Application packets are available at the Hospital Administration Office and must be filed by 4:30 p.m. Friday to file as a candidate for any of the local elections.

Self takes helm at MISD

Janet Felderhoff
News Editor

Muenster ISD's Board of Trustees hired Steve Self as the District's superintendent. He began his duties there full time on Jan. 26.

With German heritage on his mother's side, Superintendent Self said that he understands the work mentality and the desire to better yourself. His parents believed in education, especially his mother. He said she engrained in all three of her children the importance of education. "They treasured an education," noted Self.

Self lived in Krum until 7th grade when his family moved to the Argyle area. He graduated high school in Denton.

"Education is a relationship," remarked Superintendent Self. "It's not just doing something. It's communicating and making things happen with people. You can't do it by yourself. It's one of those things. As a teacher, you can't do it." In his early teaching career, Self thought that the harder he worked, the better the kids would do. He said, "That is the farthest thing from the truth. You've got to set the kids up for success. It doesn't necessarily mean that you need to work harder. You just need to have a plan where the kids work smarter."

Superintendent Self prefers small schools. He began his teaching career in a large school where there were so many students that the teachers had difficulty

learning all of their students' names much less getting to know them. "I like the small setting where you see the kids play basketball, see them raise their animals... You just have a different relationship with them."

Self earned a degree in Secondary Education from North Texas State University. He credits the teachers in his junior high and high school for inspiring him to pursue a career in education.

He taught for several years after graduating from North Texas. He then attended UT in Austin where he earned a Master's degree in Geog-

raphy and Education. He has taught from 6th grade through graduate school. Self served as principal for students from 3rd grade through 12th grade. He has been a superintendent for the past 15 years in two different districts. Self comes to Muenster from Woodboro in Refugio County. He was there for about 11 years.

As far as his plans for Muenster ISD, Self said that he's discussed with the School Board what their goals and aspirations are. The Board has met some of their goals with the building

See SELF, pg. 2



Courtesy photo

Muenster ISD Superintendent Steve Self, right, and his wife Karen are new Muenster residents.

None injured in two-car crash



Janie Hartman photo

Eric Stoffels checks out the damage to his vehicle last Thursday east of Muenster. Stoffels was entering the westbound lane on Hwy. 82 from a cross-over when Jordan Henschel topped the hill and struck Stoffels who spun out of control off the roadway and overturned in the ditch. There were no injuries to the drivers in the accident.

SELF

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program. They also want to continue to stress academics at MISD. He noted that Muenster along with Lindsay and Era are especially known to be very good academically. Continuing to improve the academics will be on Self's priority list.

Location played a big role in Self's decision to apply for the MISD superintendent position. Being near Wise County where the family has land and close to their new grandchild were very appealing. He said he felt very blessed to have been selected by the Board. "Compared to most school districts in Texas, Muenster is close to perfect in my mind," stated Self. "It's got so much to build on and such a tradition of really excellence. When I worked at the Region 11 Service Center, Muenster was always in the top group of school districts. It's blessed with demographics that help. But, a lot of it is that the demographics supports education, supports kids. That helps."

As for his philosophy on education, Self believes, "Small is better. If you can keep your school and your classroom size smaller, that you build a relationship, that you learn the needs of the kids, the teacher can learn the needs of her students in these smaller classrooms better, and administrators can learn the needs of their campuses better if they've got a smaller campus. These big campuses with 1,600 to 2,000 kids, it is really hard to know the needs of the kids. And building relationships

with people, they don't happen overnight. They come about over time. I believe in high expectations, but I believe in realistic expectations, not believing that all kids are going to run a four-minute mile. They're not all going to do that. They are all unique.

"Another part of my philosophy is you've got to be enthusiastic. The best teachers may not be the most knowledgeable teachers all the time, but they are enthusiastic and they will become knowledgeable because they are enthusiastic. They can't keep from it because they love what they do and they will become better and better at what they do. The higher the percentage of those folks you've got, the better the school you're going to have.

"The small, the relationships, and the enthusiasm. In a nutshell, those three words, I've always believed if you had those in education and positive. If you try to be positive in a negative kind of world. Where it seems like everything that is negative is what sells. Everything that is negative is what people want to hear. You try to remain positive even though it is hard sometimes to remain positive. It's important because the kids deserve upbeat people to be around. Their coach, teachers, principal, and superintendent

need to be upbeat. There is positive in everything. Sometimes it is just harder to find and sometimes the thing weighs you down and it is harder to see. I try to always look for that."

Self remarked that he feels very fortunate to be in Muenster. "I love the small setting," he stated. "I'm not one of these people who believe to do better you've got to get bigger. I think you do better wherever you are whether it is a small place or a big place. I look at leaving Muenster better than I found it, just like I hope I've left every place better than I've found it. Even though there is lots of good here, there are things that can be better just like everywhere else."

Steve and his wife Karen have twin sons Benjamin and Joshua, and a third son Ash who is married to Dala. Ash and Dala have a 16-month-old son Caleb. The grandbaby was an incentive for the Selfs to come to this area. Karen is also a teacher. In recent years, she has taught kindergarten and pre-K.

In his free time, Self enjoys music. He plays guitar. He enjoys service and is a longtime member of the Lion's Club and reading. He enjoys nonfiction reading. He likes bike riding and has taken part in the German-fest bicycle ride.

HOSPITAL

.....continued from pg. 1

Felderhoff said that he had signed a contract with OwnEnergy and they want to run a power line through his property.

Yvonne Ambrose also spoke during public comments. She asked if the District had received the Meaningful Use money. Administrator Michael Kent said that it was in his CEO report. The Medicaid money had been received, but not the Medicare portion. That \$72,000 had already been applied to the loan. The Medicare website said it's marked for payment, he said.

The financial packet was not ready. Kent said it was so close to the 10th of the month that they couldn't get it ready. Aytes asked if there had been any thought about

making changes so that the financial reports would always be ready in time for the Board meetings.

Aytes made a motion that the Administrator and CEO be given the directive to study the problem and come to a solution that will assure that the monthly financial report is ready for the monthly meeting. The Board approved this unanimously.

Administrator Kent reported on several bills coming before the Texas Legislature that will affect Texas health care and hospitals.

CEO Diane Neu said that Aaron Yosten had received his Registered Nurse license from the Texas Nursing Board. They welcomed his experience at MMH as an LVN and now as an RN. She said that the nursing staff received continuing education in BLS for health care providers and ACLS. Classes were taught by Richard Brock, paramedic.

There are seven NCTC first semester nursing students at MMH this semester. The average daily census for January was 11.13. There were two patients in Wound Care, 71 patients seen in the ER, and 10 surgeries done on seven patients.

In other business, the Board:

- Approved bad debt write offs for January in the amount of \$187,528.05. The large amount was attributed to lack of write off data during the months of placing EHR into operation.

- Ordered an election to fill three three-year terms on the Board. Those places are currently held by Ronnie Weinzapfel, Bob Ambrose, and Mary Del Olmo. All three have filed for another term. Deadline to file as a candidate is Friday, Feb. 27 at 4:30 p.m.

AGENDA MEETING DATE - March 2, 2015

The following is the Agenda for a regular meeting of the Muenster City Council to be held at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall meeting room on Monday, March 2, 2015.

1. Call meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Opening prayer.
3. Approve minutes of the regular meeting held on February 2, 2015.
4. Recognize visitors and invite them to attend the entire Council meeting and to discuss their business.
5. Consider any other business to come before the Council.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discuss and take any needed action regarding the purchase of property for a Fire Station and City Hall including a mutual agreement Resolution between the City and Fire Department.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consider and possibly approve beginning the process of paving East Ninth Street.
2. Review and possibly approve payment for new water and sewer line maps from Civil Point Engineering.
3. Take any needed action regarding City Election on May 9, 2015.
4. Receive monthly update from the Fire Department.
5. Receive update on Police Department, from Chief Barr.
6. Receive status report on City projects and activities.
7. Review and act on monthly bills.
8. Adjourn.

Stan Endres, City Administrator

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These two cuties are Addy and Andy. They are available for adoption at the Easy Street Animal Shelter in Saint Jo. Both are showing potential to be great watch dogs. Adoption fee is \$25.00. For more info, contact Denise at 940-613-6865.

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

| Sunday, March 1, 2015 | Monday, March 2, 2015 | Tuesday, March 3, 2015 | Wednesday, March 4, 2015 | Thursday, March 5, 2015 | Friday, March 6, 2015 | Saturday, March 7, 2015 |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| Muenster Museum Open 1-4 pm Praise & Worship Concert SH Comm Center 3:30 pm | City Council mtg. 6:30 pm | Library open 10 am - 6:30 pm MISD Open House Arts & Crafts Fair 6:30 pm | Library open 10-6:30 Rel. Ed class 6:45 pm | Museum open 1-4 pm Library open 10-6:30 | Museum open 1 - 4 pm AARP Board Mtg. 10 am | Library open 10 - 2:30 FISH FRY for Sisters of St Mary of Namur VFW Hall 6 pm |
| | | Scholastic Spring Book Fair Texas Public Schools Week | | | | |
| Sunday, March 8, 2015 | Monday, March 9, 2015 | Tuesday, March 10, 2015 | Wednesday, March 11, 2015 | Thursday, March 12, 2015 | Friday, March 13, 2015 | Saturday, March 14, 2015 |
| Muenster Museum Open 1-4 pm | Muenster 4-H mtg. 3:30 pm MMH Aux mtg. 5:30 pm VFW mtg. 7:30 pm | Library open 10 am - 6:30 pm MISD PK-6 picture day PTO Mtg. 5:30 | Library open 10 am - 6:30 pm Rel. Ed. class 6:45 pm MISD Board mtg. 6:30 pm | Museum open 1 - 4 pm Library open 10- 6:30 | Museum open 1-4 pm AARP lunch mtg. 11:30 MHS Cheerleading Try-Outs | Library open 10-2:30 |
| | | Sacred Heart | Catholic School | Spring Break | | |

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Ted Gremminger 1930 - 2015

Ted Gremminger, a former Muenster resident, died Feb. 10, 2015 at the age of 84 in Denver, CO. He was born March 6, 1930 on the "77 Ranch" north of Wichita Falls to Ted and Katie Thoele Gremminger. He attended Sacred Heart from grade school until graduation in 1948.

During his time in Muenster, he was employed in the meat department at Fischer's and Hofbauer's, among other jobs held around town. He joined the Air Force Jan. 3, 1951 and rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant. He was often heard to proudly proclaim he served "three years, 11 months, and five days." One of the members of his squad recently shared that while stationed at Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth, others in his squad would enjoy time off together to go into town and have a good time. Ted however, would always go back to Muenster to "visit that girl." He married Kathryn Hartman, his high school sweetheart, on May 16, 1953 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Muenster.

After a very successful career with Kraft Foods spanning 36 years, he took early retirement in 1990 to give Kathryn his full-time attention as she battled advancing stages of breast cancer. They were very happy to be in Rome when in 1978 Karol Wojtyla was elected Pope John Paul II.

Ted was an active parishioner at Notre Dame Catholic Church in Denver and he was a 3rd degree member of The Knights of Columbus, joining 65 years ago in Muenster in 1949. After Vatican II, Ted was asked to be among the first laymen to assist in the Mass at Notre

Dame, reading the scriptures and distributing the Eucharist.

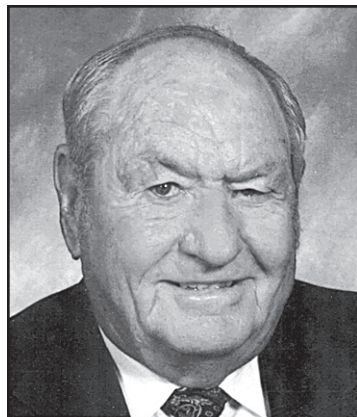
Ted took up golf in his late-30s and it was a pastime he enjoyed until his last round played in the fall of 2013. He loved to walk the course, and carried his own clubs until he turned 80. He was blessed with good health his entire life and was never hospitalized until this past July, when he was diagnosed with a blood disorder. He died peacefully in the home and in the care of his family. On Feb. 17, he was buried at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver with military honors.

A memorial Mass was celebrated at Sacred Heart Church on Feb. 21 and was attended by many family and friends. He will be remembered for his sense of humor, strong work ethic, love of family and friends, and unwavering faith.

Ted was preceded in death by Kathryn, his wife, in 1995; grandson Joseph Cooney in 1998; his parents; brother Tommy; and sister Marilyn.

He is survived by sister Patsy Schumacher of Gainesville; son Wayne Gremminger of Littleton, CO; daughter Kay Gremminger Morrow and Randy of Denver and grandchildren Angela, Sarah and Johnny; son Robert Gremminger and Annemarie of Shawnee, KS and grandchildren Maggie, Lizzie, and Anna Gremminger, and Morgan and Brendon Fisch; and daughter Brenda Gremminger Cooney and Carl of Littleton and grandchildren Christian, Kathryn, and Kevin Cooney.

Ted and Kathryn's history of charitable contributions is legendary, leaving a legacy of benefactors across globe. John Wagner, a representa-



Ted Gremminger

tive of Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Ted's favorite charity, came to Denver just this past January and expressed to Ted personally how he has changed the lives of many people, not only in our nation, but all around the world, evidenced by a small church built in Africa and named after Kathryn upon her death.

Donations can be made in Ted's memory to: Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, 9480 N. DeMazened Drive, Belleville, IL 62223. Please visit their website to see the many good ways contributions will be used <http://www.oblatesusa.org/>

Muenster and Sacred Heart were always an important part of Ted's life. He anticipated every issue of the *Muenster Enterprise*, reading every page, and often followed up with those mentioned in the paper. In addition, he supported Sacred Heart School and read the Sacred Heart Alumni newsletter faithfully. Donations made to Sacred Heart Alumni Association in his memory would be equally appreciated.

For anyone who knew Ted, you are invited to please share your memories and comments with the family by going to http://www.horancares.com/obituary?name_last=Gremminger

Correction

There was an error in the foster care recruitment meeting story printed in the Feb. 13 issue of the *Muenster Enterprise*. It stated that an informational meeting that will be held on Saturday, Feb. 28 at Select Energy, 1800 N. I-35, Gainesville would be from 11 a.m. through 12:30 p.m. The time should have said that the meeting is from 10 a.m. to noon.

Because we don't think about future generations, they will never forget us.

~ Henrik Tikkanen

Coy Mosley 1923 - 2015

Funeral for Coy Mosley, age 92 of Saint Jo, was held Saturday, Feb. 21 at First Baptist Church of Saint Jo with Rev. Duane McClure and Rev. Jeff Roe officiating. Burial was in Mountain Park Cemetery in Saint Jo. Mr. Mosley died Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2015 in a Wichita Falls hospital.

One of two sons, Coy Edward Mosley was born Jan. 22, 1923 in Bonita to John and Maud Holmes Mosley. He graduated in 1940 from Saint Jo High School. On Dec. 29, 1945, Coy married the love of his life, Mary Nell Lawson, at the First Baptist Church in Saint Jo. They were the proud parents of two daughters.

In 1985, Coy retired at the age of 62 from Atlantic Richfield Oil Company where he had worked for 30 years. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Saint Jo and the Saint Jo Riding Club where he held many positions, including vice president. Coy was also a longtime member of the First Baptist Church

in Saint Jo.

Survivors are his wife of 69 years; daughters Rebecca Harris of Saint Jo and Jeanne and husband Roger Russell of Nocona; and two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother John Vaudrey Mosley, and his son-in-law Prentis L. "Van" Harris.

Pallbearers were: Brandon Bayer, Kyle Russell, Jerry Raymond, Jimmy Raymond, Dudley Sparkman, Leeton Phillips, and Doug Gaston. Honorary pallbearers were Roy Lawler and David Cooke.



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The family of Ted Gremminger would like to offer our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all who attended the memorial Mass; prepared or donated food towards the reception; provided housing for out of town relatives; and all who participated in any way with the celebration honoring our father. We especially thank Father Ken, Catholic Daughters of America, and the Knights of Columbus for their ministry and service. Muenster will forever remain a special place in our hearts.

We love you Dad.

"Well done, good and faithful servant"

Matthew 25:23

The Ted Gremminger Family:
Wayne, Kay, Robert, Brenda
and our families

New Fort Worth Catholic Diocese school superintendent named

Bishop Michael F. Olson Monday announced that he has appointed Fort Worth native Jennifer R. Pelletier as the superintendent of schools for the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth.

Pelletier will assume her duties on July 1, 2015.

"I am very grateful to Catholic school management and our local members of the search committee who have worked very diligently over these past six months in finding the right candidate to serve as our new superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Fort Worth," Bishop Olson said. "We were able to review and to interview many excellent candidates and applicants. This collaborative effort has resulted in my decision to hire Ms. Jennifer Pelletier and to welcome her as our new superintendent."

"As a native of Fort Worth and graduate of Our Lady of Victory School, she returns home to us after many years of experience in Catholic education and administration. She comes to us with an excellent reputation for her commitment to the mission of Catholic education and for her servant leadership in collaborating with others to carry out this important apostolate of our Faith. I am very proud and eager to have her join us in developing our ministry of Catholic education."

Pelletier currently is president of St. Joseph Catholic School in Bryan, TX, which is composed of four campuses, including two day-care centers, an elementary campus, and upper classes campus. She joined the St. Joseph school in 2011 as an English teacher and administrator and later became president.

"It is very exciting to be able to work so closely with Bishop Olson and Fr. (Karl) Schilken," Pelletier said. "Their love and dedication to Catholic education is apparent and vitally important to the growth of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth."

"Although I will be saddened to leave my Bryan/College Station community, the chance to work with the principals in the Fort Worth Diocese is exciting. They

have already shown themselves to possess a great love for their communities, and I cannot wait to be a resource and support for them as they lead their schools."

The Fort Worth Diocese's Catholic school system consists of four high schools and 18 elementary schools in the 28-county North Texas area that the Diocese serves. The Diocese's Catholic school system serves approximately 5,600 students with 512 faculty members.

The high schools are Nolan Catholic and Cassata in Fort Worth, Notre Dame in Wichita Falls, and Sacred Heart in Muenster. The elementary schools are All Saints, Holy Family, Our Lady of Victory, Our Mother of Mercy, St. Andrew, St. George, and St. Rita in Fort Worth; Holy Cross in Frisco; Holy Trinity in Grapevine; Immaculate Conception in Denton; Notre Dame in Wichita Falls; Sacred Heart in Muenster; St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton in Keller; St. John in North Richland Hills; St. Maria Goretti and St. Joseph in Arlington; St. Mary's in Gainesville, and St. Peter the Apostle in White Settlement.

The Catholic Schools Office provides direction and support to the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Fort Worth, as well as advocating on behalf of the schools and

monitoring schools to ensure they are faith-based while complying with education standards.

Pelletier attended Holy Family Catholic School from kindergarten through the fifth grade and Our Lady of Victory Catholic School from sixth through the eighth grades. She is a graduate of Arlington Heights High School.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature degree in 1995 and a Master's in Education in 2002, both from the University of Dallas in Irving.

Pelletier began her education career in 1999 at St. Luke Catholic School in Dallas as a teacher and dean of discipline. She joined St. John's College High School in Washington D.C. in August 2001 as a world history and British literature teacher and went on to become the senior English teacher for both honors and regular classes.

She left St. John's in 2011 to join the staff of St. Joseph Catholic School in Bryan and became president in 2013.

While at St. John's, Ms. Pelletier received the Gasser Award, an honor voted on by the faculty for the teacher they think best represents the ideals of the teaching profession and she was named

See DIOCESE, pg. 4



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Proposed I-35 expansion project to affect Valley View residents

Cathy Krahl
Staff writer

The residents of Valley View will be affected by the proposed expansion of I-35 and the realignment of the railroad corridor. Some of the future project will be good for the town while some will be of great concern for others. The construction itself will be a headache, but the finished product will help ease traffic congestion and aid in the safety for drivers.

William Stokes, superintendent of Valley View ISD, said the I-35 expansion wouldn't affect the school as the additional lanes will run east of the school.

"It will really effect us when they begin construction," Stokes said, as the school campus runs along the I-35 service road.

Police Chief Greg Adcock liked what he saw of the plans, but sees problems too.

"It is a double edged sword," Adcock said. "While construction is underway, drivers will slow down. But that 75 MPH is just too fast. There are people driving 50, some the speed limit, and others driving 80 to 90." It does not make for a safe situation.

The proposed one-way service roads are another safety feature, according to Adcock. It should cut down on accidents, especially at the off ramps and interstate entrances.

"Once everyone gets adjusted to the one-way service roads, it will be okay," the Chief said.

Adcock sees the benefit of

the planned addition of two lanes each direction on the interstate.

"When an accident occurs, my main goal is to keep everyone safe," Adcock noted. "So it will be substantially easier to close a lane to work the accident and for me to direct traffic."

The current interstate does need work, but it is near impossible to work on stretches of road for repair.

"Now there are only a couple of times a day they can work on it," Adcock stated.

By TxDOT's estimates, in 2005 there were 42,000 vehicles a day traveling on I-35 in Cooke County. By 2030, that number is forecast to rise to 80,000 a day.

"I heard a rumor that there will be a truck lane," the Chief said.

Mary Hakze, Valley View's city secretary, remarked how TxDOT will build the interstate up, leaving the school buildings down. "I hope it won't cause problems for the school with the higher road," Hakze said.

"There probably won't be any more danger to the school than there is currently," Stokes said of the higher elevation of I-35.

The November 2013 bond election earmarked money to erect a safety/sound barrier between the school and I-35. It will be installed in the future.

TxDOT plans have the west service road that runs past the school, staying where it is. But the expansion of I-35 will push the interstate east to add those extra lanes.

"The frontage road will run behind Martindale (Feed Mill) and Alan Ritchey," Hakze said of the north-bound service road.

In fact it will run on the current railroad tracks. Those tracks will be realigned eastward to take out some of the curves in the line.

"It will only be a few feet from Martindale Feed," Adcock said. He noted that earlier plans had the service road in front of the Lucky Lady Service Station in question, but the current plans have it much the same as now.

The city leaders were happy to see the railroad tracks move east and the projected FM 922 bridge over the tracks.

"One real benefit of the whole thing is getting those railroad tracks moved," Adcock said.

"We don't really get out on I-35," Stokes said of the school buses. "As long as they have the east-west roads open for the most part, we can make it okay. We do occasionally have to wait for trains and that will certainly be improved with new crossing on 922."

The City also likes the bridge over the railroad tracks as the main Valley View Fire Department is located east of the train on Pecan Creek Trail. The bridge will ease travel time to respond to emergencies.

Currently, the train stops on the tracks blocking the intersection with FM 922 about 7:50 each morning. If the school buses haven't made it across before then, students are late for school, according to Adcock.

"The way it is now, we really can't deal with emergencies," the Chief said.

Earlier in the month, Adcock said he spent most of the shift directing traffic across the tracks as the safety arm was broken.

During the open meeting TxDOT scheduled to explain the proposed plans, an overflow crowd came to see what the future had to offer.

Gene Schumacher of Era had recently purchased land east of Pecan Creek Trail just outside Valley View only to find the proposed rail corridor realignment affects his property. "It runs right through it," he said.

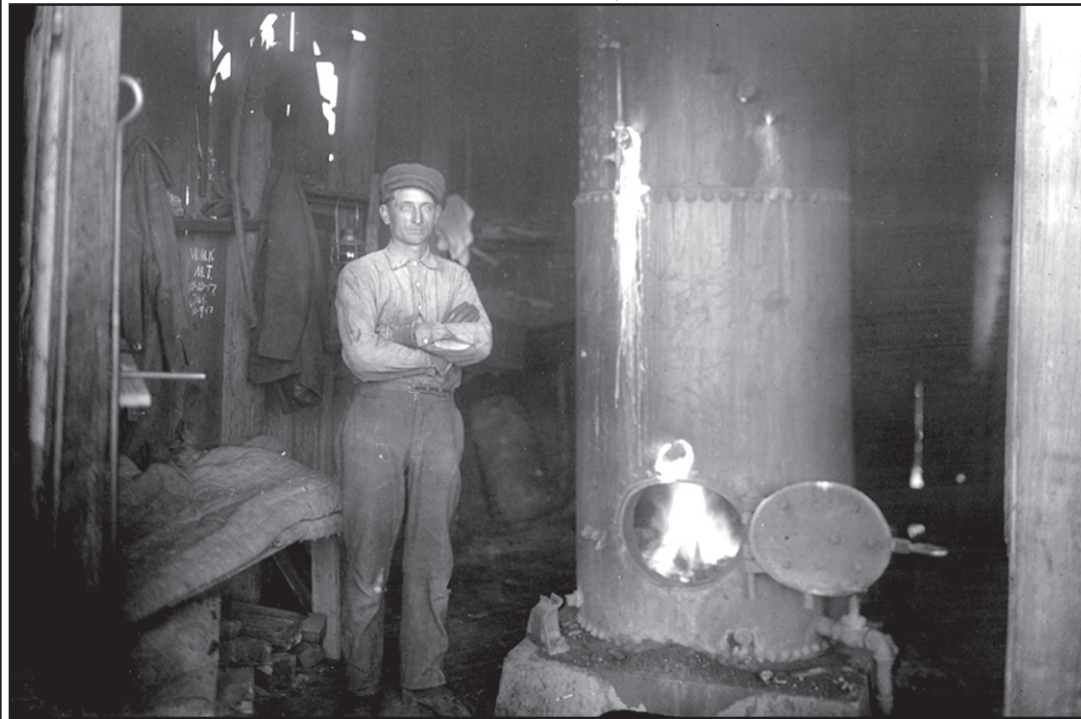
Lisa Kupper of Valley View was studying the I-35 expansion to eight lanes and was shaking her head. "They will take the dairy barn, and that's alright," she said. "But the service road will run right past my front door."

Damian Krahl of Lindsay protested the rail corridor moving east as it goes through the Krahl home place on Krahl Road north of Valley View. It would run just west of the house and barns. "There are gas lines that run through there," he said. "And you can't build railroad tracks over gas lines."

Let us run to Mary, and, as her little children, cast ourselves into her arms with a perfect confidence.

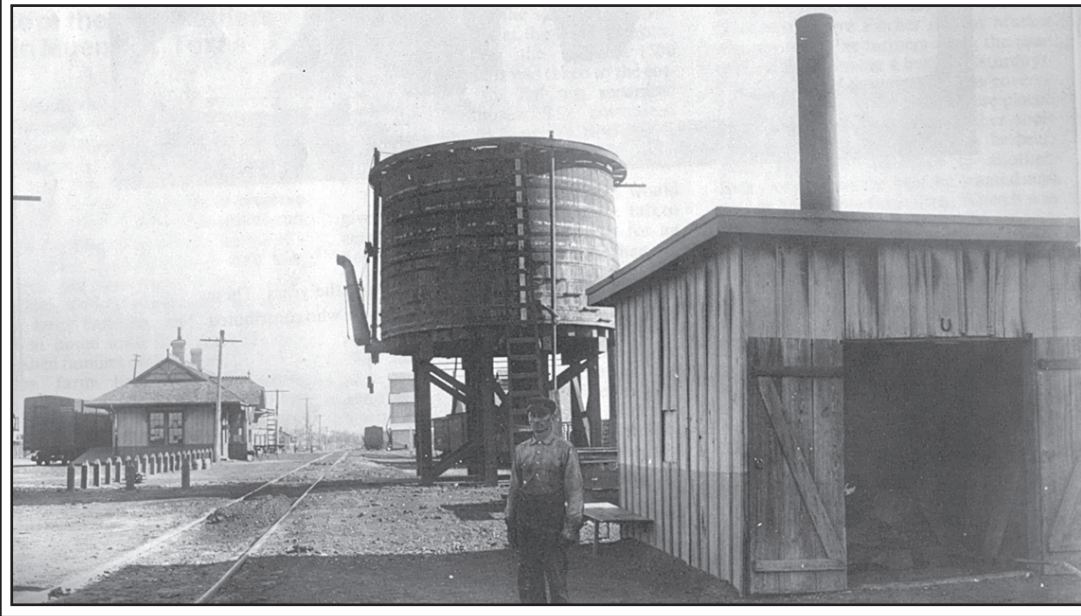
-St. Francis de Sales

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS MUENSTER, TEXAS



Joe Kathman was a pumper for the M.K.T. Railroad. As steam engines could only carry a limited supply of water, water towers were located every 15 to 20 miles along the line (a common spacing for towns along the tracks). The railroad also depended on the towns it stopped at for water. Steam powered pumps (pictured above in Muenster's pump house in 1912), kept the water tower full. Below - Muenster's pump station, water tower, and depot, looking east down the line.

Want to help preserve Muenster's History? Join the Muenster Historical Commission. Stop by the Museum any Sunday, Thursday, or Friday, 1-4 p.m.



DAYS GONE BY.....

65 YEARS AGO
Feb. 24, 1950

Joe Dangelmayr is elected president of the Muenster Saddle Club. Obituaries: Fred Bierschenk, 79; Dr. Clyde W. Yetter, 59. Weddings: sisters Eugenia Herr and Ann Herr married Earl Shephard and Leonard Bengfort, respectively, in double ceremony; Eugenia Walter and John O'Dowd. New Arrivals: Linda to Arnold and Imelda Rohmer; Lillian to Charlie and Virginia Haverkamp; a son to Bomar and Elfreda Woods. Sports writers name Jim Thorpe the greatest athlete of this century. Relax Theatre advertises *Adam's Rib* starring Spencer Tracy and Katherine Hepburn.

50 YEARS AGO
Feb. 26, 1965

Barbara Schmitt and Danny Yosten, art students at Sacred Heart, have paintings in the University of Dallas Art Exhibit. New Arrivals: Curtis to Urban and Viola Rohmer; Regina to William and Joy Stoffels. Wedding: Dorothy Fleitman and Clyde Fleeman. Two Muenster Hornets named to all-district basketball: Tommy Flusche, 1st string; Jimmy Robison, 2nd string. Hamric's advertises boys shoes for \$3.98 and \$4.98, and baby shoes for \$2.50.

25 YEARS AGO
Feb. 23, 1990

Michael Abney, graduating senior at Muenster High School, is National Merit Scholarship Finalist. Obituaries: James R. "Jim" Yosten, 39; Virgil Doty, 57. Wedding: Brian Miller and Katharine Lilly. Larry Lemons, Lemons Photography, receives Distinguished Print award. New Arrival: Heather to Tommy and Laura Harrison. Veronica Klement honored on 80th birthday.

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DPS offers Spring Break safety tips

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is reminding Texans to drive responsibly and to take extra precautions as they make travel plans during Spring Break.

"With students and families out of school and off work, the weeks during Spring Break can result in an influx of traffic on Texas roadways," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "DPS urges all drivers to do their part to help keep the roads safe for all travelers by adhering to safe driving practices and always driving sober."

DPS offers the following tips for safe travel during the Spring Break holiday:

Slow down — especially in bad weather, construction areas, heavy traffic, and unfamiliar areas.

Eliminate distractions while driving, including the usage of mobile devices.

Buckle up everyone in the vehicle — it's the law.

Don't drive fatigued, and allow plenty of time to reach your destination.

Drive defensively, as holi-

day travel may present additional challenges.

Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained before your trip begins.

Slow down or move over for tow trucks and police, fire, EMS, and Texas Department of Transportation vehicles stopped on the side of the road with emergency lights activated — it's the law.

DPS also urges Texans to avoid travel to Mexico. The Mexican government has made great strides battling the cartels, and the Department commends their continued commitment to that effort. DPS also has a responsibility to inform the public about safety and travel risks and threats, and based on the unpredictable nature of cartel violence and other criminal elements, the department urges individuals to avoid travel to Mexico at this time.

U.S. citizens who do travel to Mexico should always check the U.S. Department of State website for the latest information regarding security issues in Mexico,

and they should register with the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program by visiting <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country.html>.

TWC warns Texans to be aware of false unemployment benefits websites

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) warns Texans seeking unemployment benefits to be aware of third-party vendors offering assistance. Unemployment insurance (UI) claims should be filed through the TWC website or by phone, and never through a third-party.

Individuals in Texas have reported receiving emails soliciting personal information from a third-party vendor who is not affiliated with TWC called the Unemployment Advisory Department, with an email address support@us-benefits.org. Emails stated the claimant's initial benefits application was received, but not complete, and provided links to complete the filing process.

TWC advises claimants to ignore these emails. TWC does not send these types of emails and would never require confidential information to be shared with a third-party to obtain unemployment benefits.

Claimants should be wary of online third-party UI benefits resource centers who usually charge a fee for providing advice and job services. See BENEFITS, pg. 5

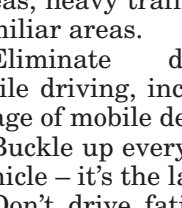
DIOCESEcontinued from pg. 3

the Teacher of the Year by the football team for the teacher who best worked with the athletes and their parents.

Pelletier is the daughter of Chuck and Pat Pelletier, long time leaders in the Diocese's pro-life community. She has an older sister, three younger brothers, and 14 nieces and nephews.

"My parents have been pillars in the pro-life community since I was in sixth grade, shaping my views of education as an invaluable source of moral absolutes," she said.

Additionally, she has been very involved in sports, specifically basketball, on a competitive level. Her work with varsity basketball has kept her in touch with professional athletes, including NBA and MLB athletes.



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- FRI. - Tuna salad sandwich or scup & salad \$4.00 +tax

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LIFESTYLE

VFW Auxiliary hears reports

The Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post #6205 held their regular meeting Monday, Feb. 16 in the Post Home with President Frances Bayer presiding. The opening ritual was given by Conductress Linda Knabe, Chaplain Rose Hudspeth pro tem, and Patriotic Instructor Hilda Sicking. Roll call and minutes of the previous meeting were read by Secretary Ida Mae Bindel.

Lucille Hesse's treasurer's report was read by Agnes Hesse. Report was accepted to audit. Frances Bayer reported on the District I meeting she and her husband Arthur attended. It was held Feb. 7 and 8 in Denton. She also reported on the Mid Winter Roundup meeting held Jan. 29 and 30 in Austin that they attended. They also made a visit to Bonham VA

Hospital and took some t-shirts, lotions, and postage stamps for the Veterans. Members voted to contribute to the cancer aide and research program and to the Patriotic Arts Awards. They also signed two get well cards. Agnes Hesse served refreshments to 10 members. The next meeting is scheduled for March 16 in the Post Home at 7 p.m.



Courtesy photo

Sacred Heart Parish catechists and catechists were accompanied by Fr. Ken Robinson, pastor, and their sponsors to Immaculate Conception Church in Denton. The group is pictured above.

Surprise party greets Dominic on birthday

Dominic Xavier Nervo celebrated his 15th birthday on Saturday, Jan. 10 with a surprise party, hosted by his parents Donna and Nicolas Nervo of Arlington. The party featured a video game theme, which emphasized one of Dominic's favorite pastimes. A large banner, designed with video game controls, was displayed with the message, "Look Who's Turning 15! Happy Birthday Dominic! Game On!" A black balloon, shaped like a video game controller and accent-

ed with the colors of lime green, red, and blue, further enhanced the decor. A chocolate cake, designed with confetti and streamers with 15 lit candles, was waiting on Dominic's arrival. Friends and family enjoyed a homemade beef ravioli meal and an assortment of salads. Special guests included Dominic's older brother Alexander, younger brother Zachary, and maternal grandmother Rachel Hennigan of Muenster.

Catechists and catechumens move toward initiation in SH Church

At the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Feb. 15, those who had been participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation in order to join the Catholic Church went through the Rite of Sending. Those catechumens or unbaptized persons were presented and their sponsors affirmed that they were ready for Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion at the Easter Vigil service. They are Jaydn Yeager, daughter of Jay and Angela Yeager, Cole Carson, son of Tom and Shelley Carson, Addison Blanton, daughter of Janet Gaston, and Sven Aackerlund, grandson of Toré and Patricia Aackerlund. Sponsor for Jaydn was Linda Flusche, sponsor

for Cole was Jon LeBrasseur, sponsor for Addison was Rhonda Walterscheid, and sponsor for Sven was Catherine Fleitman. The catechumens then signed the Book of the Elect. Those who had already been baptized in different Christian churches were presented by their sponsors as well. They were Jay Yeager, Toré Aackerlund-Davis, and Patricia Aackerlund. Jay's sponsor is Anne Poole, Toré's sponsor was Alvin Hartman, and Pat's sponsor was Jennifer Bayer. The following Friday, Feb. 20, they attended the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion at Immaculate Conception Church in Denton with

Bishop Michael Olson. There the catechumens were declared "the elect" or chosen for the sacraments at Easter and the candidates were presented as they prepare to make Profession of Faith and receive Confirmation and First Communion. After the presentation, Fr. Ken Robinson took the Book of the Elect forward for the Bishop's signature. Then each of the elect and the candidates had an opportunity to greet Bishop Olson in person. Afterward, there were intercessory prayers for all. Lent is the final period of preparation for all those receiving sacraments at the Easter Vigil service.



Dominic Nervo

Are you interested in being a safe sitter?

Safe Sitter is a program for 11-14 year-olds where you will learn life-saving skills so you can be safe if you're home alone or watching younger children. Safe Sitter®, a one day class, will be held on Tuesday, March 17 at the Cooke County Extension Office, 301 South Chestnut Street in Gainesville. The cost of \$45 includes a Safe Sitter backpack, all course materials, and snacks throughout the day. There is a \$10 discount to all currently active 4-H members. Registration and fees must be received by March 3. Space is limited, but a minimum enrollment of six is needed or the class will be postponed. To register, call Kelly Huston at (940)668 5412 or email her at Kelly.huston@ag.tamu.edu.

BENEFITScontinued from pg. 4

vices to applicants in the U.S. Websites typically request personal identifiers and credit card information that could be used for identity theft. These websites are not associated with TWC or any other state workforce agency. In a related incident, one Texas claimant was asked to purchase a credit report and to get a health insurance quote before filing a claim. TWC does not require individuals to purchase anything or pay a fee to file for unemployment benefits. These websites are selling information and services provided for free by TWC and other state agencies. Individuals having attempted to apply for UI benefits using a third-party website need to contact TWC at 800-939-6631 or 512-463-2236 to submit their claim. Confidential information given to a third-party website could be used for identity theft. An online Identity Theft Information Guide from the Texas Department of Public Safety provides useful tips, if you believe you are a victim of identity theft. TWC administers UI benefits to workers who become unemployed through no fault of their own and are actively seeking work. To file a claim or to find out more about unemployment benefits go to www.texasworkforce.org/unemploymentbenefits. To avoid becoming a victim of scams, visit the Texas Office of the Attorney General online at www.oag.state.tx.us/consumer/scams.shtml or www.onguardonline.gov, managed by the Federal Trade Commission, for more information.

Pray with great confidence, with confidence based upon the goodness and infinite generosity of God and upon the promises of Jesus Christ. God is a spring of living water which flows unceasingly into the hearts of those who pray.
- St. Louis de Montfort

MMH looking for community partners

Muenster Memorial Hospital is looking for special people to do special projects for the benefit of both the recipient and the giver. The Hospital is in need of church, civic, social, or youth groups who might volunteer their time to provide an activity for the Hospital's extended stay patients. Extended stay patients are typically rehabilitating following a surgery or debilitating illness and can be in the hospital from one week to three months. "Patients in our extended care unit can be here a long time," noted Adelia Wilson, unit coordinator. "Although they stay fairly busy with

therapy, their time here can become monotonous." That's where the community comes in. "We are looking for groups who might be interested in coming in once a week, once a month, whenever you can, for an hour or two, to conduct an activity for these patients," said Wilson. "It can be running a bingo game, performing music, playing cards or dominoes, working on a craft project, showing slides of a memorable trip, painting or drawing....so many things." The activities can be conducted by an individual or a group - during the day or early evening.

"The time commitment is light and the rewards would be great for those who volunteer and for our patients," Wilson stated. Children, particularly, bring special joy to patients, and can do a number of activities - from sing-alongs to dancing. If you are interested in finding out more or volunteering, please call Volunteer Services at 940-759-6139. The great thing in the world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving.
- Oliver W Holmes

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SISTERScontinued from pg. 1

can take another term. The majority are against this. "This is going to be a troubled time," said Sr. Roberta. "They're working very hard through the Church to make him realize that it's time for him (to leave office)." It is hoped that when the new president is elected, things will change.

In a letter penned in March 2014, Sr. Mary Justine detailed the history of SSMN in DRC Congo from their arrival there in 1923 to present. She explained that they went there in answer to the call to missions emphasized by Pope Benedict XV.

In the beginning, the missionary Sisters from Belgian were supported by the congregation and the generosity of benefactors. During the years of Belgian techni-

cal assistance, the Sisters' financial security was guaranteed. Sr. Justine said that missionary Sisters from Britain, Canada, and the United States joined the Sisters already serving in Congo and their arrival came with more financial support. They built infrastructure and searched for their work. The Sisters were the first in the Congo to open scientific schools for girls.

Things changed over the years. In the 1960s, the first African Sisters entered the community. Sisters of all nationalities worked together until 2008 when the last missionary Sister left the schools and on June 25, 2012, the last missionary sister left the Congo.

Sr. Justine wrote, "This is not only a demographic

change, but also an economic one. The schools, the health centers, the orphanage, and all the social works have felt its effects. We, the Congolese Sisters, are facing serious problems. Many of us work in schools or health centers where salaries are minimal, and yet we must see to our own sustenance.

"The communities of the Congo strive to look after the needs of the people according to each day's situation. They do not want to leave these places of education and health, but they cannot provide for themselves on the salaries they earn." They began writing grants and creating other income opportunities in order to contribute to the work that the Sisters have been doing since 1923.

There are 84 Sisters in the Congolese province. They live and work in the Dioceses of Idiofa, Kikwit, Kenge, and the archdiocese of Kinshasa. Being aware of their financial situation, besides their social and humanitarian activities, the Sisters earn money by raising cattle, sewing, corn mills, etc.

The Sisters have been asked to build a school in Mpassa, a new neighborhood. It would be private, tuition paid, and the teachers paid by the school. Teaching in this school, the Sisters would give the children a good education and they would receive good salaries that help sustain other missions.

There have been seven women from the community of Muenster who joined the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur. The first was Sr. Antoinette Fetter who joined in 1930. She died Oct. 22, 1985. Sr.



SSMN photos

SSMN novices from Rwanda are pictured above; at right are Young Sisters in Congo.



Agnes Endres joined in 1929 and died Dec. 11, 1999. Sr. Mary Irma Endres joined in 1934 and died Oct. 14, 2002. Those from Muenster still living who joined SSMN are Sr. Francesca Walterscheid (1946), Sr. Roberta Hesse (1952), Sr. Anselma Knabe (1953), and Sr. Mary Helen Fuhrmann (1956).

SSMN is an international community. The religious order started in Belgium on Nov. 11, 1819. For supper that evening, the Sisters had a meal of baked potatoes and baked apples. Sr. Roberta said that every Nov. 11, they have a custom of serving baked potatoes and baked apples for supper. She added that they now add meat and fruit to that menu.

Young women answered the appeal of Monk Dom Minsart at St. Loup, a large parish in Namur. There were children who were not attending school. Dom Minsart asked for young girls to come and teach catechism. "So, that's how we started, teaching catechism," noted Sr. Roberta. Soon, the Sisters determined that they needed to work with young

women. Many young women were being sold as prostitutes. To give them a way of earning an income, the Sisters started sewing schools.

Sr. Roberta noted that these were Belgian Sisters taking care of Belgian children. Then they had a call to go to the Belgian Congo as religious doing missionary work.

In about 1868, the Sisters were called to go take their missionary work to Lock Port, NY. The SSMN started their center house in Buffalo, NY. The order also branched out into England, Canada, and the African countries of Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Cameroon. They went to Brazil also.

If you feel the call to help

these Sisters with their missionary work, there will be a local opportunity on Saturday, March 7. There will be a fundraiser in the Muenster VFW Hall. It begins at 6 p.m. and will include a fried catfish meal and both a silent and a live auction.

To donate to the auction, contact Neil Hesse at (940) 736-4764, Janet Vogel at (940) 727-2996, or Bernard Hesse at 759-4130.

If you are unable to attend the fundraiser and wish to make a monetary donation, checks may be sent to SSMN Africa/Brazil, 909 West Shaw St., Fort Worth, TX 76110. There is a \$10,000 matching grant with 100% of the profits given to Africa/Brazil. Donations are tax exempt.



SSMN photo

Can you help educate these young Sisters from Africa so that they may follow their vocations doing God's work? Above is Sr. Pauline, a medical doctor, with a child recovering from measles.



YOUR PROPERTY TAXES JUST WENT UP. OR HADN'T YOU HEARD?

KEEP THE LIGHT ON PUBLIC NOTICES

When local governments want to increase tax revenues, they are required to publish notices in the newspaper so that you will know. But that right to know could disappear.

Local governmental entities across the state want to hide their public notices on little seen, rarely visited government websites.

What you don't know will affect you personally!

If it is not in the newspaper, you won't know about it.

Contact your state representative and state senator personally. Tell them you want them to stop these bills and any others that would weaken public notice in newspapers. Here's a link to help you find contact information: www.legis.state.tx.us Ask your commissioners court, city council, school board and chamber of commerce board to pass resolutions in support of printed legal notices.

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Highlights Include: Palermo • Monreale • Agrigento • Catania • Matera Valley of the Temples • Mt. Etna Volcano • Giardini Naxos • Taormina Alberobello • Sorrento • Amalfi Coast • Pompeii

Colors of New England

October 9 - 16, 2015

Highlights Include: Boston • Woodstock • Quechee Gorge • Stowe Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory • Rocks Estate • North Conway • Lobster Dinner Lake Winnepesaukee Cruise • Kanacagus Highway • Kennebunkport Beautiful Boothbay Harbor (the boating capital of New England)

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GAINESVILLE: FSB Conference Center | 837 E. California Tuesday, March 3rd Noon

RSVP: Gail Martinez | Gail.Martinez@F-S-B.com Call 940.349.5447 or 940.665.1711

Brock McGuire Band coming to NCTC

Fans of Irish music are in for a treat in March when one of Ireland's top bands performs at North Central Texas College in Gainesville.

Brock McGuire Band will perform a free concert on Saturday, March 7. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m., and will be held at the First State Bank Center for the Performing Arts. A special free lecture featuring the band is scheduled for 4 p.m.,

that same day.

Brock McGuire Band is fronted by two of Ireland's most celebrated traditional musicians: button accordionist and melodeonist Paul Brock and fiddler Manus McGuire. The band also features Garry O'Meara on banjo, mandolin, and vocals; and acclaimed pianist, composer, and arranger Denis Carey.

Brock McGuire Band received the Traditional Irish Band of the Decade award

from the Irish American News and the Top of the World award from Songlines magazine.

Band members will also participate in a free lecture in the afternoon for anyone who wants to learn more about traditional Irish music.

For more information about either the concert or the lecture, contact Kobuck at 940-668-3385 or by email at mkobuck@nctc.edu.

New items at Muenster Public Library - February

Fiction/Non-Fiction

Trigger Warning by Neil Gaiman, *Escape* by David Baldacci, *Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah, *Private Vegas* by James Patterson, *Crash & Burn* by Lisa Gardner, *Reaper: Autobiography* by Nicholas Irving, *Opposite of Spoiled* by Ron Lieber, *God's Bankers* by Gerald Posner, *All the Light We Can See* by Anthony Doerr, *Saint Odd* by Dean Koontz, *Brother Odd* by Dean Koontz, *Hope to Die* by James Patterson, *41: a Portrait of My Father* by George W. Bush, *Pioneer Woman Cooks: Food from My Frontier* by Ree Drummond, *Pioneer Woman*

Cooks: a Year of Holidays by Ree Drummond, *Half a King* by Joe Abercrombie, *Motive* by Jonathan Kellerman, *Betrayed* by Lisa Scottoline, *Arsenic and Old Books* by Miranda James, *Darned if You Do* by Monica Ferri, *Death of a Liar* by M.C. Beaton, *Marriage Charm* by Linda Lael Miller, *Secrets of Sir Richard Kenworthy* by Julia Quinn, *I Am Second: Real Stories* edited by Doug Bender, *Worthy Fights* by Leon Panetta.

Junior Fiction

Rain Reign by Ann M. Martin, *Hansel & Gretel* by Neil Gaiman, *All the Bright Places* by Jennifer Niven,

Fairest: Nevana's Story by Marissa Meyer, *Gabriel's Clock* by Hilton Pashley, *Eye of Zoltar* by Jasper Fforde, *Adventure of the Thimblewitch* by Eric Orchard, *Vivian Apple at the End of the World* by Katie Coyle, *Glory O'Brien's History of the Future* by A.S. King.

Easy Books

Winter Bees and Other Poems of the Cold by Joyce Sidman, *Blizzard* by John Rocco, *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole* by Mac Barnett, *Mr. Putter and Tabby Turn the Page* by Cynthia Rylant.

CD Books

First Frost by Sarah Addison Allen.

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SCHOOL



Janie Hartman photo

Joni Sturm, Muenster FCCLA sponsor, checks her list of entries into the Cooke County Youth Fair Food and Crafts Show (FCS) Wednesday morning. Icey weather closed all area schools Monday and Tuesday forcing the rescheduling of some of the Youth Fair events. The FCS is being held at the First State Bank's Conference Center. Viewing was moved to Thursday from 3 - 6 p.m.

Sign up now for TFB Youth Leadership Conference

Cooke County Farm Bureau is looking for a few good high school junior and seniors to attend the 52nd Annual Texas Farm Bureau Youth Leadership Conference.

This year's annual conference, held June 15-19 on the campus of Tarleton State University in Stephenville, gives an in-depth look at free enterprise, constitutional government, patriotism, goal

setting, and leadership. "Several students from our County have attended in the past," Robert Klement, Cooke County Farm Bureau president, said. "They tell me they learned about our system of government and economics and were inspired to set goals for themselves."

• Develop leadership skills working with other students on group projects and activi-

ties. • Learn about college scholarship opportunities through Texas Farm Bureau. • Establish lifelong friends with other high school students from around Texas.

For additional information and an application, contact the Cooke County Farm Bureau office at 940-665-1763.

Texas elementary students are invited to submit litter prevention art

Keep Texas Beautiful and Don't Mess with Texas are encouraging elementary school students from every corner of Texas to break out their crayons and paintbrushes in a crusade to keep Texas roadways clean and litter-free.

The Don't Mess with Texas Elementary School Art Contest, sponsored by H-E-B and Central Market, are looking for the next winning artwork for the 2016 Don't Mess with Texas calendar. Students must submit their artwork no later than April 18. In addition to helping keep Texas clean, contest-winning elementary school students and their teachers can win prizes and statewide recognition.

The contest is open to all Texas students enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade, and students can submit artwork that promotes Don't Mess with Texas and/or Keep Texas Beautiful in order to encourage the protection of our Texas roadways and environment. The purpose of the contest is to encourage future leaders not to litter and to keep Texas beautiful.

Students who create the top 13 winning designs will have their artwork featured

in the 2016 Don't mess with Texas Calendar. Each winner will win an iDeaUSA 8 tablet donated by H-E-B and Central Market. One student's artwork, chosen from the 13 winning designs, will be featured on the calendar cover.

Teachers representing students who produce the top 13 designs will win a \$100 H-E-B and Central Market gift card.

"Our children can remind us all about the importance of keeping our state free from unsightly litter," said Cathie

Gail, executive director of Keep Texas Beautiful. "Litter habits start early. This contest is a way of teaching our youngest Texans that litter belongs in a trash can while also encouraging them to use their imaginations and their artistic talent."

All student winners will be showcased on the Don't Mess with Texas and Keep Texas Beautiful websites and at the 2015 Keep Texas Beautiful annual conference.

More information is available at www.DontMesswithTexas.org.

TxDOT, Texas high schools focus on saving teen lives

Vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among teenagers. In an effort to curb this deadly trend, the Texas Department of Transportation is partnering with more than 900 Texas high schools to remind teens to "Click It or Ticket."

"All traffic fatalities are tragic, but it's especially difficult to hear about teenagers having their lives cut short," said TxDOT Executive Director Lt. Gen. Joe Weber, USMC (Ret). "We're asking families, teachers, and peers to remind teens to buckle up every time they get in a vehicle. It's the law and it can save their lives. Don't let your child be the next fatality."

In 2014, 293 teen drivers and passengers (ages 15-20) died as a result of traffic crashes in Texas. Of those fatalities, 134 (46%) were not wearing their seat belts at the time of the crash.

To help raise awareness and save lives, TxDOT is sending free "Teen Click It or Ticket" educational toolkits to high schools across the state. Each kit contains banners, posters, brochures, and parking lot signs reminding students to wear their seat belts or face costly tickets, injuries, or even death.

Throughout the spring, TxDOT also will promote "Teen Click It or Ticket" at University Interscholastic League (UIL) competitions. A real-life, mangled truck display and an audio recreation of what happened to the teens who survived it, will be set up at boys' and girls' state high school sports tournaments in San Antonio,

Georgetown, and Austin.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), properly worn lap-shoulder belts reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat occupants by 45%. Texas law requires all vehicle drivers and passengers to be buckled in a seat belt or face fines and court costs up to \$200.

YOUR TEXAS AGRICULTURAL MINUTE

Showing livestock: The lasting results

By Gene Hall

Livestock shows and youth. They go hand-in-hand in Texas.

With some of the biggest and toughest livestock shows in the nation located right here in the Lone Star State, kids are spurred by competition to be the best.

A desire to win. Banners, plaques, and your name in Texas livestock show history.

Memories made and pictures taken. But showing livestock is more than just chasing banners.

It's an opportunity. For personal growth, scholarships, and management skills. It's humility—learning to win. And how to lose gracefully. Against those you've become good friends with over the years.

Not to mention the hands-on learning with genetics, feeding, and livestock evaluation.

It's the trial and error needed to create our future leaders.

You can't put a price on that. Because banners fade and plaques gather dust. But the experiences gained and the memories made are the lasting results.

Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they do when they stick together.

- Verna M. Kelly

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Sat 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:15, 9:40
Sun 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:15
Mon-Thurs 2:20, 4:40, 7:15
McFarland (PG)
Fri 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
Sat 11am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
Sun 11am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30
Mon-Thurs 1:50, 4:40, 7:30
50 Shades of Grey (R)
Fri 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
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Sun 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30
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Kingsmen: The Secret Service (R)
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From left: Christina Johnson, H. Kirk, R.Ph., Patty Hostetter, CPhT, Christi Rickman, CPhT

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SPORTS

Tigerettes de-claw Lady Cougars

The Sacred Heart Tigerettes, the District Runner-up team, traveled to Richardson last Thursday night to take on the Canyon Creek Christian Academy Lady Cougars in the first round of the TAPPS Basketball playoffs.

"Wow, what an effort!" noted Coach Jon LeBrasseur. "We had one of our best halves of the years. The girls really responded. They played to their strengths and kept the game simple."

The Tigerettes took an

early lead, 19-5, the 1st quarter and had a 20 point lead at halftime. The game ended with a 48-24 Sacred Heart Bi-District victory. "The bench gave us a lift and now we move on to the Regional Tournament. Who knows what might happen. I'm excited for these young girls as they continue to improve each day," Coach Jon added.

Avery Truebenbach led all scorers, putting 22 points on the board. Rylee Reiter added 7, Alana Endres, Leah

Knabe, and Amanda Aldridge each scored 4, with Alane Bartush and Kate Springer getting 3 apiece, and Samantha Palmer 1.

| | | | | | |
|----|----|----|---|---|----|
| SH | 19 | 13 | 8 | 8 | 48 |
| CC | 5 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 24 |

For the Regional playoff game, the Tigerettes will face the winner of the Waldorf School of Austin and Longview Christian School Lady Eagles game. The contest will be Friday, Feb. 27 at 8:30 p.m. at Bishop Lynch High School in Dallas.



Photo courtesy of Lydia Springer

Tigerette Kate Springer (30) brings the ball down court in Sacred Heart's playoff victory over Canyon Creek last week. Also pictured is Alane Bartush (21).

Texas Game Warden Reports

Buck wild

Two Shelby County game wardens received a tip of a buck possibly being shot off a roadway. When they went to investigate, they found a truck with fresh blood all over the tailgate. They then found a 10-inch spread 8-point buck. After further investigation, the game wardens issued an arrest warrant and the owner of the truck was placed in jail.

Missed a spot

When a landowner in Red River County heard gunshots near his property, he called his local game warden for help. The warden searched several deer camps and found evidence of blood at an unoccupied camp. There, the warden observed that the hunter had made an effort to rake up the remaining debris and place it in a nearby burn barrel. When the warden located the hunter, he had power-washed his vehicle in an attempt to remove blood evidence. After questioning, the hunter admitted to shooting an 11-point buck with his .30-.30 rifle during archery season.

If at first you don't succeed...

A Titus County game warden received a call from a hunter about a trespasser on a nearby ranch. The hunter approached the trespasser and attempted to escort him

off of the property, but the trespasser refused and continued across the ranch. The hunter then took video and photos of the male suspect, who was later identified and arrested for Class B criminal trespass and an active felony warrant from the neighboring county.

Oh deer

Two Bandera County game wardens and one Uvalde County warden responded to information about a few deer that had been illegally taken.

At the residence, the wardens located meat from a freshly killed whitetail deer. During the investigation, it was learned that two 17-year-old males had killed one whitetail deer with a bow from a public road that night and also killed another whitetail deer by running it over with a truck a few nights earlier. The Uvalde County game warden obtained written statements from both suspects, and multiple charges have been filed.

Binder batting for Roos

Muenster graduate Mason Binder is a member of the Austin College Roos baseball team. The Sherman team is a member of the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC). Last season, they finished in last place with a 2-16 conference record and 6-33 on the season.

Coach Mike Ramsey is looking to improve this year, starting the season with a 9-8 victory over Arlington Baptist on Feb. 13. The next day, the teams split the wins. On Feb. 20, the Roos lost to Castleton 6-2. This Friday and Satur-

day, they face Southwestern.

Of the 25 members of the team, most are from Texas, including Trevor DeBord, former Lindsay Knight, and Chance Hatchel of Whitesboro. There are also teammates from Arizona,



Hawaii, New Mexico, and California.

Mason is the son of Cy and Amy Binder.



Photo courtesy of Kelly Fields

Lady Hornet Kristen Reiter puts pressure on a Lady Eagle in last Friday's Area playoff game in Graham.

Lady Hornets fall at Area

The Muenster Lady Hornets, after receiving a pass through Bi-District, met with the Lady Eagles of Goldthwaite at Graham last Friday night in the Class 2A Area playoff round.

"They (Goldthwaite) made shots and we didn't," commented Muenster Coach Griffin Fields. "It reminded me of the Lindsay game. We got open looks, and credit to them, they made more of their open looks than we did."

Goldthwaite brought their height that prevented Muenster from shooting inside. The Lady Hornets' cold 3-point shooting kept the score low and gave the Lady Eagles the edge they needed to hand Muenster a 48-37 loss.

The Lady Eagles had an 8-6 lead at the end of the 1st period. Muenster tied the game 8-8, then had a 14-11 lead. A Goldthwaite 3-point-er at the buzzer tied the game 14-14 at halftime.

"I felt the moment overwhelmed us in the 1st quarter and it carried over in the 2nd quarter," Coach Fields said. "We came in at the half and just talked about settling down and do what we do."

A bucket by Kristen Reiter gave the Lady Hornets the lead before a Lady Eagle 3-pointer shifted Goldthwaite back in front. Bailey Klement slid in 2 points to put Muenster temporarily back on top 18-17. But 6 Lady Eagle points gave

Goldthwaite a 23-18 lead. The quickness of Mady Burnett closed the score to 23-22 before the Lady Eagles' 8 point run to end the 3rd quarter 31-22.

Goldthwaite scored first in the 4th period, with Reiter popping in a 3 for a 33-25 score. With 6 1/2 minutes on the clock, the Lady Eagles added four free throws to increase their lead to 37-25. At the 2:40 mark, Reiter added 2 from the free throw line, but the Lady Eagles hit five more charity shots to increase their lead to 42-27 with a minute on the clock.

Kassie Dangelmayr hit a 3, Goldthwaite followed with two free throws. Dangelmayr hit another 3 for a 44-33 score.

The Lady Eagles went to the line three more times to increase their lead to 48-33 with 26 seconds remaining in the game. Claire Schneider scored a 3 and Burnett a free throw to end the contest 48-37.

The Lady Eagles were 19 of 29 from the free throw line, 15 in the 4th quarter.

Muenster hit five of 12.

Scoring for the Lady Hornets were Mady Burnett 10, Kristen Reiter 8, Kassie Dangelmayr 6, Claire Schneider and Bailey Klement 5 each, Katie Pagel 2, and Morgan Eldridge 1.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| M | 6 | 8 | 8 | 15 | 37 |
| G | 8 | 6 | 17 | 17 | 48 |

Coach Fields noted that seniors Kristen Reiter and Kassie Dangelmayr are going to be missed on and off the floor, as both seniors were team leaders. "Those two are amazing. Kristen's role changed this year. She was a girl that stood outside the 3-point line and fired up 3-pointers most of her career. This year, she sacrificed some points to better the team. I'm so proud of her."

Coach added that Kassie defensively made a switch this year. "She bought in and played great defensively. She adapted her game getting to the basket."

The Lady Hornets ended the 2015 basketball season as District Champions and Area Qualifiers with a 26-8 season record.

Hornets in warm-up loss to #1 Tornadoes

The Muenster Hornets took on the #1 Texas Class A team, the Texline Tornadoes last Saturday at Chisholm Trails High School in Saginaw. Low scoring in the 2nd and 3rd periods allowed Texline to take a 48-38 victory from the Hornets.

The Tornadoes, like Muenster, are undefeated District Champions. Texline had three district victories where they scored over 100 points and their opponents 25 or less. In their 10 district games, the Tornadoes out-scored the other teams 843 to 272. Before meeting Muenster, they lost to the

Class 3A Brownfield Cubs 76-67.

Scoring for the Hornets were Lyndon Cook 21, Trevor Cheaney 7, Blake Jones 4, and Blake Hoepfner and Logan Cook 3 each.

| | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| M | 12 | 6 | 8 | 12 | 38 |
| T | 11 | 13 | 11 | 13 | 48 |

The Hornets, after a Bi-District pass, will take on the winner of the 1st round playoff game between Hamilton and Petrolia, which was delayed due to weather and played Wednesday night, after press deadline. The Area round will be Friday or Saturday, time and place to be determined.

Just a thought

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CLASS 2A AREA PLAYOFF ACTION

MUENSTER VS GOLDTHWAITE

Photos courtesy of Kelly Fields



TAPPS BI-DISTRICT PLAY-OFF ACTION

SACRED HEART VS CANYON CREEK

Photos courtesy of Lydia Springer



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LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF COOKE 235th DISTRICT COURT
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
 CV15-00016

To: A.C. MORRISON, OR HIS UNKNOWN HEIRS SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. YOU MAY EMPLOY AN ATTORNEY. IF YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY DO NOT FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK WHO ISSUED THIS CITATION BY 10:00 A.M. ON THE MONDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF FORTY-TWO (42) DAYS AFTER YOU WERE SERVED THIS CITATION AND PETITION, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU.

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the petition of plaintiff at or before 10 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days after the date of service of this citation before the Honorable 235TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, Cooke County, Texas, at the courthouse in the city of Gainesville, Texas.

Said petition was filed in said court, on the 14th day of January, 2015 in cause number CV15-00016 on the docket of said court and styled:

FELDERHOFF PRODUCTION COMPANY

vs.

A.C. MORRISON OR HIS UNKNOWN HEIRS, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS

The nature of this cause is UPON FINAL HEARING A RECEIVER BE APPOINTED TO EXECUTE AN OIL AND GAS LEASE UNDER ORDER ON BEHALF OF THE SAID DEFENDANT AND FOR SUCH OTHER AND FURTHER RELIEF THAT MAY BE AWARDED AT LAW OR IN EQUITY

The officer executing this citation shall promptly served the same according to requirements of law, and mandates thereof, and make due return as the law directs.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court at Gainesville, Cooke County, Texas this the 28th day of January, 2015.

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF:
 DERRELL L. COMER P.O. BOX 973
 109 E. CALIFORNIA ST. GAINESVILLE, TX 76240

Susan Hughes, District Clerk COOKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
 101 S Dixon, Suite 207 Gainesville, Texas 76240
 By: /s/ Susan Hughes

2.6-4

STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF COOKE 235th DISTRICT COURT
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
 CV14-00610

To: CLARA BLOUNT SLEDGE, J.B. SLEDGE, JR., SALLY SLEDGE, MARY ALICE DORAN, RUTH BIRD MARJORIE ALICE KATSMAN, STANLEY DORAN, ELIZABETH DAVIS DREWA, ROBBIE LEE DOBBS FRANK DORAN, KENNETH DREWA, EUGENE ARNOLD, VIRGINIA REINEY MITCHELL AND W.E.F. HOLDING INC. AND IF SAID CORPORATION IS DISSOLVED, THE SURVIVING STOCKHOLDERS OR IF ANY OF DEFENDANTS ARE DECEASED, THEN THEIR UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES WHOSE ADDRESSES ARE UNKNOWN

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. YOU MAY EMPLOY AN ATTORNEY. IF YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY DO NOT FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK WHO ISSUED THIS CITATION BY 10:00 A.M. ON THE MONDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF FORTY TWO(42) DAYS AFTER YOU WERE SERVED THIS CITATION AND PETITION, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU.

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the 1 ST AMENDED PETITION of plaintiff at or before 10 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days after the date of service of this citation before the Honorable 235TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, Cooke County, Texas, at the courthouse in the city of Gainesville, Texas.

Said petition was filed in said court, on the 14TH day of JANUARY, 2015 in cause number CV14-00610 on the docket of said court and styled:

TRIPLE G WELL SERVICE, INC.

vs.

J.B. SLEDGE, MARY ALICE DORAN, RUTH BIRD, MARJORIE ALICE KATSMAN, STANLEY DORAN, ELIZABETH DAVIS DREWA, ROBBIE LEE DOBBS, FRANK DORAN, KENNETH DREWA, CATHERINE DORAN WISE, EUGENE ARNOLD, O.E. REINEY AND W.E.F. HOLDING INC., AND IF SAID CORPORATION IS DISSOLVED, THE SURVIVING STOCKHOLDERS, AND IF THEY BE DECEASED OR ANY OF THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS BE DECEASED, THEN THEIR UNKNOWN HEIRS OR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES

The nature of this cause is A receiver be appointed to execute and oil and gas lease under order of this court on behalf of the said defendants and for such other and further relief that may be awarded at law or in equity.

The Plaintiff would respectfully show the Court that it has taken oil and gas leases upon the following described Property, to-wit:

156.0 acres of land, more or less, located in the Hiram Strong Survey, A-930 Cooke County, Texas being more fully described as Tract Two, Tract Three, Tract Four, Tract Five and Tract Six in Warranty Deed dated August 2, 1971, for Alice B. Turner to Edward S. Wilson, recorded in volume 526, page 287 or the deed records of Cooke County, TX

And 40.0 acres of land, more or less located in the T.B. Stroud Survey, A-950 Cooke County, Texas, being more fully described in a Warranty deed dated January 20, 1913, from Alexander and wife F.C. Owen, recorded in Volume 112, page 127 of the Deed Records of Cooke County, Texas

The officer executing this citation shall promptly served the same according to requirements of law, and mandates thereof, and make due return as the law directs.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court at Gainesville, Cooke County, Texas this the 27th day of January, 2015.

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF:
 DERRELL L. COMER P.O. BOX 973
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FARM & RANCH

Texas Department of Agriculture Market Recap

The beef checkoff works for ranchers—every day

By Dave Edmiston, chairman, Texas Beef Promotion and Research Council

The Texas beef checkoff has been passed and implemented and new dollars are funding our beef promotion and research efforts. Yet some individuals continue to spread misinformation when it comes to this self-help effort. Since most of the claims and arguments I hear against the Texas beef checkoff are false or misleading, I'd like the truth to be out there.

A repeated complaint is that the new one-dollar-per-head state checkoff is not earmarked for spending within the borders of Texas. It is now and will be in the future spent where there are markets to be gained at the direction of Texas cattle producers. Texans love beef, but we can't eat all we can produce. Ninety-five percent of our market is global.

In 2014, beef export value was \$7.13 billion. That's about a \$1 billion increase, amounting to 16% over last year's record! Export volume of 1.2 million metric tons just missed 2011's record, but increased 2% over last year. Bottom line, for Texas ranchers, the value of exports adds around \$300 to the value of

a fed steer or heifer! Do you still think Texas checkoff dollars should be spent "only in Texas?"

The Texas ranchers who serve on the Texas Beef Promotion and Research Council Board have the last word on how checkoff dollars are



spent. Isn't it better to pursue markets, wherever they might be?

The goal of the checkoff is to grow beef demand—in good times and bad—to deliver value to our industry.

Checkoff dollars fund promotion, marketing, advertising, communication, and research programs and have been used for decades to support markets for agricultural commodities. No one but opponents ever called it a "tax." In the case of our state checkoff, which passed two to one, it is refundable. That doesn't sound much like a tax.

Most cattle producers know that businesses that don't

invest in research and promotion do not survive. They also know that inflation has chewed the original dollar approved in the 1980s down to a skinny 40¢. The drought reduced cattle numbers to the point that checkoff collections were dramatically low.

If you want your money back, you can have it. No hard feelings. The checkoff still works for you. However, if you want to look your neighbors in the eye and say, "I'm proud to invest in my product, my industry, and my way of life," then you have the quiet pride that comes from knowing you've stepped up to be part of the solution, rather than complaining about the problem.

Texas A&M AgriLife retains No. 1 ranking in agricultural research expenditures

Texas A&M AgriLife Research was ranked No. 1 in agricultural sciences expenditures for fiscal year 2013, the latest year for which figures are available, according to the National Science Foundation.

The ranking marks the second year in a row the agency has topped almost 200 universities nationwide, according to Dr. Craig Nessler, AgriLife Research director at College Station.

AgriLife Research, part of the Texas A&M University System, accounted for more than \$179 million of the more than \$3.35 billion spent on agricultural research by more than 35 U.S. universities, surpassing the University of Florida, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, University of California-Davis, and Purdue University in the top five positions.

Prior to 2012, AgriLife Research had totaled the third or fourth highest expenditures.

"It's gratifying to see that we rank No. 1 again, because this is a measurement of the outstanding work our scientists do to positively impact the lives of Texans, our fellow citizens across the nation, and people worldwide with important scientific discoveries in agriculture and natural resources," Nessler said. "In an era when research budgets have been cut, we continue to attract funding to support our work to advance agriculture."

The National Science Foundation – created in 1950 by Congress "to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense" – annually measures the total research spending in several categories, including agriculture.

"AgriLife Research is a model and an asset for the entire System," said John Sharp, chancellor of The Texas A&M University System. "The agency has a successful, innovative approach to securing funds that enable our scientists to concentrate on their projects, thus making our world a better place."

AgriLife Research officials said the increased funding is up from \$176.4 million the previous reporting period and is \$22 million higher than No. 2 ranked University of Florida.



For the week ending Feb. 21, Texas auctions quoted feeder cattle prices mostly steady and firm, ranging from \$2 to \$16 higher per hundred-weight (cwt). Texas weekly direct feeder cattle sales for head under 800 lbs. were \$2 to \$4 higher, and for head over 800 lbs., prices were \$3 to \$7 higher. Fed cattle weekly cash sales were lower at \$160 per cwt, but wholesale beef values were higher with Choice Grade increasing \$2.09 to \$240.31 per cwt and Select Grade rising \$4.75 to \$237.79. Net export sales for Feb. 6-12 were down 22% from last week and 9% from the weekly average. Export shipments were consistent with last week.

Wheat fell 30 cents in both the cash and futures markets to close at \$4.98 per bushel and \$5.33 per bushel, respectively. The USDA NASS Texas field office reported that the Texas Winter Wheat crop is 99% emerged, up one point from last week, and consistent with this time last year. Forty-four percent of the wheat crop remains in excellent or good condition, same as last week. Net export sales for wheat were down 35% from last week and 41% from the prior four-week average. Shipments were 5% higher than the previous week and 9% higher than the weekly average.

Texas corn prices also were slightly lower with cash prices down to \$4.18 per bushel and futures prices down to \$3.85. The USDA Outlook estimates corn acreage for 2015 to be at 89 million acres. Texas corn seeding began in areas of the Blacklands, the Coastal Bend, and the Lower Valley. Field preparations for planting sorghum began in the Upper Coast, the Coastal Bend, and the Lower Valley. Corn export sales were down 7% from last week and 25%

from the four-week average. Export shipments were 13% higher than last week but 5% lower than the average. Most of the state recorded precipitation last week; however, only north and east Texas received a half-inch or more. Last week's U.S. Drought Monitor for Texas showed some worsening in drought conditions for the state with nearly 61% of the state still in some stage of drought intensity, up 4.1% points from last week. On the national level, drought conditions also worsened with nearly 55% of the U.S. experiencing abnormal dryness or some degree of drought, up over 2% points from last week.

Additional information on agricultural weather, crop progress, and agricultural markets can be found on the TDA Market News page.

CattleFax foresees strong, steady cattle prices in 2015

At a breakout session held at the recent Cattle Industry Convention and National Cattlemen's Beef Association Trade Show, *CattleFax* predicted strong prices to remain in 2015 due to the improved forage situation, lower grain prices, and record margins in 2014 for feeder and stocker cattle, reports *AgriMarketing*.

Fed cattle prices are expected to average in the mid-\$150s, slightly higher than last year. Prices will trade from near \$140 to near \$170 in the year ahead. Early year highs for 550 pound steers will range from near \$285 to lows near \$235.

Despite exceptional prices in 2014, *CattleFax* CEO Randy Blach said he expects the market peak is behind the cattle industry now with some modest expansion in herd numbers now.

"Cow-calf producers will continue to see relatively strong returns over the next four to five years, aided by corn prices expected to average \$3.60 per bushel in 2015 and an improved forage production picture," Blach added.

USDA report says farmers' 2015 income will drop 32%

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) stated in a recent report that net income for farmers is expected to fall by nearly 32% this year, as corn and soybean prices remain low and expenses creep higher, reports *ABC News*.

USDA's report estimates U.S. farmers will see income fall for a second year in a row.

It was down 16% from 2013 to 2014. The report forecasts net income at \$73.6 billion in 2015, down from \$108 billion in 2014.

Farmers who own land with a low cost of production will likely still make a profit, while those who rent land at higher prices will struggle.



Storage options for hay discussed at Conference

There are several management considerations regarding hay storage and reducing feed loss, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service beef cattle specialist.

Dr. Stephen Hammack, AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist emeritus, Stephenville, shared his perspective – as well as AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist Dr. Jason Banta's research options – for producers to consider at the recent Blackland Income Growth Conference held in Waco.

First, consider how round baled hay is harvested. "There's generally less loss when net wrapped versus twine wrapped," Hammack said. "The tighter they (the bales) are, the less the loss. Precipitation is also a big factor in loss."

According to research conducted at Louisiana State University, there was 3% loss over a 280-day period when round bales were stored in a pole barn, 9% when stored under a tarp, and 15% loss when left outside with no protection.

"You want to minimize ground contact," Hammack said. "You can use pallets, tires, a rock pad, or store bales in a barn. You also want to store in a sunny location with a breeze. You don't want to store in shade because the bales will take longer to dry out after a rain, leading to increased losses."

Hammack recommends not storing bales side by side, but rather end to end. A plastic tarp covering also helps protect the bales and prevent water from penetrating the top of the bale.

"A good way to keep those bales off the ground is to use old telephone poles," he said.

There are several methods that can be used to eliminate feeding waste. Hammack said the best way is to restrict intake by using hay rings or rolling out the hay.

"You want to require the cattle to clean up the hay before feeding any more," he said. "You can waste a lot of money on hay or save a lot of money with different storage and feeding methods."



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The Board of Trustees of Muenster Independent School District is announcing that a Board election will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2015.

Positions to be filled:

Place 5 - Incumbent - Richard Dangelmayr

Place 6 - Incumbent - Kimberly Hess Walterscheid

Place 7 - Incumbent - Steve Trubenbach



The first day to file for a place on the ballot will be January 26, 2015 and will continue through February 27, 2015. If you are interested in filing for a place on the ballot for any of these positions, please come by the Muenster ISD Administration Office to pick up an application packet. We are located at 113 East Seventh Street and will be open between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you have any questions, please call the administration office at 940.759.2281 ext. 600.



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