

## Shooting under investigation

**Janet Felderhoff**  
News Editor

Cooke County Sheriff's Department responded to a disturbance call Sunday, July 28, at around 3:45 a.m. The disturbance was in the 600 block of East Cross Street in Muenster. Upon arrival, units from the Sheriff's Office and Cooke County EMS found a victim suffering from a gunshot wound.

Lonnie Reasor, a 41-year-old male from Myra, was later identified as the victim. Reasor was careflighted to a Plano hospital in critical but stable condition as of late Sunday evening.

Alex Sicking, 25-year-old male of Muenster, was taken into custody and

charged with Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. He was in the Cooke County Jail with bail set at \$50,000. Sicking bonded out earlier this week.

Cooke County Sheriff Terry Gilbert confirmed that all parties knew each other and that the incident was not an attempted break-in.

Although the Muenster Police Department was off-duty when the disturbance call came in, Sheriff Gilbert said that both Muenster Police Chief Mark Blankenship and Officer Tom Barr came on duty and assisted with the investigation.

The Muenster Police Department is assisting in the further investigation of this incident, reported Sheriff Gilbert.

## County settles on 2013-14 proposed tax rate

**Janet Felderhoff**  
News Editor

Cooke County Commissioners Court could not come to a unanimous agreement for a proposed tax rate to fund the 2013-14 budget. A proposed rate of 47.95¢ per \$100 property valuation. That is this year's effective tax rate. County Judge John Roane and Commissioners Leon Klement and Al Smith cast the yes votes while Commissioners B.C. Lemons and Gary Hollowell said nay.

Cooke County Appraisal District (CCAD) Chief Appraiser Doug Smithson explained to the Court various things about current property values and how sales tax impacted the tax rate. There was a large amount of sales tax last year, mostly due to the oil and gas industry, said Smithson. That amount is expected to drop this year.

Commissioner Smith expressed concerns over future revenue for the County. He said, "We have arrived at a point where we are seeing a decrease in ad valorem tax base."

Values from the wind farm and Barnett Shale oil activity have helped Cooke County at a time when many other counties in Texas struggle just to pay monthly bills.

Smith also noted his concern for putting a heavy tax burden on a smaller population - younger people and small businesses. He suggested going against his normal belief of not going below the effective tax rate so as to reduce the burden on young taxpayers.

"At this juncture, what is really wrestling in my mind is whether we really need, at this point, to go all the way to the effective rate," Smith pondered. "We've had some windfalls in the past with sales tax and basically, we funded things with that sales tax. We've had pretty substantial growth in our General Fund Balance. For whatever reason, we don't really have over the last two or three years a long list of things identified that we feel are very high priority. We worked our way through a lot of difficulties we had in operations and buildings and things that we needed to fund. We've taken care of a lot of stuff." The question is whether it is necessary to go all the way to fund the budget or to give a sufficient effective tax rate for next year. He felt not.

Judge Roane said he hated to think of any kind of raise in taxes, but because there are not large capital improvements in this year's budget, they know they'll be needed in the future. He favored the effective rate just to avoid having to go to a much higher rate at a later

## Mosquito spraying set for Monday

The City of Muenster plans to spray for mosquitoes, Monday, Aug. 5. The spraying will begin around 10 p.m. and will take about two hours to complete. Rescheduling will take place in the event of rain or high wind.

time. Commissioner Lemons said that he'd like to keep the same rate this year. Last year's tax rate was \$0.4520.

Commissioner Klement reminded the Court that last year's effective rate was 44.65 and they went up above the effective rate by 45.20. He said, "Now we've had a lot of discussion about if we reached the top of the curve, we might be falling off and how careful we have to be. If the majority of the Commissioners Court thought it was important to go up a half a cent last year when sales tax

was high and things were going good, I don't know why we'd shoot ourselves in the foot this year, I want to be careful also. We have to find a happy medium somewhere."

Klement reminded them that the proposed rate can always be lowered, but once a proposed rate is set, that rate can't be raised.

After the vote, the Court set a hearing date for the proposed tax rate for Monday, Aug. 19 at 10 a.m. That is also the date and time of the proposed budget hearing.

## Cool fun on a hot day



Janie Hartman photos

There are many fun things to do at the Muenster Swimming Pool and these families are enjoying a cool break on a hot day. The pool will close for the season on Aug. 18.



## Sunset paints the western sky



Janet Felderhoff photo

Clouds in Tuesday evening's western sky created a dramatic scene. The setting sun colored some of the clouds while framing a large storm cloud. The V above the storm cloud - was it blue sky or a shadow from the cloud? Although the fragrance of rain was in the air and lightning flashed in the distance, this area received no moisture. July has been cooler and wetter than normal. There have been several nice showers.

## Grievances addressed by Muenster ISD Superintendant

**Janet Felderhoff**  
News Editor

Clay Richerson, Muenster ISD superintendant, contacted the *Muenster Enterprise* to address some of the complaints lodged in last week's MISD Board story. He wanted to clarify some points.

Although the State does mandate yearly salary increases for teachers according to the State Minimum Salary Schedule, Muenster ISD has its own salary schedule. It is set up on years of experience and on 10 month contracts just like that of the State. The State Minimum Salary Schedule applies to classroom teachers, full-time librarians, full-time counselors, and full-time nurses (RN) (Section 21.402(a), Texas Education Code, (TEC).

The 2013-14 State Schedule requires a minimum pay of \$2,732 a month or \$27,320 a year for a teacher with no experience. Muenster's schedule for that same teacher is \$2,928 a month or \$29,280 a year. For 10 years of experience, the State requires a minimum of \$37,040 and MISD pays a minimum of \$39,000 for 10 years of experience. By year 20, the State-required minimum is \$44,270 per year and MISD's minimum is \$46,230.

Speaking of Muenster's salary schedule, Richer-

son noted, "It's fixed up where from year-to-year, the younger teachers get more of a bump per year because if they have young families, it helps out. The lowest increase that I've figured out is \$660. The biggest increase was \$1,020 in the difference. It ranges between that \$660, some got \$740, some got \$970, and some got \$1,020."

In addition to their salary, teachers receive another \$1,000 per year with a Bachelor's degree or another \$1,500 with their Master's degree.

"There's no other school in the State of Texas that gives that \$1,000 because to get certified to teach, you have to have a Bachelor's. Most school districts do an increase for a Master's. Now, \$1,500 is the most I've ever seen and that's what Muenster pays. A lot of school districts I know only pay \$500 for a Master's."

After five years with MISD, a teacher receives an additional \$500 per year; 10 years \$1,000; 15 years \$1,900; and 20 plus years \$2,500. "Not every school district does longevity, some do," said Richerson.

"The continuing ed stipend is a stipend for teachers if they get 10 hours of in-service during the sum-

mer, we pay them for that. We set it up where we do in-service here at our school so they don't have to drive to Fort Worth. They don't have to leave town. They just have to sign up and come to these meetings and they get \$1,000. There is no other school that I know of that pays that." Some districts give what they call comp days for in-service training, he added.

Regarding the School District paying the teacher's insurance premiums, Richerson explained that it depends on the level that the teacher chooses. The levels are employee only, employee and family, employee and spouse, and employee and kids. He spoke of employee only although most choose to include all or part of their family.

"Last year, employee only cost the School District \$225 to pay that premium," noted the Superintendent. "The School District paid the teachers \$338, so they were getting more money than their insurance cost as an individual. This year, the insurance went up just like everybody's did. So, it cost the individual for insurance \$330. So what the School District has been paying,

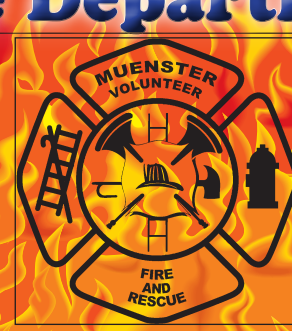
See MISD, pg. 2

## Inside this issue ...

A Salute to the

# MUNSTER

Volunteer  
Fire Department



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**ENTERPRISE**





## Wyrick and Fuhrmann marry at St. Peter's Church

Amelia Janet Wyrick and Abe Clement Fuhrmann were united in Holy Matrimony on July 20, 2013. Fr. Raymond McDaniel officiated at the wedding Mass in St. Peter's Catholic Church. Wyrick is the daughter of Larry and Joanie Wyrick of Lindsay and the granddaughter of Louise Schad of Lindsay and the late Ed Schad, and Gerald and Mary Binder of Sachse. The groom is the son of Arnold and Cecilia Fuhrmann of Lindsay and grandson of Erwin and Clara Fuhrmann of Lindsay and Damon and

Georgia Doye of Lawton, Oklahoma. Escorted by her father, the bride wore a lace covered sheath of charmeuse satin that featured a fitted bodice with lace straps and a skirt with a chapel length train. She carried a bouquet of large, lacy, yellow chrysanthemums. **ATTENDANTS**  
Rose Wyrick of Lindsay was her sister's maid of honor. Other bridesmaids were sisters of the bride, Erin Wyrick, Laura Wyrick, and Theresa Wyrick, all of Lindsay.

Ayden Schad, cousin of the bride, was flower girl. They were attired in knee-length, canary yellow dresses with spaghetti straps and topped with a white crocheted shrug. They carried bouquets of blue and white spring flowers. Best man was Cletus Fuhrmann of Dallas, brother of the groom. Groomsmen were Derek Schmidlkofer of Muenster, Andrew Koesler of Muenster, and James Schumacher of Lindsay. Ring bearer was James Wyrick, nephew of the bride. Ushers were Ben and

John Wyrick, brothers of the bride, Tyler Harrison, brother-in-law of the groom, and Chasin Doye, cousin of the groom. Andrew and Emma Kenny of Lindsay were organist and vocalists for the wedding music. Godparents of the bride, Ed and Carol Horstnan of Southmayd, brought up the gifts at Offertory. The groom's Godmother, Barbara Rohmer of Muenster, presented the readings. **RECEPTION**  
A reception followed in Centennial Hall with catering by Ronnie Neu. Dustin Walterscheid provided the entertainment for dancing. The groom's mother, Cecilia Fuhrmann, made the bride's cake as well as the groom's cake. The bride is a graduate of Lindsay High School and attended Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri. She is employed at Muenster Memorial Hospital and at the Smokehouse. A graduate of Muenster High School, the groom works at Fuhrmann Dairy. The couple resides in Muenster.



Mr. and Mrs. Abe Clement Fuhrmann ... 'nee Amelia Janet Wyrick ...

## 60th wedding anniversary observed by Adam Wolfs

Adam and Alma Wolf celebrated 60 years of marriage on July 6. Their actual wedding date is July 9, 1953. The couple and their family attended the 5 p.m. Mass, where Fr. Ken blessed their marriage. Following Mass, their children hosted a dinner at the KC Hall with approximately 120 attending. Children of the couple and their spouses Darlene and Alan Miller of Muenster, Randy Wolf of Irving, Margie and Lyle Klement of Bokchito, Oklahoma, Timmy Wolf of Prosper, Phil and Cindy Wolf of Leo, Karen and Ron Dangelmayr of Muenster, and Sharen and Ryan Bayer

of Muenster, and their families were in attendance. Guests enjoyed sumptuous cakes which were made and served by their children: a beautiful wedding cake made by Cindy Wolf, Italian cream by Darlene Miller, German chocolate by Margie Klement, carrot cake by Karen Dangelmayr, and red velvet cake by Sharen Bayer. Tables at the dinner were covered and decorated with blooming periwinkles and votive candles. A DVD of family gatherings was put together and shown to those in attendance. Also enjoyed was the telling of family stories and experiences.

Guests came from Wimberly, Texas, Austin, Houston, Shawnee, Oklahoma, Durant, Prosper, Irving, and Denton, as well as Valley View, Gainesville, Lindsay, Muenster, Colleyville, Frisco, and Flower Mound. Members of the wedding party included Virginia Hess of Lindsay, Janie Thurman of Lindsay, Joann Hermes of Gainesville, Walter Wolf of Gainesville, and Jeanette Popp of Lindsay. A highlight of their anniversary occurred during a Texas Ranger baseball game when television sportscaster Tom Grieve announced anniversary greetings to the couple.

## Chris Styles' daughter completes residency in Family Medicine

Lindsey Elizabeth Styles Tijerina, M.D., was honored by Memorial Hermann Health System and the Memorial Family Medicine Residency Program for completing the educational requirements as a Resident Physician in Family Medicine.

Dr. Tijerina began her residency on July 1, 2010 and completed the program on June 30, 2013 with a Recognition Banquet held at the Houston Racquet Club in Houston on June 29. She also received the Chief Resident Award for her tenure as Chief Resident during the third year of residency.

Dr. Tijerina is the daughter of Chris Styles of Muenster and Lizz Ziraldi of Phoenix, Arizona. Her grandparents are James and Henrietta Styles of Seymour and Henry Cuba of Megargel, Texas and the late Pat Cuba. Dr. Tijerina is married to Nathan Tijerina of Rosharon, Texas. Dr. Tijerina, a graduate of Seymour High School, Texas Tech University, and The University of Texas/Houston Medical School, began her medical practice on July 15 with Kocurek and James Clinic, located in Schulenburg.



Courtesy photo

Chris Styles and daughter Dr. Lindsey Styles Tijerina.

## Girl Scouts schedule recruitment swim party

The Girl Scouts organization is holding a Cooke County-wide recruitment swim party for new and returning Girl Scouts on Monday, Aug. 5. The party will be held at the new Gainesville pool from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 plus a donation item for VISTO. All current Girl Scouts and any new girls interested in joining, as well as adults interested in becoming a leader, are invited. There will be a new parent information meeting at 8 p.m. for parents of those interested in joining Girl Scouts. If you are unable to attend recruitment, but are interested in joining, contact Sherrie Scott at sscott@gs-top.org

Let's celebrate with an Ice Cream Social. Forestburg Volunteer Fire Department can handle the heat. These guys and gals deserve to cool off with a bowl of ice cream. They will serve as the parade marshal for the 33rd annual Forestburg Watermelon Festival. Past and present volunteers will be honored. The community is invited to attend and show their appreciation to these men and women who serve the community. The social will take place Monday, Aug. 5 at 7 p.m. in the Forestburg Community Center.

## Ice Cream Social to honor FVFD

## Forestburg Festival features canning competition

Forestburg 4-H is hosting the 2nd Annual Canning Competition at this year's Forestburg Watermelon Festival. There will be two age divisions: 17 and under, and 18 and over. Items can be entered in five categories which include: relishes, jams/jellies, pickles, salsa, and vegetables. All jars must be sealed in jars with the Kerr, Mason, or Ball label. Also include one copy of the recipe on plain paper (8-1/2" X 11") with the name of the recipe, details of the canning process used, and the ingredients. Please do not put name or initials

on recipe or jar. Entry fee is \$2 per jar, and there is no limit to amount of entries. Canned items may be brought to the Atkins Building (beside Country Store) in Forestburg on Friday, Aug. 9, 4 to 6 p.m. for judging. Display of winners will be Saturday, Aug. 10 at the Atkins Building from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. All 1st place winners will be awarded rosette ribbons. Copy of rules may be picked up at Forestburg Country Store. All proceeds benefit Forestburg 4-H. For more information, contact Alex or Shannon Sharon at 940-964-2471.

## Weather Whys - Anvil clouds

Q: You often hear of "anvil clouds." What are they?  
A: Anvil clouds are common sights during spring and summer thunderstorms and can occur almost all over the world, said Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "When a thunderstorm starts developing, the large cumulus clouds reach heights where the moisture in them condenses into ice crystals and spray," McRoberts explains. "This air and spray spreads and expands as the air bumps against the bottom of the stratosphere, and it often forms an anvil-shaped cloud as it expands. The central portion of an anvil cloud usually contains snow, but this melts as it falls into the very warm air below."

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# Catholic youth participate in camp service projects

Teens from Sacred Heart Parish in Muenster and St. Peter's Parish in Lindsay joined with other Diocesan youth to perform service projects at two camps. The first camp took place on June 16-21 in Wichita Falls at Our Lady of Peace. Destin Fleitman, Zach Flusche, and Courtney Neu participated. They were led by Nadine Creswell and Debi Neu.

On July 21-26, the camp at St. Catherine's in Carrollton had Ethan Henry, Mariah Rocha, Briley Fleitman, and Sabrina Stoffels take part. They were led by SH Youth Minister Dan Aedo. The local group along with about 100 teens and adult leaders from various parishes served at the Brookhaven Nursing Home, Salvation Army, Boys & Girls Club, did maintenance at St. Catherine's, and made nine baby beds from scratch.

first time was awesome and it truly is a completely different experience from being a first time camper. I loved both experiences and can't wait to go back!"



Mariah Rocha, above, prepares food; below, one of the nine baby beds made by camp youth.



Ethan Henry helps in food service line. He's second from the right; below - Briana Sandmann, Becca Metzler, Mariah Rocha, Claire Williams, Briley Fleitman, Sabrina Stoffels, and Ethan Henry.



## New Arrivals



Lawson Bewley

**Bewley**  
Janson and Krystal Bewley are proud to announce the birth of their son Lawson Wade Bewley. Lawson was born Wednesday, June 5, 2013 at 12:30 a.m. He weighed 8 lb. 4 oz. and measured 20.5 inches in length. Welcoming her new brother is Brooklyn, age two. Grandparents are Tim and Debbie Endres, the late Kim Hale, and Loyd and Janis Bew-

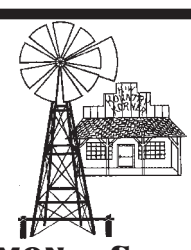
ley. Great-grandparents are Harold and Sug Bindel, Bobbie Hale, Elitha Endres, and June Eldridge.



Caylee Welch

**Welch**  
Leonard and Ashley Welch of Muenster proudly announce the birth of their daughter Caylee Sue Diane Welch. She was born on Friday, July 12 at 2:20 a.m. in Denton Presbyterian Hospital weighing 8 lb. 2 oz. and measuring 19 inches in length. Welcoming their new sister are Sonny, age eight, and Jimmy, age six. Caylee's grandparents are Doris and Gene Welch of Marietta, Oklahoma Martha Thompson of Muenster, and Richard Henly of Nocona. Great-grandparents are Hazel Sampson of Gainesville and Edith Welch of Myra, and Cora Henly of Nocona is her great-great-grandmother.

If one feels the need of something grand, something infinite, something that makes one feel aware of God, one need not go far to find it. I think that I see something deeper, more infinite, more eternal than the ocean in the expression of the eyes of a little baby when it wakes in the morning and coos or laughs because it sees the sun shining on its cradle.  
Vincent van Gogh



## WEEK DAY SPECIALS

- MON. - Sausage on a bun, 20 oz. fountain drink - \$2.77 +tax**
- TUES. - Pizza - any large - \$10.00**
- WED. - Chili dog or Frito Pie, 20 oz. fountain drink - \$2.77 +tax**
- THURS. - BBQ Sandwich, 20 oz. fountain drink - \$3.69 +tax**
- FRI. - Hamburger or tuna fish sandwich, 20 oz. fountain drink - \$3.69 +tax**

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 Parent's/Guardian's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work Phone #/Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
 T-Shirt Size (specify youth or adult): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please complete separate form for each child attending and return to First Baptist Church, PO Box 581, or 121 N. Pecan St., Muenster 940-759-2772

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# SCHOOL

## Muenster Varsity cheerleaders excel at NCA camp



2013-14 Muenster Varsity Cheerleaders and mascot.

MISD photo

The Muenster Varsity Cheerleaders and Mascot attended a National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) camp at the University of Texas at Dallas in June. Squad members attended daily cheer, chant, jump, stunt, and dance classes. Head cheerleader Shelbi Sicking attended a daily captain's class on responsibility and leadership within the squad. As head cheerleader, Shelbi is eligible to participate in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.

The Hornet cheerleaders performed cheers and chants at daily evaluations. Overall, the squad earned five Superior ribbons and a Stunt S.P.O.T. Award for their safety techniques in stunting. During the first night of evaluations, the other cheer squads voted on Muenster Varsity to receive the TEAM Award Certificate as the squad who best possessed the qualities of the ideal team. During the second night of evaluations, the squad from Muenster was selected by NCA staff to receive the TEAM Award Certificate having demonstrated overall technical excellence. The squad's spirit, strong teamwork, and positive attitudes earned a spirit stick on each night of camp, as well

as a spirit stick to take home on the final day of camp. The squad also earned a National Championship Bid which allows the squad to compete at Nationals in December. The entire MHS squad - Shelbi Sicking, Reagan Knightstep, Caroline Gressett, Kristen Reiter, Claire Schneider, Courtney Stevens, Allison Haubold, Amy Luttmer, Macie Pagel, and Haiden Shook - was nominated for All-American. The entire squad has qualified to attend the Christmas Extravaganza at Walt Disney World.

Earning a spot on the All-American squad were Caroline Gressett and Kristen Reiter. They are now qualified to attend the London Varsity Tour. Alaina Reiter, "Buzz" the Hornet Mascot, had a very successful camp attending mascot training classes. She received a blue ribbon for her entrance evaluation. On the second day of camp, she received the mascot spirit stick. On the final day of camp, she was named both Most Creative Mascot and All-American Mascot.

The Muenster Varsity Cheerleaders swept the awards on the final day of camp. The squad competed for the Top Team Award and for the Champion

Chant Award. Not only did the squad win Champion Chant, but they also were announced as the Top Team winner for their Game Time Performance. This is the sixth Top Team win in the past seven years.

The squad was also chosen as the recipient of the esteemed Herkie TEAM plaque which is chosen by the entire NCA staff as the one squad who exemplifies the qualities on which NCA was founded. These qualities are leadership, values, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Another prestigious award presented to the Muenster squad was the NCA Spirit Award Megaphone. This award is voted on by all the other cheer squads at camp, and is awarded to the one squad who added the most true spirit to camp during the week. This is the second year in a row for the Muenster squad to win the Spirit Award Megaphone which is a great tribute to the ability of the girls to demonstrate sportsmanship to others even when competing against them for top honors.

MHS Cheer Coach Lisa Pagel received her coaching certificate for attending coaching classes and participating with the squad.

## Lindsay FFA attends Texas FFA Convention

Eight members of the Lindsay FFA chapter attended the 85th Annual Texas FFA State Convention held July 8-12 in Dallas.

Lindsay FFA members who attended the convention were Doug Case, Kyleigh Duke, Clayton Gunderson, Alex Harrell, Matthew Huston, Garrett Martin, Dalton Metzler, and Jacob Sprouse along with their sponsor Cody Spies.

The 85th annual Texas FFA State Convention recorded more than 11,000 members and guests. Members of the agricultural youth leadership organization spent the week attending leadership workshops, participating in events and

activities, being recognized for their achievements, and serving as the legislative body for the Texas FFA Association.

More than \$2 million in scholarships were awarded to FFA members and more than 1,700 members received the Lone Star FFA Degree, the highest degree of active membership bestowed by a state FFA association. More than 2,000 members were recognized on stage for their accomplishments.

Members also competed for state titles in public speaking and agriscience events. In the interest of premier leadership, personal growth and career success, the Texas FFA As-

sociation also offered an opportunity for students to compete in the fourth annual Spanish Creed Speaking Invitational Event. The Creed delivery and the five-minute question-answer period were conducted entirely in Spanish.

Texas FFA honored soldiers and all American military service personnel during the Fallen Hero Recognition Ceremony.

Members heard from National FFA Central Region Vice President Brennan Costello, as well as motivational speakers Les Brown and John Beede. The Turnpike Troubadours, Texas country music band, also performed exclusively for FFA members.

## Lindsay FFA Chapter members receive Lone Star FFA Degree

Kyleigh Duke, Clayton Gunderson, Matthew Huston, and Dalton Metzler of the Lindsay FFA Chapter, were awarded the Lone Star FFA Degree at the 85th Annual Texas FFA State Convention held July 8-12 in Dallas. The Lone Star FFA Degree is the highest degree bestowed by the Texas FFA.

The Lone Star FFA Degree recognizes FFA members who have received the Chapter degree, been active FFA members for at least two years, complete at least

four semesters of agricultural science at or above the ninth grade level, maintain a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program, demonstrate their leadership skills, and show a commitment to the FFA through involvement at the chapter level and above. Duke, Gunderson, Huston and Gunderson were four of more than 1,700 FFA members receiving this esteemed degree. Other Lindsay FFA members receiving their Lone Star FFA Degree but unable to

attend the convention were Bryan Fortune and Terrell Grewing.

The Texas FFA is the nation's largest state FFA association with a membership of more than 95,000 members and 1,000 local FFA chapters. FFA gives students the opportunity to apply practical classroom knowledge to real world experiences through local, state and national competitions. For more information about the Texas FFA, visit [www.tex-assa.org](http://www.tex-assa.org).

## Dr. John Webb, O.D.



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# FARM & RANCH

## Agricultural market summary

For the week ending July 27, feeder cattle prices reported by Texas auctions were steady to \$6 higher per hundredweight (cwt) with a few locations reporting as much as \$10 higher. Texas direct feeder cattle sales were steady to \$2 higher.

The Oklahoma City National Stockyards were steady to \$3 lower on steers, but steady to \$3 higher on heifers.

Somewhat better pasture conditions following recent rains and prospects for lower grain prices this fall supported the markets, especially for lighter-weight cattle. However, deeply negative cattle feeding gains continued to limit the gains.

Fed cattle cash prices were steady, and wholesale beef prices were lower. Cotton prices were lower due to beneficial rains in major Texas growing areas and lower

weekly export sales, which will likely leave the total for the soon-to-end marketing year short of USDA projections.

Wheat prices were lower as forecasts of higher production in Europe and strong export competition from lower-cost suppliers in the Black Sea region continued to pressure the market. Weekly wheat export sales were down 34% from the previous week and 30% lower than the prior four-week average. However, the total was still nearly double the weekly average needed to meet USDA projections for the marketing year.

Corn prices were lower as beneficial weather in the Corn Belt continues to improve the prospects for a large 2013 crop. Corn export data were mixed as cancellations resulted in net sales of a negative 27,900 metric tons;

however, shipments were up 41% from the previous week and 19% higher than the prior four-week average.

As for future markets, feeder cattle were modestly higher, but fed cattle, cotton, wheat, corn, and lumber were lower. Most of the state recorded rainfall last week with totals of less than one-half inch in many areas, but as much as an inch or more reported in scattered locations statewide.

## Japan may soon resume U.S. wheat purchases

U.S. officials continue to work with the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture to answer their questions about a field of genetically-modified wheat found in Oregon earlier this summer in hopes that the nation will soon resume its import of U.S. wheat.

According to Bloomberg, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack is hopeful that the talks will lead Japan to reopen its doors to U.S. wheat again as early as August.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is still investigating how the experimental wheat, which wasn't approved for commercial use, ended up in the Oregon field.

After the wheat was discovered, the U.S. halted its import of U.S. Western White Wheat as did South Korea and Taiwan. According to the article, both South Korea and Taiwan have since resumed their purchases.

## USDA lowers its food price estimate

Americans are paying about the same at the grocery store as they paid at the beginning of this year.

According to a report on USDA Radio, food prices have not risen as they were expected to as a result of drought conditions in 2012.

In fact, the steadiness of food prices has prompted the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to lower its U.S. food price inflation estimate for 2013 from 4% over the year to between 1.5 and 2.5%.

## Texas crop, weather for July 30

Rains make a difference, but the drought, far from over.

Much of the state received rain the last of July, greening up rangeland and pastures and improving the outlook for all crops except those already nearing maturity, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

But though the rains helped, much more will be needed to catch the state up to something resembling normal conditions, said Dr. Travis Miller, AgriLife Extension agronomist and Texas A&M University Soil and Crop Sciences associate department head.

"We're still in widespread drought," Miller said. "The rains we got mid-July were fairly extensive, and yes, they'll make a difference. We're seeing some grass and hay made on it. It will certainly improve the cotton crop and the sorghum crop in the Plains. In South Central Texas, the grain crops are already made. They're harvesting corn right now, but we'll make some cotton off the rain."

The rains were unseasonable for late July as the period is usually one of the driest times of the year, he noted.


It's important to remember, he said, that drought is a measure of how much below average moisture an area has received over a longer time than just a few weeks — usually three to six months. And much of the state has had from only 25 to 75% of normal precipitation over the last six months.

Still, the rains certainly helped many crops, particularly cotton in the High Plains and South Central Texas, though the crop remains late, he said.

"We got a very late start (with cotton)," Miller said. "As you remember, we had an unusually cool and very dry spring. A lot of cotton was planted late, right at the crop insurance cut-off date. Then the Plains had high winds and hail that damaged seedling cotton in some locations."

He also noted a significant increase in sorghum acres this year, not only because of the replantings to lost cotton acres, but because of favorable prices.

More information on the current Texas drought and wildfire alerts can be found on the AgriLife Extension Agricultural Drought Task Force website at <http://agrilife.tamu.edu/drought/>.



## When Roosters Crowed

From the Muenster Historical Commission  
Preserving the Past for the Future

### The good old days

Muenster's early pioneer farmers were also craftsmen. They not only built their homes and barns, but also much of their equipment and tools. They bought very little, the rest they made or did without.

The settlers used various shapes of steel to mold walking plows to break the prairie soil. Three planks bolted together triangle with steel spikes opened the area to farming. Crops were planted by hand, then cultivated and hoed to clean out the weeds.

During the colonization of Muenster, lots of farm machinery was developed, including the mower, binder, threshing machine, hay stacker, hay loader, and hay rake. The big clumsy steam engine pulled threshing machines and big prairie plows. Not many farmers had these "new fangled contraptions" but they dreamed of easier ways to farm.

Farm tractors were introduced about the same time as the automobile, but farm prices dropped after WWI and most farmers kept their horsepower.

Farm prices were good till 1920. When farmers and banks went broke, the self-sufficiency farmers returned.

### Farm work began at sunrise

Working hours on the farm usually began at 5 a.m. One of the first chores was to bring the horses in from the pasture and harness before breakfast.

The farmer and his sons would be in the field by seven and work till as late as 11:30. It took approximately 30 minutes to feed and water the horses before eating dinner at noon, then back to the field by one. Around six the horses had "had it" and it was time to head back to the barnyard. There were always lots of things to do around the yard before a late supper.

At times, some farmers only worked Saturday mornings and took Saturday afternoon off to go to town. They could take their cream and eggs in for sale. Some husbands would go to one of several saloons for a few brews, while the wives bought groceries and would do some visiting. The young people visited also. The boys and girls walked up and down the street, the girls together whispering and giggling, while the boys pushed and dared each other to stop and talk.

## Livestock carriers granted waiver

Livestock carriers will not be required to take the mandatory 30-minute rest break due to a limited, 90-day exemp-

tion granted by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

The waiver was granted in order to protect livestock that would be harmed by high temperatures during the mandatory 30-minute break, particularly during July, August, and September.

"The industry requested relief, and the agency has determined that it is appropriate to

grant a limited 90-day waiver for this period to ensure the well-being of the nation's livestock during interstate trans-

portation," according to an FMCSA statement.

American Federation of Bureau (AFBF) and other agricultural organizations requested the waiver prior to the rule's implementation on July 1.

The waiver preempts any local or state requirements inconsistent with the FMCSA's decision.



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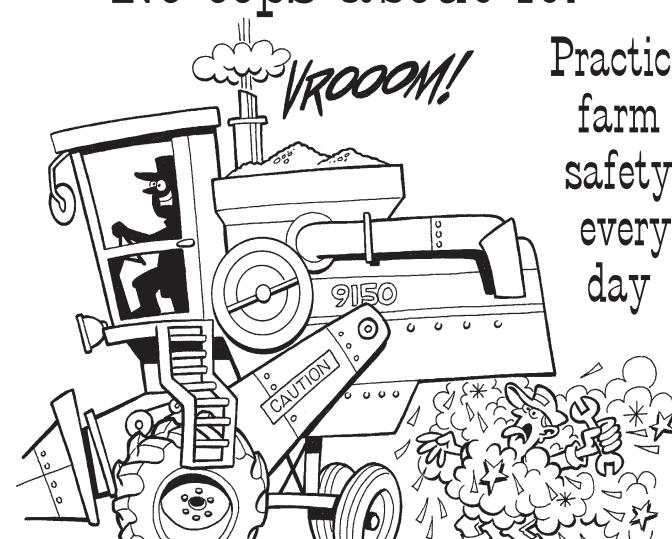
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**Americans love their beer**  
The top five states for beer consumption per capita in the U.S. are North Dakota, New Hampshire, Montana, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, according to the Beer Institute, a trade organization. North Dakota drank about 45.8 gallons of beer per resident 21 and older last year, the institute said. Per capita figures do not include residents under 21 years old.  
Meanwhile, the states that consume the least beer per capita are Utah, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Maryland, and Kentucky. Utah residents drank about 20.2 gallons of beer on average last year, according to industry data.  
More than 13.2 million barrels of beer were sold in the United States last year, up about 15% from 2011, according to the Brewers Association. And men drank most of it, drinking about 72% of beer of all types.



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Janie Hartman photos

Kids had a splashing good time at the Muenster Swimming Pool this week as temperatures once again crept toward triple digits.

### Weather Whys - Lightning

Q: How hot can a lightning bolt be?

A: Hotter than you probably think, said Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "Scientists have done numerous experiments on this very subject," McRoberts explains, "and the air around a lightning bolt can reach as high as 60,000 degrees Fahrenheit. That's about five times hotter than the surface of the sun. That's why when the air gets that hot near a bolt of lightning, it expands faster than the speed of sound, and the expansion of the air into the cooler surrounding air creates a sonic shock wave - and that's thunder. And since these waves originate along the path of a lightning

bolt, there are several of these shock waves one right after another, each at a different altitude. That's why thunder often seems to rumble."

Service of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at Texas A&M University



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