

County burn ban imposed by Commissioners Court

By Janet Felderhoff

As of Monday, Dec. 10, Cooke County residents must adhere to a ban on all outdoor burning in unincorporated area of the County. "We've been talking about this a while and I tell you we're there," remarked County Fire Marshal Ray Fletcher on the topic of a proposed countywide ban on burning.

Fletcher reported the current KBDI (Keetch-Byram Drought Index) as 615 across the County, with a low of 552 and a high of 692. Most of the County is in the 600 range he noted. The drought monitor shows Cooke County to be in severe to extreme drought conditions.

Indications are that no relief should be expected in the next three months. Fletcher said the Weather Service predicts the drought conditions will either persist or intensify for this area. Winter conditions are anticipated to be warmer and drier with some extreme cold

blasts scattered throughout. Fletcher added that from April through November, Cooke County received about 10 inches under the average rainfall.

Commissioners Court voted unanimously to enact a burn ban. The burn ban addresses welding, outdoor cooking, and exceptions.

This order does not prohibit outdoor burning activities related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Natural Resources Commission for (1) firefighter training; (2) public utility, natural gas pipeline, or mining operations; (3) planting or harvesting of agricultural crops; or, (4) burns that are conducted by a prescribed manager certified under Section 153.048, Natural Resources Code, and meet the standards of Section 153.047, Texas Natural Resources Code.

Outdoor cooking is allowed with restrictions. Those are:

- The cooking device is propane, natural gas, wood,

or charcoal and has a complete and full enclosure that is utilized at all times.

- The cooking device shall be clear of vegetation and/or combustible materials or debris for a 10 foot radius.

- A minimum of 100 gallons of water with a capability to be sprayed will be required at any site where above mentioned activities take place. A water hose attached to a constant supply will suffice for this requirement.

Welding and/or hot work allowed with restrictions listed below:

- All areas where welding, cutting, or grinding operations are being performed will be free of vegetation for at least 25 feet in all directions.
- Surface around welding area will be wetted down.
- Wind speeds must be no more than 15 miles per hour while performing welding, cutting, or grinding operations.
- A dedicated fire watch person will attend and



County Attorney Tanya Davis, second from left, was honored Monday for 22 years of service to Cooke County. Pictured with her are her staff, from left, Kim Ward, Callie Paxton, and Tracie King. Janet Felderhoff photo

monitor each welder, cutter, grinder, or any activity which causes sparks.

- A minimum of 100 gallons of water with a capability to be sprayed will be required at any site where above mentioned activities take place. A water hose attached to a constant supply will suffice for this requirement.

- Each site will have cell phone or radio capability on site to provide emergency notifications.

- At least one member of the work crew will remain on scene, with water standby, for 30 minutes after operations are completed to ensure no danger exists.

- If an emergency arises where these activities must be performed and above conditions cannot be met, then the fire department for that area will be notified to provide standby at the scene until actions are complete plus 30 minutes.

Cooke County Attorney Tanya Davis was honored for 22 years of service to the County. She began her career in Cooke County as an assistant attorney in 1990, was appointed County Attorney in 1995, and was elected County Attorney in 1997. Dec. 10 was declared Tanya Davis Day in Cooke County in appreciation of her loyalty, dedication, and contributions to the citizens of Cooke County for over 22 years. She will retire on Dec. 31.

Randy Schmalz of the

Lake Kiowa Homeowners Association reported progress being made by the recently formed Indian Creek VFD. That group replaced the Lake Kiowa VFD serving as the fire department for the Lake Kiowa area. The Lake Kiowa Homeowners Association commissioned Schmalz to develop a plan for emergency evacuation for the residents of Lake Kiowa. They stipulated that the plan must meet the approval of the Texas Department of Forestry.

With the assistance of County Fire Marshal Fletcher, Schmalz got in touch with the Forestry Department and an application was prepared for Lake Kiowa to become a member of the Firewise Communities. It is a nationwide organization that develops plans for communities that interface with wildland areas. After completing numerous requirements that included community education, establishing a Board, and a landscaping plan for firebreaks around homes, the application was accepted and Lake Kiowa was recognized as achieving Firewise Communities/USA status. There were only 53 such communities in Texas and Lake Kiowa became the 54th.

Besides becoming a safer place to live, recognized communities get priority status in consideration for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's pre-disaster mitigation planning and

project grants. In other business, Commissioners Court:

- Approved donation of a tree topper from Big Lots of Gainesville for the Cooke County Courthouse Christmas tree located on the first floor.
- Approved the salvage or surplus of the Southwestern Bell Telephone system that was previously used in the Courthouse.
- Approved salvaging doors and related hardware that were removed from the Courthouse during restoration.
- Approved bid specs for inmate phone service at the Cooke County Justice Center.
- Approved the Cooke County Tax Assessor-Collector's bond, employee honesty bond for staff of the Cooke County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office, and elected officials' bonds.
- Approved surplus of small shredder in the County Judge's Office to be donated to Abigail's Arms.
- Approved donation in the amount of \$25 to the Cooke County Library in memory of Toni Powledge from Joe Conner, Kaycia Chambless, Kimberly Schumacher, and Jennifer Johnson-Spence.
- Acknowledged letter of compliance by the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality for the completion of the FY 2012 Compliance and Technical Review Audit for the Gainesville Local OSSF Program.

Anticipating Christmas wishes fulfilled



During Santa Claus' recent visit to town, Parker and Allison Hartman told their Christmas wishes and posed for a photo. They are the children of Craig and Mattie Hartman and the grandchildren of Tom and Debbie Hartman, Matt Sicking, and Colynda Henscheid. Janie Hartman photo

Safe shelter under construction brings hope to abused families

By Janet Felderhoff

Abigail's Arms Cooke County Family Crisis Center served over 428 nonresidential (those not living in a shelter) families in 2011. They expect that number to double when they open the doors to their new facility. That is according to the statistics from the Sherman shelter.

Abigail's Director of Media Relations Kelly Fiore-Watson speaks enthusiastically as she gives a tour of the Abigail's Arms Cooke County Shelter now under construction. Visitors will not have access to most areas of the Center unless they are buzzed in by staff. Security remains a high priority for the facility that will offer shelter and assistance to women and families in need of protection from an abusive relationship. Kelly explained that someone seeking help at the Shelter will come in the front and the person to greet them will be the intake specialist. Their situation will be evaluated to determine what needs to be done.

Cameras will monitor the entire building and a high fence will block in the grounds surrounding the facility. Clients with cars will park them inside. They will enter through a keypad punch gate with security words and phrases.

Kelly noted, "Kim Cook, our executive director, has been doing this for 22 years in some sort of shelter environment, so she's seen so many things, including perpetrators hiding in cars. If you've seen the worst, you can prepare for it."

It is the desire of Abigail's staff to be there for a woman at anytime she makes the decision to leave an abusive relationship. "We welcome them," said Kelly. "We get that at our storefront property that we use now. We get people that just decided he was beating me last night, he went to work, I'm trying to decide what to do. Unfortunately, at the storefront property, all we could do is offer them a stay at a hotel for a couple of nights or to take them to a shelter in Sherman or Denton. Most of our clients do not want to relocate even if it is just for 30 days. So, we have to create a safety plan, decide if we have to call the police. It's very frustrating because over 90% of them decide to go back to the perpetrator only because it doesn't meet in their mind what they had to be safe and away and removed."

The new Shelter will allow the housing of the family in a secure environment that offers supervision and provides any help needed. The entire family will be welcomed. At Sherman's shelter, the age limit on teenage boys is 15. Abigail's Arms will take them with the family up to age 18. If the family is large, they will open up two rooms for them.

"That's the beauty of this," stated Kelly. "We're not going to just help the victim, but the entire family because the entire family is a victim of domestic violence. Everyone is affected."

Some of the features of the facility are a playroom in the intake area that allows the children to be near their mother while she is being interviewed in the next room. Forensic rooms offer an interview area for the victim of sexual assault to be interviewed in a private space. It will be used by law enforcement, forensic interviewer, case manager, etc.

It will no longer be necessary to drive a victim of sexual assault to Lewisville for a forensic interview or to Denton Regional to be examined by a sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE). Cooke County will have a SANE, rape kit, and forensic interview in Cooke County when Abigail's Arms opens the doors on the new facility. A grant is providing a certified advocate nurse examining team headed by Sharon Forney of NCTC.

A room the staff is very proud of is the multipurpose room. It will offer computers for on-line classes. They will use the room to offer classes such as anger management, parenting, etc. That room is also tornado and hurricane safe. "This is the room that will give us the biggest impact," remarked Kelly.

There are offices for all the various departments in both the case management and administrative departments.

The third section is the residential area. There are 10 bedrooms of different sizes. There are two handicap bedrooms. The bedrooms connect dormitory style through a bathroom. Each room contains a sink, vanity, dresser, and closet. Each room has its own air conditioner. Kelly said, "Kim is very good at making sure that each woman is able to regain her own independence." Being able to decide if they are too warm or cold and adjusting the thermostat is the first of many small steps in attaining that goal.

There is a kitchen and a dining area. The kitchen will be available to the clients to make some dishes on their own such as soup and sandwiches. They can choose to cook a meal for all the residents if they wish at times.

A living area offers television, rocking chairs, and a couch. Women will be encouraged to do their own laundry and housekeeping.

They have planned a playroom set up for all ages. "This playroom is going to be filled with activities, toys, a big screen TV, games. It will be for all ages so every child can play."

"There will be a library set up here (game room) as well," Kelly noted. An adjoining room is set up for a licensed play therapist who will meet there two or three days a week to counsel the children. Kelly observed, "We find that with a lot of clients' children, if they haven't been abused, they are so psy-



Abigail's Arms Director of Media Relations Kelly Fiore-Watson describes the planned uses for various areas of the Abigail's Arms - Cooke County Family Crisis Center now under construction in Gainesville. Janet Felderhoff photo

SHELTERcontinued from pg. 1

chologically traumatized by witnessing it. I don't think we have any clients whose children have not witnessed it. This play therapy is something that we have always wanted."

The upstairs will be 1200 square feet of storage. Sherman didn't prepare for the amount of needed storage and had to convert two rooms into storage areas. Cooke County is following Sherman and learning from their mistakes as well as what they've done correctly.

There will be a room for a 24 hour, seven days a week operations manager. They must be there to receive clients and to deal with home situations.

The Shelter anticipates opening to a full house. "We have had calls from women who said that when it opens they plan to leave," Kelly said. The length of stay of each family depends on the family; some stay 30-40 days, others may need six to seven months. "It's up to them to decide if they are going to stay and follow through and follow the protocol to what we consider to be a graduation or if they feel they want to go," explained Kelly.

Volunteers will be needed to help at the Shelter, but all must be trained. There are three levels of training for that purpose.

Kelly shared the story of a woman she recently helped. She was fleeing from Kansas and headed to Burleson. Women's Shelters along the way were aiding her in various ways such as a place to sleep, a place to eat, or with gas. Kelly was to meet her and fill the lady's gas tank. She said she was so excited to be a part of that person starting over. "It was so fantastic and now we'll get to be a direct part of that...when these women decide to flee. I'm overwhelmed by it."

Case Manager Carmen Rubio remarked, "That's the hardest step to do to actually take that step and say, 'I'm out.' The support is the most exciting because you know that there is going to be somebody to help you on

the other side all the way down."

Kelly praised the support the community has lavished on the project. She noted she has not encountered any negativity of it.

It is anticipated that the facility will be completed in the summer of 2013.

Although they have had a lot of funding, they need a little more to finish funding Abigail's Arms and they hope to go into the first year of operation with the first year's operation funded. "Donations of any kind, \$5 to \$500 to \$5,000 are all a blessing," commented Kelly.

Those who are looking for a worthy cause to donate money as the year comes to a close may wish to donate to this much-needed shelter. Send donations to Abigail's Arms Cooke County Crisis Center, P.O. Box 1221, Gainesville, TX 76241.

You can be part of a huge community effort to give shelter and safety to hurting families at a crucial time.

DAYS GONE BY.....

65 YEARS AGO
Dec. 12, 1947
 Tony Hoenig and J.P. Flusche begin new business venture Tony Hoenig Well Service. Melvin Hennig is elected president of Altar Boys' Society. Kaiser Drug advertises going out of hardware sale. Geo. Gehrig Hardware is closing line of small toys and advertises clearance sale. New Arrival: Thomas to Al and Evelyn Schmitt. Relax Theatre advertises *Miracle on 34th Street* starring Maureen O'Hara, John Payne, and Natalie Wood.

50 YEARS AGO
Dec. 14, 1962
 Beginning Jan. 1, Bill Pratt will be the full-time police officer for Muenster. Mercury hits 16 as blue norther hits community. Obituaries: Elizabeth (Mrs. Charles) Cler, 82; Mrs. Lena Schmitt, 83; Walter Erwin, 78. Lindsay mayor Joe Bezner is laid up with broken leg. New Arriv-

als: John to Gerald and Betty Rose WaltersLeid; Donna to Arthur and LuLu Hess. The C.F. Gobbles celebrate 33 years of marriage.
25 YEARS AGO
Dec. 11, 1987
 County unites with Saint Jo to promote Red River bridge. Personal Touch, salon owned by Barbara Wimmer, is newest business in town. Obituaries: Edna Hogan, 98; Herbert Jakubec, 43. The Hut celebrates 11 years of business in Muenster. Wedding: Susan Walterscheid and Neal Flusche. Oscar and Agnes Walter honored on Golden Wedding. New Arrivals: Marcos to Rafael and Connie Nieto; Jeffrey to Sharon and Garland Tate; Harrison to Harry and Mary Lou Reinwald. Mary Kappas honored on 80th. Tammy Hess plays basketball for Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas.

Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.
 - John Wooden

Klement to be featured in UNT Research magazine

Emily Klement, the dean of the North Central Texas College campuses in Bowie and Graham, will be featured in an upcoming issue of *UNT Research* magazine. The article will focus on the research and findings from her recent doctoral dissertation.

In the dissertation, Klement found that the presence of Hispanic faculty on community college campuses was the greatest factor of those she studied in determining whether Hispanic students will transfer to four-year universities.

In her research, Klement analyzed data from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on 50 Texas community colleges. Her mentor was Beverly Bower, professor of Higher Education, Don A. Buchholz endowed chair and director of the Bill J. Priest Center for

Community College Education at UNT.

Klement has been invited to present her research at Southwest Educational Research Association in San Antonio in February and also for the American Education Research Association in San Francisco in April.

Klement graduated from the University of North Texas in August with her doctorate in Higher Education.

Hilda Prescher dies
 Hilda Sicking Prescher, age 92 of Valley, died Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2012. Rosary will be held at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Gainesville. Funeral Mass will be Saturday, Dec. 15 at 1 p.m. in St. Mary's Catholic Church.

County receives safe room/storm shelter first rebate

Cooke County Emergency Management Coordinator Ray Fletcher is pleased to announce the receipt of the first rebate reimbursement check for the Safe Room Grant Program. He stated, "We received a check for \$96,273.61 from the Texas Division of Emergency Management to facilitate the reimbursement of half the cost of purchase and installation of a storm shelter for 45 residents of Cooke County." The 45 residents completed the installation of their shelters by the Oct. 1 deadline and were included in the first quarterly report to the state. Approximately eight more shelters have been completed since and will be included on the second report to be submitted in January 2013.

There were 150 Cooke County residents given the initial go ahead to install a safe room/storm shelter in August of this year. They have until May 31, 2013 to have their installations complete. Those not complete by that deadline will have their approval revoked and lose their opportunity to participate in the program.

"We currently have an additional 94 residents on the waiting list and they will be given the places of those not complete by the May 2013

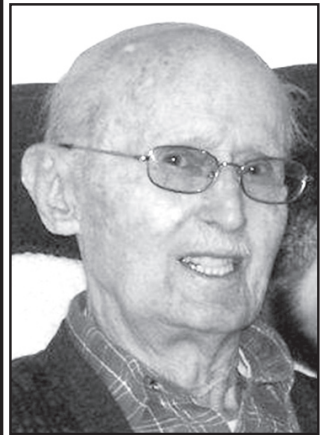
deadline," Fletcher said. "With the spring severe weather season just around the corner, I hope the remainder of the original 150 get on the ball and get their shelters installed!" Fletcher said.

The original grant is for \$450,000 to install a minimum of 150 safe room/shelters. Fletcher noted "At this point, the first round of reimbursements did not use all of the allotted funds, so we anticipate being able to do a few more than the 150 initially anticipated. As we get farther into the program we'll be able to re-allocate any unused funds to allow for more shelter installations."

To be eligible for the rebate, the safe room/shelter and installer must be certified by the NSSA (National Storm Shelter Association) or ATSA (American Tornado Shelter Association). The applicant must own the home, the home cannot be in a flood plain, and it must be in Cooke County. Cooke County has a limited amount of funding for the program and will administer applications on a first come basis.

Anyone with questions should contact the County Office of Emergency Management at 940-668-5400.

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Muenster Museum Open 1-4	VFW Aux. In Lieu of Christmas Cards deadline	Library open 10am-6:30 pm SHCS Christmas Program MMH Board mtg. 7pm	Library open 10 am-5:30 Kiwanis mtg. noon Center Religious Ed class 7 pm	Library open 10 am - 6:30 pm Museum open 1-4 pm MISD dismissal @12:30	Muenster Museum open 1-4 MISD Dismissal @12:30 SH - NO SCHOOL	Library open 10:00-2:30
Sunday, December 23, 2012	Monday, December 24, 2012	Tuesday, December 25, 2012	Wednesday, December 26, 2012	Thursday, December 27, 2012	Friday, December 28, 2012	Saturday, December 29, 2012
Muenster Museum Open 1-4		Library closed <i>Merry Christmas</i>	Library closed Kiwanis mtg. noon, Center NO Religious Ed class	Muenster Museum open 1-4 pm Library closed	Museum open -1-4	Library closed

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**Marguerite "Kitty" King
1912 - 2012**

Funeral services for Marguerite "Kitty" King, age 100 of Muenster, were held at 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 8, at First Baptist Church of Muenster. Services were held Friday, Dec. 7, at 5 p.m. at McCoy Funeral Home of Muenster. Services were officiated by Rev. Ralph Gourley who also read the eulogy written by Rev. Michael Atwood who was unable to attend the services. Burial was in Hood Cemetery.

Kitty died Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012 at 9:25 p.m. in Muenster Memorial Hospital.

Born Feb. 3, 1912 in San Antonio, Marguerite was one of a set of twins born to Robert Melvin and Essie Mae Pryor Felte. Her twin sister Minette lived only a few hours after birth.

Marguerite, with her parents, moved to Hood when she was 18 months old. She attended school in Hood and then Gainesville and finished high school in Denton. She then attended North Texas College for two additional years. She accepted a job in Warsaw, Missouri where she worked five years as secretary to the county agent.

Marguerite and Maurice King had been sweethearts since high school. They were married Nov. 25, 1936 in Dallas. They lived in Dallas only a few months. They then moved to Muenster on a farm. After two years there, she was injured while there, causing the family great hardship. Kitty was forced to do all the work, haul water, chop wood, and tend the cattle. As soon as Chilly was physically able, they immediately moved to the Myra Community and said everything was much better there.

Chilly volunteered for the U.S. Navy in 1942. At that time, Kitty moved to a farm they had purchased. She moved soon thereafter to Gainesville and was employed by the Gainesville Oil Mill. She worked there for three years (until Chilly was

discharged). Chilly and Kitty built a home in Muenster and started trading livestock and Kitty began work for Herr Motor Company. She kept her job with Endres Motor Company when Urban Endres purchased it from Shorty Herr and continued working there for 31 years. She was their bookkeeper and office manager. Chilly and Kitty had purchased a ranch northeast of Muenster and were very successful in ranching. Chilly's health failed and his death occurred on April 30, 1983. Kitty remained as operator of the ranch after Chilly's death and later became its operator in partnership with Giles Truebenbach. Giles had been a partner before and after Chilly's death for a total of about 50 years.

Kitty was very active in this community. She was a charter (and oldest) member of the VFW Auxiliary and served as its first treasurer in 1948. She was also a charter member of the Birthday Club. She was the first treasurer of the Muenster Memorial Hospital Ladies' Auxiliary. In short, Kitty was very busy and will be well remembered for her great contributions to the community.

Survivors include her niece Marsha Clifton of Val-



Marguerite King

ley View; cousins Johnnie Lewter; cousins Johnnie and Mary Cummings of Wichita Falls; and special friend, caretaker, and partner Giles Truebenbach of Muenster.

She was preceded in death by her husband, twin sister, and her parents.

Pallbearers were Lindsay Smith, Steve Fette, Claude Walter, Doug Evans, Tom Hesse, and Kirk Klement.

The family requests memorials be made to the Muenster Memorial Hospital.

Rejoice in the Lord your God for He has given you the autumn in righteousness. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before. Joel 2:23

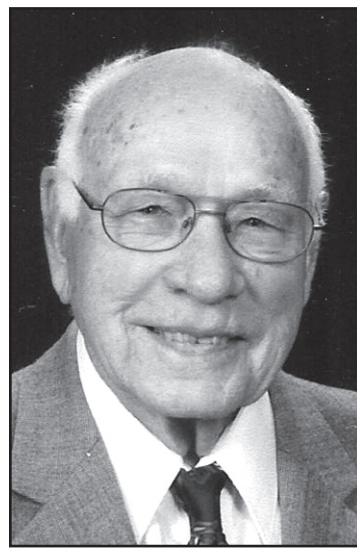
**Frederick "Freddy" Schmitz
1922 - 2012**

Frederick J. "Freddy" Schmitz, long-time resident of Gainesville, died Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012 at the age of 90. Services were held Saturday, Dec. 8 at 1 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church with burial in Fairview Cemetery. Rosary was held Friday, Dec. 7 at Geo. J. Carroll Funeral Home.

Freddy was born April 14, 1922 in Lindsay to Mary Bezner and John Schmitz. He attended school in Lindsay. He was inducted into the Army Air Corps on Dec. 27, 1942 at Camp Wolters, Texas. He served at Sheppard Field in Wichita Falls, and received advanced training in Florida and New Mexico. As a waist gunner on a B-24 bomber, he flew 30 missions in Northern France, the Normandy invasion and Central Europe. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross, EAME Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged from the service at Keesler Field, Mississippi on Oct. 20, 1945.

After his discharge, he purchased Embry Coin Machines which he named Schmitz Coin Machines, and operated the business for more than 50 years. He married Oleta Rosson Hezner on Nov. 15, 1950. He enjoyed farming, hunting, fishing, and golf.

Freddy is survived by his wife of 62 years, Oleta, sons Buster Bezner and wife Marcy, and Mike Schmitz and wife Marcia; four grandchil-



Frederick Schmitz

dren and six great-grandchildren; sisters Rosalee Cox and Marcy Wilde of Muenster; and brother Leroy Schmitz of Valley View; sister-in-law Treba Dobkins; and a host of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Leonard and John, and sisters Sally Theimer and Gertie Hom.

Nephews Danny Wilde, Tommy Schmitz, Bobby Schmitz, Joe Schmitz, John Schmitz, and Steve Schmitz were pallbearers.

The family requests that memorial donations be made to St. Mary's School, 931 N. Weaver, Gainesville, Texas.

No person was ever honored for what he received. He was honored for what he gave. - Calvin Coolidge

**O. E. Bentley
1922 - 2012**

Funeral for O.E. Bentley, age 90 of Era, was held Dec. 12 at Geo. J. Carroll & Son Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Bill Black officiating. Burial was in Era Cemetery. Visitation preceded the funeral.

Orville Elton Bentley was born Sept. 19, 1922 on a farm near Era to Egbert and Grace Elizabeth Flock Bentley, and was raised by his grandparents Henry and Margaret Bentley. He died Dec. 10, 2012 at his residence.

He attended school in Era and as a youth, played shortstop for the VFW baseball team. After serving in the Army as a SSgt. in England, France, Belgium, and Germany during World War II, O.E. married Mildred Myers on Nov. 26, 1945 in Gainesville upon his return. He was a farmer his entire life. He also was a heavy equipment operator for the County and drove a truck for Gainesville Fuel for 35 years. He enjoyed playing dominoes with the Era Domino Club and his family.

Survivors are sons and daughters-in-law Rex and Debra Bentley and Keith and Marla Bentley, all of Era; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife Mildred in September 2012, and his sisters Ruby and Jewell.

Pallbearers were Luke Myers, Mike Graves, Greg Selby, Michael Selby, Eugene Bentley, Edwin Knight, and Al Smith. Honorary pallbearer was Jerry Hudspeth. Memorial contributions may be made to Era Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 159, Era, TX 76238.

**Dorothy Chisam
1920 - 2012**

Funeral services for Dorothy Waldene Ary Chisam, age 92 of Valley View, were held Saturday, Dec. 8 at Valley View Church of Christ, with Kenneth Cebrun Sr. officiating.

Dorothy was born in Coleman on Aug. 14, 1920, to Luther and Birda Mae Pridemore Ary. She died Dec. 5, 2012, in Gainesville.

She married "Snooks" Chisam Oct. 26, 1939.

Survivors are her son Bobby Chisam and wife Judi of Lewisville; daughter-in-law Margie Chisam of Valley View; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband and her son Gary Chisam.

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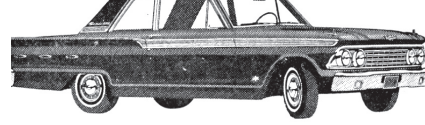
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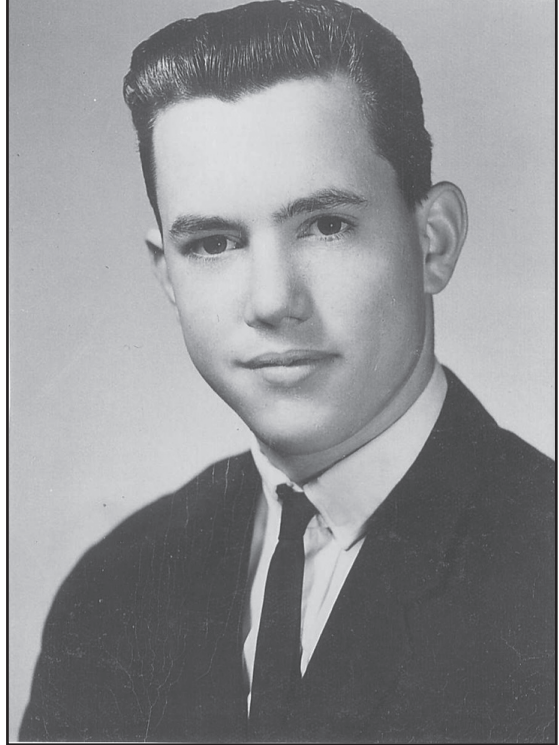


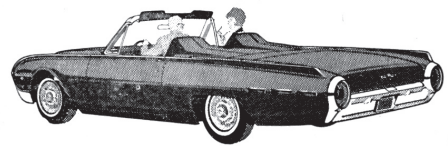


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The family of Weldon Lavonne Reid would like to express our deepest gratitude for all the love and support given to us at the passing of my husband, daddy, grandpaw, & great-grandpawpaw. The food, cards, calls, flowers, and most importantly the prayers will never be forgotten. We are so grateful for the spiritual support our life-long friend Rev. Bill Black gave to us while Lavonne was in the hospital & Renaissance Care Center. We are so grateful for the spiritual support from the Sacred Heart Parish and School. All of the letters were so heartwarming that the children wrote Lavonne, they brought a smile to his face. You will hold a place in our hearts forever.

The family of Weldon Lavonne Reid

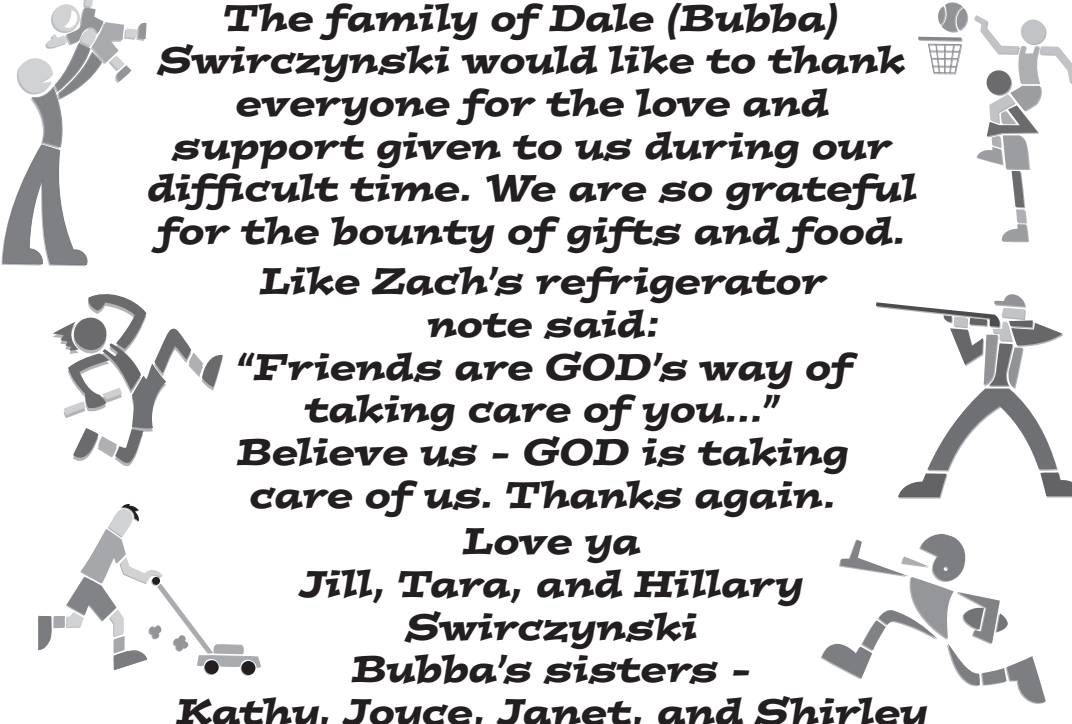
Peggy
Laneta & Ernie Martin Roxie & Phillip Russell
Mechal & Rex Harrell Rusty Lynn & Monnie Reid
all grandchildren & great-grandchildren



The family of Dale (Bubba) Swirczynski would like to thank everyone for the love and support given to us during our difficult time. We are so grateful for the bounty of gifts and food.

**Like Zach's refrigerator note said:
"Friends are GOD's way of taking care of you..."
Believe us - GOD is taking care of us. Thanks again.**

**Love ya
Jill, Tara, and Hillary
Swirczynski
Bubba's sisters -
Kathy, Joyce, Janet, and Shirley**



RPT chairman installs 2013 CCRW officers

Cooke County Republican Women held their annual Christmas celebration and installation of officers on Dec. 6 at the home of Debbie and Doyle Hess in Muenster. Steve Munisteri, chairman of the Republican Party of Texas (RPT), was a special guest at the event. After rallying the 60 members in attendance with a "State of the Party" address, he administered the oath of office to the 2013 CCRW Officers.

Susan Hughes was installed to serve her second year as president of the Club. Inducted with her were Vice President-Programs Dianne Helms, Vice President-Membership Sharron Acker, Vice President-Campaign Activities Sarah Hess, Vice President-Fundraising Pat Peale, Secretary Sharon McCormack, Treasurer Marci Gilbert, and PAC Treasurer Dorothy Lewis.

The Club honored past County Chairman Bob Eggleston with a light-hearted

review of his leadership of the County GOP over the past years, and presented past County Vice Chairman Pat Peale with a gift of appreciation for her service to the party.

In his speech, Munisteri spoke about the financial strength and priorities of the RPT, about the national election, and about successes in Texas. He reported that a recent audit of all 254 counties revealed a total of 797 more Republican elected officials statewide than four years ago. He urged his audience to follow the RPT's lead, helping to build a more diverse grassroots organization. "Everyone go home and think about what it is you can do over the next four years," he encouraged the group.

The next meeting of the CCRW will be Thursday, Jan. 3, 7 p.m., at the Fellowship Hall of First Christian Church. The public is invited.

New Arrivals

Flusche

Greg and Ginny Flusche of North Richland Hills joyfully announce the birth of their first child, daughter Brienna Hazel Flusche. Brienna was born Monday, Dec. 3, 2012 at 4:36 p.m. at Las Colinas Medical Center. She weighed 6 lb. 6 oz. and measured 19 1/2 inches in length. Proud first-time grandparents are Bob and Ginger Whisnant of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Jack and Linda Flusche of Muenster.



Brienna Flusche



Declan Steinert

Steinert

On Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012, Brad and Katie Steinert welcomed Declan Elijah to their family. Joining in the celebration was three-year-old Liam Lee. Declan was born at North Texas Medical Center weighing 7 lb. 14 oz. and measuring 20 inches long. Grandparents are Bradley L. Steinert of Aldine, Texas, Bobbie Anderson of Sugar Land, and Tina Cox of Muenster. Great-grandparents are Lydia Meyer of Uhlend, Texas, Ethel Mae Hesse of Muenster, and Lula Pearl Cox of Gainesville. Great-great-grandmother is Guadalupe Hernandez of Richmond, Texas.

Chapman

On Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2012, Billy Chapman and Angela Cox welcomed Evelyn Rose Chapman. Evelyn was born at North Texas Medical Center weighing 7 lb. 13 oz. and measuring 20 inches long. Grandparents are Mary Ann Chapman of Gainesville and Tina Cox of Muenster. Great-grandparents are Ethel Mae Hesse of Muenster and Lula Pearl Cox of Gainesville.



Evelyn Chapman



The Muenster Little Flowers group learned about Love of Neighbor at their December meeting. To reinforce the lesson, the girls worked together to make no-sew fleece blankets for CASA of Cooke County. Pictured are, from left, front - Katie Becker, Mara Juntado, Jena Dangelmayr; middle row - Elise Flusche, Emily Flusche, Emma Walterscheid, Grace White, Amelia Becker, Jianne Juntado, Melanie Bayer; back - Sophie Huchton, Abby Walterscheid, Jessica Dangelmayr, Michayla Hesse, Heidi Becker, and Anna Marie Becker. Courtesy photo



2013 CCRW officers are pictured with RPT Chairman Steve Munisteri. Pictured, from left, Susan Hughes, Dianne Helms, Sharron Acker, Sarah Hess, Munisteri, Pat Peale, Sharon McCormack, Marci Gilbert, and Dorothy Lewis. Courtesy photo

Ladies Auxiliary holds December meeting/party

The Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post #6205 held their regular meeting on Monday, Dec. 10 in the Post Home, followed by a joint Christmas party with the veterans.

President Frances Bayer presided over the meeting, with Conductress Linda Knabe, Chaplain Mary Lee Hennigan, and Patriotic Instructor Hilda Sicking presiding over the opening ritual. Roll call and Minutes of the previous meeting were read by Ida Mae Bindel, secretary. Lucille Hesse's treasurer's report was read by

Agnes Hess. Topics of discussion included the Mid Winter Roundup in Austin, the successful Santa party held on Dec. 8, and the In Lieu of Christmas Cards project.

Voice of Democracy Essay winners were announced: Muenster ISD - Jori Magee, Andy Flusche, and Payton Sanders; Sacred Heart - Isaac Barnhill, Karleigh Reeves, and Bailey Walterscheid. Patriots Pen Essay winners are Nick Turner, Robert Hanson, and Julian Hesse.

The charter was draped in memory of Kitty King.

The ladies of the Auxiliary brought covered dishes and the men furnished fried chicken and sausage. All enjoyed the meal and visiting together for their Christmas party.

The next meeting of the Auxiliary will be held Jan. 21 in the Post Home at 7:30 p.m.

Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.

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Rachel's Challenge



Rachel's Challenge activities were carried out by Muenster FCCLA. Pictured are, clockwise from top, MHS students on Shoe Switch Day to experience "walking in someone else's shoes"; Mariah Rocha and Makayla Pumphrey narrating their slide show presentation about Rachel Scott; Alaina Reiter receiving her sticker from Zach Trubenbach for Mix It Up Day; and Trace Klement, Zach Trubenbach, Dylan Gressett, Liam Warren, and Travis Vogel participating in a Rachel's Challenge activity.

MISD photos



Muenster Junior High OAP takes 2nd

Muenster Junior High One Act Play recently took second place in UIL competition at NCTC in Gainesville with their play *Liza and the Riddling Cave* by John Urquhart.

The talented group received many awards. Paige Saucer took All-Star Cast Award; and the ensemble of Act Statues including

Alyssa Barnes, Sterling Walterscheid, and Savannah Hermes, took an All Star Cast Award as well. Best Actress Award was given to Alison Haubold. The Honorable Mention All Star Cast went to Erin Schniederjan.

"We are very proud of their efforts!" said directors Gynell Oppermann

and Dana Klement of Muenster High School. Costume assistance and makeup was provided by Carmen Reiter. Assisting the directors were high school students Austin Creswell and Karline Mouring, and giving assistance in sign language was Tina Lutkenhaus of Muenster High School.



Pictured are One Act Play participants, from left, back - Mrs. Oppermann, Zina Haverkamp, Natalie Dangelmayr, Katie Hutson, Erin Schniederjan, Alaina Kubis, Katie Kresge, Alyssa Barnes, Mrs. Clerson; middle - Zoe Klement, Emma Wood, Savannah Hermes, Lee Ann West, Carson Cheaney, Katlain Hogue; front - Sterling Walterscheid, Rylee Cain, Paige Saucer, Bailey Anderle, Taylor Knabe, Alison Haubold, and Devon Brinkley.

Free contest offered to poets

The Christian Poet Society is sponsoring a free poetry contest open to everyone. There are 50 prizes totaling \$5,000, with a \$1,000 grand prize for the winner.

Poems of 21 lines or less on any subject and in any

style will be judged by the contest director Dr. Jerome Cousins.

Send poem to: Free Poetry Contest, 106 Cambria Circle, Citrus Heights CA 95621. Or enter at www.freecontest.com. Deadline for entering is

Dec. 31, 2012.

Include your name and address on the same page as your poem. For a winners' list, please enclose a stamped return envelope. It will be posted online also.

Lunch Menus

WEEK OF DEC. 17 - 21 MUENSTER ISD

Mon. - Burritos, Spanish rice, pinto beans, fresh fruit and vegetables, peaches, muffin loaf.

Tues. - Spaghetti w/meat sauce, lettuce salad w/dressing, green beans, fresh fruit and vegetables, pears, wheat roll.

Wed. - Chicken patty

sandwich, lettuce, tomatoes, baked chips, broccoli salad, apples, animal crackers.

Thurs. - Tomato soup, toasted cheese sandwich, corn on the cob, baby carrots, pineapple.

Fri. - Turkey and cheese sandwich, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, oven fries, pork and beans, fresh fruit and vegetables, applesauce.

LINDSAY ISD

Mon. - Frito pie, ranch style beans, corn on the cob, fruit.

Tues. - Pizza, corn, lettuce salad, fruit.

Wed. - Fish nuggets, macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, fresh carrots, rice krispie treat.

Thurs. and Fri. - No school.

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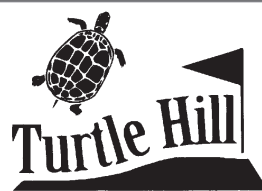
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SPORTS

Lady Hornets take Southern Oklahoma Classic Championship

The Muenster Lady Hornets traveled to Ardmore, Oklahoma last week to take part in the Southern Oklahoma Classic Basketball Tournament and brought home the Championship trophy after defeating three teams in three days.

The opening game Thursday was a 62-29 win over Metro Christian. Amber Walterscheid led Muenster with 14 points. Michelle Sicking added 11, with Cedy Bur-

nett and Kristen Reiter each getting 8. Sydney Huchton and Lauren Rohmer scored 6 apiece, with Paige Herr, Kassie Dangelmayr, and Hannah Bayer all scoring 3.

Game two Friday was a high scoring match with Turner that ended 82-48. Five Lady Hornets hit double digit scores. Herr and Burnett each put 17 points on the board. Walterscheid added 15, Rohmer 12, and Sicking 10. Dangelmayr and

Reiter each scored 4, Kendi Bayer and Huchton 2 apiece, and H. Bayer 1.

In the Championship game Saturday with Plainview the points spread was a bit closer, with Muenster winning 54-46. Sicking led the scoring with 15. Burnett added 12, Herr 9, Rohmer 8, Huchton and H. Bayer 3 each, and 2 apiece by Walterscheid and Dangelmayr.

The victories improved the Lady Hornets record to 14-2.

Tigerettes in S&S Tournament

The Sacred Heart Tigerettes competed in the S&S Tournament last week, winning game one, then coming up short in two close contests.

Action began with a 49-40 victory over Van Alstyne. Kaitlin Hesse led the Tigerettes with 13 points, 12 rebounds, and 5 steals. Danielle Berend added 12 points and had 9 assists. Peyton Reiter put 9 points on the board, Devan Henry 5, Karleigh Reeves 4, and Bailey Walterscheid and Mikaela Bartush 3 each.

SH 14 5 14 16 49
VA 13 6 9 12 40
Game two was a 43-31

loss to Sam Rayburn. Berend scored 16 points for Sacred Heart. Hesse, Reiter, and Bartush each added 4, Reeves 2, and Walterscheid 1. Bartush also had 10 rebounds and Hesse 6 steals.

SH 5 11 5 10 31
SR 12 11 15 5 43
The last game of the tournament matched the Tigerettes with the host Lady Rams of S&S. After 4 quarters, the game was tied 49-49, forcing overtime. S&S out-scored Sacred Heart by 3 to take a 56-53 win.

Reiter was high scorer for the Tigerettes with 19 points. Hesse added 14, Walterscheid 6, Reeves and

Henry 5 each, and 2 apiece from Kylie Hess and Michelle Zimmerman. Reiter took 10 steals and Hesse pulled down 9 rebounds.

SH 13 11 13 12 4 53
SS 4 16 10 19 7 56
Sacred Heart 39
Gainesville 53

The Tigerettes were beaten by Gainesville 53-39 Tuesday evening. Kaitlin Hesse led with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Peyton Reiter popped in 11, Mikaela Bartush 6, Devan Henry and Karleigh Reeves 3 apiece, Kylie Hess 2, and Bailey Walterscheid 1.

SH 17 9 10 3 39
G 11 15 16 11 53

Hornets in Southern Oklahoma Classic

The Muenster competed in the Southern Oklahoma Classic last weekend, coming away with one win and two losses.

Game one was a close 48-46 victory over Blanchard, Oklahoma. Trevor Cheaney and Austin Hennigan hit double digit points with 13 and 10. Cole Walterscheid added 9. Clint Sidwell 5, Trevor Hess and Brandon Hennigan 4 each, and Chance Herr 3.

M 8 14 15 11 48
B 8 16 18 4 46
In game two, the Hornets lost 61-36 to Plainview of Ardmore, Oklahoma. Scoring for Muenster were Cheaney with 13, Walterscheid 10, Hunter Klement 6, A. Hennigan 5, and Hess 2.

M 6 10 10 10 36
P 23 19 4 15 61

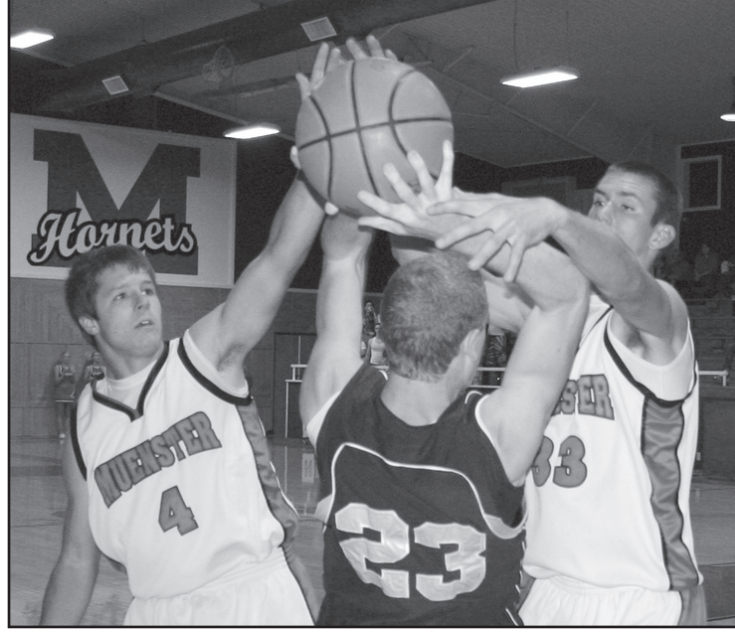
Walterscheid burned the boards with 22 points in the Hornet's game three 63-46 loss to Idabel, Oklahoma. Hess dropped in 13, Klement 5, and A. Hennigan and Herr 3 each.

M 11 5 16 14 46
I 23 23 7 10 63
Muenster 50 Bells 39

The Muenster Hornets took a 50-39 win over Bells Tuesday night. Cole Walterscheid led Muenster's scoring with 19 points. Trevor Hess dropped in 10, Hunter

Klement 9, Brandon Hennigan and Clint Sidwell 4 each, and Austin Hennigan

and Chance Herr 2 apiece.
M 19 14 13 4 50
B 11 6 15 7 39



Hornets Trevor Hess (4) and Cole Walterscheid (33) put pressure on Bells offense in Tuesday's contest. Janie Hartman photo

Lindsay in Madill Tourney

The Lady Knights and Knights participated in the Madill tournament last week, coming up short in some tough matches.

In girls action, Lindsay fell to the host team 76-57. The game was very close until the midpoint of the 4th quarter. Sydney Ott led the scoring with 28 points. Hayley Skinner added 9, Maddie Zimmerman 6, Tara Atkins and Sarah Fuhrmann 4 each, and 2 apiece by Kailei Klement, Jalyn Anderle, and Teresa Boles.

Game two was a 52-42 loss to Pilot Point. "Our youth showed some, but the hustle and hard work were there," said Coach Tony Brazeal. Ott scored 15, Skinner 11, Zimmerman 7, Nicole Fleitman 3, Anderle and Atkins 2 each, and Fuhrmann 1.

The Knights, after playing a pretty good 1st half, fell 61-49 to Madill. Zach Mlinar led the scoring with 13 points. Ryan Hoepfner and Lyndon Cook each added 9, Kedrick Boaz 8, John Haverkamp 6, and 2 apiece from Travis Krahl and Garrett Cooper. Cook was leading rebounder with 11.

L 14 10 16 9 49
M 12 9 23 17 61

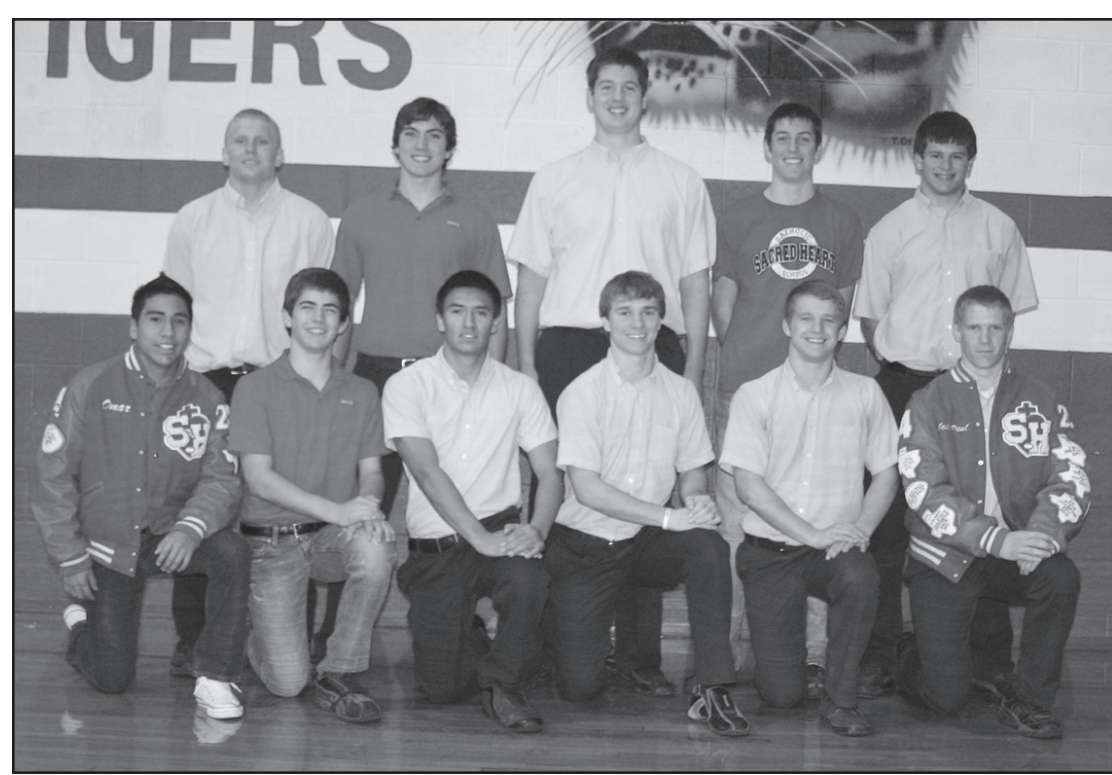
Game two was a 65-41 loss to the Marietta Indians. Cook led the Knights with 19 points and 12 rebounds. Hoepfner added 9 points,

Haverkamp 5, Mlinar 4, and 2 apiece by Andy Dieter and Krahl.

L 14 10 2 15 41
M 23 20 9 13 65
Lindsay 42 Paradise 44

The Lindsay Knights hosted the Paradise Panthers on Tuesday, Dec. 11. After falling behind by 9 at half-time, the Knights mounted a strong comeback, only to fall victim to a last second shot that won the game for Paradise.

Lyndon Cook led the Knight scoring with 10 points. Zach Mlinar added 9, Kedrick Boaz 7, Garrett Cooper 6, John Haverkamp 5, Ryan Hoepfner 3, and Andy Dieter 2.



All-District Tigers - from left, front - Omar Colmenero, Isac Walterscheid, Juan Salinas, Keith Metzler, Justin Brown, John Paul Hesse; back - Hayden Schilling, Luke Cochran, Nick Zimmerer, Kason Reeves, Michael Weinzapfel. Janie Hartman photo

SACRED HEART GARNERS ALL-DISTRICT HONORS

The TAPPS Division III District 1 All-District football honors have been announced. The following Sacred Heart Tigers have earned a spot on the teams:

DEFENSIVE MVP
John Paul Hesse

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR
Kason Reeves

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR
Juan Salinas

FIRST TEAM Running Back
John Paul Hesse

Receiver
Isac Walterscheid
Offensive Line
Luke Cochran
Kicker
Kason Reeves
Athlete
Justin Brown
Defensive Line
Luke Cochran
Hayden Schilling
Linebacker
Justin Brown
Defensive Back
John Paul Hesse
Punter
Kason Reeves

SECOND TEAM Quarterback
Kason Reeves

Running Back
Juan Salinas
Receiver
Keith Metzler
Offensive Line
Hayden Schilling
Linebacker
Isac Walterscheid
Juan Salinas
Defensive Back
Keith Metzler

HONORABLE MENTION
Offensive Line
Michael Weinzapfel
Defensive Line
Michael Weinzapfel
Nick Zimmerer
Defensive Back
Omar Colmenero

JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL

Muenster vs Era

The Muenster Junior High girls played three games Monday night against Era. The Red Lady Stingers B team fell to the Gold team 18-11. Rylee Cain and Emma Wood each scored 4 points and Courtney Wilson 3.

The Red Muenster 7th grade took a 20-29 win over Era. Natalie Dangelmayr put 9 points on the board, with Megan Rohmer and Alaina Kubis each adding 7, Erin Schniederjan 4, and Sterling Walterscheid 2.

The 8th grade Red Lady Stingers were handed their first loss of the season, allowing Era to take a 30-29 victory home. Bailey Klement led the scoring with 12 points. Morgan Eldridge added 8, Haiden Shook 5,

and 2 apiece by Amy Luttmer and Katie Kresge.

Sacred Heart vs Era
Sacred Heart hosted Era Junior High on Dec. 3, playing four games.

Action began with the B team Lady Cubs falling to the Lady Bees 18-14. Three home girls scored. Kate Springer and Sophia Jones each scored 6 and Samantha Muller 2.

SH 4 0 6 4 14
E 6 8 4 0 18

The B Cubs earned a 39-26 victory over the Bees. Roy Endres was the game's leading scorer with 17. Hunter Hess added 12, Sam Hesse 4, and 2 apiece by Robert Hanson, Julian Hesse, and Collin Knabe.

SH 8 12 11 8 39
E 5 9 6 6 26

The A Lady Cubs sent Era home in defeat, winning 33-16. Rylee Reiter scored 13, Alane Bartush 11, Amanda Aldriedge 4, Leah Knabe 3, and Avery Truebenbach 2.

SH 11 7 5 10 33
E 4 4 6 2 16

The Cub A team made a good 2nd half comeback, but not enough to take the win, allowing the Bees to buzz a 33-27 win. Hess put 16 points on the boards for Sacred Heart. Tyler Walterscheid and S. Hesse each added 4 and Endres 3.

SH 2 5 10 10 27
E 10 13 7 3 33

Sacred Heart vs. Texoma Christian

Last Thursday, the junior high basketball teams hit the road to face Texoma Christian on their court.

The B Lady Cubs scored 13 points, all by Kate Springer, but Texoma scored 22.

SH 0 3 4 6 13
TC 6 4 4 8 22

The Cubs B team brought home a 36-25 win. Hunter Hess scored 11 points. Jackson Carr and Roy Endres each added 6, Thomas Hennigan 5, and 4 apiece by Sam Hesse and Julian Hesse.

SH 10 4 11 11 36
TC 0 6 2 17 25

Alane Bartush scored 13 points to lead the Lady Cubs A team to a 35-18 win. Leah Knabe added 8, Avery Truebenbach 6, and 4 each by Amanda Aldriedge and Rylee Reiter.

SH 14 6 5 10 35
TC 0 10 4 4 18

Free throws in the 4th quarter gave the A Cubs the needed points for a 31-28 victory over Texoma Christian. Sam Hesse scored 15 points, Hunter Hess 6, Nicholas Turner 4, Roy Endres 3, Robert Hanson 2, and Hennigan 1.

SH 8 8 4 11 31
TC 8 2 12 6 28

JUNIOR VARSITY

SANGER TOURNAMENT Muenster 16 Krum 24

The JV Lady Hornets came up short in round one last weekend. Five players put points on the board. Adrienne Rohmer scored 6, Claire Schneider 5, Allie Walterscheid and Katie Pagel 2 apiece, and Morgan Flusche 1.

Muenster 33 Gainesville 17

The Lady Hornets controlled game 2, winning over the Lady Leopards. Flusche was high scorer with 11. Schneider added 9, Pagel 7, Walterscheid and Rohmer 2 each, and a free throw from Alison Morris and Nicole Rains.

Lindsay 23 Whitewright 22

The JV Lady Knights pulled out a 1 point win last week. Scoring for Lind-

say were Erin Early with 6 points, Alison Gunderson 5, Scout Tatum and Katherine Haverkamp 4 each, and 2 apiece by Sarah Snider and Alex Harrell.

Lindsay 18 Paradise 51

The Lindsay JV Lady Knights suffered a big 51-18 loss at the hands of Paradise Tuesday evening. Scoring for Lindsay were Alex Harrell with 7, Alison Gunderson 4, Erin Early 3, and Scout Tatum and Katherine Haverkamp 2 each.

Muenster 38 Bells 22

The Muenster JV Hornets beat Bells Tuesday evening by a score of 38-22. Grant Simpson led the scoring with 15. Trey Anderle and Zach Trubenbach put in 6 apiece, Trace Klement 4, Clayton Hess 3, and Dean Kester and Tavi Saldana 2 each.

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Sat 11:45,3:05,6:30,10:00
Sun 11:45,3:05,6:30
Mon-Thurs 3:05,6:30

Playing for Keeps PG-13
Fri 2:40,5:05,7:30,10:00
Sat 12:15,2:40,5:05,7:30,10:00
Sun 12:15,2:40,5:05,7:30
Mon-Thurs 2:40,5:05,7:30

Breaking Dawn 2 (PG-13)
Fri 2:30,5:00,7:30,10:00
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Sun 12:00,2:30,5:00,7:30
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Fri 3:30*,6:30,9:20
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* Denotes 2-D

Rise of the Guardians in 3D (PG)
Fri 2:20,4:45,7:10,9:30
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Sun 12:00,2:20,4:45,7:10
Mon-Thurs 2:20,4:45,7:10

Red Dawn (PG-13)
Fri & Sat 2:25,4:45,7:15,9:40
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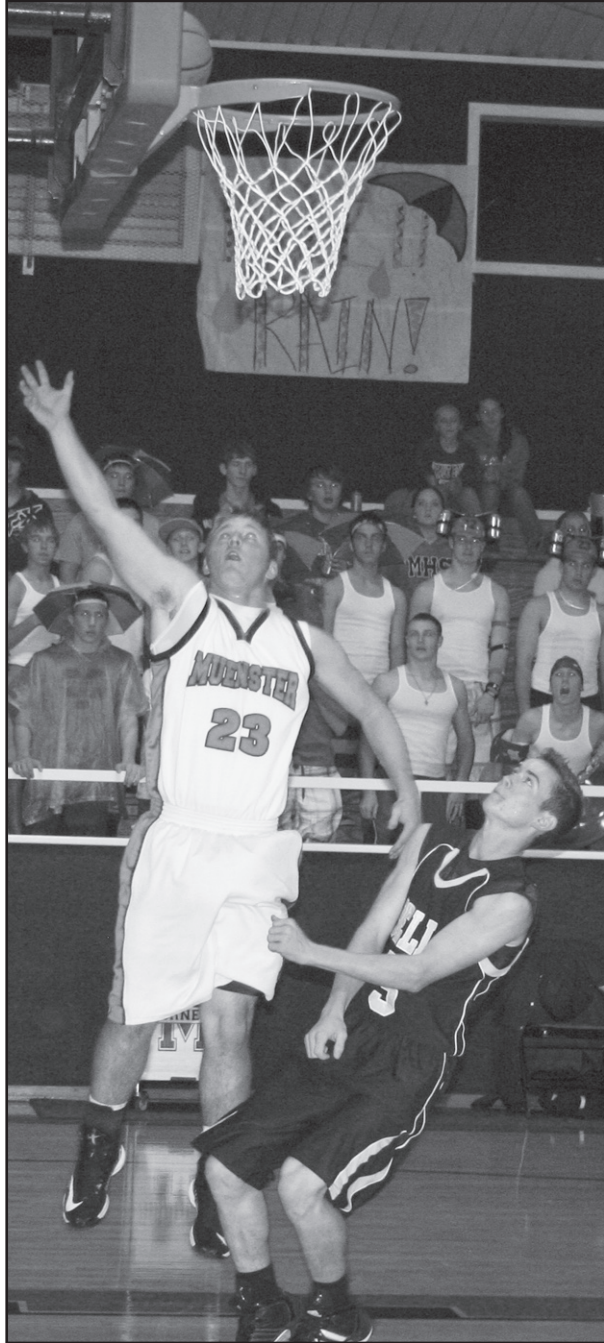
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Muenster vs Bells



Muenster Jr. Hi. vs Era



Photos by Janie Hartman

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Sold at Friday's sale Dec. 7 there were 2200 cattle sold, compared to 2466 the previous sale. Sold at Tuesday's sale Dec. 4 were 417 Goats, 142 Sheep, and 733 Hogs, compared to last week - 388 goats, 83 sheep, and 469 hogs.

Calf market steady • The front end steers that are vaccinated & weaned 2-5 higher • The fleshy bull calves losing steam with not much interest, but was steady • Packer cows steady • Stock cows steady • We will be closed Dec. 21 & Dec. 28 for the holidays • God Bless & have a great holiday

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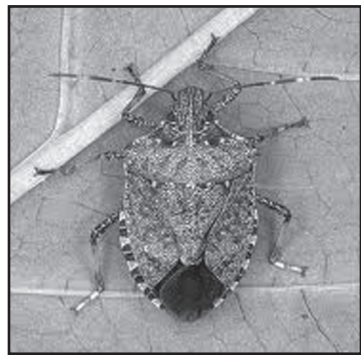
FARM & RANCH

TDA market recap

County Agent's Report

Experts ask Texans to be on the lookout for new stink bug

Entomologists are asking Texans across the state to be on the lookout for a new stink bug that may pose a risk to Texas crops.



Bill Ree, an AgriLife Extension entomologist, reports that the six-legged brown marmorated stink bug is a "great hitchhiker" that made its way to the U.S. from Asia in the late 1990s. He says while only one confirmed case of the invasive pest has been found in Texas, it is possible that there are more of the insects across the state that haven't been reported.

and a distinctive pattern of alternating white and black triangles around the outside of the abdomen. If folks start noticing a new stink bug, one they haven't seen before, then we want to know about it," Ree said.

Ree says the brown marmorated stink bug looks a lot like other stink bugs found in Texas.

The brown marmorated stink bug does not pose a

health threat to people or humans. However, Ree says it feeds on apples, peaches, and other fruits in northern states. He says it may also feed on Texas pecans, grapes, tomatoes, peppers, cotton, and soybeans.

In areas of other states, the stink bugs have also taken up residence in homes by the thousands and have left a lasting, foul odor.

Ree asks anyone who notices a type of stink bug they haven't seen before to collect a sample and send it to their local AgriLife Extension agent with the name and contact information of the sender, where the bug was found, and the plant or place on which it was found.

The bugs (preferably dead) may be sent in a pill bottle to Kira Metz, Minnie Belle Heep Building 216D, 2475 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-2475 with the appropriate information included.

For more information on the invasive bug, visit <http://today.agrilife.org>.

For the week ending Dec. 8, feeder cattle prices reported by Texas auctions were mostly \$5 lower to \$4 higher per hundredweight (cwt), with a few to \$12 lower early in the week and some as much as \$10 higher. Texas direct feeder cattle sales were steady to \$1 higher. The Oklahoma City National Stockyards were steady to \$2 higher on feeder cattle, but \$4 to \$6 lower on calves. Tight feeder supplies, and prospects that they will get even tighter, are offset by high grain prices and the dry conditions that have caused a lack of winter grazing in many areas. Auction cattle can also vary considerably in quality and condition, which can also cause prices to vary. Fed cattle cash prices were \$3 lower per cwt in very light trade. Beef prices were lower.

Wheat, corn, and grain sorghum prices declined on continued weak export demand for U.S. grains. However, domestic supplies are tight and prices remain at historically-high levels well above where they were at this time last year.

Beef quality report highlights new trends in production

Meat processing plants across the nation are seeing more black-colored cattle and fewer cattle with bruising, according to the 2011 National Beef Quality Audit.

The report, comprised of data received from National Meat Processing Plants, indicates that the amount of cattle with predominantly black hides is up 16% from 45.1% to 61.1% the last 12 years.

The audit also revealed a significant reduction in the amount of mud and manure found on cattle hides, signifying an increased awareness of cattle cleanliness and a reduction in the amount of contaminants brought into a processing facility by cattle.



Branded beef programs also are on the rise, according to the audit. Processors now tend to pre-sort cattle based on their age and origin and then harvest them instead of sorting the cattle post-harvest.

The use of individual electronic identification has risen 16.5% over the last seven years, according to the report. Metal clip tag usage also is on the rise.

The number of bruised cattle at processing plants across the nation is on the decline. According to the audit, bruised cattle decreased by 77% over the last year due to concerns over the treatment of beef cattle.

Texas drought worsening

A dry fall has pushed even more of the Lone Star State back into a severe or extreme drought situation, according to state climatologists.

A report in *Bloomberg Businessweek* says that 55% of Texas is now listed as experiencing a severe drought, up 40% from last week's Drought Monitor report.

The number of areas listed as extreme drought jumped from 1.5% last week to 24.5% this week.

Some 80% of the state is now experiencing some form of drought. That number is up 5% from last week.

"September and November could be the driest of those months since 1950 and among the top five driest on record," State Climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon said.

Nielsen-Gammon says not much more rain is expected

this winter as the El Niño pattern appears to have fizzled out.

The state never really recovered from the historic 2011 drought, according to Mark Svoboda, a climatologist from the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. "We climbed up on the fence, but we never really got off the fence. It's a very fast tumble off of recovery back into the depths of drought."

Nielsen-Gammon says the worsening drought could cause food prices and the price of hay to rise this winter. He says it will also impact water in the Lone Star State as reservoirs are not refilling or dropping.

The U.S. Drought Monitor can be viewed online at <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/about.html>.

Understanding pelletized lime

Pelletized lime is a product that will help raise pH of acidic soils. It is a product that is easier to handle and to apply to the land than traditional ag lime, therefore it has seen an increase in usage lately. Lloyd Murdock, an Extension soils specialist in Kentucky, has provided information about this product. For producers who have acidic soils, understanding the differences between the two products is important.

Pelletized lime is made by granulating finely ground agricultural (ag) lime. It may be dolomitic or calcitic depending on the nature of the original limestone. The fine lime particles are bonded together with lignosulfonates during the pelletizing process. Pelletized limestone is a product that has been on the market for many years. The price of the material on a per ton basis is considerably higher than bulk ag lime, so its use has mainly been confined to specialty markets, with little use in production agriculture. However, the product is becoming more commonly used in production agriculture. Therefore, it is possible questions will arise concerning pelletized lime vs. traditional ag lime.

The recommended rates and the effect on soil pH of any agriculture lime product is related to the neutralizing value of the lime, which is a combination of the purity (calcium carbonate equivalent) and the fineness of grind (particle size). As these two properties of lime change, so does the recommended rate of lime and its effect on soil pH. The finer the lime particles and the higher the calcium carbonate equivalent, the more effective the lime and the lower the rate of lime needed to make the desired pH change.

The pelletized lime is typically comprised of a higher quality of lime than other lime products, thereby slightly increasing its pH neutralizing effect. This effect is usually only very small and the recommended rates of pelletized lime cannot be greatly reduced as compared to bulk ag lime.

Pelletized lime is an excellent source of high quality lime. Its use in agriculture has been limited due to the price. The recommended rate of pelletized lime should be based on the neutralizing value of the lime. Therefore application rates will probably be about 75 to 80% of that for average-quality bulk ag lime. However, the speed of reaction of pelletized lime is no faster than that of bulk ag lime. Thus, when comparing the two materials, less pelletized lime is needed to raise the soil pH to the desired level, but the increase in pH is no faster than with ag lime if both are applied on the basis of their neutralizing values.

Christmas Classic Jackpot Show

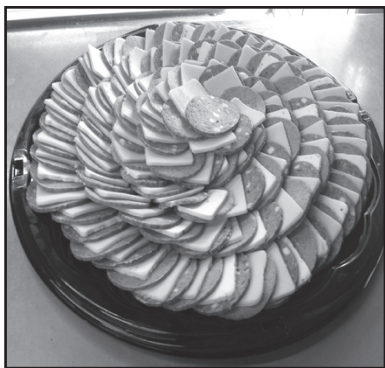
Cooke County 4-H is hosting the second annual Christmas Classic on Dec. 15 at the Callisburg Ag Barn. This is an exciting opportunity for youth to work with their livestock show projects. They will be able to compete against other animals from across the North Texas Region. The opportunity to take livestock projects to this jackpot show will enable the animal to adjust to the atmosphere of shows and will help 4-H or FFA students to gauge the progress they are making with their exercise and feeding programs.

The show is for swine, lambs, and goats, with prizes of \$250, \$150, and \$200 for grand, and \$150, \$100, and \$125 for reserve. There is no pre-registration. The barn will open at 6 a.m. Entries are \$20 per animal. Lamb entries are due by 8 a.m., showing at nine. Goat entries are due by 8:30. Show will begin at conclusion of Lamb Show. Swine entries are due by 9 a.m. Show will follow the goats. Five pound weigh back of winners at the discretion of judge. Showmanship will be after of each species Champion and Reserve Champion drive. \$5 at the gate, winner takes all.

For more information, contact the Cooke County A&M AgriLife Extension Office: 940-668-5412 or 940-668-5416 or email: pagriffin@ag.tamu.edu

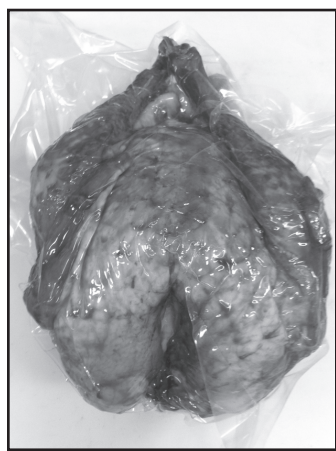
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Hess Meat Market Inc.

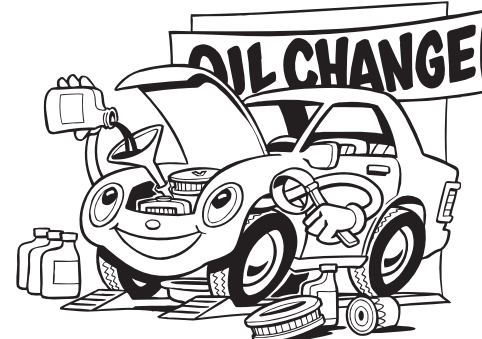
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ABBA receives \$50,000 Christmas Gift



Knights of Columbus District Deputy John Shiffer presented checks for \$50,000 to ABBA last week. They were accepted by ABBA Executive Director Sandee Feeyerstein. The checks were from the local Knights of Columbus Councils from Gainesville, Lindsay, Muenster, and Monclay and a matching check from The Knights of Columbus Supreme Council of Connecticut to replace 12-year-old ultrasound equipment for All Babies Born Alive. Courtesy photo

Turkey Shoot focuses on varmints

On Sunday, Dec. 2, the Muenster Cub Scouts held their annual Turkey Shoot at the Muenster City Park. Every year features a different theme. This year, the theme was "Varmints and Varmint Hunting." A record number of 79 Scouts from Muenster, Lindsay, and Saint Jo participated in this event. Activities included BB Gun Precision Shooting, BB Gun Pot Luck, Archery, Sling Shot Competition, Camo Face Painting, The Anatomy of the Varmint, Movie Time with a Hunting

Video, Varmint Calling Techniques, and an obstacle course. The Scouts were helped out by Predator Plus, the Muenster VFW (the Scout charter organization), Muenster ISD National Honor Society, and local volunteers. A total of 36 Thanksgiving turkeys from Fischer's Meat Market, along with 20 lb. of ham and 80 lb. of bacon from Hess Meat was given away as shooting competition prizes along with various door prizes donated by Walmart and Cabe-las.



Cub Scout Turkey Shoot themed Varmints and Varmint Hunting had many activities including, clockwise from top - volunteer Brandon Walterscheid assisting Jared Walterscheid with bow and arrow; volunteers Jon Grime and John Spaeth teach shooting to Scouts Jonathon Grime, Alex Pierce, Preston Smith, Matthew Klement, and Owen David; Volunteer Amber Walterscheid helps with pin the tail; Matthew Klement, Owen David, Preston Smith, and Rafael Rondon practice sling shots with volunteer Ray Stewart; Scout Andy Bayer. Courtesy photos



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