

Merry Christmas



The Nativity scene at left, can be viewed at the Grewing home, 508 N. Elm in Muenster. Above, Santa's sleigh and reindeer are ready to fly on Christmas Eve. They can be seen in the front yard of Chuck and Vicky Fisher, 417 N. Elm. Janet Felderhoff photos

MMH Board chooses method of financing Phase III Construction

By Janet Felderhoff
After meeting in executive session during its regular meeting held Dec. 15, the Muenster Hospital District Board of Directors voted 7-0 to authorize Administrator Lynn Heller to pledge District revenues and real estate for the purpose of acquiring Revenue Bonds for Phase III MMH Expansion Construction Loan. Heller noted, "Revenue bonds are much faster, easier, and less costly to get done. Pledging the real estate may give the lender the feeling that the loan is less risky on the scale of low risk to high risk. The interest rate pretty much follows the risk scale. The less risk the less interest rate. Not always, but can be an issue."

Other business regarding the Phase III construction was opening bids. The lowest bid came from Mages Group, L.L.C. Michael Goff, project manager, attended the meeting. This bid also contained the greatest number of local subcontractors. A final deci-

sion was deferred until the Phase III architect could be consulted.

Since Travis Heights Healthcare, Inc. will not be operators of St. Richard's Villa after Dec. 31, the Hospital District will take over operation as of Jan. 1, 2010. The Board authorized Administrator Heller to act on behalf of the District in matters required to take back the operation of that facility. The Board also voted to adopt all current policies of St. Richard's, to employ the current staff, and appointed Zula Lawyer as administrator.

After returning from executive session into regular session, the Board authorized Heller to prepare bids for the sale of St. Richard's Villa, and place notices as required.

At the request of adjoining property owners, the Muenster City Council is considering selling the portions of Willow and Fourth Streets that are under water in Weinzapfel Lake. Muenster

Hospital District owns some of that adjoining property. Administrator Heller was authorized to negotiate the purchase of the street property from the City, and to negotiate whatever trade with the other new owners as deemed advantageous to the District.

In other business, the Hospital Board:

- Approved employee Christmas bonuses similar to last year.

- Approved hospital privileges for the following physicians: Edgardo Advincola, M.D., internal medicine and Yvonne Ambrose, AFNP-C, family nurse practitioner; Kevin Funk, M.D. and Doreatha Powell, D.O., emergency room; Richard Abramson, M.D., Suzanne Aquino, M.D., John Arias, M.D., Mark Boykin, M.D., Shannon Calhoun, D.O., Marissa Camrud, M.D., Scott Carbajal, M.D., Lillian Cavin, M.D., C. Sinclair Cottingham, M.D., and Eric Crowder, M.D., all radiology.

Mary Jean's cookie creations generate smiles of happiness

By Janet Felderhoff
In 1948, when she was a teenager, Mary Jean Ingram McElreath discovered a cookie recipe in the *Sherman Democrat*. She enjoyed baking and, after trying the recipe, decided she liked it and would continue to use it. That recipe has served her well down through the years, as she has never found one that she liked better.

And Mary Jean makes lots of cookies. In the beginning, she did not decorate them. She's not sure when she began decorating her much sought after treats, but thinks it was before her son Brent, now 44, was born. She's decorated cakes and cookies all of her life. She also enjoys decorating birth-

day cakes.

Mary Jean bakes and decorates because it gives people pleasure and in turn that brings her happiness. She remarked, "It pleases people," she said. "It's not just children who enjoy them."

She added that there are quite a few adults who have expressed their pleasure in her decorated cookies.

The cookies are a big hit at area bake sales when Mary Jean bakes for them. See **COOKIES**, pg. 4



Mary Jean McElreath decorates Christmas cookies to be sold at a local bake sale. Her pretty confections are popular with young and old alike. She's known to some as the "Cookie Lady." At left are a few samples of the cookies she designs. Janie Hartman photos



Washington captures treasured memories in drawing

By Janet Felderhoff

Drawn to a place that evoked happy memories and inspired by the spirit of a football team and its fans, Phillip Washington poured 60 hours of work into a colored pencil drawing that he gifted to Sacred Heart Catholic School.

Phillip, age 18, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is the third of eight children. His family moved to Lindale, Texas in 1994, and then to Ovilla, Texas in 2004. His father is a teacher and his mother a homemaker who home schools her children. They are members of Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Duncannon.

An industrious person, Phillip recently made the rank of Eagle Scout. He has worked at the Marble Slab Creamery in Cedar Hill for two years and is now a manager there. He volunteers teaching 8th grade at his church. Phillip

plans to attend college, go to medical school with entry into the Navy Medical Corps, and travel around the world. His hobbies include drawing, dancing, acting, volunteer work, writing/poetry/stories, animals, outdoor activities, and traveling.

The first encounter that Phillip had with anyone from Muenster came two years ago during a pro life youth trip to Washington, D.C. That is when he first met some teens from Muenster. More were met the following year on a similar trip.

One of those friends, Eryn Moody invited Phillip to attend a football game at Sacred Heart. He accepted the invitation that soon inspired him to create the piece of art.

"As I was driving west into the sunset, the country scenery reminded me of Lindale," recalled Phillip. "Man, it

brought back memories! I've got to say, Muenster, Texas is a beautiful place." When he sighted the Tiger stadium, it brought back memories of the days that he played pee-wee football.

Sacred Heart Principal Ralph Rondon and Sacred Heart Pastor Fr. Ken Robinson were at the game early. Phillip remembers that Dr. Rondon introduced himself and they began visiting. He also met other Muenster residents.

Phillip enjoyed watching his friends Eryn Moody, Ashley Coleman, Rebekah Hesse, Elizabeth Marshall, Ginger Bartush, and Sarah perform on the Red N Motion Dance Team. He said he watched his friend number 8, Austin Miller, and then met another friend Ryan Henscheid at the game.

See **TIGERS**, pg. 5



Above, young artist Phillip Washington. At left, the drawing Washington gifted to Sacred Heart Catholic School, which includes the Tiger football team, cheerleaders, dance team, students, and others. He was inspired to create this artwork after attending several Tiger football games. Photo at left by Janie Hartman

Richard Trachta 1915 - 2009

Mass of Christian Burial for Richard H. Trachta of Muenster was held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 19 in Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Fr. Ken Robinson celebrating the Mass. Burial was in Sacred Heart Cemetery. A Rosary/Vigil was held at 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 18 at the funeral home. Services were directed by McCoy Funeral Home of Muenster.

Mr. Trachta died at the age of 94 at 1:25 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 17, 2009 at his home.

Born July 18, 1915 in Muenster to Henry and Ida Burkhardt Trachta, Richard grew up in Muenster and attended Sacred Heart School. He graduated high school and attended one year of college in Gainesville. While in school, he worked for Shamburger Lumber Company in Muenster. He was transferred to Stamford, Texas upon graduation, working as assistant manager for Shamburger in that city. After eight years, he was transferred back to Muenster as manager of the company here.

Richard was inducted into the U.S. Army in 1942. After four years service, he was discharged and returned to Muenster. He was manager of Shamburger Lumber Company until retiring and lived in Muenster the remainder of his life.

Richard married Laura Huchton on Dec. 26, 1945. They had two sons.

Richard was a member of Sacred Heart Parish, Knights of Columbus, and lifetime VFW. He was a hard worker, and loved dominoes and fishing. He was a great family man and friend to many.

Survivors are his wife Laura of Muenster; sons and daughters-in-law Wayne R. and Gay Trachta of Decatur and Glen and Janell Trachta of Aubrey; eight grandchildren Deann, Cody, Reagan, Kendall, Nicholas, Cameron, Mackenzie, and Logan; and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers and spouses Dave and Georgia Trachta, and Chris and Alma Fette; and granddaughters Amanda and Madison Trachta.

During the funeral Mass, grandson Logan Trachta gave the First Reading. The Second Reading was given by Haylee Purdy, great-granddaughter. Prayers of the Faithful were read by granddaughter Reagan Trachta. Carrying the Offertory Gifts were grandchildren Mackenzie Trachta, Kendall Trachta, Nicholas Trachta, and Cameron Trachta.

Music ministers were Isaac Davis and Christy Hesse. Sacred songs included "On Eagles Wings," "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled," "You Are Mine," "Songs of the Angels," and "Be Not Afraid."

Remarks of remembrance

were given by Janell Trachta, daughter-in-law, and Deann Purdy, granddaughter. They remembered Richard's dedication to his faith and how he lived out his faith on a daily basis by being kind, fair, generous, humble, hard-working, and honest. They also spoke of his unwavering love for Laura and his family (he and Laura would have celebrated 65 years of marriage on Dec. 26). They said that Richard loved to play dominoes, and if you were on his team, you could count on winning. They also remembered how much he enjoyed fishing.

Pallbearers were Larry Gobble, Kevin Huchton, Bob Walterscheid, T.J. Hellman,



Richard Trachta

Jimmy Hellman, and Hank Trachta.

The family requests memorials be made to Sacred Heart Trust Fund.

David R. Smith 1925 - 2009

Services for David R. Smith were held Dec. 23 at 2 p.m. at Geo. J. Carroll & Son Funeral Home Chapel, with burial in Fairview Cemetery.

Born Sept. 8, 1925 to David H. and Minnie Smith, he grew up in Wolf Ridge where he was a member of First Presbyterian Church. David began showing Milking Short Horn cattle in 1938. The late John Voth joined him on the fair circuit, showing cattle all over North Texas. They were an asset to the agricultural community in Gainesville. When Camp Howze purchased the Smith land, he and his family relocated their dairy and farm south of Gainesville on Old Denton Road. Later he raised Simmental-Herford and dairy cattle, always making high reports for his quality milk sold to AMPI. FFA members purchased his beef calves from three states which won top honors in many shows.

On Aug. 22, 1948, David married his sweetheart Elnora Miller. Elnora shared with him a lifetime of accomplishments and worked by his side every day to make their farm business a success. Their four children helped with the daily chores

that came along with a farm/dairy business.

David received many honors and awards with his keen ability to raise outstanding crops. There were people who traveled from Houston to purchase his alfalfa hay. The state of Texas awarded him the Reserve Champion Hay, 1978. He also received Conservation Farmer Upper Elm 1969 and Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce Conservationist of the Year. Mr. Smith gave freely to the community and North Central Texas College, was always available to help anyone, was a dying breed and a man of his word, had a strong work ethic, and never knew the phrase "can't."

Survivors are his wife; children Bobby, Charlotte, Paul Smith and Patty Camp; son-in-law Tim Camp; daughters-in-law Angela and Beverly Smith; eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Toby Stobaugh, Jimmy Mosman, Rod Tyler, David Huffman, Wilber Smith, and Dale Terry. Honorary pallbearers were James Bayer, R.J. Brock, Gary Brammer, Bud Ford, and Vernon Austin.

Tonyah Hartman 1962 - 2009

Funeral Mass for Tonyah Hartman of Haslet was held Friday, Dec. 18 at 11:30 a.m. in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church with Monsignor Charles King officiating. Interment was in Roselawn Memorial Park. A visitation was held Thursday at DeBerry Funeral Directors.

Pallbearers were Dwayne Waters, Jason Scolcvik, David Andrews, Chris Hawkins, Rob Griffin, and Dana Bloedel.

Tonyah Gae Hartman, loving mother, caring wife, and friend to many, died Wednesday, Dec. 16 2009 in Haslet.

Born Nov. 28, 1962 in Houston to David Henderson and Sandra Hood Onarecker, Tonyah married Douglas Michael Hartman on July 15, 2002. Tonyah loved to travel, garden, and decorate her home. She was always quick to flash a bright smile. Tonyah was a sales representative for Redi-Carpet. She was passionate about her three girls and her profession, and she always put forth efforts admired by all.

Survivors include her husband Douglas Hartman of Haslet; children Karlee Wilcox, age 18, Tori Hartman, age 6, and Cooper Hartman, age 4; her parents Sandra



Tonyah Hartman

and husband Lupe Onarecker, and David and wife Joy Henderson; sisters Jennifer Henderson and Nikki Henderson; brothers Wayne Henderson, Lynn Henderson, Kyle Cowart, and Jason Henderson; mother-in-law and father-in-law Judy and Gene Hartman; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law Pam and Dana Bloedel and Jeanna and Tim Sutton.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials made to a memorial fund for the girls at Wells Fargo Bank/Tonyah Hartman Memorial Fund, 601 W. University Drive, Denton, TX 76201, account number 5866 913 139.

Jack Richter Cheaney 1928 - 2009

Funeral services for Jack Richter Cheaney of Gainesville were Dec. 19, at Commerce Street Church of Christ. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, under the direction of Geo. J. Carroll & Son Funeral Home in Gainesville. Mr. Cheaney died Dec. 16, 2009 at the age of 81 at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Denton.

Jack was born in Gainesville, Texas on Jan. 11, 1928 to Sterling Price and Blanche Richter Cheaney, the youngest of four children. He attended school in Gainesville where he was a life-long resident. On May 6, 1950, he married Bonnie Gregory with whom he had sons Bruce, Pat, and Phillip. Jack credited his Uncle Tom and his father Price with teaching him the art of saddle making. He made his first saddle at the age of 15. Jack made a career in the business of making saddles and other leather goods, and truly was a "Jack of all trades." He taught his sons the trade and was widely known in the horse business as one of the best saddle makers of his day. He was a past member of the Gainesville Riding Club, Gainesville Chamber of Commerce, and Cooke County Fair Board of Directors. He was also a member of the Texas Steel Guitar Association.

He retired in 1991 from Jack Cheaney's Saddle Shop & Western Wear, which he owned and operated in downtown Gainesville for many years. On Oct. 7, 1994, Jack married Bette Anne Gunter. He was a member of the Commerce Street Church of Christ.

Survivors are his wife Bette Cheaney; sons and daughters-in-law Bruce and Karen Cheaney, Pat and Leslie Cheaney, and Phillip and Christie Cheaney; step-daughter Linda Reiter and husband Mac, stepdaughter Jay Anne Schiederjan and husband Bob; several grandchildren and step-grandchildren; and several great-grandsons and step great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; first wife Bonnie Cheaney; and brothers Harold Cheaney, Charles Cheaney, and Tom Cheaney. Pallbearers were Bob Schiederjan, Sam Rose, Keith Hoedebeck, Mike Graves, Davis Cowling, Frank Merrill, and Phil Adams. Honorary pallbearers were Walter Vincent, Jack Brainard, Keith Thompson, Leonard Odom, Cliff Howe, Pat Sharp, James Neu, and Percy Parrish.

Memorial contributions can be made to the American Lung Association.

Lt. Col. Christy Dave McKenzie (Retired)

Memorial services for Lt. Col. Christy Dave McKenzie (Retired) of Lake Kiowa were held Dec. 21 at First United Methodist Church in Gainesville. Mr. McKenzie died Friday, Dec. 18, 2009 at the age of 78 at his residence.

Survivors are his wife Marilyn J. McKenzie of Lake Kiowa; daughter Dianne McKenzie; son David McKenzie; step-daughter and step-son-in-law Kim and Mark Micah; step-son and step-daughter-in-law Everett and Sharon Lowe; step-son Christopher Lowe; and sister and brother-in-law Sue and Roy McCollough.

He was preceded in death by his parents David and Lora McKenzie.

Hogan dies

Michael Jay Hogan of Gainesville, formerly of Muenster and Saint Jo, died Dec. 20, 2009 in Springfield, Missouri at the age of 56. A visitation will be held at McCoy Funeral Home in Muenster on Friday, Dec. 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. The funeral service will be on Saturday, Dec. 26 at 2 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will be in Hardy Cemetery.

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THE MUENSTER ENTERPRISE
(USPS 387600) is published weekly
by The Muenster Enterprise, Inc.
Post Office Box 190,
Muenster, Texas 76252-0190
Periodicals postage paid at Muenster, Texas.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
THE MUENSTER ENTERPRISE,
P.O. Box 190, Muenster, Texas 76252
ISSN 0883-25111

2-WEEK EVENTS CALENDAR To list your event, call 759-4311 BEFORE NOON WEDNESDAY!						
Sunday, December 27, 2009	Monday, December 28, 2009	Tuesday, December 29, 2009	Wednesday, December 30, 2009	Thursday, December 31, 2009	Friday, January 1, 2010	Saturday, January 2, 2010
Muenster Museum Open 1-4 p.m.		Library closed	Library closed Turn in all contest photos to KMB for 2009	Muenster Museum Open 1-4 p.m. Library closed	Muenster Museum closed	Library closed KMB Christmas tree recycling, Community Lumber, 10-12
----- Christmas break - NO SCHOOL -----						
Sunday, January 3, 2010	Monday, January 4, 2010	Tuesday, January 5, 2010	Wednesday, January 6, 2010	Thursday, January 7, 2010	Friday, January 8, 2010	Saturday, January 9, 2010
Muenster Museum Open 1-4 p.m.	MISD classes resume City Council mtg. 7:30 pm	SHCS classes resume Library open 10 am-6:30 pm	Library open 1:30 - 5:30 pm Turn in all contest photos to KMB for 2009 Religious Ed class 7 pm	Muenster Museum Open 1-4 p.m. Library open 10 am-6:30 pm	Muenster Museum open 1-4 pm	Library open 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

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Cooke County CASA receives National Certification award

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of North Texas of Cooke County, Texas has just been awarded certification by the National Court Appointed Special Ad-

vocate (CASA) Association. This certification recognizes that CASA of North Texas is in compliance with National CASA's high standards for quality child advocacy.

According to Michael Pirano, CEO of the National CASA Association, "The National CASA quality assurance process is very rigorous, and reflects our commitment to ensure every child we serve has the most powerful volunteer advocate working on their behalf. This certification says CASA of North Texas has demonstrated to us a strong capacity to provide excellent services to the abused and neglected children within their community."

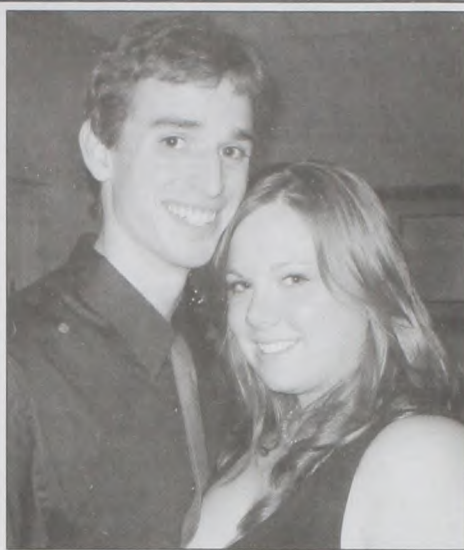
The CASA program was started in 1999. Since that time, more than 400 children have benefited by having a CASA Volunteer Advocate to be "there" for them, looking out for their best interests during the 12 to 18 months (sometimes longer) they spend in the child welfare system.

District Judge Janelle Haverkamp endorsed CASA of North Texas, stating, "I have found CASA volunteers to be committed and relentless in their advocacy of the best interests of children. Quite often, the CASA volunteer is the most consistent and concerned person in the lives of these vulnerable children. CASA volunteers offer hope to children whose futures might otherwise be hopeless. CASA and its

volunteers have my whole-hearted admiration."

For the CASA program, this certification completes a year of work to show compliance by the Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers. According to CASA's Executive Director Vicki Robertson, "There isn't a day that our volunteers, program staff, and board of directors isn't fully dedicated to making sure that we give the children our absolute best. This says that National CASA has looked into our advocacy, the strength of our screening, training, volunteers, staff, and our board. They've reviewed our policies and our practices to determine whether we not only can handle what comes on a given day, but that we are prepared to handle whatever may come in the future. This certification is gratifying in that National CASA recognizes the quality of our work on all of these levels."

CASA of North Texas currently has 35 volunteers serving as advocates for 65 abused and/or neglected children. Training for new volunteers will again be conducted in January. Anyone interested in serving CASA as a volunteer, administrative volunteer, or board member may contact the CASA office at 665-2244.



Cliff Cox and Tina Cox of Muenster announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter Katherine Cox of Stafford to Bradley Steiner of Stafford, son of Bradley Steiner and Bobbi Steiner. The couple plans to be married on Jan. 2, 2010 at 2 p.m. in Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Fr. Will Straten of St. Helen's Parish in Georgetown will officiate for the ceremony. The bride-elect and the future-groom are both graduates of Texas State University.

Winners announced



Winners of the doll raffle sponsored by the Muenster Historical Commission were Marge E. Ellington - Samantha Marie doll; Macie Pangel - Adora Belle Marie Osmond doll; Patricia Seymour - Precious Moments Beth doll; and Alexa Waneck - Christmas doll. The dolls were donated by Tim Fette in memory of his wife Judy. All proceeds benefited the Muenster Museum. Courtesy photo

Tigers take tour



The Tiger Den from Cub Scout Pack 664 recently toured the Cooke County EMS station in Muenster. Paramedics gave the Scouts a tour of the station and ambulance, and demonstrated how to load a patient into the ambulance using Matthew Klement (center) as a victim. Also pictured are Nolan Vogel, Brenton Wilson, Rafael Rondon, Connor Vogel, and Charlotte Rondon. Not pictured, Preston and J.D. Smith. Courtesy photo

Mary Jean's Dish Pan Cookies

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 cups granulated sugar | 1 cup raisins |
| 2 cups brown sugar, pressed down | |
| 2 cups vegetable oil | 1 cup dates, chopped |
| 4 eggs | 1 cup pecans, chopped |
| 1 Tbsp. vanilla | 1 cup coconut |
| 4 cups flour | 2 cups Rice Krispies |
| 2 tsp. soda | 2 cups corn flakes |
| 1 tsp. salt | 1 1/2 cup oats (quick or reg) |

Combine sugars and oil. Beat well. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add vanilla. Sift flour, soda, and salt together. Add to the creamed mixture. Stir well. In a large pan or bowl, combine cereals, coconut, pecans, raisins, and dates. Add the creamed mixture to the cereal mixture using a wooden spoon. Stir just until combined. Drop by tablespoon (level) onto a lightly greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350° for 8 to 10 minutes or until lightly browned. Cookies will fall slightly when they are done. Remove from cookie sheet and cool before putting into cookie containers. Yield 13 or 14 dozen cookies.

Mary Jean's French Coconut Pie

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 unbaked 9-inch pie crust | 1 tsp. vanilla |
| 3 eggs, beaten | 1 Tbsp. white vinegar |
| 1 stick oleo (1/2 cup) melted | 1 cup Angel Flake coconut |
| 1 1/2 cup sugar | Dash salt |
- Beat eggs. Melt oleo and add to eggs. Beat in sugar, vanilla, salt, and vinegar. Add coconut. Pour into the unbaked pie crust. Bake in a 350° oven for 50 minutes or until golden.

DAYS GONE BY.....

65 YEARS AGO Dec. 22, 1944

Weather, labor shortage, and holidays cause lull in oil activity here. Jacob Prescher, 21, nephew of Mrs. Martin Hacker, is killed in action in Germany. New Arrival: Della to Tony and Loretta Wimmer. Special section of the paper features local service members, and highlights Muenster's Gold Star men; they are Ens. Robert Weinzapfel, Lt. Clarence M. Hoehn, Cpl. Cecil Cole, Lt. M.J. Endres, Jr., S. Sgt. Robert W. Herr, Frank O. Yosten, F1C, Sgt. Lloyd Patrick, Ens. Richard C. Fette, PFC Jesse Epps, S. Sgt. Jack Needham, PFC August J. Fleitman, PFC Harold Pembroke, Frank Mosler, and Cadet Ray J. Berend.

50 YEARS AGO Dec. 25, 1959

Mrs. Marie Mosman's Science class at Muenster High School receives two awards at Tri-State Conference. Muenster total of building permits in 1959 is \$122,950. Jean Wieler and her fiancé Mike Newbill were among the 107 passengers on the first flight of the new 707 jet flagship. New Arrival: Thomas to Charles and Mary Neu. Danny Walterscheid, three month old son of the Sylvan Walterscheids, was a hospital patient for treatment of a virus infection. Dizzy Dozen Club has 10th annual Christmas social.

Individual winners in Christmas lighting contest were Mark Flusche, Ray Wilde, and Charles Bayer. Drue Bynum receives his Eagle Scout award. Dr. Gerald Graham attends orthodontic course. New Arrival: Michael to Danny and Janet Voth. Allison Klement wins eight foot Christmas stocking in drawing at the Dairy Inn. Muenster High School girls win District track title.

25 YEARS AGO Dec. 21, 1984

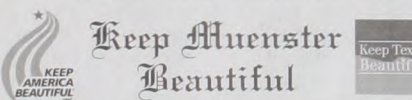
Thank you, God, for little things that often come our way - the things we take for granted and don't mention when we pray - the unexpected courtesy, the thoughtful, kindly deed, a hand reached out to help us in the time of sudden need.

Helen Steiner Rice



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Home Hospice holds Christmas tree decorating contest

Several local hospice patients will receive an extra special gift along with the holiday goody bags that all will receive. Employees of the non-profit Home Hospice of Grayson, Fannin, and Cooke counties decorated miniature trees in the group's first-ever Christmas tree decorating contest. "I think it was fun for each of us to pick out our theme and use our creativity," said Vicki McMahon. "I look forward to doing it again next year."

The tiny trees were decked out in everything from red birds, nativity figures, and snowmen to cowboy boots, gum drops, candy, lights, and toys. The creations were then judged and winners selected.

Earning the "Most Christmas-Like" award was the tree designed by Kathy Sanders, a certified nurse assistant. "Best Use of a Theme" was designed by Vicki McMahon, administrative assistant, using a Texas Cowboy theme. First place, "Most Creative" went to Registered Nurse Case Manager

Vicki Short who gave tribute to the brave men and women protecting our country using red, white, and blue. Her tree was also partially edible. Second place in the "Most Creative" category went to Lynda Sandmann, register nurse case manager.

The trees are being delivered to various patients when Home Hospice takes Christmas gifts this week. In the stuffed bags are food, candy, stuffed animals, and other treats.



Home Hospice trees from decorating contest. Courtesy photo

COOKIES

makes them for bake sales sponsored by the Muenster Historical Commission, a group of which she is a member. "There are ladies who come from Gainesville to buy the cookies," Mary Jean remarked. "I used to be on the Board for the Morton Museum and we had bake sales. I took the cookies to bake sales down there. I just never could get enough made for what they wanted. The women at the Museum would buy them all up before I ever got to take them up there."

She was invited in 1988 to a teacher's sorority to show them how to decorate cookies. She had a number of helpful hints that she gave, and those will be printed at the end of this article along with several of Mary Jean's favorite recipes.

"I've always taught children in Sunday school and I like to give them little treats sometimes," said Mary Jean. "I would make cookies and decorate them for them."

"Children love cookies and I love children," she said with a smile.

Some of those students were so intrigued with the cookies, that they asked Mary Jean to show them how to make them. Over the years, several young ladies have spent a day at Mary Jean's house making cookies with her. "I always let them take the cookies home with them so they have something to show," she commented. "It gives them something to show their parents and they seem to like that." Some of her cookie students are Jennifer Carroll who is now married with two daughters who help her make cookies, Lisa Robison Pagel, Danelle Reiter, Maria Schoppa, niece Chelsie Branch, and Tara Gunnels. "I don't have any grandchildren and I'm just claiming everybody's," said Mary Jean with a smile.

Baking is a hobby of Mary Jean and so is collecting cookie cutters. She has all kinds and makes cookies for every season from Valentine's, Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving, graduation, etc. She often receives them as gifts from her great-nieces and great-nephews who then look forward to seeing the cookies she makes with the gift.

"One year I substituting for Janie Weinzapfel's second grade on Texas Independence Day so I made cookies (flag-shaped) and took some of them as a treat," recalled Mary Jean. "She saw me here a while back and she said, 'I remember when you brought those cookies for the kids while I was gone on a trip with Henry.'"

The whole process of baking and decorating cookies takes about four or five

hours, but is done in stages, and days can pass in between the different steps. The first step is to mix up a batch of dough, which must be chilled at least an hour. "A lot of times I will leave it in the refrigerator for a day or two before I get to them," Mary Jean noted. After chilling, the dough is rolled out, and the cookies cut out and baked. Baking time can vary since some cookies are larger than others. At times Mary Jean may make four batches of cookie dough at a time, bake them at another time, and then decorate yet another time. Sometimes I can get them baked, and I'll put the cookies in the freezer and let them stay until I get ready to decorate," Mary Jean said. "It depends on my time and what I'm having to do."

Both metal and plastic cookie cutters are used by Mary Jean. She said she prefers the open top ones, since dough seems to stick to the ones with tops, making it harder to cut out the cookies.

Mary Jean makes her own icing. She stores the batches in a refrigerator with each color stored in its own sealed container such as a margarine container. She uses the same icing recipe to ice cakes.

Of all the cookie recipes Mary Jean makes, she likes the Amish sugar cookies best. "They just seem to melt in your mouth," she said. "They were my daddy's favorite." Her late husband Grady's favorite cookies were Dish Pan cookies so named because it makes such a big batch that they are mixed in a dish pan. The recipe came from her sister who taught home economics. "They're kind of nutritious," said Mary Jean. "They have oats, Rice Krispies, corn flakes, pecans, coconut, and dates. They make a big, big batch, but you can freeze them and they keep for months."

"He went around advertising my cookies," Mary Jean laughingly recalled. "I always kept 'em made for him in the freezer and if somebody came by, they'd make some coffee and he'd get the cookies out."

On the sharing recipes of her special confections, Mary Jean remarked, "I hope it will inspire others to do something like that." She has been told by a number of people that they now make cookie baking or candy making an annual event. Della Hellman and her daughter Jenny get together to make peanut patties from Mary Jean's recipe. Robin Young Links contacted Mary Jean for her cookies recipes years ago. Robin gets the cookie dough ready and chilled, and gathers her sisters, mother, nieces, and other interested

family members to decorate Christmas cookies. They look forward to this fun Christmas tradition each year. "They say they just have a lot of fun doing that," mentioned Mary Jean. Robin was one of Mary Jean's Sunday School students who especially enjoyed the decorated cookies.

Just this Thanksgiving, Mary Jean's son Brent decided that it was time that he learned how to make his mother's special cookies. He isn't married, and does his own cooking and cleaning. Brent prefers his cookies sans icing, so he didn't decorate the ones he made. His mother said, "He only tried the simple ones. They turned out pretty well. He burned a few and got a few too thick."

Often Mary Jean will bake birthday cakes. She recalls a special one she made for a

preacher at Marysville who was being honored with a birthday luncheon. The cake she made looked like a Bible. She said he thought it was the most wonderful thing he'd ever seen and he didn't want to cut it. He actually took it home whole and showed it to everybody.

Many people who have a problem while baking call Mary Jean for advice. She also gets many calls for her recipes.

The "Cookie Lady" is a Cooke County native who was raised in the Mountain Springs Burns City area. She married Grady McElreath in 1952 and they moved north of Muenster where she still lives today. Her observation, "I've learned that the more you do something, the easier it gets and the better you can make it look."

Mary Jean's Sugar Cookies

3 cups sifted flour	1 3/4 cups sugar
2 tsp. baking powder	1 tsp. vanilla
1 tsp. salt	1 egg
1/2 cup shortening	1/2 tsp. milk
1/2 cup oleo	

Sift flour, measure, sift again with baking powder and salt. Cream shortening and oleo with sugar until light and fluffy. Add vanilla, egg, and milk. Beat thoroughly; add flour mixture. (If egg is small, this may not be enough liquid. Add a few drops of milk at a time until dough is stiff, but not crumbly.) Chill dough at least one hour. Divide into thirds. Take out one part and leave the other two in refrigerator. Roll on floured pastry cloth to 1/8 inch thick. Cut into desired shapes. Bake on greased cookie sheet at 375°F for about 8 minutes, or until cookies are brown around edges. Remove immediately cookie sheet.

Cake Flour Frosting

3/4 cup cake flour	3/4 cup cold water
1/2 tsp. salt	1 1/2 tsp. white vanilla
1 cup Crisco	1/2 tsp. butter flavoring
2 lbs. powdered sugar	

Beat Crisco until creamy. Beat in salt and flavorings and cake flour until well blended and creamy. Gradually add powdered sugar, alternating with cold water. Beat for several minutes until very creamy. Color as desired. NOTE: Do not substitute regular flour; only cake flour and Crisco make the right quality.

Helpful Hints

Chill cookie dough at least one hour before baking. Use a pastry cloth instead of a board. Use a wide spatula to pick up cookies and put on baking sheet. Take out about 1/3 of dough at a time to roll. Keep remaining dough in refrigerator. Take scraps of dough and refrigerate. After you have rolled and cut all dough, combine scraps. Then re-roll and cut. Always put cookies on cool cookie sheet. Roll cookies thin if you want a crisp cookie. If you want your icing white, use white vanilla. If you are going to color your icing, it is all right to use brown vanilla. When coloring icing, use paste color, not liquid. Use a toothpick to dip out color. This will keep you from getting too much color. A little goes a long way. It takes more color to get a pretty red, but be careful. Too much red color will make icing bitter. If you want to color icing black, color it blue first, then add black. Don't decorate on a day with high humidity. Cookies will get soft and icing won't dry. After decorating cookies, let set until dry. You can make cookies ahead of time, at your convenience, and freeze them until you want to decorate them. You can also bake and decorate, and then freeze them. If you freeze after decorating, be sure icing is dry before freezing. Place decorated cookies in airtight containers. Put wax paper between layers. You can get decorating supplies and cookie cutters at Walmart, some Penny's, Montgomery Wards, and Sears stores and probably many others. You can also order from Wilton's. You can get seasonal cookie cutters at Hallmark stores. Also at the Kitchen Collection in the Prime Outlet Mall.

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TIGERS

.....cont. from pg. 1

"At the game, they were losing 14-0, but by the end of it they won 28-14," recalled Phillip. "They fought and they came back. During that whole game, I didn't see, from my point of view, a single Tiger give up. They fought and they fought, and they won."

"After the game, we all went down to the field and I was congratulating all my friends. I asked them, 'How do you feel about your school and all?' They looked at me almost like, are you kidding me." Their response on the pride and spirit of the Sacred Heart Tigers caught his attention because he's asked other kids that same question and gotten responses more like, "It's okay, I don't feel the pride or anything."

While on his way home, Phillip was struck with a desire to capture that moment in time. He did research on Siberian Tigers. He tried some sketches, but was not satisfied.

He watched a second game and, at the suggestion of his friend Eryn, decided to draw the team in tiger form, but still wasn't sure how to do the whole sketch. At the third game he attended, Phillip was inspired as he watched the halftime performance about to take place. He would do the players all lined up. The dance team would be on the right and the cheerleaders on the left. He decided to do a rock formation in a heart shape. In the middle he drew a waterfall. Phillip said that he put Jesus there because He guided him throughout the way giving him direction with what to do with the sketch. He then decided to include the people of Muenster. He drew small tigers and in the background some adults. He drew different size families from three to 12. He drew small tigers to represent the kids of Muenster that he saw playing around the football field and who greeted him even though he was a stranger.

Phillip continued, "I drew on the right side a hill that represented the road to Calvary and on top of the hill is a tree shaped like a cross. To the right of the tree is a single tiger and I drew that to be the priest of Sacred Heart, Fr. Ken. The eight blue tigers represent all the people of the past of Muenster. The small little tiger cubs represent the future of Sacred

Heart. Then the Tigers, the cheerleaders, and the dance team represent the present. I was able to show the past, the present, and the future." He also added a goal post, a football, himself, and another of his friends. There are two guys in camo hidden in the grass with a lens showing. A black mustang stands for the natural wild pride, he said. There is a white tiger to represent peace and hope.

Phillip has never had an art lesson. His talent comes naturally. His mother draws humans realistically and his dad draws cartoons. Most of the family members have the ability to draw. "Seventy-five percent goes to Jesus and the other 25% goes to my three friends Eryn Moody, Elizabeth, and Ashley Coleman, and to my two friends Mr. and Mrs. Kyle who drove me out the last time because my car was having difficulty and it was the last game I could make," said Phillip.

On the back of the picture, Phillip wrote the day that he began the drawing Sept. 4, and the day he ended it, Nov. 4. He had it completed only a day and a half before delivering it to Muenster. Also, on the back of the picture are more than 500 lines that Phillip drew with hopes that every Sacred Heart student, teacher, and others involved with Sacred Heart Catholic

School this school year will sign it.

Phillip said that he is really into nature and loves to draw it, but doesn't plan to make art his career. It is his goal to attend medical school. "I did it for the pleasure of it to capture my

friends and my memories so that I remember all of them," he commented.

Dr. Rondon remarked of Phillip, "He's such a nice gentle soul that you can't imagine him ever saying or doing anything mean or wicked. And the kids say that. They

regulate their own behavior around him because they feel ashamed to do anything bad around him."

Most members of the football team, dance team, and cheerleaders can point to the tiger in the drawing that portrays them. The football

players have their numbers to help, the others can tell by their stance or facial expression. "He definitely is an observer of human beings," said the principal.

"This was a labor of love that he's giving to our school," remarked Dr. Rondon. "We're going to hang this in a place of honor with a picture of him on one side and a story of this painting on the other."

Phillip remarked, "I hope that everyone will enjoy it. I have a small picture of it, and I want to e-mail Mr. Rondon a description of everything that picture is because I want to do it in a way that that picture doesn't tell one story of the 2009 Sacred Heart Tigers, but tells multiple stories. Each one of those Tigers, each football player, each dance team member has a story to tell. I might not know the story and they might know a little bit of the story, but God knows the full story. God was by my side the whole time I was drawing this, and I believe it was a way for God to point out that these people have a story to tell others."



Last Thursday, students from Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School (above) shared their Christmas spirit in a music program "On This Christmas Day" under the direction of their Music Instructor Clint Kelly. Preschool and Primary Montessori students (below) captured the audiences' attention that evening when they presented "A Not Christmas Program: Our School Holidays in Song." It was also directed by Mr. Kelly. Janet Felderhoff photos



Bailey wins 6th place

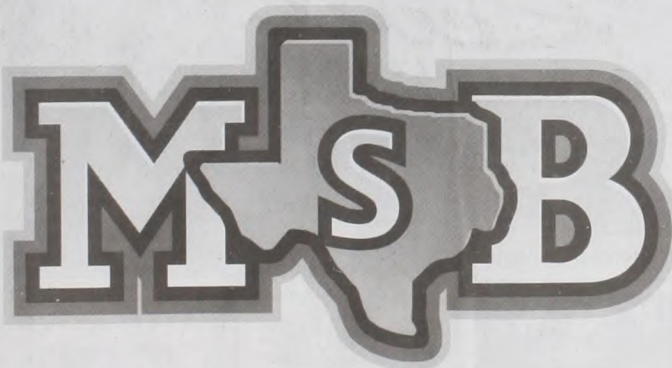


Bailey Walterscheid

Bailey Walterscheid, Sacred Heart Catholic School 8th Grade student, won sixth place in the State VFW Patriot's Pen contest. She will receive a \$500 savings bond as the District I first place winner. Her essay was sponsored locally by the Ladies Auxiliary and VFW #6205.

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December "Teachers and Students of the Month" at Muenster ISD included, from left, front - 2nd Grader Jenna Hudspeth; back - Elementary Principal Lou Heers, HS History/English Teacher Becky Felderhoff, 8th Grader Cole Walterscheid, Senior Levi Trubenbach, 3rd Grade Teacher Dianne Endres, and JH/HS Assistant Principal Sharon Browning. MISD photo

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SPORTS

Sacred Heart teams gain victories

The Tigerettes (11-2) and Tigers (9-1) both made improvements to their season records with victories on the court last weekend.

The Tigers traveled to Chico last Friday, bringing home a 66-42 win over the Dragons. "Our defense was a step up and our ball movement was excellent," said Coach Jon LeBrasseur.

John Krawietz led the scoring with 17 points. Garrett Berend added 9 and also pulled down nine rebounds. Jae Im and Matt Hesse each added 8 points, with Kyle Knabe and Patrick Mojica scoring 6 apiece. Ian Barnhill added 5 points, Greyson Evans 4, and David Miller 3. Mojica also dished out 12 assists and had 9 steals.

SH 15 21 14 16 66
C 4 8 19 11 42

Saturday afternoon, Sacred Heart hosted Bethesda Christian, earning wins for the Tigerettes and Tigers.

In the girls game, Sacred Heart controlled the boards with a 53-29 win. "I am very pleased with where the team is at this time," commented Coach Jon. "To be 11-2 at Christmas is outstanding."

Kristin LeBrasseur led the team with 21 points and eight steals. Kaitlin Hesse added 8 points and pulled down eight rebounds. Kelsey Reeves also scored 8, with Sydney Hoedebeck adding 7, Rebekah Hesse 3 with eight assists, and 2 apiece by Devan Henry, Taylor Reiter, and Mikaela Bartush.

SH 11 17 12 13 53
B 9 7 7 6 29

The Tigers controlled most of the game in their 70-45 win over Bethesda. "We played 10 games in 16 days and have faced double digit deficits and injuries, and this team has never let up," noted Coach LeBrasseur. "The boys need a break

to rest their bodies and clear their minds. They are physically and mentally tired with all of the basketball information I have thrown at them in such a short time."

Kevin Kulle was high scorer with 25 points. Krawietz added 19, Im 9, Mojica 5,

Evans and Berend 4 apiece, and 2 each by Barnhill and Hesse.

Kulle and Krawietz were leading rebounders with 15 and 12. Mojica had nine assists and Kulle 4 steals.

SH 16 17 24 13 70
B 8 8 20 9 45



High flying Tiger - Sacred Heart Tiger John Krawietz goes in for two in a recent victory over Collinsville. The Sacred Heart teams will be competing in the Holiday Classic next week at NCTC.

Janie Hartman photo

Knights, Lady Knights split wins

The Lindsay Lady Knights lost a hard fought game in Decatur Dec. 15 to the 3A Lady Eagles in overtime. Final score was 39-36. Lindsay had the lead through most of the game, before allowing Decatur to tie after four.

Cammie Neu led Lindsay with 14 points. Jessica Block added 7, Allison Metzler and Megan Caillier 5 each, Kristin Martin 3, and Katie Dieter 2 points.

Caillier, Neu, and Dieter were leading rebounders. The Knights took a 44-33 win over Collinsville last week. Colton Hermes and

Ross Jones led the scoring with 11 and 10 points. Dax Fleitman added 6, Thomas Rohmer 5, Dawson Holt, and Austin Reiter each scored 4, and 2 apiece from Madison Parkhill and Travis Skinner.

On Monday, the Lady Knights came up short, 60-45 against 2A Aubrey, a top 20 ranked team. After falling behind early in the game, the

teams played even. 'Aubrey is a very good team and it was nice to see the girls fight hard throughout the entire ball game. It was definitely a team effort," noted Coach Don Neu.

Leading Lindsay on the scoreboard was Neu with 26 points. Caillier added 9, Block 5, Dieter and Metzler 4 apiece, and Martin 2.

Happiness is: a healthy mental attitude, a grateful spirit, a clear conscience, and a heart full of love.

JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL

Lindsay vs Decatur

The JV Lady Knights were slaughtered by Decatur last week 57-15. Scoring for Lindsay were Lucinda Krahl 6, Mandy Hess 4, Jordan Fleitman 3, and Katie Arendt 2.

Lindsay vs Collinsville

The young Knights took a 29-14 win over the Pirates. Jace Wann and Tanner Kuhn led Lindsay on the scoreboard with 8 points each. Dean Fleitman added

5, Brian Fortune and Hunter Goldworthy 3 each, and Chisam Reiter 2.

Sacred Heart vs Bethesda

The JV Tigers earned a 49-30 victory over Bethesda Saturday with a 2nd half defensive effort. Austin Springer led the Tiger scoring with 21 points. Ryan Felderhoff added 8, with Chad Walterscheid and Josh Biffle each scoring 6. A.J. Miller and John Paul Hesse scored

4 points each.
SH 12 10 10 17 49
B 12 8 6 4 30

Lindsay vs Aubrey

The JV Lady Knights fell to Aubrey on Monday 50-38. "The girls did a good job, as we have several battling illness. But they played hard through it all," said Coach Don Neu. Jordan Fleitman was high scorer in the game with 21 points. Katie Arendt added 8, Lucinda Krahl 7, and Brianna Sandmann 2.

MUENSTER YOUTH BASKETBALL

Red vs Gold

The 5th and 6th grade boys division Red and Gold teams played a very close game on Dec. 12, ending in a 19-18 win for the Reds.

Blayne Jones and Brennan Binder led the Red scoring with 6 points each. Sawyer Sanders added 4, Zane Kemp 2, and Justin Ashley 1.

High scorer for the Gold team was Adam Wolf with 8 points.

R 7 6 2 4 19
G 4 6 4 4 18

Blue vs Gold

"What a nail biter!" said Coach Dan McGrew in the 16-15 final game in 3rd and 4th grade boys division action. The lead changed over the first two periods followed by a tie at the end of the 3rd period. A foul at the 11 second mark and a 1 point shot gave the Red team the lead. Blue scrambled with an unsuccessful close shot to give Red the win.

Scoring for the Red was Stetson McGrew with 6 points, Ethan Flaming 5, Parker McGrew 3, and Roy Endres 2.

Brandon Sicking led the Blue with 6. Carson Trubebach added 4, with Colton Dangelmayr and Robert Hanson each scoring 2, and Collin Knabe 1.

B 2 5 4 4 15
R 3 2 6 5 16

Game Warden Report

Uncertified hunter accidentally shoots self:

On Oct. 24, an Upshur County game warden was notified of a subject who had been shot while hog hunting. While walking through the woods, the group of four had decided to shoot at some cans. The victim had a piece of hot brass go down his shirt and, when he tried to remove it, he accidentally shot himself with a .45-caliber handgun. Nobody in the hunting party had hunter education or a hunting license. Charges pending for failure to show hunter education.

Black vs Gold

In a very physical game, the Era Gold team defeated Nocona Black 26-19 in girls 5th and 6th grade division. Sarah Binford led Gold with 13, and Jackson scored 14 for Black.

B 5 4 4 6 19
G 8 4 7 7 26

Gold vs White

On Dec. 19, the 3rd and 4th grade girls Gold team from Era defeated the White team from Lindsay 12-9.

The Gold team had six players score 2 points each. Scorers for Lindsay were Alaina Klement and Karlye Case 4 apiece, and Sarah Corcoran 1.

"The 12 Days of Christmas"

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. It is said that someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song to help young Catholics learn their faith. The memory-and-foresight game sung by the children had two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
- Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
- Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.
- The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
- The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

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Photos by
 Janie Hartman

FARM & RANCH

Advantages and disadvantages of having two calving seasons

Oklahoma producers have many alternatives for calving seasons. Basically spring and fall have become the seasons of choice, but tremendous differences exist as to what months within each of those seasons are the primary months for most of the calves to be born.

Deciding on the use of one calving season or two calving seasons is a big first step. Many fall calving seasons have arisen from elongated spring seasons. Two calving seasons fit best for herds with more than 80 cows. To take full advantage of the economies of scale, a ranch needs to produce at least 20 steer calves in the same season to realize the price advantage associated with increased lot size. Therefore, having 40 cows in each season as a minimum seems to make some sense. Using two seasons instead of just one can reduce bull costs a great deal. Properly developed and cared-for bulls can be used in both the fall and the spring, therefore reducing the bull battery by half.

Another small advantage to having two calving seasons is the capability of taking fall-born heifers and holding them another few months to go in to the spring season and visa versa. Because of this replacement, heifers are always two and a half years at first calving instead of two years old. These heifers should be more likely to breed early in the breed-

ing season and have slightly less calving difficulty. Research has shown that these differences are very small, therefore the cost of the other six months feed must be minimal to make this a paying proposition.

Many producers like the dual calving seasons because of the spread of the marketing risk. Having half of the calf crop sold at two different times allows for some smoothing of the cattle cycle roller coaster ride. Heifers that are exposed to the bull or the insemination gun for the first time when they are about 18 months of age will be too old to go directly to the feedlot if they fail to breed.

Therefore the culled, open heifers will be marketed as young cows and will sell for a much lower (about \$30/cwt lower) price than culled heifers that were to be bred at 13 to 15 months of age. Ranchers that use two breeding seasons need to consider this price discount when deciding to hold the heifers that extra six months before putting them in the breeding pasture.

There are "pros and cons" to two breeding seasons. There are successful cow calf operations with one OR with two breeding seasons. *Source: Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Extension cattle reproduction specialist*

Five attend convention



Five Cooke County Farm Bureau members attended the 76th Annual Texas Farm Bureau Convention on Dec. 5-7 in Fort Worth; back - Edwin Knight, Kenneth Sicking, Robert Klement; front - Ann Knight and Gloria Klement. Courtesy photo

Live cattle imports from Mexico increase

The United States is expected to import 1.9 million head of cattle in 2009, a 17% decrease from last year. Canada and Mexico, the two significant foreign markets for live cattle, have different outlooks. Good weather conditions this summer and fall that kept cattle in Mexico have led to an increase in imports in recent weeks, as conditions are now becoming drier. In contrast, U.S. imports from Canada have been much lower than in the past few years, as lower beef demand in the United States and a stronger Canadian dollar have taken away the higher potential returns for Canadian producers marketing in the United States.

According to weekly AMS reports, U.S. live cattle imports from Mexico have been strengthening since early November. Most Mexican cattle are imported into the United States in the fourth quarter as pasture in Mexico begins to deteriorate seasonally, and are marketed to U.S. stocker operations and feedlots. After more than adequate rainfall in late summer and early fall in Mexico, drier conditions in November likely initiated the increase of Mexican cattle entering the U.S. market. Through October, year-to-date imports are 40% higher than 2008, which was an exceptionally low year due to unusually good weather conditions in Mexico. Year-to-date imports are 19% lower than 2007 imports, which is a more comparable year in terms of weather conditions.

In 2009, the United States has seen fewer cattle imported from Canada, relative to the past couple of years. Through October, year-to-date imports are 35% lower than 2008. Decreased demand for beef in the United States and a relatively strong

Canadian dollar have led to smaller returns for Canadian producers considering marketing their feeder or fed cattle in the United States. Typically, stronger demand for cattle in the United States and a better return with a stronger U.S. dollar provide incentives for Canadian producers to market in the United States. According to weekly AMS reports, the price difference between Canadian and U.S. markets—in U.S. dollar terms—is the smallest in three years. As a result, fewer Canadian cattle have been exported to the United States this fall, particularly feeder cattle.

Even with concerns of dry weather in prominent Canadian cattle feeding regions and the threat of low forage supplies, indications are that

more feeder cattle are staying in Canada. CanFax reports show increased feedlot inventories in Alberta and Saskatchewan relative to last year's levels. Feedlot placements were weaker in the spring months compared with the same months in previous years, perhaps as significant changes in exchange rates affected the prices of imported feedstuffs and the potential returns for exported cattle and beef. Consequently, marketings in Canada have begun to trend downward in the fourth quarter. This should continue through the duration of this year and into the first quarter of 2010. However, the increased placements this fall should result in more Canadian production, and potentially more exports, by the second quarter of 2010.



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Feeder Steers (per lb.) 200-300 lbs. No. 1, 1.10-1.23; Nos. 2 & 3, 1.00-1.10; 300-400 lbs. No. 1, 1.07-1.20; Nos. 2 & 3, .90-1.07; 400-500 lbs. No. 1, 1.02-1.15; Nos. 2 & 3, .80-1.02; 500-600 lbs. No. 1, .93-1.11; Nos. 2 & 3, .75-.93; 600-700 lbs. No. 1, .88-.94; Nos. 2 & 3, .70-.88; 700-800 lbs. No. 1, .82-.89; Nos. 2 & 3, .60-.82; Feeder Heifers (per lb.) 200-300 lbs. No. 1, .91-1.04; Nos. 2 & 3, .80-.91; 300-400 lbs. No. 1, .88-1.00; Nos. 2 & 3, .70-.82; 400-500 lbs. No. 1, .76-.82; Nos. 2 & 3, .70-.76; 500-600 lbs. No. 1, .70-.77; Nos. 2 & 3, .50-.70; Slaughter Cattle (per lb.) Slaughter Bulls: Yield Grade #1-2, 1.200-2.050 lbs., .49-.61; Slaughter Cows #1&3, 43-5450; Cuts: 20-42	Stocker Cows (per head) Pregnancy-tested, 3 to 9-year-olds - Large Frame: \$700-\$860; Medium Frame: \$450-\$700 Cow/Calf Pairs w/calves under 250 lbs. - Large Frame: \$800-\$1010; Medium Frame: \$650-\$800 Baby Calves: Holstein: \$35-\$60; Cross Breeds: \$70-\$185 Barrows & Gilts (per lb.) US #1, 230-270: 50-56; US #2, 220-250: 45-50 Feeders (per head): Med. wt. 500-600: 30-32; Heavy wt. 600+: 30-33 Boars (per lb.) 300 lb. up: 05-0750; 200-300 lbs.: 10-15; Light wt.: 30-45 Sheep (per lb.) Feeder lambs: 40-60 lbs., 1.00-1.20; Light lambs: 60-80 lbs., .95-1.15; Fat lambs: 90-120 lbs., .95-1.00	Ewes (per lb.) Stocker: NT, Thin: NT, Fat: NT Bucks (per lb.) Thin: NT; Fat: NT Barbards (per head) Lambs: \$25-\$65; Ewes: \$35-\$65; Bucks: \$65-\$155 Goats (per head) Kids: 20-35 lbs. \$20-\$40; 35-55 lbs. \$30-\$75; 55-75 lbs. \$50-\$90 Yearlings (per head) 75-120 lbs. \$70-\$120 Nannies (per head) Stocker: \$50-\$100; Milk Type: \$35-\$115; Slaughter: \$55-\$90; Thin: \$20-\$40 Billies (per head) 120 lbs. up Breeders: \$120-\$155; Slaughter: \$75-\$120 Boer Goats (per head) 1/2 Nanny: \$65-\$90; 3/4 Nanny: \$65-\$90; Full Nanny: \$85-\$135; 1/2 Billy: NT; 3/4 Billy: NT; Full Billy: \$120-\$165
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Gainesville, TX

Putting a face on the beef industry

In efforts to continue proactive outreach, the Texas Beef Council (TBC) teamed up with the Texas Farm Bureau to develop a video utilizing beef farmers and ranchers to tell the beef production story. The goal of the video is to educate consumers about the beef industry in order to dispel myths about modern beef production practices related specifically to animal welfare, the environment, nutrition, and food safety.

The Texas Farm Bureau is pleased to partner with the Texas Beef Council (TBC) to tell the stories of the fami-

lies involved in Texas beef production," said Gene Hall, Texas Farm Bureau public relations director. "Their commitment to the land and their heritage, both passed down from preceding generations, is truly inspiring."

Interviews were conducted with three beef industry families focusing on the dedication and commitment of beef producers. The video takes consumers on a virtual journey visiting the R.A. Brown Ranch, Texana Feeders, and Star Ridge Land and Cattle Company.

"TBC was fortunate enough to work with Texas

Farm Bureau to produce a first-rate video that will lend itself to multiple uses within the Texas beef industry," said Richard Wortham, TBC executive vice president. "The video will help put a face on our industry and allow consumers to better understand the hard work and dedication cattle producers put in each and every day to supply not only the U.S., but the world, with a safe and wholesome product."

The video is featured on TxBeef.org in a new section titled "The Beef Story". It will also be utilized at various TBC events and semi-

nars. Cattle organizations and beef industry groups are encouraged to utilize the video in their efforts to combat animal agriculture activists and explain the beef production process.

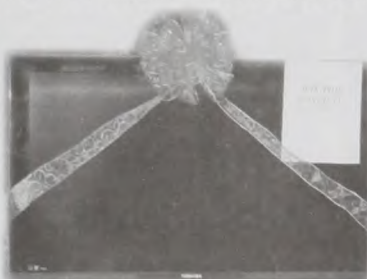
For more information on this and other checkoff-funded programs, please visit www.TexasBeef.org or call 1-800-846-4113.

Interest in ACRE is low

Interest in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) plan. USDA said 128,620 farms (7.7%) opted for ACRE for 2009.

In the preliminary results, total enrollment in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and ACRE is 255 million base acres on 1.7 million farms. ACRE enrollment covers about 13% of base acres, according to USDA.

- Other highlights:
- Corn had the highest number of base acres enrolled, followed by wheat and soybeans.
 - It's not a cotton or rice program. Eight rice farms and 966 cotton farms opted for ACRE.
 - Illinois had the most farms enroll, followed by Iowa, Nebraska and Oklahoma.
- Source: Pro Farmer*



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Christmas service schedules

<p>First Baptist Church</p> <p><i>Christmas Eve</i> 6 p.m.</p> <p><i>BLESSINGS OF THE SEASON</i></p> <p><i>Christmas Day</i> 9 a.m.</p>	<p>Sacred Heart Church</p> <p><i>Christmas Eve</i> 4 p.m. 6 p.m. 8 p.m. 10:30 p.m.</p> <p><i>Christmas Day</i> 9 a.m.</p>	<p>St. Peter's Church</p> <p><i>Christmas Eve</i> 5 p.m. 11 p.m.</p> <p><i>Christmas Day</i> 9 a.m.</p>
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\$42,858
Rebate - 6,000
\$36,858^{+TTL}
TOTAL SAVINGS \$9,224⁰⁰



2009 CHEVY 1500 CREW CAB LS, V8
Stk.# 247201G
MSRP \$31,360
LM Discount - 1,786
\$29,574
Rebate - 6,500
\$23,074^{+TTL}
TOTAL SAVINGS \$8,286⁰⁰



2010 GMC ACADIA
Stk.# 102683G
MSRP \$32,615
LM Discount - 1,201
\$31,414
Rebate - 3,000
\$28,414^{+TTL}
TOTAL SAVINGS \$4,201⁰⁰

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- 2006 Buick LaCrosse CXL Dark Garnet Metallic #265286G \$12,900
- 2003 Buick Rendezvous CXL Olympic White #517332G \$7,897
- 2009 Chevrolet Cobalt LT w/2L Summit White #144068G \$12,900
- 2008 Chevrolet Malibu Classic LT Sandstone Metallic #136408G \$10,897
- 2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LS Crew Cab Silver Birch Metallic #357939G \$15,725
- 2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT1 Summit White #327046G \$17,900
- 2007 Chevrolet Tahoe LT Summit White #119868G \$26,900
- 2008 Dodge Ram 2500 Big Horn, Diesel 4x4 Brilliant Black Crystal Pearl #126261G \$30,900
- 2008 Ford F-150 FX4, Leather, Crew Cab Black #A61980G \$28,897
- 2008 Ford F-150 Lariat, 4x4, Crew Cab Black #E90806G \$27,897
- 2006 Ford F-150 STX, Regular Cab Silver Metallic #E05384G \$13,900
- 2003 GMC Envoy SLE Monterrey Maroon Metallic #325680G \$8,900
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- 2008 Mercury Grand Marquis LS Vibrant White #647229G \$15,788
- 2008 Pontiac Grand Prix Liquid Silver Metallic #148648G \$10,900
- 2007 Toyota Tacoma PreRunner, V6 Black Sand Pearl #419574G \$13,900



2009 CHEVY MALIBU LT2, SUNROOF, HEATED SEATS
Stk.# 243704G
MSRP \$28,315
LM Discount - 1,659
\$26,656
Rebate - 3,500
\$23,156^{+TTL}
TOTAL SAVINGS \$5,159⁰⁰



2009 CHEVY SUBURBAN LT2, LUXURY PACKAGE, CHROME WHEELS, SUNROOF
MSRP \$52,065
LM Discount - 4,291
\$47,774
Rebate - 6,500
\$41,274^{+TTL}
TOTAL SAVINGS \$10,791⁰⁰



2010 GMC SIERRA 1500 4X4, CREW CAB, ALL TERRAIN, LEATHER, HEATED SEATS, Z71, 6.2L V8
MSRP \$49,394
LM Discount - 2,694
\$46,700
Rebate - 4,500
\$42,200^{+TTL}
TOTAL SAVINGS \$7,194⁰⁰

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- 2008 Chevrolet Malibu LT Tan #P3742S \$13,967
- 2009 Toyota Corolla LE Tan #P3743S \$13,967
- 2009 Chevrolet Cobalt LT Coupe Silver #P3745S \$12,984
- 2010 Chevrolet Camaro SS Red #P5886AS \$35,905
- 2008 Chevrolet Malibu 2LT Maroon #5894AS \$15,933
- 2005 Chevrolet Trailblazer LS Blue #P3717S \$9,973
- 2007 Chevrolet HHR LT Black #P3699BS \$10,971
- 2003 Chevrolet Trailblazer LS 4x4 Gray #5630AS \$7,982
- 2009 Chevrolet HHR LT Red #P3738S \$12,966
- 2007 Jeep Rubicon 4x4 Silver #P3739S \$24,963
- 2007 GMC Yukon Denali XL Black #P3748S \$36,904
- 2008 Chevrolet HHR LT Black #5866AS \$12,863
- 2009 Buick Enclave CXL White #65500S \$32,966
- 2003 Ford F-150 XLT Crew Cab Gray #5808AS \$9,982
- 2008 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Z71 Crew Cab Silver #P3728S \$28,987
- 2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT Ext. Cab Red #5458BS \$13,942
- 2008 GMC Sierra 1500 Z71 Reg. Cab Blue #P3736S \$22,461
- 2008 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LS Crew Cab 4x4 Black #CFT133S \$24,877
- 2008 Dodge Ram 1500 SLT Crew Cab Black #CFT130S \$18,852
- 2008 Dodge Ram 1500 Crew Cab Blue #CFT132S \$19,641
- 2008 Ford F-250 King Ranch Crew Cab, 4x4, Diesel White #P3741 \$38,966
- 2007 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 LT Crew Cab, Duramax White 5787AS \$28,918
- 2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Reg. Cab Pewter #P3747S \$10,987
- 2008 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT Crew Cab Blue #5789AS \$21,987
- 2008 Chevrolet Silverado 3500 LT Crew Cab, Duramax Red #5884AS \$28,573
- 2009 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 LTZ Crew Cab, 4x4 Black #5900AS \$36,853
- 2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT Crew Cab Gold #5795CS \$16,983
- 2009 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 LTZ Crew Cab, 4x4, Duramax Maroon #5803AS \$43,688
- 2007 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Reg. Cab Pewter #5923AS \$11,967
- 2009 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LS Ext. Cab White #P3750S \$19,871



2009 CHEVY TAHOE LTZ DEMO
Stk.# 5533S
MSRP \$53,980
LM Discount - 6,583
\$47,397
Rebate - 6,500
\$40,897^{+TTL}
TOTAL SAVINGS \$13,083⁰⁰



2010 CHEVY MALIBU LT
Stk.# 5783S
MSRP \$23,700
LM Discount - 1,511
\$22,189
Rebate - 2,000
\$20,189^{+TTL}
TOTAL SAVINGS \$3,511⁰⁰



2009 CHEVY HHR LT
Stk.# 5588S
MSRP \$23,350
LM Discount - 1,668
\$21,682
Rebate - 2,500
\$19,182^{+TTL}
TOTAL SAVINGS \$4,168⁰⁰



2010 CHEVY TRAVERSE 2LT
Stk.# 5817S
MSRP \$35,100
LM Discount - 1,202
\$33,898
Rebate - 3,000
\$30,898^{+TTL}
TOTAL SAVINGS \$4,202⁰⁰

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Dr. Pepper \$2.99
Bud or Bud Light Coors or Coors Light, or Miller Lite Beer \$20.99

Health & Beauty Care

WESTERN FAMILY SELECT GROUP MEDICINE Children's Triacting 4 OZ. 2 \$5	WESTERN FAMILY SELECT GROUP MEDICINE Children's Cold/Cough/Allergy 4 OZ. 2 \$5	WESTERN FAMILY Tussin DM 8 OZ. 2 \$7	REG., WILD CHERRY, OR CHILDREN'S CHERRY Sucrets Lozenges 18 CT. \$2.19	ASSORTED SHAMPOO OR CONDITIONER TREsème 25-32 OZ. \$3.99	ASSORTED VARIETIES PADS OR TAMPONS Kotex 14-64 CT. \$3.29
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Fischer's Quality Meats

	PREFERRED TRIM T-Bone Steaks \$4.99 LB.
	PREFERRED TRIM Porterhouse Steaks \$5.99 LB.

	PILGRIM'S PRIDE GRADE "A" WHOLE Cut-Up Chicken 99¢ LB.	
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FRESH Ground Round LB. \$2.69	MEATY SHOULDER Country Style Pork Ribs LB. \$1.39	BEAR CREEK CHUNK Salt Pork 12 OZ. \$1.99	EL MONTEREY SHREDDED BEEF OR CHICKEN Taquito's 30 OZ. \$4.99	PILGRIM'S PRIDE Buffalo Wings 2 LB. \$6.99	ASIAN GOLD - WITH COCKTAIL SAUCE Shrimp Ring 10 OZ. \$3.99	SELECTED VARIETIES MEAT Bar S Franks 12 OZ. 69¢	REGULAR OR THICK SLICED Bar S Bacon 12 OZ. \$1.79	BAR S SELECTED VARIETIES DELI SLICED Turkey or Ham 9 OZ. 2 \$4	EL MONTEREY Burritos or Chimichangas 32 OZ. 2 \$6	EL MONTEREY ENCHILADAS OR Mexicana Style Entrées 40 OZ. \$5.99	COUNTRY CREEK REGULAR OR HOT Pork Cracklins 8 OZ. \$2.79	GOURMET FRESH SELECTED VARIETIES Stir Fry Dinners 28-32 OZ. \$4.99	SUPREME OR PEPPERONI 2 PACK 14 INCH MaMa Rosa's Pizzas 46.6 OZ. \$4.99	WHOLLY GUACAMOLE ORIGINAL OR SPICY Guacamole 14 OZ. \$2.99	CARRIAGE HOUSE Chicken Breast Bites 2 LB. \$2.99	MARKET SLICED Chopped Ham LB. \$2.19	MARKET SLICED Pressed Ham LB. \$2.49	MARKET SLICED Boiled Ham LB. \$1.99	MARKET SLICED Colby Longhorn LB. \$3.09	MARKET SLICED Cheddar Longhorn LB. \$3.69	MARKET SLICED Colby Jack Longhorn LB. \$3.09	ASIAN GOLD 26/30 Raw Shrimp 2 LB. \$12.09	ASIAN GOLD 41/50 Cooked Shrimp 2 LB. \$11.39
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Fresh Produce

LARGE FRESH Avocados 3 FOR \$2	MPK FOODS, MILD OR SPICY Guacamole Mix 1 OZ. 69¢	TEXAS Grapefruit 3 FOR \$1	PREMIUM SPICY HOT PEPPERS Jalapeños LB. 59¢	FRESH Yellow Onions 2 LBS. \$1	FRESH BUNCH Cilantro 3 FOR \$1	FRESH Jumbo Garlic 4 FOR \$1	TANGY Lemons 4 FOR \$1	JUICY Limes 5 FOR \$1	ROMAINE, RED, OR GREEN Leaf Lettuce EACH 99¢	ROASTED OR ROASTED AND SALTED Peanuts 1 LB. 2 \$3	DOLE ORIGINAL OR LOWFAT Caesar Salad Kits 10 OZ. 2 \$5	LARGE GREEN Bell Peppers 3 FOR \$1
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Dairy & Frozen Foods

BLUE BUNNY ASSORTED FLAVORS Ice Cream 56 OZ. SQUARE 2 \$6	RANCH, GREEN ONION, OR FRENCH ONION Kraft Dips 8 OZ. 5 \$5	SHURFINE LIME, ORANGE, OR RAINBOW Sherbet HALF GAL. 2 \$5	BEEF MINI TACOS El Charritos 18 OZ. 2 \$7	ASSTD. SPRING ROLLS, EGG ROLLS, OR MINI EGG ROLLS Chung's 10-12 OZ. 2 \$4	ASSORTED VARIETIES Jeno's Pizza 7.2-7.8 OZ. 10 \$10	SELECT GROUP APPETIZERS T.G.I. Friday's 7.6-12 OZ. \$2.99	BUTTERFLY, JUMBO BUTTERFLY, OR SCAMPI SeaPak Shrimp 9-16 OZ. \$4.99	SHURFINE WHIPPED OR ASSORTED SOFT Cream Cheese Spread 8 OZ. 2 \$3	ASSORTED VARIETIES Sunny D Punch 64 OZ. 4 \$5
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