



County Star-News

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Wheeler County, Texas

Thursday, July 29, 2010

AREA ROUNDUP Old Mobeetie celebrates a day of history

Thursday Night Under the Neon

Thursday Night Under the Neon has been a huge success with one more night's performance in July and four Thursdays scheduled in August.

All performances begin at 8:30 p.m. and end at approximately 10 p.m.

Entertainers and dates are:

- July 29 - Jason Fellers
- August 5 - Faithful Brothers
- August 12 - A.J. Swope
- August 19 - Tom Velasquez, Luke Whaley and Jamie Hand
- August 26 - All-Star Jam

Under the Neon is held every Thursday at the U-Drop Inn in Shamrock. Bring your lawn chairs and your toe tappin' shoes and remember to visit the concession stand while you are there as all monies go to support one of our non-profit groups. Look forward to seeing you all there.

Briscoe Ex-Students meet July 31 for all-school reunion

Briscoe Ex-students will be meeting in the new school building on July 31, 2010, for an all-school Briscoe reunion. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. Lunch will be catered by Mr. BBQ, Steve Walker, at \$9 per plate. There will be a short business meeting immediately following lunch and entertainment will be provided. The senior class will provide drinks and ice cream at the concession stand throughout the day. There will be meetings to get reacquainted on Friday night, July 30, 2010, at Tonya and Bill Finsterwald's for the classes of 1982-1986. Contact (806) 375-2168. Dick and Ruth Irvine's house for class of 1957. Contact (806) 826-5664. Ray and Glenda Hudson's house for the class of 1960. Contact (806) 375-2390. Plan to attend some of these meetings and renew your friendships.

This is a great opportunity to meet with your classmates and to get a view of the new school building that will open in August of 2010.

Mobeetie Ex-Student reunion scheduled in September 4

The Mobeetie Ex-Student reunion is set for September 4, 2010.

Saturday, September 4's activities begin with registration at 9:30 a.m. The parade will start at 10 a.m. on Main Street.

There will be a bar-b-que meal in the Mobeetie school gym at 1 p.m. with the business meeting to follow. Any class ending in 0 will be honored and there will be awards, door prizes and a quilt drawing. The quilt was made by ex-student Melba Simpson Darnell. The quilt is on display at the First State Bank in Mobeetie, where you may also purchase tickets.

The Mobeetie Volunteer Fire Department will host its second annual water polo tournament in front of the school beginning at 1 p.m. Trophies will be awarded to youth, ages 10-16 and in the men's and women's division also. The junior and senior classes will be selling ice cream and drinks throughout the day.

A dance will be held from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. at the gym.

Attend the church of your choice on Sunday.

Labor Day, September 6, meet at the Old Mobeetie Jail starting at 11 a.m., and enjoy a noon meal.

Wheeler little league football

Kids in grades 3-6 will be able to sign-up for little league football, Friday, July 30, at Wheeler City Park, beginning at 6 p.m.

For more information, contact Danny DeBose at (806) 216-0338.

Wee Irish Football sign-ups

If you have a child in the 3rd - 6th grade who is interested in playing football, the Wee Irish Football teams are looking for members. Registration will be held, Saturday, July 31, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Elmore Park. Registration fee is \$40. If you are unable to make it to the sign-ups, registration forms will be available at the Suddenlink Office, or you can contact Skeet Moon at (806) 334-0176 or Angie Eddleman at (806)334-0649.

Head for the high seas at Calvary Christian Fellowship VBS

Calvary Christian Fellowship is setting sail for Vacation Bible School on the high seas. Kids will feel the sea spray on their face as the sails snap overhead along with experiencing the deep rolling waters of God's love.

The High Seas Expedition will begin Monday, August 9 through August 13, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. nightly. Supper will be provided each night. Friday, August 13, will be family night and we encourage all parents to attend.

To make the check-in process easier, please pre-register at www.groupvbsspro.com/vbs/ez/ccfkids. For more information, contact the church at (806) 256-3090.

Medical fund set up at banks

A fund has been established at National Bank of Commerce and CitizensBANK for Eddy McMurry of Shamrock. These funds are to help off-set medical expenses associated with Eddy's cancer fight and recovery.

You can make donations to either bank in his name.

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by CANDY FERRIS

STAR-NEWS Reporter

Saturday, July 25, 2010, was marked as a day going down in the history books for residents of Old Mobeetie, Texas. The Old Mobeetie Jail Museum, in conjunction with the 2010 Old Mobeetie Music Festival, commemorated the re-

raising of the old Fort Elliott flag pole that was originally erected in 1875 at the fort, and flying the American flag for the first time in several years.

The original flag pole reached 61-feet in height. It consisted of two cedar poles fastened together. The bottom pole developed a crack near its' top about three years ago and was consequently taken down for safety reasons. The age of the pulley at the top had also made it impossible to raise a flag.

The ceremony began with Old Mobeetie Texas Association President, Joe VanZandt, stating that this was a long awaited day. "We have not been able to fly the flag for several years due to the damage of the pole, until today," he stated.

The solemn and reverent ceremony took place in front of the

old 1886 Mobeetie jail and featured members of the Frontier Regiment, 4th Cavalary 1870 re-enactment group, Col. Jimmy Northcutt, Cpl. Bill Miller, Pvt. Ken Fields, Pvt. Frank Willmon, Pvt. Tom McGee, Bugler Chris Larson, and Pvt. Ed Benz, raising and honoring the American flag with a sabre salute.

The idea of reconstructing the original pole was made possible by George "Rusty" Kilcrease of Mobeetie. "It was easy to tell the difference [in making it work]," he commented. "I took the original concept and used as much of the original blacksmith iron as I could. I figured out to put on the bottom ring, threading it through the top with pulleys, then telescoping to the top," he continued. "There were six men who helped to erect the windmill pulley with ropes, all by hand, and with no machines," he concluded.

Mr. VanZandt stated that the original missing wooden ball on the very top of the pole, along with the metal caps will be on display in the museum... and let the fun begin.



STAR-NEWS Photo/Candy Ferris

Cpl. Bill Miller and Pvt. Frank Willmon raise the American flag on the original pole that was erected at Fort Elliott in 1875. The pole has been restored by George "Rusty" Kilcrease, of Mobeetie. Mr. Kilcrease was able to re-constructed the original pole with original metal rings and pulleys. The American flag once again proudly waves.



STAR-NEWS Photo/Candy Ferris

George Kilcrease (center) presents the colors to Cpl. Bill Miller in preparation of the raising of the flag. Also pictured are (far left) inventor of the new pole, George "Rusty" Kilcrease, and Pvt. Frank Willmon.



STAR-NEWS Photo/Candy Ferris

Dedicated members of the Frontier Regiment, 4th Cavalary 1870 re-enactment group began the kick-off ceremonies of the 2010 Old Mobeetie Music Festival with a sabre salute, which is the most honored salute to the American flag. Pictured are (from left) Col. Jimmy Northcutt, Bugler, Chris Larson, Pvt. Ken Fields, Pvt. Tom McGee, Pvt. Ed Benz, Cpl. Bill Miller, and Pvt. Frank Willmon.

A morning with my grandpa

by CANDY FERRIS

STAR-NEWS Reporter

As I arrived at Old Mobeetie around 7:45 a.m., Saturday morning, July 25, the grounds were filled with campers and RV's everywhere I looked. The smell of fresh coffee and breakfast cooking filled the air. My hair blew in the warm, gentle breeze and I could hear birds singing along with the rustling of the leaves in the huge trees that surround the area. I saw more elderly people than young children

stirring around the grounds carrying lawn chairs to mark their favorite spot in front of the stage awaiting bluegrass bands to begin.

While I sat down on a log waiting for the re-dedication of the flag pole and flag ceremony to begin, I started watching people pass-by. I began thinking about what it was probably like to live back when they were young. I saw a man who was wearing a similar hat I remember seeing when I was about

10 years old, and I was taken away in my mind to my grandpa, who was born in the late 1800's. I also remembered him telling me long ago, of a time of hardships and hard labor in more ways than one. He told me about horses, buckboards, one-

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STAR-NEWS Photo/Candy Ferris

By 9 a.m., the grounds were filling up to wait for the start of the music festival. There were approximately 110 campers from across the United States, as well as those just making a day of it, who attended this yearly event.



STAR-NEWS Photo/Candy Ferris

Ernie and Oleta Austin of Amarillo, Texas, traveled to Old Mobeetie to listen to the sounds of seven great bands throughout the weekend, as well as celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary.

Shamrock EDC, City Council and Mi SWACO reach expansion agreement

by BETH FULLBRIGHT

STAR-NEWS Reporter

For five years, Mi SWACO (formerly Chem-Tech), an oilfield related business located at 103 South Madden, has been in operation in Shamrock. When it became apparent that they needed to expand their business, the Shamrock Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and the Shamrock City Council were eager to assist and create a feasible solution that will not only benefit Mi SWACO, but is also in the best interest of Shamrock.

Shamrock EDC Director David Rushing stated, "With the number of employees Mi SWACO has in Shamrock, it was to our benefit to help them as much as possible. It is the purpose of the EDC to not only recruit new businesses, but to help retain the businesses that already exist."

The EDC, City Council and Mi SWACO recently reached an expansion agreement which includes the construction of a 4,500 square foot warehouse and a 225' x 700' yard, to be constructed on south U.S. Hwy 83, just on the outskirts of Shamrock (located on the former El Paso Natural Gas prop-

erty). It is the goal of the Shamrock EDC to use as many local businesses as possible in completing this project. Shamrock architect, Lynn Ramsey, drew up the plans for the facility and locally owned and operated Reeder Construction won the bid to build the facility.

"Mi SWACO is very pleased to be a part of the community. Since 2005, Mi SWACO has hired and grown its employment base 225 percent. Mi

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