

Shoe, boot repair offered at shop on State Street

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

Only open since June 1, partners Scott Harman and Brett Olive of S-B Custom Leather, Norton, are staying busy creating and repairing all things leather.

The two young men met when they were college roommates in Alva, Okla.

Both were members of the college's rodeo team. Scott's parents are Ron Harman, Norcatur, and Renee Harman, Oberlin.

After college Scott worked on a ranch in Valentine, Neb., and learned leather working from one of the ranch hands. He, in turn, taught the trade to his friend, Brett.

Brett's parents are Jennifer and Rick Olive, Ford.

A third member of the partnership is Chase Braun, son of Herman and Phyllis Braun, Norton, who operate Romeo Saddlery out of the same location at 711 N. State Street.

Chase is a certified saddle maker.

Although not on the payroll, S-B Custom Leather has two irreplaceable assistants: Cinch, a miniature Australian shepherd and Diesel, an American bulldog. Conch and Diesel have full run of the shop and are friendly greeters to all customers who walk in the door.

Scott said, "If someone has a picture of what they want, we can make it." S-B Custom Leather not only repairs boots and shoes of all types, they also repair luggage, purses and belts. They also sew patches on leather vests. The two men make belts and purses, chaps;

both batwing (like rodeo pickup men wear) and shotgun style with tight, straight legs; and chinks, which are knee-length chaps. Also in their line are checkbook covers, cell phone holders, breast collars and pliers holders.

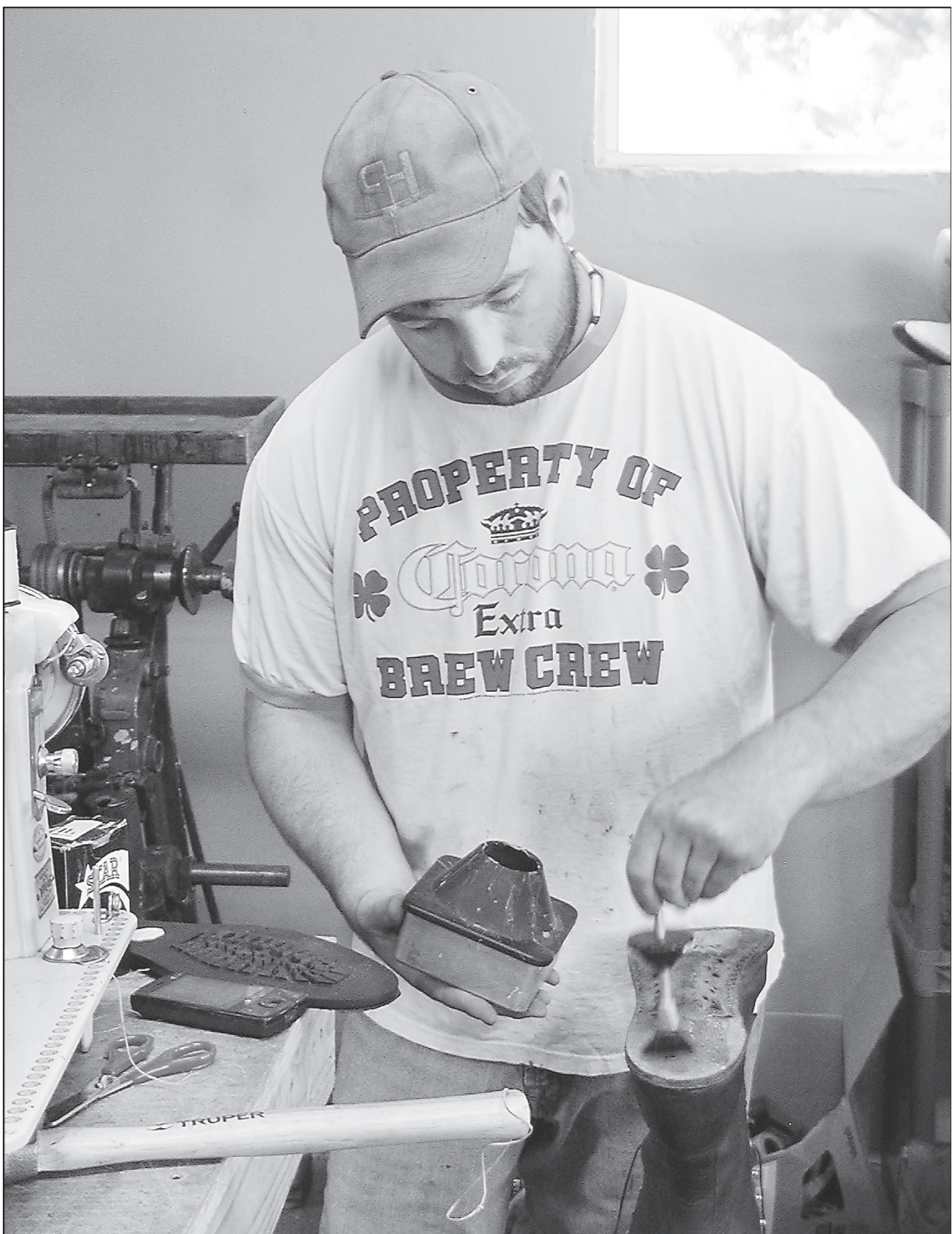
The mainstay of the business is shoe repair and both men agree they can easily tell the difference in quality between American-made and foreign-made boots. However, they add, if the leather is still in pretty good shape, they can repair it.

Plans for the business' future includes carrying more exotic animal hides. Scott said, "A lot of people like to use them for rugs." The men hope to be able to expand the shop to be more like the old-style leather shop. It is already an outlet for Anderson Bean Boots; both factory and handmade styles. Scott said, "We have boots that will fit everybody's budget."

The store also carries a line of distinctive western-style jewelry called By Tiffannie and straw, palm leaf and felt hats by Hatwood Hats.

The owners of S-B Custom Leather and Romeo Saddlery are anxious to fill the needs of the community. To learn more about the shop go to their website at: www.sbarbleather.com or call 620-339-9585 or 785-470-1244. If there is no answer, just leave a message. The store is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday unless the two have gone to a rodeo.

Then, as Scott said, "We'll leave a note on the door."



Scott Harman, one of the owners of S-B Custom Leather, Norton, worked on a boot in the new store located on North State Street. His partners are Brett Olive and Chase Braun.

-Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

County

(Continued From Page 1) bridges have been inspected and rated. Any bridge rated at 15 tons or higher, he said, does not require a sign posted for weight limits.

Mr. Brannan also told the county that all four mowers have been working as scheduled.

The commissioners discussed some calls that have been received about areas of the county that need mowing and Mr. Brannan said he would check on those areas.

The resurfacing on west Washington is mostly on schedule, he reported, but crews are having to work around the utility companies schedules.

This has caused some delays but that hasn't been a huge problem.

Jane Wyatt, emergency medical services director, told the commissioners that Unit No. 1 was taken to Wagner Ford in McCook for

repairs and appears to be working correctly now.

There are also some problems with the new emergency medical services building, she said. The front door is causing problems and water has come in and damaged the flooring and sheetrock. BG Consultants have been notified of the problem and damage, she said.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Canvassed the ballots and determined which provisional ballots were legal and which were not from the Aug. 3 primary election.
- Learned that Solid Waste Superintendent Curt Archibald will write a column for *The Norton Telegram* on landfill operations and e-waste collections.
- Was told by Sheriff Troy

Thomson that the county jail was full and he would need to transport prisoners to a neighboring facility. He said that he plans to use the Osborne County jail.

• Learned that the sheriff's department will be doing an identi-kid program at Pamida on Wednesday.

• Heard from Blue Cross and Blue Shield representative Charles Krull that the Norton County policy will cost 4 percent more next year for county health insurance premiums.

• Signed contracts for County Health Nurse Gina Frack to help with regional funding.

• Held a 30 minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel.

No action was taken after the session.

College gets disaster award

The Great Plains Joint Training Center of the Kansas National Guard presented team coordinators from Brown Mackie College, Salina, with an award plaque for their participation in a Mock Disaster Drill that took place July 12 - 17.

The drill was conducted at Crisis City, a Homeland Security training facility southwest of Salina. Student volunteers from the college took part in an exercise that served as a learning experience for first-responders in the area.

The mock disaster simulated a terrorist attack on a train.

Involved in the week-long operation were law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency management agencies and members of the Kansas and Nebraska National Guards, KBI, Secret Service and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

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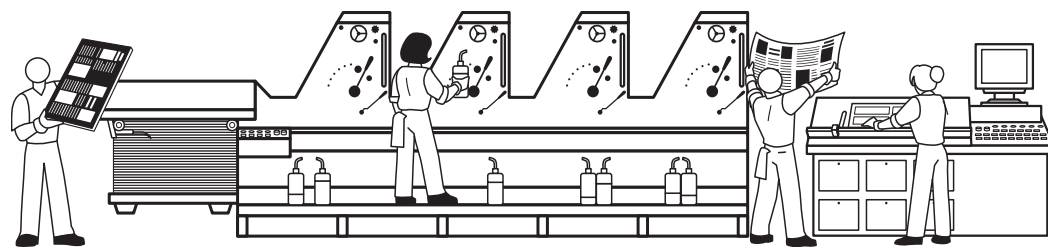
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