

Brewster Lions Club works for community

Each week I am working to feature organizations that make Brewster a great place to live and raise our families. This week's organization is the Brewster Lions Club.



Angie Moore

• Brewster Correspondent

Lions identifies itself as the largest international service club. Its members work together to do whatever is needed to help their community, and Brewster's group is no exception. With their 22 members, they have done many projects to help our community.

The Lions maintain Hunter Hall so other organizations have a place to meet. Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Beta are among those that use it. The Lions help purchase eye glasses for those that cannot afford them. For over 50 years the Brewster Lions have put together the Community birthday calendar.

The Brewster Lions also have purchased picnic tables and built the shelter at the Brewster City Park. They are in the process of purchasing more tables for the park.

Another annual event for the Lions is the elementary basketball games held each spring.

Kindergarten through fifth grades get a chance to showcase their basketball skills, the Lions serve a dinner before the games and a drawing is held during the evening.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, March 28, for this year's games. Money from the evening is used to send Brewster students to Lions' state band each summer.

For information about the Lions contact Bob Lehman, president, or Mike Baughn, secretary-treasurer. Thanks to Rex Jamison for help in gathering information about the club.

If you have Brewster news or upcoming events you would like to share please let me know. E-mail angiem@st-tel.net, call 694-3008, or drop information off at the Prairie Land Insurance office.

Onion catalog tops in 'strong' field

On the cover of their little five-by-eight-inch catalog, the words "We know onions" jump right out at you, get your undivided attention.

I dearly love onions. I can't remember how I discovered this family-owned onion production facility, but I'm grateful I did. And as a result, they have been supplying me, and a lot of my gardening friends, with beautiful, healthy, dependable onion plants for many years.

This place is called Dixondale Farms, and they perform their magic just a few miles outside Carrizo Springs in the southwest part of Texas.

It isn't often that I make an effort to convince my friends that a product I use seems better to me than another, but I have a definite bias when it comes to Dixondale Farms, and I promise you that I'm not on their payroll!

Dixondale Farms is celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. The Company was founded in 1913 by John Mabson McClendon, and is now headed by his great-granddaughter Jeanie Frasier and her husband Bruce, as well as other family members. That's four generations and 100 years of service.

The aforementioned catalogs, sent out every December to their customers, along with their website, are veritable history books of successful onion plant production. Their plants, as well as their distribution system, are literally marvels of success. As a result, Dixondale Farms is now the largest grower of onion plants in the nation. Not only do they sell to individual gardeners like you and me, but they also supply hundreds of garden centers and greenhouses all across America.

On this, their 100th anniversary,



Kay Melia

• The Gardener

Dixondale developed and is now offering a new variety of onion to their mail order customers only. It's called "Texas Legend" and we can expect it to be at least as sweet and mild as its famed parent, the 1015Y Texas Supersweet, one of the most celebrated sweet onions in the nation. Texas Legend is a large yellow onion, packed with food value, and is actually an open pollinated "short day" onion, which means it thrives best in areas south of our High Plains. But I can hardly wait to plant a row of them in this, their first year of distribution.

Dixondale Farms offers about 25 different varieties of onion plants. Please understand that they do not sell onion sets, those little bulbets that you plant if you want to grow scallions or green onions. Their plants are divided into offerings for the northern part of the nation, for the central portion, and for the south, and there is no question as to which ones should grow best for you. There is also a section of their catalog devoted to onion fertilizers, fungicides, herbicides and other helpful supplies, and invaluable growing advice.

Dixondale Farms doesn't sell Vidalia onions. Vidalia is a privately owned brand sold only in a small area of Georgia. But get this. Dixondale Farms sells Georgia farmers the seed for their Vidalia crop.

If you enjoy growing big sweet onions, you'll love everything about this big family farm near Carrizo Springs, Texas.

Deaths

Joanne Marie Phillips

Joanne Marie Phillips, 80, Palco, mother of Don (Jennifer) Phillips of Colby, died Saturday, March 2, 2013, at the Dawson Place Nursing Home in Hill City.

She was born Nov. 30, 1932, in Belpre, the daughter of Henry and Lola Marie (Hartwig) Howe.

Preceding her in death were her parents and a sister, Jocene Love.

Survivors include two other sons, Greg (Jeannie) Phillips, Lewis, and Mike (Jane) Phillips, Palco; two brothers, Doyle R.

Howe, Arbuckle, Calif., and Robert H. Howe, Hutchinson; a sister, Mary Jane Gividen, Wichita; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 5, 2013, at the Stinemetz Funeral Home in Hill City, with the Rev. Judy Stricker officiating. Burial will be at 5 p.m. (Central Time) Tuesday at the Clairmont Cemetery in Stratton, Colo.

No visitation.

Colby Rotary Club

Colby Rotary Club met Tuesday at Colby Community College with 31 members and guests Carrie Evins and Steve McNinch.

Les Loker had the program. His guest was McNinch, chief executive officer of Western Plains Energy.

Western Plains was started in 2001 with plant construction beginning in 2003. Ethanol has been produced there since 2004. The company started with 15 employees and now has 52 employees.

McNinch noted Western Plains has shifted from using corn for ethanol production to using all milo. The majority of the ethanol is shipped to the west coast. Western Plains also sells the byprod-

ucts of ethanol production, distillers grain and fertilizer.

While Western Plains continues to produce ethanol, the plant recently focused on the replacement of purchased natural gas. Western Plains uses enough natural gas to power 6,000 homes per day. The plant started utilizing manure from local feed yards to make its own natural gas and has plans to add food waste to this process. McNinch noted the end goal of the plant is to be able to provide its own power source.

Jerry Arensdorf won Roto-Lotto.

Rotary meets each Tuesday in Room 106 of the Student Union.

Hoxie singer-composer releases new recording

The Tone Group Recording Studio in Hays has released "Sing to the King," a new CD by Hoxie Christian artist and composer Twila Bainter.

The 17 songs, all written by Bainter, were produced by Anthony Pfeifer, owner of the studio. They range in tempo from a slow waltz to fast-paced praise and worship with a gospel style.

Vocals featured in the release are from Bainter, Pfeifer, Becca Urban of Hays, Jim Schmidtberger of Russell, Brenda Schmidtberger-Yoder of Russell and Marla Braun-Wasinger of Hays. Tim Pfeifer of Hays is featured on the saxophone.

Bainter says her involvement with music began when she started piano lessons at the age of 8.

"I would pick out songs on the piano and could play by ear," she said.

She began writing music in 1980 and decided to share this songs with the public. Her first CD was released in 2009.

Bainter says her inspiration comes to her in times of worship and during the night.

"I often get up at night and go to the piano to play the melodies and write the words as the Lord gives them to me," she said, adding that she hopes her music will touch hearts and draw the listeners closer to God.

CDs are available at Hoxie Office Supply or by contacting Bainter at (785) 675-2211 or twilabainter@ruraltel.net.

Impact of less irrigation topic of listening session

A listening session on federal insurance for crops produced with reduced irrigation will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday, March 13, at the Community Building in Colby.

Because some farmers are being required to use less water while others are being offered alternative approaches to their water allocations, production of irrigated crops is changing, says the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency. Many already face reductions from their historical water use, while others can expect future changes.

This reduction in water supply creates challenges for the farmers who use the water, the organizations that manage water use and the programs that insure farmers' yields or revenues.

The agency is evaluating how federal crop insurance addresses these issues for farmers who apply reduced irrigation. Officials are evaluating the feasibility of

establishing a limited-irrigation guarantee for producers who apply less water than in past years.

The agency has issued a contract to Watts and Associates Inc., a risk-management consulting firm based in Billings, Mont., to study the impacts of limited irrigation on crop insurance offers for corn and soybeans in select counties in Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska.

Farmers, insurers and others with an interest are encouraged to attend the meeting and share their concerns and feedback about limited irrigation and ideas to address the crop insurance consequences of the changing irrigation water situation. A second meeting is planned at 10 a.m. Thursday, March 14, in Kearney, Neb.

For information, contact Randy Landgren at rlandgren@wattsandassociates.com or call (406) 252-7776.

He can whistle, but not stand

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — A man charged with disorderly conduct for his loud whistling in downtown Portland has reached a deal with the city — he can whistle, but he can't linger in one spot.

Robert Smith, of Westbrook, has been cited by police twice in the past year after businesses complained. He pleaded guilty last summer and reached a deal with the city in which he can keep whistling as long as he's moving.

Smith maintains that his whistling — audible a block away — is protected free speech and usually brings smiles.

"God is showing me what I'm doing is OK," he told the *Portland Press Herald* (bit.ly/15e6AEN). "He shows me every day with laughter."

But downtown businesses have complained about the 32-year-old Smith's never-ending noise-making.

Janis Beitzer, of the Portland Downtown District, understands why some business owners are upset.

"Just like if somebody plays an instrument in front of your business or has the radio on constantly, it's irritating," Beitzer said.

Smith said he works a construction job during the summer, but when he's not working he

usually takes a bus into Portland and walks downtown streets from about 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., wearing a baseball cap, wrap-around sunglasses and a backpack while listening to classic rock and oldies through his headphones.

As he walks the streets, some people laugh and smile. But others scowl or roll their eyes in disgust, making rude comments after passing by.

In a plea agreement last summer, Smith pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct and agreed to no longer whistle while standing in one place. As long as he's walking while he whistles, authorities agreed not to bother him.

The prosecutor, Trish McAllister, disagreed that Smith's whistling is protected. A Portland city ordinance says whistling, hooting and other unnecessary noises that "annoy, disturb or injure the health, peace or safety of others" are forms of disorderly conduct.

"The judge and I viewed this as a behavioral issue," she said.

Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

Daughters of Isabella

The Daughters of Isabella Immaculate Heart of Mary Circle met Feb. 7 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Colby.

Regent Charlene Barnett called the meeting to order and read a prayer for deceased members Jean Mallory and Dorothy Stephens.

A new member, Christina Withington, was conferred by Barnett. Nancy Barlow read a spiritual reflection that encouraged members to read the Bible.

Thanks from the Mallory and Barnett families for meals and support were received.

Donna Juenneman reported there are 39 members in the circle. Some members in other parts of the state sent notes with their dues. Angie Roseborough now lives in Meriden, Edna Poole moved to a retirement center in Lawrence and Loretta Zerr lives in Salina.

Darline Huttles is undergoing chemotherapy again but wants to help with projects as she is able.

The group held a fund raiser for Rhonda Rogers to help with expenses involved with her breast and bone cancer. They decided to donate \$50 to that cause and \$25 each to Rachel's Vineyard and to the school carnival.

Volunteers signed up for work

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day
Hi-Plains Co-op

Wheat (bushel)	\$7.10
Corn (bushel)	\$7.20
Milo (hundredweight)	\$12.23
Soybeans (bushel)	\$13.53



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