



Just Rambling

with Stephen Henry

Beauty can also be found in a day's work done well.

Sunday is Daylight Savings Time, which means everyone's biological clock will be messed up for a week or so. In the spring, we set our clocks ahead an hour and in the fall, we move them back an hour. As a result, we will be losing an hour of sleep Saturday evening, if you set your clock when you go to bed, which is what we usually do.

As a result of Daylight Savings Time, we will have more light into the evening, providing more time for outdoor activities, if winter will move on along. We certainly were not tempted to spend any time out-of-doors Sunday when the latest winter storm moved into our area.

By summer, we'll be enjoying Daylight Savings Time but the first week will be a pain getting used to the time change.

Daylight Savings will end on November 3, when we'll have a chance to reclaim that lost hour of sleep.

Last weekend was a tough one for both the Levelland Lobos and the Sundown Roughnecks as both teams were defeated in regional playoff games.

They were the last two teams standing after a very good playoff season for Hockley and Cochran County schools.

Each of the schools were very well represented both on and off the court as the young athletes and their coaches put everything into their seasons and each and every game.

We compliment each of the teams for jobs well done. They are great ambassadors for their schools and their communities.

Now, the focus will be on the spring sports including baseball, softball, power lifting, tennis, golf and track and field. There's always a lot going on and young people are investing a lot of hours to represent themselves and their schools in different sports. We wish them all success!

We've had a couple of calls about Sunday's front page story that was supposed to be continued on page 2.

Late Friday afternoon, the mistake was discovered, corrected and the printing company was notified that a corrected page 2 was being transmitted. It was sent, but not replaced at the press. As a result, the story was incomplete.

It was a good story about a very courteous family, Ken and Carrie Bynum and their daughters, Megan and Leah, who are opening the coffee house and music studio.

The story in its entirety is published on this page.

We apologize to the Bynums and our readers for a mistake which shouldn't have happened.

We are making a change in our procedures here to ensure something like that does not happen again.

Being copied is the ultimate form of flattery.

We couldn't help but notice that Brownfield is copying Levelland in building a \$4.3 million sports complex but the bids came in well over the engineer's estimate of \$3.9 million.

A representative of Parkhill Smith and Cooper told the Brownfield City Council last week that the bids ranged from \$4.6 to \$5.7 million and that the bids were higher than expected because of

the high level of construction in the area.

"The contractors are all busy and they are having a hard time finding subcontractors for a large project," the representative reported.

Despite the higher than expected cost, Brownfield is moving forward with the project.

Brownfield wants to build six new fields on the site of its old fields and selected Teinert Commercial as the contractor.

Since the old sites have already been demolished, this year's baseball and softball seasons, administered by Brownfield's YMCA, will be played on temporary fields and in Levelland, according to the program director.

Parkhill, Smith and Cooper designed the Levelland-Oxy Sports Complex, which was built by Lee Lewis Construction.

The quad system of baseball and softball fields has become a great asset for Levelland. There are few weekends in the spring, summer and fall when the complex is not being used.

Equally as important have been the great soccer fields that have been developed. Hundreds of young boys and girls are playing on those fields, which are very well maintained, despite the wear and tear of lots of running feet!

The complex is being well maintained, even with the heavy usage it is getting. We applaud the City of Levelland for the great job that is being done at the complex.

There is already discussion of developing phase two of the project, which would entail the construction of four more fields. The sooner, the better because we've seen that just like in the Field of Dreams movie, if you build it, they will come!

Now for some humor!

A precocious four-year-old was taken to the clinic with a severe cough.

The child kept up a non-stop conversation while the nurse was trying to assess her lung sounds.

Finally, the nurse said, "Shhh, I have to see if Barney is in there."

The child looked at her and calmly stated, "I have Jesus in my heart. Barney is on my underwear."

Misers aren't fun to live with but they make wonderful ancestors.

A group of pregnant women and their husbands attended a prenatal class. The instructor emphasized the importance of staying healthy during pregnancy.

"Ladies, exercise is good for you," the instructor stated. "Walking is quite beneficial. And gentlemen, it wouldn't kill you to walk with us here!"

One man piped up, "Is it okay if she carried a golf bag while she's walking?"

A woman accompanied her husband to the doctor for his annual physical. While her husband dressed, the doctor went out to the waiting room to chat with her.

"I don't like the way your husband looks," he said softly.

"Neither do I," she replied, "but he's handy to have around the house and he carries out the trash."

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percentage or a certain number of residents sign a petition and bring it to council telling them exactly what they want.

Buxkemper said she didn't have a problem enacting the ordinance before the council Monday that would prohibit parking in the Holly Heights addition on certain days during certain times.

However, Joe Bill Vardeman, city council member for District

D, said he would rather the residents go through the process and tell the city exactly what it is they want done.

"I like the idea of the ordinance being a process they decide what they want then bring it to us," Vardeman said.

Jim Myatt, city council member for District A, said he too never felt like there was a consensus from the residents at the town hall meeting.

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a fire sprinkler system," Rejino said.

Rejino said his suggestion would be for the city to move \$50,000 from the general fund to the Main Street budget to allow them to issue grants to encourage business in the Main Street district.

"The goal would be to encourage business and get it to where it was streamlined and people wanted to do business there," Rejino said.

Missy Passmore, manager of the Main Street program explained the buildings in downtown Levelland were never meant to make it this long.

"Most of our buildings were built as substructure buildings and were never meant to last,"

Passmore said. "Now, they're 80 and 90 years old and have a building on either side, so tearing it down would be detrimental to buildings on either side."

She also said that the cost to bring a building up to code by installing a fire sprinkler system or other required security system costs more than the building is appraised for.

Rejino said if this program worked out and the city utilized one of the abatement or rebate programs to encourage business in the Main Street district, the city would eventually get its investment back.

"Over time, we make our money back through sales tax and property tax and quality of life," Rejino said.

New coffee shop coming to downtown

Downtown Levelland will have a new business opening in a historic building this summer.

Twin sisters Megan and Leah Bynum will be opening a coffee shop, the Mosaic Coffee Co., early this summer at 814 Austin, one of the few two-story buildings in Levelland.

The new business will be much more than just a coffee shop as the two young ladies have plans to include a bistro bar, coffee roasting center, a small community meeting room and a performance venue.

Phase two of their plans are to convert former law and oilfield offices upstairs into music studios in which they can teach lessons. Windows in the second floor offices still bear the names of former occupants, including Kewanee Oil, and the young ladies plan on preserving them and incorporating them into the decor.

The building, formerly home to Infinity Connection, was built in 1928 by a local attorney, Carl Ratliff, who maintained an office on the second story of the building. Ratliff also served as county attorney from 1927-1930.

The sisters purchased the building from the Nipper family in November. The contents of Infinity Connection, which was owned and operated by the late Raynelle Nipper, were auctioned by Floyd Nesbitt, clearing the way for the renovations which are underway.

Prior to that, the bottom floor of the building was home to Script Office Supply, which relocated to

the former White's Auto building several years ago.

The young ladies are excited about their plans for the historic building.

The first floor has already been gutted, asbestos has been abated upstairs and the wooden floors which were revealed have been fully sanded.

Their parents, Ken and Carrie Bynum have been an intricate part of the ongoing renovation project and were busy chalking and painting the three window frames which overlook the south side of the courthouse.

Mrs. Bynum proudly demonstrated how the 93-year-old windows still slide open.

The sisters are excited about their coffee shop and hosting live musical performances. They want their business to become a vibrant part of the community and a magnet for young people.

"We want it to be a community gathering place," says Megan.

"We saw a need and love the small town atmosphere," adds Leah.

They will be roasting their own coffee and are excited about developing a theme for the historic building and their business. They took the mosaic part of their business name from the fact that Levelland is the City of Mosaics.

Music is a huge part of the lives of the dynamic duo, who serve as pianist and organist for First Baptist Church. They even served as interim music ministers at the church.

"One lady even said she hated it, but it didn't bother her," Myatt recalled.

Wade asked whether the council would enact this ordinance only at the high school or at all schools. Rejino said the high school is the only school where students drive to school, so it wouldn't be necessary at other campuses.

Buxkemper asked what the timeline would look like to enact an ordinance establishing a

process for the residents to bring something to the city.

Wade said it likely wouldn't be in time for anything to be done this school year, but would definitely be in place by the fall semester.

After the discussion, Wade said he had grasped the direction in which staff and council members wanted him to go in developing an ordinance and said he would bring something back to the next council meeting.

Breann Buxkemper, city council member for District C, said if the Chapter 380 programs could lead to one sustainable new restaurant in downtown Levelland, it would be worth it.

"If we could get one sustainable restaurant or business in downtown, it's worth it; if they stay here 10 years alone, it's worth it," Buxkemper said.

Mayor Barbra Pinner said the city could even impose requirements on eligible business, such as meeting with the Leading EDG business coach, before moving forward.

"Right now is the beginning of an upturn in the economic cycle, times are good and people are investing, the interest is

there," Rejino said.

He suggested if approved, the city put a two-year limit on the Chapter 380 program to encourage a sense of urgency, as well as to take advantage of the economic upturn.

"A two-year window gives us the ability to establish a pilot program and establishes a sense of urgency," Rejino said.

City council members were favorable of the ideas presented as part of a potential Chapter 380 economic development program.

Rejino assured council members more work would be done and an action item would come before council before any type of incentive program was established officially.

Both have bachelor degrees in piano performance and music business and master's degrees in finance from Dallas Baptist University.

Both were trained in classical music from the time they were two and a half years old and are accomplished on the piano, organ and violin.

Their parents say their daughters are very talented violinists.

"Wouldn't you know they get to West Texas and they discover the fiddle," exclaims their dad.

The two sisters have become involved with South Plains College's bluegrass music program and performed with the musicians at the South Plains College Foundation Gala Thursday evening.

The Bynum family moved from Lubbock to Dallas when the girls were five years old after Texas Instruments closed its facility in Lubbock. Ken, an electrical engineer, retired from TI and his wife retired as a high school math teacher. They knew they did not want to stay in the Metroplex.

They lived in the Dallas area for the past 18 years and returned to their roots and this area last summer. Ken and Carrie have purchased property outside of Ropesville and will begin building a home there this summer.

Mrs. Bynum says family is the reason they returned to the South Plains, explaining she had family scattered from Amarillo to Midland. "We came out here every summer to visit family. The girls have stayed closed to family," she says.

In the meantime, the whole family is committed to renovating the building and getting the business up and running.

The two sisters have been gathering equipment and have already acquired tables and chairs and the bistro bar. They have already planned where the bathrooms will be located and are

still discussing the size of the community meeting room and decor.

In the meantime, dad is using a lot of power tools and his engineering knowledge to help bring the structure into compliance with codes.

They will be rebuilding a stairwell at the front of the building to the second floor to provide access to the music studio classrooms. The original stairs opened directly onto Austin Street and apparently were removed when the upstairs offices were no longer used. A stairwell at the back of the building currently provides access to the second floor.

They admit it took a ton of work to empty the building, especially the upstairs. Ken says they have hauled 11 loads of debris to the landfill and have recycled over 900 pounds of metal. While most of the demo work is done, there is still lots of remodeling work to be completed.

The sisters have looked for a photo of their building from yesteryear and have found photos of the courthouse, but not of their building. If someone has a photo that shows the building as it was, they would love to see it and to have a copy.

They have been surprised and pleased at how much interest there has been in their efforts and how welcoming the community has been.

Work is frequently interrupted when the front door is open.

The sisters hope to have a soft opening of their business in late May or early June.

Mom and dad are a little more conservative and hope it will be June or July.

A religious family, they know the Lord answers prayers and provides direction which is the reason the family is here at this place and time.

"We're here to enjoy the journey," observes Ken.



NEW BUSINESS VENTURE—Twin sisters Megan and Leah Bynum pose with their parents, Carrie and Ken Bynum, in front of the historic building they are renovating for a coffee shop and music venue and future music studios. The family has purchased the historic two-story building at 814 Austin which was formerly home to Infinity Connection and, prior to that, Script Office. They have gutted the bottom floor where the coffee shop, Mosaic Coffee Co., will be located, and are working on the second floor, where music lessons will be taught. Their parents were using a scissor lift to provide the height necessary to caulk and paint the window frames on the second floor. (Staff Photo by Stephen Henry)

Police Report

An officer responded to Stripes in the 700 block of West Avenue Sunday around 7:30 p.m. in reference to a terroristic threat. A man reported he had been threatened by an individual at the store and said he wanted to pursue charges for terroristic threat.

A witness said the individual had not threatened the man and that the individual was just trying to talk to the man. The witness said she would submit a statement to detectives.

Around 6:20 a.m. Saturday an officer responded to Allsup's in reference to an individual who had stolen beer. An employee said an individual had come into the store and stolen a 12-pack of beer. The employee said the store would pursue charges and that she had already contacted corporate about video footage.

An officer responded to a residence in the 1100 block of Sherman Saturday in reference to a burglary. A woman said she observed the window screen had been damaged the night before around 8 p.m.

Around 5 p.m. Friday, an officer was dispatched to the area of 1st Street and Avenue K in reference to an individual trying to fight children. The officer located a subject matching the

description walking in the 1300 block of 2nd Street.

The officer made contact with the man, identified as John Flores, 43. The officer observed the man displayed bloodshot and glassy eyes and showed signs of being intoxicated. The officer conducted a standard field sobriety test on the man and observed several clues that he was intoxicated.

According to reports, because Flores was a danger to himself and others and was in a public place, he was placed under arrest for public intoxication and was transported to the jail. At the jail, a jailer found a baggie containing a crystal-like substance inside Flores' coin pocket. He was subsequently charged with prohibited substance in a correctional facility.

Around 10:30 a.m. Friday, an officer met with a man who reported his vehicle had been damaged while parked on Sandalwood Lane on February 25 between 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. He said he didn't see what happened to his vehicle but suspected it was hit by machinery. He said Thursday, his insurance company contacted him and told him to make a police report. The man advised the damage will cost approximately \$8,000 to repair.

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