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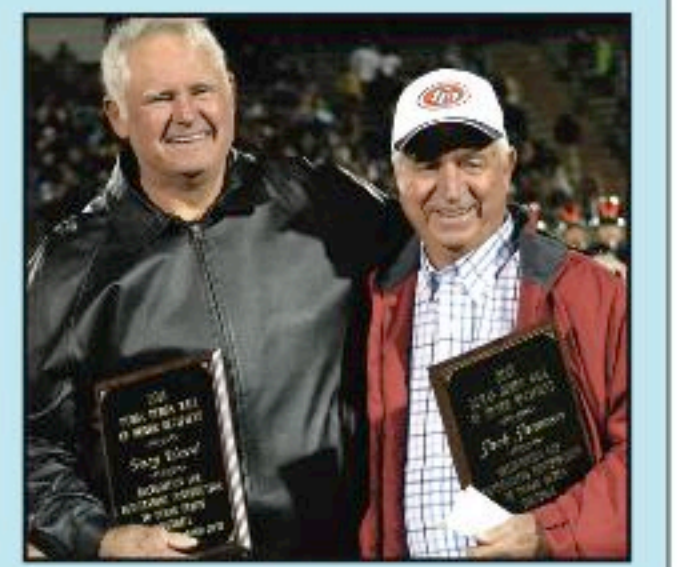
**Thursday At A Glance**

Thursday's Weather  
62 32  
Find the full forecast inside on Page 3A

**United Way**

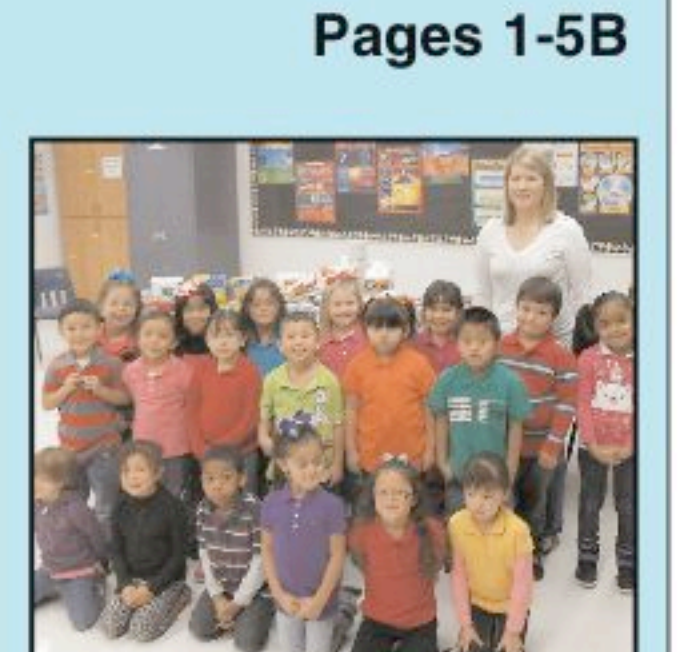
**Campaign update**

United Way of Moore County reports \$39,055 raised for this year's campaign. This past week's winner for 100 percent employee participation is Lisa Underwood (\$300) of Moore County Sr. Center. Happy State Bank is providing the incentive.



**Wall of Honor inductees**

Read about the two newest DHS Wall of Honor inductees and find out about the Demonettes' varsity volleyball playoff win at Seminole. Also find a cross country recap and a look at both DHS and SHS Friday night football games. Also find this week's Professor Pigskin contest.



**School happenings**

See photos from local Veterans Day programs and find out about other accomplishments at local elementary school campuses inside.

**Can You Guess the Phrase?**

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**THURSDAY**  
November 14, 2013

The Moore County  
**News★Press**  
Where You'll Learn About Moore People

Dumas, Texas Volume 85, No. 65 16 pages in 2 section(s) 75 cents

**New laws impact taxes, vehicles and elections**

**Meredith Laurent**  
reporter@moorenews.com

Many new tax laws went into effect starting Sept. 1, 2013. Property taxes, motor vehicle registration and voter identification requirements are some of the main ones that citizens need to know about.

**PROPERTY TAXES**

Nikki McDonald, tax assessor collector, stated that if you owe delinquent taxes on your homestead, tax collec-

tors have to sign an agreement with the homeowner for not less than 12 months and no more than 36 months to get the taxes paid, according to House Bill 1597. Even if a lawsuit has been filed against them and the homeowner is about to get their property sold to get the delinquent taxes paid, he or she can go to the tax office, show them you have a homestead exception on your property, and the tax collectors have to sign a payment agreement with the homeowner.

The law states they have to work with you so you, the homeowner, can stay in your house. A penalty does not accrue on the unpaid balance during the agreement for the homeowner, unless the homeowner fails to make a payment. If you do sign an agreement, you need to be serious about it because missing one payment will cause it to default and all the interest and penalties will go against the payment. If you have a mortgage and you sign a payment agreement then you have 10 days prior to signing the agreement to notify your

mortgage company yourself. HB 1597 also provides an option for disabled veterans to pay taxes in installments. A disabled veteran can now pay property taxes in four quarter payments. The deadline to sign up for the quarter payment plan (and to make your first payment) used to be by Jan. 31. Now the deadline has been extended to Mar. 1, so even if you did not sign up and make the first payment in January you can come and sign up in February but there will be a 6 percent penalty and a 1 per-

cent interest charge. On this plan you pay a quarter of the payment before March 1 with additional payments due before Apr. 1, June 1 and Aug. 1. If a homeowner has signed a pay out agreement, you can not sign another for 24 months and you cannot sign a pay out agreement until the taxes for the homeowner have become delinquent. McDonald said " they want to help you to get out of a hole and not stay in it."

**See LAWS on 3A**



*Michael Wright/News★Press*  
A Morningside Elementary student presents a gift to a veteran in attendance at Monday's Veterans Day program at the campus. Also featured were the DHS band, the third graders performed and DHS football coach Chad Dunnam delivered a message about what it takes to be a winner.

**TxDOT: Obey traffic laws in effort to halt fatality trend**

**Staggering daily death toll dates back to 2000**

As Texas marks a grim, 13-year string of daily roadway fatalities today, the Texas Department of Transportation reminds drivers to stay alert and obey traffic laws in an effort to break the consecutive streak of carnage. To date, more than 45,000 people have been killed on Texas roadways since Nov. 7, 2000. "Having at least one person killed on a Texas road every single day for 13 years is a sobering reminder that we must drive carefully and do everything in our power to stay focused behind the wheel," said John Barton, TxDOT deputy executive director. "These people are our spouses, children, friends and neighbors, and losing them to traffic deaths has a profound and permanent impact on their families. This staggering number of fatalities needs to stop increasing every 24 hours, and taking personal responsibility for our driving habits is the first step." Texas has not had a fatality-free day since Nov. 7, 2000. Since then, 45,032 motor vehicle traffic deaths have occurred on Texas roadways. Despite a steady

**See TxDOT on 3A**

**Volleyball, FFA recognized by board**

**Meredith Laurent**  
reporter@moorenews.com

Monday's school board meeting on Nov. 11 was used, in part, to recognize Dumas volleyball and FFA for their excellence in their recent per-

formances. Monday night's school board meeting recognized the Dumas Demonettes varsity volleyball team. They brought home the area championship this past Saturday when they played El Paso

East Lake at Seminole High School. The board also recognized the Dumas High School FFA. The FFA advanced to the Area 1 Leadership Development Event contest to be held at West Texas A&M University on Nov. 23.

Strategies for the Targeted Improvement Plans for North Plains Opportunity Center and Cactus Elementary School was discussed and approved as well. The required

**See Board on 3A**

**German journalist visits Dumas**

**Meredith Laurent**  
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A journalist from Germany gets the opportunity to travel to the United States to experience different cultures. Marion Hahnfeldt, who is from Lübeck, Germany, has been taking a program called Englischhausen in Germany that has given her the opportunity to visit America. The program is a

six-day and six-night program. In this program only English is to be spoken at all times. The day starts at 8 a.m. and ends at 10 p.m. Each German student is accompanied by a one-on-one English speaker at all times. Hahnfeldt writes for the paper in Germany. Its called the Lübecker Nachrichten Ostseezeitung. She also has a blog to where she will be writing about her travels in America. You can find this

at www.three months.de Some of the states Hahnfeldt has already visited are Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, Texas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, and now she is in New Mexico. The states she will be traveling to are Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, Oregon and Washington. She will spend New Years Eve in New York City before re-

**See Journalist on 3A**



*Meredith Laurent/News★Press*  
German journalist Marion Hahnfeldt, left, and Charlyn Baker during a recent visit in Dumas.

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Rob Martin