

Ex-teacher is FFA honorary member Visitors are welcome . . . City family celebrates the season



PATRICIA HENDERSON

The Sandyland District and the Fairfield FFA have recommended Patricia Henderson of Fairfield to Honorary State Membership.

Ms. Henderson, a retired Fairfield high school English teacher, has been nominated for her volunteer work that has been an assistance and an asset to the Sandyland District as well as the Fairfield FFA Chapter.

For the past 10 years she has been a judge for district leadership contests including Junior and

Senior Creed Speaking, FFA Public Relations and Agricultural Issues Forum. She gives of her time to provide a consistent and quality contest as well as completing the contests in a timely and fair manner.

For her service in this area, she provides all of the teachers of the Sandyland District time to coordinate and supervise teams in other contests.

In the spring, Ms. Henderson also assists with the Sandyland District Convention and events. She serves as a judge of the Speaking events to include checking manuscripts and materials for each speaking event, judging events as needed and supplying critiques to all of the contestants. This also allows the FFA Advisors of the Sandyland District to take care of all of the other business necessary to provide a quality and timely convention as well as prepare for competition.

Ms. Henderson also is a valuable asset to the Fairfield FFA Chapter. She spends her time helping to prepare and critique stu-

A Christmas tradition that has grown bigger and bigger over the years for a Fairfield family has expanded to include the public for a short time this weekend.

Fred, who is employed with Benchmark Industries, and Martha Olivarez have lighted their home for Christmas since their children were little. Now with grandchildren, the couple's home at 218 S. Cotton is visible from highway 84, and will be open for one hour this Friday for hot chocolate, treats, and pictures with Santa.

After raising their three children, Mary, Fred and Rudy, in Teague, the Olivarezes moved to Fairfield about 20 years ago.

The decorations started in preparation for various contests.

Even after retiring from FHS, she continues to be a valuable asset to the FFA program by providing feedback and perspective to students to help them succeed.



READING CHRISTMAS stories with Santa, Fred Olivarez of Fairfield and his family enjoy the festivities of the holidays, but remind people not to forget the "reason for the season".

out quite a bit smaller, but family members say they add something every year in the form of lights and animated figures.

The family now includes grandchildren Emilie, Dylan, Alicia, Colby, Kayla, Camryn and Carson, who start asking about the decorations as early as October.

Beginning around the first of November, family members all help with the work, which continues until Christmas Eve.

"It just doesn't feel like Christmas without it," says daughter Mary.

This Friday, the couple will offer free hot chocolate, sweets, and pictures with Santa from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Christmas light viewers are welcome to drive by anytime.

"In this busy life, people forget to stop and remember why we have this season--the birth of Jesus," Olivarez says.

"It is a celebration of life, and these lights are a way we celebrate the reason for the season."

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FHS girls play McGregor

The Fairfield high school Lady Eagles basketball teams had a tough outing last week against McGregor, winning one of three games.

Fairfield played the Lady Bulldogs at McGregor.

"That bunch was tough on us again," FHS head coach Stephen Heers says.

"We got off to a poor first quarter and couldn't stop them inside," he adds.

Fairfield varsity cagers were outscored 12-20 the first period but won the second period 14-12 to trail 26-32 at half-time.

Both teams tallied 13 points in the third period and time ran out before the Lady Eagles could close the gap, falling 52-53.

"Late in the game, they made some shots," Heers reports.

And, the Lady Eagles did not--the FHS quintet missed seven free throws in the final stanza that would have made the difference between a win and a loss.

Fairfield shot just 50 percent from the charity stripe, making 12 of 24 attempts. Half of those free

throws came in the fourth period.

"We were pretty much our own enemy," the coach notes.

Leading the team in scoring was Barvion Wyatt, who tallied 14 points on the night and hit all four free throw attempts she had.

Joining her in double digits were Courtney Morton, 11 points, and Kiresten Cox, 10 points.

Also scoring were: Joye McElroy, 9; Jermaca Brown, 3; Mia Mayo, 3; Sarah Linton, 3; and Jasmine Griffin, 2.

Canning a 3-pointer apiece were Misses Linton and McElroy.

The win against McGregor came in the junior varsity contest, 35-21.

Lady Eagles JV cagers grabbed a slim first period lead 7-6, then turned up the heat to score 17 points in the second period and take a 24-25 advantage at intermission.

The JV scored just 11 points the second half, but gave up only six for the victory.

Leading scorer was Keanna Cox, who hit three

treys for her 9-point total.

Also scoring were: Francheska Daniels, 8; Krystal Rischer, 7; Denise Washington, 4; Kassi Floyd, 3; Sadie Schaefer, 2; and Gabby Ransom, 2.

The Lady Eagles shot 50 percent from the free throw line, making eight of 16 attempts.

In freshmen action, Fairfield fell behind 2-6 the first period and gained a point back in the second period to trail 12-15 at the half.

The frosh scored 11 points the second half and gave up a dozen to fall short 23-25.

Reaching double digits with 14 points was Amy Lansford.

Also scoring were: Katie Gardner, 4; Danielle Ransom, 3; and Morgan Prihada, 2.

Like the other two teams, the frosh shot 50 percent from the free throw line, making three of six tries.

The Lady Eagles varsity squad plays the Whataburger Tournament on Dec. 28-30 and all three teams head to Mexia on Jan. 5.

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