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A SCOUT OF THE HIGHEST MERIT

Patrick is the first Scout in the Buffalo Council, which includes Andrews, to achieve this goal
Patrick Hooper is a member of Boy Scout Troop 46 and Venture Crew 144

Scout earns record number of merit badges



Patrick Hooper is one of only a few to earn 130 Boy Scout merit badges.

When 15-year-old Sam Patrick Hooper stepped off the trail at the Philmont National Scout Ranch in New Mexico earlier this summer he had completed two things, a 60-mile trek and the backpacking merit badge which meant Patrick had collected every single merit badge that the Boy Scouts of America now has to offer—126, plus four merit badges now retired for a total of 130.

Patrick is a member of both Troop 46, sponsored by the Andrews Rotary Club and Venture Crew 144, sponsored by the Andrews Presbyterian Church. He has been involved in Scouting since he was in the first grade, joining as a Tiger Cub with Pack 129 in Andrews. He has been a Boy Scout for the last four years and a Venture Scout since 2010. Patrick admits that he has been involved with Scouts as long as he can remember.

Among the many requirements to become an Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Scouting, a minimum of 21

merit badges are required to be earned. According to the BSA most Scouts average about 30 in their career. Only four percent of all Scouts earned Eagle Rank and the average age for doing so is 17. Patrick earned his Eagle rank at age 12, becoming one of the youngest Eagle Scouts in Texas—and then, he just kept going and going... and going. Patrick now has every right to brag. While the Boy Scouts of America do not keep official records on how many Scouts earned all the merit badges, they will be the first to state that this accomplishment is very rare. The BSA estimates that considerably less than 0.005 percent of all Scouts will reach this goal. Based on the best information available only 149 other Scouts in the nation, which includes both the present and past members of the BSA, have been confirmed as earning all the merit badges, with 16 of those being from Texas. It looks like Patrick is the first Scout in the Buffalo Trail Council, which serves 18 West

Texas counties, including Andrews County, to ever achieve this goal. In the world of Scouting this is a big deal! "Wow I have covered a lot of topics, from backpacking to surveying, from atomic energy to scuba diving and I have enjoyed most of them. One thing for sure, is that I have been exposed to a wide range of careers and activities, and as a result, I know a little about a great many things, Patrick said. The coolest part is that in working toward the goal I have been able to travel all around the state and the nation and I have had some great adventures and a lot of fun I would not trade those memories and experiences for anything. It's been fantastic!"

When asked, Patrick states that one of his favorite merits was wilderness survival. "I had to sleep in a tree to stay away from the wild peccaries in the area and I killed a rattlesnake, cooked it, and ate it for dinner. I guess

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A community of quality, and home of...
...Winn & Kelli Price

Pigskin pick'em

Justin Neighbors won the first Pigskin Pick'em contest of the year missing only three games out of the slate of 16 games and getting the closest in the tiebreaker.

Neighbors wins the \$50 1st place prize and can collect his winnings Thursday at the Andrews County News.

Coming in second was Leslie Blackburn who missed three games, but was edged out in the tiebreaker score between Monahans and Snyder. Blackburn, a longtime resident and Mustang fan, earned \$25 for his effort.

Coming in third and fourth were Steve H. Edwards and Patsy Clark who also missed three games but missed out in the tiebreaker. Porter's Thriftway was the first sponsor of the year.

This week's sponsor is Buddy's Drive-In on East Broadway. Original forms from the ACN must be turned in at Buddy's before 5 p.m. Friday.

Advertisement for American Profile magazine featuring Heloise. Text: "In The Next American Profile... Heloise... Hints From Heloise... America's most famous dispenser of household advice, Pince-Nez just over her mother's syndicated 'Hints From Heloise' column in 1977."

Local Weather forecast for Andrews County, TX. Includes dates and times for Thursday (9/1), Friday (9/2), Saturday (9/3), and Sunday (9/4).

Barcode and ISSN information: 094922797148



The Andrews Volunteer Fire Dept. responded to a vehicle fire located on S.W. 3001 around 3 p.m. Sunday. On arrival the firemen found a pickup fully engulfed. The vehicle was reported to be a total loss. The vehicle was owned by Agri Imports Inc. Photo by: Linda Drake

County, DPS OK contract to collect outstanding fines

Andrews County Commissioners Monday approved an agreement with the Texas Department of Public Safety for helping with the collection of outstanding fines and court costs associated with traffic tickets and other misdemeanors.

The new interlocal cooperation contract between Andrews County and DPS officially implements the Texas

Transportation Code for the collection of fines and fees from individuals who've failed to pay them as directed by the Justice of the Peace Courts.

Andrews County Judge Richard Dolgener said the process was "another tool" to use in the collection of outstanding fines, which sometimes are hard to collect or are lagging by people who'd avoided making the payments as

initially ordered. "There's a lot of money still left on the table," Judge Dolgener said about the amount of money still to be collected from offenders.

In connection with the interlocal agreement commissioners also approved a software agreement and professional services between the county and Tyler Technologies, Inc. in providing additional

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City council approves new set of goals for community

The Andrews City Council last week approved a set of goals that were discussed earlier this summer during its annual goal-setting meeting.

The city council and city manager use these goals as a roadmap for not only the coming fiscal year, but also for projects and goals for the future in an effort to keep the community up-to-date on infrastructure as well as new amenities or updates and also projects that beautify the city.

Goals in the past have included the Andrews Business & Technology Center where the council often conducts its goal-setting session, while others have been the Wetlands Park project and related new ballparks, walking path and birding center.

Others included Carter Park in southwest Andrews, new recycling center on Main Street, the Andrews Public Safety Building which houses the police department and EMS or ambulance service and the downtown beautification project, which was a major makeover for the courthouse square.

The number one goal approved this period involved the truck reliever route and confirming the county participation of \$3 million annually for three years as well as the budget for the \$12 million reliever route around the community.

Other related goals included approval of the financing involving the issuance of

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Keep those little doggies safe by re-registering brand at county clerk's office

Better keep the branding irons hot because all you cowboys in the county are still going to need them!

According to Andrews County Clerk Kenda Heckler all the brands in the State of Texas will expire on Aug. 30. But before grabbing your rope and heading to town know that your horses and cattle are all safe if they're re-registered prior to Feb. 29, 2012.

All brands in Texas are registered on a uniform ten-year period. The next period is August 31, 2011 through August 30, 2021, regardless of when the brand was registered. For example, if a brand is registered in 2015, it will still expire August 30, 2021.

Brands are registered by location. There are seven general locations on each side of the animal. These are the shoulder, side/rib, flank, hip/loin, thigh, jaw/face/nose and tail/back.

The cost is \$16 per brand, per location.

Since brands are registered by locations, one brand can be registered to different owners in different locations.

For example, the AC brand could be located on the left hip and registered by John Doe but James Smith could also register the AC brand but locate it on the left shoulder.

To exclusively register a brand, all 7 locations on both sides of the animal would be registered by the same owner.

Brand(s) that expired August 30, 2011 can be renewed, by the previous registrant, from August 31, 2011 until Feb. 29, 2012.

After Feb. 29th, all brands that have not been renewed are open to the public to register.

Beginning Aug. 31st, any brand(s) that were not previously registered can be registered as a new brand. Brands are only valid in the county in which they are registered.

If cattle are located in more than one county, the brand(s) should be

Diagram showing various brand marks and their locations on a horse. Includes: U (Right Shoulder), + (CROSS Left Hip), 6 (Left Hip), 2 (Right 2 Left Hip), 6 (LAZY 6 Left Hip), ^ (OPEN A Left Hip), 3 (FIGURE 3 Left Hip), F (BARF Bar on left shoulder), 5 (FIGURES Left Hip), V (Y Left Hip).

registered in each county where cattle are located.

An individual does not have to own cattle at the time, or utilize the brand, to register it.

Brands that have been in a family for generations are often registered even though cattle are no longer owned.

The cost for brand registration is \$16 per brand, per location.

Brands are registered in the county clerk's office which is located at 215 NW 1st in the Andrews Courthouse Annex.

Anyone with questions may call the clerk's office at 524-1426.



Hooper

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some might think that is little weird, not many guys can say they have actually done it!" "Earning these merit badges has allowed me to become a certified scuba diver and lifeguard, certified in wilderness first aid and CPR, and a certified Leave No Trace camping skills instructor. I have camped out over 250 nights and hiked over 400 miles on all sorts of outings. I have learned to sail, kayak, wind surf, canoe, rappel and do white water rafting. I have traveled to Scouting events

and Leadership conferences all over Texas, and in West Virginia, New Mexico, Indiana, Virginia, Washington DC and others. I have seen up close how beautiful our nation is and I have also learned a lot about myself, reliance, determination and perseverance and I have gained a great deal of self confidence what more could you ask for?"

Patrick continues to have clear goals set in scouting. "I am continuing to work on advancement in venturing and I

just finished earning my Ranger Award. By December I hope to be able to complete the highest award in Venture Scouting, the Silver award. In my troop I continue work toward Eagle Palms, earning three silver awards so far, and I am just about to finish the requirements for the National Outdoor Achievement Medal. I was just elected as Lodge Chief for our Scout Council in the order of the arrow (a scouting service and honor society). This summer I served on staff at three camps

including a regional leadership training camp and a national service corps which built trails for the National Park Service. I plan to attend the

National Order of the Arrow conference at Michigan State University in 2012 and I am seeking a staff position at the 2013 National Scout Jamboree in West Virginia. "I guess some people may view Scouting as being a little lame but for me it has been an experience of a lifetime!"

"Something important that I have learned you don't accomplish these types' goals by yourself. I have been incredibly lucky to have Scout leaders and mentors that have helped me all along the way and I am very grateful to the assistance and encouragement provided by such Scouters as, Pinky Robertson, Bill Morgette, Ann Houston, Robert Oron, Tim Farrow and many others." When asked if he would earn any additional merit badge that the BSA might release over the next three years Patrick laughed and said, "Well, it's a

habit for me now. I am sure I will go after those badges that I am really interested in, but my sash just does not have much room left for additions."

Patrick is a sophomore at Andrews High School. He is a letterman on the high school swim team and is a member of the high school speech team. He is the son of Mark and Terry Hooper of Andrews, who are both active leaders in the Boys Scouts of America. His non-scouting long term goals are to enter the Coast Guard Academy or possibly the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M. When he asked what he wants to be, Patrick smiles and replies, "there is just no telling what I am going to do but I will probably set my sights pretty high!" No doubt about it.

Patrick is indeed a scout of the highest merit.

DPS

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maintenance and support for Omnibase Interface for a total cost of \$4,900, to be paid from the Justice of the Peace Technology Fund.

In other action commissioners approved a lease agreement between the county and Jim Marshall doing business as Andrews Aviation Services regarding his services as a mechanic at the Andrews County Airport, Hanger A.

Effective Sept. 15 Marshall will pay \$500 rent through Sept. 30, 2012 for conducting his aviation mechanic business at the airport, which he'd done for about a year. Marshall had been operating at the airport with financial assistance from the Andrews Economic Development Corp., which had been paying the rent in another move for economic development for the community. One of the goals of the AEDC, city and county has been to have a mechanic at the airport to provide services for airplane owners and others in the area as a method of diversifying and possibly leading to more

businesses at the airport, which is used more now than in recent years.

The court also approved the first payment to Lipham Construction, Inc. for the 2010/2011 Andrews County asphalt paving program which is done annually by the county and city, the county paying the bulk of the expense. Commissioners agreed to pay Lipham \$22,500 from the General Fund; \$79,039 from Precinct 1; \$121,559 from Precinct 2; \$81,606 from Precinct 3; and \$75,774 from Precinct 4. The City of Andrews is expected to pay \$77,000 for street paving inside the city.

The total for the project was \$291,625 and another \$50,000 in retainage is still owed the company.

The court also heard a presentation from Sharon Humphries about oncoming events at the Andrews Motor Cross which plans AMA races at the end of this month and also on Oct. 22-24. In addition, a high school cross country race will be held at the course on Oct. 1.

Commissioners also approved a contract with the National Association of Counties & Caremark PCS Health for a managed pharmacy benefit services agreement for county residents. The program is not insurance, but basically involves a prescription card for county residents that offers discounts up to 24 percent for all family members. Residents can obtain their card, either electronically or printed, and can use it immediately at any participating pharmacy.

Information presented at the meeting said the program is administered by CVS Caremark, an experienced discount card provider, who negotiates discount rates directly with participating pharmacies. Individuals and families may use the prescription discount card any time their prescription is not covered by insurance.

For more information call toll-free 1-877-321-2652.

City

Continued from Page 1

certificates of obligation to help fund the reliever route along with a quarter-cent added sales tax. The truck reliever route corp. was established to oversee the funding to the city for payment of the project.

Target date for the project is January 2012 and it's expected to take two years or so to complete.

The second goal approved involves water quality and supply as the city searches for the best solution for treating the municipal water supply and ridding it of minute amounts of arsenic and fluoride. Because of growth the city must comply with EPA guidelines for reducing the minerals and the city has looked at both portable household reverse osmosis units and construction of a larger unit at the wellhead, which would be more costly.

A decision will be made in 2012 to comply with the mandates. Additionally, the city, which acquired new water rights earlier this year in northwest Andrews County, is also looking at water rights in southeastern Andrews County in an area not previously known for its potable water. Tests have shown the water to be good water and having even less arsenic and fluoride and containing about the same volume of water as the Florey Well Field, albeit downhill from Andrews.

Officials are awaiting final approval by the owners of the water rights which will give Andrews another 50 years worth of water.

Other goals include initiate and development of a comprehensive plan for the economic growth and community's development. This includes planned infrastructure for the west industrial park off of SH 176 and encourage the business development at the Andrews Airport and research grant opportunities for affordable housing.

Quality of life issues include expansion of the recycling program to include plastic and metal; prepare mesquite eradication program to help reduce fire danger; support efforts aimed at youth development; continue beautification efforts like facade improvements, dilapidated structures, junked vehicle removal, and streetscape, while doing major enhancements to parks, swimming pool and other recreational areas.

In connection with the goals the council approved a long-range financial plan that also involves regular capital outlays, ensuring that the city's financial program, including reserves, maintain a safe amount of funding and integrity for the betterment of the city and community.

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**3rd Annual Labor Day Weekend
RANCH & RIG RIDE 25/50/100K**
Andrews Chamber of Commerce
and Andrews Bicycle Club

**Saturday, September 3
Gather at 7:30 AM
Ride Out at 8:00 AM
Florey Park ~ Andrews**

Registration \$20 for 50K & 100K (25K Free)
Register onsite or contact the Andrews Chamber
of Commerce at 432-523-2695
email: achamber@andrewstx.com



Live Dangerously!

**22nd Annual Andrews County
Labor Day Weekend
Bluegrass Festival**

Featured Bands...
Triple L Band ~ Portales N.M.
Hanks and Company ~ Seymour, Tx
Blueridge Bluegrass ~ Odessa, Texas
Texas Country ~ Wickett, Tx
Kays Grass Band ~ Ackerly, Tx.

Saturday only:
Concho Bluegrass ~ San Angelo, Tx
David Cook Family ~ Midland, Tx

Guest Bands:
Pecos Valley ~ N.M.
Hilltop Edition ~ Noland, Tx

- Beans and Cornbread Thursday night with lots of Jamming
- Friday evening from 5:00pm until 11:00 ??
- Saturday 11:00 am thru 11:00 pm ???
- Sunday morning 9:30 am Gospel Show Break for lunch and then open stage and all day Jamming

**Thursday - Sunday
September 1-4 ~ Florey Park**