Engagement

Offutt-Harris

John and Clara Offutt of Seminole and Coy and Dianne Harris of Lubbock are proud to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their children, Sandra Ann Offutt and Shelley Christopher Harris both of Lubbock.

The couple will wed March 9, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. in the American Wind Power Center in Lubbock.

The bride is a 1996 Seminole High School graduate, a 1998 New Mexico Jr. College graduate with an Associate of Arts degree and a 2002 Texas Tech University graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture. She worked for the City of Lubbock Water Utilities from 2000-2012 and is currently employed for Watermaster Irrigation Supply in Lubbock.

The groom is a 1996 Lubbock High School graduate and earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Texas Tech University in 2001. He has been employed by the Texas Department of Transportation since 2001.

Mirror Ministries

It's An Act of Faith

By Daphne Delay
devotional@mirrorministries.org

Last week, I said, "Forgiveness is not a feeling. It's an act of faith."

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith" (Luke 17:5), in response to His instruction to forgive often. And this gets to where we live. Most Christians are like the apostles in the sense that they desire to increase their faith (in every arena), but especially in the area of forgiving those who have wounded or offended you.

Mark Hankins once said, "Those who choose to not forgive burn the bridge over which they themselves must pass."

When I heard that, I immediately had a mental image of what he meant. God and man were once separated by sin. There was a great gulf between them until God sent His Son Jesus to be the bridge between the two. How did He do that? By forgiving man of his sins.

But then after the bridge has been laid and man has access and relationship with God, what if man stands on his side of the bridge and says to God, "I can't forgive" ...? In that case, God isn't being hard when He says, "But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses" (Mark 11:26).

I used to be bothered by this scripture. I thought God was being a little harsh to expect us to forgive like Him. He's God--we are not. I figured His ability to forgive came from the fact that He's God. How could He expect us (human as we are) to forgive like Him?

But then I realized: "Those who choose to not forgive burn the bridge over which they themselves must pass." In other words, it's a choice (not a feeling or an ability).

Think about this: When God made Jesus the bridge to reconcile mankind to Himself, what all did we receive? For starters, we received forgiveness of sins, love, peace, hope, soundness of mind, blessings, and much, much more. So when I stand across from God and say, "I can't forgive" then I am essentially blocking everything I need from God to help me forgive.

But on the other hand, when I (as an act of obedience) grit my teeth and do it anyway (because I love God and want to obey and trust His commands), then across that bridge comes love for my enemies, peace for my situation, hope for restoration, freedom from mental attacks, and much, much more.

But only if I first obey.

Forgiveness isn't a feeling. It's a choice. But when I forgive, I am guaranteed God will forgive me also.

(Editor's Note: Seminole resident Daphne Delay is an author, speaker, and the founder of Mirror Ministries. More devotionals can be found at www.mirrorministries.org.)

Landscape Remodeling with Julie Jameson

At the Wednesday luncheon meeting of the Seminole Garden Club, members learned some of the attempts of Julie Jameson, Family and Consumer Science teacher at Seminole High School, and her husband Lee to create a nature garden at their neighborhood home. These two homeowners sought to replace their semi-tropical garden with water-conscious, perennial, native landscape plants.

Jameson used a slide presentation to picture their former landscape and their present garden. Some of the trees, flowers and shrubs used were Mexican Natives, Mexican Brush Sage, Seber Pony Foot Vine, Autumn Sage, Redbud, Lantana, Rosemary, Oleander, Yarrow, sun tolerant Caladium bulbs and the all season blooming Stella-De-Ore Day Lilies. They also have several beautiful older Crepe Myrtles, that escaped the hard freeze a few years ago. Julie says the best thing about their present day gardens are the presence of more hummingbirds and butterflies. They also have a most beautiful Texas Mountain Laurel.

Anyone desiring more information on native plants and landscapes may attend Lady Bird Johnson's Wildflower Center Garden on Tour 2013 at Austin, May 11, 2013.

Luncheon hostesses were Mary Ellen Davis and Sue Harlan. Tortilla Shrimp Vegetable soup, fresh apple cake with whipped creme, coffee and tea was served from a beige covered table centered with a crystal purple candle arrangement with fresh heather. The dining table was also covered with beige, with a centerpiece of purple and white pansies in an iron basket.

Members were invited to take a pansy as well as candies scattered on the table as favors. Davis returned the luncheon blessing.

President Dean Richardson called the business meeting to order with roll call and reading of the minutes. Minutes were approved as corrected. There was no financial report due to the absence of Wylma Langford, club treasurer.

President Richardson reminded members of the Texas Garden Clubs District 1 Spring Convention, to be held in Monahans on March 5 and 6.

Sue Harlan, liaison between Garden Club, Doss Foundation and the Boy Scouts of America, South Plains Council, read an invitation for lunch to honor Eagle Scouts, to be held in Lubbock. The Doss Foundation and Garden Club are sponsors of the Scouts.

Also, a recognition lunch and fundraiser will be held to honor Gary Wheeless, deceased. He will be posthumously honored with the South Plains Council of the Boy Scouts first ever Seminole Distinguished Citizen for Youth award. This will be Tuesday, March 5 at 11:45 a.m.

Seven members and two guests were present for the meeting. Members not mentioned previously were Kay Gay, Alta Hastings, Shirley Jameson, Sandra McGill, with guests Sherry Carter and Julie Jameson.

McGill won the door prize.

The next meeting of the club will be Wednesday, March 20 at 11:45 a.m. The program will be "Everything You Need to Know About Attracting Hummingbirds" by Brett Whitfield.

The meeting was adjourned with the reciting of the Mizpah from Genesis 31:49.

Julie Jameson

Birth

Penner

Martin and Aganetha Penner of Seminole are the proud parents of a baby boy, Martin Neufeld Penner, Jr.

The baby was born February 6, 2013 at Seminole Memorial Hospital weighing in at 7 lbs. 12.7 oz. and measuring 21.5" long.

Paternal grandparents are Isaak and Elisabeth Penner of Mexico.

Maternal grandparents are David and Anna Neufeld of Stanton.

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