

County signs agreement on second solar farm

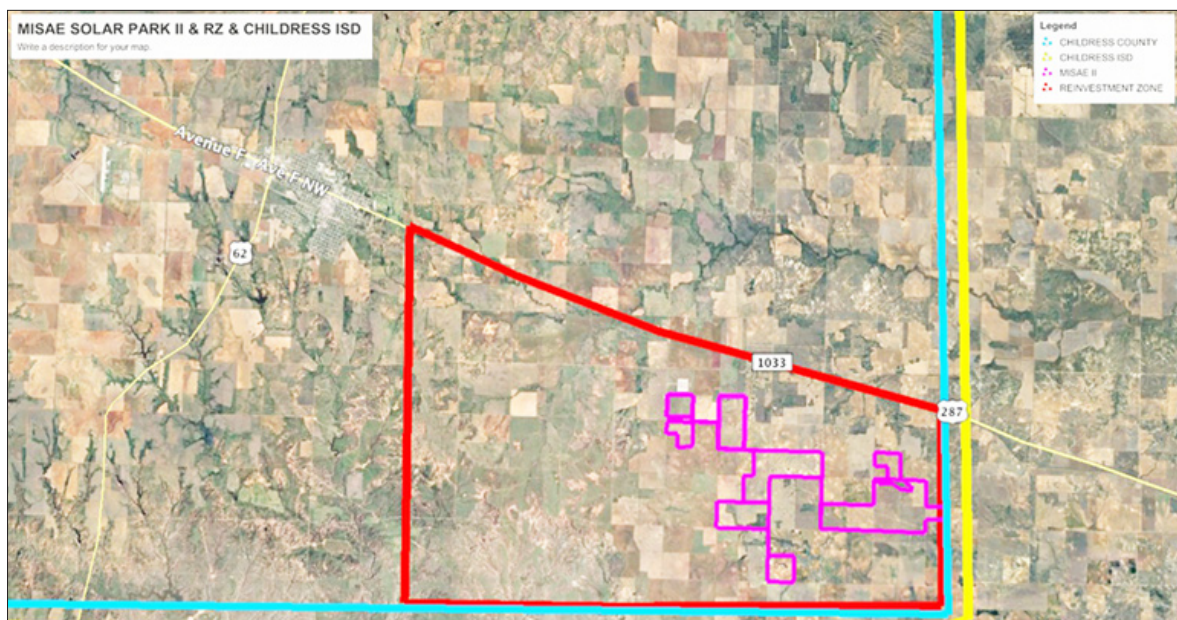
By Ginger Wilson
The Red River Sun

CHILDRESS – After much anticipation, a tax abatement agreement between Childress County and Excel Advantage Services, LLC., doing business as “Misae Solar Park II” was signed on Monday. When built, the 515 megawatt solar farm will be the largest of its kind in the world.

The solar farm will be constructed in the reinvestment zone, created by the Childress County Commissioners Court in 2017. the zone is described as lying west of the border between Childress County and Harde- man County, north of the border between Childress County and Cottle Courty, east of Childress County Road 15 and south of U.S. Highway 287.

Construction on the first park, 200 megawatts, is scheduled to begin in September while the second project is set to begin by November 30 of 2019. A final completion date of December 31, 2020 for the second project was set in the agreement between the county and Excel Advan- tage Services, LLC.

See **SIGNS** Page 2A



Map of the Childress County reinvestment zone where both solar farms will be located.

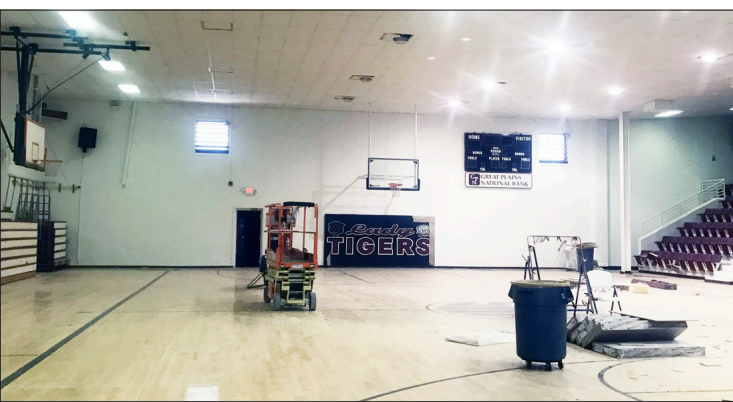


Shara Zepeda/The Red River Sun

Hollis Middle and Grade School acquired many upgrades as well for the upcoming school year.



Hollis High School during renovations.



High School gym in the midst of upgrades.

Hollis Public Schools receive upgrades

By Shara Zepeda
The Red River Sun

HOLLIS — Since the 2017 school year has concluded, Hollis schools have made numerous renovations to its facilities.

The new 150 x 200- foot multi-purpose show barn will be opening its doors very soon, and upgrades/general repairs such as metal wing replacement have been made to the Ag farm as well.

The high school gym will be completely repainted inside, including the steps, walls and refinished floors. It will also contain new lighting and ceiling tiles. Superintendent, Mrs. McQueen announced the old playoff banners have been taken down and will be replaced with new signage.

Both campus’ exteriors were repainted and received window upgrades, in particular, new foam installation and metal covering. “We’ve also completely remodeled the boys’ and girls’ restrooms at the elementary school main building,” says McQueen.

Along with the renovated restrooms, the elementary and pre-k school now have new up to date flooring. Contractors have also installed a new ceiling, new sheet rock, texturing, painting and lighting in the middle school hallway.

Finally, Mrs. McQueen states that technicians are in the process of completing a major fiber upgrade to both campuses to provide a stronger internet bandwidth to improve student learning.

With the new renovations, students and faculty will be greatly accom- modated this school year.

Hatch bids Wellington farewell



Bev Odom/The Red River Sun

At 94 years old, Wellington icon Bill Hatch worked the room like a politician during his farewell party at the First United Methodist Church in Wellington last Wednesday. The longest individual member of Collingsworth Chamber of Commerce, he greeted Danny and Linda Martin, former owners of Jim’s OK Tire Store, the longest business to be a member of the Chamber. As a teenager, Bill worked in Washington D.C as a Senate Page. “It was an education,” he said. “I’d be afraid to do it now.” Bill relocated to Amarillo last week. His new address is 4707 Bell St. #216, Amarillo, TX 79109.

By Bev Odom
The Red River Sun

WELLINGTON — Over 200 friends gathered to hon- or 94 year old Harley W. “Bill” Hatch at the First United Methodist Church on Aug. 8 at 5:30 p.m. The community had an open invitation to join the congregation for what they call QUAD meal - food, fun, fellowship and family - and say their farewell to Bill.

On the waiting list at Parkview Manor Assisted Living in

Wellington, Bill’s family finally persuaded him to make the move to The Clairmont, a senior living center in Amarillo.

Bill led the serving line for sub sandwiches, baked beans, all the trimmings and a large assortment of desserts. Then he made his way around the room visiting with as many guests as possible. An inspiration to so many, Bill is often referred to as “Mr. Wellington” with his lifetime commit- ment to community involvement.

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Meet Your Neighbor: Alyce Parrish, Memphis Chamber President

By Jennifer Widener
The Red River Sun

MEMPHIS —Most residents of Memphis might already be familiar with Alyce Parrish and her hus- band, Buddy. After mov- ing to Memphis three years ago, Alyce quickly became involved in our community and just this year, took on the role of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce President. Here, Alyce answers questions about life as a chamber member and what it’s like to live and work in the city of Mem- phis.

1 What does being a member of the Chamber in Memphis entail? What are some of the ways in which you interact or would like to interact with the com- munity?

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Jennifer Widener/The Red River Sun

Alyce Parrish talks about being President of the Memphis Chamber.



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The Red River Sun 226 North Main, Childress, Texas 79201, is open from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Phone 888-400-1083 Fax 866-863-1118 Email admin@redriversun.com

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The Red River Sun (USPS 105-020) is published every Wednesday, including holidays, by Blackburn Media Group Inc., P.O. Box 1260, Childress, Texas, 79201-1260. Entered at U.S. Post Office, Childress, Texas, for transmission through the mail as a Second-Class matter, according to an Act of Congress, March 3, 1879. Periodical Rate Postage Paid at Childress, Texas, 79201. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Red River Sun, PO Box 1260, Childress, Texas, 79201

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The Red River Sun is a product of the merger of The Hall County Herald, the Wellington Leader, The Hollis News and The Childress Index on June 1, 2014.

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Advertising: 5 p.m. Friday
Editorial: 10 a.m. Monday

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Red River Sun

2018 Political Calendar

CHILDRESS COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY Commissioner Pct. 4 Rick Elliott (I) County/District Clerk Barbara Spitzer (I) County Judge Jay Mayden (I) County Treasurer Brenda Overstreet (I) Justice of the Peace Randy Rister (I) Names of those who announce with <i>The Red River Sun</i> will be carried on the political calendar through the general election. The calendar carries names of Democrat, Republican, Independent and Write In candidates.	COLLINGSWORTH COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY Commissioner Pct. 2 Mike Hughs (I) County Judge John James (I) County Treasurer Gina Harris (I) District and County Clerk Jackie Johnson (I) Justice of the Peace Jo Rita Henard (I) INDEPENDENT Commissioner Pct. 2 Jim Ellis Commissioner Pct. 4 Kirby Campbell (I)	HALL COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY County/District Clerk Olivia Duran County Judge Ray Powell (I) DEMOCRATIC PARTY Commissioner Pct. 2 Terry Lindsey (I) HARMON COUNTY District 3 District Judge Mike Duffy
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double that amount in the year it will take to build the solar farms.

In the agreement, Excel Advantage Services, LLC. agrees to maximize its use of Childress County labor and serves and supplies purchased from Childress County business in the course of the project, which will benefit the workforce and local businesses at the same time.

HATCH

From Page 1

He moved to Wellington from Eldorado, Okla. in January 1940 with his family during his junior year in high school. His dad, Frank Hatch, had sold his clothing store in Oklahoma in 1939. Searching for a community with more prosperity, he visited Hereford, Texas as irrigated farming had just began in the area. He rented a building and planned to open a clothing store there.

Passing through Wellington on his way home to Eldorado, Mr. Hatch discovered the close out sale at Stubblefields's Dry Goods. He bought the property at a bargain and took over immediately.

Bill spent the summer of 1941 after he graduated from Wellington High School working at the Ritz Theatre.

His uncle, New Mexico attorney Carl Hatch, served as a U.S. Senator from his appointment in 1933 to his election in 1934 and 1938, serving until 1942. He asked his nephew if he thought he could pass the Civil Service exam.

"I can get you a job in Washington, D.C.," he told Bill.

Bill's parents took him to Shamrock where he caught the train to D.C. in the fall of 1941 to work as a Senate Page.

"I enjoyed having such an interesting job," Bill said. "I did a little typing and a little filing and introduced people - kind of like I did at Pilgrim Bank - and took the underground train to deliver paperwork."

In his free time, Bill traveled.

"I met eight or nine other kids from Texas and we toured all the East Coast together - by ferries, trains and subways. We all lived in the same rooming house right off DuPont Circle."

Bill served in D.C. while Senator Harry S. Truman headed the Senate Special Committee to investigate the National Defense Program which worked to reduce waste and mismanagement in U.S. military spending. Commonly known as the Truman Committee, it saved American taxpayers millions of dollars and propelled Truman into the

national spotlight. Bill witnessed this up close on a daily basis.

The fun in D.C. ended with Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941.

"Then all the lights went completely dark at night for safety reasons," Bill said. He returned to Wellington and attended Texas Tech University for a semester.

Drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II in February 1943, Bill joined the 740th Tank Battalion with 1200 men and reported to Fort Knox, Ky. for training.

"Only 10 are left of the 1200," Bill said. "I had to decline the invitation to attend the reunion. Now mostly just the sons and grandsons of the veterans are left to tell their stories."

The 740th Tank Battalion traveled to Camp Bouse in the desert of Butler Valley about 30 miles northeast of Bouse in Western Arizona for more training before heading to France.

"We crossed the English Channel and landed in France," Bill said. "We pierced the Siegfried Line two time and went into battle in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium. We fought in the Ardennes Forest, the Ruhr Pocket and fought all through Germany across the Elbe River in May 1945 to Wismar, Germany on the Baltic Sea. Then we found out we had gone too far. The Russians were supposed to go to the Elbe River so we had to go back. By then the Germans were surrendering and prisoners were flooding the roadways. They wanted us to take them instead of the Russians."

The U.S. Army honorably discharged Staff Sergeant Hatch in January 1946. He returned to Wellington and had saved up enough money to buy one third interest in his parents' clothing store.

Married in 1947, Bill and Zelda owned and operated Hatch Dry Goods on the north side of the Collingsworth County Courthouse Square for over 45 years. They sold the store to David and Barbara Lindley in May 1993.

During this time, Bill served several terms as mayor of Wellington and president of Collingsworth Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Board among others.

When Zelda passed in February 1998 after a lengthy illness, Bill wanted to do something. "I was miserable staying home by myself," he said.

Don Donaldson, then Community Bank president, hired Bill to greet customers at their Christmas open house that year on a trial basis. Now Pilgrim Bank, little did Bill know then he would spend over 18 years and turn 92 years old on the job, greeting every customer that walked in the door, calling them by name and making patrons feel special.

Longevity is in the genes according to Bill. His older brother Frank lived in Oklahoma and just passed in May 2018 at 101 years old. His younger brother Tim is 88 and lives in Lubbock. Their sister passed at 93 years old.

With a hip replacement in March 2015, Bill came back on the job at Pilgrim Bank within six weeks. He didn't even want to take off that long but his doctor insisted.

Bill loved to work in his

yard, garden and cook until his arthritis progressed. A member of First United Methodist Church and active in Methodist Men and the Carter Sunday School Class, Bill enjoyed the fellowship at the Wednesday night QUAD meal and often took a turn making dessert.

Despite his age, Bill stayed busy. He's had a computer for five to six years and loves learning new things all the time although his eyesight isn't as good as it used to be. He even has an email address that he uses on a regular basis.

"I guess I'll have to get rid of my car too," Bill said. I know I can't pass the test again."

Hatch has three sons, Bryan and wife Terri of Pilot Point, Dan and wife Linda of Amarillo and Carlos of New York City. He also has four grandchildren and a great grandson.

PARRISH

From Page 1

What the Chamber usually does for a community is provide an organization where businesses of the community can advocate for their interests and put on several events throughout the year that bring members of the community together. We would like to see the businesses in our community get involved with the people as much as possible. Alyce serves on the board with seven other individuals: JoElla Pate; Billy Ballew; Farrah Holcomb; VP Melissa Foard; Judy Stewart; Nelwyn Ward and Alyce was very clear that JoElla was the heart of the chamber and that she did many of the chamber activities throughout the month. She also keeps the chamber office open during the week. JoElla delivered packets to the new teacher orientation at Memphis ISD this past week.

The Packets included a History of Hall County, a street map of Memphis and \$35 dollars in Memphis bucks that new teachers are able to redeem at different business owners in Memphis. The Chamber meets once a month to discuss monthly activities that the chamber will be involved in.

What is your favorite project the Chamber has done so far?

The Memphis Chamber sponsors a Yard of the Month as has done so for years. Last year, they sponsored a teacher tree. Each tree contained an item that a teacher needed for his/her classroom. The public was invited to choose an individual on the tree and purchase the requested item. This year, they are sponsoring a Campus Tree. The principle from each school will discuss individual needs of the campuses with their staff and then the items will be placed on a tree at the chamber office. Alyce said that her favorite project occurred last year when members of the chamber purchased socks for each resident of the Memphis Convelescent Center. They also provided residents with a visit from a therapy dog, and provided the staff with a meal.

What kind of activities would you like to see the chamber sponsor?

Alyce believes that Memphis is a wonderful town with so much potential but com-

munity involvement needs to be encouraged. She would like to see the chamber sponsor a Chili Cook Off in the Park. This would be an activity that could involve the entire community. She also thinks that Memphis has a beautiful square and would be a perfect place to host a Trade Days once a month. Alyce would like the chamber to host activities for the local business owners. Business Mixers that allow individual owners to meet and mingle once a quarter and open house for businesses and the community.

Why did you and your husband decide to move to Memphis?

Alyce believes that God brought her and Buddy to Memphis, Texas. They were in the mobile home business for 34 years and they really needed to retire. Buddy didn't want to retire in Abilene, where they lived. They made the trip to Memphis to visit friends here and saw the local jailhouse. They loved the city, so they bought the jail, moved to Memphis and the rest is history.

What made you decide to get involved in city government?

Alyce believes that Memphis is a beautiful city. It was a town that thrived in the 50's and 60's but appears to be dying now. There is so much potential here if the community continues to support local businesses and stay involved. Since she and Buddy moved here, six new businesses have been established; Garrison's, The Donut Stop, Indian Creek Market, 257 Cantina, Retail Monkey, and Subway which was included in the expansion of Love's Convenience Store.

What is your favorite thing about living in Memphis?

Alyce liked that feel of the neighborhoods here. Here favorite thing is the people. Since moving here, she has not met one person she did not like. Memphis is a small town where the residents feel like family.

Do you think the citizens of Memphis are involved and informed about city issues?

Alyce believes we can always be more informed but realistically, the people of Memphis are not as involved as she would like. She would like to use her position on the chamber to change that. For our city to succeed, its residents have to care.

How would the citizens of Memphis go about getting more involved?

Talk to one another, read the newspaper, get the facts. The most important thing residents can do is attend local meetings like the City Council Meetings and the local School Board Meetings. Getting involved in a local church is another way to meet people and become involved in your community.

In the short time you have lived here, how has Memphis changed?

Alyce says she has seen new business activity in Memphis, Birdsong Peanuts is back. We have elected a new mayor and last year hired a new school superintendent. It is exciting to think about the potential Memphis has.

What is the one thing you would like the citizens of Memphis to know about you?

Ayce wants to people of Memphis to know that she really cares about Memphis and its people. She would love to see the city grow and realize its potential.

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