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The All About HENNESSEY POST

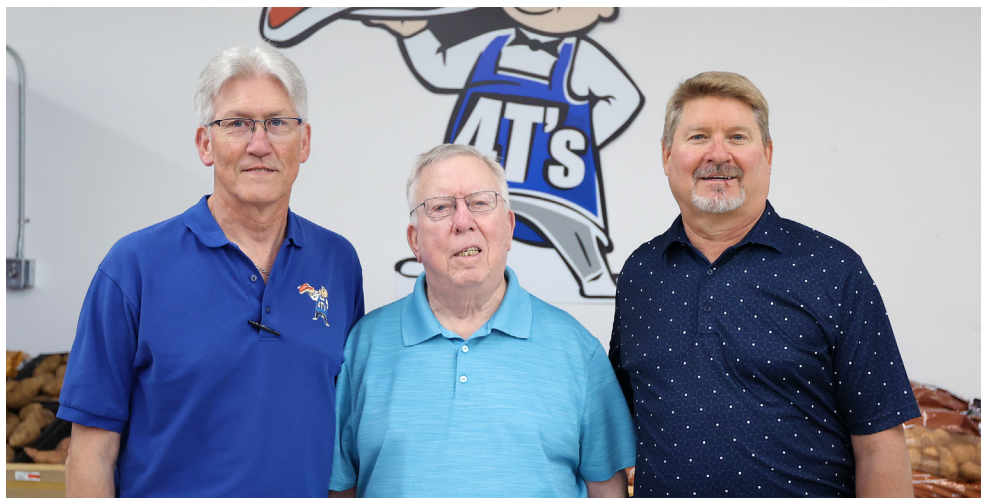
Volume 6 • Number 22 • Wednesday, May 31, 2023

-HENNESSEY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER-

SIXTY YEARS A TREASURE: 4T'S FAMILY MARKET, HENNESSEY'S BEST FRIEND

By Sara Jane Richter

Six decades make sixty years, and for any local business to have lasted that long is quite an achievement. Hennessey's 4T's Family Market has reached that milestone.



A fixture in town since September 1963, 4T's Family Market has provided a service to everyone in town at some time or another. Running in to pick up a loaf of bread or making a late night baby formula purchase, everyone has taken advantage of having a well-stocked, local grocery store just across town. John Taylor and his late wife Bonnie believe that John possessed the skill set to own and manage his own grocery store after having managed a store in Stillwater and Bill's IGA in Kingfisher. They just needed a store to prove that point. The Rickley family grocery store in Hennessey came up for sale in the summer of 1963, and the Taylors sealed the deal and opened for business in September of that year. John did most of the business from cutting meat, stocking oranges, and sweeping the aisles.

Initially, the store served the community as an important downtown

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THREE FROM HENNESSEY, HONOR VETERANS

Three from Hennessey participated in kicking off the Memorial Day weekend Friday evening (May 26th) during the opening ceremonies for the David Allen Memorial Ballpark Junior College, World Series in Enid.



Hennessey's Judge Robert Lovell, WWII Vet, Jack Toney, a Vietnam Vet, and event coordinator Elaine Dawson-Johns participated in an emotional narrative on the ball field while carrying a torch to honor veterans.

Robert Lovell carried the torch from home plate to first base, then handed it off to Dewey King a Korean War veteran. King carried the torch to second base and then handed it off to Jack Toney. Toney carried the torch to 3rd base and handed it off to Lt. Col Christina Hopper, currently serving in the US Air Force and former F16 fighter pilot. Hopper carried the torch to the Home plate and she was met by two 100-year-old World War II veterans, both Army Air Corps shot down in a B-24 and B-17 in the European theater. Photos by Jack Quirk – All About Hennessey.



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EAGLE SNOW GRAND OPENING!

With the temperature on the rise, Hennessey locals are flocking to Eagle Snow for a refreshing and delicious snow cone treat! Owned by Chris and Janice Fuksa, this new business is located at the corner of N Main and Nebraska St and is operated with the help of six Hennessey High School students. On May 25th, Eagle Snow celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, officiated by Vice Mayor Harold Shaw. The store is open daily from 2 pm to 8 pm, providing a perfect way to cool off during the hottest hours of the day.



Family-Owned BRT Masonry Brings Decades of Expertise to Brick and Rock Work

BRT Masonry is a family-owned business that has been serving Kingfisher County and the surrounding areas since 1933. As a third-generation mason company, they specialize in various masonry works, including brick, block, rock, and decorative stone. BRT has completed several projects in Hennessey, such as the CSB Sign and Howdy's Travel Plaza. If you require any brick or rock work, don't hesitate to contact BRT Masonry for a free estimate at (918) 629-7060.



**EVERYONE IS INVITED
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**70
Years**

Anniversary
celebration in honor of
Dale and Billie Melendy
Saturday, June 17th 2-4 pm
First Christian Church Fellowship Hall
Hennessey, Oklahoma

-HENNESSEY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER-

4T's continued

storefront just north of the long-gone south stop light. The Taylors eventually purchased land on the northeast corner of the Highway 81/Highway 51 intersection—one of the busiest intersections in the State of Oklahoma—and built a new store which opened in 1982.

Since Highway 81 now jogs around to the west now, the super hot crossroads has cooled a bit, and that change has challenged the Taylors. Recently, they find other challenges too because of a changing economy, a changing marketplace, and a changing business model. 4T's has competition nowadays from discount stores, convenience stores, national retail grocery delivery, online shopping, and nearby big box stores with curbside pick-up. The day of the family-owned business has seen its halcyon days of glory as has most smaller businesses. It's hard to compete.

Tim Taylor currently runs the store with help from his younger brother Terry. Tim and Terry are two of the 4 T's. John and Bonnie named the store for their four children whose names all begin with the letter "T": Tim, Terry, Tracy, Tammy. Tim says that he couldn't have scripted a better life or place to live, raise a family, or have a business. Hennessey has treated his extended family right, and they have reciprocated in kind. For example, during the tragic ice storm of 2001, the Taylors allowed shoppers to take what groceries they needed from the store shelves and pay for them when the ice melted, the tree limbs were gone, and electricity was restored. People didn't disappoint the faith that the Taylors had in the good folks from Hennessey.

Tim insists that the people make his job the best in the world and calls his customers a "joy." The store's philosophy clearly states that the store has one purpose: "serving our customers. This is the only task we seek to accomplish. When we meet the needs of our customers, they will reward our efforts by returning. Our customers are our 'life-blood' and we will endeavor to treat them as such." Tim looks forward to interacting with customers on a daily basis and has seen several generations go through those check-out stanchions. Part of his responsibilities include delivering groceries to local shut-



ins which is really just another way to interact with the folks who have made the grocery a successful enterprise for so long.

The Taylors have always believed that their staff of friendly, competent employees are the best part of the workings of the business too. Self-check-out does not exist at 4T's. They've never had difficulty in filling positions; employees enjoy the family atmosphere as do customers. Besides the staff, Tim considers the store's meat department the biggest asset. He promises too that the produce area will see major upgrades within six months to compete with the competition and



show Hennessey that improvements can always be made to a tried-and-true company. Even though Tim says that times are tough, they are still good. Because of supply chain issues brought about since 2020, the grocery has developed good working relationships with other small grocery concerns in central Oklahoma. When one business learns of a good deal on a large shipment of items, the network will go into action. Phone calls will be made to other stores offering to share part of the large shipment with them. In this way, many stores reap the benefits of good deals, good food, and good partnerships. It's just good business.

Founder John Taylor still owns the building and serves as grocer advisor to his two managing sons. Tim wouldn't have it any other way as his dad has 84 years of experience and gives sound advice that his sons always appreciate.

And with sixty years on the horizon, we've got a celebration to prepare for! Help show the Taylors some love and appreciation for all they've done for the community at their 60th anniversary celebration on Saturday, June 3 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Hot dogs will cost a dime, and the birthday cake will be free. The centerpiece of the celebration will be the giant mural banner created by Royal Signs. This collage of photos of the stores, customers, events, and drawing winners will grace the inside of the store. Come by! Get a hot dog! See who you can identify in the mural that will illustrate sixty years of a small-town grocery store, its grateful patrons, and its proud owners.



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HWY 51 IS COMPLETE!

The multi-year ODOT highway project to widen and resurface Hwy 51 east of Hennessey is now complete. What started with moving all of the utilities and fences, moved on to replacing all of the bridges and improving drainage. During construction on the 7-mile stretch traveling west from Hennessey was a challenge at times with long delays and frustrating automated traffic signals. There were several bad automobile accidents during this period including one fatality.

The construction also created a challenge for 4Ts Family Market in Hennessey. Tim Taylor, co-owner of 4Ts said, "They cut us off and made it very difficult for our customers to get in. We had a significant loss in sales during that time."

Oklahoma Department of Transportation crews painted the lines on the new road Wednesday, May 24th and the construction company started to clean up and move equipment out. Cummins Construction, the main contractor started to tear down the asphalt plant that has been in Hennessey for the past year and move it out.

Although this part of Hwy 51 is complete there are still delays on the other end near I-35 where the highway is being rerouted over the railroad tracks near the Orlando/Mulhall intersection.



TOWN OF HENNESSEY IS NOW HIRING

The Town of Hennessey is looking for qualified candidates to apply for the position of "Accounts Payable/Payroll clerk". Applicants should have a positive "can do" attitude and work well with others. This position has deadlines to meet, so being able to handle some stress is a BIG plus. Candidates must have skill and experience with computer programs used in accounting practices, as well as balancing cash drawers. An exciting benefits package includes, insurance – paid holidays –2 weeks paid vacation after the first year, and sick days accrued.

Applications can be acquired at Hennessey Town Hall



10U HENNESSEY EAGLE BASEBALL TEAM GOLF FUNDRAISER

On May 19th, the 10U Hennessey Eagles Baseball team had their Golf Fundraiser at Turkey Creek Golf Course. The event ended up being rained out halfway through and has been rescheduled for June 9th. All teams that participated previously can still play, and they are accepting new teams. Registration will be at 11:30 AM.



Team: Joel Ramirez, Jasper Dobbins, Brett Muzny, Osiel Roman, Elliot Matthews, Daxon Wymore, Karsyn Hatchel, Mason, Wymore, Izaiah Duran, Jaxon Beaman, Truett Humphries.
Not photographed: Bennett Gordon, Jaivan Failing



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JUNE 24

6:00PM - 9:00PM

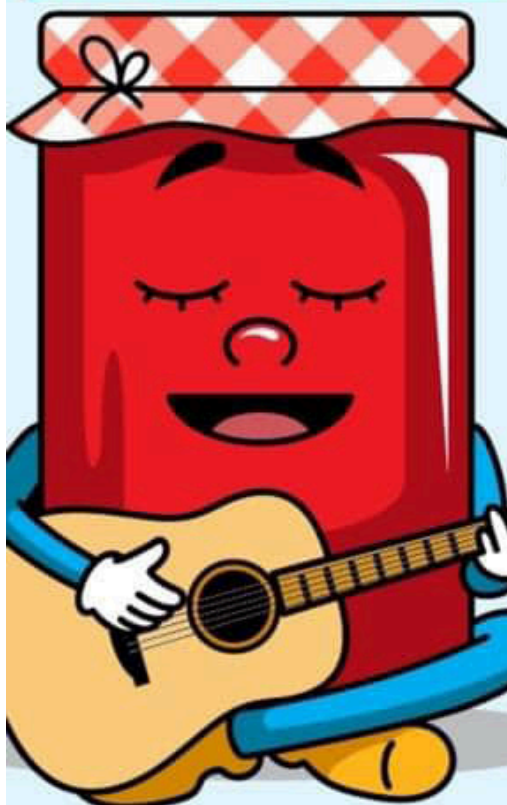


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Upcoming Events

Wednesday, May 31
HS Softball Camp (Day 2/4)

Thursday, June 1
HS Softball Camp (Day 3/4)
HS Football Team Camp (Day 1/2)
12 – 1pm Lions Club Meeting at Family Cafe
6:30 – 7:30pm OK2A Meeting Vernost Wine Co

Friday, June 2
HS Softball Camp (Day 4/4)
HS Football Team Camp (Day 2/2)

Saturday, June 3
8 – 9am Men's Breakfast FCC 500 E 3rd St,

Monday, June 5
Chorus - SNU All State Camp (Day 1/3)
5th-8th grade Basketball Camp (Day 1/3)

Tuesday, June 6
Chorus - SNU All State Camp (Day 2/3)
5th-8th grade Basketball Camp (Day 2/3)

Wednesday, June 7
Chorus - SNU All State Camp (Day 3/3)
5th-8th grade Basketball Camp (Day 3/3)

Thursday, June 8
12 – 1pm Lions Club Meeting at Family Cafe
6 – 9pm Town Board Meeting

Monday, June 12
7 – 8pm School Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 13
HS Softball Camp (Day 1/5)

Wednesday, June 14
HS Softball Camp (Day 2/5)
Flag Day

Thursday, June 15
HS Softball Camp (Day 3/5)
12 – 1pm Lions Club Meeting at Family Cafe

Friday, June 16
HS Softball Camp (Day 4/5)

Saturday, June 17
HS Softball Camp (Day 5/5)
CAT team fundraiser Best Family Cow Palace
5 – 8pm Wrestling Event - Summer Throwdown

Sunday, June 18
Father's Day

Tuesday, June 20
Mason Meeting at Coronado Lodge

THE BEST FAMILY NEEDS OUR HELP!

Jacqueline (Jackie) was working at Love's when she was diagnosed with carcinoid carcinoma. By the time it was diagnosed, it had already attacked multiple organs.

Chris diagnosed with stage four squamous cell carcinoma, has lost his right arm to the socket and now the cancer is spreading to the left lung, left arm, and left knee. Chris' cancer is growing and spreading rapidly.



Struggling with cancer for almost 8 years, the Best family now needs our help with expenses incurred while fighting this very difficult battle.

June 17, 2023 Cow Palace

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