

# Stephenville Rotary News



## The 100% Club for Nov

Gene Atkinson  
Bob Collins  
Bot Cranford  
Matt Hallgarth  
Ron Henry  
Debbie Hummel  
Ken Jones  
Jerry Lee  
Joe McFarland  
Rosemary Nagle  
Richard Sanders  
Burton Smith  
Keith Stripling  
Steve Trogdon  
Vernon Sweeney

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## Happy Thanksgiving To All!!!!

The earliest recorded Thanksgiving observances were in what would become the Commonwealth of Virginia as far back as 1607 with the first settlers in Jamestown, Virginia. We can also trace the American Thanksgiving holiday to a 1621 celebration at Plymouth Plantation, where our early settlers held a harvest feast after a successful growing season. The Pilgrims celebrated for three days after their first harvest in 1621. The exact days were not known but best estimates places those three days occurred between Sept 21 and Nov 11, 1621. The Massachusetts Bay Colony celebrated Thanksgiving for the first time in 1630 and frequently thereafter until about 1680. If the truth be told the "American" holiday's origins were brought over by the European settlers.

For extraordinary excellence in her academic studies, the Club recently honored Hannah Mabry as the November Student of the Month. Hannah is a member of the National Honor Society awarded to her for sustaining a 90% grade average.

Extracurricular activities include competing as a member of the varsity track team; serving as the President of the Student Council, Chaplain of the Choir, and Chaplain of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). She is also a member of the UIL Journalism team where she took 2nd place in State for Editorial writing.

In the community, Hannah is an active member of the First Baptist Church where she serves as a youth leader and teaches English as a Second Language (ESL). She has also participated in mission trips to Peru and Spain.

After graduation this spring, Hannah will attend college where she will major in journalism and Spanish. Hannah is the daughter of proud parents Vickie and Dale Mabry.

The first national proclamation of Thanksgiving was given by the Continental Congress in 1777 from York, Pennsylvania, while the British occupied the national capital at Philadelphia. Sam Adams created the draft that was adapted by Congress. George Washington, Leader of the revolutionary forces in Revolutionary War proclaimed a Day of Thanksgiving in December 1777 as a victory celebration honoring the defeat of the British at Saratoga.

In the middle of the Civil War, President Abe Lincoln proclaimed a national day of Thanksgiving to be celebrated on the final Thursday in November 1863. William Seward, Secretary of State, wrote the declaration. "...I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States...to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our benevolent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens."

Almost eighty years later in 1941, Congress passed a joint resolution fixing the traditional Thanksgiving day to be the last Thursday beginning in 1942, However in December, the Senate passed an amendment requiring that (Cont p 2)

Intl Pres: K. R. Ravindran  
Dist Gov: Troy Secord  
President: Debbie Hummel  
Pres Elect: Jerry Lee  
Vice Pres: Matt Hallgarth  
Sec: Joe McFarland  
Treas: Jim Choate



Be a gift to the world

### Happy Birthday!!

Gene Atkinson Dec 20  
Keith Stripling Dec 27  
Woodrow Wilson Dec 28  
Jesus Christ Dec 25



From left to right SISD Student Counselor Kristi Adams, Vickie Mabry, Student of the Month Hannah and Dale Mabry.

Thanksgiving be observed annually on the fourth Thursday of November which sometimes is the last Thursday and sometimes the next to the last. While we complain that the present day Congress is not being able to reach an agreement on many substantive issues, since 1942 Congress has not changed the date for Thanksgiving celebrations.

As we enjoy Thanksgiving and look forward to the upcoming Christmas season we should count our blessings, We live in a country rich in tradition of Thanksgiving. We enjoy freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom to assemble. We can join a Church or civic organization such as Rotary without fear for our safety. We have been relatively safe from terrorist activities of extremists and have not had thousands of refugees uprooted from their homes. Most Americans sat down to a meal of plenty on this Thanksgiving.

We are extremely fortunate to be Americans! I pray that your Thanksgiving was most joyous and the Christmas season will bring peace and hope for the New Year!

*On Veteran's Day November 11, the Club completed another successful year posting Flags for the Stephenville Community.*



*Thanks to all who participated during 2015!*



In Tecate, Mexico, on a Cleft and Craniofacial Surgical Mission, Stephenville's own Dr. Dylan Bowles (on right) recently participated in a medical mission. Not only is Stephenville Rotary represented but also Mission Bay San Diego, Carlsbad San Diego, and Tecate, Mexico Rotary Clubs participated in this medical mission. Another example of Rotary Clubs being a "Gift to the World."