

# Knox County Museum Benefit slated for Sunday!!

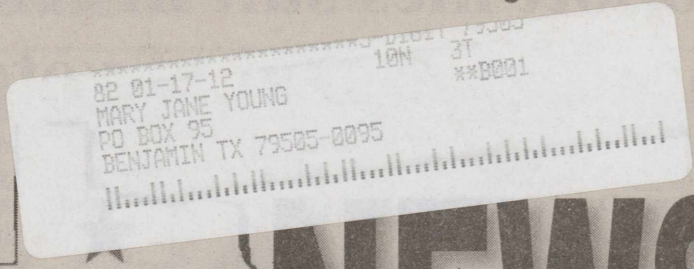
The

# KNOX COUNTY

# NEWS

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## Knox County probably won't see speed limit increase ... yet

While some Texas motorists will soon be able to go a bit faster on the Texas highways, residents of Knox County won't be among them.

The Texas Transportation Commission approved the proposed 75 mile an hour speed limit for parts of the Texas highway system last week. In all, more than 1,500 miles of Texas roadways will be affected by the change.

According to the TTC, the speed

limit changes span 60 Texas counties making it the largest conversion since a new law was passed last year. The 82nd Texas Legislature passed and Gov. Rick Perry signed House Bill 1353 which allows the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to establish 75 miles per hour speed limits on Texas highways providing speed studies show it can be done safely.

Since September, the agency has

been reviewing existing 70 miles per hour speed limits across the state to determine where a 75 miles per hour limit may be safely posted. Four Central Texas highways were the first to see higher speeds after the new law took effect. Thursday's Commission action brings the number of miles now zoned at 75 mph as a result of House Bill (HB) 1353 to 1,618.

Posting new speed limits on 1,500 miles of interstate highway is a major

milestone in implementing the new law, said Carol Rawson, TxDOT Traffic Operations Division director.

"Texas' economic strength depends on the efficient and safe movement of people and goods," Rawson explained. "These new speed limits increase highway efficiency while maintaining the safety of the transportation system."

TxDOT recommended to the Commission that speed limits be raised

on segments of I-10, I-20, I-27, I-30, I-35, I-37, I-40, I-44 and I-45 after engineering studies showed that higher speeds could be posted safely. Area counties that will be affected by the change include Eastland, Palo Pinto, Callahan and Taylor - all counties in which Interstate 20 crosses.

Texas motorists must continue to travel at the current posted speed on all roadways until new signs are installed, said Rawson.

## UIL to unveil new alignment on Thursday

TOMMY WELLS  
The Knox City News

In Texas, there are certain days that are looked forward to almost religiously.

Christmas.

Thanksgiving Day.

Texas vs. Oklahoma.

Perhaps the list should also include the University Interscholastic League's biennial realignment date. The date the UIL releases its new, districting alignments for each of its six public school classifications is one of the most anticipated events in Texas high school football.

Big Country teams are no exception to the alignment craze. Residents in Knox and Throckmorton counties will be madly seeking out information on Thursday morning when the UIL releases its alignment.

No one is sure where they are going. Not even the coaches.

"We are at the UIL's mercy because we could be in the east or west due to our location,"

said Knox City head coach Charles Steele.

Throckmorton head coach Mike Reed agreed, saying nothing can really

be done until the UIL makes its decision.

"There is no control or planning right now because we don't know what the UIL will do," said Reed, who guided Throckmorton to the six-man Division I six-man state championship.

Reed and Steele both said they expect their teams to be placed in the western half of the alignment bracket. With the new teams coming into the six-man ranks in the eastern half of the state, the UIL could move the two six-man powerhouses into the west.

"Looking at the new schools playing six-man, and the teams switching Divisions, I feel like we will probably go west."

Should both teams shift into the west, there is the possibility that Throckmorton and Knox City could remain in the same district. This fall, the Greyhounds won the District 9-A race, with

See UIL on Page 2



## DIRT-Y WORK



News photo/Tommy Wells

Construction crews continued to create a new road bed on Main Street last week as they continue with their improvement plans for downtown Knox City. The crews are removing the old street and curbs. Businesses located in the downtown area of Knox City are still open.

## 'Valentine Cuties' photos due by Feb. 9

Local residents that would like to enter their children, or grandchildren, into the 2012 Knox County News' "Valentine's Cuties" photo spread should submit their photos to the News office by Thursday, Feb. 9.

The photos will be printed in the Feb. 16 edition of the newspaper.

Photos can be dropped at the Tribune's office at 110 N. Central Street in Knox City, or mailed to: The Knox County News, P.O. Box 188, Knox City, Texas, 79529. They can also be emailed to the paper at [knoxconews@gmail.com](mailto:knoxconews@gmail.com)

There is a \$15 charge for each photo to help offset the cost of color.



News photo/Tommy Wells

With the recent rainfall drying, local farmers have been able to get into the field to begin harvesting. Above, a farmer makes huge piles of grain north of O'Brien.

## KC fire department receives check from Farm Bureau

The Knox City Fire Department received a check for \$150 recently from Texas Farm Bureau Insurance Companies as an expression of thanks for the department's work on the property of Sammy Gonzales.

The money will be used for their loss prevention program.

The Texas Farm Bureau Insurance Companies pay fire departments this amount when

the department works at a fire in rural areas, involving property insured by them.

The Insurance Company believes fire departments have contributed to reduce the amount of loss involved by fire and more importantly, to prevent fires. It is their hope this money will help the Knox City Fire Department in their program.

## News debuts new email address

Knox County residents will be able to visit with an old face at a new place beginning this week.

The Knox County News, which was purchased by Tommy and Patricia Wells last week, will be using a new email address, effective immediately.

The News' new email address is: [knoxconews@gmail.com](mailto:knoxconews@gmail.com).

News publisher Tommy Wells also encouraged local residents to submit items to the paper.

"We want to encourage people to help us out," said Wells. "We

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# Sports

## Playoff races taking shape for area hoops teams

With less than three weeks left in the 2011-2012 regular season, many of the high school basketball races are beginning to shape. That means the talk will soon turn to the state playoffs.

One thing is for certain, there will be no shortage of postseason action for area teams. Throckmorton, Knox City and Munday all head into the stretch run with very real playoff aspirations.

The Munday Moguls all but punched their ticket to the postseason on Friday when they defeated district-leading Stamford, 56-44, in a key District 9-A, Division I, matchup.

With the win, the Moguls moved into a tie for first in the district race with a 5-1 record. In all likelihood, the two teams will face off in the regular season finale for the district championship.

The Haskell Indians are currently third in the 9-A race with a 4-2 record. Hamlin is fourth at 3-3.

Should Munday win the District 9-A crown, the Moguls would earn a bye in the first round of the playoffs. Should they finish second, Munday would face the third-place team from the District 10-A race in the first round, which begins on Feb. 20.

The Knox City Greyhounds kept their district title hopes alive on Friday with a 47-35 win over the Chillicothe Eagles.

With the win, the Greyhounds moved to 6-2 in District 13-A play, and stayed within one game of district-leading Crowell.

Knox City, which is scheduled to face rival Benjamin on Friday, currently sits in second in the district standings, two games ahead of third-place Northside.

Crowell, 7-0 in district play, has already clinched one of the district's three playoff berths.

Like Crowell, the No. 4-ranked Throckmorton Greyhounds have

already punched their trip to the postseason. Throckmorton all but clinched the District 14-A title on Friday with a 57-22 romp over Aspermont.

With the win, the THS squad ran its season record to 14-1 and, more importantly, improved to 6-0 in loop play.

Should Throckmorton repeat as the District 14-A crown, the Greyhounds would earn a bye in the first round. Aspermont, which should finish second, would likely draw Northside in the first round, with Knox City or Crowell facing the third-place qualifier.

Woodson and Lueders-Avooca

are battling for the district's third-place playoff berth.

The girls' playoff race is a bit more clear. Munday, Crowell and Throckmorton all appear to have the inside tracks to their respective district crowns.

In District 9-A, Division I, the runner-up berth is Hamlin's to lose. The Lady Pipers head into their final four games with a two-game lead over Haskell and Roscoe.

Northside and Knox City are fighting it out for the runner-up berth in District 13-A, Division II. Northside was 4-1 as of last Friday.

The KC girls improved to 3-3

in district pay with a 45-36 win over Chillicothe.

The Throckmorton girls went into this week's play at 7-0 in District 14-A play. The Lady Hounds need only two wins to clinch the district crown and guarantee themselves a first-round bye.

Aspermont is the odds-on favorite to finish second in the district race and will face either Northside of Knox City in the first round of the Division II playoffs, which will begin on Feb. 13.

The District 13-A runner-up will play either Paint Creek, Woodson or Lueders-Avooca in their playoff opener.

### Jones leads 'Hounds past Harrold, 47-33

Blake Jones scored a game-high 12 points on Tuesday and helped the Knox City Greyhounds roll to a 47-33 victory over the Harrold Hornets in District 13-A action.

With the win, Knox City improved to 7-1 in district play. The Greyhounds trail Crowell by one game heading into Friday's action.

Knox City got off to a quick start against Harrold, which fell to 0-6 in league play. The Greyhounds pounded out several clutch shots in the first eight minutes and built a 14-9 advantage.

The KC defense took over from there. Knox City limited Harrold to just four points in the second and helped the Greyhounds roll into the half with a seven-point lead, at 20-13.

Knox City all but put the game away in the third. The Greyhounds reeled off a 12-8 run

in the frame and stretched their lead to 11 heading into the fourth quarter.

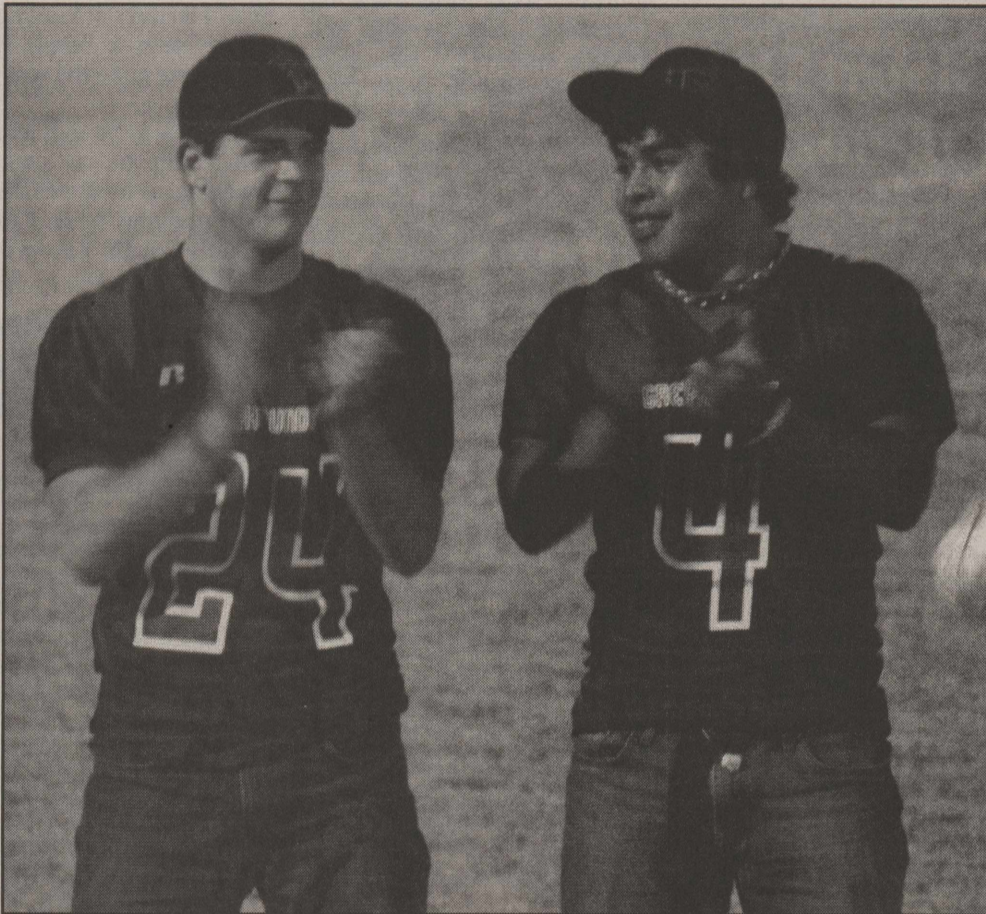
T.J. Moore and Zach Carter just missed scoring into double figures in the game. Both finished with nine points. Moore accounted for the Greyhounds' lone three-point basket.

Knox City also picked up solid play from Brandon York, Jose Espinal and Ryan Ledesma. York chalked up six points in the victory. Espinal and Ledesma both contributed four.

Kris Campos and Jarek Wilde also scored, netting two and one, respectively.

As a team, the Greyhounds shot extremely well from the charity stripe. Knox City hit eight of their nine attempts from the free throw line against Harrold.

KCHS will close out the regular season on Feb. 7 with a home game against Crowell.



Jarek Wilde and Ryan Ledesma were both all-state selections this past season for the Knox City Greyhounds.

### Former KC star to coach all-star game

Former Knox City High School standout Wayne Hutchinson added a feather to his coaching resume recently when he was selected as an assistant coach for the 2012 Oil Bowl game, the all-star game pitting Texas' top athletes against those from Oklahoma.

Hutchinson, who serves as the head football coach at Stamford, will be the defensive coordinator for Wichita Falls Rider's Jim Garfield. Burlinson's Jason Tucker will serve as Texas' offensive coordinator.

Hutchinson, who guided Knox City to the Class A state crown in 1984, played in the 1984 Oil Bowl as a senior. He threw a TD in Texas' 27-7 win that year.

After winning the Oil Bowl's first overtime game 17-14 last year, the Texans now lead the series 46-18-1.

The three Oklahoma coaches will be Harlon Howe of Seminole, Rob Fry of Ponca City and J.R. Winton of Pryor.

### KC lands six spots on all-state team

The Knox City Greyhounds turned more than a few heads this past season on the football field. They received plenty of praise, too.

The Greyhounds land six spots on the Texas Six-Man Coaches Association's 2011 all-state football teams, including two first-team players.

Blake Jones and Ryan Ledesma were both first-team all-state selections. Jones was tabbed a first-team pick as a tight end, while Ledesma was a first-team all-state selection at linebacker.

With Jones and Ledesma leading the way, Knox City marched to the Division I state quarterfinals before falling to eventual state champion Throckmorton.

The Greyhounds had four players earn Honorable Mention all-state accolades this past season. Garnering HM honors were kicker T.J. Moore, defensive end Blake

### KC teams sweep 2 from Chillicothe

The Knox City Greyhounds and Houndettes both turned in solid performances last Friday by claiming district wins over Chillicothe.

The Greyhounds had no trouble notching a 47-35 win over the Eagles. KC held a 14-point lead late, at 32-18, in the third before coasting to the finish.

The Houndettes notched a 45-36 win over the CHS Lady Eagles.

### KC track teams to open season at Bulldog Relays

The Knox City High School athletes will usher in the spring athletic season in a few weeks when they kick off the 2012 track and field season.

The KCHS boys' and girls will be competing in four meets during the regular season, including the Knox City Greyhound Relays on March 9.

In addition to hosting their own meet, the Greyhounds and Houndettes will be competing in Spur (March 2), Jayton (March 23) and Aspermont (23) before concluding the regular season with the district meet on April 6.

2012 Track Schedule Varsity

March 2	.....Spur Relays
March 9	.....KC Relays
March 23	.....Jayton Relays
March 30	.....Aspermont Relays
April 6	.....District Meet

Junior High

March 9	.....Spur Relays
March 15	.....KC Relays
March 22	.....Jayton Relays
March 31	.....Zone Meet

The Knox City Junior High teams will be running in meets in Spur, Knox City, Jayton and the Zone Meet in Crowell.

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## Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

Today we begin yet another phase of the Knox Co. News with the new owners in the saddle and "rarin" to go. Though I haven't met them yet, I have spoken to them by phone and it sounds like they are ready and anxious to get "this show on the road." And we are happy to have them aboard.

News of the ill of our community varies today.

Deann Lamb is in the Munday Nursing Center, having been admitted last Tuesday morning. This is supposedly a short term stay until a fracture from a recent fall heals. I visited her on Sunday and she was feeling better. I also visited briefly with Mary Welch - that's Susan Cartwright's mother. She suffered a stroke recently but she's doing much better. They all enjoy company so much and I urge everyone to drop by there, if only for a few minutes, when you are in Munday.

I visited with Cindy Layton and also Tom Moorhouse tonight. They told me Becky is in the Knox Co. hospital. She was admitted today (Mon.) and tonight was feeling much better. Some of her medication was making her sick so, hopefully, they will take care of that and she can return home soon.

Mike Young has good days and some not so good. He spent Fri. night in a Wichita Falls hospital and the last I heard he was feeling better.

Barbara Ryder will be in Ft. Worth Mon. (on Feb. 6) to see a doctor about her knee. She sure is looking forward to getting something done to relieve

the pain.

Former resident of Benjamin, (now living in Knox City), John Chilcoat underwent surgery Tuesday in Wichita Falls. He's home now and, according to family members, is doing real well and that's good news.

Chad Tolson continues to improve and is getting out more as time goes by. Though he still is not 100 percent, he is so much better than he was just a short time ago. His family knows doctors have done a lot but also knows prayers of family and friends played a big part in his recovery. He, and all these I have mentioned today, and also those with problems we do not know about continue to need our prayers.

Sympathy today to the family of Karen Criswell in Guthrie. Karen passed away last week after several years of failing health. Her funeral was Saturday in Guthrie. Also, sympathy to family and friends of Bill Groves of Knox City. Bill died on Sunday after suffering an apparent stroke about a week earlier. His funeral will be Thursday, at the O'Brien Baptist Church. And a belated expression of sympathy to Diana Casillas of Knox City and her family. Their mother passed away last Saturday (Jan. 28) after being sick for quite some time.

### Here 'N There

Janet Reed spent the weekend with her husband, Gary, in Big Spring. Gary is working there on a construction job. She returned home Sunday and began (again) her job at the courthouse in the offices of the

Co. Judge and Co. Attorney. She had worked there before and when the position became available she applied and was hired. She has been working in a secretarial position at the 4 Six Ranch at Guthrie for quite some time, but the driving back and forth was beginning to get to be a little "much" for her so, of course, she's glad to be about two blocks from her work now! Who wouldn't be?

Colton Caldwell, a student at North Texas State in Denton, was home for the weekend visiting his mom, Lana Hale, and grandparents, Jane Gideon and Weldon Gideon.

Hazel Stockton and Kim Moore were in Lubbock on Monday for Hazel to see her dermatologist. She got a pretty good report. Just needs to keep doing what she's been doing and go back in a few weeks for another follow-up visit.

Samijo Russell is proud to announce the arrival of a baby boy. Demetrius Jovohn was born Thursday, Jan. 26, at 7:47 p.m. at the Seymour hospital. D. J. weighed 6 lbs. and 14 oz. and was 19 3/4 inches long. Maternal grandmother is Kim Moore, great-grandfather is Bud Conner and great-great-grandmother is Hazel Stockton. Sam, D.J. and all the rest of the family are doing great!

Finally, don't forget the museum benefit dinner on Sunday, Feb. 5. Serving will begin at 11:30 a.m. and everyone is invited for a great meal, silent auction and lots of visiting - all for a great cause - I'll see you there!

## Hunters should be on look out for sick quail

ROBY - With quail season in full swing, experts are asking hunters to be on the lookout for sick or dead wild quail to help them solve a nagging mystery.

"We're asking hunters to let us know of any strange-acting quail or, better yet, of any carcasses they come across or sick birds they've found," said Dr. Dale Rollins, Texas AgriLife Extension Service wildlife specialist at San Angelo.

Rollins, who is also the director of the Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch near Roby, said he and his team want the birds as they may offer clues to the troubling critical decline in the Texas' quail population over the past few years.

The Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch study led by Rollins is called Operation Idiopathic Decline. It's a comprehensive study of quail dis-

eases and parasites that may be factors involved in the birds' decline.

As part of this effort, the ranch funded eight research projects last spring at just over \$2 million that include scientists from Texas Tech University, Texas A&M University, Texas A&M University-Kingsville and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

"The word idiopathic in the title, meaning it's unknown what's causing the demise of quail, pretty well sums up the frustration we as hunters, educators and researchers are feeling at this point," Rollins said. "The bobwhite quail population is at a record low in the Rolling Plains, which has long been the traditional stronghold for wild quail in Texas. To date, our research team has tested nearly 700 bobwhites from 21 Texas sites and 10 sites in Oklahoma.

## Knox County Aging Services

The following lunch menus have been listed for the week of Feb. 6 through Feb. 10 for the Knox County Aging Services

All meals are served with Wheat Bread, Margarine and 1 percent milk.

**Monday, Feb. 6** - Chicken rice casserole, black-eyed peas, carrots, whole wheat roll, fruit cocktail

**Tuesday, Feb. 7** - Polish sausage, pinto beans, cole slaw, cornbread, peaches.

**Wednesday, Feb. 8** - Char-broiled beef patty with peppers and onions, garlic mashed potatoes, beets, sliced bread, Mandarin oranges.

**Thursday, Feb. 9** - Spaghetti with meat sauce, Italian vegetables, broccoli, garlic toast, Autumn Jell-O.

**Friday, Feb. 10** - Sloppy Joe on a bun, country potato salad, carrots/zucchini, creamy fruit square.

NOTE: New serving time is noon (in Knox City only). Alternate desserts available for diabetics.

Please call in orders by 10 a.m. to 657-3618. Orders cannot be taken after 10 a.m. All orders need to be picked up after 11 a.m.



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## NEWS

Continued from Page 1

are new to community, and still reside outside of the area. Any help anyone could offer would be greatly appreciated. We really want to make this the best paper we possibly can."

Wells said he and his wife are planning to have the News office open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. The office will be closed on Wednesdays for paper deliveries.

"It isn't the perfect plan, but until our youngest son graduates from high school, it is the only one we have," he said.

Wells said anyone wanting to advertise in the paper, or wanting to pass on a news tip could contact him on his cell phone at (940) 329-1540.

## Comptroller's office offers resource for owners looking for tax answers

Understanding state tax responsibilities can be a daunting task for business owners. As the owner of a ranch operation herself, Texas Comptroller Susan Combs knows the unique challenges facing business owners and is committed to providing resources to assist in success.

During the month of January, the Comptroller's office will conduct 16 free taxpayer seminars across the state. At these seminars, taxpayers can learn how to properly fill-out sales tax forms,

filing and paying taxes electronically and e-services to help taxpayers manage their accounts online. Comptroller representatives will be available to answer questions and provide assistance to attendees.

"We want to empower Texas business owners by making resources and information accessible. Conducting these seminars and making our team of tax specialists available provides much needed expert guidance," said Comptroller Combs. "A strong

and diverse business community is the key to Texas' long-term economic strength," said Comptroller Combs.

A complete list of locations, dates and times of the taxpayer seminars is available at [www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/seminars.html](http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/seminars.html). Those who are unable to attend the seminars can call the Comptroller's tax assistance line at 1-800-252-5555. Tax forms and tax information can also be found on the Comptroller's website, [www.window.state.tx.us](http://www.window.state.tx.us).

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