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The KNOX COUNTY NEWS

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THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2012 • 30TH YEAR, NO. 33 • KNOX CITY, TEXAS • PRICE 75¢

Demboski named new municipal judge

TOMMY WELLS
The Knox County News

After working for 30 years as an air traffic controller, Mike Demboski decided he would retire and really go to work. Last week, he added the duties of Knox City Municipal Judge to a busy resume.

"Hopefully, I can do right by the community," said Demboski, who serves as a jailer/dispatcher for the Knox County Sheriff's Department, and a hunting

guide. "I think it is a pretty big honor, and one that I am going to try hard to live up to."

Demboski replaced Jeff Stanfield as the municipal judge. Stanfield, who serves as the mayor of Knox City, swore him into office on April 6.

A former air traffic controller, Demboski's nomination for the position was approved by the Knox City City Council at their February meeting.

Demboski, who is known to many simply as "Ski," said his

main goal was to be fair to the residents of the community.

"We all make mistakes, and I know that," he said. "I want to do the right thing and be fair."

The appointment as municipal judge is the latest challenge for the native of Louisville, Mississippi. Since leaving his hometown, he trained to become an air traffic controller, a hunting guide and, when he moved to Knox City in 2007, a member of the Knox County Volunteer Fire Department.

Demboski said he accepted the position with the hopes of helping the community.

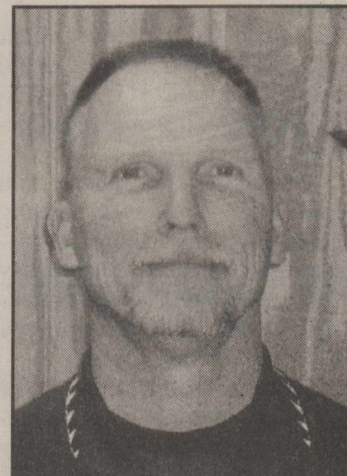
"I love living in this town," he said. "I've always felt that you have to be a part of the community if you are going to live in it. A town is what you make of it."

"I look at it like this, it isn't where you came from as much as where you are and where you are going," he said. "Hopefully, I can help make this community a place we are all proud to live.

Hopefully, I can do right by the community."

Demboski said he would be juggling court dates and times in an effort to make life easier for residents. He said he would hold some evening court times, as well as weekends, if possible.

"I realize people have jobs and are busy," said Demboski, following a Tuesday evening court session. "Most people are good and want to do what is right. I want to make it easier for them."



Mike Demboski ...
...new municipal judge

KCEDC looks to turn street lights on in Knox City

The Knox City EDC "A" and "B" boards have set aside a limited amount of funds to help fund decorative street lights in the downtown area, and for the infrastructure for lights to be installed throughout the entire 21 block sidewalk project.

The Knox City City Council assigned the responsibility of the light project to the Knox City Community Development Foundation. The goal and design of the project provides for lighting the downtown awnings and three decorative lights per block, in each block that receives new sidewalks. One in the middle of the block and one equally spaced on each end, which places them approximately 75 feet apart. Some exceptions to this spacing will occur where driveways won't allow.

Following this pattern as closely as possible on every block will require 60 or more lights. A grant from a private foundation has been set aside to pay for the lights that will go in front of the three churches involved in the sidewalk project. The Knox City Chamber of Commerce voted to fund lights for the block in front of the City Motel by utilizing Hotel/Motel tax revenue to pay the cost. Several business owners have agreed to purchase one or more lights on their respective block. Yet there will still be a need to fund the cost of many more lights. Outside of the immediate downtown area, electricity to power the lights will need to come from private sources.

Please consider purchasing one or more of the lights as a memorial to a loved one, or to show your love for our community. You

may also wish to purchase one for your home. After much research and negotiation, a light has been selected and installed in front of Counts Real Estate for all to view. This light is produced by the Mel Northey Company in Houston. It is much better in quality than many of the lights we see in small communities around this part of Texas. Each one is powder coated and comes with a polycarbonate globe with an aluminum cap. They will each have an external plug for Christmas lighting if desired, and a photocell to turn it off and on at dark and daylight. This light is normally priced near \$700. For this quantity purchase we have negotiated to \$400. This price includes free shipping. After the initial order the price will remain the same. However, the shipping charge will be determined by the quantity ordered. The initial order will be guaranteed. A memorial plate can be added at a cost of \$10 or less.

Supplies and labor to install a light at your home or business outside of the sidewalk project should be around \$100. The cost of electricity will compare to that of a small lamp in your home. Each light will draw less than one half of one amp.

The sidewalk lighting project requires much volunteer labor to lay conduit, pulling wire and installing lights. If you are interested in purchasing a light, helping with the installation, providing electricity for your block, or any of the above: please contact Marla Hawkins at (940) 658-3390 or Steve Pepper at (940) 256-0028.

The first new street light (at left) was installed in Knox City earlier this week in front of Counts Real Estate office. The Knox City EDC is making the street lights available to local businesses and individuals through a special program.

KC sales tax returns fall in latest report

TOMMY WELLS
The Knox County News

The latest sales tax report may have given the Big Country a mixed bag of results, but in Knox County the news wasn't as good as some had hope.

In fact, it just wasn't good. Three of Knox County's four communities showed declines in sales tax returns, according to the Texas State Comptroller Susan Combs' latest report. Of the four communities named in the March report, only Munday showed an increase in sales tax totals - and even that was slim.

The City of Munday generates a 3.08 percent increase in sales tax revenue in the latest report. The town took in 11,704.34 in the latest reporting period - just over \$300 more than the same period in 2011.

The City of Knox City saw its sales tax figures drop by 9.89 percent.

According to the state, Knox City merchants generates \$19,110.17 in sales tax this period. The town showed a return of \$21,209.70 a year ago.

Benjamin and Goree both showed huge drops in sales tax totals. Benjamin's totals slipped

by 19.26 percent, dropping from \$1,234.98 in 2011 to \$997.12 this year. Goree saw its return drop 65.97 percent to \$439.02.

In March 2011, Goree generated \$1,290.10 in returns.

Much like Knox County, a majority of the towns in Haskell County reported falling totals. O'Brien, Rochester and Rule all saw their totals fall.

Rochester's sales tax totals declined by 19.32 percent, dipping to \$320.86. O'Brien's totals fell by 52 percent to \$158.76, while Rule saw its totals slip by 21 percent to \$1,847.05.

A year ago, Rule's sales tax revenue was \$2,344.35.

The City of Haskell and Weinert both showed increases in sales tax totals. Haskell's totals jumped by 20 percent to \$37,939.20.

A year ago, Haskell's total stood at \$31,608.95.

Haskell's gains paled in comparison to Weinert's. Weinert's return grew by 80.6 percent from the previous year, jumping to \$276.59.

During the same period in 2011, Weinert took in \$153.11.

Throckmorton and Stonewall

See TAX on Page 2

KCVG sets Social Media workshop for March 29

Facebook, Twitter, Google+, YouTube and now Pinterest? Social media has certainly changed the way Americans do business. Knox County residents no longer have a choice on whether we do social media; the question is how well they can do it.

The Knox County Visioning Group will host a business development workshop on March 29, from 6-7 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse in Benjamin on using social media. This workshop will focus on creating a page for a business, scheduling

updates and how to advertise on Facebook. The KCVG will also touch on using Pinterest to advertise products.

Facebook fans (those who 'like' your page) are 291 percent more likely to engage with brands than nonfans. That means fans are three times more likely to convert (use or purchase product or service) than nonfans. According to the business Social-Code, fans of a page buy at a 7 percent rate, while nonfans buy

See KCVG on Page 3

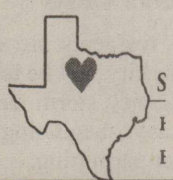
Munday elections cancelled

The City of Munday and the Munday Consolidated School District were able to cancel their May 12 elections last week.

The City of Munday had just three candidates file for five spots on its board. Filing for Mayor was Bob Bowen. Retaining their

spots on the city council were incumbents Traci Blair, Ryan Cottingham and Keith Kuehler. The council will fill the final two spots with appointments.

All three incumbents were returned to their spots on the MCISD board.



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Obituaries

John Bryan Lippard

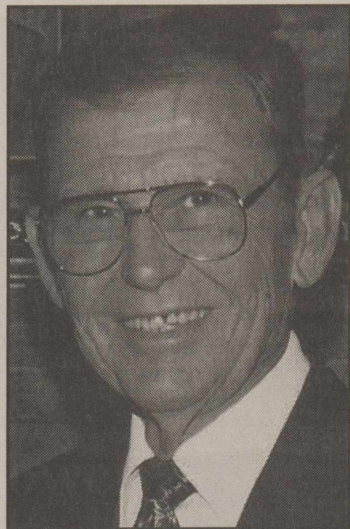
John Bryan (Johnny) Lippard of Knox City, Texas passed away on Monday, March 5, 2012 in Sulphur, Oklahoma. Born on April 13, 1921 in Sudan, Texas, Johnny grew up primarily on the Golden Spread of the Texas Panhandle.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Bonnie Jo Vannoy Lippard; his parents, John Henry and Edna Maud Lippard; 4 sisters, Nancy Lou Salmon, Neva Hedgecokke, Mildred Weyandt, and Hazel Taylor; a brother, Delmas (Shorty) Lippard; a son, Matthew Bryan Lippard; a son-in-law, Jim Ellis; one granddaughter; and 2 great-grandsons.

After graduating from high school in Littlefield, Johnny enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in August 1939. Following recruit training, he transferred to the Philippine Islands and was there when the Japanese forces attacked. After battling to defend Manila, Bataan and Corregidor, the allied forces surrendered and on May 6, 1942, Johnny became a prisoner of war. During the remainder of World War II, Johnny was interned in camps in the Philippine Islands, Manchuria, and Japan. While POW, "Go Nana Hachi," Japanese for "578," he endured repeated torture, beatings and systematic starvation. After the end of the war, he returned to Texas and home.

In May 1946, Bonnie Jo and Johnny married. Meanwhile, he had chosen to make a career of the Marine Corps. Over the next 16 years many assignment changes and moves took place. The family grew to include five children. In 1962, Johnny retired from the Marine Corps having attained the rank of Captain and being awarded two Bronze Star medals for valor, the Purple Heart for wounds received on Corregidor, the Silver Life Saving Medal, and multiple other medals, awards and citations. After a couple of stops, the family settled in O'Brien. Soon, a second career began which, again, took him away from Texas.

First, the family moved to Arkansas and then to Oklahoma. As the Manager of Com-



John Bryan (Johnny) Lippard

pensation and Benefits for Kerr-McGee Corporation, Johnny traveled widely. He retired in 1982 and spent time immersed in family and family projects. In 1994, Johnny and Jo returned to Texas, making Knox City their home. Following Jo's death in 2000, Johnny continued to travel often. He was a member and deacon of the O'Brien Baptist Church, served on the O'Brien Cemetery Committee and was a Mason.

Survivors include brother, E L (Sam) Lippard and wife, Lula, of Delta, CO; brother, Calvin Lippard of Amarillo, Texas; sister-in-law, Myra Reeves of Knox City, Texas; daughter, Nancy Ellis of Bethany, Oklahoma; daughter, Jonette Tibbets and husband, Bruce, of Knox City, Texas; son, Mark Lippard and wife, Judy, of Bridgecreek, Oklahoma; son, Sam Lippard and wife, Bobbie, of Pauls Valley, Oklahoma; 12 grandchildren; 18 great grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins; and Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.

John Lippard was a true gentleman in every sense and will be missed by his family, friends, community and church.

Funeral services were scheduled for 2 p.m. on Friday, March 9, 2012 at the O'Brien Baptist Church in O'Brien with Reverends John Henry Lippard and Bill Trice officiating. Burial was at the O'Brien Cemetery under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes of Knox City.

J.D. Rowell

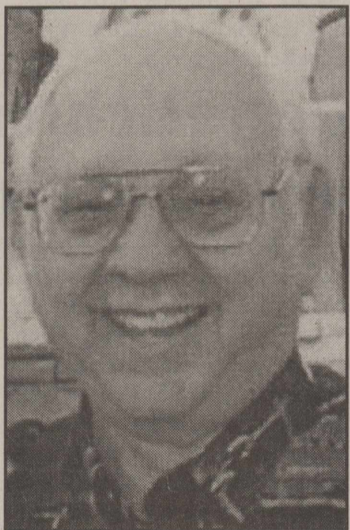
J.D. Rowell, 86, of Amarillo died Saturday, March 3, 2012, in Albuquerque, N.M.

Services were at 2 p.m. Friday, March 9, in Griggs-Schooler-Gordon Pioneer Chapel with Jack Jeter officiating. Burial was in Memory Gardens Cemetery. Arrangements were by Griggs-Schooler-Gordon Funeral Directors.

J.D. was born Dec. 22, 1925, to Homer and Savannah Rowell in Munday. He attended high school in Knox City. He was a World War II veteran and was in the Navy in the South Pacific. He married Bette Jean Rowell in 1946. He started Rowell Sales Co. Inc. in June 1963 and retired Dec. 31, 1993.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Homer and Savannah Rowell; and his wife, Bette Jean Rowell, on April 2, 2007.

Survivors include a son, Jim



J.D. Rowell

Rowell and wife Peaches of Albuquerque; a grandson, Chase Rowell of Tempe, Ariz.; and a sister, Francis Jeter of Navasota.

The family suggests memorials be to Cancer Research Institute, One Exchange Plaza, 55 Broadway, Suite 1802, New York, NY 10006.

Sign the online guest book at www.griggsschoolergordon.com.

Workshop to focus on drought recovery

Strategies for drought recovery will be the theme for this year's Texas AgriLife Extension Service Multi-County Range and Wildlife Workshop set for 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. April 3 on the Staten Creek Ranch, south of Brady on U.S. Highway 87.

"Landowners in the northwest Hill Country area and Central Texas are faced with several issues following the historic drought of 2011," said Vance Christie, AgriLife Extension agent in McCulloch County. "Recent rains and warm weather have many producers battling new weeds that are popping up in the landscape while they are in the midst of trying to decide how, when and even why they should restock their pastures. Some are also trying to determine what's best when it comes to managing wildlife and brush to maximize their operations' efficiency."

To help property owners find answers, six AgriLife Extension offices have teamed up to conduct the workshop that will feature AgriLife Extension specialists and industry leaders as speakers.

The workshop is being conducted by the AgriLife Extension offices in McCulloch, Gillespie, Kimble, Llano, Mason and Menard counties.

Workshop topics and speakers will include:

- Broadleaf Weed Identification and Control, Brush Sculpting and Pasture Recovery for Wildlife and Livestock Production by Dr. Bob Lyons, AgriLife Extension range specialist, Uvalde.

- Wildlife Nutritional Requirements and Supplementation Following Drought by Bobby Deeds, Cargill/Nutrena nutritionist, Goldthwaite.
- Blending Livestock and Wildlife in Range Management Decisions by Dr. Rick Machen, AgriLife Extension livestock specialist, Uvalde.

- Tax Implications for Landowners Following Liquidation and Restocking Decisions by

KCVG

Continued from Page 1

at a rate of just 2 percent. Based on those numbers, business owners can see why so many companies want you to 'like' their page.

If you have a Facebook page but rarely post, the KCVG will be showing you how to schedule regular updates using the program Hootsuite. With a few minutes a week or a month, this program can help keep your page fresh and exciting.

Pinterest is the new kid on the block for social media, and she is taking the world by storm. The KCVG will delve into this site and show how fun and easy it is to add this button to your website, and get folks 'pinning' your products.

In addition to door prizes at each meeting, there is also an opportunity to win cash! Attending three workshops will get a person's name into a drawing for \$25, attending four - \$50, attending five - \$75 and attending all six will get a person entered to win \$100!

These workshops will provide training and information locally, saving businesses time and gas driving to Abilene or Wichita Falls. Make the best of this opportunity and plan on joining the KCVG. The meetings will be fun and informative.

For questions and information call (940) 459-4121.

Charles Anderson, chief tax appraiser for Menard County. Three Texas Department of

Agriculture continuing education units - one in integrated pest management and two gen-

eral- will be available for pesticide license holders attending the workshop.

Within the next few weeks, a list of taxpayers who owe delinquent property taxes to the taxing entities of Knox County will be published in the Munday Courier and the Knox County Newspaper. Delinquent taxpayers should make payment to the Knox County Appraisal District before March 22, 2012 to ensure they are not included in this list. Payment must be received by March 22. Those taxpayers who are current with their payment plans or are in bankruptcy will not be included in this list.

KC AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - Knox City

Jerry Vincent, Pastor

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10:55 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship at 6:30 p.m. • Mid Week, Wed. at 6:30 p.m. FBC Sunday School, and the worship services at 10:55 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. are telecast live on Classic Cable, channel 6 in Knox City and O'Brien

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Knox City

Thomas Carter, Pastor

406 2nd Street • 658-3517

knoxcity-fumc@hotmail.com-umckc.net

Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m. Evening Bible Study - 7 p.m. Monday, Breakfast Bible Study 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, Morning Bible Study 10 a.m. Wednesday, Youth Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Worship Team Rehearsal 7 p.m. Wednesday, Outreach Lunch 12 noon every 3rd Sunday No Sunday Evening Service

ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP -

Knox City

Tex Cox, Pastor

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m. Sunday Evening Classes 5:00 p.m. • Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Warriors 6:00 p.m.

FOURSQUARE CHURCH - Knox City

Gary A. Schnable, Pastor

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:50 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6:30 p.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:00 am. Wednesday Morning

SANTA ROSA CATHOLIC CHURCH BILINGUAL - Knox City

Jeremias Tigga • Deacon Ben Vasquez

Sunday Mass at 11 a.m.

LIBERTY COMMUNITY C.O.G.I.C. - Knox City

Gene Ward Jr., Pastor

Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Services - 11 a.m. Monday Evening Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - Rhineland

Jeremias Tigga Sacramental Minister • Deacon Jim Novak

Monday through Friday mornings, 8 a.m. Mass

Saturday Mass at 6 p.m. • Sunday Mass at 9 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - Benjamin

Sunday School at 10 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Benjamin

Thomas Carter, Pastor

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. • Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

GILLESPIE BAPTIST CHURCH - Gillespie

Matt Harrington, Pastor

Sunday School at 10 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST - Benjamin

Bible Study at 9 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10 a.m.

THE BELIEVERS' CHAPEL - Highway 222

Shannon Waters, Pastor

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m. Mid-Week, Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

O'BRIEN BAPTIST CHURCH - O'Brien

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m., Mid-Week, Wed. at 6 p.m.

Sunday Mornings on KVRP 97.1 at 9:05 a.m.

WEINERT FOURSQUARE CHURCH

Rob Harrison, Pastor

Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

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Adrian Fletcher, Pastor

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Sports

KC lands four on 13-A squads

TOMMY WELLS
The Knox County News

Knox City went into the 2011-12 season feeling they had a gem in senior Jarek Wilde. Everyone else agreed.

Wilde walked away with the District 13-A, Division II's Defensive Player of the Year accolades when the district's basketball coaches held their meeting. He was one of five people earning superlative awards.

Wilde helped anchor a KCHS defense that ranked among the district's best. The Greyhounds finished second in the District 13-A race.

Wilde wasn't the only KCHS standout earning all-district praise. Senior post Blake Jones was named to the first-team, while seniors Ryan Ledesma and Zach Carter were selected to the second-team.

Crowell's Will Hogan was named the District 13-A MVP, while Northside's Justin Faulkner was named the Offensive Player of the Year. Crowell's Michael Parsley was chosen the Newcomer of the Year.

The Benjamin Mustangs has two players named to the 13-A

District 13-A, Division II 2011-12 All-District Teams

MVP

Will Hogan Crowell

Off. Player of the Year

Justin Faulkner Northside

Def. Player of the Year

Jarek Wilde Crowell

Newcomer of the Year

Michael Parsley Crowell

Coach of the Year

Blake Kinney Northside

FIRST TEAM

Blake Jones Knox City

Cale Matthews Crowell

Chris Chatfield Crowell

Daly Welch Harrold

Luke Simmons Crowell

Matthew Acree, Jr., Benjamin

SECOND TEAM

Ryan Ledesma Knox City

Kale Adams Northside

Tyler Kinney Benjamin

Zach Carter Knox City

Payton Neal Northside

postseason squad. Senior Matthew Acree was a first-team selection. Senior Tyler Kinnebrew was a second-team pick



Knox City freshman Leighton Pepper was named the 2011-12 District 13-A Newcomer of the Year for her performance with the Houndettes. Pepper, along with teammates, Reagan Clark and Cassidy Carter, were all selected to the District 13-A, Division II, all-district squad.

Houndettes land 3 on all-district team

TOMMY WELLS
The Knox County News

The Knox City Houndettes turned more than a few heads this season on the basketball court, despite playing much of the season without their head coach and limited numbers.

Those hardships didn't prevent the Houndettes from garnering their share of spots on the District 13-A, Division II all-district squad. In all, three members of the KCHS squad were chosen.

Freshman Leighton Pepper was among the district's top players, according to the 13-A coaches. Pepper was named the

2011-12 Newcomer of the Year after making an outstanding varsity debut.

Crowell junior Jasmine Sillemmon was tabbed the district's MVP, while teammate Amanda Casey earned the Defensive Player of the Year accolades.

Harrold's Madison Templeton was the District 13-A Offensive Player of the Year, while Chilloicthe's Carlynn Schoppa was named the Coach of the Year recipient.

Knox City's Reagan Clark highlighted the first-team all-district selections. Joining the KCHS senior on the squad were Crowell's Kaney Rhoades and Kaitlyn Riddle, Northside's Destini Marsh and Chilloicthe's Crystal Nutter.

Knox City senior Cassidy Carter topped the second-team squad. She was joined on the roster by Northside's Jessica Chavez and Blaine Wilkinson, and Harrold's Lyndsey Price and Alichia Ramirez.

District 13-A, Division II 2011-12 All-District Teams

MVP

Jasmine Sillemmon Crowell

Off. Player of the Year

Madison Templeton, Harrold

Def. Player of the Year

Amanda Casey Crowell

Newcomer of the Year

Leighton Pepper Knox City

Coach of the Year

Carlynn Schoppa, Chilloicthe

FIRST TEAM

Kaney Rhoades Crowell

Kaitlyn Riddle Crowell

Reagan Clark Knox City

Destini Marsh Northside

Crystal Nutter Chilloicthe

SECOND TEAM

Jessica Chavez Northside

Lyndsey Price Harrold

Cassidy Carter Knox City

Alichia Ramirez Harrold

Blaine Wilkinson Northside



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2011 Weekly Weather Report		
Date	Temperature (F) Low / High	Rainfall inches
03/05	34/77	
03/06	49/76	
03/07	55/82	
03/08	37/65	0.05
03/09	40/55	0.02
03/10	43/47	0.5
03/11	43/72	0.1
Total Rainfall for month		0.58
2012 Rainfall (ytd)		2.68

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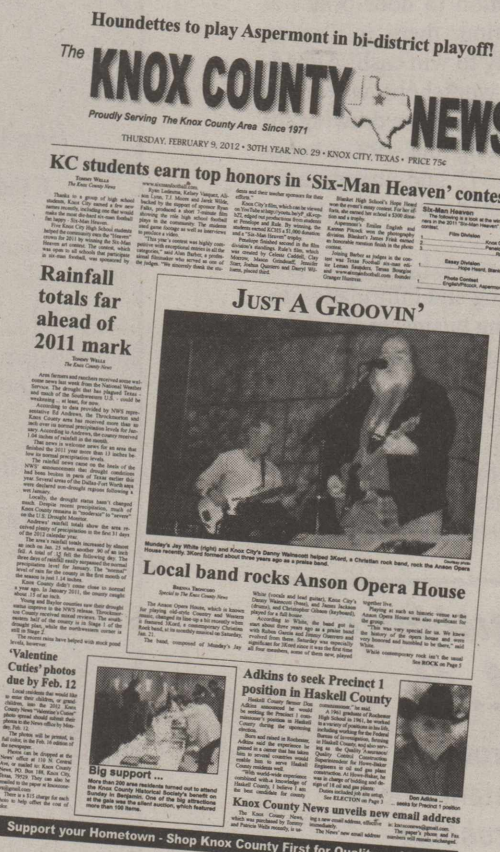
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Desi Richter sprints to win in 800-meter debut

LUBBOCK - Desi Richter knew she could do something special if she happened to earn a spot on the Big Spring High School varsity track team as a freshman. Last Saturday, she backed up her beliefs.

Two days shy of her 15th birthday, Richter raced to a win in the 800-meter run at a meet in Lubbock.

"I felt really good going into the race," she said. "I didn't think I was going to win, but I thought I could do pretty well."

Richter posted a time of 2 minutes and 11 seconds in the meet.

Richter is the oldest daughter of former Knox City resident Amanda Christian. She is the granddaughter of Raymond and Mary Christian, formerly of Knox City,



Desi Richter ...
...wins in varsity debut.

Richter competed in the Big Spring Relays this Friday.

Greyhounds' game with Rotan canceled

The Knox City Greyhounds' baseball game with the Rotan Yellowhammers slated for Saturday was canceled due to inclement weather.

Knox City, 1-1-1 for the year,

is scheduled to make their home debut on March 20 when they host the Paducah Dragons beginning at 6 p.m.

KCHS will travel to Paducah on March 20

David's Fishing Report

We were at Breckenridge for the Texas Tech Bass Anglers' Open Tournament on March 10. The tournament was held on Hubbard Creek Lake.


The water temperature was 52 degrees, with the clarity listed as clear.

The bass were slow for most of the field, including me. I had

to work pretty hard to catch four fish for 8.65 lbs. The "Big Fish" honors for the tournament went to an 11-pound lunker and the "Big Stringer" was over 32 pounds.

It just goes to show that even on slow days, fish can be caught. The fish were caught on red rat-traps.

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SAMMIE'S KNOX CITY CORNER AND FINAL THOUGHTS

Our Monday in Knox City started with coffee with our cattle guys at the coffee shop. Then, I went to visit with Donesica Estrada's family as they prepared to lay their loved one to her resting place next to her parents and brothers. I prepared food and dessert for the meal, and all things went great. The people that filled the church gave me a warm feeling to know she was loved so much. Her family, I know, had the same feeling. I know the amazing woman has a seat at God's right hand.

On Tuesday morning, I returned to coffee and received news that Roy Rodriguez's father-in-law, Roy Boone, had passed away in Seymour. Mr. Boone is the brother of Knox City's Joe Boone. I know he also had a lot of friends and a large family, and that he will be dearly missed.

Mr. Boone had a lot of friends in Seymour, and a lot of connections with farmers and ranchers. He knew his business.

Knowing Nancy, Roy's ex-wife, and Sam Boone, his son, it was like knowing their dad because they always talked about him in their life. Of course, Casey, Roy's daughter is in Turkey with her husband, who is in the Air Force. She couldn't be here, but I know she was sad for her grandmother and mom. God will see them through their healing process. May God bless them and take care of Casey and her family. We all miss her, especially Roy, Raily and her mom. They will also be glad when she returns back to the State.

Later in the week, John Lipard also passed away. His services were held on Friday at the O'Brien Baptist Church. That was a great loss for Knox City and his family and friends. I knew him only a little, but we all go there at some point. Our blessings and prayers go out to all.

The news about Toby Whisenhunt this last week in the paper was quite a surprise to me because I had known her for a long time. She used to work at Lynn Electric. She will be greatly missed because she was not just a great mom to Sheila, but a great Christian woman - always involved in whatever she could to help others and her church. Sheila, our prayers are with you always, and all her friends and family.

Linda and Wesley Espinoza will be traveling to Dallas for Linda to have surgery. She has a 1-inch tumor in her pancreas, which can be removed. Her bone marrow was clean so there doesn't appear to be any concern there. That news was a great miracle from God. Our prayers

were strong and coming from all directions. We are all thankful to God because we know how wonderful his miracles and His hand can be. Amanda and the family have been visiting her regularly, especially after she had a birthday on Friday.

If I get a chance I will try and put out some jars to help them with the expense of travel and lodging while in Dallas, and while she is recovering from the surgery. Our prayers and thoughts are with them, and also for her son, Wesley, and family in Abilene.

Our prayers are also with Amanda and Alfredo while she is trying to get Alfredo cured from his respiratory infection and a touch of pneumonia. He is taking treatments at home. Please keep then in your prayers. Alfredo has come a long way, but he still has a long way to go.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Escobar are still living in Lubbock with their daughter, Janie, and, of course, Charles and his family. They have been ill lately and are under doctor's care. I only receive a little information every once in a while as I don't see many of their family that often. But I know they are very much missed in Knox City. God's blessings and our prayers are with them. If you have any information on them, please call and let me know.

Well, this next Saturday we will be celebrating the wedding of Tiffany Wilde and Gilbert Saucedo. The good news comes at the right time as our little community has seen so much sorrow and pain. Their news is just as important.

Also, a new baby is coming for the couple. Our congratulations go out to the newly married couple.

Raymond Stubbs was tickled to death this weekend to have Shea and her granddaughter, Shyler, and one of Shyler's friends travel with him to Houston to watch the boys show at the stock show.

Tracy Carter and his family met his brother, Chad, and his family for a trip to Riudosa for a ski trip. Hope they have a safe trip and have fun.

There are so many families traveling during spring break. May God take care of them all.

George and Ila Ray Cross were out this week from church. They have been down with a virus that just seems to keep going around.

James and Jimmy Klutts are doing some improvements, but, of course, the weather doesn't help when your bones can't take much cold, but time will get them through. Thank God for our faith and prayers, and our praise for Him. He creates miracles, especially when you pray and ask Him for help.

I also learned that Estel Skiles had a bad fall a while back and had to have a back operation. She is doing great in recovery, and is now able to drive a little. She has been going to Haskell to visit Weldon in the Haskell Care Home.

Jessie Dena from Munday (Diana's husband) is coming along fine. Diana keeps me informed on his progress with dialysis. The wound on his foot is healing slowly, but with him being a diabetic, it is hard. He is, however, in good spirits and that should be great help to him during treatments.

This past week, I did see Tom Moorehouse to get an update on Becky. No news is good news, so hopefully she is being kept com-

fortable and is resting. I know it has to be hard on her and her family, but God is being good to them. Your thoughts and prayers have brought them a lot of blessings, and I know they appreciate everything from the bottom of their hearts. It is a blessing for us to know them, and for them being part of our lives.

Flo Tankersley has been homebound recently. Her health has gotten bad so she has to stay at home and stay on oxygen. She has not been allowed to go outside so I know a phone call would mean a lot because she has always been a very outgoing person. Now she can read my column and, hopefully, get the community news right to her door. I know how important that is when you are homebound.

Mrs. Rodriguez is coming along nicely, and the back store parking is pretty good. They have really made it nice for their customers. It is even convenient for the handicapped.

Hey, if you have not been to Texas Tans you will love it. The tanning beds are great, and the prices are even better. It is in the old Kristi K's building and is owned and operated by Brandy and her parents, Mike and Kay. It is great to go relax and enjoy good conversation and great hospitality.

Ginger Crowover's husband has had a wreck and he is home recovering. Ginger has been at home taking care of him, and I'm sure she is doing a great job. She has been a housekeeper for some of the families in our community, so give them a call and let them know they are in your prayers.

Take care and may God bless you all and our troops.

Sammie

Voting should be for only those who are eligible to cast a ballot

I never would have thought our own government would be filing lawsuits with its own states. But hey, this is the administration of crooked Chicago-style politics.

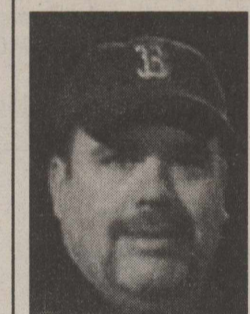
Monday, March 12, 2012. Remember this date. It will be a big one if you keep up with politics. If you don't, you need to pull your head out of the sand.

The Obama administration or U.S. Justice Department with its favorite puppet, Eric Holder, blocked a Texas law that requires a photo ID to vote. Why? They say it is racial. It's funny, I guess, they have no problem with keeping people without photo IDs from opening a checking account, buying beer or tobacco. Its okay to discriminate but we want the votes. The Democratic party is becoming the party for the illegal voters and welfare abusers.

Why? Maybe because King Entitlement (Obama) wants to give everything away that we have. How better to become King than letting the people vote even though they are not eligible to do so?

Look at it this way. This is a Texas law, so why does Mr. Federalist need to override our rules and laws? He is not too concerned with anything else here in Texas.

Just Jeff



By Jeff Stanfield

Did you notice much government help with the drought and fires? Last time I looked, it was the Texas Forestry Service? How about with the EPA trying to shut down one refinery after another? Heck NO!

Is he concerned about the invasion of illegals dumping into or schools or the money we spend with free healthcare? No! Google Parkland Hospital in Dallas and see how many babies are born each year to illegal aliens and guess who pays? Yep, we do.

Have you seen him worried about Texas for any of this? NO! NO! NO!

Let's look at it from a common sense perspective. The Black Panthers were said to have hung around voting centers dur-

ing the last presidential election and intimidated voters. This is on film. They have written statements but we drop all the cases! J. Christian Adams, an attorney for the DOJ, resigned because they were dropping the charges against the Panthers.

Google this if you want to read the whole thing. It is very disturbing.

Why? We did not drop the charges against our soldiers or border patrol agents. Oh, heck no. We try to persecute the heck out of them. But we drop charges for voter intimidation when it helps Obama. Then we interfere with state law when it help's Obama.

I am telling you, this country is getting close to a revolt and if Obama has four more years, it will probably happen.

Back to my initial gripe. Voting is a privilege, not a right. It can be taken away from you. If it means so much for someone to vote, go get a photo ID. I have to every time mine expires. You have to have a photo ID to board a plane. Why? So you know who you are dealing with.

Shouldn't voting be only for those who are eligible to vote?

If we voters and workers do not wake up, the welfare and freebies are going to have us living off the government. I have a really brilliant idea. If you get a check for sitting on your rear end; or you are healthy and living in our free housing, whether it's your place or grandpa's; or you are not disabled or over 62; then you have to show up at 8 a.m. each morning at the county barn and you are given a hoe and shovel. You work eight hours a day. If you don't, you lose your free housing and check.

I bet within three months most of those people will find real jobs.

But why work when we give them everything ... braces... medicine...heat ...shelter ... food. We even provide money for gas to and from appointments. My grandpa's generation did not fight at Pearl Harbor and all over Europe, and lose tons of their friends so we can just mess away this great land.

What the heck happened to this country?

Jeff "Enough is Enough" Stanfield is a local columnist. His opinions are not necessarily the view of the newspaper or its publishers.

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