

THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2013

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

Litter, pollution threaten Millers Creek

Officials weigh "pay to play" option at area reservoir

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The Knox County News-Courier

Millers Creek Reservoir is a popular lake for fishing and camping — a quiet out-of-the-way venue where trash and refuse mar the landscape and keep water plant workers busy keeping up with litterers and other polluters.

The reservoir lies in Baylor County, but it's the municipal water source for Munday and Knox City, and it also serves the cities of Goree, Benjamin, Haskell, Aspermont, O'Brien, Rochester and Rule and two water corporations, Rhineland and Paint Creek.

Beer cans dot the area around the lake, glinting in the sun and adding all the fading colors of all the major breweries to the landscape. The crew at the nearby water treatment plant divides its time between monitoring the water quality at the plant and picking up the

cans and other trash.

"We clean up after a lot of people that should know better," said Ben Benton, water treatment plant supervisor. "We have to maintain a certain cleanliness because of the lake. We'd like for people to make a better effort to clean up."

The beer cans are unsightly evidence of the lack of respect for the watershed by campers and passers-by.

"We pick up a lot of beer cans and beer bottles," Benton said.

But Benton didn't mention the worst offenders — people who leave human waste in the campsites around the lake.

"The worst thing is five-gallon buckets used for a toilet," said Game Warden Jay Oyler. "They just leave it sitting there in the campground."

Oyler patrols the lake, but it's just one part of his territory. Catching the offenders is un-

derstandably difficult.

David Kuehler, general manager of the North Central Texas Municipal Water Authority, is aware of the waste problem.

"That's not only extremely unsanitary," Kuehler said. "That's illegal by state law. You can make people really, really, really sick. That's where E coli comes from. Our guys have to get rid of it. They shouldn't have to deal with it."

Thoughts of charging for access to the lake — now free to everyone — have crossed the minds of everyone in charge.

"This is one of the few lakes that doesn't charge," Kuehler said. "You have to have enough traffic to pay somebody to take care of that gate."

When Kuehler fields questions about why the lake can't provide better fishing and better camping facilities and otherwise talks with people about the reservoir, he realizes most people are unaware of overriding concerns about water quality.

"Most of them have no idea what we go through to make it safe for them," he said. "Every person that goes to that lake from the point of view of the water authority is a potential source of pollution."

See LITTER, Page 4



By Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier
An empty Budweiser and Clamato can at Millers Creek Reservoir bears witness to the drinker's disregard for the environment. Trash receptacles are in place at the lake, but many people toss their bottles and cans on the ground instead.

Storekeeper keeps tabs on hunters, ranchers

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The Knox County News-Courier

Don't Mess with Texas. And if you're hunting for a place to hunt, don't mess with Janiece Tolleson either.

B-J Country Store in Benjamin, owned and operated by Tolleson and her husband, Buddy, is more than a convenience store. It's an information clearinghouse and the kind of place that makes matches between hunters and ranchers.

"I do not recommend hunters unless I know they are good people," Janiece said.

Tolleson wasn't surprised to hear that Charles Barnett and his son Travis had been spotted picking up litter from the ditch at the entrance to their hunting lease near Rhineland.

"They are good people," she said.

It was the Tollesons who helped Charles Barnett find a place to hunt when he left his previous lease, putting him in touch with rancher Larry Thompson.

See STOREKEEPER, Page 8

Alcohol-sales patterns steady in wake of local referendums

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The Knox County News-Courier

Fireworks and firewater are both New Year's traditions. But forget the fireworks. This year, a countywide burn ban eliminated pyrotechnics as a way to ring in 2013.

On the other hand, at least for residents of Knox City, buying alcohol was easier than in the past. In May, Knox City voters gave their OK to the sale of beer and wine for off-premise consumption.

At the Allsup's Store in Knox City, one place where beer and wine can be purchased, sales of alcoholic beverages didn't seem to be brisker than usual on New Year's Eve. In the late afternoon, bread was outpacing beer sales.

Clerk Duane Bradford had been at work since 2 p.m.

"It (sales of alcoholic beverages) hasn't picked up any over the normal," he said. "I really don't know what they did this morning."

For customers in search of hard liquor to celebrate the holiday, a trip out of Knox City was still

See ALCOHOL, Page 8



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier

Kinsey Benson and her little brother, Will Pierce, put pigs, Spot and Wilbur, respectively, through the paces in a pen on the edge of Benjamin. Walking pigs is more common than walking dogs in Knox County, especially as the local livestock show draws near. Next week's News-Courier will contain a special guide to the local show.

Annual livestock show slated for next weekend

The Knox County News-Courier

The Knox County Livestock Show will be Jan. 17 and 18 at the Munday Events Center. A guide to the event, including a comprehensive schedule and other information, will be included in next week's News-Courier.

This year's event will include a showmanship clinic on the opening day — instruction designed to help first-time exhibitors in particular.

Show pigs will outnumber other animals. Other categories are steers, goats, sheep, rabbits and chickens. Most entrants show animals as 4-H

Club projects, but the show also accommodates Future Farmers of America. Students, ages 9 and older, from all the schools in the county, plus O'Brien Middle School, will compete.

Members of the Texas Extension Education Association will operate a concession stand at the MEC.

Overall grand and reserve champion animals in the six categories of livestock will sell in an auction to end the event.

Also, grand and reserve swine in each breed will also sell.

"Anybody is welcome to come and bid," said Connie Kuehler, a member of the fi-

nance committee of the livestock show board.

For buyers who do not want to bid on individual animals, organizers of the event will accept donations that can be pooled to purchase a show animal. Anyone who wants to make such a donation should contact Kuehler at Four K Feed in Munday at 940-422-4778, or Jeannette Reeves at 940-422-5515, also a member of the finance committee.

Anyone who would like to advertise in the Knox County Livestock Show Guide should call the News-Courier at 422-5350 or email kcnewscourier@gmail.com.

Knox Notes

Events are listed free of charge for nonprofit civic organizations, schools and community events. Submit listings at least two weeks ahead of the date. Listings will run through the date of the event. Emailed submissions are preferred to kcnewscourier@gmail.com.

Food pantry

A Helping Hand Food Pantry in Knox City will distribute food from 2 to 6 p.m. Jan. 22.

Recycling center hours

The Munday Recycling Center is now open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursdays and 10 a.m. to noon Fridays. Plastic grocery bags are no longer being accepted. Most other recyclable materials are accepted, including No. 1 and 3 plastic containers and most electronics, including cell phones. For information, contact Cindy Zuniga at 940-445-3666.

Munday council

The Munday City Council meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month in the conference room at City Hall. The next scheduled meeting will be Jan. 8. For information, call City Hall at 422-4331.

Commissioners Court

The Knox County Commissioners Court meets at 1:30 p.m. the second Monday of the month in Commission Chambers at the Knox County Courthouse in Benjamin. The next scheduled meeting will be Jan. 14. For information, contact County Clerk Annette Offutt at kcdisco@srcaccess.net or 459-2441.

Corrections

If you spot an error of fact, contact Editor Wayne Hodgkin at kcnewscourier@gmail.com.

News on the go



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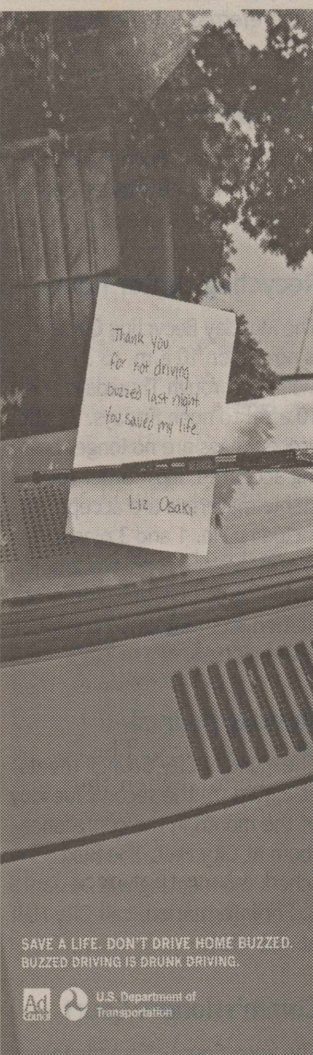
It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the rights of individualism in the American Declaration of Independence. The right of life, liberty and ownership of property are the cornerstone of freedom. Government's sole purpose is to enhance our liberty and freedom. Therefore, we hold every elected and appointed agent of government accountable to that standard.

DEADLINES

Advertising: 5 p.m. Fridays
 Editorial: Noon Mondays

SUBSCRIPTIONS

\$30 a year in the county
 \$35 a year outside the county



SAVE A LIFE. DON'T DRIVE HOME BUZZED. BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING.



Deaths

James Byron Steward Jr.

James Byron Steward Jr., 47, of Ranger, passed away Sunday, December 23, 2012, in Ranger. A memorial service will be from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, January 20, 2013, at the Memorial Building in Goree.

James was born June 23, 1965, in Haskell to James (Jack) and Berniece Hudson Steward. He was raised on a farm in the Hefner community. He graduated from Goree High School, University of North Texas in Denton and Tarleton State University with a master's degree in finance. He was a member of the Church of Christ.

He was preceded in death

by his parents.

Survivors include a daughter, Jaryn Steward of Lubbock; two sisters, Pat Steward of Ranger and Tonya Cypert and her husband, Buddy, of Haskell; a nephew, Cody Cypert and his wife, Breann, of Lubbock; two nieces, Jacy West and her husband, Brad, of Haskell and Kristin Bishop and her husband, Russell, of Abilene; an aunt, Faye Lermaseaux of Bernalillo, N.M.; four great-nephews, Colby and Caden West, Jathan Bishop and Mason Cypert; two great nieces, Averie Cypert and Kerra Bishop; numerous cousins and a host of friends.

John Ed Wilde

John Ed Wilde passed away Friday, January 4, 2013 in Lubbock at the age of 82. John Ed was born June 24, 1930 in Rhineland, Texas to Joe and Mary Wilde.

While living in Lubbock, John Ed was a crop insurance adjuster. John Ed donated his body to Texas Tech for research.

John Ed is survived by 3 sons; Gary and wife Judy, Jerry and wife Nancy both

of Munday and Craig and wife Jamie of Knox City. Also, nine grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, twelve brothers and sisters and one son, John Lee Wilde.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, January 12, 2013 at 11 AM at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Rhineland, Texas.

Extension to offer food manager course

The Knox County News-Courier

Statistics indicate that food-borne illness continues to be a health issue in the United States. Each year, 1-in-6 Americans will become sick, 128,000 will become hospitalized, and 3,000 will die because of a food-borne illness.

If under the Texas Department of State Health Services jurisdiction, each food establishment is required to have one certified food manager on site.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Jones, Haskell, Runnels and Taylor counties is offering a professional food manager-certification training course. This two-day program will be offered for \$125 on Feb. 25 and March 4 at the Taylor County Extension Office in Abilene.

Cost includes training, materials and a national food manager-certification examination. The food manager's certification will be valid for five years.

This program is designed to not only prepare food-service managers to pass the certification examination; it will provide valuable education regarding the safe handling of food. Almost 50 cents of every dollar Americans spend on food is spent on meals prepared away from home. Therefore, careful attention to food safety will help keep customers safe and satisfied.

Food-borne illnesses are estimated to cost

thousands of dollars in lost wages, insurance and medical bills. With these statistics, knowledge of how to prevent food-borne illness is essential.

The benefits of improved food safety include:

- Increased customer satisfaction
- Improved relationships with health officials
- Prevention of bad publicity and law suits due to food-borne illness
- By attending the course, foodservice managers will learn about:
 - identifying potentially hazardous foods and common errors in food handling
 - preventing contamination and cross-contamination of food
 - teaching and encouraging personal hygiene for employees
 - complying with government regulations
 - maintaining clean utensils, equipment and surroundings
 - controlling pests

Food-borne illnesses can be prevented by following simple food-safety practices. For information, or to obtain a registration form for the Professional Food Manager Certification Training course of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, call the Haskell County Extension Office at 940-864-2546 or the Taylor County Extension Office at 325-672-6048.

Dixie Divas

Don't mock how we talk

There I was, sitting at my desk, writing away, bothering no one when my phone rang.

It was Hollywood calling. "Hey," said a friend of ours who is a big-time movie producer. "I have you on speaker phone and the director of casting is here with me."

Now, don't go getting ahead of me and think they were calling to offer me a part of some kind. No, they were calling to ask about a famous friend of mine, whom they wanted to offer a part in a major movie. I was asked a question, and as I began to answer, my "friend" said to me, "Now, speak where she can understand what you're saying." Apparently, he thought he was cute.

I fell dead silent. See, I hate people making fun of the way I talk. I happen to have a lovely, lyrical accent, and I'm proud of it. I bit my tongue, not because he didn't deserve a good comeback, but because I try to behave with gracious Southern manners

when I am being introduced to someone for the first time. It's not because I don't have a good smart-aleck comment tucked away, because I got enough smart-aleck in my blood to get me all the way from Atlanta to New York City without even stopping to get a hamburger.

Sometimes, though, good manners have to win out over revenge.

Now, remember: I was sitting in my little corner of the world all the way across the country when they called me for help. I wasn't thinking, "Gee, I wish someone would call me up and make fun of the way I talk." I was minding my own business, being the same sweet girl I always am.

Despite the mocking comment, I was gracious and helpful. After hanging up the phone, I made a cup of coffee, took myself to the rocker on the back porch and sat down to have a good think about what had just happened. My husband loves my accent. Why not all of Hollywood?

Why do people think it's acceptable to comment unkindly on Southern accents? Why in this day of political correctness where every comment about people of various nationalities, religions and political views are scrutinized and reprimanded publicly, is it still viewed perfectly fine to joke about Southern accents?

Where are the politically correct police who should be protecting us? Where are the advocates to spring up and protest on national television shows, "That is against what America stands for. We celebrate the diversity of accents and cultures."

Oh, but no. There is no one to stand up and fight for us. We're thrown to the wolves and expected to be gracious because that's what Southerners are — gracious to the fault of letting rudeness slide by. Just like I did and like I often do.

I thought, too, about this: Never once in my entire life have I ever commented negatively on someone's accent. I have never been introduced to someone raised in Boston or Long Island and mimicked their words back to them or said sarcastically, "Where did that accent come from?" or "Will you say that again so I can understand?"

If I have ever had difficulty understanding someone's words, I always smile sweetly, genuinely and say, "I'm sorry. I didn't understand. I hear with a Southern accent."

Making a comment about a person's accent during an introduction is akin to saying, "This is Mary. She's fat." Now, if Mary is fat, the person being introduced can see that. Who would humiliate Mary by pointing that out?

Later, I explained to my friend in firm words spoken in an icy Southern accent how I felt about what had happened. He was contrite and offered a genuine apology. At heart, he is a fine and decent person.

I would tell you what I said to him, but I can't. My preacher reads this column.

Ronda Rich is a Southern humorist, storyteller and best-selling author. Her latest book, "There's A Better Day A-Comin'," is available at rondarich.com.

Knox Couty aging services

Menus for January 14th to January 18th

Monday January 14th
 Chicken fajitas
 Fajita vegetables
 Chuckwagon corn
 Spanish rice
 Flour tortilla
 Fruit cocktail

Tuesday January 15th
 Salisbury steak/gravy
 Mashed potatoes
 Cauliflower/broccoli
 Whole wheat roll
 Apricots

Wednesday January 16th
 Bbq on a bun
 Pinto beans
 Gransma's potato salad
 Mandarin oranges

Thursday January 17th
 Salmon patty
 Baby lima beans
 Coleslaw
 Cornbread
 Tropical fruit

Friday January 18th
 Sweet/sour chicken
 Rice
 Stir fry vegetables
 Whole wheat roll
 Lazy cake

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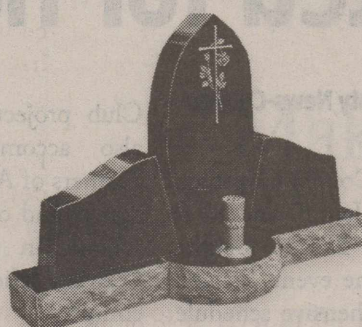
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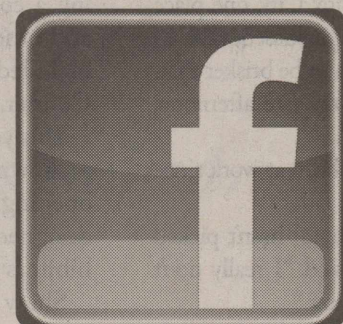
THANK YOU FOR READING!

The Knox County Child Welfare Board would like to express its sincere appreciation to you for your generosity to needy children during this Christmas season.

Because the children were showered with gifts from you on Christmas morning, they were able to experience the love and warmth of the season. A simple "thank you" seems so inadequate, but please be assured there is a world of appreciation in these words.

As we start another year, we want to wish you the happiest of New Years and tell you there is an opportunity to help children throughout the year with their special needs. Your generosity gives these children hope and belief that they are loved.

- Sincerely,
The Knox County Child Welfare Board
 Pam Duke
 Frankie Baker
 Sheri Baty
 Cathye Williams
 Joanna Degado
 Kathy Albus
 Joyce Sanders
 Tammy Pienaar
 Diana Moore
 Nancy Tidwell
 Gayle Morgan
 Tara Cottingham



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THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

The 501

A cow's holy grail? The other side of the fence

If you're out of cattle cubes, don't let the cows in the yard on New Year's Day.

When I pulled into our yard towing a little travel trailer, I should have known the cows would assume the little RV was some sort of exotic feed wagon. Cows are eternally hopeful and not very discerning.



HANABA MUNN WELCH

Of course, when you're pulling a trailer, it takes longer to get through a gate, and, if you're alone, it takes longer to get the gate closed.

Three cows got into the yard. Better than a total stampede.

It's not like our yard is lush and green. It's mostly dead. We let the Bermuda and other species grow tall this summer, an experiment to allow various native grasses to go to seed. The bovine trio appreciated the vista and immediately started chomping away on the tall dry stuff.

What to do? I couldn't shoo them out. They wanted to be nowhere else. The other cows regarded them jealously from just across the fence.

My first thought was to drive to town to buy a sack of cubes to coax them out. Cubes make all things possible. I knew chances were slim I'd find a livestock feed merchant open, but I unhitched the trailer and headed to town anyway, managing to get out of the yard without letting any more cows in. So far, so good.

Sure enough, on New Year's Day, only deer corn was for sale. I would have bought a sack, but it suddenly occurred to me I might persuade the cows to leave the yard with hay. I'd temporarily forgotten the little high-dollar bales of prairie hay we'd bought during the infamous summer of 2011. Most of those bales remain stacked in the barn.

More advice: If you've had somewhat recent knee surgery, climbing over cattle panels and heaving a bale of hay onto the top of an SUV isn't quite as easy as it used to be. If cows are watching and calculating in their cow brains how

to get to you when you're standing atop a spindly wire panel and wrestling a bale over thin air to land it on a luggage rack almost out of reach, the stakes increase.

What's worse than three cows on the lawn? Five. That's how many ended up in the yard after the hay experiment. I'd traded one for three, somehow doubling the longhorn count. Not good. Goat-like, those two nibbled a defenseless shrub.

So I drove back to town for deer corn.

The yard cows sampled the corn and went back to the grass. Only after I served corn to some of their compadres across the fence did jealousy work in reverse. Hearing their counterparts in the main herd crunch on corn was more than the yard cows could stand. I opened the gate, and out they went. They'd have sold their birthrights for that corn.

Moral: The grass may not be greener on the other side of the fence, but the corn sounds better.

Hanaba Munn Welch is a contributor and columnist for The Post Dispatch.

Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

Here we are well into the first week of the new year, and so far, so good. For most area residents there no real complaints I'm aware of. Everyone is watching the skies to see if that promise of rain will come into reality. We sure hope so, as, like everyone else in the state, we are sure in bad need of some good moisture. The best part of this forecast is that it's not expected to be too cold, so that means no ice. That will be good.

Regarding our ill

Former resident John Turner, who now lives in Knox City, is very ill at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene after being flown there the first of last week. The last I heard, he is on life support, and the prognosis was not too encouraging. I know his family would appreciate any prayers for him. Johnny Bob is the brother of the late Sue Sheedy and uncle of Steve Sheedy and Mitzi Welch.

Charles Griffith is showing off a big bandage (and splint) on his right hand after a "run in" with a grinder blade Thursday. Not sure just how the accident happened, but he did have lots of stitches and has limited (of course) use of that hand and will have for a while. He says it's not too painful, but seems to me like it would hurt a lot.

Bud Conner has an appointment with a hand surgeon in Lubbock on Wednesday. He has a bunch of ligaments torn in his right hand, and being right-handed, he has limitations also. He's anxious to get some-

thing done to correct the problem.

Former resident, John Chilcoat, who now lives in Knox City, is a patient in the Knox County Hospital, and family members report he will probably be there for quite some time. He has been in failing health for several months.

I visited with another former resident, Dee Stamps, by phone Friday, and he said he is doing real well despite the fact he is in Hospice care and has been for a couple of months. Dee had surgery for pancreatic cancer early in the summer and chose not to have any follow-up treatments. He said he's gaining his weight back and feels real positive about his health right now, and that's a great attitude to have. Dee lives in Post.

I talked to another good friend, Dorothy Dykes of Knox City, on Friday, who is undergoing rehab therapy in Abilene. Dorothy fell and broke her hip before Christmas, and after surgery has been in therapy for several weeks. She said she's feeling much better and hopes to be home very soon.

I ask you to remember all these friends in prayer.

Here 'n' there

Mary Young returned home last Sunday after spending most of December in Boca Raton, Fla., with her daughter Debbie Niel and family. She said she enjoyed everyone, but really had fun with her great-grandchildren. Her son Jackie and his wife, Cindy, of Round Rock were in Florida also and flew back to Austin with her on Saturday. She said as much as she enjoyed it,

she was glad to get home.

Lexie, Katy and Blaze Taylor of Amarillo spent the week after Christmas with grandparents Mike and Debi Moorhouse, who took them home Friday.

Debbie Clower had her family this weekend for a belated Christmas get together. Visiting were Michael and Megan of Halton City, David and Clarissa of Plainview and Sara, student at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene.

School gets back into full swing today (Monday) for our students and teachers after several days for Christmas break. I imagine there were some "sleepy heads" this morning, but it won't take long to get back to the business of regular hours again.

I have learned the post office hours have changed again beginning next Monday, Jan. 14. With all the changes, our office will be open from 11:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. five days a week. The mail will come to Knox City, and carriers from over there will bring it here. By the time it is put in the boxes, it will be close to noon. Mail will be up by 12:30 p.m. on Saturday.

The route will be the same — just not the same carrier or time it arrives. Jeannie Coffman will not be doing the route, but one of the Knox City carriers will be taking care of that duty. It will take a while to get adjusted to the change, but we will get our mail and that's what is important.

Gladene Green is a longtime resident of Benjamin.

The Idle American Bigger than life

It was, hands down, the most remarkable athletic feat I've ever witnessed. The scene was Dallas' American Airlines Center, where some 20,000 fans watched the Mavericks-Phoenix Suns NBA game April 5, 2009.

They saw a blow-out win by 26 points — and the Mavs' 140-point barrage could have been more. Memorable, too, was Josh Howard's 71-foot shot that beat the halftime buzzer.

Moments later, however, an intermission feature drew greater applause. Fisher Floyd, a man from the stands in street clothes, hit a lay-up, free throw, 3-pointer and half-court shots. Fisher's "swishers," made in 45 seconds, have never been duplicated. What are the odds?

His feat has gone viral on YouTube with 5.5 million hits — some 3 million the first year. I found him to be engaging, gracious and caring during a phone conversation later. He politely answered questions, but seemed most interested in whether I saw him "blowing kisses to Lindsey," his bride of a year. She was seated behind the Mavericks' bench, where several players, unaware the kisses were directed slightly above their heads, blew them back!

Friends — and he had many — describe him only in superlatives. He was captain of his district champion Highland Park High School basketball team and was the league's offensive player of the year for 2000-2001. At the University of California-Santa Barbara, where he graduated with honors, he introduced a new game — Frisbees — played with tennis rules.

Friends and family agree his specialty was making virtually everything competitive, always "edge-searching." His adventurous spirit dates back to 1986, when "Top Gun" was a movie hit. Just 4 years old at the time, he was "hooked" — always probing, "what-iffing" and fixing whatever was broken.

Perhaps no one was ever more in love with life. His Christian principles and knack for making friends at warp speed were evident.

His checklist of "things to do" included flying in a fighter jet. A while back he won such a ride as the high bidder at a charity auction.

Dressed in aviation gear, he made three trips to a Lancaster airport for a flight with Noell Rather, himself a Highland

Park High School graduate. (Rather flew 60-plus missions in Vietnam and was a former Braniff pilot. He loved the Delfin L-29 aircraft he'd spent years restoring and frequently offered rides to charity benefactors.) Weather scrubbed the first two efforts, but Dec. 13 dawned bright and clear.

A friend accompanied Fisher to the airport. There were exchanges of phone texts until take-off and animated, first-hand descriptions were anticipated upon return.

But it was not to be. There were no second or third-hand descriptions, either, or any kind of distress signals prior to the crash of the two-seater plane in Kaufman County, where both men perished about a half-hour after take-off.

The tragedy is inexplicable. Again, what are the odds?

Fisher Floyd's memorial service was Dec. 18 at Highland Park United Methodist Church, where he, his wife and two sons — Ryder, 2, and Hudson, 1 — had planned to become members in January.

Real friends, it is said, are counted not by hand, but by heart. Fisher, a picture of humility whose spirit brought out the best in others, must have had a giant heart. It would have taken a facility the size of the AAC to contain the mass of mourners. Seating at the church accommodates about 1,000 people; some 1,600 came.

The family has received hundreds of condolences. One referenced Fisher's being "kind, decent, happy." It was signed "Averill Mitchell, usher, Sections 117-118, AAC." Another mourner said Fisher made friends more quickly than anyone he'd ever known, and he was "an even better husband and father."

Dallas Coach Rick Carlisle was among the speakers. At the service — as well as at the Mavs' game the same evening — he chose the champagne-soaked red tie he'd worn when Dallas won the 2011 NBA title in Miami, mentioning "it would never be worn again." Fisher's memory was further honored with a tribute preceding the game; at halftime, the historic video of his four "swishers" was shown.

At the funeral, sister-in-law Lisa Cheney Moore, offered a consoling thought — God called Fisher home to help welcome 20 children from Connecticut.

Much in life baffles, exceeding our understanding. We pray for clarity on the other side of the river.

Don Newbury, former chancellor of Howard Payne University, is a humorist and motivational speaker.

The Paperboy

Are you prepared?

Don't be too dependent on the device in your hand

Here we are — January of the year 2013. We are officially in the future ... so to speak.

Technology has taken over the world and nothing can stop the current trajectory we are on.



CHRIS BLACKBURN

From computer chips in dogs (which allow you to track them by phone) to voice controlled cars, man we have it all.

The typical smart phone makes Captain Kirk's communication device look like a poor man's flip phone.

Children age 3-year-old and up can now take an iPad or similar device and actually navigate it. I've seen this with my own eyes.

The power infrastructure, at least in this part of the world, is also seeing a massive upgrade with new power poles and lines. Once complete, our grid should be able to handle almost anything mother nature can throw at it.

Compare that to four years ago when several towns, particularly in the eastern Texas Panhandle and Western Oklahoma when power poles were snapped by an incredible ice storm.

Hopefully, those days are behind us.

However, as witnessed by Hurricane Sandy, we can be thrown into the dark ages on short notice. And when events like it happen, we now know we have a couple of generations who are helpless without power.

Last week, I was explaining to my sons (ages 9 and 7) how to start a fire using nature (flint and steel or by rubbing sticks together). They could not believe it.

It got me to thinking that unless your children are being taught by someone or are in an organization such as Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts, they could easily lack basic survival skills.

Likewise, many families in general, probably more in urban areas, lack basic survival skills.

That being the case, I highly doubt most families have survival kit and rations to get them a week or two down the road.

Like the good people of the northeast, IF things went south and the grid did go down, many would

be in grave danger should the worst happen.

As Hurricane Sandy approached the east coast back a couple of months ago, people were instructed to go to websites for instruction on shelter, feed, etc... The only problem is when the grid went down, there was no power and cell phones died. Once that occurred, people were clueless as to what to do and where to go.

It is vital that people understand that regardless of how much technology governs our lives, it can be taken away in minutes. If that happened in your town, how prepared are you to deal with it?

I encourage everyone out there to have a plan and basic necessities to survive. If you don't, you could find yourself in a real bad way.

The one thing technology will never replace in our society is common sense. Unfortunately, the lack of common sense and basic understanding of survival led to many deaths in the northeast.

With such a fresh example in our collective minds, be sure you're prepared for the worst. It's the right thing to do...

Christopher Blackburn is publisher of The Knox County News-Courier and CEO of Blackburn Media Group.

LITTER
From Page 1

Letting people enjoy the lake as a recreational venue is "all risk and no reward," from Kuehler's point of view.

What to do? "I don't know, short of putting a gate up and locking it," he said. "We have regulations. If you litter, we have the right to ban you from coming back to the lake."

Fishermen would miss Millers Creek Reservoir if it closed.

"That's a really nice place," Oyler said, himself a fisherman who, like all fishermen, doesn't

have as much time to fish as he'd like.

Oyler moved to the area in May at the end of the best time of year to fish Millers Creek.

"March to May is really good," he said. "May to June is good."

The lake contains bass, crappie and catfish.

"They could decide to close it down if they want to," Oyler said.

"We have kicked around the idea," Kuehler said.

Another aspect of the problem is a growing intolerance among water-users for water that isn't perfectly clean.

"People are used to clean water," Benton said.

As standards grow

stricter, any failure in municipal water systems — a broken main, for instance — poses a greater threat for humans not used to impure water.

"Your system can't handle it," Benton said. "Your immune system can't fight it off."

Meanwhile, Benton and other workers at the plant divide their time between removing refuse that pollutes the perimeter of the lake and treating the water that comes from it. If the situation doesn't change, Benton foresees a time when access to the lake could come under greater controls.

"I don't see it staying free to the public forever," he said.



Photo by Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier
Ben Benton, water plant supervisor, divides time between monitoring the water quality at the plant and picking up the cans and other trash.

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The Knox County News-Courier

Munday CISD conducts a program for students with above average potential in academic and creative productive thinking skills in grades K-12. This gifted education program is designed to challenge students who accelerate above and beyond the regular school curriculum.

Anyone wishing to nominate a student believed to be an intellectually or creatively gifted learner is encouraged to come by either of these two offices: Munday Elementary office or Munday High School Counselor's Office to pick up the necessary forms. Offices are open from 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Those students nominated will go through a screening procedure that requires special testing with parental permission.

Nomination period for Munday CISD is Jan. 14-22. During this time applications to nominate a student may be picked up at either office mentioned earlier. The completed paperwork is due Jan. 25.

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact Janet Dillard at 940-422-4321 (HS 2, then option 1 Counselor's office).

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General Transportation Tech II Knox Co. Maintenance. PO# C342012030710007 (0117)

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JOHN LEE WILDE, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **JOHN LEE WILDE** were issued on January 7, 2013, in Cause No. 2562, pending in the County Court of Knox County, Texas, to: **BOBBY D. BURNETT**.

The address of the Independent Executor is:

BOBBY D. BURNETT
P. O. Drawer 390
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All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED January 7, 2013

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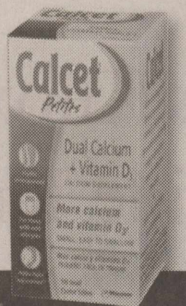
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STOREKEEPER
From Page 1

"I know my ranchers," Tolleson said. "I deal with them."

The ranchers trust the judgment of her and her husband, she said. And hunters apparently trust the Tollesons, too, asking them for information about the area when they're looking for hunting grounds.

Charles Barnett and his brother, Dave Barnett, both previously hunted on the Spike Box Ranch. When they decided to look for a different place to lease, Charles Barnett turned to the Tollesons.

"I called Janiece," he said. Tolleson is aware that she's an unofficial go-between, caught between ranchers and hunters.

"As long as you're good to both of them, they'll be good to you," she said.

The relationship between hunters and ranchers is equally symbiotic.

"It helps the ranchers," Tolleson said. "It helps the hunters to get out and get away."

In a time when drought has forced herd cutbacks and reduced ranching income, wildlife has suffered too. But leasing land for hunting remains a stable supplemental source of income to hunters, even when the deer aren't as many or as big.

"It's just getting away, kind of hanging out," said Charles Barnett, describing the appeal of driving 200 miles from Dallas to Knox County when he knows he may not shoot a big buck.

"I love coming up here," said his son Travis, 14. If he didn't like helping his dad pick up beer cans out of the ditch alongside FM 267, he wasn't saying so.

"When I see a bunch of trash, I try to pick it up," the elder Barnett said.

Never mind that the trash wasn't his or even on the lease. It was close enough.

"We just keep everything picked up and try not to shoot any small deer," he said, summing up his hunting ethic.

As for Dave Barnett, he now has a place to hunt in Central Texas. But Janiece Tolleson won't ever forget him.

"I've been dealing with Charles and his brother for years," she said. "I knew he (Dave Barnett) was from California."

But she didn't know his profession.

"Janiece, what's the matter with you?" he asked her one day when he was in the store. "You're not yourself?"

That's how she remembers the conversation.

She told him her son was critically ill.

"He started asking me ques-



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier
Travis Barnett tosses beer cans into the back of the family pickup Friday morning north of Rhineland. He and his father, Charles Barnett, picked up litter from the roadside ditch at an entrance to the Thompson Ranch, where they hunt. Residents of Dallas County, the Barnetts have been hunting in Knox County for several years. On Dec. 28, Travis Barnett shot an eight-point buck. His brother Charlie and a friend were still hunting last Friday morning, hoping also for a shot at a deer big enough to take home.

tions," she said.

She then learned he was a critical care physician in San Diego. Ultimately, Barnett zeroed in on a possible diagnosis that proved to be exactly right — NMDA receptor encephalitis — the same diagnosis reached by doctors treating Chad Tolleson in Dallas.

Janiece Tolleson was impressed, not just with Dave Barnett's diagnostic skills but also with his keen interest in the situation and his willingness to help. He gave Tolleson

his cell phone number.

"That'll get me in Texas or California," he told her.

Now that he's no longer hunting Knox County, Tolleson will miss him. Fortunately, her son's health has improved greatly.

"Charles told me that Dave wouldn't be coming back," Tolleson said. "I've got his mobile number," she said.

Along with others of his ilk, Dave Barnett will always be on Tolleson's good list at B-J Country Store.

Livestock show



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier
"Here's looking at you, judge," Kristin Kuehler's wether might say if he could talk. Striking postures for the judge's eye and touch are routines show animals practice day after day at the hands of their exhibitors. A showmanship clinic is on Friday's agenda.

ALCOHOL
From Page 1

the rule, generally west across the King County line or east to Goree.

An analyst of people's buying patterns, Bradford said he'd thought fuel sales for such trips might dip after the Knox City Allsup's began selling beer and wine, but he said he hasn't seen a difference.

At Goree, Lake Creek Beverage Co. was busy Monday morning. The store sells liquor as well as beer and wine.

One customer, Munday resident Luke Long, arrived at midday to buy his store of holiday cheer, planning to see the New Year ring in from the confines of his house and in the company of his dog, Little Dog.

"I dang sure ain't going to get in the car and drive anywhere," he said. "That's the wrong thing to do."

In the store, employees of Bill Reed Distributing of Abilene delivered cases of beer and other beverages to the store.

"Any time there's a holiday we have to stock up," said store clerk Kellie Sepeda.

Dakotah Croxton, new to the distribution business, helped unload the truck, saying he'd worked 40 hours in the last three days.

"It's been pretty hectic," he said. "I like it."

The alcohol business also means job security for law enforcement. Munday Police Officer Alex Lopez was on duty Monday afternoon, looking forward to several hours of patrolling the city, particularly to keep an eye out for inebriated drivers.

DWI offenses ruin lives,

he said.

"If you've been drinking, don't drive," he said.

Besides the danger to human life, a DWI conviction is costly — \$10,000 and up, he said. And the loss of a job can also occur.

For people who are out drinking, designating a non-drinker to drive is one solution.

"I think that's the best thing to do," he said.

Meanwhile, it's been about three months since Lopez has dealt with a drunk driver in the Munday area.

"It hasn't been much of an issue, but you never know," he said, hoping for a peaceful evening but ready for whatever might occur and prepared to assist other law enforcement personnel if necessary.

"We all help each other," he said.



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier
Dakotah Croxton handles cartons of beer Dec. 31 under the oversight of George Gonzales, arranging the product in the refrigerated storage area at Lake Creek Beverage Co. in Goree. Both men work for an Abilene distributor. Business was brisk in advance of the New Year's holiday.

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