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THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2013

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

KC top administrator out at post

By Hanaba Munn Welch
 The Knox County News-Courier

Knox City is welcoming a new police officer and saying goodbye both to the city manager and the mayor. City Manager Chad Roberts resigned Friday after a special session of the City Council.

Alex Jones will replace the vacancy created on the police force when Officer Michael Prado left in mid-February. Mayor Jeff Stanfield isn't running again for the office but will retain his job as municipal judge. Roberts wasn't available to comment Tuesday on his

resignation, but Stanfield and Police Chief Caleb Hodges were both on duty at the City Hall. Stanfield commented on his decision not to run for mayor. "I've enjoyed six years of it," he said. "It's time for someone else." Stanfield said he's start-

ing a business in Canada and has plans for a new business in Knox County to supplement his current hunting business and his part-time job as municipal judge. The mayor's position is non-salaried. Regarding Roberts' departure, Stanfield said, "I wish him the best."

Stanfield did not offer any details on the process of replacing Roberts. Hodges said the new man on the police force, a 24-year-old from Ennis, will start Monday. Jones is a recent graduate of a police academy. Hodges is the only other member of the force.

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 kcnews-courier@gmail.com.

Town hall meeting

U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry will visit with local constituents during a town hall meeting from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. March 8 at the Knox City Clinic, 702 S.E. Fifth St., Knox City.

One-Act fundy

The Knox City High School drama department will have a dinner-theater fundraiser March 25 at the high school. Tickets cost \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. A taco dinner will be served from 5:30 to 7 p.m., and the show will begin at 7:30 p.m. Takeout plates available. Students also are selling handcrafted KCHS metal keychains for \$7. All proceeds benefit the one-act play production. For information, call the high school at 940-657-3565 or email terra.martinez@esc9.net.

Mom Prom fundy

The third annual Camo Chicks Mom Prom benefiting the local American Cancer Society's Relay for Life will be from 8 p.m. to midnight April 6 at the Macias Ballroom in Haskell. Tickets cost \$20. No one younger than 18 will be allowed. Ladies, pull out your old prom dresses and join the fun. For information, contact Betty Enriquez at 864-2391 or Stacia Leach at 864-8138.

Class reunion

The Munday High School class of 1978 will celebrate its 35th reunion July 6. The agenda will include a golf tournament, good food and a live band. Any money raised will go to scholarships. Expect more information as plans take shape.

KCVG grant

The Knox County Visioning Group is looking for individuals who have an interest in pursuing a trade in heating, ventilation and air-conditioning. The KCVG is rolling out a grant for \$1,500 available to a Knox County senior in high school or a Knox County resident who is already out of high school and wishes to pursue this training. The grant will require the student to return to Knox County for one year and work in an HVAC field.

Walk Across Texas

Knox County Hospital is hosting the third annual Walk Across Texas. A kickoff party is slated for 5:30 p.m. March 7 at Knox County Hospital, 701 S. Fifth St., Knox City. All registration forms and fees are due at this time. Cost is \$5 per member. T-Shirts will be available for \$10 for those who wish to purchase them. Contact Jamie Caldwell at the Knox City Clinic at 940-657-3906 for more information.

Annual parish dinner

St. Joseph's Catholic Church annual Parish Sausage & Fried Chicken Dinner will be from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 17 at Columbus Hall in Rhineland. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and younger. The Country Store will also be selling homemade baked goods and arts and craft items. To order bulk sausage, contact Billie (940-256-2973) or John (940-256-3113).

Passport day

The Seymour post office, 210 N. Washington, will host Passport Day in the USA from 8 to 10 a.m. March 9. No appointment is necessary. For information, visit travel.state.gov/passport.

See POST NOTES, Page 8

Visioning group sharpens focus

By Hanaba Munn Welch
 The Knox County News-Courier

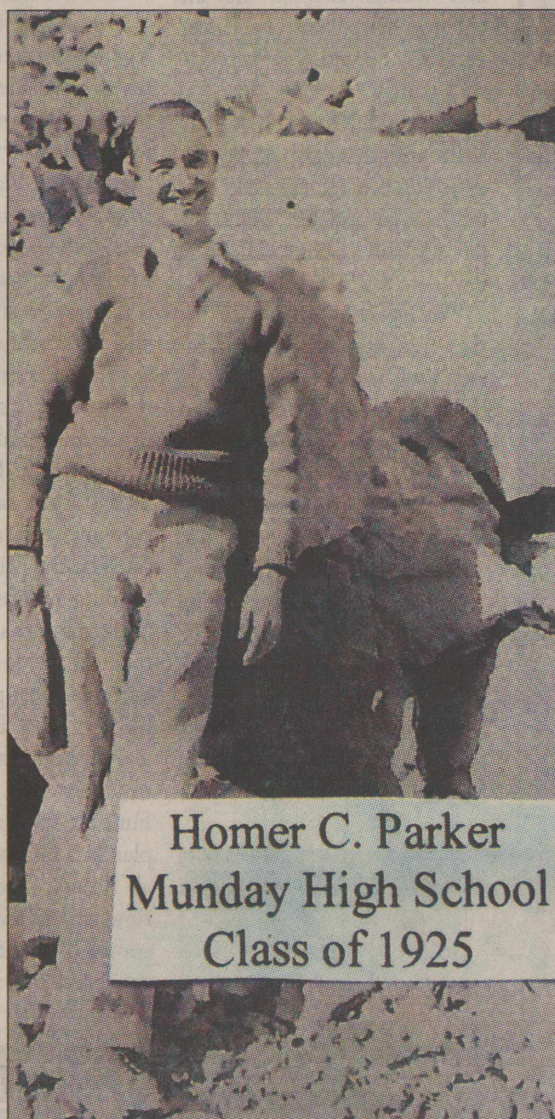
Knox County Visioning Group is taking a fresh look at how it best can serve Knox County and planning a visioning summit to focus clearly on the county's top needs. Members of the board and various organizations met Tuesday at the Knox County Courthouse for an update on KCVG events — Adventure Days and Music Camp, in particular — and to set a time for the summit.

The group also heard an update on a proposal to utilize the Truscott Brine Lake as a solar pond to generate electricity.

Another point of discussion was the idea that a countywide tour of homes at Christmastime could be a fundraiser.

Jimi Coplen, KCVG community development director, reported that the job of cook for the Bobby Boatright Western Swing Music Camp at Goree is still va-

See VISIONING, Page 4



Homer C. Parker
 Munday High School
 Class of 1925

Courtesy photo

The letter "M" is only faintly visible on Homer Parker's sweater in an old picture on display at Munday High School. The purple "M" on his vintage sweater in the same display shows up against the gold color of the sweater and matches the purple stripes on one sleeve.



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier
 Baylie Taylor wears a Munday Band T-shirt, and Hilda Mendez wears a shirt that celebrates the state football championship won by this year's Munday Moguls. Both girls play clarinet in the Purple Cloud Band. In the display case is a 1925 sweater, a fashion forerunner of all sorts of scholastic attire worn today. Note the arm stripes. The sweater belonged to the Munday student who first suggested the Mogul warriors of India would answer the need for a school mascot.



Courtesy photo

Some of Munday's first Moguls, teammates of Homer C. Parker wear their letter sweaters.

Letter sweater worn by original Mogul

By Hanaba Munn Welch
 The Knox County News-Courier

A 93-year-old sweater on display at Munday High School isn't just any old letter sweater. It belonged to the late Homer C. Parker, the Munday High School athlete who came up with the suggestion that the football team could be called the Munday Moguls.

The year was 1925, and Parker and his teammates had already played two football games without a mascot.

A card attached to the sweater includes this information: "Homer Parker was leaning over a dictionary with it open to the M's and saw 'Mogul' staring back at him, so he quickly submitted it. The class approved of the name, and Moguls was taken

as the mascot for Munday High School."

Also on display are copies of Parker's 1925 high school diploma and graduation program, with the class roll listing Parker and 14 classmates — Charles L. Farrington, H. Clifton Osborn, Joe W. Burton, Cletus W. Stogner, Hattie Joe Whitsett, Barney Doyle Matlock, Bessie Mae Isbell, May Lorene Parker, Nina

Daylight-saving time begins this weekend

The Knox County News-Courier

This weekend marks the beginning of daylight-saving time — the annual event lauded by business-owners and sunshine-loving residents, while widely criticized by those in the education community.

The official change will be in effect at 2 a.m. Sunday and dictates the time "spring forward" one hour to 3 a.m.

Since 2007, daylight-saving time was officially moved from the first Sunday in April to the second Sunday in March per the Energy Policy Act of 2005 signed by President George W. Bush.

While digital clocks on many personal computers, smartphones, tablets and other electronic devices will automatically adjust to reflect the semiannual change, residents are reminded manual clocks must be adjusted by hand.

Daylight-saving time will end at 2 a.m. Oct. 28, the last Sunday in the month, when the time will officially "fall back" to 1 a.m.

Wayne Hodgkin

Efforts made to spare drive-in theater's fate

By Hanaba Munn Welch
 The Knox County News-Courier

RULE — The Tower Drive-In is wearing its barren winter look — dead grass the color of pale straw, nothing on the marquee and no action on the big screen.

As sure as spring brings warmer weather, the drive-in should spring to life, just as surely as the grass will turn green, but technical changes in the way movies are projected onto screens, indoors and out, threaten the continued existence of the outdoor theater.

In short, if the Tower is going to be able to continue to show top new films, going digital will be required. The theater is poised to make the change, except for funding.

An appeal for credit or debit card pledges through an online arrangement called "Kickstarter" could garner enough backing to fund the upgrades. Amazon Payments handles the transactions, and no pledges are collected unless the target goal is collected — \$39,000 in the case of the Tower Drive-In. The deadline is one minute before midnight

Friday. Owner Deon Gordon, organizer of the Kickstarter project, presented the appeal for funding and outlines reasons the Tower would be missed if the drive-in theater is unable to stay in business: "Tower Drive-in Theater in Rule is counting down the last week of its Kickstarter fundraising campaign to raise money for conversion of the current projection system to digital," Gordon said. "Movie studios are requiring all the-

See THEATER, Page 8



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier
 The Tower Drive-in north of Rule faces closure if the owner doesn't raise the funds to upgrade the theater's film-projection equipment.

Corrections

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

News on the go

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Osbornes closes Munday store

Former manager makes plans to open general store

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The Knox County News-Courier

When Osbornes farm store locked its doors to the public at 5 p.m. Saturday, it was for the last time. The store is closed, and owners of the store will move the inventory to Vernon, lock, stock and barrel to the last item.

The good news: Longtime store manager Todd Meers and his wife, Lezli, are buying the building and plan to open a busi-

ness in the same location — a “general store” with an array of merchandise befitting the community.

Meers isn't certain yet about exactly what items he and his wife will carry.

“Pipe fittings, electrical supplies, PVC,” he said. “She’s going to put in something — maybe some crafts and gifts.”

Meers isn't getting a breather as he helps Osbornes relocate stock to Vernon, a process that

should take about three weeks. Then putting his business together will take a few more weeks, he said. His time frame is “as fast as I can,” he said.

Osbornes is a chain of farm stores with locations in Vernon, Stamford and Gainesville. The business has been in Munday long enough to still have the old “817” area code on a sign on the building. Osbornes owners are Andy and Connie Duffie. The other Osbornes stores will remain open.

Andy Duffie is also Osbornes general manager. Last week at the company headquarters in Vernon, he said the decision to close the Munday store was not easy.

“It’s just a declining population situation coupled with the ongoing, agriculture problems,” Andy Duffie said. “We hoped to stick with it.”

He cited the ongoing drought as the primary negative factor on agriculture in the area and said things were getting “worse by the day” for Osbornes in Munday.

“We have our own trucks,” he said. “We’re moving our inventory back to the (Vernon) store over the next three weeks.”

Need something from Osbornes?

“Shop with us at Stamford or Vernon,” he said.

Duffie concluded his comments on a bright note, noting the Meers would be buying the building and going into business at the location.

Meers has spent 12 years as Osbornes store manager in Munday.

Water for All Texans

It's not news that more people are moving to Texas at a rapid pace. And why wouldn't they? For starters, the low cost of living, genuine people, beautiful landscapes and old-fashioned common sense make Texas a great place to live. And our state's relatively strong economy and ample business opportunities make it a great place to work. With all that Texas has going for it, it should come as no surprise that more people would want to make this place their home. More people equal more mouths to feed, and that's a good thing for the Texas cattle industry. But more people also equal more resources consumed, particularly more water, and that's something the Texas Legislature must address.

In February, I had the opportunity to testify before the House Natural Resources Committee at the state capitol regarding water. The committee was considering legislation that would provide a long-term source of funding for the State Water Plan, which is the primary planning mechanism used to help local entities implement water projects like conservation, infrastructure and new technology. This plan is crucial to our state because it allows cities and towns, both urban and rural, to ensure their residents have water.

While at the capitol I heard over and over how urban areas must be the priority for water funding and infrastructure. I understand that. Logically it makes sense to put those areas with the most people at the top of the list. However, the legislature must not overlook rural Texas.

Funding the state's water plan in a fair manner benefits all Texans. Those of us in rural areas want to see more people move to this state, and we realize that most of that

growth will happen in the larger cities. But we in rural Texas provide the vast majority of urban Texans with the food they need to survive. To continue doing this, we need the support of the small towns that provide our industry with a workforce, schools for our children and a place for many of us to call home. If these areas are left to dry up, people will move, small towns will fade away and Texas agriculture will take a huge hit. Case in point, there are 160 people in my hometown of Guthrie. The water in our area has always been high in nitrates, which means you can't drink it. For years, Guthrie residents have been provided with bottled water. Problem solved, right? You'd think so, but recently our area has been tasked with building a desalination plant to make the water drinkable. If only the people in this area were to pay for this plant, the rate on every water meter would go up by approximately \$200 a month. In my town, \$200 a month extra per meter is a lot of extra money to come up with. If our project is included in the state's water plan, than we might have help building the plant, which means more Guthrie residents will be able to pay their bills and stick around.

The point is we are all in this together. No person, city, town or industry can survive without water. The legislature must fund the State Water Plan and they must do so fairly, keeping both the growing cities and the small rural communities in mind.

Joe Leathers has worked as a cowboy all of his adult life. He currently serves as the general manager of the Four Sixes Ranch in Guthrie, Texas. He is a Director of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, and also serves as the association's Natural Resources Committee Chairman.

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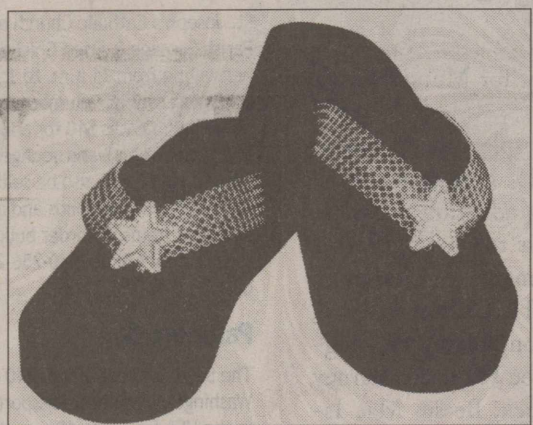
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The Idle American On the bubble

Though documentation may be several years away, athletes coming of age in the 1950s, '60s and '70s perhaps had a decided edge in development of coordination.

A criticism commonly heard during the first half of the 20th century subsided.

I refer to the hurtful comments often made of gangly youngsters "unable to walk and chew gum at the same time."



DON NEWBURY

Thanks to Topps Bubble Gum and its insertion of baseball trading cards into gum packages from 1950-1981, some of the clumsiest of athletes quickly turned coordination corners. They could chew gum, blow bubbles, walk and trade baseball cards — simultaneously and with great precision.

Topps had it going, piquing youngsters' athletic interest at early ages. The gum also provided jaw exercises and encouraged competition — bubble blowers bragged on the biggest, quickest, oddest, longest-lasting, etc. There was extra credit for face coverage when big 'uns popped.

Sadly, electronic games, the digital age and assorted apps have youngsters locked-in now. These days, even kids' jaws aren't getting any exercise — mostly just their thumbs.

TV plays a huge role, too, and today's youth have many choices. Sports remain gargantuan in popularity — usually long before youngsters' ability to walk and chew gum at the same time is an issue.

Kedren Penney is a good

example. His sports interest was minimal at age 5, but a year later, he's into all seasonal sports.

He picks teams to cheer for on TV, and expects everyone else in the room to do likewise, preferably the one opposing his. If his team does poorly, his allegiance switches on a dime.

He knows players' numbers, team names and stats, etc. A while back, he noticed the name Louie Gohmert on the TV screen. Noting the "R" after the congressman's name, he asked, "Dad, does that mean he's a rookie?"

A victim of food allergies in his early years, he was a good sport about eating food brought from home while others dined on restaurant fare.

When he was 4, he pretended to "read" the label on restaurant crackers to see if they were safe for consumption. Mumbling "milk, egg and soy" from memory, he made a "no-crackers-for-me" comment.

Impressed with free books available at the library, he recently asked his mom, "Will we ever use our card up?"

Some of kids' best lines occur in transit. Between games of "I spy" something yellow, red, blue and other colors — with antennas ever alert for "slug bugs" — they often read signs, some of which mystify them.

Kedren once saw a sign proclaiming "First Church of God."

"I'll bet that's not really God's first church," he said.

Another youngster, Amelia Abbott — 5 at the time — was among dozens of relatives at the funeral visitation of a 95-year-old loved one. Included were children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the deceased.

With a deepening understanding of the loss, Amelia asked a distant

cousin, "When will you die?" Answer: "When I get real old." Amelia: "How old are you now?" Answer: "69."

"Well, it shouldn't be long now," Amelia blurted.

Halle Webb, Amelia's first cousin, was rehearsing something special for her pre-school graduation.

"What were you practicing today?" her mother asked the 4-year-old.

Pausing, Halle answered, "We were rehearsing a special song, but don't tell yourself, because it's a secret!"

Much is expected of ministers' children, who somehow manage to survive "fishbowl existence" and the repetition of church goings-on.

One nameless minister's son, maybe 10, blushed regularly at weddings, knowing an older congregant would find him at the reception to poke him in the ribs. Then she'd add, "You're next!" He'd redden as others guffawed nearby.

One day he saw her at a funeral. When the service ended, he hurried to her side, gave her a good rib-poke and blurted two words for all to hear.

"You're next," he joked.

I am heartened when I hear youngsters tell jokes — or even attempt to share them.

And that's true whether or not the "teller" even understands the punch line.

One youngster told another about a chicken that nudged a duck just before his web-footed friend crossed the road. "Don't do it," the chicken warned, "You'll never hear the end of it!"

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

Dixie Divas

The easy way becomes the hard way

It seems to me that a lot of young people have it easy. Too many kids in high school and college are shielded from work and not taught the importance of money or earning it. It seems to me this is a major default in the education of life.

If you don't know the worth of a dollar or what it takes to earn that dollar, how can you successfully manage for the rest of your life?

How can you start a family? Raise a family? Survive professional setbacks? Retire?

And, importantly, how can you truly taste and savor success? How can you enjoy that incredible high when you have scrimped and saved and managed to purchase a home, a car, a boat with cash? When material things are hard fought for and won, they mean more and are taken care of more.

I have a purse. A rather expensive one, which was a complete indulgence. For two years, I tucked away a bit of cash here and there, saving as I could on necessities, to accumulate the money to buy it. That was six or seven years ago and still today, I treat it with gentleness and respect. I use it only for Sundays and special occasions, keeping it pampered and wrapped in a protective bag the rest of the time.

I learned that young. When I was 11, there was a forest green wool winter coat with a hood trimmed in beige colored fake fur at Sears. I thought it was the prettiest thing I had ever seen and it looked so pretty on me, making me look thin and chic. It cost \$89, and Mama was not buying it when she could sew me a coat. I babysat for two months to pay it out of layaway. The day I made the final payment of \$6 and took it home was one of the proudest days of my life.

How sad when parents deprive the children they love of that kind feeling of

accomplishment. It is a great and loving gift.

A while back, I called a friend to ask if her son would be interested in making some money by cutting grass. He was a freshman in high school. She laughed at my silliness. "Absolutely not. He needs to spend his time with school work and activities."

What surprised me most about that is that I grew up with his father, who, from the time he was 12, scrambled to make money from part-time jobs. From the age of 16 on, he worked every day after school. Today, he is so frugal that some might call him stingy. But he knows the value of a dollar and what it takes to make it.

Years ago, a prominent doctor visited Daddy at his dusty, greasy garage and asked him to give his son a part-time job. "I'll pay you his salary — without his knowledge — but I want him to learn the meaning of work and the value of a dollar." That young man worked for Daddy for two years — unknowing his father was paying his salary — and grew up to make his father very proud. He became a financier.

There are exceptions. I think of the hard working young high school girls who help my niece with her children. I think most especially of Brandon who, since he was 17, has helped me around the house. Now three years out of college, he still finds time to help me though he has a full-time profession. He does it to repay me for helping him when he needed help and because the extra money is appreciated if not needed. Having learned a dollar's value, it still sticks with him.

Not teaching kids about money is the easy way out. Unfortunately for them, the easy way will eventually become the hard way.

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



RONDA RICH

You're invited to a conversation with
Congressman Mac Thornberry

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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THANKS FOR READING!

spring forward

don't forget to set your clocks forward this Sunday

VISIONING
From Page 1

cant. The dates for the camp at July 7-11. The camp is currently enrolling students for fiddle and guitar lessons. More information is available from J.W. Sollis, 940-839-7870, jwsollis@yahoo.com.

Adventures Days is set for June 1. The agenda for tours of the county remains to be set.

Career Day, a time for high school students to consider career choices, will be Sept. 11, Coplen said, noting that last year's Career Day drew 260 students from the region.

"We did it at Goree, the perfect campus for that," she said. "They flooded it, and then they were gone. It was an all-day thing."

Members of different professions talked about their work and colleges also offered the students information.

County Judge Travis Floyd expressed his opinion that Knox County Visioning Group needs to recapture its original enthusiasm by reassessing goals.

"We started off like gangbusters," he said. "We got all the communities involved. We had 40-something people here. We

kept a lot of people involved for a long time. I think maybe a while back we lost our vision; we lost our focus. We need to take a fresh look at where we're at."

No one disagreed. "I think it comes back to tapping into what people are interested in," Coplen said.

"Unless you have a majority of your citizens who care about that issue, it doesn't matter," said Extension Agent Lori Coop.

The group talked about Knox County's strong points, including good medical services and reasonable housing prices — even sunsets and dark night skies.

"We have (economic development corporations) in our towns," Coop said. "This group is about the county. It's about improving the quality of life ... for people to come back and live here. It encompasses all of that."

"Even countywide, we're small," Floyd said. "We need to all come together, break down the barriers between the Greyhounds and the Moguls. Let's come together and do it as a county — a community instead of a city."

Lina Trevino, county attorney, mentioned the importance of impressing young people with

points of interest and things the county has to offer.

"Kids don't know what they have," she said.

Coplen responded that Adventure Days was designed "to get people to know what's in their own backyard."

The group recalled the past success of a grant-funded job shadowing program wherein young people earned money while they worked to learn about different types of jobs.

"A lot of businesses said they would be willing to have kids come in and work and they would pay them," Floyd said.

"If you come up with them, we will contact them," Coop said. "I will do whatever."

The group tentatively set April as the time for the visioning summit.

Floyd shared a March 1 report from George Nitschke of Good Earth Mechanics. The company is interested in developing Truscott Brine Lake as a solar pond electricity generation plant, a system that uses the natural heat-producing properties of shallow bodies of salt water to power systems to produce electricity.

Nitschke's message to Floyd indicated that the project has the support of not only Shep-

pard Air Force Base, a potential electricity customer, but also the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. The city of Wichita Falls and the U. S. Army are potential supporters and beneficiaries of the project, Nitschke said.

One "sticking point" for the project is a disagreement between analysts as to how long it will take for the project to pay for itself. Estimates vary between ten years and 20 years, a point of concern for the Air Force Civil Engineering Center.

Saltwater in the Aspermont area also could be developed for solar ponds, Floyd said.

"There is actually more salt in the Brazos River area around Aspermont and that area," Floyd said. "It's not as readily available as it is up here, but there's probably more salt. This area right through here is the Saudi Arabia of saltwater. ... They're already in contact with landowners in Aspermont."

In the Aspermont area, pumps would bring salty well water to the surface to create the ponds, Floyd said.

"When a project like this comes, regardless of where it comes, it's going to help everybody," Coplen said. "It's going to help Knox County. People have to live somewhere, they have to

sleep somewhere, they have to eat somewhere.

Stephen Kuehler, Knox County hospital administrator, and Traci Blair, director of Munday Nursing Center, reported an increase in residency at the nursing home since the hospital took over the facility in December.

"The transition has gone well," Kuehler said. "There've been a few hiccups. For the most part, it's been really, really good."

"We went from 23 to 40 (residents) pretty quick," Blair said. "My goal is to have a waiting list. The state says we're licensed for 61. That would be crammed."

Some of the rooms have been converted to office space, Kuehler said.

"I think 50 to 55," he said, naming the ideal census.

The group discussed the benefits of compiling a booklet to describe Knox County's selling points, particularly services available.

"It's got to be a book," Coop said. "Something that they go to. If you sat down and thought about every resource that we have here, from speech therapist to dry cleaner, you're going to inform a lot of people. You're going to reach a lot of people with it."

SWEATER
From Page 1

Collins, Janelle Stodghill, M. L. Cook, William C. Fritz, Irene Isbell and Tom Campbell.

A picture shows four of Parker's teammates, all wearing letter sweaters. They're identified as Hoyt, Watson, Burton and Cook. Another picture shows Parker wearing a similar sweater.

Parker's family donated the sweater to the school. In a letter to Parker's daughter Marilyn Guillory, Principal Tra Hall thanked her and her mother for the artifact.

"What a precious gem this is for our school and its students," he wrote. "As a former history teacher, I love this kind of glimpse into our past."

Guillory replied that her 97-year-old mother, Dorothy Parker, now living in Florida, would be pleasantly surprised to learn about the way the school has put the historic sweater on display.

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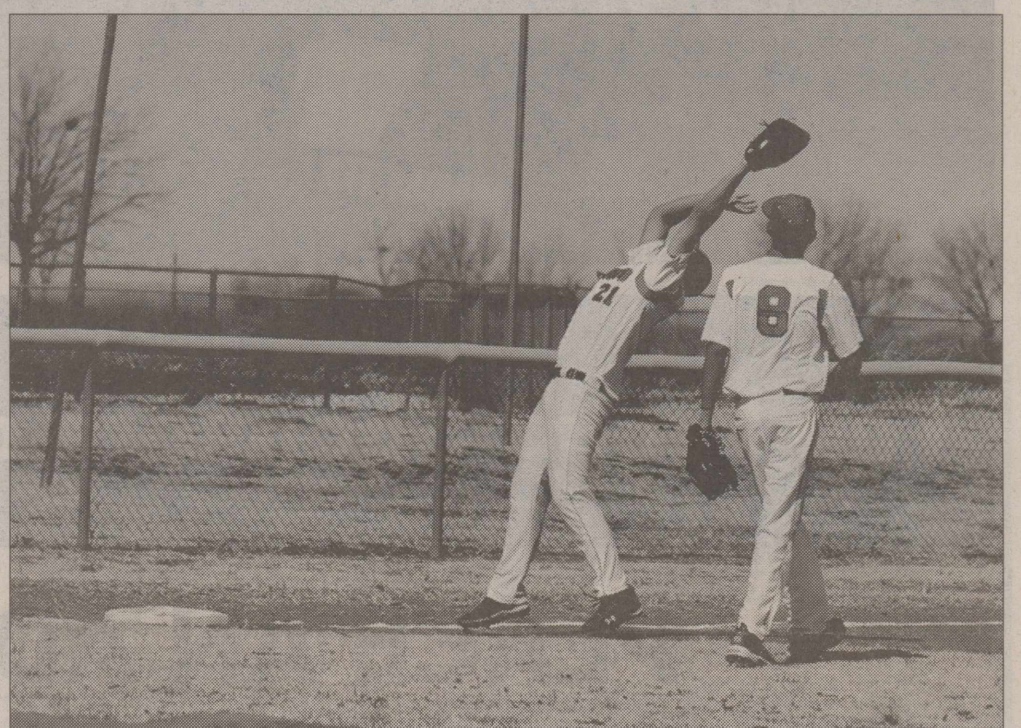
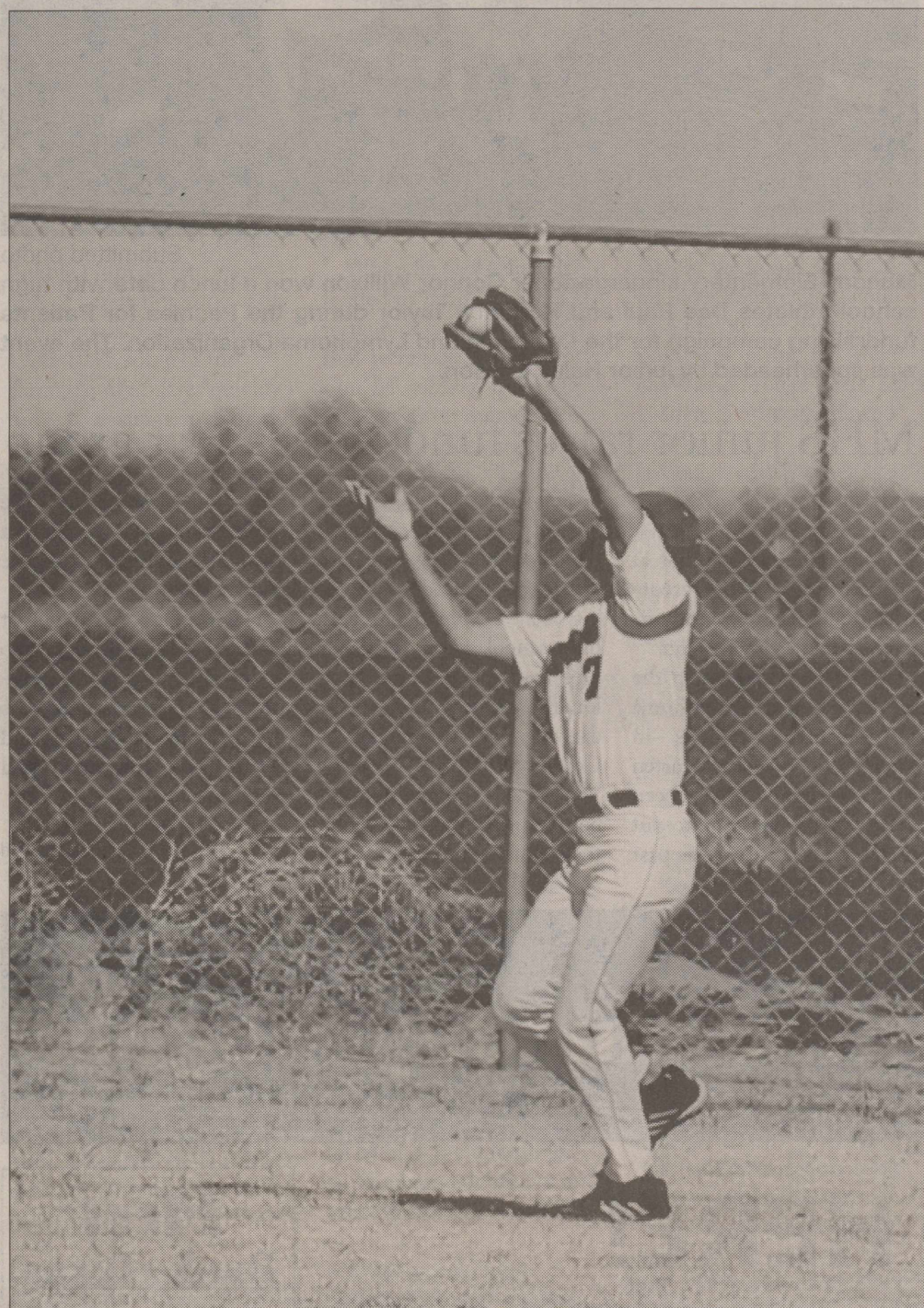
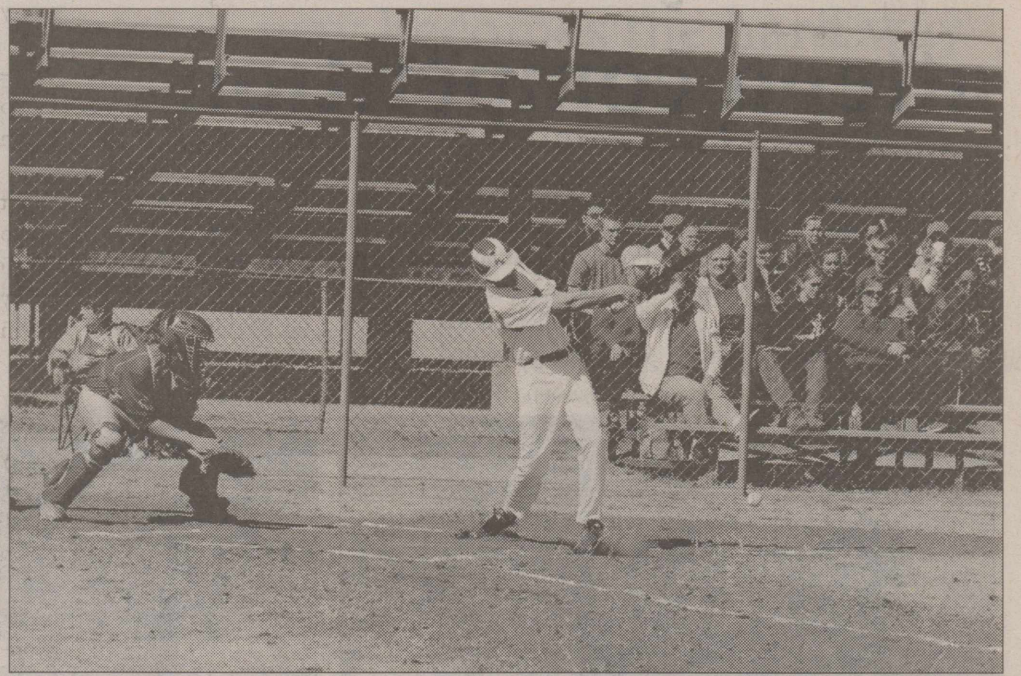
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Munday FFA students attend competition

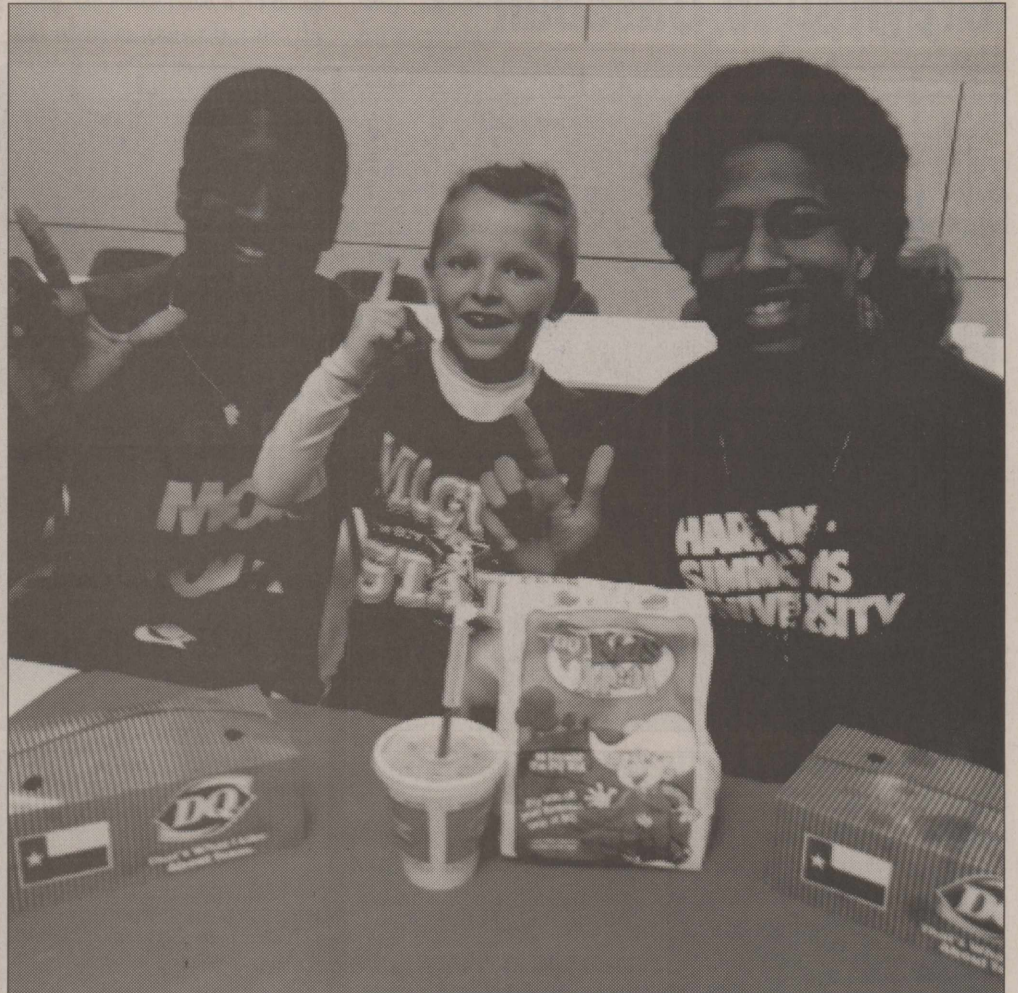
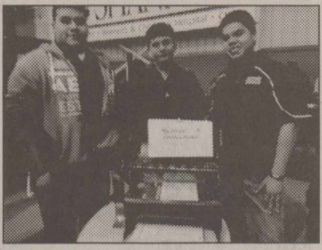
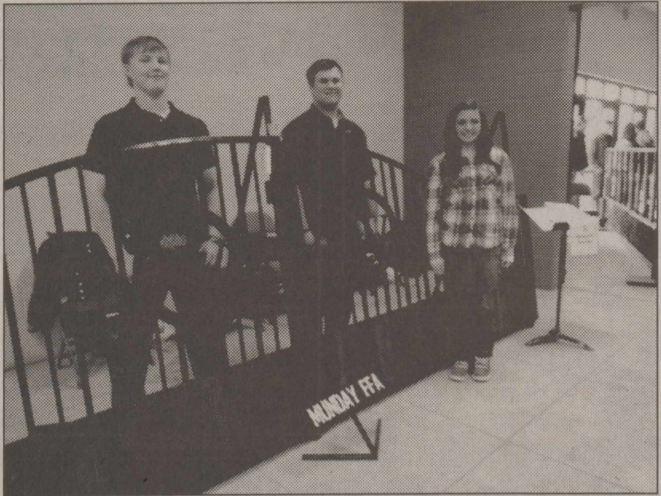
Twelve members of the FFA at Munday High School attended the San Angelo Agriculture Mechanics Exhibition on Feb. 19-21.

Logan Groves, Darian

Leija, Trey Tidwell, Emilio Avalos, Tomas Carranza, A.J. Prieto, B.J. Arajo, Ryan Redder, Tony Garcia, Ryder Cude, Colby Fullwood and Miguel Gonzales presented projects

that had been constructed this past school year.

The group received blue ribbons on all four projects based on workmanship and knowledge of their project work.



Submitted photo Munday Elementary kindergartener Connor Willison won a lunch date with high school athletes Dee Paul and Roddrick Taylor during the Pennies for Patients fundraising campaign for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Organization. The event was spearheaded by junior Haley Ericson.

MHS junior raises funds for cancer group

The Knox County News-Courier

several weeks.

Haley Ericson, a junior at Munday High School recently started a school-wide campaign "Pennies for Patients."

Funds raised will help the Leukemia and Lymphoma Organization. Students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12th grade have been given class money jars to put their change in for the past

At the elementary campus, the students' names were also placed in a random drawing to have a lunch date with high school sports standouts Dee Paul and Roddrick Taylor. The lucky winner of this drawing was kindergartener, Connor Willison.

Another incentive is an in-between the grades dual at the elementary to see who can

bring the most change. The grade winner will win a pizza party. Money collection date ends Friday.

Haley is a top student at Munday High School who is involved in many extra-curricular activities. She is the daughter of Rebecca and Greg Clark and Dean and Katie Ericson.

Janet Dillard

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LEGAL NOTICE

Effective March 15, 2013 the Knox City Housing Authority will be open from 9 to noon and 1 to 4 on Tuesday and Wednesday only. Phone 940-657-3612. Applications for housing may be picked up at the Knox City or Munday Housing Authority. Knox City Housing Authority is an equal opportunity employer and provider. (0331)

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The Munday and Knox City Housing Authorities each have apartments available for rent. Rental assistance may be available to eligible applicants. Call Munday Housing at 940-422-4941 or Knox City Housing Authority at 940-657-3612 for more information. Both are equal opportunity providers.



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STATE OF TEXAS §
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ORDER RESCINDING BURN BAN

WHEREAS, the Knox County Commissioners Court adopted an Order Prohibiting Outdoor Burning on December 10th, 2012

WHEREAS, the Knox County Judge has determined that the circumstances that required the Order no longer exist.

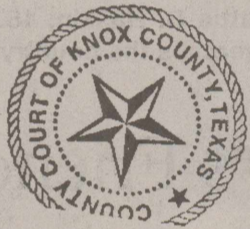
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by Knox County Judge, Travis C. Floyd, that said Order is rescinded as of 2:00 p.m. on February 28th, 2013

Approved and so ordered this the 28th day of February, 2013.

Travis C. Floyd
COUNTY JUDGE
TRAVIS C. FLOYD

Attest:

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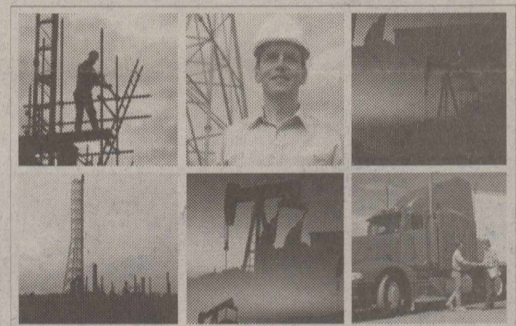
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Benjamin ISD is inviting sealed bids on two properties, February 27, 2013- March 25, 2013:

- 304 N. CHURCH ST. BLK. 29 LTS 1 & 2 ORIG BENJAMIN
 - 506 N. HINTON, BLKS 1-3 ORIG BENJAMIN
- Bids should be mailed to PO Box 166, Benjamin, Texas 79505, or submitted in sealed envelope no later than March 25, 2013 at noon. Responses will be opened on March 25 at the Regular School Board Meeting at which award selection will be made and notification to selections will follow, Tuesday, March 26 (940-459-2231).

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed bid offer: Two wheat farms (surface only) for lease:

320 acres. Knox County: SE/4, Sec. 16, Block C, C.T. RY Co. Survey, Ab. 1034 (160 a.) and NE/4, Sec. 16, Block C, C.T. Ry. Co. Survey, Ab. 1034 (160 a.) (320 acres contiguous near Vera, past cemetery- sometimes known as the "McGuire place")

166.33 acres. Knox County: 16.33 acres out of Ab. 309, Block 44, Sec. 147, H&TC RR Survey and 150 acres out of Ab. 355, Block C, Sec. 149, H&TC RR Survey (166.33 acres contiguous) [near Gilliland]

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Deadline for bids: March 15, 2013. Owner reserves right to reject any and all bids.
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Friendship Cemetery

Burial ground in Hefner not lost to surviving family

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The Knox County News-Courier

(Editor's note: The Friendship Cemetery at Hefner is the subject of the fourth installment in the News-Courier's ongoing series on Knox County cemeteries.)

When the names of most of people who've ever lived in a particular place disappear from the phone book and reappear on cemetery monuments, who takes care of the burial ground?

It's a common situation in places like Hefner where Candy Estes is virtually in charge of the hundred-year-old Friendship Cemetery. Her ancestors are buried there, and she still lives on the Haskin family place nearby, a farm that's been operated by her family long enough to be recognized as a Texas Century Farm by the Texas Family Land Heritage Program.

"My husband and I live on the farm my grandfather bought in 1901," she said.

Her grandfather was a founder of the Baptist Church near the cemetery.

"The church disbanded in 1962, and they moved that building to Goree," she said.

As for the Friendship Cemetery, it was cared for by her aunt and uncle Blanche and Melburn Morse for many years, Estes said.

"Then it passed on to me," she said. "I took it as a labor of love."

Estes has a map that shows the graves and the names of people buried in the various plots. She uses it to answer people's questions about the locations of graves.

"Faye Railsback and my Aunt Blanche worked on that," she said. "It's come in handy so many times."

Estes doesn't maintain the cemetery herself. She depends mainly on James Peek. When she and Peek were classmates at Goree School, she didn't foresee a time when he would be mowing the Friendship Cemetery for her.

"I don't know what I would do if it wasn't for James," she said. "I couldn't ask for anybody better."

For Peek it's a job — one he takes seriously. Some of his relatives are buried there, too. Peek also mows Brushy Cemetery south of Goree in Haskell County.

"The thing that really bothers you mowing is the curbs," he said.

When Peek can't take his riding mower over a curb, he uses a lawn trimmer. He has back problems that make it difficult for him to use a push-type mower, he said.

"I've gotten to where I mow some and stop and Weedeat a while," he said.

Peek said he rarely sees anyone at the cemetery but remembers the time someone called and asked about the grave of a Confederate soldier, who was

the caller's great-grandfather.

"I want to come up there and look for that grave," the man said.

Peek couldn't think which grave it might be, but the man found it.

"That stone was leaning," Peek said.

The man had it fixed.

Peek doesn't have the skills required to fix monuments, but if he could, he would like to level off graves where the ground has sunk.

"I can't do the dirt work," he said.

But his mowing, the main maintenance job, is greatly appreciated by Estes, who said he charges a reasonable price.

Money is an issue.

"Gravesites are free," Estes said.

The policy could change.

"Nobody contributes to the cemetery," she said. "People forget."

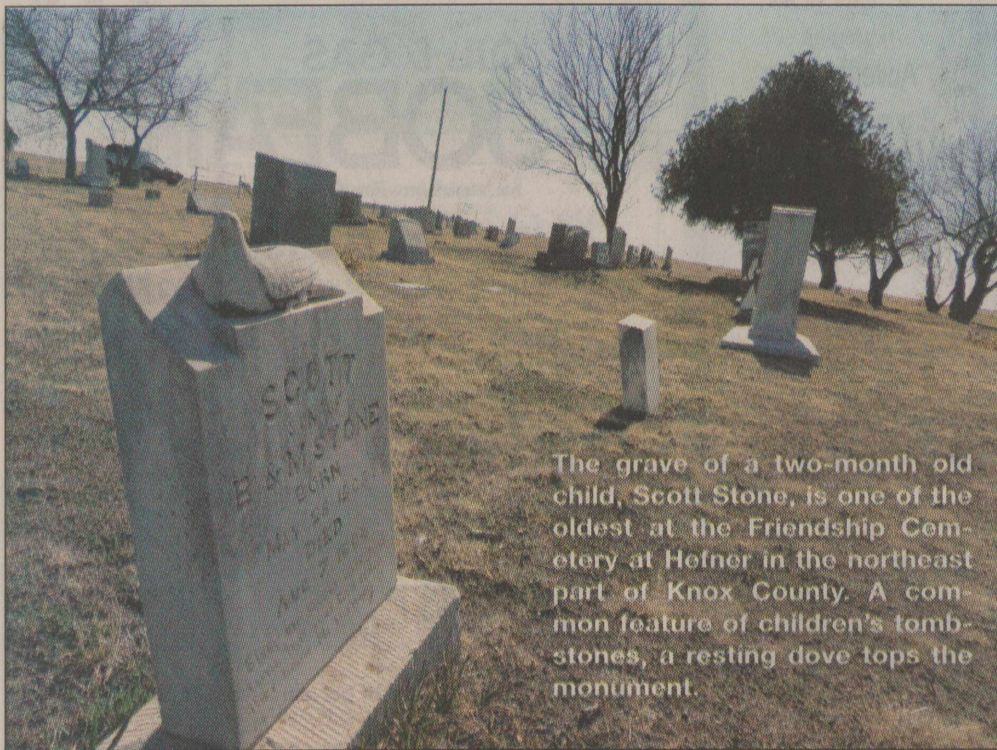
In years past, a few people gave significant contributions. They have since died, Estes said.

The last time she issued a plea for contributions, just one person responded — a man who gave \$100 and didn't even have a relative in the cemetery, Estes said.

Anyone who would like to contribute to the upkeep of the Friendship Cemetery can write a check to the Friendship Cemetery Fund and mail it to Candy Estes, 6005 CR 4390, Goree, TX 76363.



Photos by Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier
One of the oldest monuments at the Friendship Cemetery at Hefner is the gravestone of Hattie D. Haskin, 1875-1908. A Haskin descendant who still lives at Hefner oversees the country cemetery as a "labor of love."



The grave of a two-month old child, Scott Stone, is one of the oldest at the Friendship Cemetery at Hefner in the northeast part of Knox County. A common feature of children's tombstones, a resting dove tops the monument.

Hefner's Friendship Cemetery is North Goree's last stand

The Knox County News-Courier

What do Friendship, Hefner and North Goree have in common?

Anyone steeped in the history of Knox County knows all three names lead to the same place — roughly the intersection of two Farm-to-Market roads, 2534 and 266.

Friendship isn't the name of the place, but Friendship Cemetery is virtually all that's left of Hefner, originally known as North Goree — a community where churches, a school, houses and a cotton gin and other business once stood together as the framework of a community.

"We shape our buildings, and afterwards our buildings shape us," Winston Churchill said.

Churchill didn't address the topic of what happens when buildings disappear and a place essentially ceases to exist, even though he made his remark after a 1941 bombing raid had virtually destroyed the British House of Commons and much of London was in ruins.

By 1950, the House of Commons was

rebuilt, looking the same as it had looked before, occupying the same footprint, and London was enjoying a post-war reconstruction boom.

By contrast, at midcentury in Hefner, signs of decline were already in place. The school had closed in the mid-1940s, and students were attending school in Goree, less than six miles to the south. Now nothing remains of the town proper, and Hefner isn't even a dot on every map.

But the cemetery remains, well cared for inside a protective gated barbed-wire fence. At one corner, a neat sign proclaims it Friendship Cemetery.

Not every monument stands exactly straight and some need repair, but the little cemetery, with several graves over 100 years old, is evidence that the peaceful spot in northeast Knox County is a place where people once lived and died.

A little imagination, and the sounds of a cotton gin and the voices of school children at play waft on the air.

Hanaba Munn Welch



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MEMBER FDIC

THEATER

From Page 1

aters to convert to digital. Those who don't will soon be unable to obtain theatrical releases.

As the only theater in this tri-county area (Haskell, Stonewall and Knox), the drive-in not only provides reasonably priced entertainment, it also contributes to the economic health of the area, Gordon said.

"When local residents don't have a theater close to home, they travel to the closest city to see movies, and when they do, they take their dining and shopping business with them," she said. "It also takes more of local residents' discretionary spending because of the increased spending on gasoline as well as movie tickets and food."

"Whether you attend the movies regularly or not, we all benefit when local residents and their discretionary funds remain in the

area."

The drive-in's customers benefit greatly because the \$6 ticket price includes two current films, and it hasn't increased since 2008. Tower Drive-in opened many of the No. 1 films last summer on opening day, including "Men in Black 3," "The Avengers," "Brave" and more.

To see two theatrical releases in Abilene would cost \$17.50. The food is also reasonably priced, including three \$4.25 combos. Savings for a family of four just for gas and ticket prices alone would be \$60 before factoring in concessions.

Kickstarter is what is known as an online crowd-sourced funding website that allows donors to pledge to the project using a debit or credit card. Only if the fundraising goal is met will the donations be processed. This assures donors that enough funds have been raised to complete the project, and donors may choose from various rewards de-

pending on the donation level.

Many of those rewards include having your name and the amount of your donation commemorated on a Thank You trailer to be played on the big screen throughout the 2013 season. A \$10 reward will get you a homemade funnel cake on your next visit to the drive-in.

Find a link at facebook.com/towerdrivein, or go to kickstarter.com and search for Tower Drive-in.

POST NOTES

From Page 1

Senior citizens musical

The monthly musical fundraiser for the Knox County Aging Center is from 7 to 9 p.m. the first Monday of the month. Local musicians and talent. Bring your own snacks. Tea/coffee will be served. Donations will be accepted for the upkeep of the building. All funds benefit the Aging Center. For information, contact Cheryl Daniel at 657-3618