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THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2013

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

County to replace aging services director

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The Knox County News-Courier

BENJAMIN — Cheryl Daniel is retiring after eight years as director of Knox County Aging Services. Finding a replacement for her was the topic of a closed-door session Monday during commissioners court.

During the session, commissioners and the judge narrowed a field of eight applicants to three — Michele Fetch, April Johnson and Sandra Sheedy.

"We will try to interview them

next Monday," County Judge Travis Floyd said.

Meanwhile, Daniel has no regrets — not about her years on the job or her decision to quit.

"It's been the perfect job for me, but it's time for someone else to take over," she said.

For a while, she won't be eating lunch at the Knox County Aging Center in Knox City. She's old enough for the discounted \$3 rate, but she plans to give her successor some space.

"When somebody new takes over, you kind of need to get out of the way," she said.

Knox County Aging Services cooks and serves lunch five days a week at the Knox City facility and also prepares lunch to be served Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Perry Patton Center in Munday and meals to be delivered to qualifying recipients in Knox City, Munday and Goree five days a week.

In other business, commissioners considered procedures to dispose of

chemicals stored at the Benjamin Precinct Barn, approval of the tax resale deed for property in Knox County, a sheriff's request to authorize additional reserve positions at no cost to the county and bridge issues.

Commissioners also heard monthly reports from the offices of the extension service, community development, aging services, the 9-1-1 system, the tax assessor-collector and justice court.

Jimi Coplen, community develop-
See **REPLACE**, Page 8

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.

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.

Chamber banquet

The annual Knox City Chamber of Commerce banquet will be at 6 p.m. April 6 at the Knox City Community Center. Guest speaker will be Donnell Brown of Throckmorton, former state and national FFA president. For information, contact Gail Nunn at 658-3442 or email kcchamber@srcaccess.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.

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).

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.

Corrections

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

News on the go

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Election 2012 Candidates file in local races

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The Knox County News-Courier

Five candidates are vying for two places on the Goree City Council. It's the most competitive race in the county for either school board or city government offices. The filing deadline was March 1 for the May 11 elections. Some incumbents have drawn no challengers and two school boards — Munday and Benjamin — are lacking enough candidates to fill all vacancies.

On the Benjamin City Council, the three incumbents all filed and drew no challengers, meaning the city will cancel the election and the three will remain in office. They are Dick Dickson, Jerry Parker and Ronnie White.

In Goree, incumbents Glenna Decker and Tammy Trainham both will be on the ballot along with Brenda Burns, Caroline Garcia and Arthur Ramos Jr.

In the wake of Jeff Stanfield's announcement that he would not run again for mayor of Knox City, two candidates have filed to run for the office — Kent Deville and Steve Pepper. The race for two places on the City Council is also contested. Candidates are incumbent Ezekiel "Zeke" Duke and Danny Lewis and Greg Oliver.

In Munday, incumbents filed as candidates and drew no challengers, meaning no election will be required. Keeping their positions will be Mayor Robert Bowen and council members Traci Blair and Keith Kuehler.

Incumbents Jimmy Barrientez and Kathy Rainwater filed to run for the Benjamin ISD board. Three places were open, leaving one place to be filled by appointment and no need to hold an election.

The Knox City-O'Brien school board will see no changes. Incumbents Dale Turner and Jarrod Pepper filed and drew no challengers. No election will be held.

Two terms expired on the Munday school board. Only incumbent Jason Redwine filed. The board will appoint someone to fill the position formerly held by John Myers. No election will be held.

KC launches search for new city manager

The Knox County News-Courier

Knox City has launched a search for a city manager to replace Chad Roberts, who resigned March 1.

The city is accepting applications now, said Mayor Jeff Stanfield.

"People that we think are qualified, we're going to sit down and interview with the council," he said.

The job will be posted for a two-week period required by law, City Secretary Betty Johnston said.

Johnston and other key city employees are working together to maintain all operations.

"It's a team effort," she said Tuesday. "We're making it."

Regarding applicants, Johnston said Tuesday three interviews were scheduled and that the process would not end until April 1 "at the earliest" in her opinion.

"They've already talked to one," she said.

Hanaba Munn Welch

60-year anniversary



Freaky Friday recalled by Knox residents

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The Knox County News-Courier

When earthshaking events happen, people tend to remember where they were and what they were doing when they got the news.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the attack on the World Trade Center in New York are occurrences carved indelibly into the minds of successive generations of Americans.

Some people are old enough to remember all three events.

They were momentous.
Many people in Knox County could add one

more to the list — the tornado that struck Knox City on Friday the 13th in March 1953, 60 years ago this week.

For people who experienced the twister, "getting the news" wasn't part of the scenario. Seeing was believing.

A deadly year

In the recorded history of Knox County, nothing has been considered the most destructive and deadly tornado ever to hit anywhere in the county than the twister that cut a path from Haskell County into Knox City on Friday 13, 1953.

See **TORNADO**, Page 7

KC fire team gets hands-on training

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — Fire trucks rolled through Knox City on Monday night on their way to a fire ahead of time, sparing lights and sirens.

It was both a drill and a way to use fire to clean up the northeast part of the southwest block at the intersection of Avenue I and Northeast Third Street by letting flames destroy an abandoned house trailer.

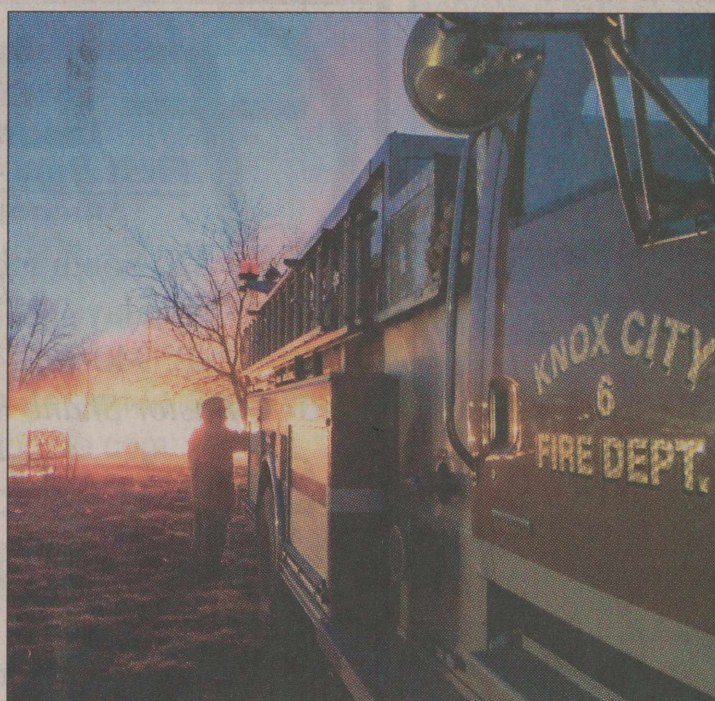
"This was our regular fire meeting night," said Fire Chief Domingo Garcia.

But if other conditions hadn't been right, the fire department wouldn't have set the fire.

"The winds were in our favor," Garcia said.

Firefighters watched as the flames shot up and a breeze

See **TRAINING**, Page 8



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier
Firefighter Teddy Espinosa stands Monday night at the rear bumper of Knox City Fire Department Unit 6 as he watches flames devour an abandoned manufactured structure in northeast Knox City. The fire department set the fire and watched it burn as part of a training exercise.

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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.

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Editorial: Noon Mondays

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



Our Views

Still a need for greater open government here in Knox County

This past week marked the annual observance of Sunshine Week across the nation. If you're not familiar with it, Sunshine Week is a national initiative to promote a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information.

Though created by journalists, Sunshine Week is about the public's right to know what its government is doing and why.

Sunshine Week seeks to enlighten and empower people like you to play an active role in their government at all levels, and to give them access to information that makes their lives better and their communities stronger.

In fact, research shows public information requests at both the state and national level are made more often by members of the public than by journalists themselves.

People are playing more of a role in the actions that affect their communities. They now are learning what kinds of information they have a right to see, where to get it, how to get it and what to do if someone tries to keep it from them.

The Sunshine Week ini-

tiative is about increasing public awareness.

The state of Texas is very lax in what it requires of government entities in order to correctly post and administer an open meeting. According to state law, a government body is not required to alert any news outlet that it will have a public meeting. In fact, the only requirement is that an agenda is placed on the door of the building in which the meeting will be held.

This antiquated requirement is in dire need of updating to reflect 21st-century technology.

No government entity in Knox County — including the county commissions, school board and city councils — post their agendas online.

In the spirit of the law and upon a burden to make their meetings as open to the public as possible, we urge these entities in the coming year to post copies of their meeting agendas online — in the spirit of the public's right to know.

Providing a window to open government, like any other public service, does come at a price. But it is no less a part of government than police and fire protection, libraries, public transit, parks, education and other core services.

It's your government. And it's your money that's paying for it.

You deserve to what decisions are being made, how your tax dollars are being spent and whether waste, fraud, corruption, conflicts of interest or just bad decision-making is getting in the way of the results you expect for your money.

It's not just journalists,

Celebrations

Kupatt, Smith announce nuptials



Körtney Leanne Kupatt and Ricky Dale Smith

Kraig and Leslie Kupatt of Sagerton announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter Körtney Leanne Kupatt to Ricky Dale Smith, son of Randy and LaDonna Smith of Knox City.

Körtney is a 2007 graduate of Rule High School and a 2010 graduate of Texas Tech University. She is employed as a crop insurance adjuster with ProAg.

Ricky Dale is a 2005 graduate of Knox City High School and is employed by Basic Energy Services.

The couple are planning a wedding for May 18 at St. John's United Methodist Church in Stamford. They plan to make their home in Sagerton.

Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

(Editor's Note: The following submission was originally dated Feb. 25. Due to an oversight, Ms. Green's column was inadvertently omitted that week.)

Last week was a pretty good week over this way. The rain was good — measured between ½ inch to an inch, and every drop was appreciated. Certainly not a drought breaker, nor did it fill up the tanks and lakes, but it was a start and maybe more will follow. It's hard to realize that February is almost gone, and we will soon enter the dreaded tornado season. We must keep our eyes on the skies when threatening weather is in the area. We don't want to be caught unaware. We do have some good weather watchers over here, and they are appreciated so much.

About Our Ill
Jan Carver is still recuperating from breaking her leg Thanksgiving. She's on a walker some now, and she said getting better all the time. She does better when she doesn't "over-do"—said on Saturday she had been up on her

walker quite a bit and was having some pain, but that gets better when she stays off it a while and rests it.

Bud Conner goes back to Lubbock tomorrow (Monday) to get the splint off his arm and the stitches out. He's resting better the past few days and is not in much pain anymore. Hopefully, after tomorrow he will improve even faster. His son, Keith, is recuperating nicely from his hip replacement surgery. It's hard to realize that at 56 years of age, he had to have that done, but he was in such pain that he was ready to get some relief — regardless of what it took! He's glad now to have it done and be free of so much discomfort.

Sympathy Sent

My sincere sympathy to the families of J.B. Booe and Ruby Meers today. Both these friends died this weekend in the Munday Nursing Center. I have known them and their families all my life, and I know their deaths leave an emptiness in many lives. Their funerals are both on Monday in Munday.

Hee Haw Presentation
The Benjamin Hee-Haw, (a mimic of the Komfield County TV show) was termed very successful. It was held Saturday night in the school gym. Lots of local "talent" did their part to make the entire show enjoyable for all who were in attendance. The Buster Redwine band from Lubbock provided music during the show as well. I'll have to say the entire show was great, and special recognition goes to the production crew who got it all together. It didn't just happen in a wink of the eye. There were countless hours of work that went into that project. And whatever money was made benefits the local PTO. I won't mention names for fear of leaving someone out, but I'll just say everyone involved did a superb job.

Here 'N There

Shannon Propps of Panhandle and her daughter, Shaylee Propps of Graham spent the weekend with local relatives.

Debbie Goforth of Ft. Worth spent the weekend with her parents, Sonny and Doris Bufkin,

and sister, Michele Brown and girls.

Kim and Tom Lyles of Amistad, NM, spent the weekend with home folks. Samijo Russell and D.J. had been to New Mexico with them and returned to Benjamin with them, where Samijo will make her home.

Shelby Russell, student at Midwestern University, spent the weekend with family here.

Bill and Sue Roberts of Round Rock were here for the weekend to visit his sisters, Pam and Dennis Duke and Nancy and Fred McGreger, of Benjamin, and his parents, Kenneth and Jessie Roberts, who reside in the Munday Nursing Center.

Cody Propps of Tarleton University in Stephenville spent the weekend with his parents, James and Stacia.

I visited with Sue Oxford Saturday night. She and Dave live at Lake Arrowhead. She said she's having lots of trouble with one of her legs — just a lot of pain and doctors haven't determined the cause of it yet. They are still checking so maybe they will come up with something before long.

Jeff Conner of Wolforth was here Saturday night to visit and attend the Hee Haw. It was good to see him.

Jessica Lamb of Seymour spent the weekend with Imagean Young and Deann Lamb.

My friend from high school, Barbara Phillips, called on Saturday to tell me how much she enjoyed reading my column each week. It made me feel good, and I appreciated her kind, encouraging words. We discussed briefly the Munday High School Homecoming coming up next year, and the fact that we would be out of school 60 years when it gets here! Doesn't seem that long in many ways, but we did graduate in 1954!

And a note of congratulations to the Mogul basketball team who, by beating Goldthwaite in area competition Friday night, advanced to the regional tournament. Good luck in Abilene!

Gladene Green is a longtime Benjamin resident and correspondent for The Knox County News-Courier.

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Thank You

The Munday Chamber of Commerce and the Goree Going for Greatness Committee would like to thank the Ladies of Munday, Goree and the surrounding area; Brazos Valley Quilt Guild; the vendors; Lorrie Coop; H&R Organic Farms; Munday Tire & Appliance; Three Gringos and a Wood Shop; Santa Rosa Telephone; Texas Farm Bureau Insurance; IntegraCare; Seymour; First National Bank; Lawrence Brothers; Knox County Hospital; Munday Nursing Center; Texas Well Service; Farm Credit; participants in the cooking competition; all those who brought in their wonderful quilts for display and all the volunteers who made the Cotton Pickin' Quilt Show on Feb. 23 a great success. A special congratulations to Carol Dixon for winning the Best of Show.

MUNDAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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The KC News-Courier

Honest Johns

Congressman makes stop in Knox County

Economy, gun rights, deficit top constituent concerns

By Wayne Hodgin
The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — U.S. Congressman Mac Thornberry last week took full advantage of the D.C.-shutdown during the so-called Snowquaster to visit constituents throughout District 13. During one of four stops throughout the district, Thornberry, R-Clarendon, visited and answered questions from Knox County residents Friday after-

noon at the new hospital clinic in Knox City.

The congressman addressed a packed room of nearly 75 residents, many of whose questions centered around the economy, gun rights, the U.S. budget and debt, the direction of health care in America, foreign aid and the inability of the Republican-controlled House to work with not only President Obama but also the Democratically controlled Senate — namely the sequestration.

“Your concerns are my concerns as well,” said Thornberry, who also made similar stops in Jacksboro, Archer City and Quannah during the day. “The decisions that are being made in Washington not only affect you, but also the futures of our kids and grandkids.”

In taking questions from those in attendance, Knox City Chamber President Greg Oliver expressed concern over Washington’s outspending that has increased the nation’s deficit.

“Mandating a zero-based budget — which most if not all of the states are required to do — would be a start,” Oliver said.

In a series of charts presented, Thornberry pointed out the biggest section of the U.S. budget that has grown exponentially since the 1960s is because of mandatory-spending programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid.

“These are auto-pilot programs,” he explained. “They’re automatically funded. As you can see, it’s roughly two-thirds of the budget.”

“All the tax money that flows into Washington is not enough to even cover mandatory spending and the interest we’re accumulating.”

Thornberry blamed much of the nation’s economic woes on the Federal Reserve.

“I worry the Fed has gotten off track of what it was originally created to do,” he said. “We’re in uncharted territory here, and with too much debt

we’ll end up like Greece. The fact is we just don’t know yet know what the consequences of all this debt will be. But something needs to be done.”

Thornberry said he and other members of the House would be voting soon on a budget that will balance the deficit in 10 years.

“Don’t count on that budget passing through the Senate,” he said.

Thornberry summed up his thoughts about the economy in a simple quip: “When there’s too many people in the wagon and not enough people pulling the wagon, you sure aren’t going to go very far.”

Knox City Mayor Jeff Stanfield asked the congressman why it seemed a good majority of tax money is being spent in places, such as Egypt — a “Muslim-controlled nation,” he said.

“It’s important to keep in mind foreign aid is only 1 percent of our entire budget,” Thornberry responded. “In this case, we’re obligated by a treaty we signed with Israel in 1979 to provide funding to Egypt — it’s part of that mandatory spending I mentioned earlier.”

Thornberry went on to say part of the U.S. monetary pledge to Egypt this budget year helped fund the country’s first democratic election ever.

“So some of what we’re doing as far as foreign aid is concerned is helping to keep peace in some of these nations,” he



Wayne Hodgin/The Knox County News-Courier
U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Clarendon, points to a chart that shows a discrepancy between per-capita spending and tax receipts from 1962 to the present. The congressman visited with Knox County residents last Thursday at the Knox City hospital clinic as part of a town-hall tour through the district.

said. “Egypt is a key ally. It’s important to keep ties with the Egyptian military, which is key to keeping stability in the area.”

Regarding gun rights, Thornberry simply said the issue most likely would not be addressed by Congress any time soon — “at least in the House,” he said.

Knox County Judge Travis Floyd asked Thornberry to address Medicare issues.

“Many of us are living far older lives than when programs such as Medicare and Social Security were put in place,” Floyd said. “I’d be in favor of raising the age limit from 65 to 67 or even 68.”

Thornberry said when those social programs were instituted in the 1960s, the average life

expectancy was only 58.

“The age limit has been raised only once,” he said. “I think it’s worth looking at raising the age limit again, especially considering half of those eligible to receive Social Security elect to do so at age 62.”

“Medicare is in much worse shape.”

Touching on the nation’s energy issues, Thornberry said, “U.S. energy independence can be attained within five or 10 years, especially now that the private sector is making significant improvements in the oil industry.”

“A lot of good would come if the federal government would just step back and let the private sector do what it does best,” he added.

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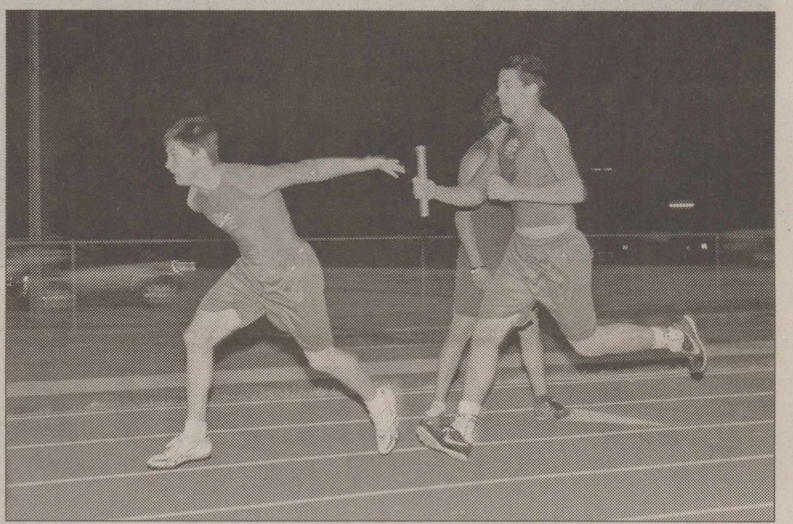
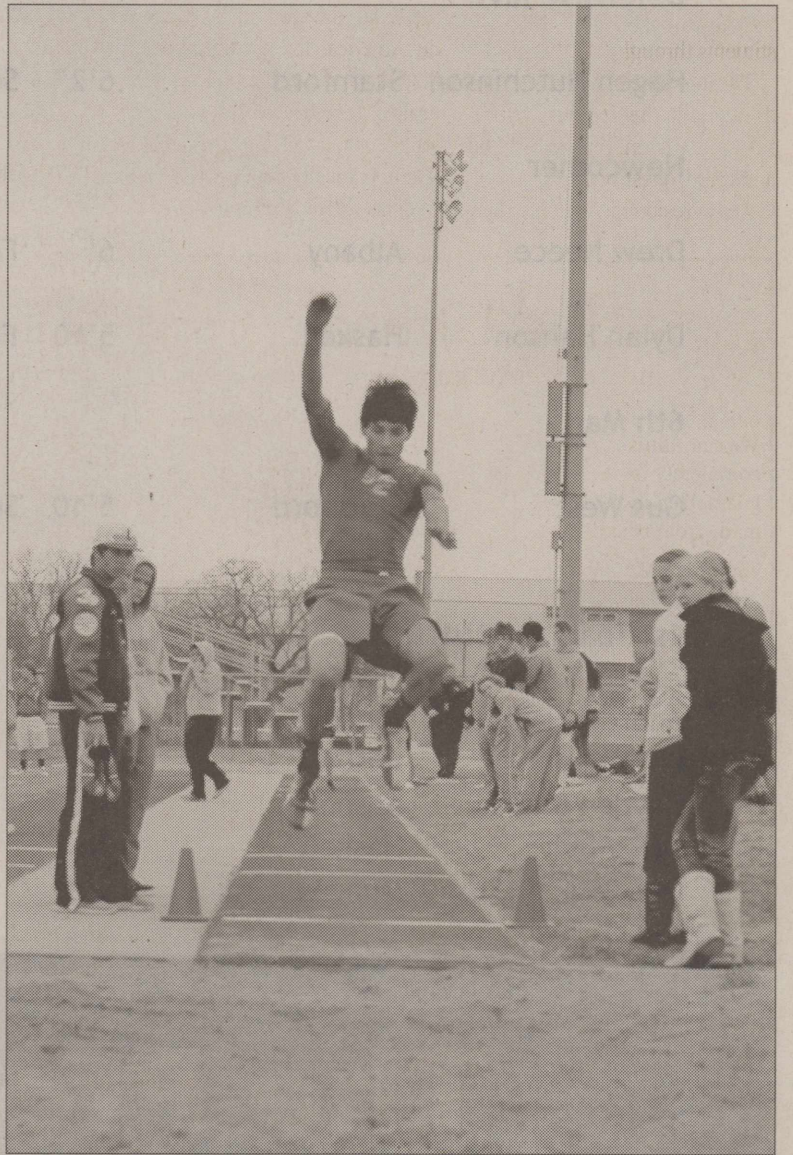
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6th Man

Gus West Stamford 5'10 Senior

1st Team All District

Andrew Hamilton	Albany	Sr
DJ Walker	Anson	Sr
Hayden Stovall	Anson	Sr
Kelby Bell	Haskell	Jr
Dee Paul	Munday	Sr

Ryder Dillard	Munday	Sr
Rodderick Taylor	Munday	Sr
James Washington	Stamford	Jr
Kyle Barnett	Stamford	Sr
Noe Contreras	Stamford	Sr

2nd Team All District

Jake Bumguardner	Albany	Sr
River Hall	Hamlin	Sr
Garrett Weaver	Munday	Sr
Jake Myers	Munday	Sr
Dakota Silvas	Haskell	Jr
Ryan Pleasant	Albany	Sr
Isaiah Cedillo	Anson	Sr
Brett Shelton	Haskell	Sr
Bo Wimberly	Stamford	Jr
Dylan Petree	Albany	So
Taylor Lambert	Hamlin	Sr

Honorable Mention All District

Tyrone Dockins	Munday	Sr.
Aaron Ramos	Anson	Sr.
Mathew Fields	Hamin	So.
Matthew Tittle	Hamlin	Jr.
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TORNADO

From Page 1

In the counties of Haskell and Knox, 17 people died and many more were injured, according to the records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The government agency rated the tornado as F4.

It hit near Jud in Haskell County and swept into the O'Brien area and then crossed the county line and cut across Knox City about 2 p.m. The tornado left a path 14 miles long and 50 yards wide.

By the end of 1953, tornadoes had killed 519 people across the United States — record that has not been matched since.

In Texas, 1953 is also remembered as the year that 114 people died on May 11 when a tornado swept through Waco around 4:30 p.m. near the close of the business day. Earlier in the day, about 2:15 p.m., a tornado had killed 13 people in San Angelo.

Residents recall

The tornado arrived announced only by a fearsome-looking cloud and rain. Televised weather warnings with radar maps, now taken for granted, were still a thing of the future. Nor did radio provide any warning of the impending disaster.

The twister from the southwest cut a path of destruction across northwestern Haskell County from Jud through O'Brien and then swept into Knox City, taking the roof off the hospital and flattening much the clinic across the street, destroying houses and other structures, including the football stadium.

The F-4 tornado killed 17 people in Haskell and Knox counties and injured many more.

Anthony Logsdon, 6 years old, could easily have been killed or injured by the tornado. He and his mother and his aunt had been visiting the Klutts family at their house between O'Brien and Rochester.

"We were out there when the cloud came up," Logsdon said during lunch Tuesday at the Knox County Aging Center. "At that age I was scared of clouds."

He remembered he was fretting — perhaps the reason his mother, Mutt Logsdon, and his Aunt Bessie Large decided to head back

to Knox City. They didn't make it.

"We got down Highway 6 one and one-half miles," he said. "The car stalled."

The thinking of his mother and others was that the tornado had sucked the electricity out of the car. Indeed, other vehicles stalled elsewhere, make the theory sound believable. Whatever the cause of the breakdown, they had to leave the car to seek shelter at a farmstead — one with a caved-in cellar.

"Mom and them opted to get in a little old garage," Logsdon said. "Jimmy and Granny Klutts came into the little garage. Their car had stalled on the railroad tracks."

The little group rode out the storm. Logsdon remembers his mother and aunt sitting on nail kegs while the wind blew sand against his bare feet and seemed as if it were about to lift the building and carry it away.

The Klutts family did not fare well. The tornado struck their house.

"Everybody was killed but one 8-month-old baby girl," Logsdon said. To the best of his memory, her name was Lightfoot.

"Mother and them found the baby," Logsdon said. "Mother got her slip and cleaned the mud out of her eyes and helped her breathe. The last I heard, she was an adult."

Logsdon's father had been in Knox City before he drove to find his family. He saw the force of the tornado as it hit Knox City and the Matt Bryant house, Logsdon said.

"Daddy said they just watched his house explode," Logsdon said.

Other people besides Logsdon also shared memories during lunch Tuesday in Knox City.

Sequoyah Reynolds remembers the color green descending on Knox City as the tornado came close. Out of school for the afternoon, she had been at a friend's house on the south side of Knox City before she walked home.

"When I walked up in the yard, I told my daddy, 'Look at the green! It's a funny green color. A funny glow.'"

Her father looked up and said the words that said it all: "It's a tornado."

Neither was inclined to go to the cellar.

"No way," Reynolds said. Instead they watched as the tornado came close.

"We saw it pick up refrigerators; whole trees flying through the air," she said. "We stood and watched it. It came to the block right next to us. It took the house behind us but didn't do anything to our property."

As the tornado passed over their house, they did not take shelter.

"As soon as we saw it coming over, we ran to the other side to look," she said.

Bud Reynolds, now her husband, was home on leave from the U.S. Navy. He was taking a bath before the tornado hit. His mother told him to get out of the tub, he said. Before the twister struck, he and his mother managed to get under the bed.

"The roof went," he said. "The bathroom, it was gone too."

In downtown Knox City, people were slow to realize a tornado was cutting across the east half of town.

"Dad's business was downtown," said Genie Holcomb, a teenager at the time. "I was standing at the front door. I saw things flying through the air."

The scene reminded her of the way debris can waft above burning trash.

"It was a while before anybody knew what was happening," she said.

In the days after the storm, the Red Cross came to town, and Genie was old enough to help run refreshment stands, she said.

Bea Ellis, now in her 90s, was a young mother at home a mile west of O'Brien with her youngest child, David Ellis. They went to the cellar.

"I was standing in the cellar door watching it," she said. "Finally I remembered someone saying it'll jerk a cellar door out of your hand."

Ellis closed the cellar door and stayed underground for 10 to 15 minutes. Then she ventured a look outside.

"The tornado was gone," she said. "I guess I was expecting it to be in the same place."

The tornado missed the Ellis house by about a quarter of a mile, she said.

Lunching with his mother Tuesday was her son David.

"When my dad saw the tornado, he went to school to get my sister," he said. "They went to Knox City to get out of the way. They watched the tornado come through the east part of town."

Viewing the house across

the street from where they had gone, they saw a curious phenomenon.

"Water was coming down the rain spouts," Ellis said, recounting what he had heard. "When the tornado got close, it sucked it (the water) up. It was just like steam steaming up over the house."

Bill Baker was a 23-year-old high school teacher of math and science and a bus driver for Knox City High School. If he'd not been a bus driver he would have been required to attend a teachers' meeting in Vernon — the reason school was dismissed early.

Baker's bus route took him west of town.

"The bus drowned out," he said.

He caught a ride with an oilfield pumper to Knox City.

"That storm came across from the hospital and caught the southeast part of town," he said.

Baker reported his bus troubles to the Ford dealership and then caught a ride with a high school student to the school campus.

"I looked back to the east toward the football field," he said.

He saw the destruction wreaked by the tornado, but in downtown Knox City, what had happened just blocks away was not yet news.

O'Brien was.

"People in downtown Knox City were going to O'Brien to see," he said.

When Baker got back to his disabled bus, it wasn't exactly where he'd left it.

"One of the kids had started the bus," he said. "We didn't have any way to communicate."

In those pre-cell phone days, newspapers and radio

carried the story so that everyone soon began to understand what had happened in Knox City and in places nearby in Haskell County. Baker played a part.

"I got my camera out and started taking pictures," Baker said. "I carried them on down to the Abilene paper."

For Baker, the trip to Abilene was also an excuse to see his sweetheart, Frankie, a student at McMurry University. The two married on April 2, less than a month after the March tornado.

"We about at 60 now too," he said, referring to their upcoming 60th anniversary.

In other parts of Knox County, people learned about the tornado in different ways. The storm cloud had an impressive look that could be seen for many miles.

In Munday, Gladene Green was also home from school while her teachers attended the teachers' confab. It was her junior year. She remembers her father looking west from their porch and saying, "Boy, Knox City is sure getting a rain."

At 6 p.m., they turned on the radio for the news with Bill Shadel from New York City. She'll never forget what Shadel, renowned for his reporting as a war correspondent in World War II, had to say to the nation.

"He said there'd been a devastating tornado in Knox City, Texas," Green said.

North of Knox City, Bud Conner, age 16, was in Benjamin waiting for his father to get home with the pickup so he could drive to Knox City for a dental appointment.

The restaurateur reminisced Monday night after

the evening meal run at Bud's in Knox City, recalling how his father had worked late on March 13, 1953, at the Bateman Ranch. If things had gone differently, Bud Conner would have been in Knox City at about the time the tornado hit the clinic building where his dentist, Dr. Edwards by name, practiced.

"When I got to the city limits, the tornado was here," Conner said. "I could see the funnel. Everything was pretty flattened out."

Haskell County resident Barbara Myers Furrh, now in her 70s, also could have been in Knox City when the tornado hit.

"I was painting the house," she said, referring to her family's house near Rochester.

Then she ran out of paint. "We were going to the store (in Knox City) to get some more paint," she said, but her grandfather intervened.

"No, you're not going nowhere," he said. "There's a bad cloud coming."

They went to the cellar instead and emerged later to see what they'd missed.

"We drove around," Furrh said. "There was just clothes hanging in the trees. It was a pitiful sight. It was really terrifying to see the damage."

Johnny Hunter's family lived about seven miles southeast of Knox City. He was only 5 years old.

"I remember it very well," he said. "Daddy put us in the cellar, and he stayed out on top and watched. The path it took, it did a lot of damage."

Now, 60 years later, the day isn't easily forgotten. For many, especially those who lost loved ones, it's not easily remembered either.

DID YOU KNOW ...

- Autism now affects 1 in 88 children and 1 in 54 boys?
- Autism prevalence figures are growing?
- Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S.?
- Autism costs a family \$60,000 a year?
- Autism receives less than 5 percent of the research funding of many less-prevalent childhood diseases?
- Boys are nearly five times more likely than girls to have autism?
- There is no medical detection or cure for autism?

WALK NOW FOR AUTISM: GREATER ABILENE is having a 5K walk to help in the research of autism. It will be held at the Abilene Zoo on April 27, 2013. The ceremonies will begin at 9 a.m.

Delores Angerer, a nurse at the Munday Clinic, is starting a team for her grandson Kameron, who was diagnosed with this disorder. He is a student at MCISD.

If you could help out by donating or sponsoring a walker, it would be greatly appreciated. Any little help would be appreciated.

For more information, you can log on to walknowforautismspeaks.org and register or sponsor a walker, or you may call Delores at 203-1086 or you may email mundaynurse66@hotmail.com.



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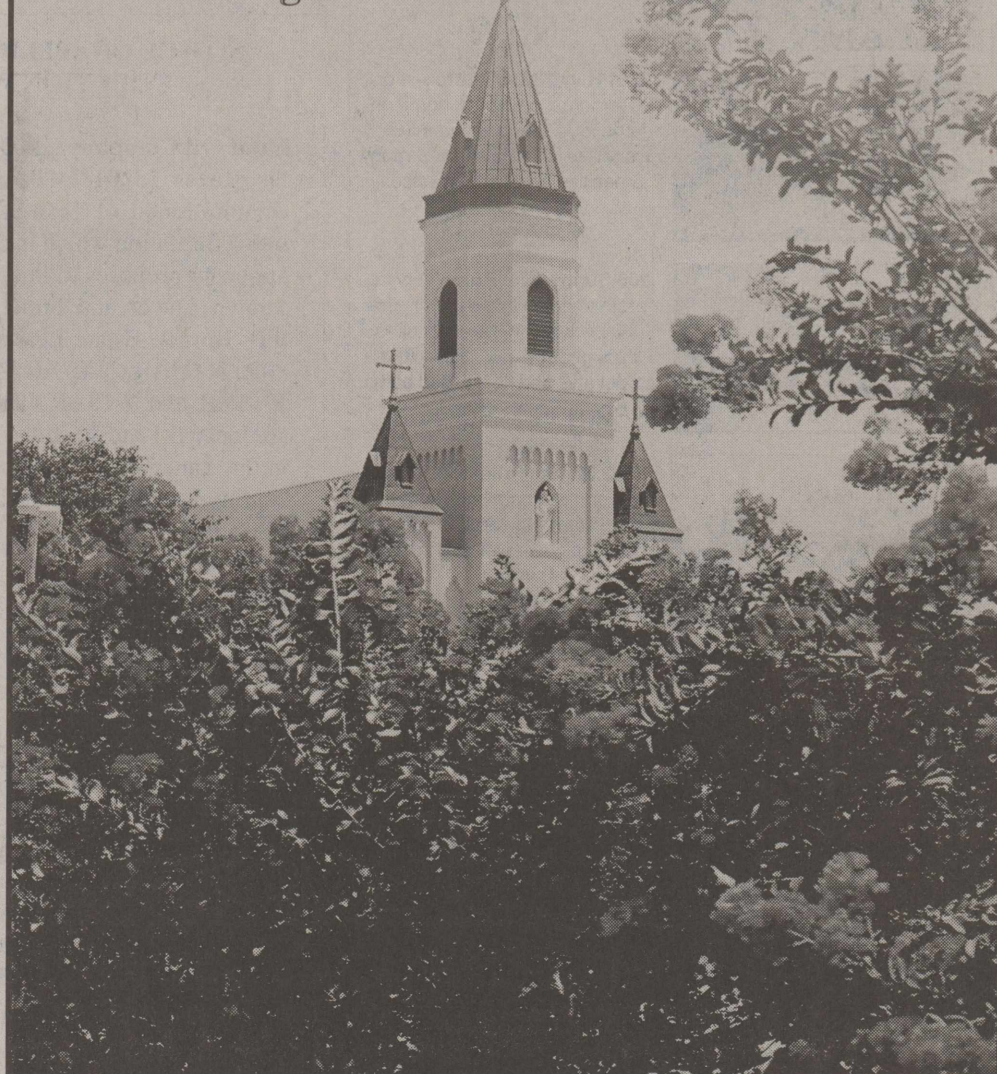
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Cemetery series

O'Brien Cemetery shows touch of Ellis

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The Knox County News-Courier

Skip a cemetery association meeting and you might get elected president. It happened to Bea Ellis. That was in the early 1950s.

It was only a couple of years ago that the 96-year-old turned the O'Brien Cemetery business over to Claudia Bryant. The neat appearance of the cemetery today is no doubt thanks in part to Ellis' many years of leadership. She would probably say it was instead a group effort over the years, but she's quick to take credit for the handsome rock fence.

"I looked at the old barbed-wire fence and decided that was the first thing to go," Ellis said.

Native stone provided the material for the fence — "people's rocks, particularly down around Lueders," she said.

The fence encloses the front and sides of the cemetery and has lasted nicely through the years.

"It's been repaired a time or two," Ellis said.

The failures were due to accidents.

"Someone ran into it or dropped something on it," Ellis said.

Over the years, many people were willing to help with the upkeep of the cemetery, Ellis said.

"Everyone was ready to pitch in and help," she said. "No one ever refused us anything."

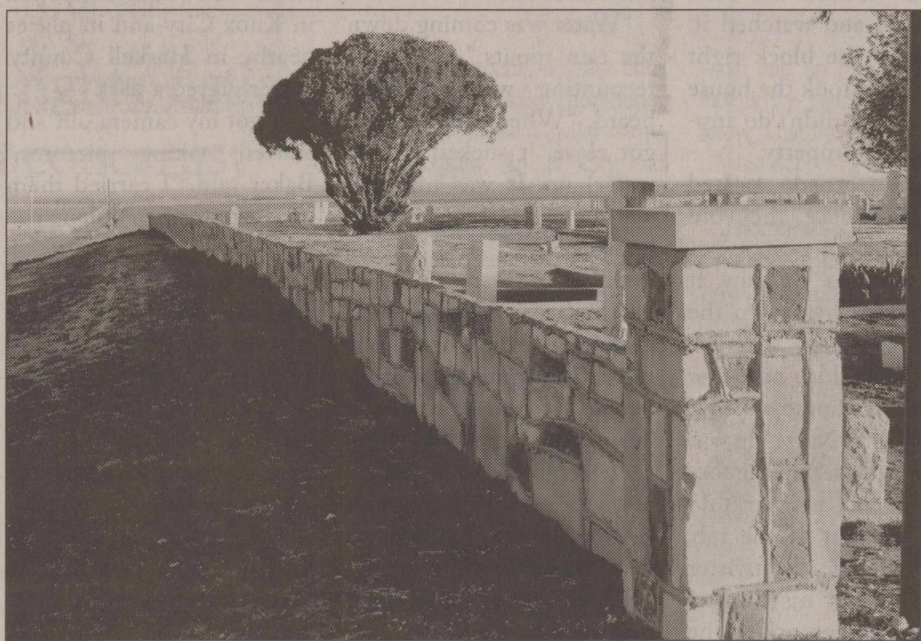


Photo by Hanaba Munn Welch

The rock fence around the O'Brien Cemetery casts a long shadow in the early light of day. When Bea Ellis took over the job of cemetery association president at mid-century, building the fence was a top priority. She's still proud of the native rock that borders the cemetery on the front and



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier

A portrait on the granite marker at the graves of Monroe E. and Nellie Smith shows a stalwart pair, their countenances seeming to reflect a calm determination gained through life's experiences — two world wars, good economic times as well as the Great Depression and all that comes with pioneering a part of the world that sees its share of harsh weather, including tornados.



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier

At the O'Brien Cemetery, the characteristics of two cultures are seen in the way the dead are honored, with a profusion of devotional objects and flowers adorning graves in the southeast part of the cemetery, where Hispanic family names prevail. The rest of the cemetery shows a more restrained treatment, with family names generally reflecting Anglo, French and German origins.

REPLACE

From Page 1

ment director, told commissioners that Knox County Visioning Group would be meeting the first week in April for planning sessions.

"We would love for you to participate," she said. "We're going to continue to do what we do, but we are setting some new goals and moving forward."

KCVG is still offering a \$1,500 grant for someone to train in the field of heating, ventilation and air-condition-

ing, Coplen said. The applicant can be a high school student or someone who has already graduated.

"It's a pretty intense program," Coplen said. "It's about a year long. We're trying to help somebody go to school to do that... to fill a need in the community."

Mitzi Welch, tax assessor-collector, reported that a law firm would be coming to her office at the end of the month to help the county collect overdue taxes.

"They'll send out letters to the ones that are delinquent," she said.

Commissioners also considered the status of the 2012-2013 budget.

"The only thing that's a little concerning is the fees," Floyd said.

He noted a lack of activity in district court, mentioning health issues that apparently have been

a factor in the current judicial slowdown.

Regarding tax collections, Welch reported that \$299,172.02 in taxes remain to be collected from the more than \$4.51 million levied by all tax-supported entities. The figure includes late fees.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

Hunt Oil Company, 1900 North Akard Street, Dallas, Texas 75201-2300 has applied to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Twin Peaks, Strawn Lower and Strawn 5400' formations in the S.B. Burnett Estate Lease Well Numbers N-61R, N-80R, N-05AR, N-07AR, N-78AR, N-82A, N-88AR, Y-16AR and 7-18AR. The proposed injection wells are located 12 to 17 miles southeast of Guthrie, Texas in the Anne Tandy (Strawn) Field, King County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 5000' to 5600'.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capital Station, Austin, Texas, 78711-2967. (Telephone 512/463-6792)

TRAINING
From Page 1

from the south carried the smoke to the north, away from town. The fire department had four units in place around the conflagration.

Also watching were neighbors, some of whom had complained about debris from the trailer that had blown around the neighborhood since the

outer sheathing of the structure had been removed.

Police were on the scene to monitor the fire scene into the night. Standing next to Chief Caleb Hodges was Officer Alex Jones, other half of the two-man force. It was Jones' first day on the job.

"It's a heck of an end to the first day," Jones said, watching the fiery display as the raging fire began to diminish and fading daylight turned to darkness.

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HELP WANTED

The Munday Housing Authority is accepting applications for a temporary summer maintenance person. Job duties will generally be yard care. Bids for contract yard care will also be accepted. Deadline to apply or submit bid is noon March 22, 2013. More information can be obtained at 131 W. Cis-

co St. in Munday. MHA is an equal opportunity employer and provider and reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and any and/or all applications. 0321c

City of Knox City is accepting applications for the position of City Manager. If interested, please apply at City Hall 902 E. Main, Knox City, TX. Deadline is 5:00 p.m. on April 1, 2013. 0321

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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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Raffle benefits Benjamin school



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier
 Benjamin third-grader Dal Everson prepares to draw the name of the winner of a Wyman Meinzer photograph on canvas as part of a Feb. 22 fundraiser in Benjamin for extracurricular activities at the school. Behind the microphone is Brannde Estrada, president of the Benjamin Parent-Teachers Organization. Estrada reported Tuesday the raffle and other events in Benjamin raised \$8,500. "We fell \$1,500 short of our goal, but we're pretty happy." Claudia Rentrop of San Augustine won the drawing.

Munday school board renews contracts

By Hanaba Munn Welch
 The Knox County News-Courier

The board of trustees of Munday Consolidated Independent School District met in regular session Feb. 18. Two hours of the three-and one-half hour meeting were devoted to an executive session to deal with personnel matters. The board extended the two-year contracts of elementary Principal Kristi Bufkin, Athletic Director Patrick Corcoran, athletic director and Band Director Trey Singleton, setting salaries at \$65,236, \$59,614.37 and \$59,190.37, respectively. The board appointed Frieda Brown as election judge and Cheryl Berryhill as early voting clerk for the May 11 school board election. Administrators reported on student activities,

programs and performances and on facilities. In other business, the board approved

- Continued participation in West Texas Food Service Coop.
- Adding an a la carte program to the secondary food service program.
- Arnold & Associates as providers of student accident insurance, extra-curricular and curricular.
- 2013-2014 school calendar.
- Six early-release days per year and application for three instructional waiver days to institute additional staff development days.
- A resolution opposing vouchers in the school finance system.
- Updates to the parental involvement policy.
- Financial investment review and report.

Police report

Pursuant to your open records request, the below is a list of those arrested within the indicated time and processed through the Knox County Jail: February 3RD, 2013 THROUGH MARCH 7TH, 2013

1. MCCRARY, ROXIE, 2/4/2013, AGGRAVATED ASSAULT (F-2) KNOX COUNTY
2. PHILLIPS, JOSEPH ALLAN, 2/6/13, PUBLIC INTOXICATION/NO INSURANCE (M-C) KNOX COUNTY
3. BOHANNON, JAMIE L., 2/6/13, EXPIRED DRIVERS LICENSE/NO INSURANCE (M-C) KNOX COUNTY
4. REID, MELISA JEAN, 2/6/13, POSSESS CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE (METH) (SJF) KNOX COUNTY
5. DOCKINS, BOBBY LYNN, 2/7/13, PAROLE VIOLATION/DELIVERY COCAINE (F-1), SURETY OFF BOND/THEFT OF SERVICE (M-B) TAYLOR COUNTY WARRANT, SURETY OFF BOND/THEFT OF SERVICE (M-B) TAYLOR COUNTY WARRANT, KNOX COUNTY
6. GARCIA, PAUL JR., 2/7/13, PAROLE VIOLATION/DELIVERY OF COCAINE (F-1) KNOX COUNTY
7. SANDERS, CODY DON, 2/8/13, MTR:DWLI (M-A), FORGERY (SJF), THEFT OF FIREARM (M-B), KNOX COUNTY
8. HEWTON, TERRANCE, 2/10/13, CRIMINAL TRESPASS, (M-B) KNOX COUNTY
9. WILLIAMS, RUSSO L., 2/12/13, MTR:POSSESS CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE (COCAINE) (F-2) KNOX COUNTY
10. PEPPER, JOSEPH B., 2/14/13, MTR:DWI, (M-B)
11. GUERRERO, REGAN TRENT, 2/19/13, ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE, (M-A) KNOX COUNTY
12. LEMLEY, MERRION GLENN JR., 2/20/13, THEFT (OVER 20 LESS THAN 500), (M-B) ARRESTED IN EASTLAND COUNTY (KNOX COUNTY)
13. THORN, CASEY LOYD, 2/23/13, EVADING ARREST W/VEHICLE, (F-3) KNOX COUNTY
14. CHILDS, RANCE, 2/24/13, POSSESS CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE (SJF), POSSESS DANGEROUS DRUG, (M-A), POSSESS MARIHUANA, (M-B) KNOX COUNTY
15. LEAKE, BRETT AUSTIN, 2/24/13, SURETY OFF BOND:POSSESS CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE (RANDALL COUNTY WARRANT (KNOX COUNTY)
16. THOMPSON, CARNELL W., 2/25/13, SEXUAL ASSAULT OF A CHILD (F-2) MINERAL WELLS WARRANT (KNOX COUNTY)
17. TURKETT, TERRY RAY JR., 2/26/13, PAROLE VIOLATION (F-3) KNOX COUNTY
18. RAMOS, ANDRES, 2/27/13, ASSAULT (M-A) JONES COUNTY WARRANT (KNOX COUNTY)
19. CASTILLA, ROBERT JR., 3/1/13, THEFT OVER 500. (M-A) ARRESTED IN OLNEY, TEXAS (KNOX COUNTY)
20. LONG, CLAUD LUCIAN, 3/3/13, DWI 1ST, (M-B) KNOX COUNTY

DEAN W. HOMSTAD SHERIFF KNOX COUNTY

County burn ban lifted

The Knox County News-Courier

County Judge Travis Floyd has issued an order that lifts the countywide ban on outdoor fires. The order to rescind the ban notes county commissioners adopted an order prohibiting outdoor burning Dec. 10 and states "the Knox County Judge has determined that the circumstances that required the order no longer exist."

The order lifting the ban went into effect at 2 p.m. Feb. 28.

Hanaba Munn Welch

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