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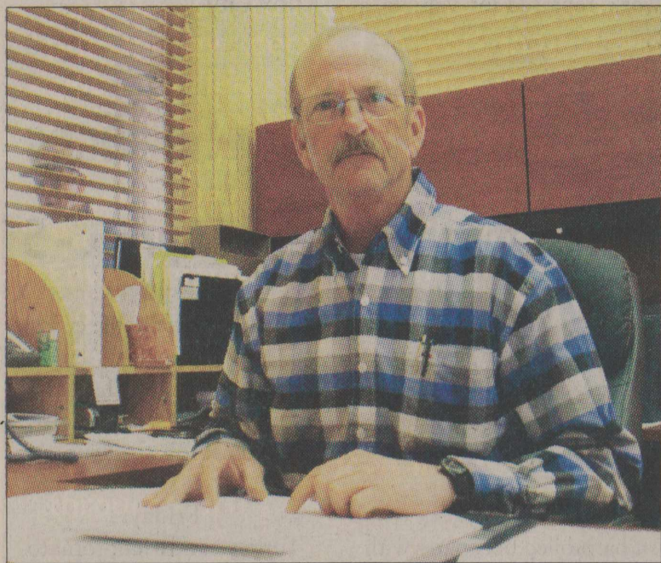
THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2013

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

Watson named KC top administrator



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier

New on the job in Knox City, Sam Watson of Haskell is working his first full week as city manager. Dealing with the public is part of Watson's job and a way for him to get a feel for Knox City. Watson has worked in city management in two other places — Haskell and, most recently, Kermit.

By Hanaba Munn Welch
 The News-Courier

KNOX CITY — Haskell native Sam Watson is the new city manager in Knox City, replacing Chad Roberts, who recently resigned.

Watson comes to Knox City from Kermit, where he was city manager. He and his wife, Jo Ann, an employee of Steele Fire Apparatus of Haskell, maintained their residence in Haskell even during the six years he commuted weekly to work in Kermit, a 241-mile drive. Watson said he's happy to be closer to home.

The City Council decided during a session last week to hire him.

"I left here by 6:15," Watson said. "They called by 7:30."

Watson went to work the next day.

Some aspects of managing a city are things Watson grew up with in Haskell.

"I grew up in the fire station," he said. "My dad was chief."

Municipal water concerns are also

something he's known from his youth. His father, the late Tom Watson, was a member of the original board of the North Texas Municipal Water Authority.

But Watson's first career wasn't in city management. He and his father were in business together as Borden's Milk distributors. Later Watson ran the M System supermarket in Haskell.

He took the job of city manager in Haskell and his years on the job in Kermit, Watson said. The couple's two children, Brent and Jill, are now grown.

Besides 12 years' experience in Haskell and his years on the job in Kermit, Watson is a graduate of the Texas Certified Public Management Program offered by Texas State University at San Marcos — a 14-month certification process. He takes an ethics course every two years to meet the continuing education requirements of his profession, and he belongs to

See **WATSON**, 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.

Class reunion

Members of the classes of 1957, 1958, 1959 and 1960 will meet April 5-7 at the MCM Elegante Suites in Abilene. For information and reservations, contact Sandy Blacklock West at 806-543-7326, John Walter Massey 806-236-3297, Marilyn Searcey Goodin 325-668-8878. Spend the weekend or come for the day. Lunch Saturday will be at noon at the Cotton Patch Café, 3302 S. Clack

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.

Church fundy

Liberty Community Church, 302 N. Aspen, Knox City, will have a church singing fundraiser at 3:30 p.m. April 7. Members of area churches have been asked to join in. Event will include a guest speaker. Refreshments will be served. All funds will go toward pew covers. For information, contact Pat Young at 657-3284.

Bone marrow registry

The Seymour High School Student Council is holding a bone marrow registry drive at the city's annual Ag Day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 9 at the Cliff Styles Building at the rodeo grounds. The drive is through the Be the Match organization and the Oklahoma/Texas Blood Institute. For information, contact Sunday McAdams at sunday.mcadams@seymour-isd.net or 940-889-2947. More information on the drive can be found at marrow.org.

Spring Fling Saturday

The Noah Project North will have its Spring Fling Saturday on April 20 at the Haskell Civic Center. Doors open at 6 p.m. Event includes a ham dinner with all the trimmings, and entertainment includes duos, solos and groups. Tickers cost \$12.50 and can be bought from any adviser or member or by calling 864-2551.

Ranch rodeo

The Knox Prairie Ranch Rodeo, sponsored by the Munday Volunteer Fire Department, will be held April 27-28 at the Rodeo Arena in Munday. Call Fire Chief Bill Longan for details at 940-256-8305.

Tour of Homes

The Knox County Visioning Group is seeking local homes to feature in the annual tour of homes in December. For information, call 940-459-4121.

Reservoir levels remain low

By Hanaba Munn Welch
 The News-Courier

Recent rains and a wet snow have given Knox County and the region a new lease on life — not the promise of a good wheat harvest or enough moisture to plant dry land cotton, but enough to keep hopes alive that that current drought can be survived.

Besides farmers' concerns about diminishing ground water, municipalities remain on edge about water restrictions.

David Kuehler, general manager of the North Texas Municipal Water Authority in Munday, has a letter already written — just not sent — that will alert Munday, Knox City, Rhineland, Benjamin, Goree and other cities when the next level of water rationing will kick in.

If and when the time comes that the level of Millers Creek Reservoir drops enough to trigger the next conservation step, Kuehler will deliver the letters.

"I'll hand deliver them," he said.

Kuehler wants to be certain everyone stays uniformly informed about the authority's drought contingency plan.

Things could be worse and probably will be.

"We're not quite back down to where we were in September before it rained," he said, referring to the reservoir level.

On Tuesday, the level was 1,318.75 feet and going down.

Barring rain, Kuehler expects the next phase of the drought contingency plan, Stage 3, to kick in when the water authority board meets on May 14. All entities will be required to reduce water use by 25 percent from normal, based on month-to-month average use over the last five years.

"There are severe (price) penalties for going over," Kuehler said.

In neighboring Baylor County, a shortage of water has raised similar concerns.

"Baylor Water Supply Corp. is pursuing a contract with us," Kuehler said. "They're trying to get enough money together to buy a pipe-

See **RESERVOIR**, Page 8

The drive home



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier

Larry Finley of Palestine leads a wagon-train procession through Knox County on Tuesday from Breckenridge to Palo Duro Canyon, where the ashes of the late cowboy Len Williams will be scattered.

Widow treks across Texas with ashes

By Hanaba Munn Welch
 The News-Courier

MUNDAY — It wasn't the average funeral procession and it was not the average urn.

The sign on the side of the lead wagon doesn't say "Palo Duro Canyon or Bust" but rather "Len Williams Trail Ride." In the third wagon, driven by Williams' widow, J Williams, is the deceased man's graniteware coffee pot. It holds his ashes.

"This is the longest funeral procession you will ever see," said outrider Larry Finley.

Start to finish, Breckenridge to Palo Duro Canyon, the ride will be about 300 miles. On Monday, it rolled into Knox

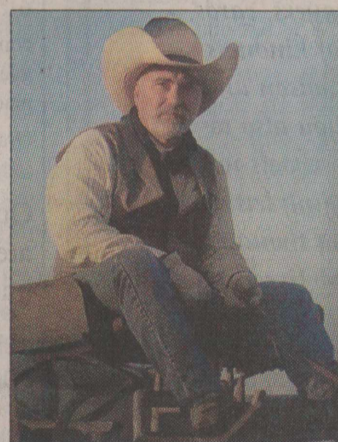
County.

For Len Williams, the proverbial "end of the trail" came April 18, 2012. The cowboy and chuckwagon cook died at age 52 from lung cancer. He and his wife raised horses on their ranch, the Yellowfork, at Breckenridge. Before the drought, they also ran cattle. J Williams still has the horses, and she has memories.

"If you came into our camp, he'd serve you coffee," Williams said, displaying a picture of her husband, smiling and mustachioed — not one image but a series she keeps on her cell phone.

He didn't serve just black coffee.

"You got peach cobbler and Dutch-oven biscuits with but-



Family photo

The late Len Williams, chuckwagon cook and cowboy.

ter," she said.

It was Len Williams' wish

See **TREK**, Page 8

Outlooks differ for city pool operations

By Hanaba Munn Welch
 The News-Courier

Knox City will open its city pool this summer even if Millers Creek Reservoir shrinks enough to trigger stricter water conservation measures. The city will use well water to fill the pool.

Even though City Manager Sam Watson is new on the job, he already knows the plan for the pool.

"We have a well in city park that we're going to use," Watson said. "We've already talked about that."

For two 10-year-old cousins, Rachel Rodriguez and Raevn Rodriguez, the

Knox City City Park is a favorite place to be, winter or summer.

"We love playing in the snow over here," Raevn Rodriguez said.

"We hang out a lot," Rachel Rodriguez said.

The girls were playing with a small football Monday at the park, despite the cool weather, rolling it off a roof and walking around just being cousins.

When the pool opens, they'll be there.

If the pool didn't exist, life would be much different, Raevn Rodriguez said.

See **POOLS**, Page 8



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier

An empty lifeguard stand by an empty pool is the stark off-season look of the Knox City municipal pool. The scene will change dramatically when the city fills and opens the pool

Corrections

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

News on the go



Use your smartphone to scan the quick response, or QR, code to visit us online.

Knox County News-Courier
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 Volume 36 No. 11
 USPS 439-620



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76371

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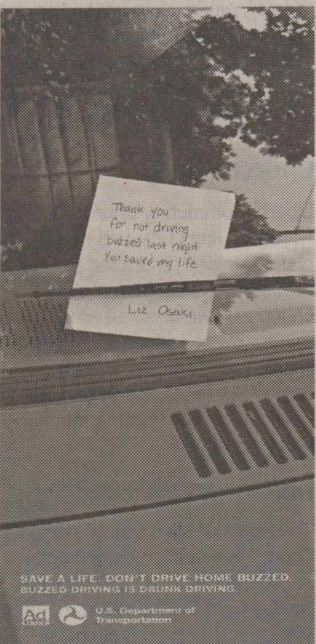
The Knox County News-Courier (ISSN 8750-6750) is published every Thursday, including holidays, by Blackburn Media Group Inc., P.O. Box 1260, Childress, Texas, 79201-1260. Entered at U.S. Post Office, Munday, Texas, for transmission through the mail as a Second-Class matter, according to an Act of Congress, March 3, 1879. Periodical Rate Postage Paid at Munday, Texas, 76371. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Knox County News-Courier, P.O. Box 151, Munday, TX 76371.

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

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

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



Deaths

Pauline Marie "Polly" Marion

Pauline Marie "Polly" Marion, lifelong resident of Knox City, Texas, passed away at her home Wednesday, March 13, 2013. Mrs. Marion just celebrated her 86th birthday. Funeral services were March 15 at Abundant Life Church in Knox City with Derrell Marion and Jim Hatcher officiating. Interment was in Knox City Cemetery under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes.

Polly Cagle was born March 2, 1927, in Knox City to Walter Jackson and Maggie (Love) Cagle. She married E.L. (Dickie) Marion in Haskell County on December 11, 1943. Polly was a lab and X-ray technician for more than 50 years.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Dickie Marion; parents, Walter and Maggie Cagle; sisters, Marguerite Wright and Stella Curd; and son-in-law, William Frank



PAULINE MARION
Duke.

Polly is survived by her daughter, Doris Marie Duke of Levelland; son, Derrell Marion and wife Cathy of Olney; grandchildren, Marian Miller and husband Ronny of Trent, Rance Marion and wife Misty of Austin; Mitzi Underwood of Burkburnett; Ryan Marion and wife Tina of Carthage. Also surviving are her great-grandchildren, Devin Marion, Lexi Miller, Morgan Marion, Austin Underwood, Madeline Underwood, Mason

Underwood, Kenedy Marion, Harrison Underwood, Blake Marion, Tag Underwood, and Lilly Turns; and 2 sisters-in-law, Dean Stiewert and husband Marvin of Haskell, and Auta Marion of Knox City.

Serving as pallbearers for Mrs. Marion are her grandsons and great-grandsons, Ronny Miller, Rance Marion, Ryan Marion, Devin Marion, Austin Underwood, and Mason Underwood.

Those serving as honorary pallbearers are Leon Burkham, Brandon Carr, A.P. Denton, Oscar Mangis, Tim Moss, Maverick Barnum, and D'Wayne Johnson.

If desired, memorials can be made in Polly's name to the Pink Ladies of Knox City, P.O. Box 90, Knox City, TX 79529.

Online condolences and memories can be shared with the family at smithfamilyfh.com.

Louise Ingram Kemletz

Louise Ingram Kemletz, lifelong resident of Knox City, Texas, passed away Monday morning, February 4, 2013, at the Knox County Hospital in Knox City. Funeral services were February 9 at the First United Methodist Church in Knox City with the Rev. Tom Carter officiating. Interment was in Johnson Cemetery in Munday.

Louise Ingram was born August 11, 1918 in Munday, Texas, to Seth Patton and Louise (Broach) Ingram. She graduated from Munday High School and went on to North Texas University where she graduated with a degree in education. Louise married A.V. Kemletz in 1941 and after 23 years of marriage, A.V. passed away in 1964. Mrs. Kemletz continued on in Knox City where she was a first-grade teacher for more than 32 years with the Knox City/O'Brien ISD. Mrs. Kemletz was a faithful



LOUISE KEMLETZ

member of the First United Methodist Church of Knox City and of the Knox County R.T.A.

Mrs. Kemletz was known as a very kind and gentle woman who treated everyone the same. She loved children and teaching them what she hoped would be values they could carry with them a lifetime. She continues to be adored by many of her students that have long since been in her class. Mrs. Kem-

letz grace and goodness will be missed by so many.

She was also preceded in death by her brother, William Preston Ingram, and his wife, Marjorie, of Dallas.

She is survived by her nephews, J. Preston Ingram and his wife, Rita, of Burnet, Texas, and Mark H. Ingram and his wife, Becky, of Highland Village, Texas; great-nephews, Michael Preston Ingram and his wife, Hannah, of Killeen, Texas and Jeffrey Mark Ingram of Fort Worth, Texas; great-nieces, Rachel Camille Ingram Kuhlman and her husband, Matthew J. Kuhlman, and their son Gage Michael Kuhlman of Baton Rouge, La., and Katie Rebecca Ingram of Midland, Texas.

If desired, you may make a donation to your favorite charity in Louise's honor.

Online condolences can be shared with the family by visiting smithfamilyfh.com.

Letter to the Editor

Mechanic stands behind work

A recent visit to an auto mechanic has caused me to stop and take notice that there are still reputable, honest, reliable, dependable individuals in this old world.

I had to return my vehicle to an auto mechanic because the part he placed in it (a year ago) had failed.

This failure was no fault of his, but he stood behind his work, repaired my vehicle, at

no charge to me.

Thank you, Jeff Searcey, for being an honest, upright individual who has pride, honor and dignity in your work.

Kudos to you and your establishment at Automotive Plus!

PAM AND GREG OLIVER
Knox City

Knox County Aging Services

Menus for the Week of April 1 - 5

Monday:
Baked ham and pineapple, lima beans, chuckwagon corn, whole-wheat roll, chocolate chip cookie.

Tuesday:
Charbroiled beef patty with peppers and onions, garlic mashed potatoes, beets, sliced bread, Mandarin oranges.

Wednesday:
Glazed meatloaf, red-bliss potatoes, mixed veggies, bread

stick, country apple crisp.

Thursday:
Baked chicken with dumplings, tossed salad, whole-wheat roll, fruit cup.

Friday:
Turkey sandwich, tomato, lettuce, pickles, broccoli and raisin salad, pineapple delight.

Call in orders by 10 a.m. to 657-3618 and pick up after 11 a.m.

Firefighters to host egg hunt

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — Hunting for an Easter egg hunt?

The Knox City Volunteer Fire Department will host its annual hunt Saturday in the Knox City City Park starting at 2 p.m.

"We are not going to start early," said Mingo Garcia.

If anything, the firefighters may wait a few minutes to be sure no one who wants to hunt eggs gets left out, he said.

The egg hunt will accommodate two age groups, and drawings for special prizes

will add to the fun.

"It's all for the kids to come out and hunt some eggs," Garcia said. "We do it every year."

The firefighters donate the eggs and prizes and stage the hunt.

"If anybody in the community wants to bring some extra Easter eggs, that's always greatly appreciated," Garcia said.

It's an activity designed for all area youngsters and also for those who might be visiting relatives. For some children, it's their only chance to participate in an egg hunt, Garcia said.

To the communities of Munday and Knox City -- We would like to say thank you for your prayers, cards, gifts, and other acts of kindness you have shown to Addison and our family. Thank you also to the local churches and schools who sent Addison encouraging letters of prayer and uplifting thoughts. We are grateful to have lived and worked in a community that is so supportive, thoughtful, and generous. God Bless ...
Stan, Raquel, Tess, and Addison Decker

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THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

Estate Sale
Ms Ameralis Guinn
509 SE 5th Street
Knox City, Tx
April 5th & 6th---Friday and Saturday
If we are working there-you may shop,
Early Sale is welcome!!!

VP Girls of Rule
940 256 2888
940 996 2428

ANNUAL BENJAMIN

City Clean-Up
Saturday, April 13, 2013

Meet at City Hall at 8:00 a.m.
Call City Hall for large item pickup or shredder (940) 459-3131 or 256-3962
Call Buddy at (940) 256-8796 to pick up scrap iron/aluminum

CARRY IN LUNCH IN THE PARK AT NOON
BRING ENOUGH TO SHARE!
HELP KEEP BENJAMIN BEAUTIFUL!

FBC
First Baptist Church
Munday, Texas

220 South 5th Ave.
Munday, TX 76731
P: 940-422-4559
Pastor Shane Kendrix

Service Times:
Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday
Awanas, Pre-K to 6th grade:
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Youth: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

We had some summer days last week, then whammo, another cool "snap" hit. From close to 90 degrees on Saturday, the drop to the 60s on Sunday was very noticeable. Warmer days are ahead though, I think, but I'm sure there will also be some cool ones. We always have to have an "Easter Spell," and since Easter is early this year, we may have several pretty brisk days before the hot weather is here to stay.

Regarding Our Ill

Corrine Parrish is still recuperating nicely although she's still staying in. She had a bit of a "set back" last weekend but was better when I talked to her sister, Philomae Roberson, on Tuesday.

Chad Tolson has had some respiratory problems for several weeks. Just a bad cough that he can't get rid of. It is better now, and he sure hopes it won't be long before he's completely "cough free."

Bud Conner is still going to therapy twice a week for his hand and arm, and it's getting better little by little. He goes back to Lubbock on the 27th to check with his doctor concerning his progress.

Kenneth Roberts is a patient in Knox County Hospital, being admitted earlier this week. According to family members, he was feeling better Saturday night and may get to go back to the Munday Nursing Center soon. Please continue to pray for these friends.

Sympathy Extended

My sincere sympathy to the family of Polly Marion this week. Polly passed away on Wednesday, after several months of failing health. She was a lovely person and friend to so many, both on a personal level as well as professionally. For many years, she was our "nurse" when we had to go to the doctor, and we all loved her. She will be missed by so many. Her funeral was Friday in Knox City.

Also sympathy to the family of little Elijah Bruce Baldwin, who died on Thursday in Cooks Hospital in Fort Worth. He was four days old and had a heart con-

dition at birth that doctors were just not able to repair. He has a twin who also has a heart problem, but it is not known just how serious it is. Elijah's mother is Becky Baldwin, a former Benjamin resident, now of Munday, and grandparents are Joe and Sherry Tennyson. His funeral was today in Goree.

Here 'n' There

Spring break is over and kids and teachers are on their way back to school. Highway 82 was lined with cars Sunday p.m. as Tech students headed back to Lubbock. The local students and school personnel are back "at it" also, rested and "rarin' to go."

If you have been out and around town the past week or so, you have probably noticed some changes in some locations. Dennis and Pam Duke have put a privacy fence around the back of their house. It looks really good and will sure provide them with the privacy they desire.

Kim Sealy is having his house remodeled. It is the one a block east of the post office. New siding has already been put on the outside, and I think some work is coming up on the inside. So far, it's looking good.

The BFVD will again be having the annual egg hunt on Easter Sunday, and kids can again ride to the park (where the hunt will take place) on the fire truck. It's always fun and a wonderful chance to visit friends and see the kids having a great time. Let's hope for good weather!

Barbara Ryder spent several days last week with her sister, Elaine, in Lubbock.

Lexie, Katy, and Blaze Taylor of Amarillo and Taylor Herring of Munday spent their spring break with grandparents, Mike and Debi Moorhouse. On Tuesday, they enjoyed a day in Abilene, eating pizza, going to the zoo, and doing other things young folk their age enjoy.

Shelby Russell, student at Midwestern University, was here last week to enjoy spring break with her sister, Samijo, and great grandmother, Hazel Stockton, and other relatives and friends.

Keith and Pam Conner of Midland visited on Saturday. Keith is doing well following recent hip surgery. Pam's dad, Jack Coker of Rule, who has fought cancer for some time, is now at home and in Hospice care.

Imagean Young spent Friday and Saturday with a friend in Temple, Oklahoma.

Devon Jones, student at Midwestern University, and Blake Jones, of TSTI in Sweetwater, spent spring break with their parents and siblings, Kemp, Becky, Brooke, and Kamryn.

I attended the fifth birthday party for my great granddaughter, Taylor Herring, on Sunday in Munday. Her parents hosted the event, which had a princess theme. Lots of kids and several adults were on hand to see her open her gifts and enjoy cake and ice cream.

Jessica and Brandon Hutchinson of Abilene and Will Moorhouse and Lynn Rogers and Kaylee of Snyder visited homefolks during the weekend and attended Taylor's party on Sunday.

Cathy Tomlinson of Denton and Betty Parker of Aspermont visited with Gloria West and Debbie Clower during the weekend.

We learned today of the death of Cecil McMinn, a former Benjamin resident. He was living in the Wichita Falls area. He was the cousin of another former resident, Stanton Brown. His funeral is Tuesday in Wichita Falls.

Mary Jane Young visited recently with her sister-in-law, Billie Fay Cummings, in Henderson.

Charles and Linda Grifith were in Clovis, N.M., on Sunday to visit with Drew Tyson and Kristie Winberg. Drew and Kristie live in Portland, Oregon and were here visiting his parents, Amy and Vince Tyson, and sisters, Kate and Abby.

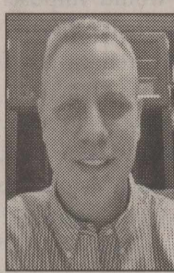
The Benjamin Cemetery Association met Thursday night and elected new officers. They were President—Dennis Duke, Vice President—Wyman Meinzer, and Secretary/Treasurer—Buddy Tolson.

Gladene Green is a longtime correspondent from Benjamin.

Paperboy Newspaper thefts on the rise

We have an issue with our newspapers being stolen. Is that a sign of a down economy?

First of all, theft is wrong. It's not only against local, state and federal law, I'd wager it's also against every country's laws and every religious law I've ever heard of. So it's safe to say that all through



CHRIS BLACKBURN

time, thieves have been looked down upon.

This small company is able to do what it does through technology and the hard work and dedication of her employees. We pay for people, printing, insertion, labeling, distribution, and on and on.

There are many factors involved in our operations. When people are stealing your product off the streets while fuel and postage rates increase, that's an issue.

In this industry, there is an element of trust we keep with the reading public. A covenant if you will. Our industry is different than most businesses. We depend on the customers in many cases to "do the right thing" and pay for the paper with no proof of purchase. If you go to a newsstand for instance, I'm trusting you to put in 75 cents and get a single copy. If you take more than one without that additional 75 cents, you are a thief.

Now 75 cents doesn't sound like a lot of money. But in machines in Childress last week, we lost \$26. Multiplying that figure by 10 and again by 52 and it doesn't take

long to add up to a significant amount of money.

Since the 2008 recession, we've kept our advertising rates low in an effort to help our small businesses profit. We are far from perfect, but if you compare the product in your hands to most small town weeklies, you'll see a difference in quality. It's hasn't always been that way, but it is now and we strive daily to continue to improve what we do.

Almost to a person, my employees take success and failure personally. When they mess up, they want to make it right. When an issue is brought to my attention or I mess up, I try my best to get it resolved as quickly as possible. We work to display strong character through our work and action. So we take it personally when someone is stealing from us.

Don't get me wrong, dear paper thief, we want you to read the paper. We just want you to do it with a clean conscience.

At some point, our rates will increase. That is the nature of business' reaction to inflation. Thievery only hastens those decisions.

If you're reading this newspaper from ill-gotten means, think about the fact that in your heart, you know you're a thief and you are comfortable with it. Now look at your child or grandchild and ask yourself if you want them to be a thief just like you?

If you're feeling guilty, good. We forgive you and sincerely hope you don't violate the newspaper-reader covenant again.

Christopher Blackburn is CEO of Blackburn Media Group and publisher of The Post Dispatch.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church/ Rhineland

St. Joseph's will experience the loving intimacy of **Holy Thursday**, the stark sorrow, failure, and loss of **Good Friday**, the rich mystery of the **Easter Vigil**, and the exultant joy of **Easter**.

March 28 HOLY THURSDAY

6:00 PM THE EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(The washing of the feet, the presentation of Holy Oils, the procession of The Blessed Sacrament to the special altar and keeping vigil in the Church until Midnight)
(Santa Rosa/Knox City: 7:30 Mass-Washing of the feet)

March 29 GOOD FRIDAY

6:00 PM Stations of the Cross
6:30 PM The Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion)
(Santa Rosa/Knox City: 7:30 p.m.)

March 30 HOLY SATURDAY

8:30 PM **Easter Vigil:**
(Blessing of the Fire, Procession with the Paschal Candle, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of Baptism, Renewal of the Baptismal vows, Confirmation and Liturgy of the Eucharist.)

March 31 EASTER SUNDAY

9:00 AM MASS (Celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord)
(Santa Rosa/Knox City: 11:00 A.M. Mass)

HAPPY EASTER – CHRIST IS RISEN-ALLELUIA

HAPPY EASTER!

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Thought about adding a new service for convenience or entertainment? Sample one of these special offers.

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Some restrictions may apply. Services where available. Regular charges apply after promotion period. New service order charge for phone service \$36.00 in ILEC exchanges, \$37.00 in CLEC exchanges. Service contracts apply after promotion period.

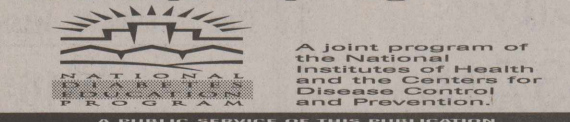


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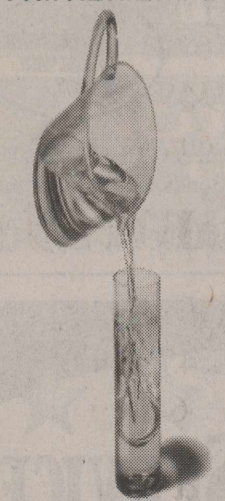
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Senate OKs budget, now House's turn

By Ed Sterling
For the Dispatch

AUSTIN — March 18 was day 70, midpoint of the 140-day regular session of the 83rd Texas Legislature.

On March 22, the Senate approved its version of the state budget, a plan to spend \$95 billion in general state revenue in 2014 and 2015. The Senate version would spend \$7 billion in general revenue more than the current 2012-2013 budget. The full budget is close to \$195 billion, counting dedicated funds and federal dollars.

Also on March 22, the Texas House Committee on Appropriations approved its \$97 billion version of the budget — Committee Substitute Senate Bill 1. This was the last step before all 150 members of the House vote on it. CSSB1 features an additional \$2.5 billion for public education on top of a base budget that already accounts for student population growth.

With the clock ticking, the two chambers must agree on a single version before sending it to the governor.

Assuming the House will pass its version this week or the following week, the next step would be for a conference committee of five House members and five Senators to

work out the differences. And once again, assuming common ground will be found, the agreed-upon version goes back to the full House and full Senate for a simple majority vote to accept the changes made by the conference committee.

Term limits bill moves

A constitutional amendment proposed by Sen. Kevin Eltife, R-Tyler, would impose term limits on statewide elected officials, including the governor and lieutenant governor.

Eltife's Senate Joint Resolution 13 was approved by the Senate 27-4 last week and now the House will have to consider it. If the House approves, Texas voters will have the opportunity to give it a thumbs up or thumbs down on Nov. 5, when proposed constitutional amendments approved by the Legislature will be on the statewide ballot. The four votes in opposition were cast by Sens. Brian Birdwell of Granbury, Craig Estes of Wichita Falls, Glenn Hegar of Katy and Tommy Williams of The Woodlands. In the Senate Journal, Williams explained his vote, this way: "I do not support term limits for statewide officers only."

Under Eltife's measure, voters would decide whether or not to limit statewide officials to two consecutive terms, but officials

could serve more terms non-consecutively and currently elected officials wouldn't have terms served before Jan. 1, 2014 count against them.

DNA testing bill filed

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott joined Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, on March 19 to express support for SB 1292, legislation written by Ellis proposing that DNA testing be required for all biological evidence collected by law enforcement in all death penalty cases.

Ellis called his bill "modest but vitally important reform" and a step toward "a more fair, reliable and just criminal justice system in Texas," and added that it will "help reduce the possibility that the ultimate mistake is made with someone receiving the ultimate penalty."

"To be certain that only guilty murderers are executed, all evidence that can be tested for DNA should be tested for DNA before the case goes to trial," Abbott said. "This will prevent endless appeals that game the system and delay justice for the families of victims."

To avoid the imposition of an unfunded mandate on local prosecutors and law enforcement agencies, SB 1292 requires that a Texas Department of Public Safety crime

lab perform the mandatory DNA test at the State's expense, and provide the results of those tests to both the defendant and state prosecutors, according to the Office of the Attorney General.

Chief rails over EPA

Texas Railroad Commission Chairman Barry Smitherman testified before the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce's subcommittee on Energy and Power on March 19 in Washington, D.C.

Smitherman told lawmakers that through horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing techniques developed by the private sector over the last few years, "the United States is awash in natural gas." But today, Smitherman said, "anti-fossil initiatives by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are threatening the domestic development of abundant and affordable energy from coal and natural gas."

The Railroad Commission, he said, is moving toward implementing industry best practices throughout the hydraulic fracturing process, such as the first "frac" fluid disclosure requirements, updating well integrity rules and working on a rule that would encourage oil and gas operations to do more recycling.

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Rolling Plains Relays

Members of the Knox City High School varsity track teams recently competed at the Rolling Plains Relays at Jayton.

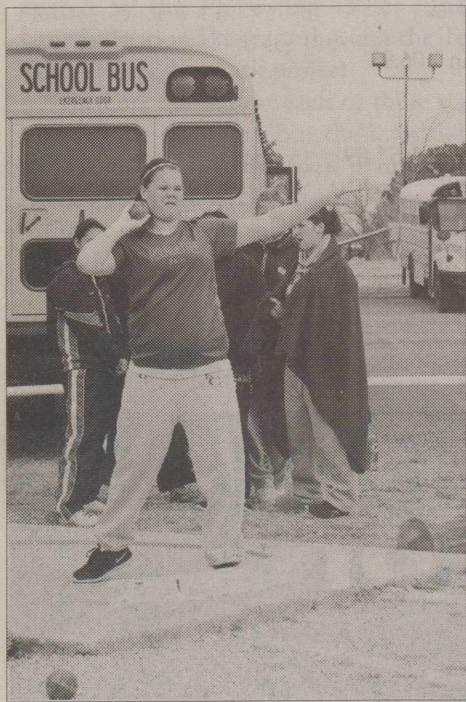


Shailee Manning in the 3,200-meter run.



Skylar Neill takes the handoff from Ibn Lagway in the junior varsity 1,600-meter relay.

Photos by Shari Baty/For the News-Courier

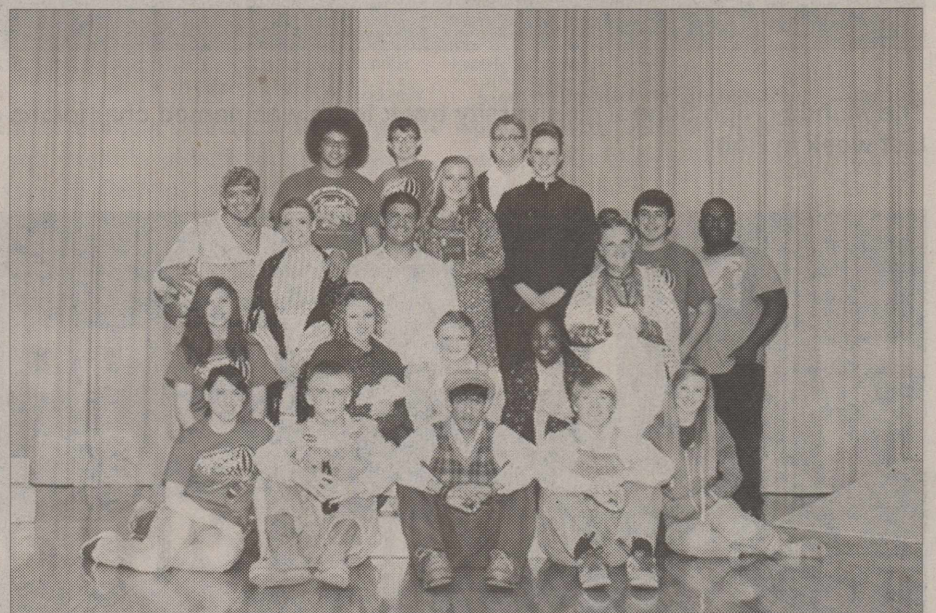


Cassandra Ledesma in the shot put.



Justin Thomas is the triple jump.

One-Act play cast advances



Shari Baty/For the News-Courier

Members of the Knox City High School one-act play cast and crew will perform today in Guthrie at the district competition after advancing Saturday at the zone competition in Vernon. This year's production is "The Anatomy of Gray."

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Cottonwood Creek Relays

Cottonwood Relay Champions



Submitted photo

The Munday High School girls varsity track team was named champions of the Cottonwood Creek Relays last week in Roby.

Members of the Munday High School girls varsity track team competed March 23 at the Cottonwood Creek Relays in Roby. The girls took home first place with 111 points. In team results, Munday placed sixth in the 4-by-100-meter relay and fourth in the 4-by-400-meter relay. Individual results follow:

Triple jump
2 — Tatum Bufkin 33' 0.50"

Discus
1 — Raci Dillard 103'4"
7 — Rylie Decker 87'0"

Shot put
3 — Raci Dillard 33'7.25"
4 — Alexis Nunez 29'11.75"
5 — Kylie Urbanczyk 29'8.75"

Pole vault
1 — Kaylan Urbanczyk 8'0"

3,200-meter
1 — Janie Salinas 12:52.56
2 — Diamond Perez 15:09.00

800-meter
2 — Rhealea Hendrix 2:49.75

400-meter
1 — Tatum Bufkin 1:06.93

300-meter hurdle
4 — Kaylan Urbanczyk 51.89

1,600-meter
1 — Janie Salinas 5:58.37
3 — Rhealea Hendrix 6:26.33

Compiled by Wayne Hodgins

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Water-well management class offered in Haskell

Special to the News-Courier

HASKELL — A water-well management training is scheduled for April 10 in Haskell.

The no-cost Texas Well Owner Network training will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Occasions, 600 S. First St.

Private well owners may bring samples of their well water to the program for analysis, said Drew Gholson, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service program specialist and program coordinator. For a nominal cost, samples can be screened for nitrate, total dissolved solids, arsenic and bacteria.

"The program is for Texas residents who depend on household wells for their water needs so they can learn about improving and protecting their community water resources," he said. "The program was established to help well owners become familiar with Texas groundwater resources, septic system maintenance, well maintenance and construction, water quality, and water treatment."

This is one of 14 trainings to be conducted by the Preventing Water Quality Contamination Program through the Texas Well Owner Network project.

"The core content at each of these trainings will be the same, but the information will be tailored to the local water quality issues and aquifers," Gholson said.

Other scheduled trainings will be held in Amarillo, Wimberley, Fort Stockton, Lam-

pasas and Uvalde.

Well owners who would like to have their water sampled can pick up sample bags from the Haskell County Extension Office at 101 S. Ave. D in Haskell or at the Knox, Stonewall, or Throckmorton AgriLife Extension offices.

"Fill each bag, according to instructions, with a sample from their well, and bring the samples to the training on April 10," Gholson said.

The analyses cost \$10 per sample for nitrate, total dissolved solids, arsenic and bacteria.

Bringing water samples to the training is not required, Gholson said, but those wanting to have water samples analyzed must attend the training.

"More than 1 million private water wells in Texas provide water to citizens in rural areas and increasingly to those living in small acreages at the growing rural-urban interface," he said. "Private well owners are independently responsible for monitoring the quality of their wells. They are responsible for ensuring their drinking water is safe. They are also responsible for all aspects of the water system — testing, inspecting, maintaining — and this training will help private well owners better understand and care for their wells."

Attendance is limited, so attendees are requested to register at twon.tamu.edu or by calling 979-845-1461 as soon as possible.

Financial Focus

Get ready for some financial spring cleaning

By Carrie West

Spring is in the air — or, at the very least, it's on the calendar this week. And if you're like many people, you may be looking forward to doing some spring cleaning around your house and yard. But this year, why not go beyond your physical environment and do some "sprucing up" of your financial situation?

Here are a few possibilities to consider:

- Clean your portfolio of "clutter." When you go through your house, you may find some clutter in closets, storage areas, on top of desks, under beds or just about any other place. Your investment portfolio also may contain clutter, in the form of investments that no longer meet your needs. Consequently, it's a good idea to "de-clutter" your portfolio periodically by selling those extraneous investments and using the proceeds to help purchase others that may be more effective in helping you make progress toward your financial goals.

- Consolidate your investments in one place. As you clean your house, you may find that you have many common items, such as brooms, hammers, duct tape and so on, scattered among various rooms. It might be more efficient to keep all such objects in one central location; this can help prevent you from needlessly replacing or duplicating them. As an investor, you may have an IRA with one financial services provider, an old 401(k) with a different one, and some other investments with yet another institution. If you consolidated all these investment vehicles with one provider, you might be able to save some fees and expenses. Perhaps even more importantly, by uniting all your investments in one place, you may find it easier to follow

a central, unified investment strategy.

- Check for "gaps" in your financial strategy. Every spring, it's a good idea to check your gutters for leaks, your sidewalks for cracks and your paint for chips. By doing so, you'll help protect your home and surroundings. To help protect your family's future, it's important to have adequate life and disability insurance.

- Plant seeds for growth. When spring arrives, it's time to plant the seeds for your flowers and vegetables. As an investor, you also have to be concerned about growth. Specifically, you'll want to consider investments that have the potential to grow enough to help provide the financial resources to meet your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement. Consequently, you should review your portfolio to determine if it contains an appropriate amount of growth-oriented vehicles for your individual objectives, time horizon and risk tolerance.

- Seek professional assistance. When you're tidying up for spring, you may find some jobs that you can't do alone, such as cleaning a heavily stained carpet, unclogging a blocked drain or trimming the highest branches on a tree. For these tasks, you might need to call in trained professionals. It's the same with investing: You can do some things on your own, but for complex tasks such as creating and maintaining an appropriate investment strategy, you may need to work with a financial professional.

Consider putting these spring-cleaning tips to work soon. They may just help put some sparkle and shine into your financial "house."

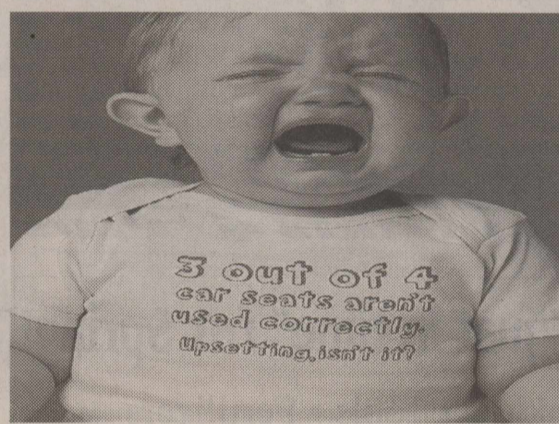
Carrie S. West is a financial adviser with the Ed-

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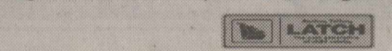
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WATSON
From Page 1

the Texas City Management Association.

"You build a really good network," he said. "I by far don't know all the answers, but I know somebody that does. I can pick up the phone."

At the start of the week, Watson was dealing with various elements of his new job from the quirks of the copy machine to learning peoples' names. He described the process of settling in as discovering "where things have been and where we'd like to go with them."

Compared to Knox City, Kermit is also a town that's seen its fortunes rise and fall with the oil business. But in Kermit, the fluctuations have been extreme.

"The oilfield was making everything hectic," Watson said.

The Kermit population in 2010 was 5,600, but it's been increasing with the oil boom. "It's probably 7,000 now," he said.

Housing remains in place from an earlier era when the population was 10,000.

"We were selling property at tax sales every month. People were moving into houses I wouldn't put my dog in."

Housing in Knox City is in much better shape overall than housing in Kermit, Watson said.

In Kermit, the city employs 40 people and the police force has ten officers, he said.

RESERVOIR
From Page 1

line."

But any such contract would require the approval of the North Texas Municipal Water Authority board. Each owner city — Goree, Haskell, Knox City and Munday — has two appointees that serve on the board.

The cities that own the corporation issued bonds in the 1950s to build the water system and paid taxes on the bonds over the years, giving them their stakes in the system. The original bonds were paid off July 10, 2010, Kuehler said.

For information on Millers Creek Reservoir and other bodies of water throughout the state, the website of the Texas Water Development board at twdb.state.tx.us posts timely information regarding water levels.

"Rivers, lakes, everything — it's all on there," Kuehler said. "It updates every hour."

It's the first site Kuehler said he checks every morning when he arrives at work.

TREK
From Page 1

to be cremated and have his ashes left at one of the couple's favorite sites at Palo Duro Canyon, and he wanted the ashes to make the trip in a wagon train. Williams grew up at Pampa, not far from the canyon, and he cowboied in the rough Palo Duro region.

"He told me 13 years ago that's where he wanted his ashes spread," she said. "Everybody here is going to spread some."

Every wagon is carrying some of the ashes, but most are in the coffee pot, and Williams doesn't leave it unattended in the wagon.

In Munday, the big coffee pot sat near her as she and some of the other trail riders at lunch together at the Li'l Red Hen.

"That was his favorite coffee pot," she said.

Len Williams also wanted some of his ashes scattered in two other places — the Holy Land and Grand Canyon, places he always wanted to visit but never did. J Williams already has made a trip to Israel, where she cast some of his ashes into the Sea of Galilee. Grand Canyon will be next.

"That won't be by wagon train," she said. "It'll be a motor home full of women. He loved women. He was a great guy."

Len Williams' death happened over a two-year period.

"He planned his entire funeral in those two years," J Williams said.

Even so, the trail ride has taken much more planning since his death by his wife and friends.

"This took over a year to plan out," Finley said.

The original funeral service itself involved a shorter procession.

"We took him to the church in wagons from my ranch," J Williams said. "We did a service and then rode back and had a chuckwagon

set up at the ranch and fed everybody."

J Williams had no difficulty rounding up a group to make the ride.

"I told them the date, and they all decided on their own to come," she said. "This is when you know you have friends."

POOLS
From Page 1

"I'd probably be lazy all day," she said. "I'd not get active. I'd be a total disaster."

A different scenario could play out in Munday.

"If we don't get any more rain, it's going to be difficult for us to open the pool," Munday City Manager Rick-ey Ake said.

Munday has an operable well that may be pressed into service, but the city will need to update some of the plumbing. Even so, Ake isn't sure the well is a viable option to water from the North Texas Municipal Water Supply Corp. — water that will be in short supply if Stage 3 water rationing kicks in, essentially forcing the city to cut its water use by 25 percent.

By many reports, ground water tables have been falling in the region.

"We can't see how much water is underground," Ake said. "We can't see how fast that's recharging."

If rain doesn't replenish Millers Creek Lake, the Munday City Council will face some difficult choices. In the past, city water has filled the pool.

"Everyone is going to have to sit down and come to their own reckoning with this water situation," Ake said. "What are your priorities? The next 30 to 60 days will give us the avenue that we have to travel. The ultimate decision's going to come down to the city council."

Some Munday residents use well water for their lawns. "We have eight to 10 wells within the city limits," Ake said.

Anyone who drills such a well must pay a \$25 fee to the city and follow certain procedures that regulate depth, diameter and location.

"Most people know not to tie them into their house," Ake said, citing a state law that regulates how private well water can be used within a city.

Nor can gray water (water from a shower, bath or washing machine, for instance) be discharged onto a lawn.

"Until they change their rules ... we can't do it," Ake said.

If anything, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is getting stricter rather than more lenient when it comes to city water regulations, Ake said. Beginning in October, more tests will be required — tests that require trips to Abilene for the analyses, meaning one more expense for the city.

Already city revenues are down in Munday, partly because of a reduction in water sales, an effect of drought-related restrictions imposed by the water corporation.

Ake, working this week on the budget, said that Munday's revenues for 2012-2013 are down \$190,000 from the previous year — almost 20 percent.

"You've got X number of dollars to spend, and you've got to stay in that," he said.

If the North Texas Municipal Water Authority is forced by the continuing drought to put the next level of water conservation measures into place, both Munday and Knox City as well as other entities served by the corporation will be forced to cut water use by 25 percent. In Munday, not opening the pool could help the city comply with the restrictions if and when they go

into effect. In both cities, a reduction in water sales would mean less revenue for city coffers.

Livestock and ranch equipment recovered

Stolen livestock and ranch equipment worth more than \$4.4 million were recovered or accounted for in 2012 by the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) Special Rangers.

The Fort Worth-based producer group was founded 136 years ago to fight cattle theft in Texas, a problem that still plagues ranchers today.

In 2012, more than 10,400 head of cattle and horses were reported missing or stolen to TSCRA, a large jump from 2011 when the number reached 7,600.

In 2012, TSCRA Special Rangers investigated 980 cases in Texas and Oklahoma, primarily involving stray or stolen livestock. The total market value of all recovered livestock and property reached \$4,474,479. Convicted thieves received a total of 279 years of prison, state jail, probated and suspended sentences and deferred adjudication. Thieves paid more than \$3.8 million in restitution, fines and court costs.

In addition to being trained in all facets of law enforcement, each ranger has in-depth knowledge of the cattle and ranching industry, making them a true asset to fighting crime in rural Texas.

Gray says ranchers should brand their cattle to help prevent theft and to aid in the recovery if their livestock is stolen. Locking gates and counting cattle regularly are other tips that can prevent livestock theft. Parking trailers and equipment out of roadway site and marking saddles, tack and other equipment with the owner's driver's license number is not only a deterrent, but also aids in the recovery and return of stolen property.

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RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 09
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Mar 19, 2013
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Apr 23, 2013
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit
P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email: SWR37@RRC.STATE.TX.US

Rule 37 Case No. 0281211
Status/Permit No. 757059

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CHOLLA PETROLEUM, INC., [RRC Operator No. 150683] has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the DISTANCE BETWEEN WELLS requirement for the NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 66, Bk. 13, H&TC RR CO/GENN, F Survey, A-1606, KNOX CITY, WEST (STRAWN) Field, KNOX County, being 11 miles W direction from KNOX CITY, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS OF Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protest should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at (512) 463-6848. If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at rule 37 (512) 463-6751.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Apr 23, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: KNOX CITY, WEST (STRAWN)

Lease/Unit Name : THORMAN, F. W.
Lease/Unit Well No. : 20
Lease/Unit Acres : 1280.0
Nearest Lease Line (ft) : 1205.0
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) : 800.0

Lease Lines : 1205.0 F SW L, 1803.0 F SE L
Survey Lines : 1205.0 F SW L, 1803.0 F SE L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

KNOX CITY, WEST (STRAWN) : OIL County regular rules 467/1200, 40.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 5999 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, at (214) 6927052.

The Idle American High roads and bunny trails

The trails of life — marked by obstacles of many kinds — rarely intersect with bunny trails of blue sky songs and joyous egg hunts.

They draw closer, however, when a youngster sees few limits and imbues others along the trail with a “yes we can” attitude. That’s the essence of Haley Whatley, 18-year-old senior tennis star at Birdville High School in North Richland Hills.



DON NEWBURY

For 13 years, she’s been the driving force to provide new stuffed animals for Cook Children’s Medical Center in Fort Worth. They’ve collected some 29,000 animals — each one buoying spirits and providing blessed assurance that the young patients are not alone.

Her dream began at age 4, when her heart was touched by a TV appeal from St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. She had numerous questions for her parents, Gary and Elizabeth Whatley, and upon their move to the Metroplex a year later, a tour of Cook Children’s Medical Center further amazed.

Haley was particularly taken by the “prayer bear room” provided by pastoral care efforts of churches and businesses.

Her mind was spinning, this soon-to-be kindergartner at Fort Worth Christian School. She was puzzled that the room had no bunnies — animals she viewed in tandem with Easter, her favorite holiday.

Learning that patients received bears year-around — even at Easter — she asked if she could bring stuffed rabbits for the next Easter.

Her mom gulped, knowing that her 5-year-old’s mind was not completely wrapped around the enormity of her promise. After all, there were 186 beds, each with a patient, some with wavering hope.

The program was “gotten on with.” Friends at church and school responded, signs were posted and collection boxes set up. They missed their goal by miles. Instead of 186 stuffed animals, 1,400 — mostly bunnies — were donated! The annual project was born.

Her parents’ eyes rolled — and hearts beat merrily — for her incurable optimism! (Ditto her 15-year-old brother, Shea.)

Elizabeth saw Haley making friends of strangers in grocery store lines. And when in first grade, she dialed the only American Airlines number stored on her mom’s

cell phone (Gary is a pilot for American). She detailed the project to the operations manager.

After all, she felt certain that pilots, flight attendants, baggage handlers and others deserved to share the joy of giving.

It worked. American Airlines is now a corporate sponsor, along with Six Flags Over Texas,

Holt Caterpillar and Camp Gladiator. “Build a Bear Foundation” in St. Louis annually sends 100 already-built bears.

By year three, Haley — the “bunny manager” — was speaking at schools and churches. Her message? “Don’t give ‘till it hurts, give ‘till it feels good!” Legal pad at hand, she scribbled notes for inclusion in manuals and training materials for future “Bunny Ambassadors.”

Seeing Bugs Bunny at Six Flags ignited her request to speak with management. Six Flags “bought in,” and now Bugs is present for the annual hospital “bunny drops.”

There’ve been other spin-offs, including a dinner featuring celebrity waiters. By happenstance, Haley met Bob Reynolds while playing in a Houston tennis tournament. Learning that he owns a few dozen Red Robin restaurants, she gave him the opportunity to host the event — providing food for 400 — so he could feel good, too. It raised \$5,000 for the hospital.

There’ll be voids at BHS, as well as at Colleyville First Baptist Church, come the autumn, when Haley will be a freshman — on a full tennis scholarship — at Erskine College in Due West, S.C.

Her love for the project she founded, though, remains strong. She’s identified a successor to keep it rolling. Her name is Trudie Troublefield, a seventh-grader at Westlake Academy.

Not many years ago, Haley was her babysitter.

Haley’s spirit and love for others has been well-kindled. Her confidence in what can be done for others is strong.

This reminds me of a savior named Jesus Christ, often on record of his love for children to “come unto him.” His resurrection celebrated each Easter is a reminder of His light on our earthly trails.

No wonder Haley has won numerous honors, including Texas’ Youth Volunteer of the Year. No wonder others respond. No wonder Easter is her favorite holiday. And no wonder she eagerly shares the message — we are NOT alone.

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

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(G) Pre-1950

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(I) 1973 & Up

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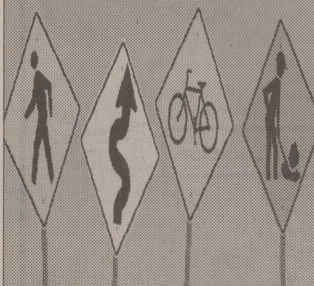
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Save a Life
Texas Department of Transportation

The Knox County Attorney and County Judge are taking applications for a full time Court Coordinator/Administrative Assistant. The primary duties of this position are to manage, direct, coordinate, and plan the operations of the office of the County Judge and the County Attorney. Applicant must possess the following: Computer skills, organization skills, communicate effectively both orally and written. Applicant must be friendly, self sufficient and capable of working well with others. The job offers insurance benefits and retirement. Applications may be picked up at the Knox County Judge’s office, the County Attorney’s office, or the Clerk’s office between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. Application deadline is April 2, 2013. Knox County is an equal opportunity employer. (3/28)

**NOT THE DIGITS YOU WANNA
GET WHEN YOU GO OUT**



Getting arrested and convicted in Texas for D.W.I. can cost you up to \$17,000. So, before you go out collecting digits, line up a P.A.S.S. (Person Appointed to Stay Sober) who you can call for a safe ride home. Because, if you're pulled over for D.W.I., your socializing days are numbered.

Save a Life
Texas Department of Transportation

The 501 Scrap happens

If you work in a scrap yard, does it give you bad dreams? Just to be there is to see a civilization in ruins. My civilization. Yours too, of course, but it's my eyes that just saw it all.

Yep, I just got paid \$14 for a ton of wire that cost much more when it was new. I exaggerate. The load weighed only 476 pounds. The exact price paid was 3 cents a pound. I drove home with \$14 plus change — almost enough to buy a quarter-mile of shiny new electric fence wire and more than the price of a medium latte, potato soup and a chocolate croissant. Yum.

For the scrap guys' trouble and mine, they got a mix of tangles and coils of regular electric fence wire, high-tensile fence wire, barbed wire and baling wire — about a hundred years' worth, and there's more where that came from. If you live on a farm, you know what I mean, unless you're one of those neat Germans or Czechs who has no trash. Good for you.

Our farm would be paradise for somebody looking for rusty tin, weathered boards and classic barbed wire to recycle into handcrafted Western art or near art. I say "classic" because that's all our barbed wire is — ordinary two-strand with unremarkable barbs. Where do collectors find that exotic vintage stuff — jagged wire and barbs of all sorts to puncture any beast, human or bovine? Really. Everything I've ever personally

tripped over or dug up or snagged myself on looked like nearly every other piece of barbed wire I've ever seen, including all tattoos and what's wrapped on the stump by the foot of the World War I doughboy on the courthouse lawn. Maybe some of those lengths of weird-looking collectible barbed wire we see on display are fake? I digress. Could anyone dealing in the devil's invention be unethical?

Back to the scrap heap of our civilization.

It's not like we're the first people ever to toss anything. Archaeologists would be lost without dump grounds and scrap caches to excavate. But it's still hard on my eyes to see things get shoved into piles, cut into pieces or crushed beyond recognition when I can remember when it was new — even if it's not my stuff. It's like watching the last of "Made in the USA" disappear before your eyes.

Maybe it helps to have a sense of humor if it's your job to deal with all things broken and beyond any useful value other than weight for scrap.

"Spring cleaning?" quipped the guy at the salvage place when he eyed the wire. "Yeah," I said.

And isn't it funny we use the word "salvage" when we're talking about the stuff we're discarding? I guess it's a euphemism that makes us feel better about letting go of whatever.

Speaking of being beyond use, try loading 476 pounds of wire. My hips hurt. A lot. My value today is questionable.

At least I still weigh something.

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

In April, a list of taxpayers who owe delinquent taxes to the Knox County Appraisal District will be published in the Knox County News-Courier. Delinquent taxpayers should make payment to the Knox County Appraisal District before April 5, 2013, to ensure they are not included in the list. Payment must be received by April 5, 2013, to have your name excluded from the list. Those taxpayers who have written payment plans with the Appraisal District and are current with them will not be included in this list.

Dixie Divas Easter parade

If Tink had any hesitation about coming into a traditional Southern family, there was only one: our happy, colorful Easter parade. The one we have every year — rain or shine — when we return to Louise and Rodney's house after church and before the ridiculously big meal we have.



RONDA RICH

Tink likes parades, but not ones that call for his participation. He's reserved and firmly believes his place is behind the camera, whether the camera is in Hollywood or Georgia. I love parades, whether I view them from the sidelines or as a participant.

Whenever a parade comes to town, I always think of my friend, Margie. Whatever she's doing, she lays it aside and hurries down to grab a spot on the route.

"The way I see it," she says with a firm nod of her head, "is that life's too short to miss a parade."

A mighty good philosophy, if you ask me.

When there's a parade to be seen from the sidewalk, Tink happily goes along. When it is suggested he participate, he balks. At the Christmas parade the year before we married, I declared merrily, "Next year, we'll have a float in the parade."

He set his jaw. "No. YOU will have a float. I will not be participating. But I'll cheer you on from the sidelines." He smiled. "I'll drive the truck and pull the float."

I believe our little town's Christmas parade needs us. It needs the kind of float we could enter and fill with kids and family but Tink won't budge. He won't even pretend to consider it. For a year, I talked sporadically about the Christmas parade, certain I could talk him into it. After all, I talked him into the Easter parade.

That wasn't easy. In fact, I did what I have done on only one or two occasions: I

put my foot down. Almost without exception, if we disagree on something, I let his word be the final word even if I am forced into a bit of a pout over it. I respect him as the head of our house and believe he deserves that.

The Easter parade, though, is 30 years of tradition — a special family tradition and, for the majority of those years, I have walked the parade route by alone. I was determined that since I finally had a husband, he was going to join me.

Now, to be honest, in the grand scheme of Easter parades, it isn't much. We each walk out the front door, cross the porch, down the steps, and cross the sidewalk to wave at the camera. It is a "parade" of spring pastels, hats, big smiles and Easter baskets. It is a video recounting of a happy day spent with family as it hints of the delicious days ahead that will be filled with bathing suits, barbecues, shorts and laughing children. In those 30 years of video footage, we are sweetly reminded of those like Mama — who enjoyed the parade most of all — who celebrate Easter in the most precious place of all.

Last Easter, Tink saw the determined glint in my eye. He heard the rare tone in my voice when I said, "Yes, you ARE going to be in the parade." And so he was. He cleared his throat, took a deep breath, and stepped out into the sunshine and into camera range. It lasted 15 seconds, no doubt the most uncomfortable 15 seconds of his life. When it was over, he relaxed and laughed with joy as he watched the remainder of the parade.

But we had a surprise for him.

At the end of the parade, two of the kids emerged carrying big signs that Selena had made. Nix' sign said: "Executive Producer" followed by Tripp's sign that said, "John Tinker." I doubled over with laughter as Tink's face flushed deep red.

Now, the Easter parade with Tink is a given. But the Christmas parade? Well, I'm still working on that.

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

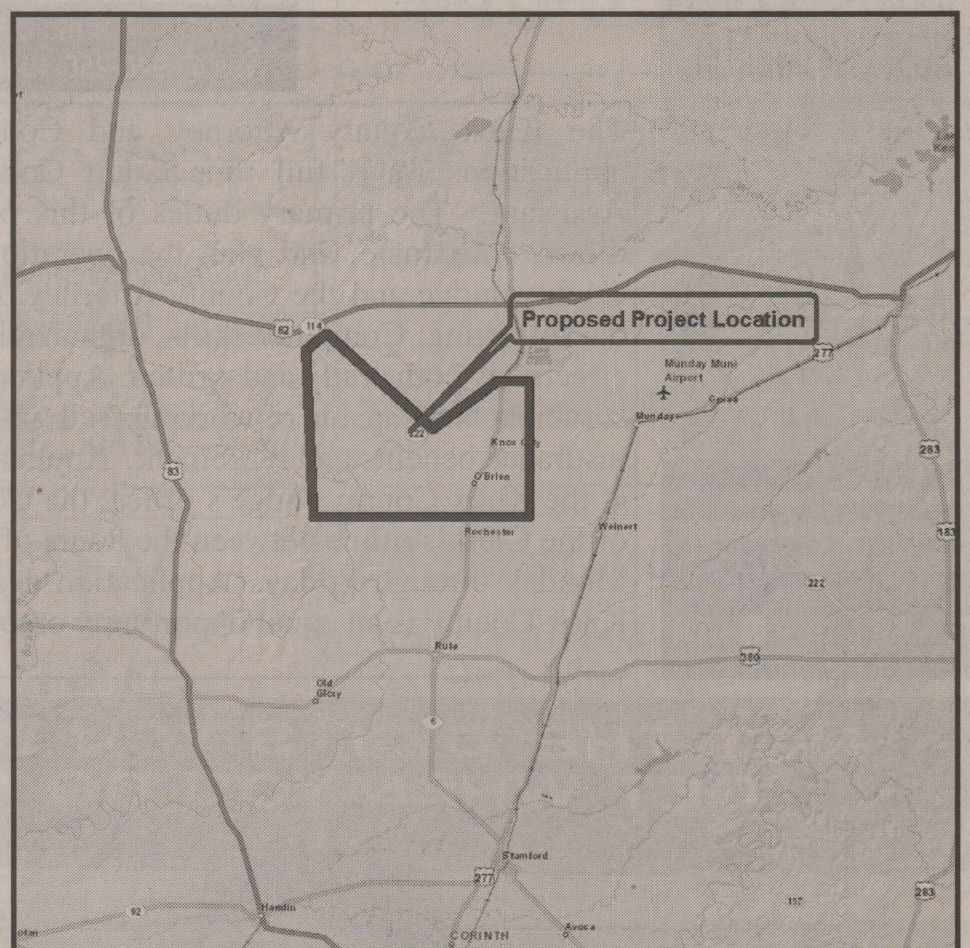
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The USDA, Rural Utilities Service has received an application for financial assistance from the Knox County Rural Water Supply Corporation (WSC). As required by the National Environmental Policy Act and agency regulations, the Rural Utilities Service has prepared an Environmental Assessment that evaluated the potential environmental effects and consequences of the proposal. This notice announces the availability of the Environmental Assessment for public review and comment.

The proposal consists of constructing a new drinking water distribution system within rural areas of Knox, King, Haskell, and Stonewall Counties. The new system would consist of approximately 113 miles of buried waterlines, 2 standpipes, 2 pump stations, isolation valves and approximately 162 meter connections. The project would convert approximately .25 acres of prime farmland with the construction of a pump station and standpipe. The project would mitigate potential impacts by having a professional archeologist survey the project area before construction, directional boring under the Brazos River, limiting vegetation clearing to the least amount possible, and by returning disturbed land back to preconstruction form as applicable. The WSC considered available alternatives for this project, including: the no action alternative, in which the project would not be pursued, and attempting to buy treated water from Knox City. The WSC has decided to purchase water from North Central Texas Municipal Water Authority since this is more cost effective.

Copies of the Environmental Assessment are available for review for review at the USDA Rural Development office located at 4400 Buffalo Gap Road, Suite 4150, Abilene, Texas 79606. For further information contact John Powell of Rural Development at: (325) 690-6162 ext. 4. Any person interested in commenting on this proposal should submit comments to the address above by Saturday, April 20, 2013

A general location map of the proposal is shown below.



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Make sure all children in your vehicle are properly restrained. Use a child safety seat appropriate for their age, weight and height. State law requires that you always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

- REAR-FACING SEATS**
From birth to as long as possible, up to the weight or height limit of the seat. At a minimum, keep rear-facing until age 1 and 20 lbs.
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From about age 4 to about age 8, or up to 4 feet 9 inches.
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- **Contact Information:**
- jd@byreferralrealty.net
- 813-629-1331
- Resume and Local References available upon request, available for interviews in Knox County on April 1st through April 12th



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. Cisco 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

Brazos Valley Care Home is now accepting applications for full-time and part-time LVN and RN positions. Please apply in person at 605 S. Ave F, Knox City. 0412c

Babysitter in Knox City. After school, possibly summer, for child age 6. 940-256-2596. (3/28pd)

HOUSE FOR SALE

811 N. Munday Ave. 1,836 sq ft. 3-br, 2-bath; fully equipped kitchen. Call Patrick Corcoran at 940-203-0471. 0321p

LOOKING FOR

If anybody knows how to locate Robert J. Dockins, Jr., age 31, please call Cissy at 940-224-6900.

Looking for wheat and canola to harvest. Experienced crew. Heid Brothers. Call Peter at (320) 221-3789.

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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APARTMENTS AVAILABLE

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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18-Wheeler Wrecks

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LEGAL

The City of Knox City is currently in Stage Three of the City's Drought contingency Plan. As a reminder, citizens who own private swimming pools, wading pools, or Jacuzzi-type pools are prohibited from using City water for filling, refilling, or adding water except from their own private water wells. The City of Knox City will be opening the City Pool and will only be using well water. The use of City water to fill pools will result in fines from the City of Knox City.

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 and 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-82A, N-88A and Y-18AR. The proposed injected wells are located 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, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas, 78711-2967. (Telephone 512/463-6792.)

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Photos by Hanaba Munn Welch

Tom Duke, wagon train outrider, casts a look at Sam Gill's mules — Peaches, who's looking resolutely ahead, and Ellie. En route to Palo Duro Canyon, the wagon train stopped for lunch Monday in downtown Munday. Draft animals ranged from draft horses to mules, and wagons and buggies ranged even more in appearance and design. Duke and Gill are from Bennington, Okla. The group spent Monday night on Kenneth Baker's wheat patch on the edge of Haskell County on State Highway 222, and was headed for the Johnson Watermelon Farm to spend Tuesday night.



The ashes of Len Williams, cowboy and chuckwagon cook, are mostly contained in his favorite coffee pot. Holding the container is his wife, J Williams, who's making a pilgrimage to Palo Duro Canyon to scatter his ashes there in honor of his request. Traveling by wagon train, the group stopped for lunch Monday at the Li'l Red Hen in Munday and, as always, carried the coffee pot with them. J Williams has already scattered some of her late husband's ashes on the Sea of Galilee, and a future stop is Grand Canyon.



Photos by Hanaba Munn Welch

Dressed for the chilly weather, cousins Raevn Rodriguez, left, and Rachel Rodriguez, both 10, hang out Monday afternoon at the Knox City municipal park. In the distance to the left is the swimming pool, a place where both girls plan to spend time this summer.



Colorful directional signs to exotic surfing venues posted at the city swimming pool in Munday match the mural that adorns the building with ocean waves and tropical vegetation, but the only place in the world that really matters is the sign in the shade at the very bottom that says "Miller Creek 16.2 mi."

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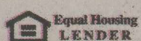
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MEMBER FDIC



Join us April 8-11!

As we plan for the future of Knox County.

Pick the group that best describes you, or the time most convenient for you, and meet us at the designated location for a 30-minute session.

Then, join us Thursday to hear the results.

- April 8 - High School Students - We will meet you at your school.
- April 8 - Oil & Gas Industry - Knox City Chamber of Commerce - 6:00 p.m.
- April 9 - City & County Government - Courthouse in Benjamin - 9:00 a.m.
- April 9 - Senior Citizens - Aging Center in Knox City at 12:00 p.m.
- April 9 - Medical and Health Related Industry - Knox City Clinic - 4:00 p.m.
- April 10 - Farmers & Ranchers - Perry Patton Center in Munday - 7:00 a.m.
- April 10 - Women of Knox County - Perry Patton in Munday - 9:00 a.m.
- April 11 - Town Hall Meeting - Knox City Community Center - 6:00 p.m.

HOSTED BY THE KNOX COUNTY VISIONING GROUP & PARTNERS

