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THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

THURSDAY, APRIL 04, 2013

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75 CENTS

KCHS band legend Arnett dead at 86

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The News-Courier

Norman "Buddy" Arnett of Hamlin, former Knox City High School band director, died Sunday at age 86 in a Wichita Falls hospital after suffering a stroke.

First a musician and later a lawyer, Arnett led the Knox City band to success in interscholastic league competition with four consecutive sweepstakes wins.

Arnett was born in Rule in 1926. By the early 1950s, Arnett was leading a swing band in Lubbock and playing clarinet and saxophone.

"The legend is that Buddy Holly's music was influenced by Buddy Arnett's music," said George Arnett, Norman Arnett's son, an agronomist living in New Mexico.

Arnett the son categorized his father's music as belonging to the same genre as Big Band names Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey and Artie Shaw.

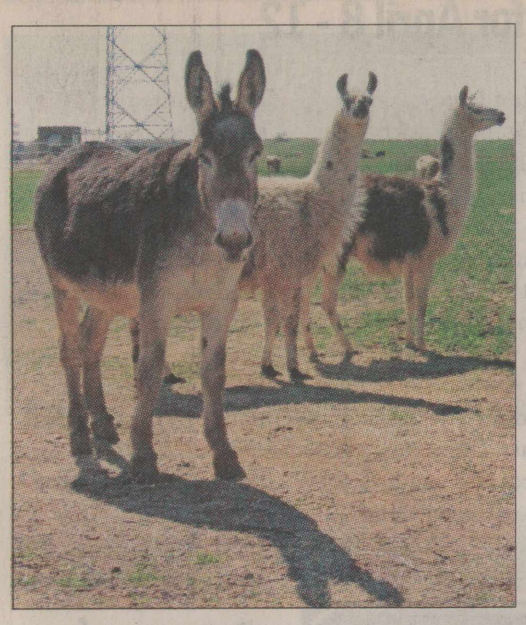
"That's the kind of band my daddy had," Arnett said.

It's likely an underage Holly sneaked into venues to hear Arnett's band play the liveliest music of the day, Arnett said — jitterbug and swing tunes that eventually gave way to rock 'n' roll when Holly and others of his ilk claimed the scene.

After those early years in Lubbock, Norman Arnett moved to New Mexico and earned a degree in music at the University of New Mexico.

His teaching career took him to Spur; Tatum, N.M.; Springer, N.M., and lastly Knox City, where he taught five years in the 1960s.

Next he studied law, earning a doctor of juris
See **ARNETT**, Page 8



Hanaba Munn Welch/The News-Courier
Vertical ears in common, a donkey and two llamas hang out together on Flint Richardson's winter wheat pasture east of Knox City, soaking up Tuesday's sunshine following cold wet weather Monday.

Unusual guardians keep careful eye

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The News-Courier

KNOX CITY — Tibet has the Dalai Lama. Knox County has the "donkey llamas" — no connection.

The two llamas and the single donkey belong to farmer-rancher Flint Richardson, whose children and grandchildren came up with the play on words to describe the animals. The three animals keep watch on cattle grazing Richardson's winter wheat just east of Knox City. Richardson doubts their effectiveness.

"They're goofy as all get-out," he said, referring to the llamas.

Nor does he have much use for the donkey.

"They're just mostly pets," he said of the trio.

Richardson inherited the so-called guard animals from his father, Tommy Richardson, who died in 2010.

"Dad had goats at one time," Richardson said.

Hence the acquisition of the extra animals, effective or not, to guard against coyotes and
See **GUARDIANS**, Page 8

The chase begins



Hanaba Munn Welch/The News-Courier
Storm chasers watch a cloud Monday north of Benjamin, taking photographs and using their instruments to analyze the system, hoping for action. At the tripod is Spencer Basoco of Norman, Okla., accompanied by Lindsay Wiggy, also of Norman. Also observing is Erik Fox of Wichita Falls.

Wild weather lures storm chasers, brings rain to area

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The News-Courier

BENJAMIN — Like moths drawn to flames, storm chasers flocked to Knox County late Monday afternoon to watch a storm system roll in from the west, their day already enlivened with one tornado.

"There was a tornado near Silverton," said Erik Fox of Wichita Falls, one of a trio parked along State Highway 6 north of Benjamin. "It's been going on since about 3."

Other crews were parked nearby, watching and waiting.

But despite the fearsome appearance of the great clouds darkening the sky at sunset and striking lightning flashes in the distance, the system delivered mostly rain and wind as it came across Knox County instead of the extreme

weather anticipated — presumably even hoped for — by the chasers.

Why chase storms?

"It's an adrenaline rush," Fox said.

"A lifestyle," said Spencer Basoco of Norman, Okla.

"Our lives get molded around storm chasing," Fox said.

As darkness settled, the weather crews all drove south, turning east at Benjamin, still in pursuit of an extreme experience, an odd-looking tight caravan with antennae.

A few Benjamin residents parked vehicles under shelters, fearing hail and hoping for significant precipitation, watching the storm chasers head east like a fast-moving parade.

The rain fell heaviest in the southern part of Knox County

and in Haskell County. The National Weather Service reported 1.55 inches at Munday.

"The heaviest rain was probably just south of the county," an NWS spokesman in Norman said Tuesday.

Millers Creek Reservoir, source of municipal water for Munday, Knox City and other communities, didn't benefit significantly from the rain, not directly and not from runoff, as of Tuesday afternoon.

"It really didn't rain at the lake," said David Kuehler, general manager of the North Central Texas Municipal Water Authority, meaning that it didn't rain much — just .30 inch.

"The Texas Forest Service has a weather station at the water plant," Kuehler said.

See **RAIN**, Page 8

Scout projects spruce up downtown Munday

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The News-Courier

MUNDAY — Life Scouts Shannon Reeves and Trey Tidwell are on their way to becoming Eagle Scouts. It's Munday's gain. Both young men have taken on projects that enhance the look of the town.

Tidwell has painted and reconditioned flagpoles around town, and he conducted a special flag burning March 2 in the pocket park across from City Hall for the proper disposal of flags no longer fit for use.

Reeves concentrated on the installation of a yet-to-be-unveiled eagle sculpture plus landscaping and other enhancements at a small park at the east entrance to Munday. The area that will be dedicated to the late Charles Baker, Munday businessman who inspired Keep Munday Beautiful and contributed to projects to enhance Munday's aesthetic appeal, to wit, many of the bronze sculptures in Centennial Park.

How should a flag be prop-



Hanaba Munn Welch/The News-Courier

The sculpture of an eagle in flight and Life Scout Shannon Reeves both await ceremonies — Reeves to attain his Eagle Scout rank and the bronze eagle to shed its wrapping at the dedication of Charles Baker Park at the east entrance to Munday.

erly burned?

"Just as long as you show respect to the flag," Tidwell said.

At first, Tidwell planned only to conduct the flag re-

tirement ceremony; then he decided to include flagpoles in his project. He's proudest of the flagpole at Munday

See **SCOUTS**, 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.

Relay for Life

Honor and remember those who have fought or are fighting the brave battle against cancer with a luminaria from the American Cancer Society. Luminarias will be shining at the Relay for Life on April 26 in Haskell. Forms can be picked up at the Munday Tire & Appliance, or call Leann Harlan at 203-0142.

Track meets

The Munday Athletic Booster Club will host the Mogul Relays on April 4; field events begin at 3:45 p.m. and running events begin at 6 p.m. The junior high district meet will be April 8; field events at 3:30 p.m. and running events at 6 p.m. The high school area meet for Districts 9 and 10 will be April 18; field events at 11:30 a.m. and running finals begin at 4 p.m. Concessions include Freddie's hamburgers, turkey legs, sausage wraps, homemade burritos, french fries and soft-serve ice cream.

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.

Class reunion

Members of the classes of 1957, 1958, 1959 and 1960 will meet April 5-7 at the MCM Elegant 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

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
See **NOTES**, Page 8

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
Copyright 2013
Volume 36 No. 12
USPS 439-620



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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



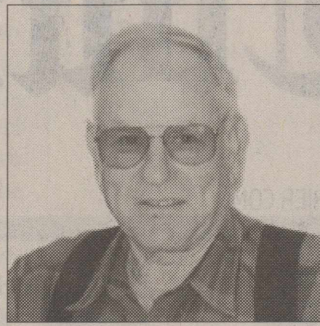
Deaths

Leon Watson

Aubry Leon Watson, lifelong resident of Knox City, passed away Tuesday evening, March 26, 2013, at the Knox County Hospital in Knox City. Mr. Watson was 77 years old.

Funeral services were Saturday at Foursquare Church with the Revs. Gary Schnable and Paul Chambers officiating. Burial was in Knox City Cemetery under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes.

One of three children, Leon was born Oct. 10, 1935, in Knox City to Chester Franklin and Allie Mae (Vickers) Watson. He married Norma Elloise Gresham in Munday on Nov. 1, 1959. The two chose to make Knox City their home where Leon was a faithful member of



LEON WATSON

Foursquare Church in Knox City and over many years served as secretary, treasurer as well as other duties where the church could benefit from his ministry. He also proudly served Knox City as a council member. In his leisure time, Leon enjoyed camping and fishing.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Chester and Allie Mae Watson; and his

brother, Archie Watson.

Leon will be dearly missed by his wife of 53 years, Elloise; daughter Kelly Hutchinson of Bartlesville, Okla.; son Craig Watson and wife, Christina, of Midland; grandchildren Krystal Hawkins and husband, Jack, of Bartlesville, Okla., Cameron Hutchinson and wife, Tasha, of Ponca City, Okla., Taylor Crisp and wife, Kimberly, of Midland, and Miranda Watson also of Midland; great-grandchildren Braden, Brecken, Bryce, Carter Marie, Jackson, and Evan; sister Chestene Thornburgh and husband, Bill, of Mesquite; and several nieces and nephews.

Online condolences and memories can be shared with the Watson family at smith-familyfh.com.

Deadline extended for Hispanic, women farmers and ranchers claims

Special to the News-Courier

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced the extension of the voluntary claims process for Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades. All claims must now be filed by May 1.

"Hispanic and women farmers who believe they have faced discriminatory practices in the past from the USDA have additional time to file a claim in order to have a chance to receive a cash payment or loan forgiveness," said Secretary Vilsack. "USDA urges potential claimants to contact the Claims Administrator for information and to file their claim packages on or

before May 1, 2013."

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied his or her application for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants may register for a claims package

(by calling the number or visiting the website) or may download the forms from the website. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to visit the website at any time or to contact the call center telephone number Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time.

Claim packages and other documentation may be mailed to Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Administrator, P.O. Box 4540, Portland, OR 97208-4540. Claim packages and other documentation may also be emailed to claims@hwfr.org. Claimants may also fax claims packages and other documentation to (855) 626-8343.

Home water-well testing - when was the last time?

By Jane Rowan

Special to the News-Courier

If you are a home or land owner with a water well or wells on your property that you use for drinking water either for humans or animals, when was the last time you had the water in your well checked?

Anyone interested in private water well management in the Seymour Aquifer is invited to attend the Texas Well Owner Network training scheduled for April 10 in Haskell. The day will help well owners become familiar with Texas groundwater resources, septic system maintenance, well maintenance and construction, water quality and water treatment.

The no-cost training will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 3:30 p.m. with a noon lunch break. It will be held at "Occasions," 600 S. First St. in Haskell. This program is being sponsored by Texas Well Owner Network and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension of Haskell County.

If it has been a while since you have had your water tested, you will be interested in knowing that private well owners may bring well-water samples to the training to be screened for nitrates, total dissolved solids, arsenic and bacteria. Well owners who would like to have their well water sampled can pick up sample bags from the Haskell County Extension Office, 101 S. Ave. D, Haskell, or the Knox,

Stonewall, or Throckmorton County Extension Offices.

Fill each bag, according to instructions, with a sample from the well, and bring the samples to the training on April 10. The analyses cost \$10 per sample for nitrate, total dissolved solids, arsenic and bacteria. Bringing water samples to the training is not required, 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.

Private well owners are independently responsible for monitoring the quality of their wells. They are responsible for ensuring their drinking water is safe, as well as for all aspects of the water system — testing, inspecting, maintaining — and this training will help private well owners to understand and care for their wells.

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

You may also contact the Haskell County Extension Office at 940-864-2658.

Jane Rowan is the family and consumer sciences agent for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Haskell County.

Knox County Aging Services Menus for April 8 - 12

Monday:
Chicken tenders with gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed veggies, fruit crisp.

Tuesday:
Spaghetti with meat sauce, Italian veggies, broccoli, garlic toast, Jell-O.

Wednesday:
Pork roast, sweet potatoes, succotash, whole-wheat roll, banana pudding.

Thursday:
Polish sausage, pinto beans, cornbread, peaches.

Friday:
Cheeseburger meal, potato wedges, tomato salad, melon medley.

Call-in orders must be placed by 10 a.m. and picked up after 11 a.m. Call 657-3618 for information.

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!

Seymour Chamber of Commerce Banquet

April 11, 2013

Guest speaker:
Wyman Meinzer
"The Evolution of a Photographer"

Seymour Knights of Columbus Hall
200 E Reiman
Time: 6:30 - 8:30pm
Advance Tickets: \$15

To purchase tickets contact: Carrie West or Brenda Burns @ Edward Jones 940-888-1032 or call the Chamber office at 940-889-2921.

Meal is prepared courtesy of Michael Rodriguez.

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News-Courier

HASKELL, TEXAS WILD HORSE PRAIRIE CAR SHOW

1st SATURDAY IN APRIL

CARS		TRUCKS
(A) Pre-1950	(D) Motorcycles	(G) Pre-1950
(B) 1951-1972	(E) Original	(H) 1951-1972
(C) 1973 & Up	(F) Customs	(I) 1973 & Up

APRIL 6, 2013 on COURTHOUSE SQUARE

ENTRY FEE \$20.00
REGISTER AT SOUTH EAST CORNER OF SQUARE FROM 8:00 TO 11:00
POKER RUN CRUISE THROUGH TOWN @ 2:00
AWARDS PRESENTED @ 3:00

Sponsored by the Betterment Association & Haskell Chamber of Commerce

For more information call:
Wes @ 940-256-1940 or Ben @ 940-864-4555

23rd Annual Baylor County Agriculture Appreciation Day

Tuesday, April 9, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Keynote speaker will be Nathan Haile, Agronomist, with NRCS in Weatherford, Texas. Nathan's topic will be "Soil Health"
- Noon meal will be provided free of charge.
- Musical entertainment will be provided during the meal by Edward and Debbie Hanks.
- A drawing for a free shotgun valued at \$500.00 will take place following the noon program, Must Be Present to Win.
- Approximately 75 Booths and Exhibits
- Free Admission
- Door Prizes Given All Day
- Free Parking

The Seymour Hospital Health Fair will once again be held and blood draws will begin at 7 a.m. with the opportunity to donate blood later in the morning and throughout the day.

Share Curiosity. Read Together.

www.read.gov

Benjamin News

By Gladene Green
The Knox County News-Courier

The day started out with a pretty "stiff" wind out of the north, and one wondered if Easter Sunday was going to be a pleasant one. But by afternoon, the wind had calmed, temps had risen to a pleasant level, and everything turned out to be very enjoyable.

The Sunrise Service had to be moved inside because at 7 a.m. it was pretty breezy. It was held at the Methodist church, and the Rev. Tom Carter brought the message and Tracy Cartwright led the singing. A fair crowd was on hand for the service and breakfast following, and everyone got home, dressed and made it to church on time.

After lunch it was off to the park where everyone enjoyed the annual egg hunt sponsored by the Benjamin Volunteer Fire Department. Kids had a blast hunting the eggs, (hoping to find a prize one), and adults visited. The highlight of the event for many of the kids was the ride from the firehall to the park on the fire truck. They always enjoy that.

The fire department does a great job organizing the annual event that brings pleasure to so many.

Regarding Our Ill

Imagean Young has been on the sick list for several days now. She has a number of bothersome things. Hopefully none too serious, but very uncomfortable. Right now, her main problem is the limited use she has of her arms, and the doctors think that could be caused from a pinched nerve in her neck. So, pending the outcome of further tests, she will probably have to have some treatment for that, as it doesn't seem to be correcting itself. She's been staying very close to home.

Sympathy Extended

My sincere sympathy to Roger Bohannon and his family today. Roger's brother, Sammy, passed away last week in Phoenix after several years' failing health. His funeral — graveside rites — will be at 10 a.m. Friday, April 5, at the Benjamin cemetery.

Also, sympathy to the family of Leon Watson of Knox City. Leon passed away Tuesday night at his home in Knox City. He, too, had been in failing health several years. His funeral was Saturday in Knox City.

Here 'n' There

Jessica Lamb of Seymour visited Deann Lamb and Imagean Young on Sunday.

Spending several days last week with his mom, Mary Young, were Jack Jr. and Cindy Young of Round Rock.

Randolph and Judy Barnett returned home Wednesday after being gone for several weeks to the Baytown area where he was working.

I saw Phil and Rebekah Boone and children of Wylie and Rachel Farris and little son of Wichita Falls at the park today. They were enjoying the egg hunt and visiting family, Dennis and Pam Duke, and other relatives and friends.

Keith Conner of Midland and Stephanie Brannon and children of Lubbock visited Bud Conner and Hazel Stockton on Saturday. Shelby Russell of Midwestern University also visited during the weekend.

Shannon Propps of Panhandle and Shaylee Propps of Graham visited family and friends in Benjamin during the weekend.

Brittney Kuehler of Wichita Falls visited her parents, Mark and Teresa, during the weekend.

Still more changes taking place in our "little village." Dillon and Ariel Benson have purchased a double-wide home and put it on the lots where his dad's home burned some time ago. (That's the two-story house where Debi and Mike Moorhouse lived). Wes and Erika Holmes have moved into Dillon Benson's mobile home, as the house they were living in has sold. It's the house in the west part of town owned by Jack and Judie Whitten. Ty Jones and his wife have purchased that house and will be moving into it.

My Easter guests were Diane Evans and Ashlee of Childress, Lexie, Katy and Blaze Taylor of Amarillo, Cody Taylor of Knox City, Beckie Smith and Nathan, Liz, Taylor, and Westin of Munday, and Mike and Debi Moorhouse and Dillon Keys of Benjamin.

Betty Tyles told me that she, along with other family members, had lunch with Mike and Tammy Lyles. Among the others who enjoyed the day were Stacy Antilly of Wingate, Cassie Wainscott, who lives near Temple, Jan and Fred Carver of Benjamin. I know there were others, but I didn't get the entire list. She did say they had a great time and wonderful meal.

Charles and Linda Griffith had their daughters and families, Lori and Rickey LaShomb of Lubbock, Amy and Vince Tyson, Kate and Abby of Clovis, N.M., and Kemp and Becky Jones, Blake, Brooke, and Kamryn of Benjamin.

I saw Ishmael, Sheila, and Tiffany De Los Santos of Vernon on Sunday. They were visiting her parents, Charles and Joy Jones, and also attended the egg hunt in the park. Sheila's son Chase Polvado was also here. He lives in Wichita Falls.

Don't forget the citywide clean up day here in Benjamin on April 13. If you have any big items to be disposed of, call City Hall and get your name on the list. A truck will be by to pick them up. Pot-luck lunch will follow in the park about noon.



Submitted photo
Brian Webb, True Value chairman of the board, owner A.C. Richardson, Jean Richardson, Lisa Milburn, general manager Carl Milburn, CEO Lyle Heidemann.

Haskell hardware store receives top honors

Special to the News-Courier

True Value Co. recently recognized 13 True Value hardware stores, selected from each of the co-op's retail regions, as winners of its sixth annual "Best Hardware Store in Town" international recognition.

Carl Milburn of Richardson's True Value in Haskell was one of the winning retailers honored at True Value's 2013 Spring & Rental Market in Atlanta.

Although Richardson's focus has altered its original emphasis on tractor supply when it opened as an International Harvester Truck and Tractor dealer in 1964, the store has always found a way to support the rural Haskell community, first adding a True Value Hardware in 1992, and a NAPA Auto Parts in 1995.

Milburn, who took over the store from owner and president A.C. Richardson in 2000, said he sees the award win as an indication that he and his team are on the right track.

Milburn gives his team members, many of whom have been with Richardson's for nearly 20 years, much of the credit for the store's success. The combined team has more than 98 years of experience.

"It's my staff, those people who are putting the stock on the shelf, keeping it arranged, greeting the customer and ringing the tickets — they're the backbone of the business," he said.

Customer service is a high priority at Richardson's, and one of the reasons why consumers regard the store so highly.

"The owner, A.C. Richardson, has given me the freedom to use his resources to create a store that's

become as great as it is," Milburn said. "Richardson's True Value is here to meet the needs for Haskell and the surrounding communities. We are focused on helping our customers get the product they want and need, which will help keep them shopping in our town. They depend on us to handle their hardware needs, and we go above and beyond to help them."

"We greet every customer when they enter the store, and personally assist them in finding what they need," he continued. "If we don't have a particular item, we'll find it elsewhere. It's this type of above-and-beyond service that keeps customers coming back."

In addition to helping their customers inside the store's four walls, Richardson's also has a history of giving back to the Haskell community in other ways. The store currently supports the Noah Project, area schools and youth groups, and many fundraisers with in the community.

"The community supports us," Milburn said. "If we're not supporting them in return, we're not working as a team."

Sponsored by True Value Company, the "Best Hardware Store in Town" program recognizes True Value retailers who exemplify successful retailing. Stores are self-nominated, or nominated by a peer or retail manager, and go through a series of selection processes until regional managers narrow down the top candidates. Mystery shoppers then visit each selected store to gain a customer's perspective. Stores are evaluated based on physical appearance, product selection, competitive pricing, promotional sales and customer assistance.

FSA announces CRP general signup

Special to the News-Courier

KNOX CITY — Knox County Farm Service Agency Executive Director Nancy Birkenfeld recently announced that FSA will conduct a four-week Conservation Reserve Program general sign-up beginning May 20 and ending June 14.

"It continues to be our goal to ensure that we use CRP to address our most critical resource issues," Birkenfeld said. "In 2012, Texas experienced the worst drought in 60 years. CRP protected environmentally sensitive lands from washing or blowing away. It gave ranchers extra grazing land when they needed it. I expect there will be strong competition to enroll or re-enroll acres into CRP, so I urge Knox County producers to maximize their environmental benefits and make sure their offers are cost-effective."

In addition to erosion control, CRP provides significant water quality benefits including reduced nutrients and sediment loadings and adverse consequences associated with floods as well as expanded and enhanced wildlife habitat.

Currently, about 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP nationwide; more than 3 million of these acres are enrolled in Texas. CRP is a voluntary pro-

gram available to agricultural producers to help them safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and enhance wildlife habitat. Contracts on an estimated 3.3 million acres of CRP nationwide are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2013, and more than 362,000 of those expiring acres are in Texas. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

Knox County currently has 6,976.9 acres enrolled in CRP and 1,821.8 of those acres are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2013.

Producers that are accepted in the sign-up can receive cost-share assistance for planting covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years). Producers also are encouraged to look into CRP's other enrollment opportunities offered on a continuous, non-competitive, sign-up basis. Continuous sign-ups often provide additional financial assistance. Those sign-up dates will be announced later.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit your local FSA office or fsa.usda.gov.

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Financial Focus

Help yourself reduce investment stress

By Carrie West

You probably aren't too worried about it, but April is Stress Awareness Month. Each year, the Health Resource Network sponsors this "month" to inform people about the dangers of stress and to share successful coping strategies. Obviously, it's important to reduce stress in all walks of life — including your investment activities. How can you cut down on the various stresses associated with investing?

Here are a few possible "stress-busters":

- Know your risk tolerance. If you're constantly worrying about the value of your investments, your portfolio may simply be too volatile for your individual risk tolerance. Conversely, if you're always feeling that your investments will never provide you with the growth you need to achieve your long-term goals, you might be investing too conservatively.

- Know what to expect from your investments. Uncertainty is often a leading cause of stress. So when you purchase investments that are mysterious to you, you shouldn't be surprised if they perform in ways that raise your stress levels. Never invest in something unless you fully

understand its characteristics and risk potential.

- Be prepared for market volatility. Over the long term, the financial markets have trended upward, though their past performance can't guarantee future results. Yet for periods of months, and even years, these same markets can sputter and decline. So when you invest, be aware of this volatility; if you're prepared for it, you won't be shocked when it happens, and you should be able to better keep stress at bay.

- Maintain realistic expectations. If you think your investments are going to earn a very high rate of return, year after year, you are more than likely going to be disappointed — and you could easily get "stressed out." You're much better off, from a stress standpoint, not to expect eye-popping results.

- Diversify your portfolio. If you were only to own one asset class, such as growth stocks, and that particular segment took a big hit during a market drop, your whole portfolio could suffer, and it could take years to recover — causing you no end of stress. But if you spread investment dollars among a range of vehicles — stocks, bonds,

government securities and so on — your portfolio has a better chance of weathering the ups and downs of the market. (Keep in mind, though, that while diversification may help you reduce the effects of volatility, it can't prevent losses or guarantee profits.)

- Think long term. If you only measure your investment success by short-term results, you can feel frustrated and stressed. But when you stop to consider your objectives, you may find that the most important ones, such as a comfortable retirement, are all long-term in nature. Consequently, it makes more sense to measure the progress you're making with your investments in periods of years, or even decades, rather than days or months. Instead of fretting over your monthly investment statements, compare where you are today versus where you were 10 or 15 years ago. The results may well surprise and help "de-stress" you.

Stress Awareness Month will come and go. But by making the right moves, you can help take some of the stress out of investing for a long time to come.

Carrie S. West is a financial adviser for the Edward Jones branch in Seymour.

Foreigners must report U.S. agricultural land holdings

Special to the News-Courier

Birkenfeld said.

KNOX CITY — Knox County USDA Farm Service Agency Executive Director Nancy Birkenfeld reminds foreign people with an interest in agricultural lands in the United States that they are required to report their holdings and any transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

"Any foreign person who acquires, transfers or holds any interest, other than a security interest, including leaseholds of 10 years or more, in agricultural land in the United States is required by law to report the transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the transaction," Birkenfeld said.

Foreign investors must file Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act reports with the FSA county office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located.

"Failure to file a report, filing a late report or filing an inaccurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land,"

For AFIDA purposes, agricultural land is defined as any land used for farming, ranching or timber production, if the tracts total 10 acres or more.

Disclosure reports are also required when there are changes in land use. For example, reports are required when land use changes from nonagricultural to agricultural or from agricultural to nonagricultural. Foreign investors must also file a report when there is a change in the status of ownership such as the owner changes from foreign to non-foreign, from non-foreign to foreign or from foreign to foreign.

Data gained from these disclosures is used to prepare an annual report to the President and Congress concerning the effect of such holdings upon family farms and rural communities in the United States.

For information regarding AFIDA and FSA programs, contact the Knox County FSA office at 940-658-3537 or visit the usda.gov.

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KC teams compete in Aspermont

Pre-k roundup slated for KCES



Photos by Shari Baty/For the News-Courier
Leighton Pepper competes in the varsity girls 100-meter hurdles.

The Knox County News-Courier

Prekindergarten roundup is slated for April 16-18 at Knox City Elementary.

All parents and students who will be 4 years old on or before Sept. 1 are encouraged to attend.

The children may come to school at 9:15 a.m., where they will join this year's prekindergarten class for the regular pre-k schedule. The children will participate in music and movement, hear a story and complete a project to take home. They will play on the playground before going to the lunchroom to eat.

Cost of the meal is \$2. Children will be dismissed from the pre-k room at noon.

Knox City Elementary is requesting parents pre-register their child for the 2013-14 school year. In order to do this, please bring your child's original Social Security card (not a copy), a current immunization record and birth certificate. Copies will be made of the enrollment documents and you will be given an enrollment packet to fill out for the 2013-2014 school year.

Please come by the Knox City Elementary office or call 657-3147 to make a reservation.



Ian Lagaway competes in the varsity boys 300-meter hurdles.



Chris Richardson competes in the varsity boys 200-meter run.

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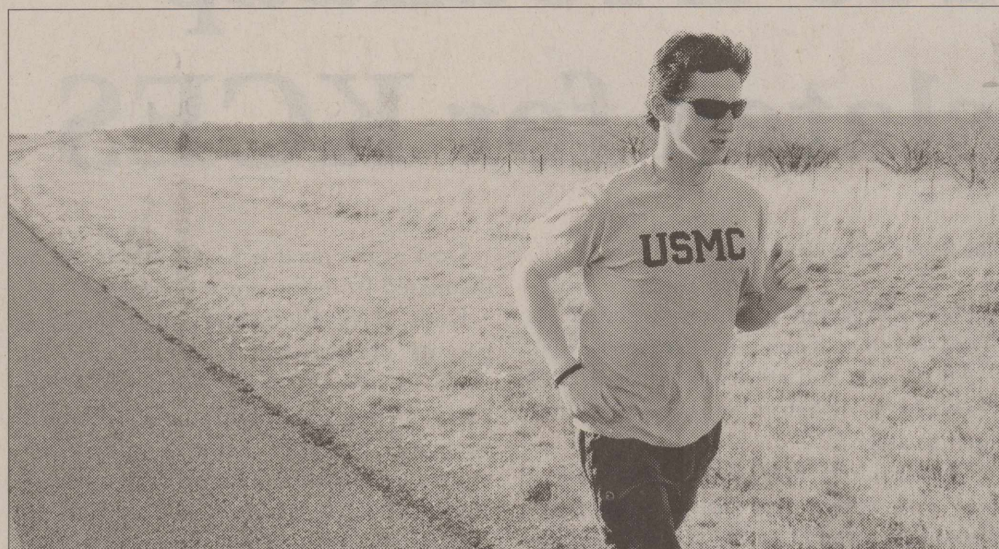
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Ex-Marine runs across America for fellow vets



Photos by Wayne Hodgin/The News-Courier

Brendan O'Toole of Alexandria, Va., runs down U.S. 380 East just west of Clairemont on Monday evening. O'Toole began his 3,600-mile journey Nov. 11, 2012, in Oceanside, Calif., and plans to run to Portland, Maine, to bring awareness to combat veteran issues with his Run For Veterans.



Joey and Timmy Dwyer, left, are part of Brendan O'Toole's support team as he makes a 3,600-mile, cross-country trek to raise awareness of veteran issues.

By Wayne Hodgin
The News-Courier

CLAIREMONT—Brendan O'Toole doesn't consider himself a runner, but the 24-year-old former Marine is about a third of the way through a 3,600-mile cross-country journey on foot to raise awareness for issues that face combat veterans and their families in a post-war society.

"This isn't about me. This is about the hundreds of former military men and women out there who don't know where to turn in crisis and the thousands upon thousands of their friends and family members who quietly suffer right there alongside them," O'Toole said Monday at a roadside park on U.S. 380 East outside Clairemont.

O'Toole and two of his hometown comrades — Joey and Timmy Dwyer — all of Alexandria, Va., set out on the cross-country journey from Oceanside, Calif., last Veterans Day — Nov. 11. Each day during The Run For Veterans, O'Toole runs 15

miles on this way to Portland, Maine, and in an effort to raise \$2 million for three nonprofit organizations whose missions are to provide support, whether mental, physical or emotional, to U.S. military veterans.

Last Saturday, the trio rolled through Post after O'Toole was waylaid in Brownfield for about 20 days with an ankle injury — one of at least two major setbacks, another of which includes a days-long layover near Phoenix after a recent blizzard.

"We've met some really pretty amazing people and had some lifetime experiences over the last five months," O'Toole said. "The support we've seen from those we've met along the way has just been absolutely incredible."

"We could have already completed the journey by now if I was to have run, you know, 45 miles a day or something. But limiting myself to 15 miles a day allows me to meet all these people and highlight the needs and issues facing our combat troops when they return back home."

O'Toole enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps right after his high school graduation and served two tours in various places, such as Haiti, the Horn of Africa and Afghanistan, before being honorably discharged as a sergeant in 2012.

"One of my duties was that I was in charge of helping many military men and women transition back into civilian life after they had left the service," O'Toole said. "I saw a tremendous need for their mental, emotional and physical support — needs that weren't being sufficiently met by Veterans Affairs."

Not only do these issues affect veterans, but they also affect their family members as well, O'Toole said.

"Since I've started this project, I have a woman who heard about the Run for Veterans contact me and tell me her husband — a former combat veteran — was seriously considering taking his own life," O'Toole said. "He was suffering from acute post-trau-

matic stress disorder. We put him in contact with the organizations we're helping to raise money for, and I just talked to him last week. He's doing much better."

O'Toole said the Run for Veterans isn't about the running as much as the awareness.

"Every day I'm on the road, we're helping to bring attention to a serious issue that's facing our combat veterans today," O'Toole said. "We're not only bringing awareness, but inspiring others to do the same — giving hope to a lot of families out there who've been torn apart by war."

The trio so far has raised \$60,000 en route to their \$2 million goal. The money raised will be split evenly between Give An Hour; Team Red, White & Blue and the USO — all nonprofit organizations whose missions are to assist veterans and their families.

While hoping to be running into Portland, Maine, sometime this fall, O'Toole right now is

making his way — 15 miles a day — down U.S. 380 East toward Dallas. He hopes to be in Haskell by Saturday.

"At each leg of our journey we meet more and more people and continue to spread hope to these veterans who are finding it hard to adjust to civilian life for whatever reason," O'Toole said. "Even if we help just one person out there, this whole thing will be worth it to me."

The Run For Veterans
On Nov. 11, 2012, USMC veteran Sgt. Brendan O'Toole, along with a small support staff, set out on a 3,600-mile run across the United States in honor of the selfless men and women who have served in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Run for Veterans' goal is to raise \$2 million to support U.S. Armed Forces veterans, combat veterans, disabled veterans and their families. Averaging 15 miles a day, The Run for Veterans will take Sgt. O'Toole

through cities and towns across America: from Oceanside, Calif., through Washington, D.C., to Portland, Maine. The Run for Veterans will engage local communities, collaborate with existing organizations, and work with local veteran non-profit groups to connect civilian and military personnel. The Run for Veterans invites any and all warriors, veterans and civilians to run alongside Sgt. O'Toole throughout the route, as a show of support for our servicemen and women.

On the Web
The Run For Veterans:
therunforveterans.org.
Give An Hour: giveanhour.org.
Team Red, White & Blue:
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United Service Organizations:
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CHRIS BLACKBURN

Sometimes we butt heads, but we respect each other and realize that we care immensely for what we are doing and how we are doing it.

Sharon is by the book. She's very analytical. I'm a visionary. While we're both strong leaders, our methods are different and complimentary most of the time.

I thank God she is part of my life even if I do spend half of the day in the doghouse.

I watched "The Bible" series on the History Channel over the past several weeks.

I thought the show brought some good imagery to the book.

I'm a little impressed by the fact that they made and aired this production on a major network. Good for them. I wonder if they heard from what seems to be a growing number of skeptics and non-believers.

As a Christian, it's pretty amazing to me how Jesus handled himself throughout his adult life. How blessed we are.

As I sat there and watched the series, I'd ask myself what I would have thought of Jesus had I been there to witness his power and message. In other words, had I witnessed Christ feeding the 5,000 or healing a leper, would that have made me a believer for good? Common sense says I would have

believed in him and been right by his side. However, even some of his own disciples weren't totally sold upon witnessing his miracles and walking with him daily. Perhaps that is a testament of why Jesus had to be murdered in such a cruel way. His victory over death - after his body was beaten so severely - gives me chills just thinking about it.

Each day when I get to work I have it in my head that, "Today, I will be like Jesus in thought, word, and deed."

Each day I fail ... most of the time by noon.

Each evening when I reflect on the day passed, I'm disappointed in myself and thankful Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for this sorry human. Without Jesus, my afterlife would be bleak.

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

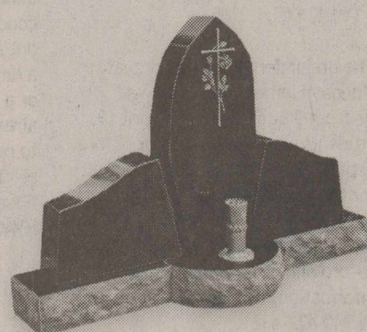
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Disaster assistance available to Knox producers

Special to the News-Courier

TEMPLE—USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist Salvador Salinas has announced that \$1.6 million in disaster assistance is available to help with recovery after the historic droughts and wildfires that plagued much of the state in recent years.

Funds are being made available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

"Many parts of Texas were affected by historic drought and wildfires over the last two years," Salinas said. "Loss of vegetation not only affects production, livestock and wildlife; it also makes the land vulnerable to erosion by wind and water."

Disaster assistance will enable landowners and livestock producers to accelerate the re-

covery of the health and vigor of the affected grazing and forestland, Salinas said.

In order to apply, landowners must visit the local NRCS office to fill out an application. Applications will be ranked and those approved for funding will be offered an EQIP contract.

Producers in 35 counties in Texas are eligible for the sign-up. Those counties are: Bailey, Baylor, Bee, Brooks, Dallam, Duval, Edwards, Fisher, Hartley, Haskell, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Jones, Kenedy, Kinney, Kleburg, Knox, Lamb, Maverick, Nueces, Parmer, San Patricio, Schleicher, Shackelford, Starr, Stone Wall, Sutton, Throckmorton, Val Verde, Wichita, Wilbarger, Willacy, Young, Zapata.

A priority will be placed on land affected by wildfires with

an emphasis on conservation practices that will help restore plant health and condition, prevent soil erosion, and address soil quality and water quality.

On grazing land, practices such as grazing deferment, cross fencing, reseeding and water development are effective post-fire strategies to help reduce erosion and re-establish wildlife.

NRCS services and programs are voluntary and offered without a fee to all agricultural producers. NRCS helps landowners and land managers protect and improve the natural resources on their property, including soil, water, air, plants, and animals.

For further assistance in evaluating your land and planning practices, or to address concerns following a wildfire, contact your local NRCS or Soil and Water Conservation District.

KNOX COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR COLLECTOR

P.O. BOX 47
BENJAMIN, TEXAS 79505
Phone: (940) 459-2411
Fax: (940) 459-2004
knoxcad@yahoo.com

UPDATED PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE FOR TEXAS TAXPAYERS

New and updated property tax information has just been compiled by **Knox County Appraisal District** and is available now to assist taxpayers. This property tax information is current and covers a wide range of topics, such as taxpayer remedies, exemptions, appraisals and is of value to select groups, such as disabled veterans and persons who are 65 years of age or older.

"Whether you are a homeowner, business owner, disabled veteran or a taxpayer, it's important you know your rights concerning the property tax laws." **Mitzi Welch, Chief Appraiser of the Knox County Appraisal District.** "You can contact us about any property tax issues with full confidence that we will provide you the most complete, accurate and up-to-date available information to assist you."

This includes information about the following programs.

- **Property Tax Exemptions for Disabled Veterans** - The law provides partial exemptions for any property owned by veterans who are disabled, spouses and survivors of deceased disabled veterans and spouses and survivors of military personnel who died on active duty. The amount of exemption is determined according to percentage of service-connected disability. The law also provides a 100% exemption for 100% disabled veterans and their surviving spouses, beginning in 2009.
- **Property Tax Exemptions** - Non-profit organizations that meet statutory requirements may seek property tax exemptions and must apply to their county appraisal district by a specific date. Businesses that receive tax abatements granted by taxing units, firms that ship inventory out of Texas, and businesses that acquire pollution control property may also be eligible for statutory exemptions.
- **Rendering Taxable Property** - If a business owns tangible personal property that is used to produce income, the business must file a rendition with its local county appraisal district by a specified date. Personal property includes inventory and equipment used by a business. Owners do not have to render exempt property such as church property or an agriculture producer's equipment used for farming.
- **Appraisal Notices** - If a taxpayer's property value increased in the last year, the Texas taxpayer will receive a notice of appraised value from the appropriate local county appraisal district. The city, county, school districts and other local taxing units will use the appraisal district's value to set property taxes for the coming year.
- **Property Taxpayer Remedies** - This Comptroller publication explains in detail how to protest a property appraisal, what issues the county appraisal review board (ARB) can consider and what to expect during a protest hearing. The publication also discusses the option of taking a taxpayer's case to district court or entering into binding arbitration if the taxpayer is dissatisfied with the outcome of the ARB hearing.
- **Homestead Exemptions** - A homestead is generally defined as the home and land used as the owner's principal residence on Jan. 1 of the tax year. A homestead exemption reduces the appraised value of the home and, as a result, lowers property taxes. Applications are submitted to the appropriate local county appraisal district.
- **Productivity Appraisal** - Property owners who use land for timberland production, agricultural purposes, and wildlife management can be granted property tax relief on their land. They may apply to their local county appraisal district for an agricultural appraisal which may result in a lower appraisal of the land based on how much the taxpayer produces, versus what the land would sell for in the open market.
- **Property Tax Deferral for Persons Age 65 or Older and Disabled Homeowners** - Texans who are 65 years of age or older, or who are disabled as defined by law, may postpone paying current and delinquent property taxes on their homes by signing a tax deferral affidavit. Once the affidavit is on file, taxes are deferred, but not cancelled, as long as the owner continues to own and live in the home. Interest continues to accrue on unpaid taxes at 8 percent per year. You may obtain a deferral affidavit at the appraisal district.
- **Notice of Availability of Electronic Communication** - Chief appraisers of a county appraisal districts and appraisal review boards may communicate electronically through email or other media with property owners or their designated representatives. Written agreements are required for notices and other documents to be delivered electronically in place of mailing.
- **Protesting Property Appraisal Values** - Property owners who disagree with the appraisal district's appraisal of their property for local taxes or for any other action that adversely affects them may protest their property value to the appraisal district's appraisal review board.

For more information about these programs, Mitzi Welch Knox County Appraisal District at P.O. Box 47 Benjamin, Texas 79505 phone: (940) 459-3891. More information is also available from the state Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division website at HYPERLINK "http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/"www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/ or contact the Texas Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division at (800) 252-9121 and press "2" to access the menu, and then press "1".

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/GEMM, 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 protestant 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

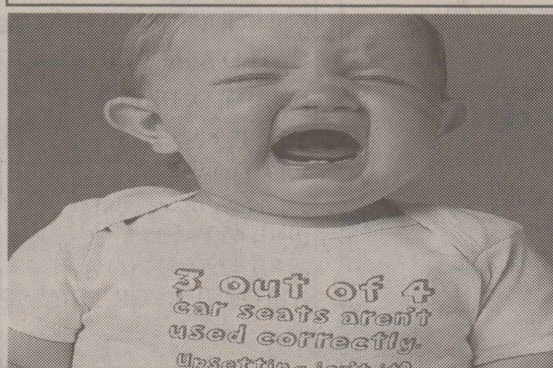
Lease Lines : 1205.0 F SW L, 1803.0 F SE L
Survey Lines : 1205.0 F SW L, 1803.0 F SE L

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.



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NOTES

From Page 1

940-889-2947. More information on the drive can be found at marrow.org.

Pre-k roundup

The prekindergarten roundup at Munday Elementary School will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 19. Students who will be 4 on or before Sept. 1, 2013, are eligible to enroll for the next academic year. Parents must provide child's birth certificate, Social Security card, immunization record and proof of residency. For information, call Munday Elementary at 940-422-4321.

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.

Relay for Life

The Knox Prairie Ranch Rodeo, sHonor and remember those who have fought or are fighting the brave battle against cancer with a luminaria from the American Cancer Society. Luminarias will be shining at the Relay for Life on April 26 in Haskell. Forms can be picked up at the Munday Tire & Appliance, or call Leann Harlan at 203-0142.

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.

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.

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

GUARDIANS

From Page 1

fective or not, to guard against coyotes and other varmints.

Originally there were more donkeys, but Richardson managed to reduce the wheat pasture herd to one, leaving the remaining donkey lonely at first for the departed companions.

"Now she thinks she's a llama, I guess," he said.

The llamas are gentle and seem to mix well with the steers grazing in the same field, Richardson said.

"I've threatened to shoot them a couple of times," Richardson said, referring to the llamas.

But his wife, Christy, and other members of the family — granddaughter Taylor and son Clayton, in particular — wouldn't be happy with him, he said.

For lack of a better solution,

the llamas will stay in place for now, sticking their long necks up above the steers, gazing with big eyes at anything out of the ordinary and tolerating the donkey.

For lack of individual names, donkey included, they'll remain the "donkey llamas."

ARNETT

From Page 1

risprudence at Texas Tech University in 1971, eventually serving as district attorney in Nolan County and ending his career in private practice in Aspermont.

George Arnett described his father as a man who succeeded despite difficulties — not only the hard times of the Great Depression but also polio, a disease that struck him in his childhood.

"He lived his whole life crippled by polio," Arnett said.

His death came after he suffered a stroke, his son said.

He is also survived by his wife, Evelyn, a daughter, Elizabeth Oates, grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

RAIN

From Page 1

North of Weinert, .80 inch was recorded, Kuehler said.

Kuehler said Tuesday he expected the runoff water to be relatively insignificant by the time it reaches the reservoir — a process that naturally lags behind any rainstorm.

"I think we will catch some, but it's going to be minimal," Kuehler said. "Any day that it doesn't go down is a good thing."

The rain will likely postpone introducing stricter conservation measures by a month, Kuehler said.

"Next month we will probably have to go to Stage 3," he said, referring to the next strictest level of the corporation's water conservation plan. When the corporation moves into Stage 3, member cities will automatically move into Stage 4.

Such decisions are made when the board of the water corporation meets in regular session.

Meetings are at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the corporation headquarters in Munday, just west of City Hall. The meetings are open to the public.

SCOUTS

From Page 1

City Hall, where he not only served as district attorney in Nolan County and ending his career in private practice in Aspermont.

"Eye appeal" is the main reason to keep a pole painted, Tidwell said. But the paint also keeps the pole from rusting and deteriorating, he said.

To reach the poles, Tidwell borrowed a truck with a bucket from Lynn Electric.

Reeves worked on several aspects of Baker Park, including concrete (dyed and scored to resemble brick) and electrical connections at the site.

Why the park?

"They want you to do something that's going to make a difference," Reeves said, referring to the requirements for Eagle projects. "Something substantial."

Besides, Reeves knew Charles Baker. Like other Munday residents, he talks about him as if he were still alive.

"I've known him all my life," he said. "When I was with my dad, we'd go over to his office. He really helped out a lot. He was always willing to please, trying to make Munday a better place."

It's fitting that the sculpture at the park is an eagle, recognizable despite its plastic wrapping. For Reeves, it's a symbol of the rank he and Tidwell are about to achieve. More important, Baker collected eagles.

The unveiling of the sculpture will happen when the park is dedicated. The date is yet to be announced.

Both Reeves and Tidwell attend Munday High School. Reeves is a senior; Tidwell, a junior.

The 501 Smart phone smarts off

My cell phone normally doesn't talk to me. Some smart phones have smart women locked inside. They're like the sirens



HANABA MUNN WELCH

along the Rhine and elsewhere except they're supposed to give good information. My phone doesn't have one. Imagine my surprise when I heard my phone suddenly say, "Actually, no." It was like baby's first word but not what I expected to hear. What did I expect? "Mama?" I don't know. I just know I didn't expect "Actually, no."

I didn't think too much about that first out-of-the-blue utterance. Things happen. Sometimes you never know why. They happen more often after grandchildren have been in close proximity to the electronic device at issue. But I'd not seen either one of the little techno savants for the past few days.

"Actually, no," the voice said a few minutes later, the tone firm but dispassionate.

A worst-case scenario ran through my mind:

I take my phone to church (my Bible's on it) and the phone woman interrupts the sermon with the only two words she seems to know. "Actually, no." That won't do.

Even worse would be a funeral. "And now we know ... is in Heaven," the preacher might say. And my phone would say "Actually, no."

Then I heard it again, loud and clear, very audible via the external speaker I use with my iPhone to keep from having to buy a hearing aid. Without the speaker I would not have

heard my phone talking to me and surely wouldn't have understood the words "Actually, no."

Then it dawned on me. My phone wasn't doing the talking; the speaker was. And it wasn't saying "Actually, no." It was saying "Battery low."

Smart phone, smart speaker. Dumb me.

I plugged the speaker into the charger before it could say "Battery dead."

Then I mused. Did my phone perhaps have an internal siren somehow just waiting for me to loose her tongue?

iPHONE RESEARCH PAUSE.

Nope. I've got "Voice Control" but no mysterious invisible woman with long hair to converse with me to tell me if there's a pizza restaurant nearby or dangerous rocks ahead in the river. For that I'll need to upgrade or update the software. Something like that.

Should I? I've barely mastered Voice Control, which also has a woman's voice. After five attempts, she dialed the time and temperature number for me. Next I tried to call the president of the United States. "No match found," said Voice Control.

I tried again, and the phone called "803-9286." Oops! I felt like I'd dialed 9-1-1 with no emergency. What would I say? "Umm, sorry to call so late, Mr. President. I forgot you were in a different time zone. I was just wondering, should I upgrade my cell phone?"

He didn't answer. Whew! Curious, I Googled the number.

Among other results, 803-9286 supposedly belongs to someone named Nixon in Massachusetts. No kidding.

Voice Control may not be a full-fledged siren, but she's getting there. She's got a wicked sense of humor. Hanaba Munn Welch is a columnist and correspondent for the Knox County News-Courier.

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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of LOUISE KEMLETZ were issued on March 19, 2013, in Cause No. 2566, pending in the County Court of Knox County, Texas, to:

J. PRESTON INGRAM and MARK H. INGRAM.

The addresses of the Independent Co-Executors are:
J. PRESTON INGRAM MARK H. INGRAM
 115 Dog Run 2600 Creekside Court
 Burnet, TX 78611 Highland Village, TX 75077

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

DATED April 1, 2013.
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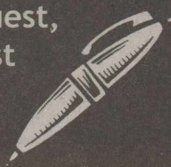
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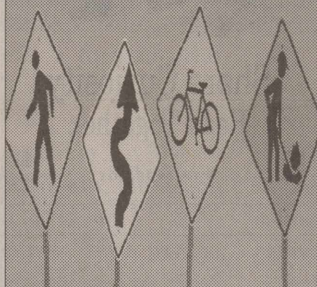
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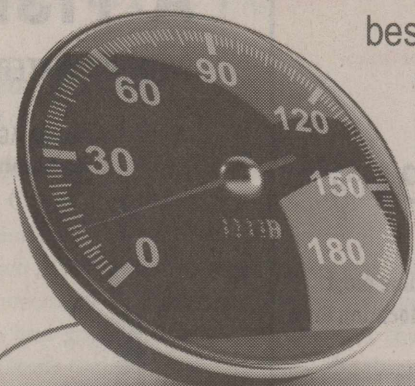
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Cemetery Series

Truscott Cemetery boasts WOW factor

By Hanaba Munn Welch
The Knox County News-Courier

In the world of cemeteries, call it the WOW factor — the rustic markers that look like logs and stand like sentinels among the graves.

Any child making his or her initial visit to a cemetery is certain to be impressed by the big upright logs, noticeable for their size and also because they contrast with other motifs — namely, crosses, angels, lambs and doves.

But it doesn't take a child's mind to be impressed by the tall markers that bear the symbol of the Woodmen of the World, a fraternal order with insurance plans that paid for the markers from the late 1800s until about 1930.

In fact, comparing one Woodmen of the World marker to another is a fascinating endeavor that intrigues many an adult. At first glance, they look alike. On closer examination, they don't. And that's not to mention the variations on the upright log theme — things like piles of small cut logs or a small log added to a marker.

The Internet provides a forum for the exchange of information about Woodmen markers and seems to prove that the WOW factor is still very much in effect. One blogger even warns that looking for the tree stones can be

addictive.

In Knox County, the markers are much in evidence. Of particular interest are two such markers in the Truscott Cemetery. They stand near each other, providing a basis for comparison. Even though the designs are similar, variations are noticeable. Apparently, the stonecutter followed the dictates of the prescribed Woodmen design, taking artistic license to change the design a little from one marker to the next. Or different designers executed the designs. Either way, they two markers honor two men with the same last name: Ilseng.

Alfred C. Ilseng lived from 1887 to 1913. Charlie C. Ilseng was his contemporary, born in 1890 to die in 1912.

The Truscott Cemetery has several graves that are older, and many of the markers are remarkable in their design. Some carry the symbols of other fraternal orders. The two WOW markers standing like neighboring trees in a forest are just one element of interest among many in the quiet cemetery along State Highway 6. Of special interest are two informational granite markers not far from the entrance that explain the history and geography of the area, the Land Between the Wichitas. A third marker lists graves at nearby China Lake, including one from 1876.



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier

Almost identical, two Woodmen of the World markers at the Truscott Cemetery stand next to each other, albeit leaning at slightly different tilts. Differences in the designs are subtle, as if the markers were carved by two different craftsmen even though they come from the same time period and bear the same family name — Ilseng.



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier

The delicately carved marker of Ida Belle Myers, who died in 1894 at the age of 17, carries an excerpt from John Greenleaf Whittier's poem "Gone," written in 1845 about the loss of a child. "The light of her young life went down as sinks behind the hill the glory of a setting star — clear, suddenly and still." Other verses of the same poem comprise a hymn with music by George F. Root.



Hanaba Munn Welch/The News-Courier

Spencer Basoco of Norman, Okla., looks through his camera Monday afternoon as severe weather threatens Knox County from the west. Basoco was one of several storm chasers lined up along State Highway 6 to observe and photograph the lightning-laced system. As the storm moved east, the chasers drove south to Benjamin and then east on State Highway 180, pursuing the system for the sake of excitement, knowledge and pictures.

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GET YOUR BEARS ON

American pride



Hanaba Munn Welch/The News-Courier

Trey Tidwell wears a Scout sash loaded with merit badges. Behind him, the American flag at Munday City Hall flies in a strong breeze late Monday afternoon, perfectly secured to a pole painted by Tidwell as part of his project to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. Tidwell

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Clyde, TX (325) 893-5884	Munday, TX (940) 422-4522
Haskell, TX (940) 864-8555	Stamford, TX (325) 773-2122

Mid-Cities - Bedford, TX
(817) 553-2500

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Equal Housing LENDER MEMBER FDIC

Come Together & Vision!

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

"I FEEL LIKE A FISH WITH NO WATER."

-JACOB, AGE 5 DESCRIBING ASTHMA

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