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# THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2013

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

## Countywide collections up a whopping 100 percent

By Wayne Hodgins  
The Knox County News-Courier

Collective sales tax collections for Knox County's four municipalities were up by nearly 100 percent in March compared to March 2012, according to information recently released by the state comptroller's office.

The biggest increase came from Knox City, which saw a near 153 percent increase in its sales tax revenues for the month compared to March 2012. Compared to February numbers, the city's sales tax revenue has increased about 166 percent. Year-to-year collections are up nearly 48 percent.

Knox City Manager Sam Watson ...

The city of Goree once again had a sizeable increase at about 92 percent. Total collections for Goree in March were \$2,519 compared to \$1,311 the same period last year. Compared to February collections, however, revenue was only up 0.2 percent. Year-to-year collections are

See REVENUE, Page 2

## Knox City Elections Kent DeVille

By Hanaba Munn Welch  
The Knox County News-Courier

Kent DeVille is running for mayor of Knox City.

It's his first run at any public office, but not the first time he's thought about it.

"I've toyed with the notion in my mind through the years," he said. "A few people in town had asked me if I would consider running."

The encouragement made a difference, and DeVille got his name on the ballot — to "step up and do my civic duty," he said.

If he has a plan, it's to consider carefully where the city's resources can best be utilized for the good of the community.

"See where we can do the expansion, see where we can do the investment in the community," he said. "See



Hanaba Munn Welch/The News-Courier

**Taking advantage of a school holiday Monday to prepare for his science classes at Knox City High School, Knox City mayoral candidate Kent DeVille sits at his desk in his laboratory-classroom. His shirt reads "peace, love, donate" — not a political statement but a blood drive slogan.**

See DEVILLE, Page 2

## Steve Pepper

By Hanaba Munn Welch  
The Knox County News-Courier

Steve Pepper is running for mayor of Knox City.

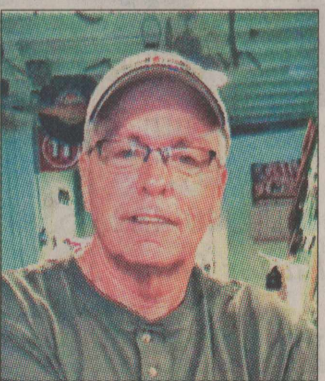
If he has a priority, it's water.

"The city already owns several water wells that have been used in years past and have had zero attention over the past ten years," he said. "I have a plan in mind that will revive those wells and get those wells in operation so they will be available to the city when and if necessary."

The condition of city streets is another concern.

"I want to try to develop a plan to do upkeep of our city streets, to go back to repairing and

See PEPPER, Page 2



Hanaba Munn Welch/The News-Courier

**Steve Pepper takes a break at mid-day Monday at Pepper's, a downtown Knox City restaurant and gift store run by his wife, Kay Pepper. A candidate for mayor, Pepper manages several local businesses. He's retired from a career in oil field services.**

## LOCAL SALES TAX ALLOCATIONS

Local sales tax allocations for the month of February 2013 compared with the same month last year.

City	Rate	Net Payment This Period 2013 Payments to Date	Comparable Pmt, Prior Yr 2012 Payments to Date	% Change
Benjamin	1.500%	819.71	546.52	49.98%
		4,420.65	4,523.42	-2.27%
Goree	2.000%	1,311.46	2,519.18	-47.94%
		5,290.04	7,285.64	-27.39%
Knox City	2.000%	54,992.95	21,778.80	152.50%
		126,786.77	85,830.57	47.71%
Munday	2.000%	12,908.27	10,678.02	20.88%
		57,616.68	52,430.43	9.89%

Source: Texas State Comptroller's office

## Knox Prairie Ranch Rodeo



Wayne Hodgins/The Knox County News-Courier

**Ranch hands with the Spires Ranch of Snyder participate in the wild cow milking event Saturday evening during the sixth annual Knox Prairie Rodeo at the Munday Rodeo Arena. The event is hosted each year by the Munday Volunteer Fire Department as one of its top fundraisers. Participating ranches this year also included the Pitchfork, Clark and Thompson ranches.**

## Snowbirds enjoy winters in Goree

By Hanaba Munn Welch  
The Knox County News-Courier

Duluth in the summer, and Goree in the winter. It's the perfect life for snowbirds Jim and Gail Paulus.

Why Goree? It's a question the couple hears a lot.

Gail Paulus's answer is always the same: "Why not?"

There's more to the story.

Things started 11 years ago when the house they now own in Goree was acquired by friends of the Pauluses in Minnesota who had family ties to the Goree area.

"They were going to come down in the wintertime," Gail Paulus said. "She didn't really care for it. When he passed away (before the couple had a chance to occupy the house), she decided to spend the winter with her sister in California instead. It stood empty seven years."

Then another relative and a friend, Ellis Viner and Leroy Hanson, decided they might like to buy the house, Gail Paulus said. After driving 1,300 miles, the two guys took just an hour and a half to decide to turn around and head back to Minnesota.

"Viner heard the chickens two doors down and said, 'I'm not a morning person,'" Gail Paulus said.

And that was that.

Next, Jim Paulus decided to check out the property.



Hanaba Munn Welch/The Knox County News-Courier

**The cactus in the flowerbed of Jim and Gail Paulus is from a cutting they first acquired in Minnesota, where the plant is exotic but doesn't thrive. In Goree, the cactus has fared very well and bloomed for the first time**

"Jim's daughter lived in Denton," Gail Paulus said. "He was going to come down and see her anyway."

For three days Jim Paulus slept on the floor and explored Goree and the nearby Millers Creek Reservoir. When he made it back to Duluth and told Gail Paulus about Goree, she insisted on seeing the place for herself.

"I'd no more hit the pillow than she said, 'We gotta go,'" he said.

Within three days, the two were in Goree. Gail Paulus was intrigued with the whole package.

First she met Tammie Trainham, who was in the process

See SNOWBIRDS, Page 2

## 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.

### 5K run

The first War Paint 5K run will be May 4 on the square in downtown Haskell. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m., and the race will begin at 8:30 a.m. Registration costs \$25 for adults and \$15 for children ages 3 to 12. Family rate is \$50 and includes two adults and two children. Register online at active.com. For information, email haskellelementarypto@gmail.com. All proceeds benefit the Haskell Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization.

### Pet clinic

The Haskell County Alzheimer's Support Group meets the fourth Monday of the month at the Haskell County Extension Office, 101 S. Ave. D, in Haskell. The next meeting will be at 3 p.m. Monday. Caregivers, family members and friends of individuals with Alzheimer's or a related dementia are encouraged to attend. Contact Jane Rowan for information at 940-864-2546.

### Class reunion

The Munday High School Class of 1963 will have a 50th reunion May 25 at the New Grand Hotel in Wichita Falls. For information, contact Rick Couch at warlord161@verizon.net (972-571-5899) or James Earp at jamesjamesearp@cs.com (940-368-2475).

### 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.

### 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

### Alzheimer's support

The Haskell County Alzheimer's Support Group meets at 3 p.m. the fourth Monday of the month at the Haskell County Extension Office, 101 S. Ave. D, in Haskell. Caregivers, family members and friends of individuals with Alzheimer's or a related dementia are encouraged to attend. Contact Jane Rowan for information at 940-864-2546

## Corrections

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

## News on the go



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**REVENUE**  
From Page 1

down a little more than 27 percent.

The city of Benjamin collected about 50 percent more sales tax money than it did last year at \$820 compared to \$547 in March 2012. Compared to February, sales tax receipts were down about 8 percent. Year-to-year numbers are down a little more than 2 percent.

The city of Munday saw the least percentage increase of all four municipalities at about 21 percent. Munday collected \$12,908 compared to \$10,678 in March 2012. Compared to February, collections were up about 5 percent from \$12,324. Year-to-year numbers are up nearly 10 percent.

Comparing year-to-year allocations, the combined sales tax collections for all four municipalities are up a little more than 29 percent over 2012 al-

locations. Payments to date in 2013 are \$194,115 compared to \$150,070 in 2012.

Statewide, total sales tax collections for March were \$1.98 billion, up 5.5 percent compared to March 2012.

"Sales tax revenue growth was seen in both the business and consumer sectors of the economy," Comptroller Susan Combs said. "Collections grew in sectors such as manufacturing and retail trade. Sales tax revenue has now increased for 36 consecutive months."

Local sales tax allocations totaling \$521.9 million will be sent out this month to cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts — an increase of about 6.8 percent compared to last year, according to the comptroller's office.

On the web

For details of local sales tax allocations, visit the state comptroller's website at [window.state.tx.us](http://window.state.tx.us).

**SNOWBIRDS**  
From Page 1

of scraping the paint from the windows of the old corner bank building downtown, where she and her husband were beginning the process of restoring the key building.

"She showed me around — what they were planning on doing," Gail Paulus said. "Then I met Caroline (Garcia, city secretary), and I just fell in love with both of them."

Gail Paulus liked the house too, bad carpet aside.

"All it needed was just painting," she said.

Her mind was made up.

Jim Paulus wasn't so sure. He gave the house a pounding with a three-pound sledgehammer, checking all the joists and rafters for any dead sounds that might indicate termite damage.

"They all rang nice and true," he

said.

He bought the house.

Life in Goree suits the couple.

"I belong to the church, the Baptist Church," Gail Paulus said. "I love the people, our neighbors. There's no gangs here in Goree. You can leave stuff out."

Jim Paulus is less keen on church.

"I just go for the music," he said.

But he's just as happy as his wife with day-to-day life and no television, something available only to cable subscribers.

"We read a lot," Gail Paulus said.

"We don't have cable. I have a really good antenna, and it doesn't work at all. We take naps. We sleep late if we want to."

The couple uses three libraries — Seymour for browsing and Haskell and Munday for checking out books. The Munday library is also their place of choice for connecting to the Internet via library computers.

"Munday is so close," he said. "You

**DEVILLE**  
From Page 1

for the people in the community and do what's best for the people."

Originally from Lubbock, DeVille teaches science at Knox City High School. Early in his teaching career he also coached. He and his wife have two daughters, both in high school. He's taught both at Knox City and Rule.

"Knox City is now my home — 20 years

the investment in the community," he said. "See what's best

maintaining them."

Pepper also wants the city

to provide a

place to serve

**PEPPER**  
From Page 1

as a storm shelter.

"We've got lots and lots of temporary residents in Knox City," he said. "Some of the concerns that I've heard, where do we go when there's a storm?"

Pepper has been in Knox City since 1976. He's a native of Wichita Falls. He and his wife, Kay, have a son and a daughter and six

this August," he said. "I fell in love with the charm of the small town and the people."

Much of his contact with people has been through teaching and coaching.

"I've coached or taught most people's kids," he said.

He's short on promises but knows what he'd like to see happen in Knox City — growth.

"The one that gets it, I just hope it's the one who will do the best job," DeVille said. "Whatever is best for Knox City is what I hope, whether it's him or me."

grandchildren.

He's served two terms on the school board and he's finishing his second term on the city council. He's on the board of the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation.

Pepper believes his years of experience in business and management will be valuable to him if elected mayor. Retired from the oil field service business, he still oversees various local business ventures, including a guest house, ice houses and an RV park. His wife operates the restaurant and gift shop, Pepper's.

If Pepper is not elected, he's will support his opponent, he said.

no more than get on the highway, you see Munday's water tower."

In one sense, Goree is more about what the Pauluses miss about Minnesota than what the town offers.

"I hate putting on long underwear," Jim Paulus said. "Boots I don't mind."

Anyone who thinks it gets cold in the winter in Goree hasn't experienced winter in Duluth, they would say.

"Baby, this isn't cold," Gail Paulus said. "You don't know what cold is."

Both Jim and Gail Paulus have Minnesota snow tunnel stories. Jim Paulus remembers a couple of years in his youth spent on 14 acres in the country.

"There were times we had a tunnel from the house to the barn," he said.

Gail Paulus remembers spending her first nine years on a farm where the tunnel through the snow was to the outhouse.

If Jim Paulus could change any-

thing about Goree, he'd like better water.

"The other day I was so thirsty for a good drink of water," he said.

He dreams about buying a firetruck and bringing artesian water from Minnesota to Goree.

He'd also like to see the level of Millers Creek Reservoir come up.

"The docks are sitting up in mid-air," he said.

But soon he and Gail Paulus will be back in the Land of Lakes, getting their Minnesota fix and enjoying what they would miss about Texas if ever they'd spent the summer in the scorching heat of a place like Goree.

In fact, they'll be back in Duluth by Saturday to watch a granddaughter skate in a figure skating competition.

"Grandpa and Grandma got to be there for that," Jim Paulus said.

Just seeing the expanse of ice, even in a rink, may be enough to remind them why their other home is in Goree, Texas.

**Cities' officials explain siren sounds**

By Hanaba Munn Welch  
The Knox County News-Courier

Storm warning sirens are a familiar sound in towns like Knox City, a place where some people still remember the unannounced killer tornado that hit the town 60 years ago.

Severe weather warning systems are more sophisticated now, but the weather still remains unpredictable.

Sirens went off recently in Knox City, prompting some residents to ask exactly what they should expect when they hear the loud droning sounds.

Bill Stewart, emergency management coordinator for the city and a captain in the volunteer fire department, said that the sirens don't always mean someone has spotted a tornado.

"We blow the sirens if there's severe weather in the area," he said. "If we blow it, it's because we've already run into hail or we've seen some se-

vere weather they (residents) need to be aware of."

Hail often precedes a tornado.

When storm-warning sirens sound, people should pay attention to the weather, making their own decisions about going to the cellar, Stewart said.

"We don't predict the weather," he said.

A siren test can be expected at 5 p.m. every Friday in Knox City if the weather is clear, Stewart said. The tests will ensure the equipment is working properly and shouldn't be taken as a cause for alarm — unless, of course, the weather looks threatening. In that case, even a 5 p.m. Friday siren should be taken as a warning signal.

In Munday, City Manager Rick Ake said the workings of the Munday warning systems — not exactly like Knox City.

"We have a fire siren and a tornado

siren," he said. "People know the difference."

The tornado siren makes a longer, more continuous sound than the fire siren, he said.

"Possible bad weather, I've never set it off for that," Ake said, referring to the tornado siren.

Instead, when the siren sounds it means a tornado has been spotted.

Sirens are located both at Munday City Hall and at the city yard south of the school.

In short, the sound of a storm warning siren in Knox City is reason to pay attention to the weather and understand that severe weather is in the area — not necessarily a tornado but hail, high winds and conditions that could spawn a tornado.

In Munday, the sound of the tornado siren means a tornado has been spotted — hence the name "tornado" siren.



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# Idle American Life was simpler then

Keene, Texas, isn't today — nor was it ever — Mayberry, RFD. With a few decades peeled back, however, history suggests there were some parallels. Keene "town characters" also wound up in unlikely "fixes" of their own making.

I'm talking about the kind Andy and Barney faced in weekly TV episodes where the duo usually showed up as "eventual responders."



DON NEWBURY

Earlier arrival might have made a good plot bad. Arriving late — as they often did — allowed them to tie ribbons on cases that had already solved themselves.

One such Keene figure who invested most of her adult life teaching English at KHS was Lilah Beth Hopps Creel. If local citizenry could vote on sainthood, she'd win on the first ballot.

She was beloved, an institution unto herself. Widowed at midlife and with no children of her own, she claimed students as hers, too. Her name, even today, is mentioned in hushed tones that drip in reverence.

All this being true, the fact remains she operated a motor vehicle several years past her prime. Everyone in town recognized her car, and in her twilight years, let her have whichever lane she chose, even on two-lane roads.

Perhaps the best-remembered "Lilah Beth" story involved her, a visitor at the nursing home and the Keene

Police Department, circa 1990. That day, a "stolen car" and a "found car" puzzle was solved in warp speed.

"I parked there first," Lilah Beth might have maintained. When she returned to her "honker" of a car — a maroon, 1984 Buick Park Avenue — it was hemmed in by other visitors' vehicles, one of which was a Toyota.

It is important to mention the much smaller vehicle was parked behind Lilah Beth's Buick behemoth.

Always unflappable, the diminutive school marm maneuvered forward and back repeatedly, finally lurching forward for the quarter-mile trip home.

She pattered down Old Betsy Road, taking a right turn onto Fourth Street to her home.

What she didn't realize is that during one of her back-ups, her rear bumper engaged with the Toyota's front bumper.

Dennis Laursen, who operated a garage/service station at Old Betsy and Fourth for four decades, dropped a tool when he watched Lilah Beth — Toyota in tow — make the turn.

He wasn't sure she was the driver — no one ever was, since she was only five feet tall and peered out through the steering wheel.

To complete her homeward trip, she crossed a dip in front of her property. The bumpers disengaged, and the Toyota somehow rolled to a stop in the driveway before the Buick came alongside.

When she spotted the Toyota, Lilah Beth assumed she had a visitor. She "helloed" the place and got no response. So, she called the police about the extra car in her driveway.

A few minutes earlier, the owner of

the Toyota had contacted the police to report a stolen car.

Things were righted in a few minutes; no charges were filed.

A few years earlier, when narrow-laned "Old Betsy" was being widened, a young flagman alerted motorists of caliche being dumped. Alas, Mrs. Creel didn't see the flagman. She forged on, almost hitting him as she brushed by.

Seconds later, she drove up, over and down one of the caliche piles. Soon, the foreman was giving the young flagman "what for." The boss wasn't buying the youngster's claim that someone had ignored the warning, taken on a pile of caliche and driven on.

A few minutes later, Lilah Beth came back down "Old Betsy." The boss saw enough caliche dripping from the car's grill to fill pavement holes in the road of the Johnson County community.

Old-timers with memories run back to the '50s confirm these accounts.

More important, though, were the many ways she instructed and befriended students, and made her hometown proud. She is remembered for unwavering commitment to teaching, hoping, caring, giving, nurturing and praying.

And if there's ever a ballot for sainthood in Keene, look for her name at or near the top. She was an institution, this grand educator who logged some 90 years of living — driving (herding?) cars most of the way. (I wouldn't have had the courage to take the car keys from her, either.)

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

# 6666 Supply House gets new edition

By Chris Blackburn  
The News-Courier

GUTHRIE — For the first time since opening in the late 1800's the 6666 Supply House, built by Captain Samuel "Burk" Burnett, is getting an edition.

According to store manager Brenda Jones, the Supply House is gaining a storage room. The work is being done by Childress Construction, Inc.

For over a century, the Supply House has served Four Sixes employees with a variety of everyday items and some considered hard-to-get. It even served as a bank for ranch employees and those from nearby ranches.

"We've been here since the 1800s and we're still here," Jones said adding the edition should be complete within the next couple of months.

Jones encourages anyone and everyone to stop by the next time they're passing through Guthrie.

"Come visit ... we've got lots of stuff to look at and a lot of history," said Jones.

Captain Burnett maintained his office in the

Supply House his while at the ranch and even slept in the back room.

Today, the the Four Sixes Supply House operates as a general store and hardware store, serving the ranch as well as the general public.

Visitors can purchase many 6666 souvenirs along with snacks and supplies. The original cash register, safe and early account books are still kept there.

It was in the Four Sixes Supply House that Captain Burnett maintained his office while at the ranch, and, in fact, usually slept there in a back room. Today, the facility operates as a general store and hardware store, serving the ranch as well as the general public. Visitors can purchase many different 6666 souvenirs, from coffee mugs to jackets to books, along with snacks and supplies, and also can order directly through the 6666 Ranch website. The original cash register, safe and early account books are still kept there.

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# New Masked Rider takes reins during transfer

By Leslie Cranford  
Special to the Courier

Texas Tech University's new Masked Rider Corey Waggoner accepted the reins to newly named horse Fearless Champion on April 19, becoming the 52nd student to don the mascot mask and cape.

Waggoner is a junior animal science major from Lubbock. Born and raised in the Hub City, he has always been a Red Raider fan.

In the coming year he will promote spirit and goodwill for Texas Tech at athletic events and other school and civic appearances throughout Texas, while spreading his love of horses, passion for riding and enthusiasm for the university.

"I look forward to representing Texas Tech as a friendly face to the public and spreading school spirit," Waggoner said. "I have pictures of me as a little kid dressed in red and black on a jet-black horse from one of my riding club's parade appearances."

The son of Travis and Annette Waggoner, he attended New Deal High School and graduated from South Plains College in 2011 with an associate degree in science be-

fore transferring to Texas Tech. He already has been a member of the Masked Rider family, as he volunteered on the 2011 and 2012 Masked Rider field safety teams.

"During this time, I realized how special the Masked Rider is to Texas Tech and the community," Waggoner said. "I will strive to embody what the Masked Rider stands for: character, high moral standards, perseverance, loyalty and respect."

Waggoner started competing at playdays in barrels, poles, and other events in lead line when he was 2 and was riding horses on his own by the time he was 4.

As he got older, he rode and carried a flag in many stock show parades and rodeo grand entries with his riding club, including the Fort Worth Stock Show Parade, San Angelo Stock Show parade, and in countless other large and small communities throughout Texas.

At 12 he began training colts for other people until he was old enough to work.

Every year since 1993 when he was 2 years old and won his first high-point buckle, Waggoner has earned many honors and awards. He received

high-point champion in 2001 at the American Association of Sheriff Poses & Riding Club Horse Show Finals for judged events (halter, horsemanship, showmanship, trail, western pleasure and reining), high-point champion for speed events, and also received his first saddle for all around champion.

Competing in AASP&RC playdays, Waggoner has been club and district champion in his age group every year he competed. In 1995 he began competing at the AASP&RC State Playday Finals, receiving high-point awards every year. After 17 years of competing at the AASP&RC Playday Finals, he finally won high-point speed event champion in 2012.

He started competing in various high-point speed event saddle shows in 2001 at the Morgan Mill Shootout. In 2005 he started competing at the National Association of Riding Clubs and Sheriff Poses Playday Finals where he won the high point champion saddle in 2007, 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Waggoner is a member of the American Quarter Horse Association, the American Paint Horse Association, the Ameri-



Texas Tech University  
Corey Waggoner of Lubbock has been named the 52nd Masked Rider at Texas Tech University. Waggoner is shown with the university's newest mascot, Fearless Champion.

can Association of Sheriff Poses & Riding Club, the National Association of Riding Clubs and Sheriff Poses, Better Barrel Races, and a former member of the National Barrel Horse Association.

"The Texas Tech Masked Rider is more than just a mascot; it is one of the most recognizable public symbols of Texas Tech University," Waggoner said. "It is a prestigious position, which only a select group of students have the privilege to fill."

As the next Masked Rider, the public will not see me as an individual, but as the Texas Tech Masked Rider, a symbol of everything great about the university."

Ashley Wenzel, the 2012-2013 Masked Rider, traveled more than 10,000 miles making more than 100 appearances at athletic events, rodeos and other functions.

Wenzel has two favorite memories, one being her very first run, which was at the 2012 Transfer of Reins baseball game.

"It was the first time I got to experience Mid-night Matador's love for his job," Wenzel said. "Feeling his heart beating through the saddle was very intense! My second favorite memory was running at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Being from the Houston area, I grew up going to the HLSR as a kid and through high school. It was always a dream of mine to ride in the Reliant Stadium arena. Never did I think that I would get that opportunity."

# Tech names new Masked Rider horse

By Leslie Cranford  
Special to the Courier

When Texas Tech University completed the purchase of Hollywood at Dusk or "Woody" from a ranch in Tulia in mid-January, the quest was on for the perfect mascot moniker.

A naming contest was launched and the winner was chosen in early March.

The wait for the unveiling of the horse's mascot name ended April 19 with the announcement of "Fearless Champion" as the winning stage name for new-Masked Rider

Corey Waggoner's new horse.

The name was announced at the annual Transfer of Reins ceremony held at the McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center.

Fearless Champion is a black, 8-year-old Quarter Horse gelding, about 15 hands tall and about

1,100 pounds.

He was the horse ridden by Masked Rider Ashley Wenzel at the Meineke Car Care Bowl on Dec. 28.

The winner of the naming contest is Dr. Corey J. Haggard, an anesthesiologist who graduated from the Texas Tech University

Health Sciences Center in 1989.

Although 23 people submitted the same name, Haggard's was the earliest time-stamped email, per contest rules.

For his winning submission, Haggard received Texas Tech football 2013 season tickets.

The contest netted 1,364 emails submitted, with more than 2,500 name suggestions.

The chosen name was voted on and approved by the Masked Rider Committee on March 5.

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### Junior High Track



Shown above is the Munday eighth-grade boys track team.



Shown above is the Munday seventh-grade boys track team.



Shown above is the Munday junior high girls track team.

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# The 501 Clutter Takes a Vacation

Clutter sells. Anybody with a new twist on how to get rid of it has two choices — write a magazine article or a book.

Nothing sells supermarket magazines like cover blurbs that say “Deal with Clutter!” or “Organize Your Life!”

Books on clutter are a tougher sell. Potential buyers aren't stuck in checkout lines. And who looks for a book on organizational skills or good housekeeping? If it takes a book to explain everything, well, that's just too hard. Give me magazine-size solutions any day.

If I'm wrong or a little off, that's my job. End of intro.

Except I could add that nobody ever really comes up with new ideas on clutter. They just recycle.

Me, I have a really new idea. Look for it later on magazine covers. Here it is:

You take a clutter-centric vacation. Leave spouse, children and grandchildren at home. Take clutter instead. Go anywhere.

As we speak, clutter surrounds me. I brought it from home. Soon I'll be sorting and categorizing everything into stacks and piles. I'll label them. I bought the labels and a fresh pen en route. You get the picture.

Or maybe you don't. Maybe you think I'm in a motel room somewhere. Not a bad idea. Motel rooms generally have nice clear surfaces that can be cluttered. That's what I like about motels. You start with a blank slate. Fellow clutterers, you know what I mean. No one appreciates a blank

slate like a clutterer. We have none of our own.

But I'm ensconced instead in a little RV. “Ensnoced” is the operative word. In a little RV, you're always ensconced. There's no room to wander. The 17 linear feet were already somewhat cluttered before I tossed in extra stuff. Now the compact abode is supremely cluttered. To wit, what to do with that egg crate-style foam that's rolled up and stuffed in a Walmart sack at the foot of the bed? It was already there before I added other stuff. Shall I unroll it and put it to use? The bed needs more padding.

Nothing gets rid of clutter like actually using it for its intended purpose. On rare occasions, it happens. Very rare.

**EGG CRATE MATTRESS PAUSE.**

The joke's on me. That piece of foam turned out to be a remnant 12 inches wide. Not everybody would save something like that. You know who you are. I stuffed it into a crack at the foot of the bed. The adaptive reuse of clutter gets a chapter. Yep, I'm already thinking book instead of magazine article. It's hard for a clutterer to compress anything, ideas included. At least it's hard for me.

Now what to do with the real egg crate, better said carton? Are those eggs still good?

Yep, I brought edible clutter too, including some Sierra Madre (inside joke) chocolate cake and dubious fruit. My husband would toss it all. He's not here.

His loss. I'm going to have another piece of that cake right now. Book research.

**Hanaba Munn Welch is a contributor and columnist for The Knox County News-Courier.**



HANABA MUNN WELCH

# Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

Here it is the last week of April, and we still have not had very much spring. It's still pretty cool early, and although we have had some pretty warm days, we still have had unusually cool ones for this time of year. Guess we'll go from winter to summer.

News on our ill is encouraging today. Betty Lyles is doing real well following a light stroke recently. Her son Mike told me today she may be home this week. She's in a rehab facility in Wichita Falls, and her therapy is going great. He said she was walking and doing just like she's supposed to be doing, and if that continues, he thinks she will probably be home soon.

Jan Carver's surgery went well, and if all goes well for her, she is to be back in Knox City tomorrow (Monday). She will be hospitalized there for a while before coming home. They think it may be quite a while before she's able to put any weight on her leg, but in time, she should be ok. Also, Fred's Mom, Dorothy, is continuing her therapy in Fort Worth following a stroke a while back. Maybe it won't be long before she can return to her home in Knox City.

**Here and there**

The cemetery workday on Saturday went well. Several were out and worked a good while getting some extra work done — picking up limbs, trimming trees, digging up unwanted plants, and doing other things that needed to be done.

Keith and Pam Conner and grandson, Carson of Midland and Charlotte Coker of Rule visited Hazel Stockton and Bud Conner on Saturday. Keith is doing much better since his hip surgery. He has gotten rid of his cane and even played golf one day last week, so he is definitely better.

Cathy Tomlinson and daughters, Penny of Denton, and Diane Cope of Ponder, and her sister, Betty Parker of Aspermont, were here for a few days last week, helping their mom and grandmother, Gloria West, go through a lot of her household things. They said they got quite a bit done but still have a lot to do before she moves.

Michele and Jimmy Barrientez and family attended the Bob Wills weekend in

Turkey this past weekend. This is an annual event, and I understand is always well attended.

Charles Griffith attended a County Judges and Commissioners meeting in Midland last week.

The last few weeks of school is “winding down,” and teachers, students and parents are eagerly waiting for the last bell of the season to ring. May will go pretty fast, and for our three seniors, a whole new world will open up.

News is scarce this week. Be sure to call me if something of interest happens in your life!

**Gladene Green is the long-time Benjamin correspondent for the Knox County News-Courier.**

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## The scolding

Boy, can people be mean. I'm thinking particularly of a reader named Samantha, whose scolding of me turned into a scolding.

By the time she was finished with her vicious tirade, I was skinned, boiled and overcooked. It didn't make me mad, though. It didn't hurt my feelings. It made me sad. Real sad.

She wrote to point out a factual error I had made in a column about the King James Bible when I said it was the first English translation. I was wrong, and I apologize for my misinformation. It was not the first English translation.

The column, though, was not about that, it was about the commonality of phrases we use today that comes from the King James Bible and the beauty of the language.

It mainly was a whimsical piece, entertaining more than anything. It was not a scholarly piece. Most of my columns aren't.

Oh, but did she get riled up. She wrote two pages and the longer she wrote, the meaner she got. One of the kinder things she said was, “I pray that people will stop worshipping a translation and start worshipping God.”

A few sentences later, she continued, “God didn't send his son to die for the English-speaking people. He sent his son to die for all people of all tongues.”

I understand. But I can't read Korean or Italian, so I have to read the English versions. I certainly wasn't espousing the King James Bible to be the final word

in international biblical translation. I even own a NIV and NLT and a couple of others, but I prefer King James.

But here's what makes me sad: This is how a “Christian” acts? Maybe it's just me, but it certainly didn't seem to be good public relations for Christianity. If I weren't rooted deeply in the ancient principles and teachings of the Bible, if I didn't already have that commitment in my life, I wouldn't want any part of a religion where someone talks to another person like that over a mistake. A biblical mistake.

It made me think long and hard about the smart mouth I have sometimes. But my problem tends to come in one or two sentence tart comebacks or a tone that can be somewhat sharp. I don't do mean, lengthy, condescending sermons. And I especially would not do it when rep-

resenting myself as a person of faith.

Here's the trouble with some Christians (I said “some,” not “all”) is they believe the authority of the word of God gives them the authority to annihilate those who do not share their exact same beliefs. Wrong.

The Word of God commissions those who believe to go forth with love and kindness to friends and enemies alike.

It tells us to stand brave for what we believe, but “be ye kind one to another.” We can disagree civilly.

As you might expect, the majority of my friends and family are people of faith and like-minded values.

But two of the best friends I have in the world are not Christians, yet they are two of the finest people I have ever met. I love and admire both greatly.

Both are men of integrity, ethics, moral uprightness,

compassion and kindness. One, particularly, has given away millions of dollars to help those less fortunate, and he has never turned his back on anyone in need.

Once a man, who had double-crossed him in a business deal, was in financial dire straits. My friend, the non-Christian, called up and asked, “How much do you need? I'll send you a check today.”

Back to Samantha. I responded briefly to her to say what I said above. And you know what? She proved she truly is a Christian. She humbled herself and asked sincerely for forgiveness of her unkindness.

Now, if the rest of us could just practice the same thing.

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

### Public Notice

Notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact

The USDA, Rural Utilities Service has received an application for financial assistance from the Knox County Rural Water Supply Corporation. 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.

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act and agency regulations, the Rural Utilities Service has prepared an Environmental Assessment of the proposal that assessed the potential environmental effects of the proposal and the effect that the proposal may have on historic properties. The Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment was published on March 21, 2013 for a 30-day public comment period. There were no written comments submitted regarding the proposed project during the 30-day period. Upon consideration of the applicant's proposal, federal and state environmental regulatory and natural resource agencies, the state historic preservation officer, Native American tribes, and public input the agency has determined that the proposal will not have a significant effect on the human environment for which an Environment Impact Statement will not be prepared. The basis of this determination is summarized by the lack of potential adverse impacts to the environment from the proposed project.

In order to avoid or minimize any adverse environmental impacts, the Rural Utilities Service will require the applicant to incorporate the following mitigation measures into the proposal's design. The applicant must return disturbed land to preconstruction conditions, an archeological survey must be performed prior to any ground disturbance, notifications to the RUS and SHPO should be made if cultural material is discovered, the project must avoid impacts to the Texas Horned Lizard, and crossings along the Brazos River shall be bored.

Copies of the Environmental Assessment can be reviewed or obtained at the USDA Rural Development office located at 4400 Buffalo Gap Road, Suite 4150, Abilene, Texas 79606 (ph. 325-690-6162). For further information contact John Powell of Rural Development at: (325) 690-6162 ext. 4. 050913c



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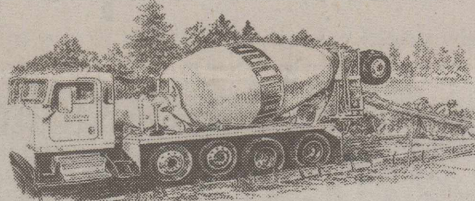
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The band Glass Alley practices Sunday night for a performance Friday in Altus, Okla. From left are Jerry Coplen, Joe Nelson, Parris Pittman, J. B. Averitt, Kent Smith and Chris Garza.

## Glass Alley Musicians favor different genres

By Hanaba Munn Welch  
The Knox County News-Courier

One of the hottest bands around practices in one of the coolest places — Munday's old ice house.

The sounds of Glass Alley bounced off the thick brick walls Sunday night as the band practiced for a performance Friday night in downtown Altus, Okla. Glass Alley and three other bands will play at Altus's Rock-N-Rumble car show and cruise starting at 6 p.m. at the courthouse square.

Glass Alley is an eclectic mix of musicians who put their own twist on Southern Rock and Country. If the sound is distinctive, credit the unlikely range in

musical tastes of the performers.

"At home, I listen to mostly classical music and opera," said J.B. Averitt, keyboard artist from Munday.

Singer Parris Pittman, who lives in Haskell but has Oklahoma connections, likes Red Dirt music — a rambunctious genre with Oklahoma roots.

"I grew up listening to rock 'n' roll," said Kevin Smith, Munday funeral director.

When he's not playing lead guitar with Glass Alley, he's part of the praise and worship band at Believers Chapel just west of Munday. Smith likes the term "Western funk" for the music Glass Alley cre-

ates. Chris Garza, drummer from Knox City, has a predilection for heavy metal sounds.

"We all have different ideas about music," said Joe Nelson, Glass Alley's rhythm guitarist.

Nelson, originally from Munday, lives in Abilene. He's also sings with the group.

"We haven't quite defined the sound yet," Nelson said.

Playing bass Sunday night was Jerry Coplen, newest member of the band. Coplen lives in Knox City.

"We all have ties to Munday or Knox County," Nelson said.

Jay Haynie, manager of

Lawrence Bros. supermarket in Munday, is Glass Alley's sound man and chief promoter.

"I'm not musically inclined, but I've always wanted to be a part of music, and this is something I can do," Haynie said.

Wherever Glass Alley fits on the musical spectrum, Haynie believes the group brings worthwhile notoriety to Munday and Knox County.

When Glass Alley plays at home, the band is a draw. When the musicians go out of town, they're musical ambassadors.

When they practice at the ice house on a Sunday night, it's a free concert, fans welcome.

## House passes voter assistance bill

By Ed Sterling  
For the Dispatch

AUSTIN — Legislation to amend the state elections law as to how much a person may assist others in voting was passed by the House on April 26

Committee Substitute House Bill 148, authored by Rep. Cindy Burkett, R-Mesquite, received a final

vote of 93-48, but not before lengthy and contentious debate on the House floor a day earlier.

Opponents of the bill, who were rebuffed in multiple attempts to amend the bill, warned that its passage likely would result in a federal court challenge under Section 5 of the U.S. Voting Rights Act of 1965, a part of the law that affects states showing a pattern of discriminatory behavior in election-related practices.

An official state analysis of CSHB 148, in short, asserts: "In certain localities, individuals receive compensation for harvesting mail-in ballots or for going door to door collecting eligible ballots and posting them on behalf of voters. Such individuals are compensated on a per-ballot basis. There currently is no limit on the number of times a person may act as a courier for mail-in ballots in a given election, and concerned parties contend that some mail-in ballot harvesters provide unlawful assistance or unlawful witness to voters and may even electioneer in the presence of an active ballot."

The bill would create misdemeanor offense for a person convicted of compensating an individual for assisting 10 or more voters in prohibited ways, and for engaging in other specific and prohibited voting-related actions.

### Travis DA sentenced

Travis County District Attorney Rosemary Lehmborg was arrested for drunk driving on April 12 and is serving a 45-day sentence in the Travis County Jail.

Lehmborg's duties include heading the Public Integrity Unit, a statewide office that handles ethics complaints against elected

officials.

On March 8, HB 3575 by Rep. Pat Fallon, R-Frisco, was filed, proposing to move the Public Integrity Unit out of Travis County's offices and into the Office of the Attorney General. The bill is scheduled for a House committee hearing on May 1.

### Texas joins EPA challenge

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott and attorneys general from 11 other states have filed a petition asking the U.S. Supreme Court to review the Obama Administration's enforcement of environmental regulations under the Clean Air Act.

Petitioners claim the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency "ignored Congress' lawmaking role by rewriting federal laws through administrative rulemaking," Abbott's office stated in an April 22 news release.

Abbott said the EPA's greenhouse gas regulations "were unlawfully created out of whole cloth and are a massive burden on states and businesses."

### Timothy Cole bill passes

HB 166 by Rep. Ruth Jones McClendon, D-San Antonio, was approved by the House on April 24.

The legislation would establish the Timothy Cole Exoneration Review Commission to review and investigate cases in which an innocent person was convicted and then exonerated or released on writ of habeas corpus.

The nine-member commission would review practices and procedures leading up to wrongful convictions and seek ways to minimize erroneous outcomes. The commission would not consider sentencing issues such as the death penalty and would not intervene in any

pending cases, McClendon said.

The bill honors the memory of Timothy Cole, a Texan who in 1999 died in prison, having served 13 years of a 25-year rape sentence before the legal system was satisfied that another individual had committed the crime. Cole received a posthumous pardon from Gov. Perry in 2010.

### Presidential center opens

The George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum was formally opened and dedicated at its location on the Southern Methodist University campus in Dallas on April 25.

The 207,000-square-foot complex will serve as the archive for more than 70 million pages of documents and 80 terabytes of electronic records, in addition to collections of photographs, memorabilia and educational materials.

George W. Bush, 43rd president of the United States, served from 2001 to 2009, and served as governor of Texas from 1995 to 2000.

### West continues rebound

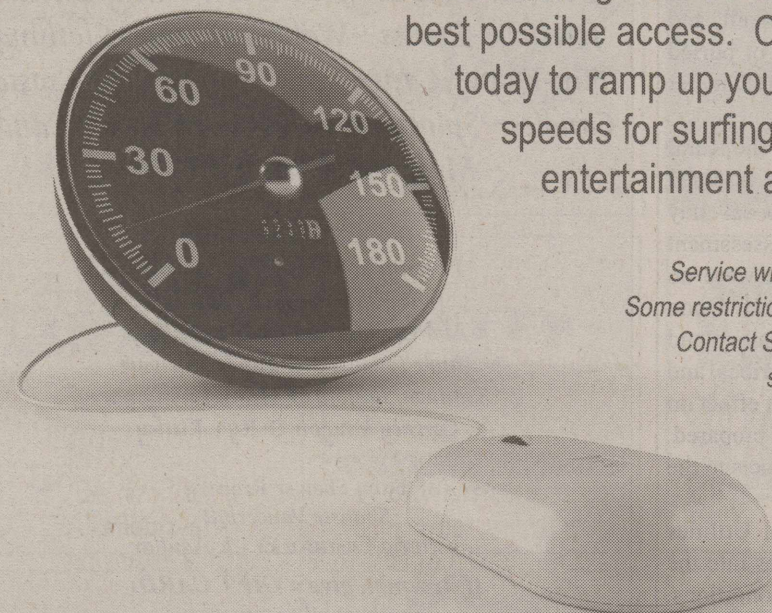
Relief assistance of all kinds poured into the city of West last week.

West has been in a state of disaster emergency since April 17, when a massive explosion at a fertilizer plant tore through the town, killing 14 people and injuring as many as 200 others.

A memorial service for those lost and injured in the explosion was held at Baylor University in Waco on April 25. President Barack Obama spoke, honoring those who rushed to assist and giving solemn regard to "the wounded, the heartbroken, the families who lost their homes and possessions in an instant."

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## Oil and gas statistics Texas accounts for half of active U.S. rigs

Special to the Dispatch

AUSTIN — The Texas average rig count as of April 19 was 835, representing about 50 percent of all active land rigs in the United States. In the last 12 months, total Texas reported production was 565 million barrels of oil and 7.3 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

The Railroad Commission's estimated final production for February 2013 is 50,757,801 barrels of crude oil and 462,106,302 MCF (thousand cubic feet) of gas well gas.

The Commission derives final production numbers by multiplying the preliminary February 2013 production totals of 43,692,693 barrels of crude oil and 405,463,106 MCF of gas well gas by a production adjustment factor of 1.1617 for crude oil and 1.1397 for gas well gas. (These production totals do not include casinghead gas or condensate.)

Texas natural gas storage reported to the Commission for March was 284,989,462 Mcf compared to 381,523,773 Mcf in March 2012. The April 2013 gas storage estimate is 286,702,776 Mcf.

The Texas Railroad Commission's Oil and Gas Division set initial May 2013 natural gas production allowances for prorated fields in the state to meet market demand of 8,316,435 MCF (thousand cubic feet). In setting the initial May 2013 allowances, the Commission used historical production figures from previous months, producers' demand forecasts for the coming month, and adjusted the figures based on well capability. These initial allowances will be adjusted after actual production for May 2013 is reported.

### TEXAS MONTHLY OIL AND GAS STATISTICS MARCH PERMITS TO DRILL

The Commission issued a total of 2,053 original drilling permits in March 2013 compared to 2,201 in March 2012. The March total included 1,856 permits to drill new oil and gas wells, 29 to re-enter existing well bores, and 168 for re-completions. Permits issued in March 2013 included 844 oil, 103 gas, 1,039 oil and gas, 50 injection, two service and 15 other permits.

### FEBRUARY CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION

Texas preliminary February 2013 crude oil production averaged 1,560,453 barrels daily, up from the 1,137,122 barrels daily average of February 2012.

The preliminary Texas

crude oil production figure for February 2013 is 43,692,693 barrels, up from 32,976,545 barrels reported during February 2012.

### MARCH OIL AND GAS COMPLETIONS

In March 2013, operators reported 1,391 oil, 574 gas, 61 injection and four other completions compared to 943 oil, 421 gas, 99 injection and five other completions in March 2012.

Total well completions for 2013 year to date are 4,955 up from 3,797 recorded during the same period in 2012.

Operators reported 121 holes plugged and zero dry holes in March 2013 compared to 659 holes plugged and one dry hole in March 2012.

### FEBRUARY NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION

Texas oil and gas wells produced 504,384,248 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) of gas based upon preliminary production figures for February 2013 up from the February 2012 preliminary gas production total of 496,725,786 Mcf. Texas preliminary February total gas production averaged 18,013,723 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) a day.

Texas production in February 2013 came from 150,278 oil wells and 89,973 gas wells.

### MARCH TEXAS OIL AND GAS DRILLING PERMITS AND COMPLETIONS BY DISTRICT

RRC District: (1) SAN ANTONIO AREA  
Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 516  
Oil Completions: 282  
Gas Completions: 70  
RRC District: (2) REFUGIO AREA  
Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 156  
Oil Completions: 93  
Gas Completions: 99

RRC District: (3) SOUTHEAST TEXAS  
Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 125  
Oil Completions: 18  
Gas Completions: 38

RRC District: (4) DEEP SOUTH TEXAS  
Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 48  
Oil Completions: 19  
Gas Completions: 29

RRC District: (5) EAST CENTRAL TEXAS  
Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 16  
Oil Completions: 8  
Gas Completions: 30

RRC District: (6) EAST TEXAS  
Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 28  
Oil Completions: 22  
Gas Completions: 32

RRC District: (7B) WEST CENTRAL TEXAS  
Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 90  
Oil Completions: 104  
Gas Completions: 2

RRC District: (7C) SAN ANGELO AREA  
Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 134  
Oil Completions: 219  
Gas Completions: 2

RRC District: (8) MIDLAND  
Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 652  
Oil Completions: 493  
Gas Completions: 1

RRC District: (8A) LUBBOCK AREA  
Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 89  
Oil Completions: 48  
Gas Completions: 0

RRC District: (9) NORTH TEXAS  
Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 133  
Oil Completions: 57  
Gas Completions: 184

RRC District: (10) PANHANDLE  
Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 66  
Oil Completions: 28  
Gas Completions: 87

RRC District: (7B) WEST CENTRAL TEXAS

Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 90  
Oil Completions: 104  
Gas Completions: 2

RRC District: (7C) SAN ANGELO AREA

Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 134  
Oil Completions: 219  
Gas Completions: 2

RRC District: (8) MIDLAND

Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 652  
Oil Completions: 493  
Gas Completions: 1

RRC District: (8A) LUBBOCK AREA

Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 89  
Oil Completions: 48  
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Oil Completions: 57  
Gas Completions: 184

RRC District: (10) PANHANDLE

Permits To Drill Oil/Gas Holes: 66  
Oil Completions: 28  
Gas Completions: 87

### FEBRUARY TEXAS TOP TEN OIL PRODUCING COUNTIES RANKED BY PRELIMINARY PRODUCTION COUNTY - CRUDE OIL (BBLs)

1. KARNES - 3,422,765  
2. ANDREWS - 2,283,738

3. LA SALLE - 2,176,349  
4. GONZALES - 2,122,469

5. DE WITT - 2,016,708  
6. GAINES - 1,818,977

7. ECTOR - 1,777,841  
8. MIDLAND - 1,672,607

9. YOAKUM - 1,661,615  
10. MARTIN - 1,659,769

\*\*\*\*\*

### FEBRUARY TEXAS TOP TEN GAS PRODUCING COUNTIES RANKED BY PRELIMINARY PRODUCTION COUNTY - TOTAL GAS (MCF)

1. TARRANT - 59,984,807  
2. JOHNSON - 30,135,154

3. WEBB - 20,418,154  
4. PANOLA - 18,047,020

5. PECOS - 17,642,221  
6. WISE - 16,898,713

7. DENTON - 15,673,801  
8. FREESTONE - 13,900,045

9. WHEELER - 12,154,855  
10. NACOGDOCHES - 12,040,285

## Lubbock cotton school program slated for August

Special to the Dispatch

Registration is now open for the 33rd session of the Texas International Cotton School, scheduled for Aug. 5-16 in Lubbock.

The intensive two-week program covers all aspects of cotton, from the field to the fabric. Since its inception, the school has been a collaboration between the Texas cotton merchants who make up the Lubbock Cotton Exchange and the faculty and staff of the Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute of Texas Tech University.

"Those interested should register early, because the class size is limited and last year's class was near the maximum that can be handled in our facilities," said Dean Ethridge, managing director of the Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute. "The size and diversity of the class stimulates learning and results in friendships that may extend years into the future."

During the two weeks of the school,

more than 30 experts from across the United States teach the students, who learn about the cotton marketing chain — including seed breeding, farm production, harvesting, ginning, warehousing, merchandising, and textile manufacturing. All aspects of U.S. and global trade of cotton are covered, so the students obtain an understanding of what is required to successfully participate in the U.S. cotton market and to deliver the cottons needed in diverse export markets. They learn about the important quality attributes of cotton fibers and how these translate into processing efficiency and textile product quality. Throughout the program, they have repeated opportunities to interact with the cotton merchants of the Lubbock Cotton Exchange and the fiber and textile experts of Texas Tech University.

For information, including tuition and curriculum, visit [texasintl.cottonschool.com](http://texasintl.cottonschool.com) or call Christi Chadwell, TICS coordinator, at 806-742-2838 Ext. 233.

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## Neugebauer introduces CROP Act to help farmers manage risk

Special to the Dispatch

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Randy Neugebauer, R-Texas, re-introduced the Crop Risk Options Plan Act recently, which will strengthen farmers' ability to manage risk.

The CROP Act was introduced in the last session of Congress, and earned inclusion in both the House and Senate Agriculture Committee bills.

"Crop insurance is the preferred risk management tool for most farmers and ranchers," Neugebauer said. "In a business where earnings are determined by weather conditions and other factors out of their control, producers need the ability to protect themselves from losses."

The CROP Act gives producers the option to insure against shallow losses so they don't have to suffer a 30 percent loss before coverage kicks in. By using a county-level

trigger for losses, rather than losses at each individual farm, the CROP Act provides a less expensive way for producers to purchase this coverage.

The bill also gives the U.S. Department of Agriculture more flexibility in analyzing crop yields and losses. Currently, USDA's Risk Management Agency must use data collected by the National Agriculture Statistics Service when determining yields for county based policies. The CROP Act allows RMA to use data it is already collecting to make these determinations, thereby improving efficiency.

"The CROP Act builds a stronger safety net through shared-risk," Neugebauer said. "Producers won't have to worry that a few bad seasons of shallow losses will put them out of business. I'm looking forward to discussing this more when the House Agriculture Committee begins marking up a farm bill this spring."

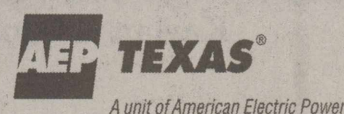


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# M Moguls

# REGIONAL TRACK

Tatum Bufkin-Triple Jump 1st,  
400m Dash  
Janie Salinas-3200m Run 5th,  
1600m Run 5th  
Kaylan Urbanczyk-Pole Vault  
6th, 300m Hurdles  
Kylie Urbanczyk- Shot Put 3rd

Xavier Bulliner- Discuss 2nd,  
Shot Put 3rd  
LJ Collier-Discuss 1st, Shot Put  
2nd  
Ryder Cude-Pole Vault 5th  
Tyrone Dockins-Shot Put 1st,  
Discuss 3rd

Jake Myers-800m Relay 3rd  
Dee Paul-Long Jump 1st, Triple  
Jump 3rd, 400m Relay 1st, 300m  
Hurdles 1st, 1600m Relay 1st  
Roddrick Taylor- 400m Relay 1st,  
800m Relay 3rd, 1600m Relay  
1st

Trey Stinnett- Long Jump 2nd,  
Triple Jump 2nd, 400m Relay  
1st, 800m Relay 3rd, 1600m  
Relay 1st  
Garrett Weaver-Long Jump 4th,  
400m Relay 1st, 800m Relay 3rd,  
1600m Relay 1st

## Munday Moguls-Regional II 1A Champions



Kylie Urbanczyk



Dee Paul



Roddrick Taylor



Jake Myers



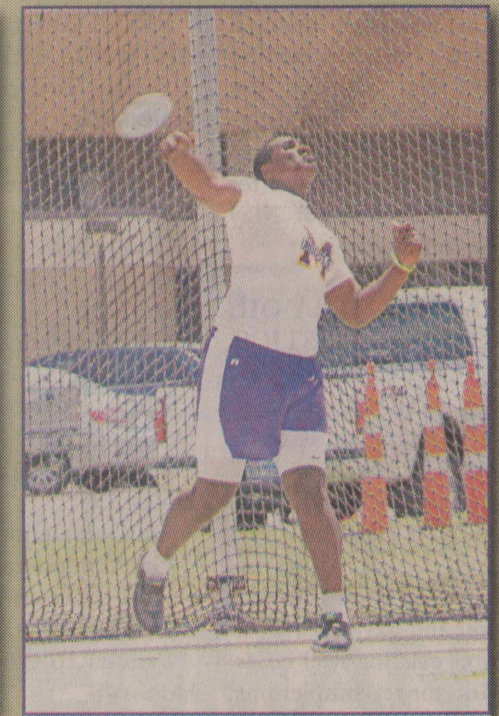
Janie Salinas



Garrett Weaver



Tyrone Dockins



Xavier Bulliner



Trey Stinnett



Tatum Bufkin



LJ Collier

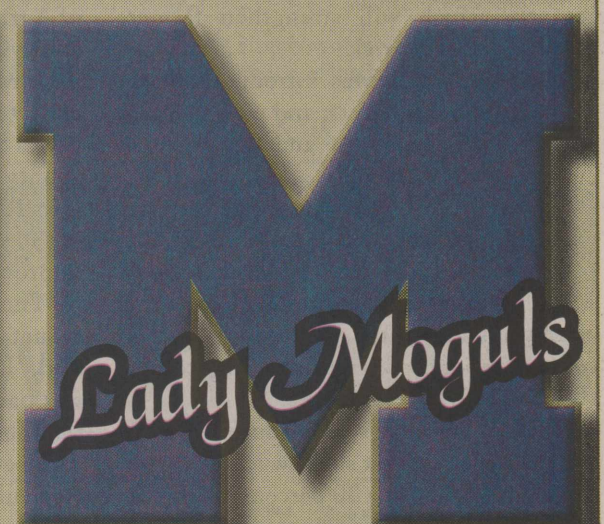
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Kaylan Urbanczyk



Ryder Cude





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The Munday and Knox City Housing Authorities have apartments available for immediate occupancy. It the intent of both to rent the units to high income households when there are no eligible low or very low income applicants on the waiting list. Flat rent is \$200 for 0-1 bedroom units and \$250 for 2-4 bedroom units. Income based rent may be lower. Call Munday at 940-422-4941 or Knox City at 940-657-3612 for more information. Both are equal opportunity providers. 053013c



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Cemetery Series

# Goree cemetery part of black history

By Hanaba Munn Welch  
The Knox County News-Courier

America's interest in genealogy surged in 1977 when television aired "Roots: The Saga of an American Family," based on Alex Haley's historical novel that traces the history of a black family from Africa through years of slavery in the South into the post-slavery era.

For people of all ethnicities, the pursuit of knowledge about ancestors has since been facilitated by the Internet. For many black families, documentation is scant. Cemeteries are a source of information, but some — like the black cemetery west of Goree — are in states of neglect, both for lack of funds and because rural areas of the country have seen blacks migrate to cities,

leaving graves to be cared for by an aging population. And substantial markers are few.

Grass grows uncut in the small black cemetery and no one maintains the site.

"It's kind of sad," said Willie Allen, a former Goree resident who now lives in Munday.

Allen and her husband, Raymond, have relatives buried in the cemetery, but they're no longer able to work the graves. It wasn't always so.

"On Memorial Day, everybody got together," Willie Allen said.

But now, Willie Allen has back problems and her husband has a health condition that makes it hard for him to walk, much less hoe weeds and cut grass.

A white marble headstone marks the grave of her grandfather, Sandy Bolden, World War

I soldier. She has faint memories of him.

"He passed away when I was a young girl, 7 or 8," she said. "He was a quiet churchgoing person. He worked hard. He had a little store, like a little cafe. That was in Goree. That's been so long ago."

His wife's name was Maggie. She's probably buried beside him in the black cemetery in Goree. But only his marker is clearly visible — a military marker that recognizes his service in World War I.

The cemetery itself doesn't have an entrance gate or an official name although it does have a fence. It's simply called the black cemetery at Goree, named, of course, for the nearby town that was once home to many of the people buried there. The town of Goree, in

turn, was named for Capt. Robert D. Goree, Confederate soldier.

Ironically, the name Gorée, accent on the first "e," is best known in the context of history as an island called the île de Gorée, a place off the coast of Senegal where the slave trade was once part of the economy. The so-called "House of Slaves" on the island is now a major tourist attraction and point of interest for anyone studying the Atlantic slave trade of the 1700s and later, although other slave-shipping points saw much more traffic than the island.

It's not impossible to imagine that someone buried in the little cemetery at Goree, Texas, might be the descendant of a slave who left Africa via the île de Gorée.



Hanaba Munn Welch/News-Courier

Kevin Smith, funeral director, looks Monday at a block of concrete that marks a grave. The concrete carries no information but serves a purpose. In the absence of records, often a problem in older sections in cemeteries, any marker is better than none. Smith and others of his profession are often frustrated when the availability and ownership of cemetery plots is at issue.



Hanaba Munn Welch/News-Courier

A white marble marker stands at the grave of Fisher Snow, born just two years after the Civil War and the effective end of slavery in the United States. The 1930 Wichita Falls City Directory lists an Elliott Fisher Snow, possibly the same person. The website Ancestry.com, drawing from the city directory, lists Snow's profession as "HI," possibly meaning hotel industry, a popular place for blacks to work in Wichita Falls in that era.



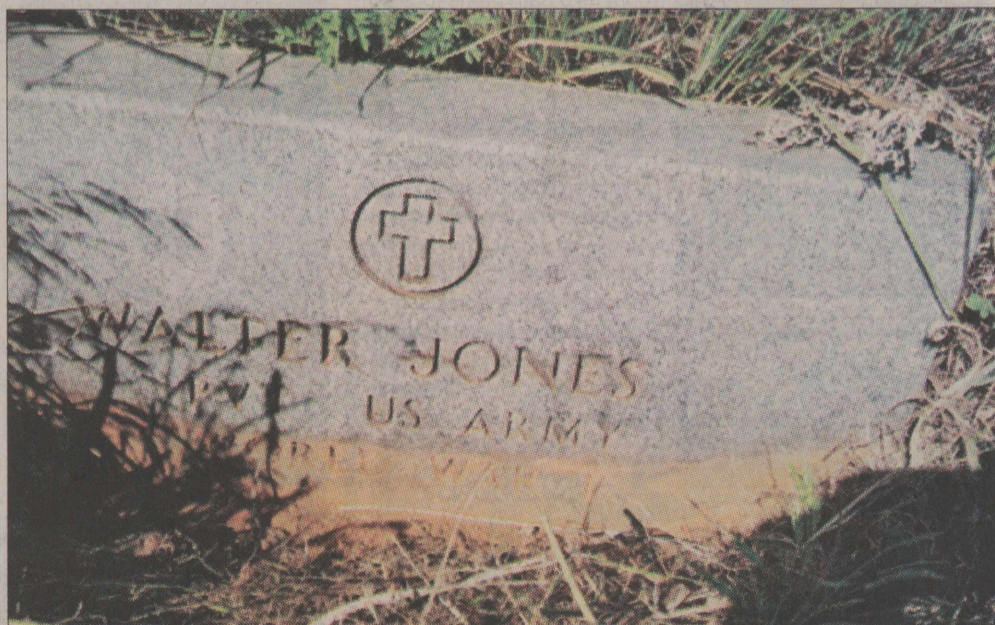
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The gravestone of Willie Colvin, World War I soldier, leans but shows no signs of tumbling over. Unlike some of the markers at the cemetery, the marble slab isn't partly obscured by tall grass.



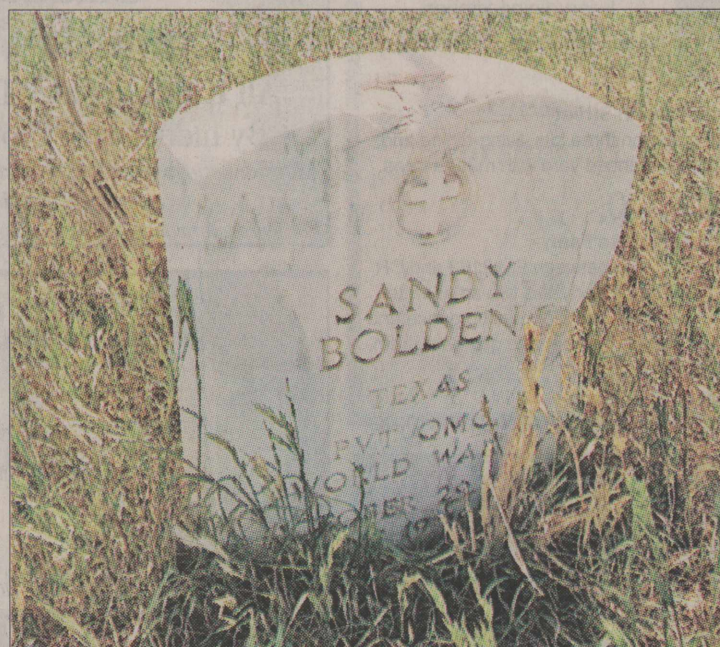
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A temporary marker from 1983 marks the grave of Bill McClennon, born in 1903. Grass threatens to overgrow the plaque that now lies on the ground.




Hanaba Munn Welch/News-Courier

The inscription on a military foot stone at the grave of Walter Jones indicates he was a private in the U. S. Army. The lowest line, where dirt has been brushed away, shows he served in World War I. Many monuments are partly buried in sand that has blown into the cemetery. The primary monument for Jones is a substantial granite double marker that also marks the grave of his wife, who is buried beside him. The two married in 1920.




Hanaba Munn Welch/News-Courier

Grass and sand cover the lower part of Sandy Bolden's gravestone at the black cemetery at Goree. His marker shows he served in World War I. At that time in America's history, military forces were segregated. Bolden would have served in an all-black regiment.



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