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THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2013

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

Elections official: ID law streamlines voting

By Caleb Hudgens
The Knox County News-Courier

BENJAMIN — Knox County's chief elections officer said the state's new voter ID law will make voting easier throughout the state.

"This is really going to streamline the voting process," Knox County Clerk Annette Offutt said. "There is no question about what identification will be accepted in order to vote. It's a black and white law — no grey areas."

The U.S. Supreme Court on June 25 struck down the portion of the Voting Rights Act that holds Texas and some other Southern states to a higher degree of scrutiny because of their history

of racial discrimination.

The decision, hailed by state Attorney General Greg Abbott, clears the way for two controversial issues, including the state's voter ID law and the redistricting maps.

As a result, those states no longer are required to obtain federal "preclearance" by the Justice Department when any change is made to local or state voting laws.

"Today's ruling does not abolish the Voting Rights Act," Abbott said. "All states, including Texas, continue to be subject to Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and the U.S. Constitution, which prohibit racial discrimination nationwide."

Meanwhile, Texas' chief elections officer, Secretary of State John Steen, said photo identification will now be required when voting in Texas elections.

A voter must show one of the following forms of photo identification at the polling location before being permitted to cast a vote:

- A Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety
- A Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
- A Texas personal identification card issued by DPS
- A Texas concealed handgun license issued by DPS

- A U.S. military identification card containing the person's photograph
- A U.S. citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph
- Or a U.S. passport.

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the identification must be current or have expired no more than 60 days before being presented at the polling place.

Hours after the Supreme Court ruling, Texas DPS officials announced plans to offer the election identification card the next day.

For information about obtaining the EIC, visit Offutt at the county voter registrar office or online at txdps.state.tx.us.

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.

Alzheimer's support

The Munday Nursing Center has initiated an Alzheimer's support group that will meet at 12:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month at First United Methodist Church in Munday. Bring a sack lunch. Call Ronda Thompson at 940-422-4541.

Summer reading

Story time at the Munday City-County Library is from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays through July 17. For information, call the library at 940-422-4877.

Class reunion

The Knox City High School Class of 1978 invites all alumni and the community to a class reunion from 5 to 11 p.m. Saturday at the Community Center. Tickets to the barbecue and dance cost \$10. Contact Michelle Stanfield at 940-256-0318 for information.

Chicken-fried fundy

The Knox County Aging Center will have chicken-fried steak lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 14. To-go orders welcome. Call Cassandra Sheedy at 657-3618 for information.

Hearing loss

A hearing loss resource specialist will be at the Knox County Aging Services at 1 p.m. July 15. Eligible residents are urged to attend as they may qualify for a phone and accessories at no cost. Proof of residency required. For information, call Joanna Delgado at 940-657-4166 and leave voice mail giving your name, phone number and address.

Seymour rodeo

The Seymour Rodeo Association's annual rodeo parade will be July 13. This year's theme is "Best of the West!" For information, or to register, call the Seymour Chamber of Commerce at 940-889-2921. Registration is free, and cash awards will be given.

Preteen camp

O'Brien Baptist Church will be hosting a group of fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders at preteen camp July 22-25 at Big County Baptist Assembly in Leuders. Contact Brandi Manning at 940-658-5397 for information.

Corrections

Actual donations the Knox County Aging Center receives for its monthly musical is between \$60 and \$100. Information in a story appearing on page one of last week's editions contained inaccurate information.

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

Perry thrice calls lawmakers to task

By Wayne Hodgin
The Knox County News-Courier

Gov. Rick Perry last week summoned lawmakers back to Austin for a second special session Monday after his plan to better regulate abortion in the state of Texas hit a snag on the Senate floor.

Perry's first called session ended June 25 after a successful 11-hour filibuster by Sen. Wendy Davis, D-Fort Worth, effectively killed the controversial Senate Bill 5, which sought to increase state regulation of women's health care and access to abortion services in particular.

After Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, who presides over the Senate, ordered Davis' removal from the Senate floor after a third rules violation during her filibuster, a crowd of Davis supporters filled the gallery and corridors, chanting loudly enough to create confusion as the midnight deadline approached.

Dewhurst called for a vote on SB 5 just before midnight, but the 19-10 vote was not finalized until 12:03 a.m. June 26, effectively killing the bill for the session.

Davis' success in temporarily stopping SB 5 drew national and world attention, but Perry, determined to push through his agenda with the long-held advantage of a Republican-controlled Legislature, re-issued his call for lawmakers to take up to another 30 days to pass the same set of bills that had just withered.

The abortion issue was thrown onto a list of legislative items Perry called for in a special 30-day session that originally was only supposed to revise redistricting maps.

The legislation proposes to amend the Health and Safety Code and the Occupations Code regarding regulation of abortion procedures, providers and facilities, prohibiting abortions at or after 20 weeks post-fertilization and adding a violation related to abortions performed after the same time window to the list of prohibited practices by physicians or license applicants.

Included is an exception that allows an abortion in the physician's reasonable medical judgment that so complicates the medical condition of the woman, to avert the woman's death or substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function, other than a psychological condition.

The legislation also directs the Texas Medical Board to assess penalties on physicians for improperly distributing or prescribing abortion-inducing drugs. And, the legislation would create a new minimum standard for abortion facilities licensed by the Department of State Health Services. Such a facility would be required to meet the new standards by Sept. 1, 2014.

See PERRY, Page 8

Six-man Brazos Bowl



Motley County's Austin Taylor, right, avoids a defender during Saturday night's first Brazos Bowl game in Knox City. Despite a solid effort from Taylor and the Blue team, the team lost 41-33.

Inaugural all-star game lauded as economic boon

By Brant Thurmond
For the News-Courier

KNOX CITY — Warm temperatures in the mid-90s at game time with little wind didn't stop six-man fans from attending the inaugural Brazos Bowl All-Star game Saturday night at Greyhound Stadium.

Fans of athletes from both teams were able to watch an impressive, hard-hitting battle that resulted in the Red team winning by eight points, 41-33.

The game had a different format on how the

teams were made. Each team's coaches were able to watch the athletes in practice and go through a draft to get different athletes on their teams.

Knox City CISD Athletic Director Charles Steele said that type of format made for an exciting, evenly matched game.

"Instead of just bringing in two teams and letting them play, the draft format we used let the coaches study the kids in workout and let them choose the kids they wanted," Steele said. "We threw some wrinkles in there, where they

See GAME, Page 3

Branson star rocks Truscott event

By Geoffrey Baumgartner
For the News-Courier

TRUSCOTT — Johnny Rogers Band headlined the fourth annual Circle Bar Ranch Street Dance concert fundraiser last weekend. Funds will enlarge and enclose the Truscott Community Center. "Johnny has been voted the No. 1 show in Branson three years in a row now," Rogers' spokeswoman Cindy Wisdom said. "He's very popular in North Dakota as well as Las Vegas. He'll probably have

his own show in Vegas in the next few years." The catered barbecue dinner began at 6 p.m., and Rogers took the stage at 8 p.m. "Mr. Rogers is truly a gifted entertainer capable of performing over 358 different musicians' acts," Wisdom said. "The real treat though is his Buddy Holly performance, which is the most spot-on in the business, wide rimmed glasses and all." Not only did Rogers look like Buddy Holly, he sounded just like the late Lubbock musician.

See TRUSCOTT, Page 8



Johnny Rogers doing his Buddy Holly performance of 'That'll Be the Day That I Die.' Geoffrey Baumgartner/For the News-Courier

News on the go



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Knox County News-Courier
Copyright 2013
Volume 36 No. 24
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, 76731. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Knox County News-Courier, P.O. Box 151, Munday, TX 76731.

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The Knox County News-Courier

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 the 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



LEGAL NOTICE

The City of Benjamin will hold a Public Hearing to discuss the 2013-2014 Annual Budget on July 11, 2013, at noon, City Hall, Benjamin, Tx.

FBC
First Baptist Church
Munday, Texas

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

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

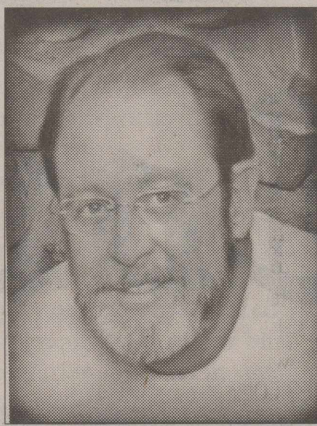
Deaths

James P. Cartwright

James P. Cartwright of Miami, FL and Montgomery, TX, known to his friends as Pat or as Jim, passed away June 26 after a valiant fight with Pancreatic Cancer.

Pat was the son of Mary and Al Cartwright of Munday, born May 25, 1953. Al remarked on the way home that the Cotton was up, the Wheat crop looked good and was about ready to cut and that they were bringing home a big, healthy son- what more could one ask for?

Pat graduated from Munday High School in 1971 and then served in the U.S. Army through 1973. He was a 1977 graduate of Texas A&M University and spent his entire career in the Agriculture Crop Research and Chemical Business. He was a member of the Church of Christ and numerous trade organizations. He was a devoted and avid Fisherman and Hunter and was a proud member of the National Rifle Association.



JAMES CARTWRIGHT

He was preceded in death by his father, Al, in 1993. He is survived by his mother, Mary Cartwright of Munday; brother Lou Cartwright and his wife Janis of Austin and children Ali Bailey, her husband Alex and son Sam of Abilene and son Cliff and his son Gunnar of Abilene; sister Lisa Cartwright of Garland and children Rachel Flutcher and husband Seth of Frederick, Co. and her son Jaron Peek and his wife Tiffany

Mary Lynn Fowler

Mary Lynn Fowler formally of O'Brien, Texas, but most recently of Midland, Texas passed away Monday evening, June 3, 2013 in Midland at the age of 61. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m., Friday, June 7, 2013 at the First Baptist Church of Knox City with Don Hawkins and Rev. Bud Adkins officiating. Burial will take place immediately following the services at Knox City Cemetery under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes. A visitation is planned for Thursday evening; June 6 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the funeral home in Knox City.

Mary Lynn Adkins was born December 18, 1951 in Knox City to Edwin "Eddie" and Virginia "Meme" (Tankersley) Adkins. Mary Lynn "Mare" was voted the friendliest and best all around in many events through her



MARY FOWLER

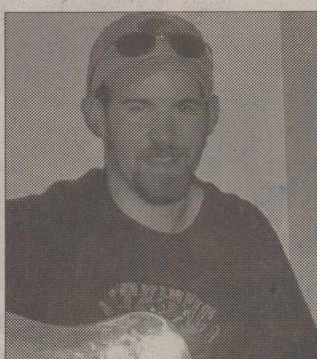
school years and was involved in basketball, volleyball, FHA, tennis, and was a cheerleader. She graduated top of her class as valedictorian and was also voted into the Future Homemakers of America office. In college, Mary Lynn was a member of Gama Phi Beta Sorority. She married Ronnie Fowler in O'Brien on May 12, 1972.

In 2002, Mary Lynn was voted member of the year

Kole David Gray

Kole David Gray, 24, passed away Thursday, May 30, 2013. He was born to Terry and Karen Gray on November 22, 1988.

Kole was a man who loved everyone and was loved by everyone. Kole had a close family bond others could only dream of having. This bond was second only to his relationship with his wife, Katie. Kole grew up in Goree, TX, and graduated from Munday High School in 2007. He quickly obtained his welding certification soon after from CJC. Kole was drawn to agriculture and the unique desire to be involved in its operations. This is how he and Katie found themselves in Sunray, TX. Kole was working for a very large corporation farm, taking care of center pivots and enjoying ag-



KOLE GRAY

riculture on an impressive scale. When Kole wasn't working, he was enjoying the country life. He was passionate about hunting, fishing, playing the guitar, writing music, and drawing. If you spent time with Kole, you spent time laughing and smiling. When you think of Kole, this is how he is to be remembered.

of Eulless; sister Cathy Martin and husband David of Rockwell and children Randall and his wife Dani of Grand Prairie, son Phillip of Denton, daughter Kate and her daughter Maddi of Waxahachie and daughter Samantha of Bryan. He is also survived by lifetime best friend Phillip (Holbrook) Smith and wife Denise of Katy and children Phillip and his wife Dana and son Ayden of Katy, son Kyle and his wife Teresa and son Owen of Magnolia and daughter Lorin of Katy.

Contributions in his honor may be made to West Texas Rehabilitation Center, the Noah Project, The Lustgarten Pancreatic Cancer Research, Wounded Warrior Project or of course the charity of one's choosing.

Services will be at 2PM Sunday, June 30 at Munday Church of Christ with Minister Wayne Speer officiating. There will be visitation with the family after the service.

in the Women's Council of Realtors. She was a successful realtor for many years in Snyder, Texas and Abilene, Texas. Mary Lynn was a member of the O'Brien Baptist Church.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Eddie and Meme Adkins; and her only brother, Jim Ed Adkins.

Mary Lynn is survived by her husband of 41 years, Ronnie Fowler; the best dog ever, Buster; son, Brian Anthony Fowler and wife Melissa; daughter Leigh Anne Bass and husband Tony; 5 grandchildren, Madison Fowler, Brayden Fowler, Emily Bass, Katie Bass, and Lecy Childs and her husband Michael.

Online condolences can be shared with the family at www.smithfamilyfh.com. Smith Family Funeral Homes
304 North 2nd Street
Haskell, Texas 79521

Survivors include his wife; Katherine Diane Gray, his parents; Terry and Karen Gray, tow sisters; Kayla and husband, Nick Hord, Tanya Gray and Keith Cypert, two nephews; Karson Hord and Kelly Cypert, two nieces; Ambrey Myers and Maci Hord, his grandmother; Marguerite Gray, also numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He was preceded in death his grandparents, Louis and Margaret Urbanczyk and Joe Gray.

Rosary will be held at 6PM, Thursday, June 6, 2013 at the funeral home. Services will be held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Rhineland, TX on Friday, June 7, 2013 at 10AM. Burial will follow in St. Joseph's Cemetery under the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home of Munday.

The Paperboy
Invasive species threaten region's ecosphere

Florida's Department of Health and similar agencies in other states have been warning people about a brain-eating amoeba that could be lurking in fresh water bodies. In a recent press release, the department raises the issue of Floridians contracting a parasite known as Naegleria fowleri, which is found in warm, stagnant water.

"This type of parasite enters the human body through the person's nose and makes its way to the brain," according to the release. "The rare infection causes a life-threatening disease called primary amoebic meningoencephalitis."

The disease can start anywhere between 1 to 14 days after contact, with symptoms including headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. It causes a person's brain to swell, leading to seizures and hallucinations.

"So as you see the temperatures in lakes and rivers rising, we want to be very careful not to be in the shallows stirring up the muck where this amoeba can be found," Steve Huard, public information officer in Florida said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states on its website that the Naegleria fowleri parasite grows best at temperatures of 115 degrees Fahrenheit or higher so the water would have to be very warm.

While there is currently no official connection between the Naegleria fowleri parasite and the zebra mussel, it would not surprise me if the two were linked.

And speaking of zebra mussels, their larvae, known as veligers, have been confirmed in Lake Bridgeport. The news comes days after the discovery of the invasive exotic in Lewisville Lake.

Soon, just like Oklahoma lakes, Texas' lakes will be inundated with the invasive species.

Originally from the Balkans, Poland and the former Soviet Union, zebra mussels found their way to the Americas in the 1980s via ballast water of a ship. The small invaders were first found in 1988 in Lake St. Clair, Mich., and are currently known to have infested 29 states and more than 600 lakes or reservoirs in the United States.

Zebra mussels can have economic and recreational impacts in reservoirs.

According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, "Zebra mussels can clog public-water intake pipes, harm boats and motors left in infested waters by covering boat hulls and clogging water-cooling systems, annoy boat-dock owners by completely covering anything left under water and can make water recreation hazardous because of their razor-sharp edges.

From the environmental perspective, zebra mussels are filter feeders, which mean they compete with baitfish such as shad for available forage. Any impact on baitfish in turn can affect their predators -- game fish such as bass, striped bass and catfish. Zebra mussels are also very harmful to native mussel populations because they will colonize on their shells and essentially suffocate them.

"The spread can be slowed by making sure boats that operate in zebra mussel-infested waters are not used in any other body of water until they have been cleaned, drained and dried. In addition, TPWD adopted rules regarding the transfer of zebra mussel larvae in water from lakes Texoma, Lavon, Ray Roberts and Lewisville. To comply with these rules, boaters and anglers need to drain all water from their boats (including live wells) before leaving those lakes.

Much like the fire ant which was introduced in Texas decades ago reportedly from houseplants from Alabama, the zebra mussel is having a negative effect and literally changing the way we think about invasive species.

It is important to keep yourself informed of such things and how they may impact you.

If you own property and have fresh water on it, it may be just a matter of time before zebra mussels become your problem. In just 33 years they have infested 29 states. And when they arrive, they don't leave...

Chris Blackburn is the publisher of the Stonewall Courier and CEO of Blackburn Media Group.

Knox County Aging Services
Menus for July 8-12

- | | |
|--|---|
| Monday:
Swedish meatballs, parsley noodles, mixed veggies, oatmeal cookies, whole-wheat roll. | Thursday:
Sweet and sour chicken, rice, stir-fried veggies, whole-wheat roll, lazy cake. |
| Tuesday:
Charbroil beef patty, onions and peppers, garlic mashed potatoes, beets, slice bread, Mandarin oranges. | Friday:
Sloppy Joe, country potato salad, carrots and zucchini, creamy fruit square. |
| Wednesday:
Tilapia, whole-kernel corn, coleslaw, hushpuppies, fruit crisp. | All are welcome. Call in orders must be placed by 10 a.m. and picked up after 11 a.m. For information, call 657-3618. |

Have a safe and happy fourth of July!



*Big sister Hadleigh Shay
Would like to announce a big birthday.
It's all about her little sis,
And one you won't want to miss.
Piper Lynn Sanders on May 3rd was born
At 7:47 on a Friday morn.*

*Weighing in at 7lb. 7oz.
and 20in. long
To Jeremy and Jessica she does belong.
We welcome her into our family;
We're all as happy as can be.
She is truly a blessing from above,
And we promise to give her lots of love!*

Six-man showcase pits Red over Blue

By Brant Thurmond
For the News-Courier

KNOX CITY — It did not take long for the fans that attended the inaugural Brazos Bowl All-Star game Saturday night to realize the level of talent on the field.

The two teams loaded with talent showcased their skills in the game that resulted in the Red team defeating the Blue, 41-33.

The opening drive for the Blue team didn't fare well as the Red's defense held them to just four offensive plays.

The Red team needed just five plays to drive from its own 38 yard-line to the end zone. Valley's Kameron Buchanan scampered into the end

zone for a 27-yard touchdown. Woodson's Brady Hibbitts made the PAT, making the score 8-0 with 9:20 to play in the first quarter.

On the ensuing possession for the Blue team, a pass from Gordon's Michael Cherry was intercepted just three plays into the drive by Strawn's Cole Abbott and returned 66 yards for a touchdown. The extra point was no good, to make the score 14-0 with 7:42 remaining in the first quarter.

The Blue team did cut the deficit down to 14-8 on the next possession following a one-yard touchdown run from Valley's Carson Proctor.

Neither team scored in the final 3:29 of the first quarter as the defense of both teams

settled in and held their own.

On the first play of the second quarter, Buchanan passed to Aquilla's Billy Parks for a 12-yard touchdown. Paducah's Cody Austin passed to Abbott for the extra point. The Red team led 21-8.

The Blue team would respond with a touchdown of its own four plays later when Crowell's Cody Knight passed to Nicco Bennett of Hedley for a 30-yard touchdown with 10:34 remaining in the second quarter. The extra point failed.

The next score from either team did not come until Proctor scored on a two-yard run for the Blue team with 40 seconds to play in the first half. However, the one-point deficit was short-lived as Buchanan re-

turned the ensuing kickoff for 50 yards. Hibbitts connected on the extra point to make the score 29-20.

In the third quarter, the Red team's first offensive drive of the second half stalled out after just four plays.

The Blue team responded with a five-play drive that resulted in Cherry finding the end-zone for a 10-yard touchdown run. Juan Flores of Motley County connected with Hedley's Nicco Bennett, cutting the Red's lead to just two points at 29-27 with 5:46 to play in the third quarter.

The Red team's next drive did not go as planned as a fumble recovered by Blue team member Daly Welch of Har-

rold ended the drive. Despite a six-play drive for the Blue team, the team's ensuing drive stalled at the Red 15-yard line.

The Red team capped off a four-play drive with a 58-yard TD pass from Buchanan to Abbott with just 14 seconds remaining in the third quarter. The extra point failed, making the score 35-27.

Following the Red touchdown, a long 10 play drive for the Blue team came to an end on the Red teams' 15 yard line following an unsuccessful fourth down conversion attempt.

It took the Red team just four plays to find the end zone on the next series. Buchanan scored on a 46-yard touchdown run with 3:34 left

in the fourth quarter.

On the ensuing drive, the Blue team concluded a six-play drive with a four-yard touchdown run from Flores.

This ended up being the final points scored in the game and resulted in the Red team being declared the first winner of the Brazos Bowl All-Star with a final score of 41-33.

Following the game, three awards were given to three players for their efforts in the game.

The Overall MVP of the game went to Kameron Buchanan of Valley, the Offensive MVP went to Michael Cherry from Gordon, and the Defensive MVP was awarded to Cole Abbott of Strawn.

GAME

From Page 1

got to choose for each other and it worked out just right. An eight point ball game in six-man football is almost unheard of, especially in an All-Star game."

Half of the 26 players came to the bowl as highly recognized high school football players.

"I think the draft is what did it and the level of talent we got to come here,"

Steele said. "Thirteen of these guys were All-State football players. That's 50 percent of our players. There was a tremendous amount of talent and that says a lot of the six-man community and schools here."

The idea of hosting this game came to mind when the Texas Bowl, historically played in Garden City, was canceled indefinitely.

Steele said with the Texas Bowl not being played, someone needed to give the kids a chance to play.

"I called them and talked to them about it and decided this something I might want to do," Steele said. "I started playing with it and then all of a sudden I had a bunch of entries so that is what made me want to do this."

Steele said he started out opening the game up to regional athletes simply due to the unknown of the number of participants.

"I wanted to make sure it was a goal to keep it local at first," Steele said. "Once

I got a good number of kids locally, then we started spreading out to other parts of the state. "We had a kid from Aquilla, which is by Waco, and a kid from McLean from up in the Panhandle. We had kids from pretty far away."

"Next year it will be open statewide. Any kids who want to come are more than welcome to come and be a part of it."

With the game being the first in Knox City it did not stop fans, athletes and par-

ents from contributing to the local economy in Knox City.

"The game had a tremendous local impact," Steele said. "Our restaurants were full this afternoon and people were coming in and eating and spending money at convenient stores. The kids were spending money this week locally while being here and that will help our community as well."

Steele said the game was a big success, but would not have been without the help

of the community.

"I appreciate all the community helping us out, stepping up by helping feed the kids, and the business opening up to the kids," Steele said. "I appreciate the school for opening up and letting us use their facilities. It's tremendous to have the help and support of the school and community behind you when you do something like this that is going to improve the game of six-man and showcase what we have here in Knox City as well."

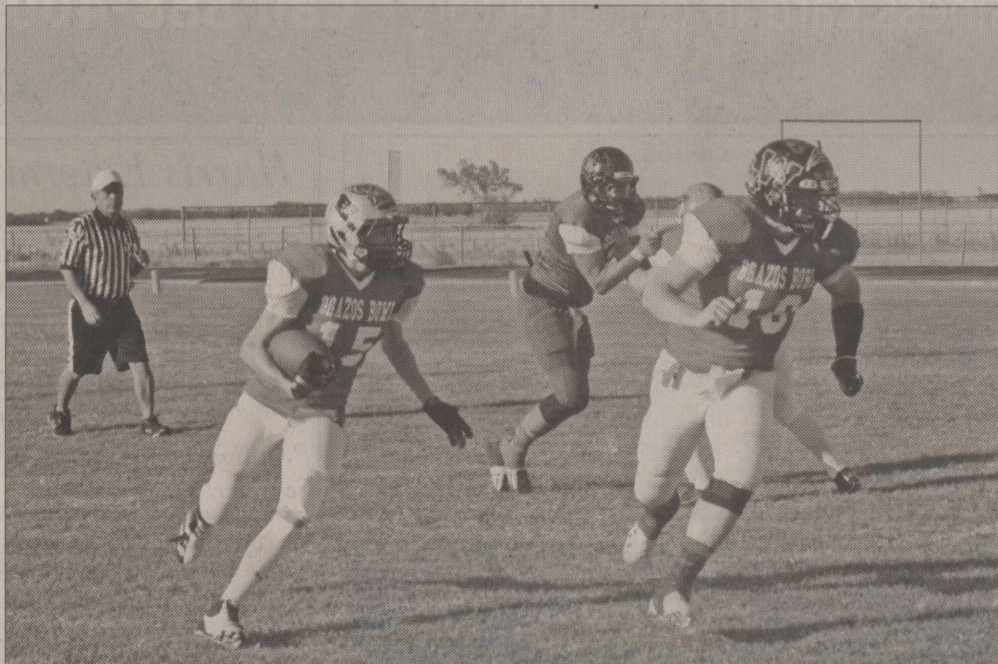
2013 INAUGURAL BRAZOS BOWL ROSTER

Blue Team

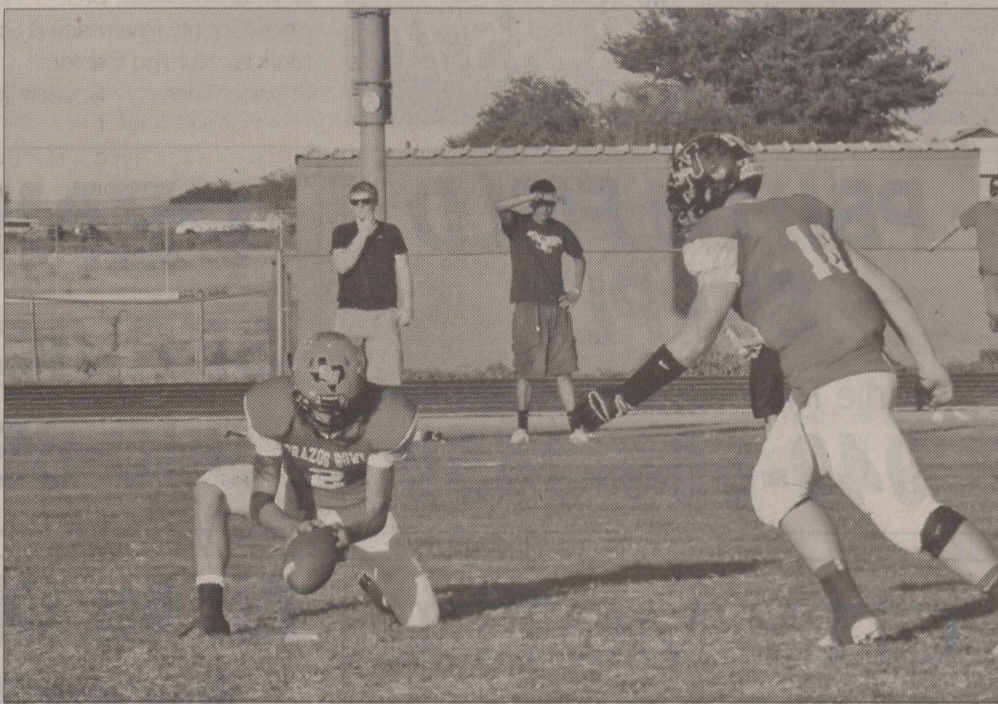
Kaeden Chasteen- Blanket
Daly Welch- Harrold
Kody Knight- Crowell
Britt Simpson- Motley County
Austin Taylor- Motley County
Michael Cherry- Gordon
Carson Proctor- Valley
Juan Flores- Motley County
Zack Book- Veribest
Ron Covington- Highland
Nicco Bennett- Hedley
Casey Redden- Spur
Blake Pig- Valley
Coaches-
Coach Bigham- Motley County
Coach Richards- Rankin
Coach Archer- Grandfalls
Royalty

Red Team

Cody Austin- Paducah
Bobby Wells- Strawn
Cade Freeling- Northside
Coltin Kingston- Hedley
Trevor Speed- Jayton
Brady Hibbitts- Woodson
Cole Abbott- Strawn
Kameron Buchanan- Valley
Tanner Hart- Jayton
Preston Hobbs- Newcastle
Zach Sargent- Mclean
Billy Parks- Aquilla
Jared Hopper- Crowell
Coaches-
Coach Stanaland- Jayton
Coach Bleiker- Jayton
Coach Gibson- Jayton



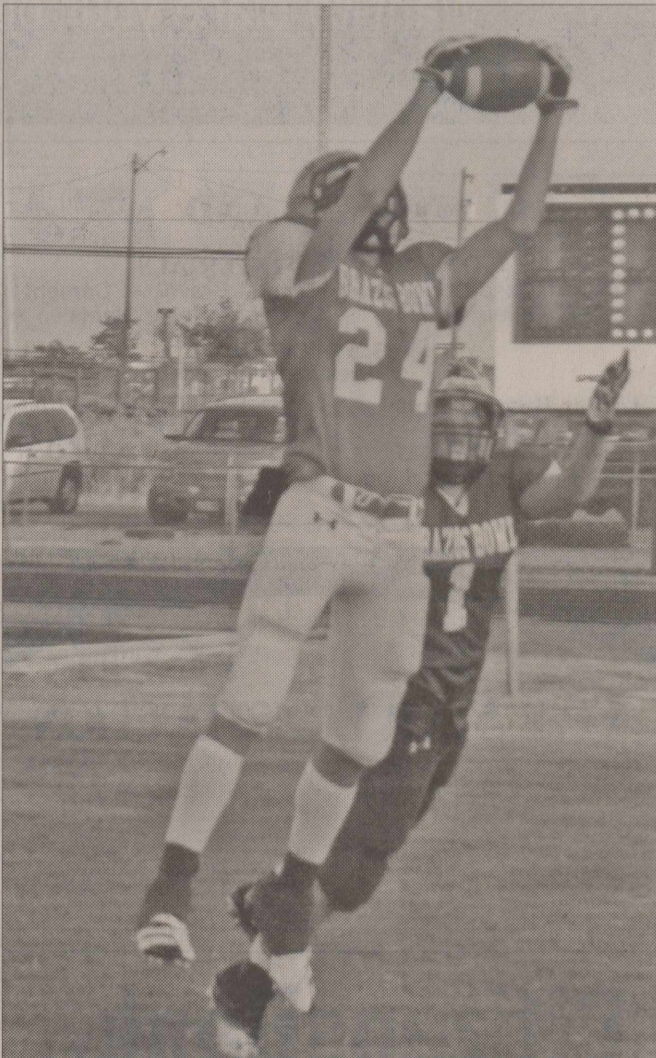
Photos by Brant Thurmond/For the News Courier
Trevor Speed of Jayton looks for running room around the corner during Saturday night's first Brazos Bowl game in Knox City. Speed was a member of the Red team that won the game, 41-33.



Cody Austin of Paducah holds the ball for an extra point attempt from teammate Brady Hibbitts of Woodson during the first Brazos Bowl game in Knox City. Austin helped the Red team to a 41-33 win.



Crowell's Kody Knight looks for an open receiver in first action of the Brazos Bowl played in Knox City on Saturday. Knight had one touchdown pass in the game.



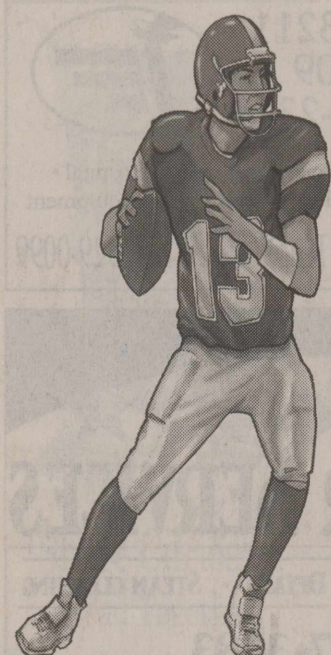
Tanner Hart of Jayton shows his vertical jumping ability as he goes up for an interception during the first half of the first Brazos Bowl All-Star game played in Knox City on Saturday night at Greyhound Stadium. Hart and the Red team were victorious in the inaugural game, 41-33.



Kody Knight of Crowell avoids a defender while looking down field for a receiver during Saturday night's Brazos Bowl game played in Knox City. Knight and his Blue team teammates came up short in the contest, 41-33.



Jayton's Tanner Hart, comes down with an interception during first half action of the first Brazos Bowl All-Star game held in Knox City. Hart helped lead the Red team to a 41-33 victory in the game.



Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

Thankfully it's cooler this Monday morning than it has been the past couple of weeks. The temperature in the 60s makes it very pleasant for early morning activities. And weather folks say that all week is going to be cooler — a welcome relief.

There's not a lot going on over this way this week. Some are making Fourth of July plans — looking forward to the Stamford Rodeo, among other things. As for myself, I'll probably stay right at home and rest! I may enjoy my neighbors' fireworks display (if there are any) as I have in the past. Other than that I expect a fairly quiet day for me.

My sincere sympathy to Mary Cartwright of Munday and her family today. Mary's son, Pat, passed away about midweek after a long illness. His funeral was Sunday in Munday.

Here 'N There

Dorothy Spikes and Penny Eaton were in Wichita Falls on Monday for the funeral of George LeBus. He was part of the family that had the LeBus Ranch west of Benjamin for many years, and they also had ranches in Colorado and New Mexico. The Spikes worked for them a long time, and they were all very close friends.

Dorothy said her husband Bill's family went to work for them when he was only 10 years old, so their ties with the family had been even longer than she and Bill were married. She said although the occasion was sad on Monday, it was good to see so many old friends and acquaintances.

Nancy McGreger and her sister-in-law, Sue Roberts (Bill's wife) of Round Rock returned home this week-

end after a 2 weeks' visit with Bill and Sue's daughter, Jennifer, in Virginia Nancy said it was beautiful there, and they had such a good time. She said Jennifer lives in an area where people raise a lot of horses, and they attended a polo game while there, which they thoroughly enjoyed. That's just one of the many things they enjoyed while on their trip.

She said her sister, Pam Duke, and Dennis and their family, Zeke and family of Knox City, Rachel and family of Wichita Falls, and Rebekah and family of Abilene, returned home Friday from a week's vacation in Colorado. Glad they all had a good time and glad they are back home "safe and sound."

Bud Conner and Kim Lyles were in Wichita Falls on Friday for Bud to see his doctor. He got his stitches out from getting the pacemaker. He's still having a few problems with it, but hopefully it will all level out in a little while and he will feel better.

I talked to Polly Decker last night. She's Penny Brown's sister. We had not been able to reach Stanton and Penny and were wondering about Doug.

Polly said the last she had heard, (a couple of days ago) he was doing much better. He was sitting up in bed and eating some, and that the doctors were optimistic about his recovery. So unless there has been a major change, it sounds like things are looking up for him, and that's certainly good news.

Latest word on Emily Brown is that all's well with her regarding her eyesight. Remember she lost part of the sight in one eye, and she has undergone lots of testing to determine the cause. And after all that, doctors say her problem was caused from a virus, so that was a relief to them all. Everything is OK now for her. She and her mom, Michele, and sister, Kelsey, have

moved into the house formerly owned by Katrine Pangel (across from Charles and Linda Griffith on Highway 6). They have done some repairs on it and some remodeling and are finally settled in. They were living in the stucco house east of the school. Michele works at the school.

Cassie and Steve Sheedy have moved to Knox City. She told me Saturday night they had moved their last load, and she and Steve were tired but glad to have it done. He's no longer employed by the Spike Box Ranch, and she's the director of Knox County Aging, so it makes sense they live closer to her work. We wish them well but will miss them over our way.

I had a nice, although brief, visit on Sunday with a friend formerly of Munday, now of Wichita Falls, Barbara Phillips Cagle. She had been to church at Munday and was going out to the Knox City Cemetery before returning home. Her friend, Ernest D. LaFrance, formerly of Vera was with her. It was good to see them.

And Debbie Clower is about to be "out of here." I talked to her today, and she's waiting on the movers to get there, and if they get through in time, she will leave today. Otherwise, she will leave Tuesday morning.

She said Kim and Tina Sealy have bought her house, so she's leaving without the worry of having to deal with that. She said she has mixed emotions. She's leaving 27 years of memories, her home, and lots of friends, but is excited about the change. She's moving to Kansas. We will miss her, too, but certainly wish her well in her new place.

Gladene Green is the longtime Benjamin correspondent for the Knox County News-Courier.

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USDA changes rules for emergency grazing

The News-Courier

KNOX CITY — Knox County USDA Farm Service Agency Executive Director Nancy Birkenfeld said this week the Texas FSA State Committee revised a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) emergency grazing policy that limited eligibility on acres grazed in previous fiscal years.

Based on a revised policy decision made by the Texas FSA State Committee, CRP acres grazed during fiscal year 2011 or 2012 will be considered eligible

for emergency grazing if NRCS verifies, on a case-by-case basis, that the conservation cover will sustain grazing.

CRP acres grazed in the fall/winter of fiscal year 2013 will not be eligible for spring/summer grazing. FSA's fiscal year runs from October 1 to September 30.

"This policy change will allow eligible producers to graze acres that were grazed in the last two fiscal years if the conservation cover meets local NRCS standards," said Birkenfeld.

Counties become eligible for CRP emergency grazing when they reach the D2 (severe drought) level on the U.S. Drought Monitor. Currently, 197 counties have reached the D2 level and are eligible for CRP emergency grazing. Click here to view a list of counties authorized for 2013 CRP emergency grazing. This policy change applies to all counties authorized for CRP emergency grazing.

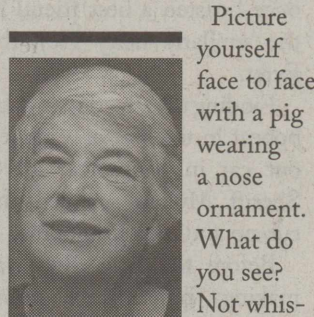
"Eligible producers who are interested in emergency grazing of CRP must request approval before grazing eligible acreage and must obtain a modified conservation plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service that includes grazing provisions," said Birkenfeld. "Current provisions allow grazing on 100 percent of a field, up to the 75 percent stocking rate," she said.

For more information about CRP Emergency Grazing, please contact the Knox County FSA office at (940)658-3537 Ext 2.

The 501 That's some fancy pig in a poke

Don't cast your pearls before swine. I wouldn't argue with that bit of advice, no matter who said it.

But a jewel in a pig's snout? It's a different matter.



HANABA MUNN WELCH

Picture yourself face to face with a pig wearing a nose ornament. What do you see? Not whiskers, dirt and slime, but the jewel. In my mind's eye, the pig trinket is bigger than the dainty little diamonds and rings that adorn the noses of about half my favorite baristas. But even if it's a very small sparkler set in a pig's nose, your eyes invariably gravitate to the unexpected bit of bling as soon as it catches the light. Eyes are like that.

For what it's worth, I think all pig jewelry should be big and splashy. That said, television pig Maxwell probably will wear a modest earring in his next appearance — something to match the refined

side of his persona. Oops. Replace "person" with "pig" in that word.

We humans slant our language, don't we? Anthropomorphize a pig, and your poised to blaze new trails though the political correctness maze. Does a pig have a personality or a pigality? Do pigs care? We digress.

What first made me think of jewels in pigs' snouts was an elegant copper sink I spied this week while shopping for plumbing parts. A design in mosaic glittered on the outside of the basin. On the inside, the shiny hammered copper surface gleamed up at me. Let's call it a steal at \$199.

So far, the renovation of our humble farmhouse half-bath has cost about \$25 for everything — garage sale paint, one piece of cement board for 15 square feet and one pack of cheap stick-on floor tiles.

What's lacking in the renovation is a focal point. The copper sink would do it.

At this point, if you think I'm serious, I am. It would be an eye-catcher of the highest order, right up there with jewels in pig snouts. Picture the basin sitting on a glass-topped cleaned-up sizeable vintage board

from something like a vintage hog trough. The old bathroom walls are already perfect. Short of adobe plastered in white, nothing sets off pseudo-antique copper objects like whitewashed wood walls built of lumber marked with century-old saw cuts. Yes. It would work.

When I mentioned the sink idea to my husband, who's kept his distance — 150 miles — while I've tackled this half-bath redo, he didn't say no. He's an architect. He understands focal points.

Instead he cautioned the gyp in our well water might react in a bad way with copper.

Phooey. He's right. It would indeed. Oh well.

But I'm not giving up my dream. That's why there's Photoshop. We'll put the old sink back in, but on the wall we'll hang a picture of what the bathroom would have looked like with the fancy copper basin.

In the end we'll be glad we didn't spend the money. Over time, even a jewel in a pig's snout loses its pizzazz.

Hanaba Munn Welch is a columnist and contributor to Blackburn Media Group newspapers.

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THANKS FOR READING THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS-COURIER!

Thank you...
To everyone involved: I apologize for taking so long in getting this done. Praise God, Jay is home and doing great...still has a long way to go, but better than we were! We'd just like to say THANK YOU to all our wonderful family/friends who have helped us out over the past 5 weeks. Words seem so inadequate at this time for ALL THE HARD WORK, SACRIFICES, LABOR, LOVE, GIVING, PRAYERS, CARDS, CALLS, VISITS, etc...it is so overwhelming to know we are truly blessed by so many wonderful friends. We are truly grateful to each and everyone for the HELP: cowboying, putting events together, handmade items, giving of money and time, the items donated for auction, cattle, barrel race, and food. WOW, GOD IS SO GOOD and I am so glad to know we still live in a place where family and friends come together to help one another out. PLEASE KNOW that Jay and I LOVE & APPRECIATE EVERYTHING done for us and EVERYONE who did it!!!
MAY GOD RICHLY BLESS YOU IN RETURN 110 fold!
WE LOVE YOU FOREVER, Jay and Linda Hart

Knox County Jail Report

The following is a list of people processed through the Knox County Jail from June 10-28 and obtained from Sheriff Dean Homstad under the Texas Open Records Act.

- Sanders, Cody D. (June 11), forgery (state jail felony) Foard County warrant; forgery (motion to revoke), Wilbarger County warrant (state jail felony).
- Parker, Jennifer L. (June 15) possession of a controlled substance (state jail felony) Baylor County.
- Martin, Pauline M. (June 16) striking unattended vehicle (class B misdemeanor) (motion to revoke) Knox County warrant (arrested in Taylor County).
- Holland, Ella Mae (June 17) assault causing bodily injury/family member (class A misdemeanor) Baylor County.
- McGre, Shaun Douglas (June 19) off bond/possession of a controlled substance (class B misdemeanor); off bond/criminal mischief (class B misdemeanor) Wilbarger County warrants.
- Vaughn, Franklin H., (June 23) obstruction/retaliation (third-degree felony) Baylor County.
- Rogers, Gary N. (June 24) assault/family violence (class A misdemeanor) Knox County.
- Enbrock, Carl David (June 24) public intoxication (class C misdemeanor) Knox County.
- Fitts, Jacob Eli (June 27) online solicitation of a minor (third-degree felony) Baylor County.

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So long, Jailhouse Bob

Comrades recall criminal-cavorting cat

By Wayne Hodgin
The Stonewall Courier

ASPERMONT — A resident whose comings and goings at the Stonewall County jail were about as notorious as a few of the prisoners housed there over the last decade and a half has gone on to his great reward.

Bob Cat the bobcat, the longtime feline companion of Sheriff Bill Mullen and his wife, Stephenia, died June 5 at age 15 years and 9 months old, his owners recently said.

Raised as an orphan at the Stonewall County jail from a time when his little eyes weren't yet open, Bob briskly became a beloved, though at times, temperamental fixture

not only around the facility but also throughout the county.

At an impressively hefty 30 pounds and a finicky appetite for fried chicken nuggets, Bob gained notoriety for his propensity for successfully navigating a toilet, though he never learned to flush — a feat that claimed him a report in the supermarket tabloid The National Examiner.

"He always liked people to come see him and mess with him," Stephenia Mullen said. "He has had his picture taken with everyone from motorcycle bikers out of Houston to preachers out of Washington State. It would be safe to say he has had over 3,000 photos taken of him and others in his

lifetime." Bob, whose likeness hangs in the hallowed halls of Bobcat Country at Rule High School, once boasted a best friend in the similarly hairy Hey, the ferret.

Finding the abandoned baby bobcat in the seat of a junked out car in September 1998, Sheriff Mullen scooped the cub up and took him home.

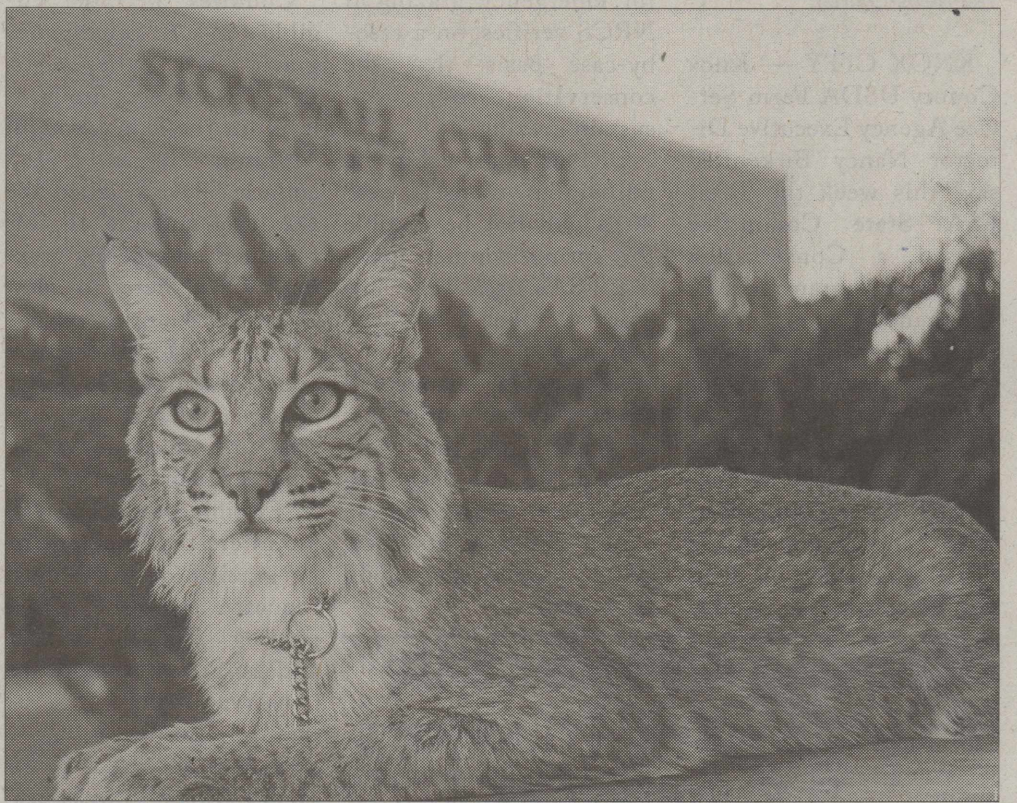
Before too long, Bob was making himself at home among the jail's inmates, slipping in and out of the bars, much to the delight of the prisoners who surely longingly coveted the cat's fastidious freedom.

The top bunk of the seldom-used Cell No. 3 became Bob's preferred penal perch when the local pokey wasn't at capacity.

One of Sheriff Mullen's favorite inmate/cat interactions came during a particularly busy time for the jail when Bob's cell was occupied by an unsuspecting and slumbering inmate whose rude awakening came as Bob joined the prisoner in bed.

Sheriff Mullen never passed up a chance to get a laugh out of Bob's interactions with the unsuspected.

A visitor once compliment-



Courtesy photo

Bob Cat, the longtime companion of Stonewall County Sheriff Bill and Stephenia Mullen, died last month. Sheriff Mullen found the indiginous Lynx as a cub, presumably orphaned by its mother, about 16 years ago. Bob Cat made fast friends at the Stonewall County jail, where his room was always Cell No. 3, bringing himself, at times, the national spotlight.

ed Mullen on the remarkable lifelike replica of a lounging bobcat on the sheriff's office shelf to which the sheriff replied, "Go ahead, and touch it."

"As the man ran his fingers across its fur, Bob Cat just turned and looked at the man

just as pretty as you please," Stephenia Mullen said. "Liked to have scared that man out of his own life."

Though he never was all that aggressive with humans, outside of some moderately rambunctious play times, Bob made more friends than fren-

emies over the years. Sheriff Mullen once intimated that Bob Cat was just another member of the family.

"He'll be with me until the day he dies, or the day I die, whichever comes first," Mullen said.

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The Idle American Folks with eyes on their prize

Small-town America has a tightly knit community fabric. The color may be "cotton-sack" bland — or maybe not.

Colorado City easily qualifies as colorful — serape hues, if you will — thanks to community leaders who have long placed the public good in front of personal gain. Included are such decorated public servants as the late Congressman George Mahon and his nephew, Eldon, a U.S. district judge for whom the federal courthouse in Fort Worth is named. Others have put down deep roots, with no intentions ever to leave.

The local radio station KVMC — augmented by additional letters when FM came along — provides a long skein of service in the community fabric. Then local attorney Eldon Mahon and two out-of-town investors ended radio silence when the station went on the air in 1950.

When two other broadcasters are bona-fide characters, community colors emerge. One is Jim Baum, who, at age 76, is mayor again — for the third time. He's held that office for 18 of his 33 years in C-City, having purchased KVMC in 1980 "with borrowed money."

Another figure was Porter Richardson, a radio station "fixture" until shortly before his death at age 80 in 1995. Richardson was into virtually every community project, building stage props, starring in productions,

broadcasting, engineering, selling, inventing — you name it.

Mostly, he was a model for goodness and community pride, joking that if he ever won the lottery, all he wanted from the winnings would be "a sticker burr-free lawn and a white Camaro." About three months before he died, he won \$4 million, easily the biggest winner in the area — ever.

Yep, the same guy who helped develop the atomic bomb during WWII Air Force service hit it big. C-City residents sported "couldn't have happened to a nicer guy" smiles.

Though beloved, Richardson and a mischievous buddy didn't endear themselves to the merchants when the Colorado River rose from its banks in 1938. The two youngsters pattered through downtown in a motorboat as merchants tried to protect their stores. Boat wakes didn't help.

One merchant, standing on a box with a shotgun at his side, yelled, "Porter, you come back down this street in that boat and I'll blow you out of the water."

When word got out that a local person had won big money, speculation abounded. The town buzzed with "wonder who won" talk.

Baum called the lottery people, who promised to notify him with the winner's ID when the prize was claimed. Jim beamed at the prospect of interviewing the new millionaire.

Upon receiving the call a day later, however, he was shocked that the winner was Richardson, who opted not to be interviewed.

"When he got back from Austin, I was parked in his driveway," Baum, his employer, explained. "Porter, this is a microphone, and this is a tape

recorder. And we are going to have a radio interview."

At Richardson's memorial service, glowing comments were made by leaders of a thankful community. Clearly, he was beloved, never wanting much for himself beyond a nice lawn and favorite car.

Residents knew a corner post was gone from the fence line. And they knew his void would require the efforts of many to replace.

Few could replicate the way Porter sauntered through life, mostly relaxed. His Air Force buddies remembered his taking naps during B-25 bombing missions, sometimes having to be awakened for his radar duties.

Eldon Mahon called him "a man of many talents — agreeable and loyal." Strong words.

Baum put it well, too. "Porter was loved for many reasons, the least being that he won the lottery."

Visitors to C-City learn quickly how to pronounce the town's name. Locals insist they live in "Colo-RAY-do" City. "Colo-RAH-do," they claim, names the river and the state.

While there, drop by the station, where the mayor hangs out most of the time.

Baum will brag about his town, tell you a story and, if you insist, sell you an ad. Ask specifically about his morning newscast — that's when he reveals the "road kill count" of varmints failing to make it across the road the previous night.

He, like the Mahons and Richardson before him, will do to ride the river with.

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



DON NEWBURY

Stamford welcomes 83rd annual TCR event

Special to the Courier

STAMFORD — If it's entertainment you want, it's entertainment you will get at the 83rd Texas Cowboy Rodeo this weekend.

TNT Rodeo Stock will open the gate to some of the rankest bulls and broncs around, with events such as saddle bronc riding, bull riding, bareback riding, calf roping, barrel racing, wild mare races and wild cow milking.

This year's five days of festivities runs through Saturday. Rodeo performances begin at 8 p.m. each night.

Thursday will once again be "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" night. Everyone is encouraged to wear pink in support of breast cancer awareness. Even contestants will "cowboy up" and wear pink. A Kids Rodeo will be held at the pavilion at 4 p.m.

Nightly dances begin at 9:30 p.m., with Jody Nix and The Texas Cowboys playing Friday, July 5.

The Western Art Show and Trade Show will take place at the Pavilion Building, open daily. A nightly chuck wagon dinner at the Ranch Chuck Wagons will be served at 6 p.m. each evening.

A cooking competition with chuck wagon and barbecue cook-offs will be at 11 a.m. and noon Saturday on the Chuck Wagon Grounds.

For information, or ticket information, call 325-773-3138. For a complete schedule of activities, visit terodeo.com and on Facebook.



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In the name and by the authority of the State of Texas

NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two days, the same being the 15 day of JULY, 2013, a default judgment may be taken against you."

TO: ANNA WITHERSPOON, ADONELL MASSIE LINK, and R. T. EVANS, Defendants, and THEIR HEIRS, UNKNOWN HEIRS, and LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Original Petition for Appointment of Receiver and Order for Receiver to Execute Mineral Lease at or before ten o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days, the same being the 15 day of JULY, 2013, before the Honorable 50th Judicial District Court of Knox County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Benjamin, Texas.

Plaintiff's petition was filed in said court, by Bobby D. Burnett (Attorney for Plaintiff), whose address is P. O. Drawer 390, Munday, Texas, on the 21st day of May, 2013, in cause numbered 9573 on the docket of said court, and styled, KPK RESOURCES, LLC, PLAINTIFF VS. ANNA WITHERSPOON, ADONELL MASSIE LINK, AND R. T. EVANS, AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS, AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF SUCH PERSONS, DEFENDANTS.

The names of the parties to this cause are as follows:

ANNA WITHERSPOON, ADONELL MASSIE LINK, and R. T. EVANS.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit:

Plaintiff requests the appointment of a receiver of the undivided mineral interests owned by Defendants in:

All of Section No. Seven (7), G. C. & S. F. RR Company Survey, Abstract No. 542, in Knox County, Texas, and Abstract No. 1228 in King County, Texas, and containing 320 acres of land, more or less.

and an order of the Court authorizing and directing the receiver to execute and deliver to Plaintiff an oil, gas and mineral lease covering the undivided mineral interest of Defendants in the real property described above, as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's petition on file in this suit.

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to the requirements of law, and the mandates thereof, and make due return as the law directs.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION PAGE 1 OF 2

Issued and given under my hand and the Seal of said Court, at office in Benjamin, Texas, this the 30 day of May, 2013.

CLERK OF THE COURT

[Signature]
ANNETTE OBEY, District Clerk of
Knox County, Texas
Knox County Courthouse
100 West Cedar
Benjamin, Texas 79505

LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR
FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT**

Sauder Management Company, P.O. Box 8546, Wichita Falls, Texas 76307 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid in the Lower Tannehill Formation, Springer 210 Lease, Well No. 2. The proposed injection well is located 13 miles Southwest of Guthrie, Texas in the Christopher (Lower Tannehill) Field, in King County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 3,738 to 3,756 feet.

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

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

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PERRY
From Page 1

In calling the second special session, Perry ordered lawmakers also to write and pass legislation to fund transportation infrastructure projects and establish a mandatory sentence of life with parole for a capital felony committed by a 17-year-old offender.

Some lawmakers who challenged bills during the regular and first special sessions said that ultimately the abortion-regulating legislation would not stand up to scrutiny by the courts, nor would bills revising certain redistricting maps and limiting a jury's ability to mitigate parole in capital murder convictions of certain juveniles.

Ed Sterling contributed to this report.

TRUSCOTT
From Page 1

"I'm used to playing much bigger venues than this," Rogers said. "But I keep coming back to Truscott every year because the community is one of the friendliest I have ever been to." The dance began as a small gathering but has outgrown the community center where it's held. "The Circle Bar Street Dance predominately had Truscott residents in attendance, but as the years have passed, the popularity of the event has spread to the friends and family of the original attendees and has consistently grown every year since," event coordinator Eugene Daniel said. "The community center is already partially enclosed, but is more or less an open-air pavilion at this point. "There were no original plans to further enclose the center, but too many events

kept coming up and Truscott needed a larger area with air-conditioning and heat to make the events more comfortable." The cost to finish estimate is roughly \$60,000, and construction will proceed in phases depending on fundraising proceeds. Daniel said this year's event raised enough funds to finish the floor and roof. With more funds in the future, the installation of wide garage doors on three sides will enable the climate-controlled facility to be opened or closed. After the enclosure is complete, the community center will not only be able to host additional popular musical venues, but will also host spring and fall dances as well as winter balls.

It will be free to rent for all Truscott residents and will only cost \$250 to rent out to non-residents. Rogers will be returning to the area Aug. 10 with a show in Seymour.



Photos by Geoffrey Baumgartner/For the News-Courier
Knox city residents Shane and Mitzi Welch cutting a rug on the sawdust covered street at the fourth annual Circle Bar Ranch Street Dance.

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The Cattleman

Guest worker program essential

When I was a kid I worked outside on the ranch from sunup until sundown. When my girls were old enough, they did the same thing. Working right alongside them was a handful of migrant workers who helped us with the hard and physical labor of running a successful cow-calf operation.

These migrant workers weren't just faceless workers. They were family. They spent their days working to support their families back home, and at Thanksgiving and Christmas they would sit down at the dinner table with the rest of us.

Unfortunately, our current immigration program doesn't allow these workers to come here legally. Instead most of them travel here illegally, and in doing so they risk their lives to work and ultimately provide for their family. And employers who desperately need a labor force face charges and steep fines if they employ these workers.

This is a problem that must be fixed. Washington is finally working toward reforming this country's broken immigration system. I am glad to see that in both chambers of Congress, a true fix to our country's guest-worker program is being considered. However, I worry the skewed notion that a practical guest-worker program implies blanket amnesty might set back any progress.

Let's be clear, ranchers don't support blanket amnesty. Amnesty and citizenship should be a separate debate. Let's also be clear these workers aren't taking away American jobs. At our ranch in Falls County — a county with a high unemployment rate — we can't find U.S. citizens who will do the hard work of ranching. We go through five or 10 U.S. employees a year because, when we do find someone, they typically quit within a few weeks. Migrant workers are simply doing the jobs that most Americans refuse to do.

The livestock industry needs a steady, year-round workforce. This is why Texas ranchers support a plan that allows immigrants who want to work in the United States an opportunity to do so.

Both the Senate and the House have different ideas on how to accomplish this. The Senate has taken an all-or-nothing approach to comprehensive immigration reform and, as part of that, has included a guest-worker program. The House is biting off the immigration overhaul in small chunks by introducing smaller, stand-alone bills, including the Agriculture Guest-worker Act, introduced by House Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte, R-Va.

I don't know which approach Congress will take to fix the issue, but I do know we must have a practical program where willing workers can come to the United States on a work visa and stay for at least three to five years before they're required to return home. Once they've returned home, they should be able to re-apply for their visa and return to their job. This provides stability to an industry that simply can't afford to continuously turn over new employees.

A program that allows these folks to work here legally also allows them to be accounted for and take part in the economy by paying taxes.

Border security is crucial to any immigration reform, particularly in Texas. While a practical and effective guest-worker program isn't the single cure to securing our border, it will help reduce the flood of illegal immigrants crossing the border. This relief will allow authorities to focus on controlling people crossing illegally.

Whether Congress reforms our entire immigration program or not, they must come up with an effective fix to help provide Texas ranchers with a reliable workforce. This is the right thing to do for our country and those migrant workers wanting to make a better living for their family.

Pete Bonds, first vice president of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, is a life-long rancher. He and his family operate the Bonds Ranch in Saginaw.



PETE BONDS

Montana woman killed in wreck south of Aspermont

By Wayne Hodgin
The Stonewall Courier

ASPERMONT — A 60-year-old Montana woman was killed in a multi-vehicle crash last week on U.S. 83 North when the sports-utility vehicle she was driving was struck by a southbound pickup.

Darlene Kay Hoerner of Kalispell, Mont., was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident, which occurred a few minutes before 4 p.m. June 25 about one mile south of Aspermont on U.S. 83.

Investigating State Trooper Kipp Koenig said Hoerner was driving a 2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee on northbound U.S. 83 in a caravan with three other vehicles, including two moving vans and a passenger vehicle, when a southbound 2003 Ford pickup, driven by Andrew Phillip Thibodeaux, 30, of Abilene, crossed the center line.

The pickup struck the left rear axle of the second moving van, a 2008 International Truck belonging to the Penske truck-leasing company and being driven by the deceased's son Austin Hoerner of Kalispell, Mont. The pickup continued on, striking the Jeep and pushing it into a 2012 Chevrolet Cruze, driven by Vanessa Riley of Columbia Falls, Mont.

"The driver of the pickup crossed the center line and swiped the moving truck enough to spin it around into the middle of the road," Koenig said. "The pickup was then sent right into a head-on path

with the Jeep. The passenger vehicle swerved to avoid the wreck when it was hit by two other vehicles."

Thibodeaux was taken to Stonewall Memorial Hospital, where he was later flown to Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene for treatment. Neither his condition, nor whether he remained hospitalized, was known to investigators this week.

Austin Hoerner and Riley were treated at the scene.

According to reports, the weather was clear and the roadway was dry.

Koenig said Darlene Hoerner and her husband, Allen, who was driving a moving truck that led the caravan, were helping their son and his fiancée move from Magnolia, northwest of Houston, to Boise, Idaho.

Darlene Hoerner's body was pronounced by Stonewall County Judge Ronnie Moorhead and transported to Giles-McCoy Funeral Home in Aspermont.

The cause of the crash and why exactly Thibodeaux' pickup careened over the center line was still being investigated this week, said Senior Trooper Sparky Dean, spokesman for the Texas Highway Patrol district in Abilene.

"It's a work still in progress," Dean said Monday. "The reconstruction team will work on the scene some time in the next few weeks and give that report to the investigator."

Patti Walker contributed to this report.

Dixie Divas

The secret life of Mr. Bobo

To be just downright honest, I never expected to miss him this much. And, if the deeper truth be told, perhaps it isn't just the loss of a singular man, though great and admirable he was.

Maybe it's the combined losses of those three who sat together on the church pew in the third row. Perhaps that's what makes the grief so profound and long lasting.



RONDA RICH

Mr. Gene Bobo was special. There's neither any denying nor disputing that. He was a courtly Southern gentleman, his manners impeccable and his vocabulary belonging to a genteel past where people used worthy words and eschewed point-less ones like "uh", "you know" and "like."

"I commend you on such a magnanimous choice," he said once over something I had done that won his approval. "My heart brims with admiration whenever I witness someone, such as yourself, who answers to the siren of a higher calling."

We became friends by accident. One Sunday, I had hurried in to church and slid in next to a man named Gary. We bonded instantly and from then on, Gary saved me a seat saying to anyone who dared to sit by him, "No! I am saving this for my friend."

Gary had tremendous physical challenges and had them since birth. Walking and talking were both difficult and managed only through a superior effort and determination.

Mr. Bobo sat by Gary — until I claimed that place — so I found myself seated between them on a weekly basis. Then, Mama joined us. Mr. Bobo would graciously rise from his seat, step into the aisle and whisper, "Someone is anxiously awaiting your arrival. I am delighted he will not be disappointed this morning."

I sat next to Gary, Mama sat next to me, and Mr. Bobo sat on the end. We

all became friends. Good friends. The kind of friends who celebrate with you, mourn with you and pray with you.

Mama died first. Then Gary. Then, most recently, Mr. Bobo just up and died without warning. He was 94 but vibrant when he went to bed that night. He could not be awakened the next morning. I sadly learned of his death when I was in California and reading the local news online. His death was the lead, front-page story. I couldn't believe it was true. But it was.

Mr. Bobo was a textile pioneer. He co-invented pantyhose in the mid 1950s, which was a bit ironic because he was such a gentleman he still blushed when he said the word. It was too intimate and unseemly for such a dignified gentleman.

He had shepherded a young Sara Blakely toward her dream of a product called Spanx, helping her to locate the necessary knitting mills and introducing her throughout the industry. A noted philanthropist, he used his wealth and good fortune to help many.

Typical of Mr. Bobo, I did not have a clue to such past successes for a few years, despite the fact I spent a good deal of time with him. We dined together often and after a couple of falls put him into an assisted-living facility, I visited regularly. His eyes pooled with tears the moment he saw me, and he would squeeze me so tightly it hurt.

"You are the daughter the good Lord never saw fit with which to bless me," he said often. "You have no idea the extent to which I hold affection for you in my heart."

I had a surprise for him. I had written about him in my new book, "There's A Better Day A-Comin'." I decided to show him the book rather than tell him, but that opportunity is now lost to eternity.

I mourn the missed joy over seeing his happiness.

Still, this much I know: Mr. Bobo has found an even better day.

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

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Have a safe and happy Fourth of July!