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THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2013

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

Perry passes on unparalleled fourth term

By Wayne Hodgin
The Knox County News-Courier

In what he himself has dubbed an improbable journey for a man reared on a humble family farm in rural Haskell County to the moniker "longest-tenured governor in Texas history," Rick Perry announced this week he would not seek an unprecedented fourth gubernatorial bid.

On July 2, less than a week prior to his announcement, Perry hinted of "exciting future news," adding to the swirling speculation he either would seek yet another term as governor in 2014 or launch his second run for the presidency in 2016.

"I make this announcement with the deepest sense of humility and appreciation for the trust the people of this state have given me, and knowing I will truly miss serving in this capacity — the greatest job in modern politics," Perry, 63, said at a news conference Monday in San Antonio.

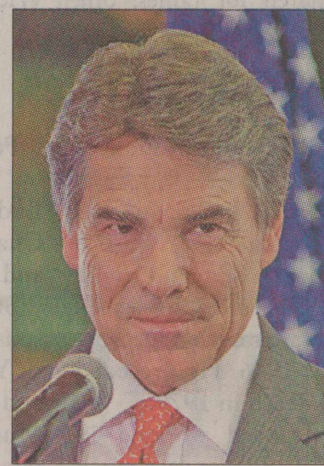
The poignant backdrop of the nation's largest Caterpillar dealership — owned by one of Perry's top campaign donors — no doubt was craftily chosen as a reminder of the governor's oft-touted economic leadership that, he says, has created 1.6 million new jobs during his tenure.

"Thirty percent of the net new jobs cre-

ated in America over the last decade have been created in Texas," Perry said. "This is a tribute to the entrepreneurial spirit of Texans."

Since taking office in December 2000, one of Perry's main focuses has been job creation while making investments in infrastructure and education to meet the demands of the state's fast-growing population.

"It's the private sector that creates wealth and jobs. The public sector can only create the right environment to make this possible," he said. "In this



Gov. Rick Perry

See PERRY, Page 8

Knox Notes

Events are listed free of charge for nonprofit civic organizations, schools and community events. Submit listings at least two weeks ahead of the date. Listings will run through the date of the event. Emailed submissions are preferred to kcnewscourier@gmail.com.

Vacation Bible School

All Knox City area children are invited to Camp E.D.G.E. Vacation Bible School from 6:30 to 8 p.m. July 21-24 at the City Park. For information call Amanda Duke at 658-3517.

VBS @ Church of Christ

The Munday Church of Christ will have Vacation Bible School from 9 a.m. to noon July 29-31 for ages 3-12. Activities for teens 13-19 will be from noon to 9 p.m. July 29 and 30 and will include a lunch and supper. Call Becky Offutt at 940-256-4745 for information.

Summer reading

The Munday City-County Library hosts a free weekly story time for children with activities and snacks from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays through July 17. For information, call the library at 940-422-4877.

Chicken-fried steak

The Knox County Aging Center will have a fundraising chicken-fried steak lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday at the center. 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. Monday. Eligible residents could qualify for a phone and accessories, provided at no cost to the individual. Proof of residency required. For information, call Joanna Delgado at 940-657-4166.

Rummage sale

The Knox County Aging Center will have a rummage sale from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 27 at 507 S. Central in Knox City to raise donations during the Watermelon Festival. Call Cassandra Sheedy at 657-3618 for information.

Alzheimer's Support Group

The Munday Nursing Center sponsors a support group for Alzheimer's patients, caregivers, family and friends at 12:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month in Fellowship Hall at Munday First United Methodist Church. Bring a sack lunch. Call Ronda Thompson at 940-422-4541.

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.

Corrections

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

News on the go



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

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Low enrollment cancels annual music camp

By Caleb Hudgens
The Knox County News-Courier

GORIE — The annual Bobby Boatright Western Swing Music Camp honoring the memory of the late renowned and beloved Western Swing fiddle player was canceled this year because of low enrollment numbers.

"We're not canceling the camp at all," camp director and retired educator J.W. Sollis said. "But this is the first time in 13 years we've had to call it off because of low numbers."

The fiddle and guitar camp provides both classrooms and dormitory space for the camp and the venue for the closing concert. Students age 10 and older learn by day and jam by night.

"If you like good music, we would've had it," Sollis said. "This could've been the best overall instructional group I have had at the camp."

Instructional lineup for this year's camp had included a number of well-known instrumentalists.

Margaret "Maggie" Scales, a qualified teacher of both fiddle and violin, brings to the camp her experience with the fiddle. She has played and opened shows with many legends, such as Bobby Bare, Hank Williams Jr., Ray Price and Ronnie Milsap.

Ronny Dale Schultz who has taught many years at the camp is known for his ability to perform and teach many different instruments to campers.

Lead guitar instructor Joe Settlemires is one of Oklahoma's most prolific and celebrated musicians. He landed one of country music's most prestigious gigs, playing with the legendary Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys, at the age of 19.

Settlemires also played with a "Who's Who" of country legends including Willie Nelson, Loretta Lynn, Red Foley, Tex Ritter, Harold Bradley and others. In addition, he backed up others in the popular and jazz genres like Bob Hope, Howard Roberts, as well as performing with the Oklahoma City Symphony.

After teaching at Oklahoma Christian College, he found a permanent home at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma.

Fort Worth musician Glenn McLaughlin is the beginning guitar, working his magic as an instructor with patience and knowledge and a knack for coaxing the best from his students. McLaughlin has taught at the camp for three years.

Grammy Award-winner Tommy Allsup and Boatright taught at the camp for years and organized the curriculum.

The camp was named in memory of Boatright after his death.

Standing tall



Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Rhineland stands sentry over the cotton planted in this field near Farm-to-Market roads 2534 and 267 north of Munday. Experts say the region's late cotton crop would be boosted greatly by much-needed rainfall.

Area cotton decrease surprise to experts

By Caleb Hudgens
The Knox County News-Courier

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service reports 995,000 acres of Rolling Plains land were planted to cotton this year, a 17 percent decrease from 2012.

"Crop conditions seem to be all over the place," Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Executive Vice President Karin Kuykendall said. "We have some areas that look great and others that look a little more thin."

The RPCG serves the cotton industry of the Rolling Plains. The non-profit organization unites growers from the thirty-one counties of the central and northern Rolling Plains to improve the conditions under which the region's cotton is produced and sold.

The northern area of the RPCG's service area saw a slight decrease, planting 400,000 compared to 484,000 acres last year. The southern area experienced a larger decrease in total acreage, down to 595,000 acres from 700,000 acres last year.

"About 90 percent of Rolling Plains cotton is planted on dry land," Kuykendall said. "With so little rain, the areas around Munday are down significantly. There are the concerns with lack of underground moisture."

The decrease is not what was expected for this year's crop, but, Kuykendall said, this year's cot-

ton production is historically spot-on for the region.

"This year's crop has dropped more than expected — over 15 percent," she said. "That was a bit of a surprise, but we've come back to historically what's normal for us."

Although the rains received in the area several weeks ago provided-much needed moisture, more is needed to ensure substantial production.

"We need rain now," Kuykendall said. "I mean, at least we have a crop given the conditions. In 2011, no one had any cotton. The rains helped get the crop up, but it's really rough now. We're in desperate need of more rain for this late crop."

According to the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, cotton is produced in six primary growing regions of the state. Each production region has its own climate, soil type, rainfall and harvesting techniques. Roughly 64 percent of the state's cotton production comes from 27 counties in the Texas High Plains, while about 20 percent of the state's cotton production comes from 24 counties in the Rolling Plains.

In the 16-county Big Country region, cotton is a top commodity, second only to the beef industry, and accounts for about 8 percent of the state's 5.54 million bale harvest. The average value of upland cotton in the Big Country from 2008-2011 was about \$206.3 million annually based on the roughly 560,000 acres planted.

Funding OK'd for SH 222 widening in Knox, King

The Knox County News-Courier

CHILDRESS — The Texas Transportation Commission on Tuesday approved \$3.7 million for a project to widen State Highway 222 in Knox and King counties.

A.L. Helmcamp of Buffalo was awarded the project to widen the pavement from 24 foot to 30 foot (11 foot lanes with 4 foot shoulders).

In King County this project will begin at U.S. 82 to the Knox County line and will begin in Knox County from the King County line to 4 miles south.

"Safety is the top priority at TxDOT and the basis for planning, building, and maintaining our transportation systems," said Marty Smith, TxDOT's Childress District

Engineer. "Keeping travelers moving safely and efficiently will continue to be an ongoing priority as Texas welcomes nearly 1,000 newcomers each day."

State transportation Commissioner Fred Underwood said a state as vast as Texas must have reliable roadways connecting urban and rural areas.

"Keeping everyone safe on the road is our first priority," he said. "We must do everything we can to get the driving public safely to their destinations and home to their families at the end of the day."

Construction for this project is expected to begin the end of August and will take about 12 months to complete.

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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



Deaths

Geraldine Clara Koenig

MUNDAY — Geraldine Clara Koenig, 81, passed away Monday, July 1, 2013. She was born July 15, 1931, to Joseph and Alice Koenig in Knox County.

Geraldine was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and St. Ann's Mothers Christian Society. She was a book-keeper for many years.

She loved to make quilts and often donated them to the church for raffles. She

also loved to cook, and her divinity, which according to her family, was "world famous."

Geraldine was preceded in death by her parents and brothers Arnold and Jerome Koenig.

Survivors include brothers Mark Koenig and wife, Alice, of Hereford and Leo Koenig and wife, Pansy, of Munday; sisters Frieda Koenig of Wichita Falls and Margaret

Dexheimer of San Antonio; also, many nieces and nephews; and two special friends, Jane Ann and Lindsey Penman.

Rosary was Tuesday, July 2, 2013, at the funeral home. Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 3, 2013, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Burial will follow in St. Joseph's Cemetery under the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home of Munday.

Pearl Frances Yates

GOREE — Pearl Frances Yates, 82, passed away Sunday, July 7, 2013. Pearl was born November 1, 1930 in Seymour to Lem and Ludie Betts. She and Charles O. Yates were married December 21, 1946. He preceded her in death in 1979.

Pearl loved working in the yard and was very much involved in Goree. She worked for Bickleys Dept. Store, Allied Pharmacy and also Goree Independent School District.

Pearl is preceded in death by he parents, Lem and Ludie Betts, her husband, Charles O. "Cowboy" Yates and sister, Faye Dobson.

She is survived by two sons; Danny and wife, Doris Yates of Seymour, Macky and wife, Janet Yates of Munday, two daughters; Pam and husband, Mike Cheshier of Wichita Falls, and Jan and husband, Larry Cure of Roswell, N.M. Nine grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren,

and one great-great-grandchild. Also, one brother: GL and wife, Edna Betts, and one sister; Ruth Loving.

Visitation will be held from 6-7PM, Tuesday, July 9, 2013 at the funeral home in Munday. Services will be held at 11AM, Wednesday, July 10, 2013 at the Goree Baptist Church. Burial will follow in Goree Cemetery under the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home.

Sister Jovita Stengel

FORT SMITH, Ark. — The family of Fred and Elizabeth Blake Stengel welcomed their daughter, Wilhelmina Eva, Sept. 7, 1918, in Rhineland, Texas. Wilhelmina Eva entered St. Scholastica Convent on Aug. 21, 1935, and received the name of Sister Jovita on her investing day. She spent 59 years in the culinary department preparing meals for the sisters. After she retired she did many chores around the monastery.

Sister Jovita was preceded



JOVITA STENDEL

in death by her parents; one sister, Sister Marcella; four brothers, Edward, Paul, Gerald, and Herbert.

Vespers for the dead will be Sunday, July 07, 2013, at 7:30 p.m. in the Monastery Chapel. The funeral Mass will be Monday, July 08, 2013, at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. Mark Stengel as presider. Burial will be in the Monastery cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please make memorials to St. Scholastica Continuing Care Fund P.O. Box 3489 Fort Smith AR 72913.

To sign the on line guest-book please visit fentress-mortuary.com

Crosby WMU group to host golf tourney

The inaugural Christian Women's Job Corps of Crosby County will have a golf scramble Aug. 5 at Roaring Springs Golf Ranch.

Golfers throughout the area are invited to play in

the fundraising event beginning at 8 a.m. with staggered tee times. Cash prizes will be awarded: first place will receive \$100 per team member; second place will receive \$75 per team member; and third place will receive \$50 per team member.

Entry fees for teams of four to six players are \$50 per person for 18 holes plus cart fee. A brown bag lunch is provided.

To reserve a spot for your team, mail entries and fees to: CWJC of Crosby County, P.O. Box 472, Crosbyton, TX 79322.

All entries must be received by July 29. Entry forms are available at [\[crosbycounty.org\]\(http://crosbycounty.org\).](http://cwjc-</p>
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CWJC of Crosby County, a ministry of Women's Missionary Union, provides job and life skills training to women in need. Its mission is to educate, motivate and encourage success in women through an encounter with Jesus Christ.

The group first meeting of the year will be Sept. 3 at no cost to the participant.

For information about the scramble or the classes available through Christian Women's Job Corps of Crosby County, contact Jane Morris at 806-778-8108 or on the group's website.

The Knox County News-Courier

Commissioners Report

By Caleb Hudgens

The Knox County News-Courier

BENJAMIN — Knox County commissioners met for their regular monthly meeting Monday at the Knox County courthouse in Benjamin.

The board tabled discussion on upgrading county Caterpillar MotoGradors until a more concrete budget was approved for the following fiscal year.

Maintenance Supervisor Gene Ward updated board members on county Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) projects.

"We've just finished Highway 82 east of Benjamin," Ward said. "And we're finishing our project on south of Knox City."

Ward and his crew have three current projects in the county. "Our first priority is finishing up in Knox City, then we'll be moving on to Rhineland and the courthouse parking lot," Ward said. "Things have been moving a little slowly, but we haven't forgotten about any of the projects. We're just eight guys with a lot to do."

Lorrie Coop, the family and consumer sciences agent for the Knox County Extension Service, provided feedback on the county "Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes" program.

"We had 22 in attendance with 86 percent never having taken a diabetes education workshop before," she said.

"Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes" is a program covering basic nutrition and self-care management topics. The program helps people with diabetes learn the skills needed to manage their disease successfully.

The interest in the workshop has spurred the agency to plan an additional workshop.

"We're really pleased with the evaluations so far," Coop said. "And our next workshop will also offer information in Spanish so we're hoping for another good turn out."

The 501

Internet leaves nothing to the imagination

Two discourses in a row on the ongoing renovation of a half-bath are a bit much. Three would be over the top. Right? After all, how many lessons can be extracted from a 15-square foot project?

Probably enough for a book.

If you're still with me, here's a tip for cleaning gypsum-encrusted lavatory faucets:



HANABA MUNN WELCH

Soak them in vinegar.

If you don't depend on well water, you may not know gypsum when you see it. Good for you. Enjoy your gyp-free surface water while it lasts.

Or maybe your water comes from underground, but it's been through one of those plants where reverse osmosis takes all the interesting stuff out. No gyp for you either.

But some of the rest of us deal with water that contains the chalky stuff. It spots dishes, silverware, pots and pans. It clogs steam irons and water heaters. Over time, it can accumulate in a water pipe like cholesterol in an artery.

Unsurprisingly, the faucets in our well water-dependent farmhouse bathroom had collected enough gyp through the years to more than dull their appearance. Think barnacles on a boat. Or food stuck in a skillet.

Once removed from the lavatory, the gypsum-compromised faucets begged to be replaced. Instead, I immersed them in vinegar, a common pantry item with a reputation as a cleaner of chrome and glass.

I checked back later and saw a mound of puffy gray froth. Shades of Vincent Price dumping people in a basement vat of acid in "The House on Haunted Hill." I took a faucet out and wiped it clean. It looked shiny and almost new. Wow. Better than a skeleton.

But I hated ruining that vinegar. Would pickle juice have worked instead?

After all, reusing everything is an emerging religion. For some of us, it's how we've always lived. To wit, I just patched a hole in the roof with a license plate. That puts me at the leading edge of the new morality, but I feel like I'm on the sidelines along with other longtime believers. We watch new players taking over the game as if they wrote the rules.

Somewhere someone is roofing an entire house with used license plates. I digress. Back to pickle juice.

INTERNET RESEARCH PAUSE.

Pickle juice is good for cleaning copper pans, melting snow, killing weeds, nourishing gardenias and drinking. Even though my cursory web search didn't find any mention of pickle juice as a gypsum solvent per se, something that shines copper should also attack gypsum. I'm out of faucets so you're on your own.

ANOTHER RESEARCH PAUSE.

I couldn't help it. I had to see if anybody has roofed a house with license plates. Sure enough, a guy in Huntsville specializes in license plate roofs.

That's the trouble with the Internet. It's a place where people beat you to your best ideas.

I just Googled "soak faucets in vinegar" and got 416,000 results.

I didn't say it first, but I'll say it now: There is nothing new under the sun.

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

Thank you for prayers, food, phone calls, gifts, visits and all your concerns during my stay in the hospital and the care home.

God be with you,

Anne Underwood

The family of Kole Gray deeply appreciates everyone who came by and brought food and paper goods, sent flowers and cards, and for the phone calls during our sorrow of the loss of our son. We want to thank everyone who helped with the funeral and prepared the food for the dinner. May God bless each and every one of you.

Thank you,

The Kole Gray Family

Find us on Facebook!

Casserole & Bake Sale

Summer Camp Trip
Saturday, July 13th at 9 am
Munday Lawrence Brothers
It's not your ordinary Bake Sale!
Last time, we SOLD OUT on the casseroles before they even made it to Lawrence Brothers.

SOOOO, we decided to take PRE-orders again this year:

ORDERs FOR:

- Breakfast Burritos
- Beef Enchiladas
- Cheese Enchiladas
- Chicken Spaghetti
- Hot Sauce
- Pico De Gallo

Thanks for always supporting our kids...
HIZKIZ Ministry
For more information, call Tammie 940-203-1698

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

Service Times:

Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday
Awanas, Pre-K to 6th grade:
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Youth: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

The Fourth of July holiday has come and gone and done so without any mishaps over our way, as far as I know. Folks did the "fireworks thing" until the early hours of Saturday morning in my neighborhood, but I didn't hear of anything going wrong — just friends having fun. And I'll admit I watched some from my front porch, and the display was beautiful.

Things have come a long way from firecrackers, Roman candles, and sparklers — the ones we enjoyed when we were kids. That was a long time ago! And the weather was nice, and that made things even better.

My sympathy to family and friends of Geraldine Koenig today. Geraldine passed away Monday after several months of declining health. Her funeral was Wednesday at Rhineland.

Here 'n' there

Good news regarding Doug Brown today. He's home from the hospital and seems to be doing fine. He still has some recuperation to continue, but so far so good. And that is great to hear. He and his family have had several uneasy weeks since his automobile accident earlier this summer. Doug lives at Teague.

Harley Tolson narrowly escaped a very serious injury Friday when she was kicked by a horse. Seems the mare had a young one, and Harley was going to pet it, and the mama did what any mama would do, and that was try to protect her baby. She kicked Harley on her forehead near her hairline, and she had to have 9 staples to close the wound.

That incident didn't slow her down

too much. In a few hours she was up and going again. And on Saturday, she and her brother enjoyed a family birthday party in Knox City at the home of her grandmother, Laura Baker. Harley turned 4 on Tuesday, and Nicholas was 8 Friday. And all's well now, but that horse accident could have been so much worse.

Keith and Pam Conner of Midland visited relatives in Benjamin on Friday afternoon.

Charles Griffith attended a Griffith family reunion at Abilene State Park on Saturday.

Weekend guests of Mary Young were her niece, Kobi LeBlanc and her family — husband, Brandon and children, Dove, Hawk, and Kanga of Round Rock. Kobi is the daughter of the late Jimmy Melton. Visiting Mary this week are her son and his wife, Jackie, Jr. and Cindy Young, also of Round Rock.

The First United Methodist Church has a new pastor who began serving the church last week. He is Jim Wright, and he and his wife, Kay, come here from Dimmitt. They will live in Knox City, and he will pastor both churches. Members of both congregations that I have talked to are glad to have him and look forward to their association with them both. Former pastor, Tom Carter, and his wife, Rhonda, have moved to Olton to pastor the church there.

I think the rattlesnakes are "out and about" over here. I have not seen any, but I understand Charles and Joy Jones killed a big one at their house last week. So please be careful. Those things can cause quite a problem if one bites you.

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

Idle American

Not as 'hot' as we thought

Americans have fallen into a crevice of sloppiness with usage of the word "hot," and it has nothing to do with 100-plus degree days.

Indeed, "hot" has become a handy word for descriptions that don't involve thermometers.

"Hot" describes fast cars, stolen property and well-sculpted bodies.

Coming to light are precise procedures to measure "hotness" that may put the "quietus" on flippant use of the word.

This could be "bubble-bursting" for many current well-worn uses.

"Hotter'n a two-dollar cook stove" was an expression my old dad used often, usually to describe the weather. Likewise, it should cause us to "tighten up" our answers for the "how hot was it?"

questions. We must purpose to be more precise. Forget the times when it was so hot that:

1) A dog was chasing a cat, and both of them were walkin'.

2) Eggs were frying on the sidewalk.

3) Fish were caught with ticks on 'em.

Forget, too, it being "so hot" in Arlington that a school playground burned to the, uh, ground. Turns out it was made of synthetic material, like the yards of a couple of dozen other schools. Arlington ISD is playing it safe, and the switch back from synthetics to pea gravel is underway. The cost is a quarter-million dollars or so for playgrounds to meet fire codes. In the meantime, the kids will "make do" with sidewalk hopscotch.

Chili cook-offs are taking a hit, too. Just think: We've been measuring chili's relative "hotness" with "alarm numbers" counted in single digits.

This won't get it done. Relativity must yield to specificity.

The integrity of cook-offs hangs in the balance. To do less is tantamount to messin' with codes of the Old West.

We've been clip-clopping along in blissful ignorance. I mean, "hotness" measurement procedures have been around for nearly a century.

Had we simply read the fine print, we'd have known that a chemist named Wilbur Scoville developed a scale to measure hot peppers back in 1912. And he was an

American guy, for crying out loud.

His "SHUs" (Scoville Heat Units), measuring the piquancy of peppers, hinge on the subjective findings of five "tasters." Creeping into current use is the "Gillett Method" that measures heat HPLC: "high pressure liquid chromatography." These findings easily convert to SHUs.

I've told more than I know, except to warn there are many more details.

The print gets finer and finer.

You wanna talk about hot? Next time something breaks and you make the "SOS" repair call, expect it to be outsourced to India. If you're fortunate enough to reach someone who speaks English, ask about their peppers. Your ears will burn with the bragging about India's really hot peppers.

I mean, Bombay's world-class peppers are smokin', reducing our pepper pods to comparative whipped cream.

We shouldn't be surprised. Hot peppers were on Christopher Columbus' "wish list." After his pepper-fetching mission, the hot stuff was strewn around several other countries when he got back.

Consider this: India has a pepper called "Naga Jolokia," the hottest in the world with 1,040,000 SHUs. This is about 120 times hotter than Tabasco sauce and more than 300 times as much fire as our jalapeños.

Any hotter and they convert it to self-defense spray.

The Red Savina Habanero, former Guinness record holder first grown in South America, now ranks a pale second to the Naga Jolokia at 575,000 SHUs.

Wake the town and tell the people. We've got to "get crackin'" on this pepper crisis. For starters, we need to concoct chili hot enough to make Aggies sing the "War Hymn" backward. We are the laughing stock of the pepper world.

Speaking of stock, they're snickering in India about Americans cross-breeding cattle with yaks to produce offspring called "yattle."

This combination results in the "dumbing down" of cattle, already considered dumb. What if the yaks are dominant in milk production? Their milk is pink; how'd we explain that? "Yattle prattle" is for a future column, after my eyes stop watering.

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

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NOTICE OF SALE

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF KNOX

By virtue of orders of sale issued out of the 50TH Judicial District Courts of Knox County, Texas, by the Clerk of the Court on the 18th day of MARCH, 2013, and the 31st of MAY, 2013, and in the following numbered and styled suits and to me directed and delivered, I, as Sheriff of Knox County, did on the 27 day of June, 2013, levy upon and will, on the first Tuesday in AUGUST, 2013, the same being the 6TH day of such month at the South door of the Knox County Courthouse, in the City of Benjamin, Texas, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., beginning at 10:00 a.m. proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all the right, title and interest of the defendants in the following suits in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of the defendants in each respective suit, to wit:

Suit No.: 9317

Style: KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. ADAM ANDRADE ETAL

Judgment: \$13,034.28 (plus interest and costs)

Property: Geo: R000004776

Lot 5 and 6, Block 47, J.T. Lee Addition to the City of Munday, Knox County, Texas, as the same appears on a map or Plat thereof filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Knox County, Texas;

Suit No.: 9217

Style: KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. JIMMY EARL DOCKINS

Judgment: \$1,521.40 (plus interest and costs)

Property: Geo: R000004401

A 132X200 tract of land, more or less, out of Block 2, Reeves & Musser Addition, City of Munday, Knox County, Texas being that property more particularly described in Volume 285, Page 350 of the Official Public Records, Knox County, Texas;

Suit No.: 8987

Style: KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. NELDA DOCKINS

Judgment: \$1,053.69 (plus interest and costs)

Property: Geo: R000006316

Lot 12, Block 50, Lee Addition to the City of Munday, Knox County, Texas as the same appears on a map or Plat thereof filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Knox County, Texas;

Suit No.: 9307

Style: KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. SOLANO FERNANDEZ

Judgment: \$6,984.01 (plus interest and costs)

Property:

Tract 1: Geo: R000002917

Lot 10, Block 35, Original Townsite of the Town of Goree, Knox County, Texas as the same appears on a map or Plat thereof filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Knox County, Texas;

Tract 2: Geo: R000006328

Lots 11 and 12, Block 35, Original Townsite of the Town of Goree, Knox County, Texas as the same appears on a map or Plat thereof filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Knox County, Texas;

Tract 3: Geo: R000004931

0.630 Acres, more or less, out of the Southeast part of the H & TC RR Co. Survey #82, Block 45, Out of Abstract 1812, Knox County, Texas being that property more particularly described in Volume 256, Page 643 of the Deed Records, Knox County, Texas

Suit No.: 8430

Style: KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. NELSON HAWKINS

Judgment: \$1,346.54 (plus interest and costs)

Property: Geo: R000009103

90 feet X 92 feet out of Block 8 of the Davis Addition to the City of Knox City, Knox County, Texas being that property more particularly described in Volume 263, Page 811 of the Deed Records, Knox County, Texas;

Suit No.: 9402

Style: KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. RICHIE PEREZ

Judgment: \$3,397.68 (plus interest and costs)

Property: Geo: R000002114

The West 48 1/2 feet of the North 87 feet of Block 31, R. P. Munday Addition to the City of Munday, Knox County, Texas, as more particularly described in Volume 309 at Page 1181 of the Deed Records of Knox County, Texas;

Suit No.: 9340

Style: KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT VS. JESSIE TUCKER

Judgment: \$2,070.61 (plus interest and costs)

Property: Geo: R000008425

Lot 6, Block 116, Reeves & Musser Addition, City of Munday, Knox County, Texas as the same appears on a map or Plat thereof filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Knox County, Texas;

All the property sold will be subject to the owner's right of redemption. The redemption period is two years for homestead, minerals and agricultural use property and six months for all other property. Purchasers shall receive a Sheriff's Deed that is without warranty. Bidders should satisfy themselves concerning title and location of the property and improvements on the property prior to sale.

Signed: 6/27/2013

Dean W. Homstad
Dean W. Homstad, Sheriff
Knox County, Texas

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Nancy's Notions

Summer holiday becoming most dangerous

Americans love to celebrate holidays with family, friends and food, but all too often those festivities turn tragic on the nation's roads.

The Fourth of July holiday has become one of the deadliest of the year due to alcohol-impaired driving crashes.

Many law enforcement agencies now use the "no refusal" initiative, which legally requires a suspected impaired driver who is pulled over to provide law enforcement with a breath or blood sample.

Drivers who refuse to provide a breath sample will be taken to jail or a hospital where they will be forced to provide a blood sample.

Unfortunately, the latest statistics from the Texas Department of Transportation underscore the need for a crackdown, both statewide and in Garza County.

In 2012, there were 1,099 fatalities in Texas involving drivers who were legally drunk at the time of the crash (having a blood alcohol con-

centration of .08 grams per deciliter or higher). Twenty-six alcohol-related deaths occurred in Texas during the July 4 holiday period last year. Nighttime is particularly dangerous every day of the year, and the July 4 holiday is no exception.

Death is not the only consequence from impaired driving. Often, people have a hard time recuperating financially from the cost of an arrest or the crash itself.

Here are a few simple tips to avoid a drunk-driving disaster:

- Plan a safe way home before the fun begins.
- Before drinking, designate a sober driver.
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely.
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to contact law enforcement.
- If you know someone who is about to drive impaired or ride with an impaired driver, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

Nancy McDonald is the family and consumer sciences agent for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Garza County.



NANCY MCDONALD

Audit: RRC effectively using funds to plug wells

Special to the Dispatch

AUSTIN — The State Auditor's Office recently released a report on the Railroad Commission's administration of a fund that uses industry fees to plug abandoned wells and clean up abandoned oil field sites, concluding the commission is effectively overseeing the fund.

The current Oil and Gas Regulation and Cleanup Fund (formerly called the Oilfield Cleanup Fund) was created by the Texas Legislature in 1991 to use industry fees to plug abandoned wells and remediate abandoned sites statewide that pose a potential high pollution risk.

From Fiscal Year 1992 through Fiscal Year 2012,

the Commission has used the fund to plug 29,004 abandoned wells statewide at a cost of \$188.3 million. Since Fiscal Year 1992, the fund also has been used to clean up, assess and investigate 4,950 abandoned oil field sites at a cost of \$60.5 million. For Fiscal Year 2013, the Commission has \$18.9 million available to plug abandoned wells and clean-up abandoned oil field sites.

The State Audit Report key findings include:

- The Commission follows a process for prioritizing and recommending oil and gas wells for plugging that incorporates risk-based factors.
- The Commission establishes annual operational goals for the

number of wells each Commission district office should plug.

The Commission has designed and implemented effective processes and related controls to help ensure that regulated entities establish and maintain financial assurances in amounts consistent with state law and administrative rules.

The Commission has adequate processes and controls to help ensure that it sends demand notices to operators that do not submit required annual organizational reports.

The Oil and Gas Regulation and Cleanup Fund latest annual report for Fiscal Year 2012 is available at rrc.state.tx.us.

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Special to the Courier
Jim Bob Mullen, Guy Walker and Bill Mullen race as part of the Double Mountain Motor Sports.

WEEKEND RACE SCHEDULE

Noon — Garden Tractor Pulling
1 p.m. — Go Carts
2 p.m. — First Round of Tug of War
2:30 p.m. — Lawn Mower Racing
3:30 p.m. — Second Round of Tug of War
4 p.m. — Second Round of Lawn Mower Racing
5 p.m. — Sprint Cars
6 p.m. — Final Tug of War
6:30 p.m. — Final Lawn Mower Racing
7 p.m. — Sprint Cars

Farm News

Emergency haying of CRP land OK'd in Knox

The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — Knox County USDA Farm Service Agency Executive Director Nancy Birkenfeld has announced the county is authorized for emergency haying use of Conservation Reserve Program acres for fiscal year 2013.

Counties become eligible for CRP emergency haying 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 haying. It is possible that more counties will reach the D2 level eligibility requirement in coming weeks.

The CRP emergency haying authorization for fiscal year 2013 began July 2 and will continue for a 60-day period not to exceed Aug. 31.

Based on a revised policy decision made by the Texas FSA State Committee, CRP acres hayed during fiscal year 2011 or 2012 will be considered eligible for emergency haying if NRCS verifies, on a case-by-case basis, that the conservation cover will sustain haying. FSA's fiscal year runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.

"Eligible producers who are interested in emergency haying of CRP must request approval before haying eligible acreage and must obtain a modified conservation plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service that includes haying requirements," Birkenfeld said.

Upon approval of emergency haying, producers must leave at least 50 percent of each field or contiguous field unharmed for wildlife.

Eligible counties are not permitted to use the same CRP acreage for both emergency haying and grazing at the same time. For example, if 50 percent of a field or contiguous field is hayed, the remaining unharmed 50 percent cannot be grazed; it must remain unharmed and ungrazed for wildlife.

In addition, participants are limited to one hay cutting and are not permitted to sell any of the hay.

There will be a 25 percent CRP payment reduction for CRP acres used for haying under these emergency provisions.

To take advantage of the emergency haying provisions, authorized producers can use the CRP acreage for their own livestock or may grant another livestock producer use of the CRP acreage for the purpose of haying.

For information and to request approval for emergency haying use of CRP acres contact the Knox County FSA office at 940-658-3537, Ext. 2.

Group plans to build on races' success

By Patti Walker
The Stonewall Courier

ASPERMONT — Chamber of Commerce director Stephenia Mullen needed something for the grand finale at the end of the Community Fun Day last June, so she organized a lawn mower race.

The interest was tremendous. Grown men were working and searching day and night for old lawn mowers to fix up to race. The race was a huge success, and the interest kept growing.

In January, Double Mountain Motor Sports was established and, as of today, have about 48 members who race go-karts, lawn mowers, outlaw-winged carts and have pulling garden tractors.

A new track out by city lake with three different racetracks was built, and the group is in the process of building a mud bog pit.

If possible, most of the races are every other Saturday starting around 4:30 p.m. Members also are in the process of putting lights up races can be held later in the

evenings.

A pavilion, restroom facilities, RV hook-ups and a concession stand also are being planned.

Double Mountain Motor Sports will be hosting the Rock-n-Rib Fest next year, so members hope these improvements can be made before then.

Area residents with any old tin, pearling or pipe they would like to donate are asked to call Mullen at 940-256-0860, as well as individuals inquiring about the organization or the races.

USDA News

Grant to fund household water well systems

The USDA Rural Development announces the availability of Rural Utilities Service grant funds to be competitively awarded for the Household Water Well System Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2013.

RUS will make grants to qualified private non-profit organizations to help establish lending programs for homeowners to borrow up to \$11,000 to construct or repair household water wells for an existing home.

Of particular note this year, in an effort to address the extreme drought conditions in rural areas, RUS will assign administrative discretion points to applications proposing to serve areas with severe, extreme or exceptional drought, as reported by the U.S. Drought Monitor.

The deadline for completed applications for a HWWS grant is July 26.

Applications in either paper or electronic format must be postmarked or time-stamped electronically on or before the deadline. Late applications will be ineligible for grant consideration.

Applications may be submitted to the following addresses:

• Grants.gov.

• Water Programs Division, Rural Utilities Service, STOP:1570, Room 2233-S, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-1570.

For additional information, contact the Rural Development State Office at 254-742-9789.

USDA offers grants for rural education, health

The USDA is now accepting applications for grants to provide access to education, training and healthcare resources in rural areas. Funding is authorized through the Department's Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program.

"Schools and health care facilities in rural Texas have increasingly tighter budgets each year," said Paco Valentin, director of the rural development for the state USDA office. "Distance learning and telemedicine grants are powerful tools for providing expanded educational and medical opportunities which otherwise may be unavailable to students and residents of rural communities."

Under this notice, USDA may provide up to \$17.5 million in grants. Funds can be used to buy equipment and provide technical assistance. To be eligible, ap-

plicants must serve a rural area, demonstrate economic need and provide at least 15 percent in matching funds.

Awards range up to \$500,000. In 2012, USDA Rural Development provided 58 DLT grants for projects in 36 states. Since the program began, 1,400 projects have been funded.

For example, Ranger College received a \$322,504 grant in 2012 to purchase a distance learning system that will address the educational and economic needs for 6,500 high school students in Brown, Eastland, Young and Erath counties.

With this new system, Ranger College works directly with high school sites to deliver dual credit courses as well as other courses and degrees previously unavailable.

Teachers and other resources from the college can now extend into the high school classrooms via distance learning connections to benefit students and high school teachers.

Applications are due Aug. 12. For details about eligibility rules and application procedures, call Jason Coulter, director of the USDA's Rural Development Service Center in Lubbock at 806-785-5644.

The Knox County News-Courier

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Ag seminar focus is farming ops

By Blair Fannin
Special to the Dispatch

ABILENE — Capital Farm Credit and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will host a conference Thursday in Abilene designed to help the next generation of agricultural producers enter into the business or help current farmers and ranchers expand their operations.

The 2013 Next Generation Agricultural Conference will be at the Taylor County Expo Center in Abilene.

It is designed to provide production and financial management tools to farmers and ranchers, according to organizers.

"The main topics that will be covered include farm financial management, agricultural economic forecasts, general agriculture, and farm planning and budgeting," said Jason Cleere, one of the events organizers and a member of the state AgriLife Extension staff.

"Keeping up with the latest operational strategies, available credit and risk management practices are the keys to the most successful large and small operations. These conferences will assist with providing information that can be incorporated into their operations, making them more profitable."

Cleere said the conference will feature presentations on analyzing the perfor-

mance of an operation, potential to expand an operation, purchasing or leasing equipment, operation diversity and where the agricultural economy in the southern region is heading.

"The program will also discuss developing a marketing plan for the farm and ranch, protecting your operation from volatile commodity markets and weather, new tax and estate laws, as well as programs on rebuilding the cow herd."

Featured speakers from the AgriLife Extension Service include Cleere, Ron Gill, beef cattle specialist; Mark Welch, grains economist; and Wayne Hayenga, economist.

Also speaking will be Jason Banta, AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist, Overton, and Stan Bevers, AgriLife Extension economist, Vernon.

Experts from Capital Farm Credit will include Jason Gibson and Dan Byerly.

Brian Briggeman, Kansas State University agricultural economist, will also be one of the featured speakers. He will provide an overview of the Southern Plains agricultural economy and outlook.

There is no cost for the conference, and registration is available at agriliferegister.tamu.edu.

For more information about the conference visit capitalfarmcredit.com or contact Cleere's office at 979-845-6931.



Courtesy photo

Employees of the TxDOT Childress District include: (back row, left to right) Chris Reed, Childress Area Engineer, Fu Benavidez, Donley County Maint. Supervisor, Shawn Elliott, Motley County Maint. Supervisor, Mickey Osborne, Hardeman County Maint. Supervisor, Ron Gilbert, Cottle County Maint. Supervisor, Glenn Allbritton, Munday Area, Marty Smith, Childress District Engineer; (Front row, left to right): Barbara Sims, Delbert Gloyer, Foard County Maint. Supervisor, Jay Hurt, Dickens County Maint. Supervisor, Brent Foard, Hall Maint. County Supervisor, Gene Ward, Knox County Maint. Supervisor, Mark Hightower, District Maintenance Manager, Michael Breedlove, Collingsworth County Maint. Supervisor, Jeff Smith, Briscoe County Maint. Supervisor and Kim Butler, District Safety Officer.

TxDOT district recognized for safety record

The Knox County News-Courier

CHILDRESS — The Texas Department of Transportation Childress District was recently presented a plaque for having the best safety record in the history of the agency.

"At TxDOT, 'safety first' is more than just a written goal — it's the way business is done," District Engineer Marty Smith said.

Fiscal year 2012 was the best year ever

for the agency in terms of safety citing TxDOT's lowest number of injuries on record; lowest number of lost-time injuries in department archives; and lowest number of lost-production days.

These all-time achievements marked FY 2012 as the safety year in the department's 95 year history, and for the third year in a row, TxDOT's historic safety record also ranked the agency as the nation's leader among all reporting state departments of transportation.

Crop insurance deadline approaching

By Greg Jones
Special to the Dispatch

Livestock producers considering adding a layer of protection against drought loss on annual forage crops have an insurance deadline ahead.

The Rainfall Index-Annual Forage Insurance plan, referred to as RI-AF, is a risk policy designed to provide livestock producers the ability to buy protection against losses due to a lack of moisture.

The sign-up deadline for RI-AF is July 15 for the fall growing season, Sept 1-March 31, and Dec. 15 for the spring season, March 1-Sept. 30. All premium payments are due by Aug. 30.

While RI-AF is similar to Pasture Range and Forage Insurance, or PRF insurance, the difference lies in the

type of commodity covered.

PRF encompasses perennial grasses such as pasture and hay, while RI-AF is strictly for annual forage crops. These include but are not limited to winter small grains, such as wheat, oats, rye and triticale, and spring plantings such as sudan, haygrazer and millet.

Under both insurance plans, payment is not determined by individual damages, but rather area losses based on a grid system. Producers can select any portion of acres to insure. They must also choose a maximum of three, two-month intervals per growing season per year.

Insured acres are then spread between time periods, with no more than 40 percent of the acres placed in any interval.

Coverage levels between 70 and 90 percent are available. Once coverage is selected, the producer chooses

a productivity factor between 60 and 150 percent. The productivity factor is a percentage of the established county base value for annual forage. Base value is a standard rate published by the Risk Management Agency for each county.

The Rainfall Index determines RI-AF coverage. This model uses National Oceanic and Atmospheric Climate Prediction Center data and a 12-by-12 mile grid system. Indemnities are calculated based on the deviation from normal precipitation within a grid for a specific period selected.

This is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Rainfall Index Plan.

Greg Jones is the agricultural agent for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Garza County.

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Dixie Divas

Saying goodbye to Pinky

It seems too many loved ones recently have said goodbye to this vale of grief and sorrow and said hello to sweet eternity. Heaven is blessed, but I am distressed.

Whenever I needed a good story of kindness and compassion, I could always find one quickly in Pinky Cabe. Since she blushed mightily at the hint of any praise —hence the name Pinky forever cloaked her Christian name of Martha — I mentioned her only once in this column but in my last three books, I tossed the veil aside and told the world of her gentle spirit.

"It's true," she said softly one day a few years ago when I was visiting her during a brief stay in a nursing home for physical rehabilitation. She was gently stroking Dixie Dew who was lying beside her on the bed.

"What?" I asked. The conversation had suddenly turned.

"Be ye kind one to another," she responded, quoting one of her favorite Scriptures. "I've always believed that, but since I've been here, I've realized it more. One pat on my shoulder or one kind word of encouragement has meant so much."

I was building a house so I laughed. "Yes, kindness works, except if you're working with contractors. Then only meanness works."

In spite of herself, she laughed. Pinky always laughed joyously at my quips. I'll miss that. She and her beloved husband of 62 years, Guy, who died six weeks before she, were gloriously entertained by me. I love a good audience and now I have lost two of the best.

I called Pinky "one of my saints," a name for four close friends and mighty prayer warriors. They were linked through me, but if one of the saints was in dire straits, she would call and ask, "Will you call the saints and ask for prayer for me?"

Over the years whenever I hit a rough patch — like when Mama died — Pinky would call and say, "How about coming over and having salmon patties with us?"

I loved Pinky's salmon patties. She made them with crumbled "sody" crackers and poured a bit of canned juice into the mixture. I hate to think that there is no one left to make salmon patties for me but, sadly, it is the truth.

At Pinky's funeral, her longtime friend Lucy gave one of the sweetest eulogies I have ever heard. In her soft, sing-songy voice, Lucy told stories of her friend and neighbor.

"She was a true Southern belle in the finest sense of the term," Lucy said, her voice quivering at times with emotion. "She was beautifully raised."

Beautifully raised. What a lovely phrase.

And how true. Pinky was thoughtfully well-mannered. She knew the etiquette of hospitality gifts and thank-you notes as well as cards of encouragement or praise. She was constantly compassionate, looking always to take a casserole to those in need or lend a helping hand.

She was loyal and steadfast, devoted to God, family, country and friends. She spoke harm of no one, not even those who brought a hint of trouble or despair into her life.

"Pinky, what happened to so-and-so?" I might ask if I had heard a bit of gossip somewhere.

She'd shrug. "I don't know." Even though she did. Then, she changed the subject.

"When it comes to gossip, you are worthless," I would teasingly chide.

Yes, she was beautifully raised. Every child should be raised as Pinky was.

One day after church, Pinky turned to me and grasped my hand tightly. "When I die, promise me you will see that at my funeral they sing, 'It is Well With My Soul.'"

Pinky rarely asked for anything, but she was adamant. "Please." Her eyes grew moist. "Because when I am gone, all will be well, very well with my soul."

I know it is. I wish I could say the same for my heart.

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



RONDA RICH

Tech's national ranching heritage center gets new director

Special to the News-Courier

LUBBOCK —Matt Brockman has been named executive director of the National Ranching Heritage Center at Texas Tech University.

Brockman comes to the NRHC from the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show, more commonly known as the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, where he was administrative manager.

"Given his extensive experience and network of contacts in related organizations, it is difficult to imagine anyone better suited to lead the National Ranching Heritage Center," said Acting Provost Rob Stewart. "Above all, Matt is genuinely passionate about the heritage and culture that the center stands for, and is excited about working to connect the center ever more closely to the academic and research missions of Texas Tech University. We are looking forward to very productive, long-term leadership in Matt."

Brockman will begin his new position Aug. 15.

"Ranching and its rich history is a treasured component of the American fabric," Brockman said. "The National Ranching Heritage Center illustrates that history with a unique approach that captivates and intrigues visitors. I'm humbled to join

this great institution and university."

Carl Andersen, past president of the Ranching Heritage Association and interim executive director of the NRHC for the past eight months, knows Brockman well.

"I'm very excited about his appointment," Andersen said. "All of the staff and most of the executive committee of the Ranching Heritage Association board have visited with Matt and are confident that he has the leadership strength to fit our needs."

A graduate of Tarleton State University, Brockman has served as executive vice president of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and as assistant secretary for the association's foundation and the Cattle Raisers Museum.

He also has served as assistant commissioner for marketing and business development for the Texas Department of Agriculture and as director of legislative and industry affairs for the National Grain and Feed Association.

Dedicated in 1976, the NRHC is a museum and historical park dedicated to preserving ranching history. The NRHC is composed of about 50 authentic, furnished ranch buildings and structures that represent the history of ranching from the 1780s to the



Matt Brockman

1950s. The buildings have been moved from their original locations to the historical park.

The NRHC also has a growing collection of art and artifacts, ranging from letters to saddles to wagons to a locomotive, that

enhance and complement the rich ranching history of the region.

The NRHC is open to the public free of charge at 3121 Fourth St., near the corner of visit go to nrhc.ttu.edu.

Help with medical expenses for Amy (Hosea) Boone

A medical fund has been set up for Amy Boone at Citibank in Haskell to assist with costs for a much needed surgery.

We will be having a garage sale Saturday July the 13th from 8am-? at 705 N 3rd St in Haskell. We will be accepting donations to sell for this. Any donations may be picked up by calling Jessica Sorley at 940-256-0429. The donations may also be dropped off at 705 N 3rd or 1301 S 1st in Haskell.

There will be a car wash Saturday July the 20th from 8am-5pm at Sessions Car Care in Haskell. Bring your vehicles and watch a sweet group of kids spend their Saturday to help their friend Paige raise money for her mom. Cars will be washed for \$10 and pickups and SUVs for \$15. All donations will also be accepted.

There will be hamburger sack lunches for \$6 from 11am-3pm as well. Pre-orders are welcome 940-256-0429.

Any help that you may be able to give will be greatly appreciated. Now is the time for us to pull together and help a dear friend in her time of need. Thank you!

Guest Column

Oil Industry Profits Are...Good!

By Robert L. Bradley, Jr.

The world's largest energy companies just released their first-quarter 2013 earnings. The eye-popping numbers? Chevron, \$6.2 billion. Shell, \$7.5 billion. ExxonMobil, the biggest, \$9.5 billion.

On cue, left-leaning pundits and activists are rising to condemn the industry for excess. How dare Big Oil earn so much, while so many people are hurting?

But these accusations and insinuations are hardly accurate.

When compared to other industries, big oil doesn't actually pocket that much. In 2010, for every dollar of sales, the oil and gas industry earned 6 cents. By comparison, across America's manufacturing sector, the average profit earned was 8 cents per dollar. Among pharmaceutical companies and technology firms, profit margins are typically around 20 percent.

And despite what the Occupy Wall Street crowd would have you believe, the benefits from oil revenues aren't confined to a ruling elite. They flow to millions of everyday Americans as workers in and owners of energy.

Too often, in discussions about business and public policy, a vital question goes unasked: What exactly do profits represent?

To grasp the answer, think about an everyday transaction for an oil company where the customer exchanges money for fuel to get to work or school—or just get back home.

Drivers aren't purchasing gasoline or diesel because they've been coerced. They don't buy from a government monopoly. Customers choose driving patterns and select a service station based on relative price, convenience, and quality.

And from a broader perspective, inputs profitably transformed into outputs create economic value and thus economic progression.

Where do profits go? A sliver goes to executive compensation versus energy reserves replacement, infrastructure maintenance and upgrades, and research and development. Company owners get rewarded too since profits drive stock prices and support dividend payments for more than 100 million Americans owning such stock.

The oil and natural gas industry supports 9.2 million American jobs and accounts for 8 percent of GDP. Cash flow from earnings funds new projects, which in turn will expand domestic energy production and create new jobs and GDP growth at a time of great need.

Strong profits also mean greater tax revenues. Currently, the average oil producer pays 41 percent of its net income in taxes — a percentage that's much higher than virtually every other industry. All told, the oil and gas industry pays about \$85 million per day, to the U.S. Treasury.

The oil industry might make for an easy target for political demagoguery. But their profits really represent good news in a struggling economy — and should not become a pretext for deprecating entrepreneurship that is playing a bright, vital role in the American economy.

Robert L. Bradley Jr. is the CEO & Founder of the Institute for Energy Research and author of *Edison to Enron: Energy Markets and Political Strategies* (Scrivener Publishing and John Wiley & Sons).

The Knox City-O'Brien CISD will auction surplus shed and lumber at the Knox City High School Ag Farm at 5:30 p.m. on Monday July 22. For more information contact Louis Baty at 940-657-3521.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for the consideration of entering into a cooperation agreement with the Munday Housing Authority. The City Council of the City of Knox City at the expiration of 60 days from the first publication of this notice will hold a public meeting on August 20, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 902 E. Main, Knox City, Texas to consider the question of entering into a cooperation agreement with the Munday Housing Authority for the purpose of consolidating the Knox City Housing Authority and Munday Housing Authority. This notice is given pursuant to the Texas Local Government Code, Section 393.010.

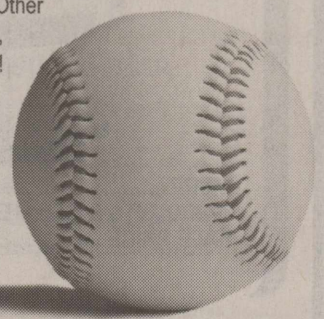


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MUNDAY CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT PROPOSALS FOR PROPERTY/CASUALTY INSURANCE COVERAGE WILL BE RECEIVED BY MUNDAY CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT.

All qualified individuals or firms interested in providing services should respond with a written response to Munday Consolidated Independent School District. Final selection will be made in accordance with the policies of Munday Consolidated Independent School District's School Board and other statutory provisions. Details are available at the Administration Building of the Munday Consolidated Independent School District at 811 West D Street, Munday, Texas.

Responses must be received by August 9, 2013 at 4:00 p.m., at 811 West D, Munday, Texas, after which time and date they will no longer be accepted. Late responses will be returned unopened and will not be considered. Responses may be delivered to the Administration Building of the Munday Consolidated Independent School District or Mailed to:

MR. ROBERT DILLARD, SUPERINTENDENT
MUNDAY CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 300
MUNDAY, TX 76371-0300

PERRY

From Page 1

"In this regard, we have done our best work."

Perry said he will leave his office knowing Texas is better positioned to take advantage of the opportunities of the 21st century better than any other state.

"Our responsibility remains to the next generation of Texans who will inherit a state of our making," he said. "We alone are responsible for the kind of Texas that will greet them. It is my hope that tomorrow's leaders build on our legacy of opportunity so Texans born into any circumstances have a chance to experience the American dream."

From his heavy-handed approaches in fiscal policy — including a failed and still-costly effort at reforming school finance to his outright refusal

to expand Medicare, which cost the state billions in federal transportation dollars — Perry has successfully led the state through the worst national economic disaster since the Great Depression.

Yet, it's his hard-fought stance to protect traditional values in Texas that may have garnered Perry his legislative legacy.

Abortion bill clears House

In what has become a long and emotional campaign stretching from one side of the aisle to the other, the Texas House on Tuesday tentatively approved a Perry-backed bill widely accepted as the most regulated abortion law in the nation.

House members, as expected, approved HB 2 to outlaw aborting pregnancies of 20 weeks or longer. The vote mostly split along party lines and came after a more than

10-hour debate fraught impassioned arguments, including a dramatic scene from Rep. Senfronia Thompson, holding a stretched-out coat hanger, saying, "Women have a right to have their choice."

Tuesday's debate closely mirrored that of the first session with arguments lasting into the early morning hours and hundreds of supporters on both sides of the issue flocking to the Capitol and crowding the House gallery and main areas.

On July 1, Perry called on Texas lawmakers to report to their respective Capitol chambers for the opening of a second 30-day special session of the 83rd Texas Legislature after the first session ended June 25 with none of the governor's legislative priorities accomplished — namely the abortion law.

Hours before the first special session was to end, Senate Democrats opposed to the abortion-regulating bill outflanked a Republican majority

by skillful use of parliamentary procedure.

Sen. Wendy Davis, D-Fort Worth, exercised the option to filibuster the abortion bill on the final day of the special session. While the filibuster stopped the bill from final passage, other bills on the calendar became ineligible for further consideration at the stroke of midnight.

On June 26, Perry called another special session to have the same matters addressed.

HB 2 now crosses over to the Senate, where once again the bill's constitutionality will be addressed. As was the first time, the bill is expected to pass.

Though the bill likely will be available for the governor's signature by this weekend, opponents have vowed legal action if the bill does indeed pass.

Among the bill's supporters, including Rep. Frank James, R-Wichita Falls, whose district includes Knox County, said the legislation should not be con-

troversial.

"I think it is important that all of us spend time acting on the many societal problems that lead women to choose to abort their babies. The problems that lead to abortion are many and will never be solved by politicians alone," James said. "I have yet to meet anyone on either side of the political aisle who thinks abortion is a good thing. We as government officials, society and individuals should do everything in our power to limit the issues that lead to these tragic decisions."

Who's running in 2014?

Perry's announcement he would not seek an unprecedented fourth term throws open the doors to a gubernatorial free-for-all the likes of which the state hasn't seen since the 1990 election that eventually would see Democrat Ann Richards in the executive's seat.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, a Republican,

has already said he will run to succeed Perry.

If for some reason Perry does not complete his current term, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst would be promoted to governor. If that scenario develops, Dewhurst would have the advantage of incumbency with Abbott, and possibly others, mounting challenges.

Democrats have kept their aspirations muted, so far, as statewide races in 2014, despite a groundswell of support from the sleeping left that has gained some momentum in the wake of the controversial abortion legislation.

Through her widely publicized filibuster during the first special session that effectively killed the bill — and also due in part to Perry's ill-timed and ill-mannered remarks of her after the fact — Democrat Davis has been ushered into gubernatorial limelight and has said she would take a "second look" at the 2014 race.

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