

THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2013

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75 CENTS

Rain will be a boon to cotton crop, experts say

By Wayne Hodgins
The Knox County News-Courier

Stopping just shy of singing in the rain, area cotton producers are still reveling in last week's fortuitous precipitation brought about by a rare July weather pattern that moved across the region last week.

The slow-moving system was accompanied by unseasonably cooler temperatures — as much as 20 degrees cooler — brought to West Texas by an upper-level low that originated oddly enough in the Northeast.

As the wacky weather system moved in an uncharacteristically reverse direction from west to east, it dumped upward of six inches of rain in some portions of the region between Sunday and

Thursday.

Most of the region received at least an inch over the course of the week, according to the West Texas Mesonet, a weather-monitoring system developed by Texas Tech University.

The rain could not have been more timely for many producers trying to maintain a cotton crop, said Mary Jane Buerkle, spokeswoman for Plains Cotton Growers in Lubbock.

"This was such a timely rain, especially for dryland farmers," Buerkle said. "While it wasn't enough to pull us out of the drought, it's a boost to the crop. Farmers are saying it was a real blessing."

Jerry Coplen, agricultural agent for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Knox County, said total rainfall throughout Knox County



Anna Gibson/The Post Dispatch

Cotton fields standing in inches-deep water was a common site last week throughout the region as backsiding cold front dumped up to 6 inches of rain on portions of Knox and Stonewall counties.

See RAIN, 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.

Blood drive

The Meek Blood Center at Hendrick Medical Center will conduct a blood drive from 1 to 6 p.m. Aug. 7 at Knox County Hospital. Donors should note that changes have been made to streamline the screening process, and some previous restrictions regarding medical conditions and medications have been lifted. For eligibility questions and other information, call the blood center at 325-670-2880. A free gift is available for donors.

VBS @ Ch. of Christ

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

Rummage sale

The Knox County Aging Center will have a rummage sale from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday 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

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.

Gospel theater

"Saint John & The Televangelist" is staged at 7:30 p.m. each Friday and at 3 p.m. Saturday through Sept. 14 at the Ragtown Gospel Theater north of Post. Tickets are available and show information online at Ragtown.com or call Ragtown Theater at 877-724-8696.

New exhibit

The OS Museum, 201 E. Main St., Post, offers "The Many Faces of Art" as its 2013 summer exhibit. Viewing hours are 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The exhibit will close Sept. 28. For information, call Marie Neff at 806-495-3570.

Corrections

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

News on the go



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Courtesy photo

Jim Dillon, far right, is shown with members of the Knox City High School Class of 1978. Dillon was longtime president of the school board.

Reunion nets scholarships for high school seniors

By Wayne Hodgins
The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — The alumni organization for Knox City-O'Brien High School has announced it will award three \$1,000 scholarships for high school students for the 2014-2015 academic year.

The awards will be announced in conjunction with 2014 homecoming events and come as a result of a tremendous fundraising event recently for with alumni members gathered for a reunion event.

The Knox City Exes and the 1978 Class of Knox City-O'Brien High School co-hosted a successful golf tournament, barbecue and dance the weekend of July 6.

The well-attended event, organized in part by Jimmy Don Moore, was a fundraising success for the organizations' scholarship committee.

More than 200 alumni gathered for the weekend's events, which also included a silent auction event.

Moore said applications for the scholarships would be available soon for students in the Knox City-O'Brien school district who graduate in good standing and wish to pursue post-secondary learning at a four-year or two-year college or university.

"Going forward, the Knox City Exes will work along with any and all classes of Knox City High School and the Homecoming Committee to host and co-host events," said Moore, a co-founder of Knox City Exes. "One of our goals for the Knox City Exes is to bring more out-of-town Greyhounds back to Knox City once a year, organize fun events for the whole community and raise money for KCHS scholarships."

Charter members of the Knox City Exes include Jimmy Albus, Bobby Arnold, Brett Boone, Mark Clonts, Patti Lain Currie, Raul Espinosa, Celso "Junior" Gonzales, Vallia "Mo" Magana, Tommy Mangis, Jerry McCowan, Mark McGaughey, Jimmy Don Moore, Doug Ray, Debbie Ray, Kelly "Jack" Robinson, Jimmy Rushing, Michelle Stanfield and Tamie Grandstaff Weiershausen.

See REUNION, Page 8

Thornberry lauded as 'most influential'

By Wayne Hodgins
The Knox County News-Courier

U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry has been named one of the most influential politicians in Washington.

Thornberry, a Republican from Clarendon whose 13th District includes Knox and Stonewall counties, was recently recognized by the Capitol Hill newspaper Politico as one of its "50 Politicos to Watch."



Rep. Thornberry

See THORNBERRY, Page 8

Sweet summer treat



Wayne Hodgins/The Knox County News-Courier

In this photo from last year's Watermelon Festival, a heart has been carved into the center of a slice of a red seedless melon to display for passers-by at the Chamber of Commerce booth.

Chamber marks Watermelon Festival's quarter century

By Wayne Hodgins
The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — Mark Twain once quipped that once you've tasted it, you then know what angels eat.

In what has become the venerable summertime treat throughout the nation, nowhere more is watermelon more celebrated than right here in Knox County.

About 2,000 people are expected to converge in the Seedless Watermelon Capital of the World this weekend for the 25th annual Donald Johnson Memorial Seedless Watermelon Festival.

What's common knowledge to the folks here in Knox County, but what may not be to those outside of the region, is that the seedless watermelon was, for all intents and purposes, developed right here.

As watermelon lore goes, in the mid- to late-1970s, an Indiana scientist was looking for a place to develop a marketable seedless watermelon, said longtime Knox City resident and horticulturalist Jim Dillon.

That scientist, O.J. Eigsti, of Goshen College, was friends with Knox County farmer Donald Johnson, who convinced Eigsti the sandy loam soil in the middle of the Rolling Plains was perfect for growing melons, as was the 100-degree summertime temperatures.

Together, they teamed up to develop the seedless watermelon.

By the early 1990s, Johnson, who by this time had established the Johnson Melon Corp., was growing

15 to 20 million pounds of seedless watermelon a year.

"They would haul out tons of melons each year," Dillon said.

Although Johnson died in the early 2000s, his legacy lives on in the annual Donald Johnson Memorial Seedless Watermelon Festival in downtown Knox City.

This year will mark the 25th annual event, which is held the last weekend in July.

While the Johnson Melon Corp. no longer exists and the melons aren't as prolifically grown in Knox County as they were decades ago, the Chamber of Commerce, which hosts the event each year, relies on outside entities to donate the melons each year.

Lawrence Bros. supermarkets once again will donate this year's melons.

The two-day festival kicks off at 3 p.m. Friday at Knox City Park, where a number of food, arts, crafts and retail vendors will set up shop alongside water slides and bounce houses for children.

The parade will begin at 6 p.m. in the downtown corridor with a street dance from 8 p.m. to midnight with Caleb Hodges and the County Line Band.

Saturday's events will fire up about 9 a.m. at the park, where free watermelon will be given away all day — as much as you can eat. The pool will be open for free swimming from 1 to 5 p.m.

Other highlights of the two-day event will be honoring Knox City's Most Appreciated Citizen.

As is par for the weekend, near 100-degree heat will be fended off by wide-brim hats, caps, umbrellas, sunscreen, and — free watermelon.

It's a teen invasion!

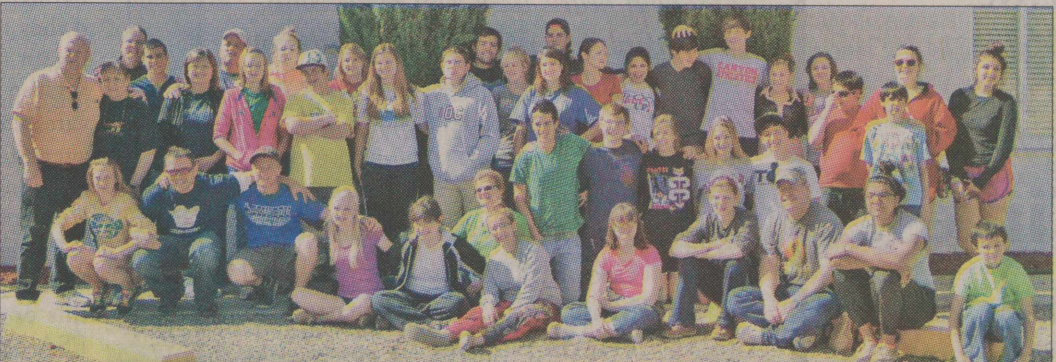


Photo special to the News-Courier

Members of Munday Church of Christ will welcome 53 teenagers from San Antonio and Camp Verde, Ariz., on Saturday as the youth converge in Knox County as part of a volunteer effort to conduct VBS and other community services projects. The Rev. Wayne Speer, pastor of the Church of Christ, will welcome the youth, some of whom are members of the MacArthur Park Church of Christ in San Antonio, whose youth minister is Speer's son Kody. The Arizona youth hail from a church the Rev. Speer ministered at for many years prior to his recent arrival in Munday. VBS will be from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Wednesday for youth ages 3-12, and activities for teens 13-19 will be from noon to 9 p.m. each day at the church. Lunch and supper will be served. Residents in and around Munday likely will see the teens involved in community service projects throughout town during their stay and are encouraged to visit with the youth and offer a warm West Texas welcome to them.

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The Idle American Let this cup pass

This account blows holes in the old adage claiming folks who want jobs done right should tackle them themselves. Whoa, not every time. Sometimes, when the stars align with precision and all is in place for the perfect storm, delegation is critical — clearly the, uh, “prudent” thing to do.

A high percentage of failure to delegate occurs, of course, with professionals. Clergy, in general, come to mind. Often alone at the peak of Mount Independence are ministers deeply rooted in music.



DON
NEWBURY

One such parson is Gerre Joiner, associate pastor for senior adults at Decatur's First Baptist Church. For decades, he's been involved mostly with all things musical in churches. He never saw a score whose measure he couldn't take nor a choir that couldn't be “choraled.”

Graying of hair and lengthening of tooth, he's always been a team player, eager to pull his part of the load. There are times, though, when he might be better served handing some jobs off to others, particularly when he is somewhat “out of his element.”

Speaking of elements, he wound up in a spot “neither fish nor fowl” a few weeks ago. Though he'd participated in Lord's Supper observances from time to time, rarely had he been involved in preparation — and never for a care center observance. He was helping Pastor Ken May prepare the “travel kit” — a small

valise used in such observances held away from the sanctuary. Later in the afternoon, they'd visit a local care center where some residents would participate in the Lord's Supper.

Joiner found plenty of communion wafers, but grape juice — the other important element in the symbolic observance — was nowhere to be found. He searched every shelf, wondering if one or more colleagues had been “taking nips.” No matter. “I'll just run down to Dollar General and buy a bottle of grape juice,” he announced. After all, the care center visit was still an hour away.

Minutes later, he was back, whistling as he emptied the bottle into the flask, or whatever they call travel containers for communion juice. In a matter of seconds, it would be secured in the kit, along with the wafers and tiny cups.

Luckily, administrative assistant Bree Kirkie walked through the church's kitchen area at the precise moment Gerre was tossing the empty bottle.

“What are you doing?” she questioned.

“I'm replenishing grape juice in our communion kit,” he responded, wondering why she asked.

She advised him to re-read the label. Retrieving the bottle, he lavished Bree with much appreciation. The label clearly read “prune juice.” (Joiner, ever the optimist — smiling with head held high — reminds me when we see men with heads held extremely high, they're likely not used to their bifocals.)

Thankfully, there still was time to keep the care center commitment. This time, Bree went to the store for grape juice.

Years ago, at a small church in Oklahoma, a weeklong revival broke out. There were 19 professions of faith at a church where Sunday services typically attracted 40 to 50 worshippers. It was announced that following the final service, all 19 who walked the aisles would be baptized, after which the Lord's Supper would be observed.

In-laws, cousins and others swelled attendance to more than 100, and the head deacon — a man they called “Nuh-Uh” because he opposed almost every proposal that cost money — had a sinking spell. He'd prepared the communion elements and was certain there wouldn't be enough.

He had flagging hope that at least a few of the visitors wouldn't partake. “Nuh-Uh” and fellow deacons froze, however, when they ran out of communion cups two rows from the back. The minister, sensing the shortfall, asked him to replenish from the church kitchen, even if with “kitchen glasses.”

Time passed. Hymns were sung. Two gave testimonies. There was a cloud of uneasiness.

Finally, “Nuh-Uh” reappeared, explaining all he could find were a few plastic glasses and a handful of teabags, so they'd finish communion with tea!

At a hastily called business meeting, deacons voted to buy two dozen more communion cups and a full gallon of grape juice. And Deacon “Nuh-Uh” made the motion! (Years later, the “new” communion cups were still packaged.)

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

The Paperboy The beginning of a bottomless pit

My 7-year-old son Sutton Hawk and I went to McDonald's last week. If you have children or grandchildren, you may be aware of the power of McDonald's over much of the planet's youth.

Anyhow, it wasn't too long ago when a Happy Meal — of either the McNugget or cheeseburger variety — would be sufficient. Those days are gone.



CHRIS
BLACKBURN

As we were three cars back from ordering, I asked him what he wanted. His reply: “I want a 20-piece McNugget, large fries and large Dr Pepper.”

“Boy, you can't eat all of that,” I replied.

“I don't know, Dad, I ate that Quarter-Pounder the other day.”

Which was correct.

So, wanting to see what kind of damage he could do, I ordered the 20-piece.

Now before you get on to me for mistreating my son and the epidemic of childhood obesity, Sutton Hawk is not a small child. He's a head taller than the

kids his grade and weighs 90 pounds. One thing that exists on both sides of his family is size. So, he's the size of a fourth-grader or even a fifth-grader.

Back to the story:

We get home, and since my wife and other son are gone, we decide to eat in the living room and watch one of the Batman movies.

After sitting there a few minutes, I noticed he had stopped eating.

I asked, “Are you OK?”

“I'm pretty full,” he said.

“What's the damage?”

“I ate 15. I'm sorry I didn't eat them all. I think I drank too much Dr Pepper first.”

I'm sitting there in disbelief. And at that exact point, I realized I should probably be raising cattle, because this child may grow up to be a very large human.

My other son, Jackson, is tall and thin. Sutton Hawk outweighs him by 10 pounds. Believe it or not, Jackson eats more than his brother.

So the days of the Happy Meal, and all other children's meals, look to be over. So could be the days of eating out.

I'm a big guy, and I can remember eating large when I was a teenager. Even when I was stuffed, it was a matter of hours before I was starving. But that was when I was a teenager. Now I have two boys who out-eat their mother and are closing in on me!

My wife and I consider ourselves blessed that our boys love Ramen noodles. Even if it does take several packages.

Christopher Blackburn is publisher of this newspaper and CEO of Blackburn Media Group.

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Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

After really good rains last week, we are experiencing more heat. Although the temps are not too high (yet), it has been hot with the humidity as high as it is. I think we had around 4 inches over a period of four or five days, and it was nice, and it sure did make things greener, so now it's time to mow!

My sympathy to the family of Alma Counts this week. She passed away early last week after failing health for quite some time. Her funeral was Saturday in Rule.

Here 'n' there

Fires of undetermined origin plagued Benjamin last Tuesday night. The house where Tick Moorhouse lived, the Lizzie Kyle house, the Tommy Hall house in the west part of town, and another house across the street from Tick's all burned the same night at about the same time. Coincidence? I don't know, but I do know that instead of old houses standing, now there are piles of burned rubble in their places. And that looks as bad as the structures that were standing. Perhaps, in time, those lots will be cleaned up. Let's hope so.

Connie Porter of Fayetteville, Ark., visited friends here and in Knox City a few days last week. She said her mom,

Wynelle Holloway, who lives in Fredericksburg, is doing pretty well. Connie had just returned from a visit with her.

Mark Kuehler visited Sunday with some family members in Plano who were there with his brother-in-law Chris Hons of Seymour, who is hospitalized in a Plano hospital. Chris had a heart problem and has now suffered a stroke and is in very serious condition. He is the husband of the former Sherry Kuehler.

An interesting note to this is that Chris is just down the hall from country singer Randy Travis, who has also had a stroke. As stressful as hospital stays can be for everyone concerned, often times it does give one opportunities to make new friends, which I think has happened in this case with visitors who have come to see Randy, whom I understand is making progress back to better health.

I met Wayne and Brenda Speers on Friday night. He is the new pastor of the Munday Church of Christ. They come to Munday from Arizona and seem to be quite pleased with their move. They have been here three or four months, and we all welcome them to our part of the world.

And First Baptist in Knox City also has a new pastor. He is Ronnie Lambert, and he comes from Memphis. Though he hasn't moved yet, he and his family will be soon. We also welcome them to Knox

County and hope they like it here.

Philomae Roberson is gradually getting back to feeling better. She has had X-rays, MRIs and all kinds of tests to try to determine why her back and leg is in such pain. Doctors say it's the sciatic nerve, and it will just take time for it to get well. She did go to the office (Knox County Abstract) a couple of days last week but said on Saturday she planned to rest most of the weekend and maybe by today (Monday) she would be able to return to work.

Donnie and Cheryl Reed of Joy visited his mom, Irene, on Thursday. Donnie had some neck surgery recently and is still having to be very careful about what he does. That's hard on him. He wants to do like he always did, and he just can't do that yet.

The latest word I have had on former resident Dee Stamps is that his health is declining pretty fast. You may remember he is suffering from pancreatic cancer. His daughter Deann is with him. Her health is not good as well as doctors are trying to diagnose her problem but have not come to a final decision. They just tell her she is in very serious condition. I ask your prayers for that family during this time. They live in Post.

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

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Dixie Divas Oh, the stories they told

My parents told great stories. I've told you that. How they would both weave long, intriguing tales from not much of a story or one that was so good to begin with that it took little embellishment.

The good-to-begin-with story needed only a dusting of well-placed words, while the not-so-good-ones-but-still-worth-telling were spruced up and shined to a fare-thee-well. My parents only introduced me to the art of storytelling, so once I graduated I moved on to a masters



RONDA RICH

program: sports reporting. Now no one, I don't care who it is, tells a story better than an athlete, coach, racer or car owner. They've all got a repertoire of stories that just won't quit. As a young sports reporter, I would spend hours sitting in a high school coach's office while seven or eight coaches spun tales of every game they had ever seen.

Here's the funny thing about all that: I have never met a coach or a race-car driver who could not recite every moment of his career. They can tell you what the player weighed who was carrying the ball for an 80-yard touchdown, when the player had his last tetanus shot and every play called for that entire game.

Same for race-car drivers. Ask them about any win or loss, and, in great detail, they will tell you which shocks or springs were used, which driver bumped him and how many seconds each pit stop lasted.

But don't — I'm just warning you — ask them the date of their wife's birthday or their anniversary. Don't even ask them the year they got married, because they'll probably say something like, "Well, let me see. It was the year Alabama won the national championship with Namath. The last one they won with him. What year would that have been? '64 or '65? Wait a minute. It was '64 all right because Namath was Rookie of the Year in '65."

None of that had anything to do with the bride.

Once I asked a friend, a famous coach, if he knew when Valentine's Day was. He thought for a minute. "Isn't it during basketball season?"

Another friend, a stock car racer, didn't hesitate. "I don't know for sure what the date is, but it's during the time we're always in Daytona for the 500."

He was real proud of himself.

"I always call the florist before I leave and arrange for the flowers."

Once a pro baseball player told me, "Ask me any stat on any player in the league and I can give it to you, but I can't even remember my own birthday. I never can remember if it's the 28th or 29th. I have to call my mama and ask. My wife won't tell me because I don't remember hers. I don't know what I'll do when Mama dies."

Listen, I'm just saying I find that interesting how their minds work. But, boy, they can all tell a great story. It usually starts with, "I remember that time when..." Or "Let me tell about the day that..."

A few years ago, I was in the drivers' paddock at the NASCAR races where they park their coaches. All afternoon, I had watched these little runts not much bigger than I am at 5-foot-2 hurrying back and forth across the garage. For many years, drivers had been big and most were six feet or taller.

Richard Petty was standing next to me. "Richard," I asked, "What's the deal with all this little guys? Drivers used to be much bigger."

He swigged some water then answered. "Pow'r steerin'."

"Huh?" "Back when I come along, you didn't have pow'r steerin', and it took a lot of strength and muscle to wrangle those cars. Not any more."

Then the stories began. And, boy, can Richard Petty tell a story.

I wonder, though, if he knows when his birthday is.

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.

The 501 Good v. well: A feud for the aged, er, ages"

Do my television ears deceive me? I just heard a guy answer the question "How are you?" with the response "Well."

Good! I'm glad someone finally said he was "well" instead of "good." What's more, millions

must have heard him say it. Maybe "good" is on its way out, and "well" is making a comeback. That'd be good.

HANABA MUNN WELCH Haven't you noticed for years that people routinely

have been saying they're "good" when asked how they're doing? If it were true, virtue would be on the rise.

At first I thought the obviously improper use of the word "good" was just a cutesy little short-lived trend. I supposed all who proclaimed themselves to be "good" did so with a certain awareness that either a rule of grammar was being broken or that they were not really answering the question being asked — or both, depending on how you analyze the issue. Now "good" is standard.

As for what social forces have converged to inspire virtually everyone to say, "I'm good," well, who knows? Maybe it's a "Me Generation" thing. We (I'm leading-edge Me) are supposed to be self-absorbed and narciss-

istic. What's good about that? But who's more likely to believe and proclaim himself or herself to be "good" than a narcissist, even if the original question isn't truly being answered?

That's why I myself hereby resolve never to say "I'm good" whenever I'm asked how I am. It's a moral issue. From my grammatically correct traditional use of the response "well," I shall look down on all the narcissists who say they're "good." So there. I'm parting with my generation on this one. I feel almost good enough about my resolution to say, "I'm good."

INTERNET PAUSE.

The temptation was too great. Having mounted my grammatical high horse, I just had to do a little Googling to see if posses are already out there rifing after the "good" offenders. Not surprisingly, I learned I'm not the only person bothered by the "I'm good" bunch. That's the Internet for you. You can always find compadres, whatever the cause.

Meanwhile, one of my newfound fellow-enforcers of Morality via Grammar (I just made up that name for our

worthy aim) quoted an impeccable authority:

"And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments."

That's Matthew 19:17, King James Version. The context is Jesus in conversation with a rich young man, who could be the poster boy for the Me Generation.

Hmmm. What we have is the makings of an evil conspiracy:

Television, the platform for the transformation of our society into whatever those amoral people behind the scenes want us to become, is a place where "I'm good" is said over and over, notably on talk shows at the beginnings of interviews. The afore-mentioned rampant narcissism is nurtured by the expression.

If you buy my theory, consider yourself deputized for the good guys' posse. Let's ride.

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

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Throughout the month of July, subscribe to any premium channel and have the standard connection fee waived.

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ask@srcaccess.net

Patsy Jane Gideon
July 25, 1933 - Dec. 9, 2012

*In the rising of the sun & in its going down, We remember you
In the blowing of the wind & in the chill of winter, We remember you
In the opening of the buds & in the rebirth of spring, We remember you
In the blueness of the sky & in the warmth of summer, We remember you
In the rustling of leaves & in the beauty of autumn, We remember you
In the beginning of the year & when it ends, We remember you
When we are weary and in need of strength, We remember you
When we are lost and sick at heart, We remember you
When we have joys we yearn to share, We remember you
So long as we live, you too will live,
for you are a part of all who have known you.
We remember you especially today,
on what would be your 80th Birthday.*

Adapted from *Litany of Remembrance* by Roland Gittelson.

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Rural public broadcasters now eligible for grants

TEMPLE — Rural Development Acting Under Secretary Doug O'Brien announced that USDA is accepting applications for grants to help rural public television broadcasters complete the transition to digital signals. Funding is available through the Department's Public Television Station Digital Transition Grant Program.

The announcement of almost \$2.8 million in available funding is part of USDA's continued support of telecommunications and broadcast services in rural areas. Funds can be used to acquire, lease or install equipment or software necessary to complete the digital transition.

The Federal Communications Commission required television broadcasters to convert transmitters to digital signals in 2009, but the deadline for analog-to-digital conversion of translators is Sept. 1, 2015. As a result, many rural stations have not completed full digital transition of their stations across all equipment.

Continuation of reliable public television service for all rural residents remains a priority for many rural broadcasters.

The deadline for applications is Aug. 30.

President Obama's plan for rural America has brought about historic investment and

resulted in stronger rural communities. Under the president's leadership, these investments in housing, community facilities, businesses and infrastructure have empowered rural America to continue leading the way — strengthening America's economy, small towns and rural communities.

USDA's investments in rural communities support the rural way of life that stands as the backbone of our American values. President Obama and Agriculture Secretary Vilsack are committed to a smarter use of federal resources to foster sustainable economic prosperity and ensure the government is a strong partner for businesses, entrepreneurs and working families in rural communities.

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, has a portfolio of programs designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America.

USDA has made a concerted effort to deliver results for the American people, even as USDA implements sequestration — the across-the-board budget reductions mandated under terms of the Budget Control Act.

USDA has already undertaken historic efforts since 2009 to save more than \$828 million in taxpayer funds through targeted, common-sense budget reductions. These reductions have put USDA in a better position to carry out its mission, while implementing sequester budget reductions in a fair manner that causes as little disruption as possible.



Courtesy photo
Texas Wildlife Association Officers for 2013-2014 are (left to right) President Greg Simons, Vice President Marcus Barrett IV, Second Vice President for Programs Louis Harveson and Treasurer J. David Anderson.

San Angelo man tapped as new Texas Wildlife president

Special to the News-Courier

SAN ANTONIO — The Texas Wildlife Association welcomed Greg Simons of San Angelo as the organization's 15th president, as well as three other officers and 67 new board members, following elections on July 12 at WildLife 2013 in San Antonio, the organization's annual convention.

Simons owns and operates Wildlife Systems Inc., a company he formed in 1987. Wildlife Systems Inc., based out of San Angelo, operates hunting and wildlife programs on about 800,000 acres of private land in Texas. The company has been involved with hunting programs in several other states and foreign countries, as well. Simons is a graduate of Texas A&M University with a degree in wildlife and fisheries sciences.

Simons previously served the Texas Wildlife Association as vice president, secretary and treasurer. He succeeds Glen Webb of Abilene as president, following Webb's

completion of his second one-year term.

The Texas Wildlife Association serves Texas wildlife and its habitat, while protecting property rights, hunting heritage, and the conservation efforts of those who value and steward wildlife resources.

"I am so incredibly humbled to stand here before you right now, and I feel so incredibly honored to serve this organization and its members in this capacity," said Simons during his address to convention attendees. "We will continue to be a good steward of our mission. We will continue to be a good steward of our values."

Other officers elected to serve the 6,500-member statewide organization for a one-year term were Marcus Barrett IV of San Antonio, vice president; Louis Harveson of Alpine, second vice president for programs; and David Anderson of Houston, treasurer.

In addition, 67 individuals were elected to a three-year term on the Texas Wildlife Association Board of Directors.

Public Notice

A sealed bid was received on the following property:

Parcel number #5671, Account 00300-00020-00460-000000, further described as being, Blk 20, Lots 11 & 12, Orig Goree, Knox County, Texas. The Knox County Appraisal District, acting as trustee for the taxing units is offering this property for sealed bid to all interested parties. Sealed bids may be sent to Knox County Appraisal District, P. O. Box 47, Benjamin, Texas 79505, along with a cashiers check or money order for the amount of the sealed bid. Please put the parcel number on the outside of the envelope of the sealed bid. The taxing units, owners of the property, reserve the right to reject all bids. If your bid is rejected, your cashiers check or money order will be returned. Sealed bids will be opened and considered at least quarterly. For further information please contact the Knox County Appraisal District at the above address or phone: (940) 459-3891. 072513c

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| <p>Knox County Hospital District Your Hometown Healthcare Team</p> <p>Munday Clinic</p> <p>940-422-5271</p> | <p>QUALITY IMPLEMENT CO.</p> <p>940-422-4534</p> | <p>The Movement Space</p> <p>A Pilates & Dance Studio</p> <p>940-421-3269</p> | <p>CHARLES BAKER INSURANCE</p> <p>422-4722 Agent: Jan Searcey, CIC</p> | <p>CAPITAL FARM CREDIT</p> <p>FCS</p> <p>940-422-4323</p> | <p>Knox County Hospital District Your Hometown Healthcare Team</p> <p>Knox County EMS - Munday Station</p> <p>940-422-4929</p> |
| <p>Proud to support the Munday youth!</p> <p>Blackburn Media Group</p> | <p>PETTY</p> <p>FLYING SERVICE 800-687-3327 • www.pettyflying.com</p> | <p>THIS SPACE AVAILABLE!</p> | <p>THIS SPACE AVAILABLE!</p> | <p>Messner Photography</p> <p>940-422-4400</p> | <p>A+ AUTO & FARM SUPPLY PARTS & PLUS</p> <p>940-422-4400</p> |
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News-Courier Classifieds

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HELP WANTED

Brazos Valley Care Home is now accepting applications for Certified Nurse Aides. Please apply in person at 605 S. Ave F, Knox City 072513c

Stonewall Memorial Hospital: Wanted, Fulltime and part-time positions for RNs and LVNs, as well as pool positions. For more information call Director of Nursing, Jan Harris at 940-989-3551 Ext. 231 071813c

FOR SALE

18' Hobie Cat sailboat and trailer. \$500. Call evenings: 940-421-4357. tfn

New Holland 660 Round Baler, barn kept, new tire, belts, Excellent Shape, Ready to work, also John Deere Twin Rakes, 325-513-4761, serious inquires only. Tfnc

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LOST

LOST female border collie tricolor tan around face answers to Babe call Deana Mitchell 940-200-0493. 072513nc

GARAGE SALE

7:30-?, Saturday, July 27th. Furniture, household items, clothes. 1104 S. E. 2nd Knox City. 072513p

MISC

Fish Day! Wed, July 31, 10:30 - 11:30am. L&L Feed Store, Aspermont 308 N Broadway, (940) 989-2994. 4-6" catfish \$45/100, 6-8" catfish \$65/100 and 8-11" catfish \$100/100. Also carry Bass, Crappie, Bluegill, Hybrid Bluegill, Redear Bream & Minnows! For more information call (501) 676-3768 or <http://www.stockmy-poiind.com>

The Munday and Knox City Housing Authorities have apartments available for immediate occupancy. It the intent of both to rent the units to high income households when there are no eligible low or very low income applicants on the waiting list. Flat rent is \$200 for 0-1 bedroom units and \$250 for 2-4 bedroom units. Income based rent may be lower. Call Munday at 940-422-4941 or Knox City at 940-657-3612 for more information. Both are equal opportunity providers. 071113-tfnc



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FEATURED LISTINGS

- **2245 FM 2163**- Rochester -Large brick home on 12 +/- ACRES 4bed/2 bath --REDUCED
- **8047 CR 1694**-Knox City - 40 +/- Acres, Great country living! 4bed/2bath --_REDUCED
- **420 RAILROAD-ROCHESTER**— Two 24,000 s/f warehouses on 15 acres, priced to sell! (will divide)

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- 1101 SE 5th St., Knox City**
3/3, two living areas, finished basement, new windows, well, patio and carport. (\$115,000) **NEW**
- South 7th St. Munday**
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- 811 North Munday Avenue, Munday**
3/2, large Historic rock home on corner lot, original refinished wood floors, granite counter tops. (\$87,500) **REDUCED**
- 251 West L, Munday**
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LEGAL NOTICE

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.: 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

Reunion



Courtesy photo

Bill Baker, center, longtime superintendent of schools for the Knox City-O'Brien ISD, reunited with members of the school's 1975 golf team during a recent reunion.

REUNION

From Page 1

"There were so many others who also contributed to this year's event and even

more that have contacted the exes and volunteered to get involved next year," Moore said. "There are no membership fees, and everybody is welcome. The only requirement is that you get involved, have fun and help

with the events and/or donate money for the scholarships."

For information about the Knox City Exes or the scholarships, email Moore at jd@byreferralrealty.net or call 813-629-1331.

RAIN

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ty ranged from 2 to 4 inches at various locations.

"A lot of the cotton was in decent shape before this rain so it should really do well as the temperature gets back to normal," he said. "The best thing about a rain event like this is that producers can give their irrigation systems a much-needed rest."

In addition, Coplen said, the rain was a welcome respite for cattle producers.

"Rangelands have been improving all spring and will continue to do so," he said. "Stock water has been more of an issue than grass, but many of the dirt tanks are now either full or at least holding a useable amount of water."

Stonewall County also received generous rains across the county, noted Randall Johnson, executive director of the USDA's Farm Service Agency office.

"Rainfall amounts reported varied from 3.6 inches up to 5 inches," Johnson

said. "It was slow in most cases and was soaked in by the thirsty cotton, haygrazer and pasture grasses. Things are looking up for our farmers and ranchers due to the rain, for a while anyway."

Coplen noted additional rainfall would be needed in the next few weeks when cotton is in mid- to late-bloom, a stage which has the highest demand for moisture.

"It's kind of like that old saying," he said. "The most important rain is the next one."

THORNBERRY

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The publication noted Thornberry for his leadership and influence in national security and defense.

"No other member of Congress was included in that category," noted Jenni Winegarner, spokesman for Thornberry's reelection campaign.

Thornberry, 55, currently serves as vice chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, as well as a senior mem-

ber of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

"He's not a headline chaser like a lot of members," the report notes. "He's not one who thinks of a question or an issue because he's read about it. He tends to be ahead of the curve on the things he has oversight on."

Thornberry, who has long been seen as a potential successor to Rep. Buck McKeon, R-Calif., on the House Armed Services Committee, said he was already learning the ins and

outs as he plays a sort of committee traffic cop.

McKeon, who has not decided whether to seek another term next year — and who might be subjected to term limit on his committee chairmanship if he does — said Thornberry in his own right has become a leading member of the committee.

"Mac competed for the chairmanship the last couple of times, and he's very, very capable," McKeon told Politico. "He's my partner. We work together on just about everything, so I look to him as a real help."

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