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MARY JANE YOUNG

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THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

Home of Glenda Huff and the Pink Ladies

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2013

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

Statewide ballot propositions pass

BENJAMIN — Nine amendments to the Texas Constitution passed easily on Tuesday, including measures that would fund water projects to address the state's ongoing drought and population growth, and that would give military veterans and their spouses tax breaks in the event of death or injury.

The off-year election drew less interest than the fanfare-filled votes for president or governor, but it has not been without controversy. The election marked the first time that Texas enforced its new voter ID law, requiring voters to present identification such as a driver's license or passport to vote. Opponents of the law worried it would prevent some voters from casting ballots, while supporters said the measure would ensure integrity in the system.

The Texas Tribune

By the numbers

Texans approved nine amendments to the state constitution on Tuesday. Following is a breakdown of how votes in Knox County cast their ballots.

KNOX	Prop 5
Precincts Reporting 7/7	Total Votes 202
Total Votes 232	(For: 125 / Against: 77)
	61.88% 38.12%
Prop 1	Prop 6
Total Votes 232	Total Votes 254
(For: 207 / Against: 25)	(For: 218 / Against: 36)
89.22% 10.78%	85.83% 14.17%
Prop 2	Prop 7
Total Votes 213	Total Votes 203
(For: 186 / Against: 27)	(For: 156 / Against: 47)
87.32% 12.68%	76.85% 23.15%
Prop 3	Prop 8
Total Votes 207	Total Votes 192
(For: 114 / Against: 93)	(For: 144 / Against: 48)
55.07% 44.93%	75.00% 25.00%
Prop 4	Prop 9
Total Votes 220	Total Votes 195
(For: 192 / Against: 28)	(For: 162 / Against: 33)
87.27% 12.73%	83.08% 16.92%

Ben Grill chosen as MC for annual veterans program

By Mary Jane Young
For the News-Courier

BENJAMIN — Ben Grill has been chosen as the master of ceremonies for the annual Veterans Day program.

The event will be at 11 a.m. Monday at the Veterans Memorial adjacent to the courthouse. The Munday High School band will provide musical selections; the Rev. Jim Wright, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Benjamin and Knox City will give the invocation; and County Judge Travis Floyd will give the welcome.

Local veteran Charles Lankford will recognize military personnel, and then the colors will be posted by other local veterans. Students from Benjamin Elementary, under the direction of Nancy McGregor, will lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The main speakers will be the winners of the local Veterans Day essay and poster contest, who will be introduced by Homer Lowrance and Fred McGregor. The contest was extended to fifth- and sixth-graders from Benjamin, Knox City and Munday schools who were asked to write about a veteran from any time period and make a poster about the veteran. The first three winners from each school receive ribbons and will have their poster displayed in the Veterans Day exhibit at the Wichita-Brazos Museum.

The Gold Star Family of Pfc. C.J. "Jack" Kelton of Truscott, including his nieces Wanda Hardin, Doris Wilson and Norma Matthews, will place a memorial wreath under the memorial's archway while "Taps" is played. Kelton was killed Feb. 24, 1945, on Iwo Jima.

The archway is reserved for engraved names honoring Knox County veterans killed in action.

The ceremony will conclude with the national anthem led by Lyndle Reeves of Munday.

Following the program, a hamburger meal with beans and homemade cobblers will be served at the Benjamin

Pink Ladies



Photos by Michele Fetsch/The News-Courier

The Pink Ladies Auxiliary of the Knox County Hospital donated more than 4,000 hours of volunteer time and raised \$10,000 for various projects throughout the district this past year.



Eric Earthman, Rickie Myers and Dr. Kevin Finley were among those hospital employees receiving the most positive comments from patients this past year. Honorees were awarded a winter jacket and a certificate.

Auxiliary members honored for year's achievements

By Michele Fetsch
The Knox County News-Courier

RHINELAND — Pink Ladies members worked 4,000 hours and raised more than \$10,000 during the last year for various projects at the Knox County Hospital.

Members of the Auxiliary, the volunteering and fundraising arm for the county's only major medical facility, were recognized for those achievements and more during a celebration dinner Oct. 29 at the Rhineland gym.

The Pink Ladies volunteer their time to raise funds through the sale of donated goods at their thrift store in Knox City. During the past year, volunteers raised more than \$10,000 toward the purchase of hospital equipment.

Adding to that total, hospital X-ray technician Amy Sigala presented the Pink Ladies with a check for \$400 raised during the recent health fair from the employee pumpkin contest.

Pink Ladies President Glenda Huff recog-

nized individual members for their volunteerism, collectively totaling more than 4,000 hours. As a token of appreciation from the hospital, the Pink Ladies were presented with pink polo shirts.

The hospital's recently launched "Touching Hearts" program was implemented to recognize district employees for outstanding customer service. It is designed to give an opportunity throughout the year for employees, patients and visitors to submit comment cards in the small boxes located at the hospital and at the clinics and care home.

Top honors for the highest number of cards went to: physical therapist Eric Earthman, nurse Rickie Myers, Dr. Kevin Finley and lab technician Romel Quevedo.

Hospital Administrator Stephen Kuehler thanked each member of the Pink Ladies for their invaluable service to the hospital and its employees for their hard work.

"We couldn't do it without you, thank you," Kuehler said.

Season's pecan crop light on yield, high on quality

By Robert Burns
Special to the Courier

Those who consider pecan pie a must for Thanksgiving won't be disappointed this year as the quality of Texas pecans will be high.

Larry Stein, a horticulturalist with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, said this year's crop won't be as overwhelmingly bountiful as last year but should be more flavorful.

"They should expect to pay a little more, though, as yields are light," Stein said.

This year's crop is in contrast to those of 2012 and 2011, noted Stein, who specializes in pecans and fruit and vegetable crops. In 2011, drought cut back yields to



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Pecan quality from irrigated orchards should be especially good this year, said a horticulture specialist with the Extension Service, because of drier weather, which lowers the susceptibility of the trees to disease.

See CROP, Page 10

Knox Notes

Events are listed free of charge as a service by this newspaper for nonprofit groups, civic organizations, churches, schools and select community events. Listings should be submitted at least two weeks in advance and will run as often as possible through the date of the event. News staff does not guarantee placement of events. Emailed submissions are preferred to kcnewscourier@gmail.com.

Senior recognition

Munday High School seniors who have participated in football, band, cheerleading and/or cross country this year will be recognized during pre-game festivities Friday prior to the Electra football game. The ceremony is expected to begin about 6:55 p.m.

Angel Tree

The Knox City-Benjamin Chapter of the Knox County Child Welfare Board is asking local residents to participate in this year's Angel Tree by taking an angel from the Christmas tree at Citizens Bank in Knox City and shopping for a deserving child. All gifts should be delivered to Citizens Bank by Dec 4. Donations will be accepted to P.O. Box 123, Knox City 79529.

Noah Project

The Noah Project-North will meet at noon Friday in the jury room of the Haskell County Courthouse. Call Donna Sue Anders at 940-864-2551 for information.

Veterans' Photos

The Knox County News-Courier is asking for submissions of photos and up to 250 words to honor loved ones who have served in any war past to present. There is no charge for publication. Email information to kcnewscourier@gmail.com or call 940-422-5350. Deadline for submissions is Nov. 11.

Harvest Day Festival

Knox City Baptist Church, 200 S. Central Ave., will host the annual Harvest Day Festival program and luncheon at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday. Registration is at 10 a.m. Lunch will follow at noon. Call the church office at 940-657-3141 for information.

Special services

O'Brien Baptist Church, 902 Grand Central Ave., will host gospel singers Weston and Christy Hinson in concert during special services at 6 p.m. Nov. 16 and at 10:45 a.m. Sunday. This is a free event, and all are welcomed. Call the church office at 940-658-3553.

Corrections

The family of Jack Kelton will be honored at Monday's Veterans Day ceremony in Benjamin as a Gold Star Family by the Knox County Historical Commission.

A story on Page 1 of last week's News-Courier contained inaccurate information.

If you spot an error of fact, contact Editor Wayne Hodgins 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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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



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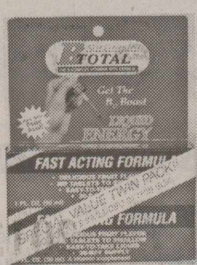
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Deaths

Rhonda Gerette Albus

Rhonda Gerette Albus went to be with her Lord Jesus on November 3, 2013 in Knox City, Texas.

Rhonda was born September 10, 1969 in Dallas, Texas. She came to make her home in Knox City, Texas with her parents David Albus and Betty Monat. As a young person, she loved to spend time playing with her friends in the neighborhood. She also had a very loving relationship with elderly people who lived near her. She attended Knox City Schools where she was a popular student who excelled in athletics and was a leader of her peers. Cheer leading was a great passion of hers and she loved "cheering on" her Greyhounds. She graduated Knox City High School in 1988. She attended South Plains Junior College and graduated from Howard County Junior College as a License Vocational Nurse. She spent her nursing career working in nursing homes where she served her patients with utmost



RHONDA ALBUS

love and care. More recently she worked at Abilene State Supported Living Center where she lovingly cared for patients who were in great need.

Rhonda had special love for animals and interacted with them with a unique and mysterious understanding. She had a special laughter and a sparkling personality that drew other to her.

Rhonda will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Left to cherish her memory are her father, David Albus and step-mother, JoAnn; her mother, Betty Monat; her brothers, Michael Albus, Greg and wife,

Pam, and Mike Oliver all of Knox City. She is survived by her grandmother, Clara Herring of Munday, her nephew Riley Albus of Grapevine, and surrogate niece, Alyssa Cummings of Abilene. Also, step-brother David Kinney and wife, Mandy of Graham, and step-sister Melissa Muller and husband Rick of Grapevine, and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, and many friends.

Rosary and visitation will be at 7PM, Tuesday, November 5, 2013 at McCauley-Smith Funeral Home in Munday. Funeral mass will be Wednesday, November 6, 2013 at 11AM at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Rhineland. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery under the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home of Munday.

If desired, memorials can be made in her name to Knox County Aging Center, P.O. Box 306, Knox City, Texas 79529 or Helping Hands Ministries, P.O. Box 501, Knox City, Texas 79529

Public Meetings

County Commission

BENJAMIN — The Knox County Commissioners Court will meet in regular session at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in the County Assembly Room at the Knox County Courthouse. The following subjects will be included on the agenda for discussion, consideration, passing or adopting: the 2014 resolution for the Indigent Defense Program; request

from the Munday Housing Authority to discontinue a policy of waiving rental fees for nonprofit groups, such as Knox County Aging Services; nominations to the Board of Directors for the Knox County Appraisal District; county reports; financials.

Wayne Hodgin

Munday CISD

MUNDAY — The Munday Consolidated Independent School District Board of Trustees will meet in regular session at 6 p.m. Nov. 18 in the Board Room at the Administration Building, 811 W. D St., Munday.

The subjects to be discussed or considered, or upon which any formal action may

be taken, include a public hearing on FIRST Ratings; the annual financial audit by James Rodgers and Co.; nominations to the Knox County Appraisal District Board of Directors; staff Christmas incentive.

Wayne Hodgin

Crime Stoppers

Tires, rims reported stolen in Stamford

Stamford police received a report last Friday that four tires and rims were taken from a pickup in the 500 block of East Reynolds while the homeowners were out of town. The stolen items are valued at \$2,000. Anyone with information about this crime is encouraged to call the Clear Fork Crime Stopper tipline at 800-222-TIPS or

text CFCS@CRIMES. Callers may remain anonymous and can receive a cash reward of up to \$1,000. Clear Fork Crime Stoppers serves the residents of Jones, Haskell, Kent, Fisher, Shackelford and Stonewall counties.

Billie McKeever

Menus

Week of Nov. 11-15

Knox City-O'Brien Breakfast

- Monday:** Biscuits with sausage and gravy or cereal bowl, toast, peaches, juice, milk
- Tuesday:** Cinnamon toast with sausage or cereal bowl with sausage, pears, juice, milk
- Wednesday:** Mini corndogs or cereal bowl, toast cinnamon mixed fruit, juice, milk
- Thursday:** Pancakes with syrup or cereal bowl with sausage, applesauce, juice, milk
- Friday:** Cinnamon roll with sausage or cereal bowl, toast, pineapple, juice, milk

Lunch

- Monday:** Beefy macaroni or antipasto salad or bologna and cheese, glazed carrots, corn, fruit, slushy, milk
- Tuesday:** Chicken nuggets or fajita chicken salad or turkey and cheese, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, pears, slushy, milk
- Wednesday:** Soft beef tacos or garden pasta salad or ham and cheese, Mexican style beans, lettuce, orange slushy, milk
- Thursday:** Ballpark hot dogs or zesty tune salad or tuna salad, mashed potatoes, applesauce, slushy, milk
- Friday:** Pizza or chef salad or po-boy sandwich, tator tots, pork n' beans, fruit, slushy, milk

Munday Breakfast

- Monday:** Biscuits with sausage gravy, honey graham and applesauce, slushy, juice, milk
- Tuesday:** Cereal bowl with sausage, mixed fruit, slushy, juice, milk
- Wednesday:** Mini corndogs, honey graham, cinnamon apple slices, slushy, juice, milk
- Thursday:** Cereal bowl with sausage, pineapple, slushy, juice, milk
- Friday:** Pancakes with syrup, honey graham, peaches, slushy, juice, milk

Lunch

- Monday:** Italian beefy macaroni or bologna and cheese, glazed carrots, corn, grapes, slushy, milk
- Tuesday:** Chicken nuggets or turkey and cheese, peppered gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, pears, slushy, milk
- Wednesday:** Soft beef tacos or ham and cheese, Mexican style beans, lettuce topping, orange, slushy, milk
- Thursday:** Ball park hot dog or tuna salad, mashed potatoes, applesauce, peaches, slushy, milk
- Friday:** Pepperoni pizza or po-boy, tator tots, pork and beans, grapes, slushy, milk

Knox County Aging Center

- Monday:** Closed for Veterans Day
- Tuesday:** Chicken fajitas, fajitas vegetables, corn, Spanish rice/flour tortilla, fruit cocktail
- Wednesday:** Pork chops, black-eyed peas, spinach, cornbread, baked apple
- Thursday:** Sweet & sour chicken, rice, stir fry vegetables, whole wheat rolls, cake
- Friday:** Hot dogs bun, mustard, baked potatoes with sour cream, seasoned broccoli, pineapple delight

Come eat with us and support your aging center program. Please call in your orders by 10:00 a.m. to 657-3618. Orders can't be taken after 11:00 a.m. please pick up by 11:00 a.m.

Fraud alert

Officials with the U.S. Department of Agriculture said Tuesday a fraudulent letter was being circulated around the country to producers and contractors.

The signature line in these letters reads "Frank Rutenberg," and the sender claims to be a USDA employee seeking information about the recipient, according to reports from the Farm Service Agency.

Officials say these letters are a fraud, the sender is fictitious and recipients should not respond to these letters.

Should you receive one of these fraudulent letters, please notify your local Farm Service Agency or a USDA Service Center representative.

The News-Courier



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Pastor Shane Kendrix

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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

Well, we are now into November, and what is always the busiest time of the year is right "upon us." Thanksgiving is just a few weeks away, and after that, Christmas can't be far behind. I enjoy the holidays, although it's always a busy time. I love the parties, family get-togethers, and even the cooking that goes with it. It's always a lot of fun.

Suffers burns

Bobby and Courtney Sherrard's daughter, Kaycee, was seriously burned last Wednesday evening when a spray paint can she was using was ignited by a gas hot water heater. The fire from the combustion caused burns over a large part of Kaycee's body, but so far, no skin grafts are expected.

Doctors say it will probably take as long as 18 months to heal completely, but her long-term prognosis is good. She spent several days in the burn unit at UMC in Lubbock and returned home Sunday night.

Please remember this family in prayer. Kaycee has two small children and lives in Knox City.

New arrival

Zane Michael is the new baby son of Kelsey Brown. Little Zane was born Wednesday, Oct. 30, in a Wichita Falls hospital. He weighed 6 pounds, 2 ounces, and was 19 1/2 inches long. His very proud grandparents are Michele Brown of Benjamin and Mark Brown of Knox City. Great-grandparents are Sonny and Doris Bufkin of Benjamin and Travis Brown and the late Rosie Brown of Trenton, Ga. And there's a special aunt, Emily Brown, who will no doubt be a good babysitter. Both mom and baby are doing well.

Sympathy

My most sincere sympathy to the family of Rhonda Albus today. Rhonda died on Sunday at her home in Knox City. Funeral services are pending at this time. Her parents are Betty Monet and David and Joann Albus.

Football news

The last home game of the season Thursday night came out the way we like it. The Benjamin Junior High Colts defeated Rule (score unknown) in what I'm told was a good game. Halftime activities included the presentation of the football hero and sweetheart. The hero this year is Kaleb Whittle (Tankersley), and the sweetheart is Hailie Macias. I

congratulate both of these students as well as the rest of the football team and the girls who "cheered them on" each week. The local dance team has also performed at the games and is getting lots of "kudos" for their efforts.

Here 'n' there

Trick-or-treat activities went well over here Thursday night following the ball game. Spooks in all sorts of costumes were out and about, and their bags were filled to the top when the evening was over. And no bad incidents were reported. Just a fun-filled time for kids, parents, and the "presenters" at each house they visited.

I stopped by Stephen and Sheila Kuehler's home on Sunday and got my first look at their daughter, Kaitlyn's (and Ricky's) baby boy. He's a dandy and growing. He's about a month old. His brother, Carter, is very protective of him. I asked him if I could take the baby home with me, and he quickly said "no" -- a typical big brother.

Seth Kuehler is doing well after his "bronc" accident a couple of weeks ago. Certainly not up to doing much, but he can drive and be fairly independent. It will be about 3 months before he's able to do a lot, but he is coming along nicely, and that's good to hear.

Lonnie Bohannon of Abilene spent the weekend with his parents, Betty and Roger.

Kim Lyles spent the weekend with her daughter, Shelby, in Lubbock.

Doris Bufkin reports that they also have a new great-granddaughter born October 31, the day after great-grandson, Zane, was born. The little girl is the daughter of Ashley and her husband. Ashley's mom and dad are Mike and Lori Bufkin. Ashley and her family are in Florida. The new baby's name is Kaley Ann, and she weighed 8 lbs at birth. So the Bufkin family is growing. And while speaking of them, in last week's news Josh Bufkin was misidentified as Jack. Just wanted to get that straight, as I do know the boy's names! Sorry about that error.

Mary Tom Bohannon has left the Munday Nursing Center and is now in a care facility in Lubbock. Her daughter, Brandi, is out there and soon to start school to become a Medical Tech.

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

FSA resumes CCL disbursements

Officials with the USDA Farm Service Agency announced this week that processing and disbursement of 2013 crop commodity loans has resumed.

Crop year 2013 commodity loan-making was suspended Oct. 1 to make changes necessary to accommodate federal automatic-funding reductions, also known as the sequester.

FSA Administrator Juan Garcia noted sequestration is mandated by the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 as amended by the Budget Control Act of 2011.

"We must comply with the laws established by Congress to reduce funds in accordance with sequestration policy," Garcia said. "We regret the delay this has created in USDA issuing marketing assistance loans because we know how critical the loans are to many farmers' cash flow at this time of year."

The commodity loan programs provide interim financing to producers for agricul-

tural commodities stored after harvest and then sold throughout the year. Producers requesting 2013 crop commodity loans on their harvested commodities now will have a 5.1 percent reduction to the loan amount upon its disbursement, due to the sequestration. Commodity loans issued by marketing associations and loan servicing agents are also subject to the sequestration reduction.

During the period that loan-making was suspended, producers were still able to submit loan applications to their county FSA offices, marketing associations and loan servicing agents. The processing and disbursement of these applications will begin immediately.

For further information about commodity marketing loans, farmers may contact their local county FSA office or go online to fsa.usda.gov.

The News-Courier

The 501 Despite Aggie joke, re-wiring project was no laughing matter

Now it's working. Now it's not. Now it's working. Now it's not. That's an Aggie joke punch line. The joke? Two guys take a car for a test spin. They check the turn signals. One activates a blinker; the other one checks the respective taillight.



HANABA MUNN WELCH

Neither my husband nor I wanted to tackle the wiring job. Especially not together. Why strain the marriage? How much could it cost to pay experts instead?

Short answer: \$320. Ouch. Maybe the bill would have been less if I hadn't helped.

I tried to stay away. I stayed at McDonald's with the other homeless people for three hours. Then I went back to check on the trailer. How could I not get involved? After all, I'd done the academic research online. And whether the guys actually needed me on site, they'd ultimately need the truck to see if everything was working just right.

Yep, I myself can tell you exactly the wire colors Ford used in 1992 (when our pickup was

new) for everything from electric trailer brakes to the now-it's-working-now-it's-not right turn signal. Some wires are striped. I created a PowerPoint presentation on the subject.

Tip: PowerPoint is a great way to order your knowledge to impress yourself with what you know. With any luck, you might even get someone else to watch it too.

Now for the good news. The trailer lights work. At least that's what the fellows said who fixed everything. I was in the driver's seat (literally, not figuratively), and I didn't want to get out to see for myself. I'm short, and it's a long way to the ground. Every time I slide out, I wear out the seat just a little bit more where the foam rubber is more than peeking out in two places. It's staring.

Anyway, I drove home and didn't get arrested although an Oklahoma trooper stayed right behind me for 11 miles. Really. No doubt he was waiting for me to brake or signal left or right so he could ticket me for faulty trailer lights. I had that faulty look. I drove on, eyes ahead, staying under the speed limit and off the center stripe, headed for asylum in Texas and not about to do anything that would have tested those trailer lights.

In case you're wondering why I know all those historic wire colors, it's because I'm the one who, in advance, wired the new seven-way plug on the pickup. Moi. By myself.

Believe it or not, the real light guys even looked at my PowerPoint once or twice.

Humor the customer. That's the only thing they didn't itemize on the bill.

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

Feral hog seminar slated next week

POST — The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Garza County will sponsor a seminar on feral hogs from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday at the Borden County Events Center in Gail.

Registration fee is \$15 and includes lunch. Topics will cover an update of the feral hog situation in West Texas and other information such as how the invasive species affects other wildlife and how their diseases can affect livestock and humans.

Presenters will include Ken Cearley, a wildlife specialist with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Amarillo; Borden County Game Warden Brent Tucker; Mike Bodenchuk, director of wildlife services for the Extension; and expert trapper Jason Bond of Snyder.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m., and lunch will be served following the mornings presentations.

For information, contact Greg Jones, agricultural agent for the Garza County Extension, at 806-495-4400.

The News-Courier

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I would like to express my sincere thanks, gratitude and love to the area churches that prayed for me and to everyone who put my name on prayer lists during my hospital stays and recovery at home. I am so grateful to you all.

I want to thank everyone that visited, called, brought food, sent beautiful flowers and cards. The kindness of everyone was a comfort to me and lifted up my spirit.

*May God bless and keep you always,
Rabbin Kocha*

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MUNDAY LIONS CLUB

Pancake Supper

Friday, November 8, 2013
5pm - 7pm
High School Lunchroom
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\$7 - adults
\$4 - 12 & under

Nancy's Notions

The scoop on artificial sweeteners

Do Well Be Well with Diabetes" is a curriculum developed by Texas A&M University nutritionists for AgriLife Extension agents to teach people with diabetes



NANCY MCDONALD

to manage this chronic disease in their daily lives. I've had a great group of participants this month with lots of questions, valuable input and lots of "ah-ha" moments. This week's lesson on nutritional labels included quality information on artificial sweeteners, such as saccharin, aspartame, Acesulfame-K and neotame.

I thought I would share with readers this week some characteristics of each of these sweeteners many of us consume each day.

Acesulfame-K

Known commercially as SweetOne or DiabetiSweet, this high-intensity sweetener is 200 times sweeter than sugar and doesn't leave an after taste. It is heat stable so it could be used

in food preparation, is not used by the body so excreted by the kidneys unchanged and it shows no glucose response.

Aspartame

On the market, it's known as Equal or NutraSweet and is 200 times sweeter than sugar. Unlike other artificial sweeteners, aspartame is made from protein and doesn't leave a bitter chemical or metallic aftertaste. However, it is not heat stable (meaning it loses its sweetness when its temperature is raised), and, therefore, cannot be used in cooking. It is digested as a protein and the amino acids are metabolized normally, but there is a slight glucose response.

Some people say aspartame causes a wide variety of symptoms. But research has been unable to prove this sensitivity or to describe how these symptoms could be triggered in the body. One concern about aspartame is for people with phenylketonuria or PKU, which is a genetic disorder. People with this disorder cannot metabolize the amino acid phenylalanine, which is in aspartame. To help these people avoid it, the FDA requires warnings be included on products that contain aspartame.

Saccharin

Also known as Sweet'N Low, Sugar Twin, Sweet10, Adolph's and Sucaryl, this artificial sweetener has a slightly bitter aftertaste and is 300 times sweeter than sugar. You can heat saccharin-based sweeteners up to 302 degrees Fahrenheit without experiencing a bitter taste. However, it is not well suited for baking at higher temperatures, as the taste will become bitter.

Saccharin is relatively inexpensive to manufacture and has become a popular sugar substitute for people suffering from diabetes, obesity, or gout. But beware: Sodium saccharin in products may increase the sodium content in daily foods.

Saccharin does not convert to glucose yet is readily absorbed and excreted unchanged by the kidneys. Saccharin also helps you maintain good dental health because it helps prevent cavities.

Neotame

The FDA has approved the NutraSweet Co. to start marketing Neotame as a nonnutritive, general-purpose sweetener in foods. Neotame can be used as a tabletop sweetener and in

baked goods, soft drinks, chewing gum, confections and frostings, frozen desserts, gelatins and puddings, jams and jellies, processed fruits and fruit juices, and toppings and syrups.

It is a soluble, crystalline white powder that is heat-stable and is 7,000 to 13,000 times sweeter than sugar. Although researchers have looked at possible links to cancer, birth defects and nerve damage effects of the sweeteners, they have found no concerns about nerve toxins or behavioral effects in people from eating Neotame.

Next week I'll write about sucralose (Splenda) and Stevia. Meanwhile I am compiling two more booklets of recipes, initiated from consumer requests, one of which is from the American Diabetes Association and includes nutritional information. The second one is a booklet of recipes using Splenda as a substitution for sugar.

Call the Garza County Extension Office at 806-495-4400 if you are interested in either one. We also have a few slow-cooker recipes books. All booklets are \$5 each.

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

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Submitted photo
Knox City Elementary first-graders wearing their red hat or red scarf are (front row) Seth Logsdon, Jaydon Perez, Creed Coker and (back row) Shaver, Jonah Duke, Taley Espinosa and Krystabel Vasquez.

Hounds lick wounds after district loss

By **Geoffrey Baumgartner**
 The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY – Knox City's varsity Greyhound football squad suffered their first district loss last Friday against the Crowell Wildcats. While the teams seemed to be evenly matched, and had the same record going into the game, it was the relentless Wildcat defense that ultimately let them take the lead. By preventing Knox City from getting into the end zone, Crowell ended up pulling away in the second half and won the game, 70-36.

Over five minutes of the first quarter went by without either team putting up any points. That changed when, with 4:46 left in the quarter, Heath Welch spun passed the Wildcat defender to break free for a 56-yard touchdown run. Zach Rodriguez made good on the two-point kick and Knox City took the lead 8-0. Crowell responded less than 20 seconds later by running in a 48-yard touchdown and evening up the score, 8-8. Quarterback Zach Carter was then sacked by the Crowell defense inside the Knox City end zone, causing the safety and putting Crowell two points ahead, 10-8. Another unanswered Wildcat touchdown came in with 3:38 left in the first. Their two-point kick was good and the Greyhounds ended the first quarter trailing 18-8.

Two more unanswered Crowell touchdowns came in before Knox City was able to respond offensively. Finally, with 1:55 left in the first half, Carter connected with Rodriguez for a 6-yard touchdown pass. Rodriguez not only scored the touchdown, but also kicked the ball through the posts, and the score was now 32-16, with the Wildcats leading. Crowell would respond with a long hard fought drive to get their last touchdown of the half. The first half ended with the Greyhounds behind 40-16.

Another eight minutes would pass before either team would put up any more points. With 2:00 minutes remaining in the third quarter, the Greyhound defense finally let the Wildcats slip one into the end zone. Accompanying kick was

good and Crowell went up 46-16. However, the Greyhounds would fire back before the end of the quarter. With only 37 seconds remaining, Carter again hit Rodriguez for the Greyhound touchdown. Rodriguez's kick was good and the score became 24-46. On the very next play during the Wildcat kick-off return the Knox City defense stripped the ball. Ibn Lagway recovered and ran the ball in for the Knox City touchdown with only 23 seconds remaining in the third quarter. The Greyhounds now trailed 46-30 going into the fourth.

During the fourth quarter, the Greyhound defense really began to slip, while the Wildcats continued to apply the pressure offensively. Throughout the duration of the fourth quarter, Crowell continued to put unanswered points on the board. All in all, the Wildcats scored three unanswered touchdowns before Knox City was able to strike back, but with not enough time. With 51 seconds remaining in the game, Carter was finally able to again break free and ran 28 yards for the last Greyhound touchdown. The extra point attempt was no good and the game came to an end, with Knox City falling short, 70-36.

Knox City's overall season record now sits at 9-2, with their district record now at 3-1, while Crowell's regular season goes to 8-1 and their district record climbs to 3-0.

In total, Knox City put up 161 yards in rushing. Welch rushed for 80 yards on five carries and one touchdown, while Chris Lewis ran for 41 yards on 10 carries. In addition, Carter ran for 32 yards on five carries and one touchdown.

The Greyhound receiving totaled 132 yards. Rodriguez had five receptions for 63 yards and two touchdowns, while Krys Campos had two receptions for 57 yards.

Rodriguez was three for five on two-point kick attempts.

Knox City will be hosted by defending six man state champions Throckmorton next Friday on Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m. if you would like to come out and support your local Greyhound varsity team.

KCES students observe Red Ribbon Week

Students at Knox City Elementary recently participated in Red Ribbon Week. This year's campaign slogan was "A Healthy Me is Drug Free."

Students wore a red ribbon each day of the week and supported the campaign with a theme each day: Monday was Red Sock

Day, Tuesday was Red Shirt Day, Wednesday was Red Hat or Scarf Day, Thursday was Halloween Shirt Day and Friday was Wear Black Day.

Marsha Quade

GO GREYHOUNDS & HOUNDETTES!



Ibn Lagway (#18) dashes for the end zone after he gets the strip from the Crowell defense while Chris Lewis (#25) makes the block. Knox City will be going up against Throckmorton next week in what is sure to be an exciting match-up with the defending six man state champs.

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Munday 28, Era 21 Moguls manage late win over Bulldogs

By **Geoffrey Baumgartner**
The Knox County News-Courier

The visiting Mogul varsity football squad captured its third district win over Era last Friday in what became one of their closest battles yet this year.

Although behind for most of the game, two fourth-quarter touchdowns brought the Moguls back to earn the win, 28-21, over the Bulldogs. Munday's win was Era's first district loss.

First-quarter action left the Moguls behind one point when they failed to capitalize on the extra point attempt after their first touchdown.

As the second quarter picked up, the Moguls returned to form with quarterback Alfonzo Nunez successfully running in a two-point conversion after a Munday touchdown to put the Moguls up eight more points and tied the game 14-14 going into the half.

Returning for a lackluster third quarter, the Munday offense went scoreless but its defense managed to allow only one Bulldog touchdown, which, as it turned out, would be Era's last. Tough tackling by L.J. Collier and Day'veon Dockins helped motivate the Mogul offense for its eventual fourth-quarter drive — their most produc-

tive of the game.

Going into the fourth trailing, 21-14, the prowess of the Munday defense held the Bulldogs to their only scoreless quarter, while the offense allowed the Moguls to retain possession.

With this last-ditch effort, the Moguls would end the game in classic come-from-behind style with two unanswered touchdowns and a successful two-point conversion by Nunez to put the final score at 28-21.

With this win, the Moguls' regular season record now stands at 4-5, and their district record climbs to 3-1. The loss was Era's fourth of the season and first in district play.

Ultimately, the Moguls rushed for more than 300 yards. Quarterback Nunez rushed for 102 yards on 18 carries, while Ian Lagway rushed for 100 yards on 12 carries. Dockins rushed for 71 yards on nine carries with two touchdowns.

Temerick Reagins had two receptions for 21 yards; Collier managed one reception for 29 yards and one touchdown.

Nunez threw for 50 yards on nine attempts with three completions and one touchdown.

Munday will host the Electra Tigers at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Scruggs Field.

Mogulette varsity squad advances in playoffs

Munday Mogulettes had two road games this last week. While the Mogulettes defeated DeLeon in a pre-playoff practice match in straight sets 25-18, 25-18, and 27-25, they were swept in straight sets by Notre Dame in Wichita Falls 14-25, 24-25, and 23-25. Munday, Notre Dame, and DeLeon were all undefeated in their respective district conference play and are advancing in the playoffs.

Mogulette standouts from the Notre Dame match were junior middle blocker Raci Dillard with two aces 11 kills, and nine blocks, while senior setter Tatum Bufkin had one ace, 22 assists and three saves. In addition, senior middle blocker

Kaylan Urbanczyk managed one ace, 14 digs and six kills.

Individual standouts in the DeLeon match were Bufkin with one ace, 26 assists, four kills and six saves, while Dillard had one ace 11 kills and eight blocks. Furthermore, Urbanczyk had one ace 10 kills and seven blocks, while senior outside hitter Mayte Torres managed six aces, five kills and four saves.

The Mogulettes will play the winner of the Archer City and Newcastle bi-district match to advance in the playoff series.

Geoffrey Baumgartner

GOOD LUCK IN THE PLAYOFFS, MOGULETTES!



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Texas deer season opens to favorable outlook

By Steve Lightfoot
For the News-Courier

While not clear of the drought, things are looking up in many parts of the state this year, and the outlook for deer and deer hunting is much brighter.

The general firearms season for deer began Saturday.

Biologists can provide some general predictions each year based on rainfall and general habitat conditions that are applicable at a landscape level scale, but whether those predictions hold true for individual properties is like trying to guess the Lotto numbers on the Saturday night drawing. Factors like rainfall, availability of native foods like acorns or mesquite bean crops, habitat quality and availability, even hunting pressure, play a role in shaping your hunting success. Aside from rainfall and general habitat conditions biologists also consider previous year's deer population characteristics to make predictions for the upcoming season.

"Statewide population trends remain stable and hunters should expect good numbers of deer year in and year out," said Alan Cain, TPWD whitetail deer program leader. "I would predict the statewide deer population to be close to or slightly above the long-term average and hover around that 3.6 million deer mark

for 2013."

One factor hunters should also keep in mind is the good carryover of deer from the 2012 season as harvest was down resulting from heavy acorn and mast crops in several regions of the state, Cain noted.

"For hunters this translates into plenty of opportunities to harvest a deer," he said.

Though the deer population numbers are expected to be good this year, Cain predicts the recent September rains that resulted in a flush of green vegetation may cause hunters to rethink their early season hunting strategies as deer may spend less time visiting feeders. A well-traveled game trail may be more productive than hunting at the deer feeder.

Dry conditions in 2011 resulted in a significant decline in fawn production, down to 29 percent for the statewide estimate, a 24 percent departure from the long-term average.

Fawn crops bounced back in 2012 at 47 percent, and Cain anticipates survey results will show a higher fawn crop this year. In fact, he said he is hearing reports from landowners as well as TPWD biologists of fawn production in the 60 to 80 percent range throughout the state.

Another aspect of typical hunting season forecast is the prediction of antler quality and how many big

bucks are out there across the landscape.

"As far as antler quality goes, rainfall plays a key role by influencing the native habitat and forage, ultimately affecting the quality of nutrition a buck receives in order to grow antlers," Cain said. "In dry years we typically see a decline in overall antler quality and increases in wet years much related to nutrition."

Some managers provide supplemental feed to buffer against nutritional impact resulting from drought. However, research in South Texas has shown that native habitat is crucial to deer nutrition even when supplemental feed is provided. So maintaining quality native habitat on your property is important.

Judging from the phone calls and emails he has received from landowners around the state, Cain said bucks look to be in good body condition, antlers are in great shape and they are expecting a much better season than the last two years.

He predicts antler quality to be above average for those areas receiving good spring rains and average for those that were a little drier this spring and summer.

"Drought or no drought, Texas still produces some whopper bucks each year," he said.

Boone & Crockett — the nation's oldest wildlife conservation group — ranks Texas fifth for all time re-



Texas Parks & Wildlife

As hunting season opens, it's a good time for hunters to review the protocol for tagging, processing and transferring deer. This year, TPWD estimates above average deer populations, even among heavy drought conditions across the state.

cords. Based on 40-plus years of data collected by TPWD biologists each season, the average B&C score for a 5½-year old buck is 124, with 9.1 points, and a 15.8-inch inside spread. Even the younger bucks at 3 ½ years of age average a 13.5-inch inside spread and 8 points.

While areas like South Texas are known for producing exceptional bucks, most anywhere in the state is capable of producing good bucks every year. In fact in 2012, two archery hunters were lucky enough to connect on a couple of large non-typical bucks scoring about 250 on the Boone & Crockett scale. Both bucks were wild, free-ranging deer taken on low-fenced properties, one in North Texas and the other in Southeast

Texas.

"Another positive trend we have observed in the last few years is that the proportion of young bucks in the harvest has declined across the state, and most noticeably in the eastern third of the state where bucks had a hard time surviving to 3 ½ years of age," Cain said. "In 2012, bucks 3½-year-old and older comprised 65 percent of bucks checked during TPWD surveys which are a reflection of the deer harvested each season."

Digging a little deeper into the data Cain explains that in antler-restriction counties, 59 percent of bucks checked during TPWD surveys were 3½ or older, a dramatic improvement in age structure when those older age class bucks represented only 30 to 35 percent of the

harvest before antler restrictions were implemented.

"This shift towards harvesting older bucks in the Pineywoods, Post Oak Savannah, and Cross Timbers and Prairies regions is a direct result of the antler-restriction regulation," Cain said. "That harvest strategy has been very effective at allowing many more bucks to reach maturity."

Overall, the 2013 season is expected to be a good one with great opportunities to harvest a deer.

"We have received many positive reports from landowners and hunters throughout most every region in the state," Cain said. "And all of them are excited about the number and quality of deer — both doe and bucks — they are observing on their properties."

Whooping cranes begin fall journey to Texas

By Mark Klym
For the News-Courier

Endangered whooping cranes have begun their annual 2,400-mile fall migration from Canada to Texas. As the rare birds approach the Lone Star State, a grass-roots science initiative is inviting Texas residents and visitors to report whooper sightings.

Texas Whooper Watch is a volunteer monitoring program that is a part of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Texas Nature Trackers program. The program was developed to help the agency learn more about whooping cranes and their winter habitats in Texas.

Since beginning their slow recovery from a low of 16 birds in the 1940s, whoopers have wintered on the Texas coast on and near Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. Recently though, several groups of whooping cranes expanded their wintering areas to include other coastal areas and some in-

land sites in Central Texas.

This year, some of the whooping cranes from an experimental flock in Louisiana spent most of the summer months in Texas, and the Whooper Watch volunteers were able to provide valuable information to Texas, Louisiana and U.S. wildlife officials about these birds.

This year biologists expect whooping cranes to start arriving in Texas in late October or early November. Texas Whooper Watch will also help improve the accuracy of surveys on the wintering grounds, as the growth of the flock has made traditional census methods more difficult.

Whoopers usually follow a migratory path through North and Central Texas that includes cities such as Wichita Falls, Fort Worth, Waco, Austin and Victoria. During migration they often pause overnight to use wetlands for roosting and agricultural fields for feeding, but seldom remain more than one night.

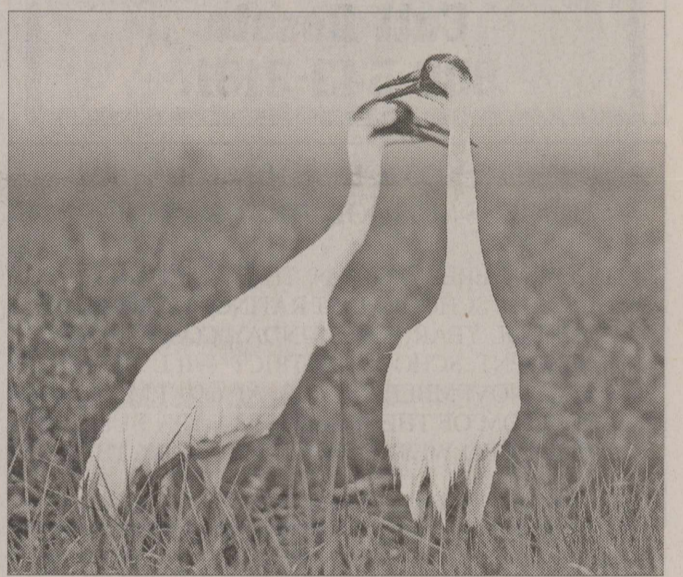
The typical sighting is fewer than three birds, but they may be seen roosting and feeding with large flocks of the smaller sandhill crane.

Whoopers are the tallest birds in North America, standing nearly five feet. The cranes are solid white in color except for black wing-tips that are visible only in flight. They fly with necks and legs outstretched.

Texas residents can help by reporting sightings of whooping cranes and by preventing disturbance of cranes when they remain overnight at roosting and feeding locations.

Sightings can be reported to whoopingcranes@tpwd.texas.gov or 512-389-TXWW (8999). Observers are asked especially to note whether the cranes have colored leg bands on their legs.

For information about becoming a Whooper Watcher volunteer, visit tpwd.texas.gov/whoopingcranes.



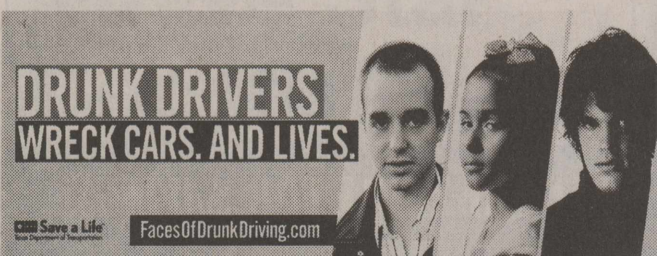
Earl Nottingham/Texas Parks & Wildlife

In 1942, there were only 16 whooping cranes left in what was to be the last flock in the world — a small group of birds that wintered on the central Texas coast near Rockport and nested in northwestern Canada. Slowly, over time, with habitat conservation and protection from shooting, numbers climbed. In 2012, the Texas-Canada flock approached 300 birds, and now whooping cranes also exist in several experimental flocks and captive breeding facilities.

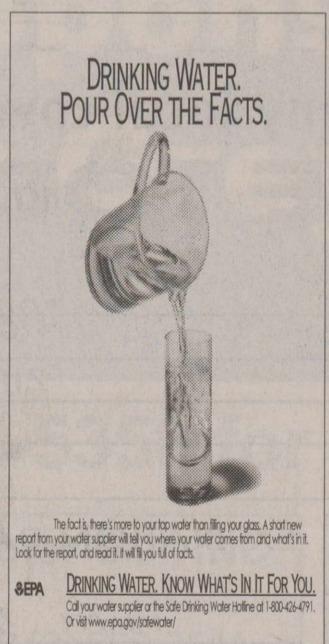
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The Knox City/Benjamin Chapter of Knox County Child Welfare Board needs your help to give the needy children of Knox City and Benjamin a special Christmas. Around the middle of November members of the Board will decorate an Angel Tree located at Citizens Bank. Please take an angel from the tree, and shop for a deserving child. Each child will receive a suit of clothes and a toy from their wish list. All gifts should be delivered to Citizens Bank by Thursday, Dec 4th. If you don't have

time to shop, donations will be accepted and the Board Members will complete the shopping. The Knox County Child Welfare Board is a non-profit organization to help children in Knox County. Donations may be deposited at the bank, given to a Knox County Child Welfare Board member or you can mail your donation to P O Box 123, Knox City, Texas 79529. Thank you for your tremendous community support in past years. Help us give the children of the area a very Merry Christmas.



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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT
Hunt Oil Company, 1900 North Akard Street, Dallas, Texas 75201-2300 has applied to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Twin Peaks, Strawn Lower and Strawn 5400' formations in the S. B. Burnett Estate Lease Well Nos. N-80H, N-87, N-66AH and N-76A. The proposed injection wells are located 17 miles southeast of Guthrie, Texas in the Anne Tandy (Strawn) Field, King County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 5000' to 5600'.

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

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas, 78711-2967. (Telephone 512/463-6792)

FSA county committee elections close Dec. 2

The News-Courier

County Committee elections for the Farm Service Agency began this past Monday and will continue through Dec. 2, the deadline to return ballots to the local FSA office.

Juan Garcia, administrator for the USDA agency, urged all farmers and ranchers to mail their ballots in.

"The role and input of our County Committee members is more vital than ever at a time when our country faces important choices regarding the funding and operation of our government," Garcia said. "New county committee members provide input and make important decisions on the local administration of disaster and conservation programs. With better participation in recent years, we have also seen promising increases in the number of women and minority candidates, helping to better represent the richness of American agriculture."

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities;

emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote. Agricultural producers in each county submitted candidate nominations during the nomination period, which ended Aug. 1.

Eligible voters who do not receive ballots in the coming week can obtain ballots from their local USDA Service Center. Dec. 2 is the last day for voters to submit ballots in person to local USDA Service Centers. Ballots returned by mail must also be postmarked no later than Dec. 2. Newly elected committee members and their alternates will take office Jan. 1.

Close to 7,700 FSA County Committee members serve in the 2,124 FSA offices nationwide. Each committee consists of three to 11 members who serve three-year terms. About one-third of county committee seats are up for election each year.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2013 fact sheet and brochures, can be found online at fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center.

Varsity volleyball



Knox City ends season with loss to Aspermont

By Geoffrey Baumgartner
The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY – Knox City's Houndettes varsity volleyball team went up against the Aspermont Lady Hornets this last Tuesday. With playoff contention on the line, it wound up being the closest match between the two teams so far this year, going all the way to five sets. However, in the end Aspermont ended up getting the win over Knox City 25-9, 16-25, 22-25, 25-14, 15-6.

While the Knox City Houndettes season came to a close, Head Coach Sammy Baumgartner was not disappointed.

"We ended our season on a positive note, the girls played hard, and I'll be looking forward to next season," said Coach Baumgartner.

Aspermont Head Coach Rebecca Bland was also satisfied with her team.

"I am proud of the Lady Hornets and what they have accomplished this season. This was a great way to end the District season. It was a hard fought match on both sides. We were

thrilled to walk away with the win," said Coach Bland.

Standouts for the Knox City Houndettes were senior outside hitter Cassandra Ledesma, who had two kills, three tips, four hits, and seven serves while junior outside hitter Leighton Pepper had three kills, five tips, seven hits, six assists and 12 serves. Furthermore, sophomore middle hitter Jordyn Eaton had five blocks, three kills, four hits, two tips and eight serves while sophomore middle hitter Makaylie Steele had 5 blocks, six kills, eight hits and five tips.

Major contributors for the Lady Hornets were Emilea English with 27 kills, one block, and three aces while Shae Berry had six kills, one block and three aces. In addition, Elise Dutchover managed five aces and 16 assists while Kannan Pittcock had five aces and 25 assists.

While this would be the final game of the season for Knox City, the Aspermont Lady Hornets will now advance to the bi-district playoffs against Memphis.

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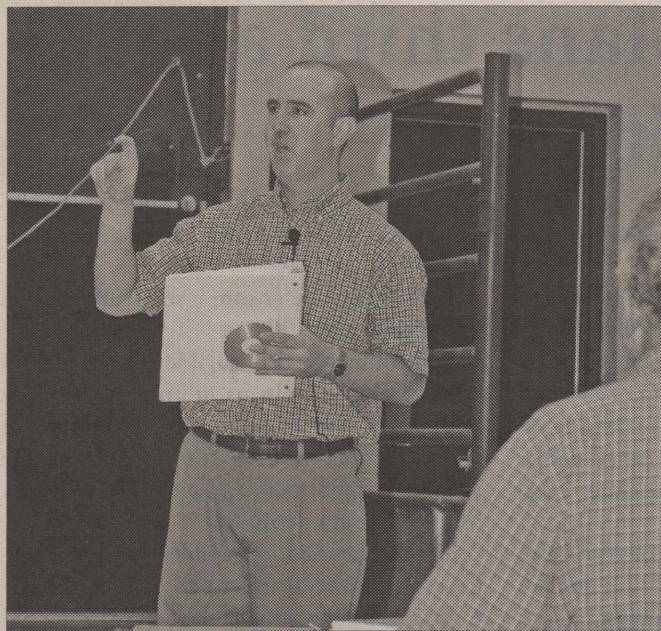
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Blair Fannin/Special to the Dispatch
Jason Banta, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service beef cattle specialist, Overton, was one of the bull workshop instructors along with Jason Cleere, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service beef cattle specialist, College Station.

Cattle producers hear latest on herd bull selection at workshop

By Blair Fannin
Special to the Dispatch

COLLEGE STATION — A herd bull is a key investment for cattle producers and several factors come into consideration when deciding on which one is best for an operation, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts.

Dr. Jason Cleere and Dr. Jason Banta, AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialists from College Station and Overton, respectively, recently conducted a one-day workshop on bull selection.

When selecting a bull, Cleere said, "I encourage you to look at the big picture."

Herd size and correctly matching the perspective bull to cow ratio is one thing to keep in mind.

"Part of this decision is the age of the bull and its previous breeding experience," Banta said. "A bull that has bred before as a yearling will cover more cows than one without previous experience. Acreage size is another thing to consider or how much a bull can cover to breed a cow. Hilly terrain can affect breeding coverage, so also keep this in mind."

Banta said one of the factors affecting fertility in a bull is size of testicles.

"We are actually measuring the widest part of the scrotal circumference," he said. "Once a bull starts puberty, scrotal size grows, and slows down as they get older. It's not uncommon to see a centimeter to two centimeters change per month."

Measuring scrotal circumference provides a good indication of testicular volume, sperm production, sperm quality, puberty of bull, puberty of daughters and is a heritable trait, Banta said.

Two big things when we talk about sperm quality is motility (how many sperm cells are alive and moving) when looking under a microscope, and morphology — are the sperm cells normal?

"Primary abnormalities occur in the testis and secondary abnormalities in the epididymis," Banta said. "The probability of a bull having satisfactory semen quality increases from 30-38 centimeters; circumference is highly correlated to total sperm output, moderately correlated to normal sperm morphology."

"The thing you need to realize is care should be taken in avoiding bulls with extra-large scrotal circumferences. Injury can occur while out in the pasture," Banta said.

Fertility and potential calf birth weights were other points to study, he said.

"Genetic potential for growth and price per pound are other things to consider," he said.

Cleere advised producers to avoid buying bulls with an unknown background. He said producers should consider buying from a breeder who specializes in producing quality genetics for commercial operations.

Next, consider how much you are willing to pay for a bull.

"How much do I spend? I like to turn this around and say how much do I invest in a bull?" Cleere said.

Half of the genetics from a cow herd will be generated from the female and the other half from the bull.

"That bull is over half of your calf crop," Cleere said. "Folks spend \$1,500 to \$2,000 on replacement females and then gripe about spending \$1,500 on a bull. He makes a huge impact on the genetics of a commercial cow herd."

He said breed type, individual performance data, pedigree and visual appraisal are some of the items to consider when purchasing a bull.

"You are not going to use all of it during selection, but some of those apply to the goals of your operation," he said.

Banta said Expected Progeny Differences or EPDs are also used in bull selection. These are an estimated measure of the genetic impact of a parent on the offspring. EPDs are used to compare genetic potential for traits like birth weight, yearling weight and milk production for an animal and vary depending on breed.

Another point to consider is what is the best breed type?

"That's the million dollar question," Cleere said. "Because we don't have a controlled environment in Texas, we have different types of cattle that are best suited for different parts of the state."

Those are the Trans-Pecos, High Plains, Central Texas, East Texas, Gulf Coast and South Texas areas, he said.

Heterosis or hybrid vigor also plays a big role in cattle selection for Texas ranchers, he added.

"The more harsh your environmental conditions are, the more important heterosis is," Cleere said. "Hybrid vigor is very important."

Both Cleere and Banta said strong interest at the previous two bull workshops will lead to another educational opportunity in the future.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0010416001

APPLICATION. City of Knox City, 902 East Main Street, Knox City, Texas 79529, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0010416001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0035505) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 200,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located approximately 0.5 mile north of the intersection of Farm-to-Market Road 143 and State Highway 6, on the eastern bank of China Branch, in Knox County, Texas 79529. The discharge route is from the plant site to China Branch; thence to the Brazos River Above Possum Kingdom Lake. TCEQ received this application on September 12, 2013. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at Knox City Hall, Front Desk, 902 East Main Street, Knox City, Texas. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application.
<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=33.424166&lng=-99.821944&zoom=13&type=r>

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission will only grant a contested case hearing on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the Commission will only grant a hearing on issues that were raised in timely filed comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. All written public comments and requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087. If you need more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040. General information about TCEQ can be found at our web site at www.tceq.texas.gov.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Knox City at the address stated above or by calling, Mr. Sam Watson, City Administrator, at (940) 658-3313.

Issuance Date: October 17, 2013

Family performance



The children of Eric and Larressa Earthman — Ryan 14, Corrie 12, Shawn 11, Morgan 9, Nate 8 and Belle 7 — serenaded the crowd of more than 100 gathered Saturday for the Pink Ladies banquet at the Rhineland gym with Western swing violin tunes.

Michele Fetsch/The News-Courier

Church plans third annual community meal

The News-Courier

MUNDAY — All residents are invited to attend the third annual Munday Community Thanksgiving Meal on Nov. 28 at First United Methodist Church.

A traditional holiday meal of turkey, dressing and all the trimmings will be served at no cost to those who attend. The church is at 630 W. Main St. in Munday.

The Rev. Susan Felty, pastor of the Munday church, said the annual tradition was begun as an outreach to the community.

"We especially want to reach out to those who might be alone during the holidays, or whose families wanted a place to gather and share a meal with the community," Felty said. "It is our desire and intention that ev-

eryone has a family to eat Thanksgiving dinner with."

All families are encouraged to attend this free meal.

"Takeouts will be available for those who are not able to join us at the table," Felty said. "It is hoped that everyone will come and enjoy this time of fellowship. Last year we served about 500, and we're hoping even more will join us this year."

Felty extended gratitude to her congregants as well as other people and churches in the community for their generosity and self-sacrifice to ensure the meal's success.

"We are grateful for the number of people from all the other churches that donate supplies and manpower to help us feed such a large crowd," she said.

CROP

From Page 1

about half of normal. In 2012, insect pressure was so dispersed many trees had such heavy nut loads that limbs were broken and nut quality down.

Dry weather cut back yields this year, but not to the degree that it did in 2011, and irrigated pecan growers are expecting adequate though not high yields, Stein said.

"This year the crop is much shorter; it's not that big of a crop across the state," he said. "There are

pecans — it's not like it's a total washout, and in certain places there are more pecans than we expected."

And because drier weather means lower disease problems, the quality should be very good, particularly on irrigated orchards, Stein said, but a lot of factors affect the supply and therefore the price of pecans.

"Where the crop is really short, you've got to realize the varmints are all working them hard," he said. "The crows, squirrels, raccoons, turkey and deer — you name it — are all getting their share right now. And as they say, 'A short

crop always gets shorter, and big crop will always get bigger."

Consumer prices currently are rather high right now, Stein said.

"The market (for growers) appears to be a little soft — there's not a lot of activity," he said. "Basically, I expect (wholesalers) are trying to figure what kind of crop we have across Texas and the rest of the United States. Availability will increase as we approach Thanksgiving."

"But make no mistake: There are pecans across the state, and they are available now and for Thanksgiving."

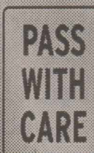
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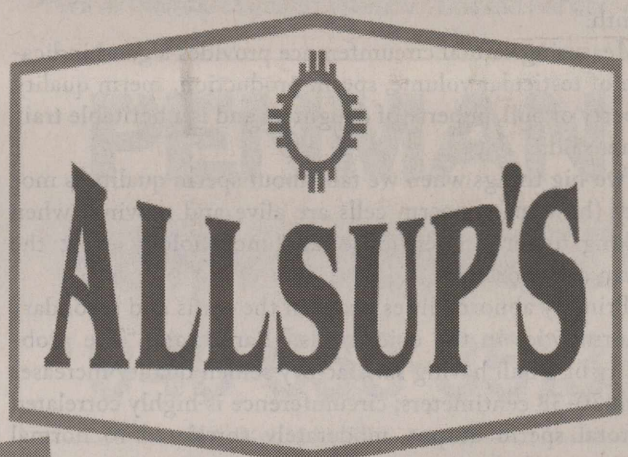
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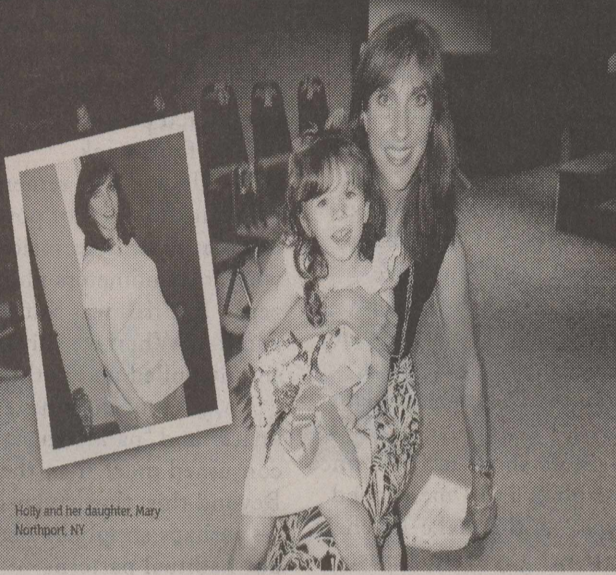
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Dixie Divas

The little girl with the red-dirt feet

Most husbands, if they carry a photo of their wives, like for it to be one of glamour and beauty. That would not be my husband.

On his iPhone as his screen saver, the image that comes up every time he turns on or opens his phone, is a photo he found tucked away one day. It is a little red-headed, freckle-faced 3-year-old with laughing eyes, chubby cheeks and a big smile.



RONDA RICH

I am seated, bare-footed, on the front porch of our little brick house with a stubby arm thrown around my bushy-haired collie mutt who weighed more than I. Of course, I have on tiny, dark-blue shorts and a coordinating plaid shirt. My clothes are homemade by Mama. I can tell by how tiny the buttonholes are, that the buttons are white and not dark blue (she used whatever she could find) and the plaids are perfectly matched. Mama never sewed plaids or stripes that did not match up at the seams, which is the trademark of an expert seamstress.

At least a few times a day, he will say happily when the photo comes up, "Look at that little Satterfield girl. Oh, how I love that little girl."

Sometimes I will laugh and reply, "That little girl is going to grow up to marry a handsome Hollywood producer." We both chuckle thinking of that innocent country child and how she will one day glimpse a world so different than her simple upbringing among chickens, cows, hogs and horses.

Tink is joyous over that photo. He treasures it. Eagle-eyed as he is, he noticed that my little feet are tinged red from the clay of our Georgia hills and that there are similar red stains up my legs. I spent most of my childhood summers running bare-footed and have a couple of scars to show for it, having run into a rusty can or

two and one broken Coke bottle.

"How did you get dirt on your legs?" He has to know all facts.

"I suppose I was sitting cross-legged in my sand pile (there was no 'box' to it. Just a bunch of sand that Daddy dumped in the backyard for me to play in), making mud pies." I smiled. "I made the best mud pies around. I used old pie tins that Mama gave me and I would decorate them with holly berries or green leaves or wild blackberries. I was quite a mud pie maker."

Just so you know, just so you'll see that I haven't gotten above my raising, not a lot has changed for that little red-headed girl. I live within hollering distance of that front porch, I still spend much of my summer days at home going bare-footed, I have a dog as a best pal and the rusty but trusty red clay of the North Georgia hills still stains my feet and sometimes my legs which take a lot of intensive scrubbing to remove. No, I don't make mud pies any more but I do a lot of yard work. I cut the grass, trim the hedges, fight the thistle in the pasture and plant flowers.

I was doing a photo shoot in NYC once for the cover of a book and I mentioned my yard work while in the make-up chair. The make-up artist, a guy from Texas, pulled back in horror and said, "No, honey, ladies garden. They don't do yard work."

"Trust me," I replied levelly. "What I do is hard yard work. Gardening is much too gentle a word for that." Not long ago, Tink was working in LA and I sent a photo of my red-stained feet just to remind him that I am, undeniably, still that same little girl.

About the only thing that has changed is that Mama doesn't make my clothes any more. And that is both a good thing and a bad thing.

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

The Idle American

Dog lovers force evolution on their furry friends

Dog-fanciers, present company included, have only themselves to blame. Our pets didn't ask to become family members. However, we have freely elevated them to such status,



DON NEWBURY

and they've accepted our invitation, happy to partake of courtesies consistent with favored treatment. Though invitations have been extended in inches, our canines have taken miles. They've come a long way from a half-century or so ago when most dogs lived outdoors, subsisted on table scraps, chased small wild animals and considered pats on the head enough affection for a week.

My Uncle Mort remembers during his youthful years of poverty, his family brought their dogs inside for the night when thermometers plummeted toward zero. "But this was self-serving," he admits. "When we shivered in bed, we simply pulled up another dog."

Ah, yes, our dogs have done the "knick-knack" and "paddywhack" things — and consumed more than their share of bones. Beyond this, they've keenly mastered — perhaps simply by observation and our habitual patterns — what our moves mean. In a flash, they know whether to head for the feed bowl, the car or the hills.

At the risk of raising the dander of cat lovers, I strongly believe dogs are preferred by most pet owners. For starters, they are more demonstrative in expressions. Their eyes, velocity of tail-wags and volume of yips and yaps and whines say much — particularly the eyes. I can barely stand it when one of our rescue dogs "tucks tail" and retreats to their under-the-bed hideout.

What can I do to make up? A treat maybe — when my wife isn't looking. (She's more concerned about their weight than mine, and that's saying quite a bit.) Or, maybe a ride in the car.

Little wonder, really, dogs have taken what we've given them, always with paws out for more.

Granted, their interpretative skills are many, and we haven't even mentioned how their ears perk up when our conversations involve them. Often as not, their heads cock immediately sideways. They understand more than we know.

There is "mucho" trouble ahead if they

learn to read, because exploits of talented pets — particularly dogs — splash regularly across pages of books and newspapers. And don't we always open those emails with "really special" dog pictures?

If they could read, dogs would have good reason to be as "full of themselves" as they are dog chow (carefully formulated, mineral-enriched and allergy-fighting for large, medium-size, small and miniature dogs).

They'd puff up with pride, bragging about the canine that pushed a wheelchair-bound woman to class, and upon graduation, her accepting THEIR master's degrees! Others rescue owners from floods, sniff out drugs, guide the blind, round up farm animals and bark to high heaven when danger threatens. And at the San Jose, Calif., airport, they offer a roaming golden retriever whose only job is to be available for folks who "need a buddy, a belly to rub or a paw to shake."

Yes, we've come a long way from Lassie, and from that nameless doggie in the window that chewed the price tag off his collar.

If our dogs could read, they'd have insisted on participating in the "Harbor Howl-O-Ween" for "frightfully furry fun" at Lake Ray Hubbard. There, a "Lick-or-Treat" dog costume contest was featured.

In Dallas, a "blessing of animals" celebration was conducted; all species of pets were invited. If potential celebrants had other commitments, owners could bring collars, toys or favorite photos for blessing, something like "in absentia" diplomas presented at graduations.

Such celebrations are not uncommon. Holding same on the lawn of a mausoleum — and I don't mean a pet mausoleum seems beyond the pale, however.

Our pets — Sadie and Sailor — both are of unknown parentage. The latter, though, looks far more like a purebred dachshund than the former does a Jack Russell. Still, they suit us well in this season of life, vet bills be hanged.

The other day, they raced through my study with pads and pencils in clenched teeth. Immediately, I envisioned their drawing up plans for a "bobble-head dog."

Following them, I learned otherwise. One had chewed the pencil down to a nub, and the pad looked like it had gone through a shredder.

Sometimes, dogs will be dogs.

Don Newbury, former chancellor of Howard Payne University in Brownwood, is a Christian humorist and columnist for Blackburn Media Group newspapers.

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